

Portland Labor Press

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MERRY CHRISTMAS.

With this issue the Labor Press greets its many readers with a "Merry Christmas." We can look back and see a marked improvement in our condition, and there is no doubt that many of our friends can do the same; for all which we are thankful. In fact, during the past year, the labor movement has gained such a stronghold that the future looks brighter, and we are drawing nearer to the goal when the producer will receive a fairer share of the profits of his toil. There is a Christmas present in store for the workmen. The gray heads may not see the day, but their children will, when the wage-earner will come into full possession of his heritage.

The most effective way of securing this privilege is to stick to your organization. It is your greatest friend. Boon the union label, and don't buy a garment or purchase an article of any kind unless it bears the label, if there is a label for it.

Then make up your mind to throw off the party yoke. Go to the polls and vote like men for principle. Parties will do little for you unless forced to, and a friend forced is a poor friend at best. Smash the political ring, refuse the sweatshop goods, quit "knocking" your fellow-men, pull together, and work together, support the Labor Press and its advertisers; be honest, industrious, broad-minded, patriotic, and God-fearing men, and the teachings of Christ will have obtained.

SOLOMON HIRSCH.

In the death of Solomon Hirsch Portland and Oregon have lost one of their most progressive and useful citizens.

Mr. Hirsch, while a man of large affairs and one whose impress was felt in many ways and walks of life, has left behind him the universal respect and regard of our entire people. He was a large employer of labor, and his uniform justice and fairness in his relations as an employer won the confidence and guaranteed to his house the faithfulness of those dependent upon him for employment.

The great factory of the Fleischner-Mayer Co., employing over 300 people in the manufacture of men's garments, will live long after him as a monument of his enterprise and foresightedness. While in the congested cities of the Eastern States it is found necessary to enact the most stringent laws compelling rigid inspection of factories of this character, the Fleischner-Mayer plant is a recognized model for health, cleanliness and up-to-date hygienic and sanitary appointments. Could it be said that the future manufacturers would all be like Solomon Hirsch, Oregon would not need to burden her statutes with laws governing sweat-shop methods in the making of men's wear. The working people can rightly feel that in the death of this good man they have lost a true, tried and just friend, and their sympathies will go out to those closer and dearer, who mourn his loss.

The gamble farce in our city has taken on a more serious character. Whether Judge Hogue was under the influence of liquor or not doesn't disprove the fact that games have been running in open violation of the law, with the sanction of the police. It is well known that every gambling case at the police court of late has been forced into a jury trial, and no matter how convincing the evidence, the defendant has been acquitted. The exception has been with the Chinese. They have been arrested, convicted, and their gambling paraphernalia destroyed. There should be no discrimination in the treatment of gamblers before the law, and the prosecution of one set of men should not be used as a shield for another. If the anti-gambling ordinance is obnoxious and a detriment to the interests of the public, repeal it; if not, enforce it. There are already too many "dead-letter" laws in evidence, and especially this one should be brought to light as it operates too much in favor of a few grafting office-holders. If gamblers are to be protected, let them profit by their trade; if not, let the public get the benefit of the toll. Judge Hogue may have "batted in," but he let the public in behind the scenes, and temporarily stopped the games. Mayor Williams could have disguised himself and set a same thing, but he knew that by playing safety he would finally get a hand that would win the pot.

The transcontinental steamship lines are fighting the immigration bill before the Senate committee, particularly the

third section, providing an educational test. An agent appeared before the committee and argued that the educational test would keep out of the country from 90,000 to 100,000 workmen. He believed this would be an unnecessary hardship, in view of the great demand for labor in the United States. The requirement, he declared, was monstrous and would be justifiable only in case there was in the country all the labor needed, which was not the case. He said that, in order to command a world-wide market, manufacturers and producers should not be hampered in the matter of labor. This argument, coming as it does from the transportation companies, materially affects the interest assumed by the agent for his country. There are today plenty of men to meet the demands for a reasonable wage. This country has enough of the pauper laboring element already, and an educational test is what has long been needed. The present demand for labor is only temporary, and when reaction comes there will be more men than there are positions for them to fill.

Several unions in the city have already elected their officers for the ensuing term, but the greater number will take this action at their first meeting in January. It is unnecessary to advise that the utmost caution be exercised in the selection of men for these important places. In an old-established union there is little danger of the union being disrupted by incompetent and self-designing men, as the body of the organization is composed of men of experience and sober judgment, but in a new union, whose members are unadvised and ignorant of their responsibilities, a mistake is sometimes made, the organization is shattered and the fault is accredited to the movement as a whole. Honesty, prudence, executive sense and self-consciousness should be the elements looked for in men who are given places of trust in their union. Men of this character invite the confidence of the members and the community, and create an impression of stability and reliability. We live in a business age, and the closer labor unions reach the plane of industrial perfection the greater will be the need of their perpetuation. In order to do this we must establish confidence, and the officers can do much towards attaining this end.

The coal situation has become so desperate in the East that the New York Board of Aldermen voted a quarter of a million to buy coal for the poor.

Poor Venezuela is threatened with the unbridled wrath of the two great powers of Europe unless she promptly pays them a little debt that she has owed for some time. While Castro has perhaps been a little neglectful in meeting England's and Germany's demands, yet the republic has been in a state of revolution for some time, her credit impaired, and the treasury without money. The method adopted by the two great powers to make the collection seems a little irregular under the circumstances, and its security might be threatened if the republic was outside of the Monroe doctrine limit. This alone prevents Venezuela from being gobbled up at once. Difficult questions will arise until the matter is settled, but there is a sign of no trespass on the American side of the water that all foreigners are obliged to respect. No matter what internal or external ferment, Venezuela territory will remain where it is.

The Labor Union-Citizens ticket at Ashland won out in one of the most active campaigns in the history of the city, on December 14. D. B. Provost defeated S. H. Holt for Mayor by 45 votes out of 707. The labor union forces joined issues with those in favor of licensing saloons against what is known as the Nonpartisan Anti-Saloon League. The Incoming council will be composed of three prohibitionists, two of whom are hold-over members, and three license men, one of whom is a hold-over. The deciding vote will be cast by the Mayor-elect, who is elected as a license man. The labor unionists of both Ashland and Grant's Pass have covered themselves with glory, and deserving of congratulation. These enterprising cities have not been organized more than half a year, but the members of the unions are wide awake and interested in the affairs of their community. It is something of a departure from the ordinary for these industrious little cities, but we predict that they will be so well pleased with the experiment that they will try it again.

A section of the laborers at Woolwich Arsenal, England, recently sent a memorial direct to the king, praying that their wages might be increased from \$5.25 to \$5.75 per week. They were informed that "his majesty had not been pleased to take any steps in the matter. In a speech to workingmen at Breslau, Prussia, last Friday, Emperor William urged them to lay aside party affiliation and send to the German Parliament a representative from among themselves. He said that other parties would be glad to work in harmony with such a man for the betterment of conditions among the laboring classes. A comparison of the two royal gentlemen and the interest they assume in their industrial workers is indeed interesting.

The library of the late Amos J. Cummings, the New York Congressman and editor, is to be given to the home founded in Colorado Springs in 1892 by the International Typographical Union.

Cummings, the widow, is authority for the announcement. Mr. Cummings was a member of the original board of trustees, and his interest in the home was great. He frequently spoke of his intended bequest. His

will did not contain the provision, but, knowing it to be his wish, Mrs. Cummings has made the bequest in her own will, recently executed. The library will reach the home ultimately, as soon as Mrs. Cummings decides to remove from New York. It contains many valuable works and manuscripts.

The tobacco trust, which bears the incorporated name of the American Tobacco Company, endeavors to destroy the Cigarmakers' Union and the independent retailer by the employment of children and machinery, and it is therefore incumbent upon every union man who uses tobacco to pledge himself not to use tobacco of any kind unless it bears the label of the C. M. I. U. of A. The Western Central Labor Union, of Seattle, has pledged its members by resolution not to smoke nor chew any tobacco unless it bears the Cigarmakers' label. Every central and local union in the country should follow suit. Let us emulate Seattle's initiative in this matter.

Representative De Armond has introduced a bill in Congress providing that it shall be unlawful to ship from any state or territory, through or into any other state or territory, any manufactured articles sold for shipment or intended to be sold, unless every article has stamped on the cover containing the words: "No monopoly product. Produced in open competition," or other words of like import. A maximum penalty of \$1000 fine or one year's imprisonment, or both, is provided for violation of this provision. It is provided, further, that articles not thus marked may be confiscated.

The Labor Press is called upon almost daily for the names and addresses of the various unions in Portland. In order to give the information it will be necessary for the secretaries to send in a list of the newly elected officers and the address of the secretary, so that they can be kept on file. The first of the coming year nearly all of the unions will have elected their new officers, and it will not only be of incalculable benefit to the unions themselves, but will save inquirers much trouble. Send in a list of your new officers as fast as they are elected.

Tuesday the strike of the telephone operators of Des Moines, which had been in progress about six months, was settled by representatives of the company and of the Trade and Labor Assembly. The telephone girls are to be paid wages 15 per cent in excess of the union scale, and all of the girls who struck are to be taken back to work. The company further agrees not to in any way discriminate against the strikers. The injunction suit, to restrain the representatives of union labor from boycotting the company, is to be dismissed.

Labor Commissioner Blackman, of Washington, never loses an opportunity to camp upon the trail of those violating the law coming under his jurisdiction. He secured a verdict against the Palace Laundry, of Seattle, the other day, for violating the female-to-hour-day law. A fine of \$15 was imposed, and the judge took occasion to declare that the law had been enacted for the purpose of protecting the health of the present and future generations of men and women.

President John Mitchell, of the United Mineworkers of America, announces that he will write a history of the coal strikes of 1900 and 1902. He will start his book soon after the conclusion of the deliberations of the anthracite coal commission. His book will be anxiously looked for and read, for there is no one so ably fitted to present the facts and figures of the great industrial battles referred to as President John Mitchell.

From the Seattle Union Record we learn that W. O. Powell, president of the International Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers' Association, is still in Seattle working hard to get the laundry workers and their bosses together.

LABOR NOTES.

Milwaukee, Wis., is to have a labor temple before long.

The Team Drivers' International organized 23 unions last month.

Stage employes in St. Paul got an advance of 25 to 50 cents a day.

Johannesburg, South Africa, now boasts a labor paper—The Tribune.

The Trades Assembly, of Pueblo, Colo., has decided to hold open sessions.

During the past year 37 official labor papers have been started in the United States.

Syracuse, N. Y., labor unions intend placing a candidate in the field for Mayor.

Union label committee, at Ithaca, N. Y., is increasing sale of union goods 50 per cent.

Topeka, Kan., Labor Temple Association has incorporated under the laws of the state.

A new international union was created last week, called the Bill Posters & Billers of America.

Seventeen charters were issued during November by the International Typographical Union.

The United Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have chartered 21 new locals since October 1.

In a strike of two days the Electrical Workers of Los Angeles won the points they were contending for.

The retail cigar dealers of Philadelphia are organizing and will enter the fight against the trust stores.

Ninety per cent of the employees of the cigar trust are females, and the majority of them are minors.

That there will be a labor party in the field in Chicago, next Spring, is quite certain. The laborites are of the opinion that they can carry the city and elect the Mayor.

The unions of San Diego, Cal., have started a movement for a home of their own, in shape of a labor temple.

Trade unions of Oklahoma City are talking of starting a bank. They expect 1500 union men as depositors.

Eugene V. Debs is again coming westward on a lecturing tour. He will appear at Los Angeles on January 5.

Two Senators and 11 Assemblymen, who are members of unions, will sit in the New York Legislature this Winter.

Albany, N. Y., is about to open a crusade for vestibule on street-cars. Omaha made and won that fight seven years ago.

Sixteen members of the San Francisco Carmen's Union are on trial for conspiracy in trying to disrupt the organization.

The officers of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company have granted its engineers an advance in wages on an average of about 6 per cent.

In Austria 70,000 miners have been benefited by the inauguration of the nine-hour day. They fought for nine months for the concession.

Chicago union teamsters have voted to support the allied printing trades in their fight against the W. B. Conkey Company, at Hammond, Ind.

The delivery wagon drivers of the Emporium, San Francisco, are on a strike, and the matter has been submitted to Mayor Schmitz for arbitration.

The Spokane Typographical Union is preparing to present a new scale of wages for daily newspapers, which raises the wages from \$4 to \$4.50 for day men, and \$4.50 to \$5 for night work.

The Plumbers' Union, of Butte, Mont., has been suspended from the Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly for disregarding the instruction to the assembly in a dispute over a contract. It will appeal to the American Labor Union.

From August, 1899, until May, 1900, the Bartenders' International League of America, issued 49 charters; from May, 1900, to the same month, 1901, 113 charters were granted, and in the year from 1901 to 1902, 170 charters were taken up.

Judge Munger, in the Federal Court at New York, on December 15, discharged the 27 Union Pacific strikers charged with contempt in maintaining a "picket line" and intimidating workmen. The court ruled that the evidence was insufficient.

The telephone strike at Vancouver, B. C., which has been on for a number of weeks, has been settled. The chief points gained are recognition of the union, a material advance of wages all around, and the restoration of the strikers to their old places without prejudice.

The coal dealers of Lansing, Mich., have formed a combination and adopted the following ironclad rules to govern the exploiters in the transaction of business: (1) Maintain a uniform rate for the price of coal. (2) Refuse to sell any coal on credit. (3) Refuse to sell for cash to any person who, in previous years, has failed to pay bills in full to any member of the combine.

The building trades of Vancouver, B. C., are sending out "keep away" notices. They have a strike on against Robertson & Haskett, a firm of contractors who are building an enlargement to the C. P. R. Hotel, who will probably make inducements to carpenters, plumbers, steamfitters, electrical workers, plasterers, painters and decorators.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mineworkers, was given a warm welcome at Chicago on the 15th instant, on his return to his old home in Spring Valley. The day was observed as a general holiday, and business was suspended in his honor. It is estimated that 3000 unionists and miners took part in the parade which escorted the labor leader through the principal business streets.

The bricklayers and stone masons of Walla Walla have effected temporary organization, and will demand a nine-hour day, instead of 10 hours, after January 1, 1903, with the same wage scale of \$5 per day. A resolution embracing the demands of the masons is being circulated among the contractors for their approval and signatures. No trouble is anticipated between the workmen and their employers.

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Mr. Torrey asked him if he could prove that the coal companies were guilty of such a thing, and the witness replied that he felt certain it was true, because he had seen copies of circulars which have been sent around in Southern Europe asking people to come into Pennsylvania, and stating that there was plenty of money to be earned in the mines.

Mr. Torrey asked him if the steamship companies were not the authors of those circulars, to which Mr. Gompers replied that he had seen 20, and 30 men huddled together in huts in the anthracite coal fields, and he noted that it was not long after they arrived here that they were given employment in the mines. He offered to give to the commission the name of a man who could give the facts to the commission. He did not care to make his name public.

Wednesday the miners put on the witness stand before the coal strike commission the fathers of two of the little girls who had testified on Monday that they worked all night in the silk mills. Tuesday the operators submitted wage statements showing that one of these men and his laborer received \$108, and the other and his laborer were paid \$100.

John Demko, father of one of the girls, said that four and sometimes six men figured in the division of the \$100. The other miner claimed that four men divided the \$108. Everett Warren, one of the operators, on cross-examination, tried to show that this was not the case. Both men promised to take the girls out of the silk mill.

After the witnesses left the stand Chairman Gray asked for an explanation from the Pennsylvania Coal Company, which is controlled by the Erie Road, regarding the wages of men. The wages mentioned by the company were handed to the commission some days ago and did not indicate that more than two persons figured in the distribution.

W. A. May, general manager of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, was called to the witness stand and explained that because of the system in vogue in the company's mine it would be difficult to show in every case how many men shared in one pay.

C. S. Darrow, for the miners, said the miners had no confidence in the figures submitted by the company, and added that the way they were handed in was unfair.

THE MINERS' SIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

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Christmas Presents

Never before were we so thoroughly prepared to supply the requirements of a POPULAR DEMAND for DESIRABLE PRESENT for MAN, WOMAN and CHILD. Our reputation for Good Goods has never been questioned.

McALLEN & McDONNELL
The Store Noted for Good Goods at Lowest Prices
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