

AROUND TOWN

What the Union Men of Portland Are Doing.

A GOOD SHOWING IN ALL TRADES

A Compendium of the Various Local Organizations in the City—All in a Healthy Condition and Growing.

FEDERATED TRADES COUNCIL.

Meeting called to order at 8 o'clock by President Mickley. Minutes previous meeting read and approved.

Credentials—Bookbinders, S. T. Hardesty; Leatherworkers, R. H. McCullum, M. D. Mills.

Communications—From a former customer of Banfield-Veysey Co., regarding fuel; moved and carried that President and Secretary visit Fuel and Sand Teamsters regarding the matter. From Int. Stationary Firemen, asking financial aid; Secretary instructed to inform the union that we are unable to help them at this time. From Int. Brickmakers, stating that they are waging a fight against several Eastern concerns, and require financial aid; Secretary instructed to inform them that we can offer only moral support at this time. The communication referred to local union. From Garment Workers, Jacksonville, Ill.; \$3.00 donated. From Oregon City Labor Day Committee, inviting us to participate in their exercises and parade; Secretary instructed to inform them that we will have a grand celebration here, and regret that we cannot attend. From an affiliated union, stating they were in a weak condition, and desired to withdraw delegates; it was moved and carried that the Council pay the dues of this union for three months and delegates retain their seats. From _____, desiring Council to indorse a pamphlet he has written; request laid on the table.

Labor Day Committee reported progress in the sale of tickets and buttons; they request all who are indebted to them to pay up at next meeting. W. H. Barry has been selected by the committee as Grand Marshal for the parade. Almost every union in the city has already signified its intention to parade.

MACHINISTS' UNION.
Secretary J. H. Upham writes this paper that their union is out for the prize silk flag, and they are preparing a novel display that is almost sure to win it. The union voted to turn out its full quota of members, and the boys are enthusiastic over their chances to excel.

The union expects to have a float in the parade, consisting of a fully equipped machine shop—line shaft, drill press, shaper, lathe, etc.—turning out machinery on the way.

The union is progressing rapidly, and new members being added at nearly every meeting.

BARBERS' UNION.
With Vice President Weber in the chair, and a much larger attendance than has been had for some weeks, on account of a great number of the members being away on their vacations, two applications were read and accepted. Four members were accepted on transfer card and by retiring cards. Brother R. L. Van Hyse was initiated.

The secretary attended a meeting of the barbers at Oregon City Tuesday evening. Hereafter all shops in that city will close at 11 o'clock Saturday

nights, instead of 12 o'clock, as heretofore.

Brothers George Bumpus and W. L. Lutz, of Houston, Tex., have just arrived in the city and will make this their future home.

Brother H. F. E. Schroeder is on the sick list, from a felon on his hand; also Brother J. M. Pickett, who is suffering with rheumatism.

LETTER-CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION.

The 13th annual convention of the National Association of Letter-Carriers will convene next Monday (Labor day), at Denver, Colo. E. A. Moulton, who will represent the Portland branch, left for Denver Thursday evening. He will be joined by Mr. Corey, delegate from the Baker City branch.

The National convention always opens on Labor day, and makes that day a memorable one in the convention city. The Labor day parade of the delegates this year promises to outdo those of former years. There will likely be in line 700 or 800 letter-carriers, including the famous New York Letter-Carriers' Band of 75 pieces, as well as the letter-carriers' bands from St. Louis and other cities. The entire postoffice forces, from postmaster to special delivery boy, of Omaha, Cripple Creek, Denver and other smaller cities will help to swell the ranks of that procession on that greatest of days to working people.

BUTCHERS' UNION, NO. 143.

At the last meeting of the Butchers' Union, August 21, two new members were initiated and several applications received. A committee of 10 has been appointed to provide means and uniforms for the Labor day parade, and any member who refuses or fails to take part in the parade will be fined \$5.

The union has its eye on the prize flag, and it has a surprise up its sleeve to spring on that day that is calculated to carry away the beautiful silk flag. The committee on the barbecue made a full report of the financial end of the affair, and it was found that about \$200 was realized to the good.

A telegram from Seattle was read announcing a strike at the Frye-Bruhn Meat Company, and that union men take notice and stay away. Mr. Frye was in Portland during the first part of the week to get men, but had to return to Seattle empty-handed. A few butchers were secured from the Canadian side, but not enough to supply the large number of markets owned by the company. The telegram and letter were signed by Frank Westphal, president. Mr. Westphal is well known in labor circles in this city, as he was president of the Butchers' Union in this city for the term ending in April, and was also a delegate to the Federated Trades Council for some time.

TAILORS' UNION, LOCAL 74.
The Tailors' Union met in regular session last Monday evening, and, besides transacting routine business, initiated one new member. Joseph Railton was elected delegate to the Federated Trades Council in place of Frank Calkins, resigned, who also took out a withdrawal card, as he has gone into the tailoring business for himself in room 7, 232 1/2 Washington street, next door to the Labor Press. Mr. Calkins relinquishes his active membership in the union, to the disappointment of the boys, as he was a faithful officer and valuable member, and launches into his new enterprise with the good wishes of all.

After considerable animated discussion John Hansen was elected as standard-bearer to carry the first banner in a Labor day parade in the history of the Portland Tailors' Union, which is considered quite an honor.

The following communication was read from the general executive board of the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America:
"Bloomington, Ill., Aug. 11, 1902—

Frank Calkins—Dear Sir and Bro: While making my trip along the Pacific Coast I became convinced of the absolute necessity for some work to be done by an organizer of our union.

While in San Francisco I had a splendid meeting of the independent union. The bringing into our organization of that union is of vastly more importance than starting any new unions. The feeling manifested at the meeting and manifested to me by individual members makes me believe that a man of tact and resource, having the faculty of making friends and making no enemies, that such a man can succeed within a reasonable time in bringing about the affiliation of the San Francisco union with the Journeymen Tailors' Union of America. The general executive board will appoint some one to undertake this work. If your union has any recommendation to make, the executive board would like to receive the recommendation just as soon as possible. Yours truly,
JOHN B. LENNON,
"Gen. Sec. J. T. U. of A."

The union voted unanimously that Charles Mickley, former president, was the most capable man for the position, and will so recommend to the executive board.

Upon motion it was decided that all members meet at the hall on the morning of Labor day, at 9:30 A. M., sharp, to answer roll-call, and in a body will march from the hall and take the position assigned in line of parade. Any one absent, unless sick or dead, will be subject to a fine.

RETURNED FROM THE VALLEY.

President Harry, of the State Federation, returned from an extended trip over the West Side of the Valley on Tuesday night. He reports the people all extremely busy in the harvest fields, and the towns, in consequence, are very quiet. There is evidence in almost all the small towns through this section of prosperous times. In some of the oldest and slowest of them some improvement is evident in the repair of old buildings and the construction of new ones. The building mechanics are, in consequence, all busy.

The crop prospects are very favorable, particularly for hops. There will be more than the average crop raised, and prices are exceedingly good, though unfortunately the raisers will not get the full benefit of the high prices, as the speculators succeeded in contracting fully 75 per cent of the crop in some localities at from 9 to 12 1/2 cents, whereas the prices bid fair to reach 25 or even 30 cents.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The Grocery-Keepers' Association, including 56 grocery stores in the city, having very kindly agreed at their last meeting to the request of the Labor day committee to close their places of business all day September 1, in justice to these gentlemen and the wage-earners of Portland, the committee hereby requests, as a favor to the Federated Trades, that all dealers in the grocery line, as well as other lines, close their places of business upon that day, in so far as it will not in any way interfere with the emergency of the public.

To do this it will make it necessary for purchasers to lay in their supplies Saturday afternoon and evening, of which the committee would ask the public to please take notice.

LABOR DAY COMMITTEE.

FISHERMEN AND THE COMBINE.
The last issue of the Astoria Herald devotes more space to the differences between the fishermen of the Columbia and the combine, and as it has more or less immediate relation to the industrial bearing of Portland, being so near, we herewith publish the Herald's views and opinions in the premises:
"The treatment received by the fishermen at the hands of the combine and cold-storage shippers at the close of

the fishing season emphasizes the necessity of a complete organization of all the fishermen on the Lower Columbia River. While all the cannerymen do not belong to what is known as the 'combine,' yet they affiliate with it and dictate the price of fish. They have organized outside of the combine a gigantic trust. The work has been going on for the past three years—slowly, but surely. They have acquired possession of nearly all the seining grounds, and have a sufficient number of traps to furnish them with fish when there is a big run. They then reduce the price for salmon paid to the gill-netters, seiners and trappers who own their gear. They were never so well organized as they have been this year, and they put the screws to the individual owners of gear in the regular old trust fashion. All salmon caught by owners of gear were white and unfit to can, but all fish caught in their own appliances were of superior color and quality.

"There are about 2000 fishermen on the Columbia River. Of this number 1800 are gillnetters. They have an organization, the Columbia River Fishermen's Protective Union, and where labor is organized better wages are paid and shorter hours obtained. Capital is strong, as is evidenced by some of the decisions handed down by some of the courts to which it goes when labor asks for justice. But without stating the reasons for it there is no necessity for labor suffering at the hands of greedy opulence.

"An evidence of the necessity of organizing the fishermen on the Lower Columbia is witnessed in the actions of the combine and cannerymen in reducing the price of fish to 2 cents per pound when they well know that no fisherman can afford to fish for that price. But the cannerymen are well entrenched in having traps and seining grounds of their own, and while they pay a good price when fish are scarce, in order to keep their plants in operation, when the large run comes and the fishermen have an opportunity to make a few dollars they are compelled to stop fishing, the cannerymen relying upon their own gear for sufficient fish to complete the pack. They have been securing seining grounds and traps for the past three years, with the object of compelling fishermen to accept less than living wages for the product of their labor. There is only one way to check this nefarious scheme, and that is by organizing. All differences relative to the kind of fishing gear must be eliminated and all unite with the common purpose of enforcing their rights. This can be done, and now is the time to organize."

Grave possibilities of a strike that may tie up all the street railway lines of the West and North Sides of Chicago confront the officials of the Union Traction Company. Tuesday, by an overwhelming vote, the local union of the Amalgamated Association of Street-Car Employees refused to accept the proposition made by President Roach several days ago. The overtures of the company, which included an increase of 1 cent an hour in wages, the dissolution of rival employees' association and the employment of none but union men, was balloted on by nearly 3000 men Monday. William Mahon, International president of the Street-Carmen, exerted his influence to avert any strike action and to urge that the union live up to its laws. A rupture, however, occurred between the local officials and President Mahon, and he left their meeting with the statement that if the men struck without trying arbitration the General Union would not support them in the issue.

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