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OFFICIAL PAPER
FEDERATED TRACES COUNCIL

Portland Labor Press

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STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

TRADE UNIONS ARE THE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES.—W. E. GLADSTONE.

Vol. III

PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 13, 1902

No. 14

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INHUMAN ACTION

Operator Turns Miner Tenants Out in the Street.

A BASE DISPLAY OF REVENGE

Incidents of the Eviction in Which Age Is Handled Without Gloves—Soldiers Hiss the Sheriff.

Reports from the Pennsylvania coal fields in the vicinity of Wilkesbarre describe an inhuman attitude on the part of the operators against the former strikers that could more easily be believed if charged to an ignorant and heartless people.

Dispatches of November 8 say that one of the most distressing things connected with the late coal strike was the eviction of a number of families at Jeddo on Thursday.

They received notice that their houses were wanted by the G. B. Markle Company, and were given six days' notice to vacate. While they were making preparations to move at the end of that time, Sheriff Jacobs, accompanied by an attorney representing the company, appeared at the houses and ordered that they be vacated at noon of that day. This was at 8 o'clock in the morning, and the Sheriff returned to the office of the company at Jeddo. One of the officers of the company then notified the Sheriff that the eviction must take place immediately, and the Sheriff explained that he had been given a promise by the people to be out at noon. But this did not suit the company, and the Sheriff was compelled to start in with some deputies furnished by the company to throw the people and their few goods out into the street.

A large crowd of onlookers was attracted to the scene, and several companies of soldiers who rested on their arms close by were horrified by the extreme cruelty of the eviction. Hisses greeted the deputies, but they were heavily armed and carried out every direction of Superintendents Duckerly and Gooddeck. Some of the tenants, who were preparing to move at noon, the hour set by the Sheriff, were taking their last meal in their abode when the Sheriff returned, and they were not permitted to finish their breakfast. Their stoves, with fires within, were carried to the street.

One of the most heartless things was the removal of Mrs. Brannigan, a woman

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We carry a big stock of men's suits and overcoats, on which you save from \$1.50 to \$5 in comparison with high-rent stores' prices. Strictly one price. John Dellar, corner First and Yamhill.

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an 70 years old, who is blind and was sick in bed. Her condition had no deteriorating effect upon the men who were chosen by the company for this kind of work, for they carried the old woman on her bed to the street and left her there. Kind neighbors moved her to a place of safety.

Among the men ousted were: Charles Helierty, Henry Cole, Paul Dunley, James Gallagher and John Damalock, of Japan; Mike Cushing and Andy Knovich, of Foundryville, and Henry Shovelin, of Oakdale. These men were among the oldest employees of G. B. Markle & Co., and the official staff of the Jeddo local of the United Mine-work is composed within the group.

On the following day Charles Jagro, of Highland, who ran a few days ago for County Commissioner on the Socialist labor ticket, was thrown upon the street. Charles Keenan and Joseph Popsin, of Hogland, and several Hungarian families at No. 2 Highland were evicted.

One of the incidents of the eviction was when a young man named Dunlevy brought a flag belonging to one of the evicted tenants and placed it on top of a load of household goods. The flag was cheered by the soldiers as the wagon passed down the street. It was one of a number of flags presented by Sheriff Jacobs on the occasion of his campaign for office.

District President Nichols, of the United Mineworkers, openly charges the operators with trying to disrupt the miners' organization by discriminating against the men prominent during the strike, and by refusing to give the former strikers places unless they promise to withdraw from the union.

President Nichols' charges are embodied in this statement: "Scranton, Pa., Nov. 8, 1902.—The executive board of District No. 1, U. M. W. of A., in their meeting yesterday, considered the cases of the miners who have been discriminated against and thrown out of their former positions. From evidence in several cases it appears that mine foremen are trying to frighten the men and discourage them from remaining in the union or taking an active part in its business. The board decided to care for all those who are refused their former places, and protect against the insidious methods that are being used to punish men because they belong to the union. If men are not treated fairly, the organization will take the same stand as it has formerly, and will protect its members.

"T. A. NICHOLS, President." Mr. Nichols said that the efforts of the operators will not be successful. He said the union will insist on the members being treated fairly. The union proposes to stand by the men, no matter what the result, even to declaring another strike.

IS HAVING ITS EFFECT. The action taken by the Typographical Union of Portland at its last meeting in appointing a committee to inaugurate a campaign against the Los Angeles Times in this city is having its effect. The committee has been actively engaged in prosecuting the duties imposed upon it, and the following letter will prove how ably they have done their work:

Portland, Or., Nov. 11, 1902. The Times Mirror Company, Los Angeles, Cal.: Gentlemen:—Kindly discontinue the twenty (20) copies of Sunday Los Angeles Times you have been sending us till further notice.

Owing to the pressure brought to bear by the Typographical Union, which is composed of some of our best citizens—we have concluded that it would be very unwise to continue selling the paper.

Hoping that in the near future your very valuable paper will be seen on our racks, Sincerely,

OREGON NEWS CO., Per C. E. Holmes.

O. W. Coote, formerly linotype machinist on the Oregonian, but now a socialist with the Los Angeles Herald, arrived in the city last Saturday evening, on a visit with his family. He is an especially active and bright. In speaking of the Los Angeles Times, he says that Otis is beaten now, but he hangs on with a death grip. He is stubborn and hates the Typographical Union as much as he hates the Times, and whenever the name of union is mentioned he goes into a violent fit of rage. It is expected at any time that the old man will die in some of these spasms, when the office will be cleared of its "rats" and unionized. It is said that Otis' partner is in favor of "squaring" the Times office, but the old man will never hear to it as long as he lives, or until he is completely whipped.

Mr. Coote says that the office has a battery of 18 Mergenthaler machines, but that there are only half a dozen men on the paper who make decent wages. These are oldtimers on the paper who left the union to stay with their situation, and they practically have things their own way. About 20 nonunion men are kept alive by the office, the men working from four to five hours each day, and receiving about \$2 per diem. One of Otis' schemes is to get a class of young men from a high school to learn to operate the machines. They pay him \$50 for the privilege, and after they have worked a considerable time he will select one or two of the most apt and offer them a situation on the paper at the rate of 6 cents per thousand ems. This would be able to earn from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per day and board himself. Otis keeps a lot of poorly paid men in his service in this manner, knowing that they cannot go elsewhere and secure a position at the printing business. The men know this, too, and they cluster around the Times office and eke out a miserable existence in this manner at starvation wages, disgraced by their own actions in not standing up like men and living decent.

GOSE TO EUGENE. G. V. Harry, president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, and W. O. Powell, international president of the Shirt Waist and Laundry Workers Association, went to Eugene last Tuesday morning to look after the interests of organized labor, and will return to Portland Saturday. On their way back they will visit Albany, Salem, and other points, holding public meetings and organizing new unions. Mr. Powell has accompanied Mr. Harry in the interest of his organization.

THE UNION LABEL

Something of Its Value to Organized Labor.

ABLE ARTICLE BY J. N. BOGERT

A Strong Argument in Its Favor and What Can Be Accomplished By Its General Use.

The objects and benefits of the union label is as clearly presented by John N. Bogert in a prize essay for the Social Reform Club of New York City as anything of the kind yet published, and is worthy of reproduction. Mr. Bogert is organizer of the American Federation of Labor for the State of New York, and his argument is as follows:

The union label and its great possible influence as a factor in the pending solution of social problems is a new proposition only to that portion of the community not connected with workingmen's trade organizations. For 17 years the union printer, hatter, ironmolder, shoemaker and building-trade workmen have been familiar with the blue label placed upon cigars by the union cigar-makers and good wages. During 12 years these organized workers have found hidden in their hats the fraternal messages to them from the fair factory of their brother hatter. Six years of agitation by the Typographical Union has secured recognition from other craftsmen of the one safe channel through which their money may flow back to the pockets of well-paid printers.

The organized workers know the value of this means of mutual assistance, and they know that its logical development will commend it to the large and growing class of consumers outside of labor unions who are now taking a friendly interest in the subject. They therefore aim to enlist and hold the co-operation of all classes in extending this improved line of social reform work, and they appeal to the general public for support on these grounds:

That while primarily the extension of the label makes the union strong, it is this very strength that begets the friendly conference between employers and employed which averts the strikes and preserves the peace. The history of our strongest trade unions proves this.

That the label is the boycott's substitute. It puts good-will in place of savagery. Instead of tearing down the bad man's trade, it builds up the good one's. The fair employer, asked about his help, is proud to say: "My men and I are on good terms. See the label on our work."

That a consolidation of union-label interests, besides giving added power to each affliating union, has the approval of public opinion, because all is harmony there. The Label League has no disputes, no quarrels between organizations under this banner, no conflicting grievances to waste the time and patience of the delegates, no sympathetic strikes to threaten civic order.

That the label condemns tenement and sweatshop production for the benefit of the worker and the sanitary world. That the label never tempts "Christian civilization" to assist the factory tyrant in the soulless system which is crushing out the young lifeblood of our race. It would keep the child at school, run the mill with adult labor and enshrine the workman's home.

That the label largely solves the convict labor problem when the state adopts this emblem as the mark by which her people may readily distinguish public work done under just conditions. Montana has just enacted a law that requires the union label upon official printing for all the state departments. A statute like this in New York would have prevented the prison competition which now menaces the joint interests of employers and employed in the printing trade. Utica, N. Y., forbids the use in the public works of ironmolding that does not bear the Molders' Union trademark of fair production. Thirty City Councils throughout the United States have passed ordinances requiring the union label upon public printing as a guarantee to taxpayers that state laws calling for the payment of "prevailing" wages and the employment of citizen labor are not evaded or circumvented by conniving politicians and contractors.

To sum up, the entire community should unite in promoting the union label. Because it supersedes the boycott, the lockout and the destructive strike, it is the outward manifestation of harmony between employer and workman, binding both parties to maintain their friendly relations and the continued approval of a discriminating public. Because it condemns child labor and humanities factory life. Because it minimizes convict competition with free and honest labor. Because it wipes out the tenement and sweatshop systems of production. Because it has ferreted out, exposed and cleansed the unwholesome cellar very. Because it shortens the workday and

gives the toiler time to read and think and cultivate the social side of life. Because it guarantees a living wage and rational conditions of employment. Because it will some day free the white slaves in our Northern mills—such as those who toil day and night and Sundays, too, in the Glens Falls paper works, two phalanxes working every hour in the 24, one force putting in 11 hours by day, the other 13 hours at night, with no time off for meals, snatching their luncheon betimes while tending the machines—all for a shilling an hour without extra pay for nights or Sundays.

Because it warns us all to shun the bargain counter, which makes the 'cheap' thing dear when woven with virtue, sweat and blood of womankind. Because it stands for quality and honest workmanship. Because it is not a weapon for industrial war, but an olive branch held out to bind the brotherhood of man.

HAVE COME TO AN AGREEMENT. An agreement between the Butchers' Union and the bosses at last has been arranged. For several weeks the union has endeavored to secure a contract with the bosses upon the expiration of the yearly agreement recently expired, and on account of several objectionable features they have been unable to get together upon a satisfactory basis. Several meetings have taken place between committees from the union and the association, but not until last Monday night was anything like a definite solution accomplished. An agreement was finally reached, which the committee from the association said they would recommend to their organization. The Retail Butchers' Association met Wednesday night, and endorsed the recommendation of the committee. Tonight (Thursday) the Butchers' Union will pass upon the agreement, and there is no doubt but what it will be accepted. The agreement is liberal and has been secured without friction or unreasonable contention. It is to be in force for one year, and in substance is as follows:

This agreement, entered into by and between the Retail Butchers, party of the first part, and the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers' Local, No. 143, A. F. of L., of Portland, Or., party of the second part, witness: First. That the party of the first part agrees to employ none but members of the aforesaid union, in good standing. When members of said union are not available, persons not members of said union may be employed for a period of time not exceeding ten (10) days. Second. It is further agreed that ten (10) hours shall constitute a day's work, excepting Saturdays and nights preceding holidays when men will work until 9 P. M. All overtime, double pay. That men will not be compelled to work on legal holidays. This agreement is for meat cutters, delivery men, back shop men, sausage makers and helpers. Third. It is further agreed that men shall not be compelled to work on Sundays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas, New Year's, Washington's birthday, Decoration Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day, only when such holidays come on Saturday or Monday, when all shall stop work at 12 M., except on Labor Day, 9 A. M. Fourth. That employees shall board and room where they choose. In consideration of the signing of this agreement by the party of the first part, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers' Local, No. 143, will turn in shop card, said card to be the property of said Butchers' Union, No. 143.

MAYOR SCHMITZ IN WASHINGTON. Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, was in New York City during the recent campaign electioneering for Mr. Hearst in return for the courtesies shown by the Examiner in the election of the Mayor. Since the election, Mayor Schmitz is visiting the large cities in the East, studying municipal reform. Last Friday he visited President Roosevelt at Washington, who made the definite promise that he would visit the Pacific Coast next year. The visit will probably be soon after the 4th of March. Mayor Schmitz was received by the President and they had a long talk over labor questions. It was Cabinet day, and the President's busy day, but he made time to receive and talk at length on many subjects with the Mayor. At the conference, Mayor Schmitz spoke enthusiastically about the President's "I admire the President as a man," said Mr. Schmitz. "He is every inch a man, and decidedly the right man in the right place. His settlement of the coal strike is an example of his directness of purpose and of the sincerity of his motives. His efforts have been appreciated not only by the workmen, but I have it from the wealthiest people whom I have met that they regard his act as judicious and patriotic."

Mr. Schmitz called at the White House on the President's invitation. The President was very cordial, asked a lot of questions about the people whom the Mayor represented, and expressed his willingness to accept the invitation extended to visit San Francisco and the Pacific Coast. After the Mayor's call at the White House he spent part of the day in examining the street railway lines of Washington, and their splendid underground system. This is one of the subjects in which Mayor Schmitz is deeply interested as a part of his present special studies of municipal reform. Washington's system of railways, sanitary regulations and care of streets and parks, to which Mr. Schmitz also paid attention, are regarded as models.

The labor people of Baltimore want Mayor Schmitz to address them, and arrangements are now being perfected for a meeting there. Mayor Schmitz has been in conference with President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor on these arrangements, which will be announced later.

The Cooks' and Waiters' Union of Baker City has inaugurated a boycott against the Geiser Grand Hotel because the management employed colored help in the dining-room. Manager Harris insists that he was forced to employ colored help because it was impossible to obtain white help. The Trades Council investigated the alleged grievance of the cooks and waiters, but did not sustain their contention. The boycott is not sustained by public sentiment. Both the owner and the manager of the hotel (labor union labor, but the colored men cannot join the white men's union, and the nearest colored union is at Seattle.

THE IRON TRADES

Organization of a Council Has Been Completed.

SIX UNIONS ARE AFFILIATED

An Important Factor in the Trades Movement in the City, Representing About 400 Men.

One of the most important and essential organizations perfected in the City of Portland is the recent amalgamation of the iron trades into a Council. For a long time the necessity for such a movement has been felt and the Machinists' Union has taken the initiative and by perseverance and untiring labor has finally accomplished the end sought. The reason is obvious and based upon the old adage that in "unity there is strength," and that to work for general improvement in wages and hours, especially the latter, the combined industrial elements of the iron trades can best secure the prize by pooling its forces.

The members of the iron trades of Portland are especially interested in securing a reduction in hours for a day's pay. Here they are compelled to labor 10 hours when the nine-hour day is enjoyed in the shops of nearly every city in the United States, of Portland's size. In the Northwest this is particularly the case. In Seattle 16 out of 18 machine shops are working on the nine-hour basis. Tacoma, Spokane, Whatcom and Fairhaven in the State of Washington, and Astoria are all working on the nine-hour basis. In this effort to secure a shorter workday the iron trades workers of Portland feel that they are working no undue hardship upon the various shops for the reason that during the past few years they have been enjoying unprecedented prosperity and are fully able to cope with firms in the same line of business in the smaller cities of our sister state.

While there is no disposition to make an immediate demand for a shorter workday, it is the purpose of the members to employ reasonable and consistent means to secure it, and to show to their employers that there will be no material loss of business to their firm by adopting the shorter workday. The primary principle involved in the organization of the iron trades council is mutual benefit and a better acquaintance amongst the trades of kindred character. The council will be composed of three delegates from the Machinists, Patternmakers, Boilermakers, Blacksmiths, Moulders, and Stationary Engineers representing about 400 first-class mechanics. The organization has been completed, and the following officers elected: President, H. H. Ahrens; vice-president, H. Ruehman; secretary, W. H. Hembree; treasurer, C. F. King; sergeant-at-arms, George Grenier. The success of the enterprise in the greatest measure is accredited to the president, Mr. Ahrens, of the Machinists, who has been untiring in his labors to bring it about. Much praise is also given the secretary, Mr. Hembree, of the Stationary Engineers, who ably assisted in the organization of the Council. While these men took the burden of the effort upon themselves, they were generously assisted by many who understood the importance and meaning of such action. It can safely be predicted that the Iron Trades Council will soon fill a place in the labor movement that will be amongst the first. In fact, it is the "right thing in the right place," and while it is new in Portland, its force will soon be felt here, the same as in other cities where the Iron Trades Council has become a fixture and power. The council will meet every second and fourth Monday in room 227, Chamber of Commerce building.

The creation of the Iron Trades Council will be celebrated on November 28 by a smoker, at which all union men are cordially invited. Again on December 12 a dance will be given at Arion Hall. From time to time social features will be introduced into the proceedings of the council, which will be used in time to induce the formation of a Woman's Auxiliary, which is established in other places with great success. In fact, the Iron Trades Council is here as an agency for the elevation of the wage earner and his family, and an institution that will prove to be a credit to itself and the community in which it exists.

The membership is composed of men of the finer mechanics, Americans by birth and adoption, and the very best example of the industrial citizen. Now that the state campaign is over, the Union Labor party, recently organized in Los Angeles, will at once begin a most vigorous city campaign for the municipal election December 1. Mayor Eugene E. Schmitz, of San Francisco, and Congressman-elect E. J. Livernash and W. J. Wynn will be invited by the campaign managers to come to Los Angeles and participate in the city campaign. The Union Labor party has party in person a check for \$50, and expresses the hope that the new party may elect its entire ticket.