

# Portland Labor Press

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### KNOCKERS DISCUSSED.

Andy Dale, of Seattle, writes a clever little article for the Union Record upon the merits of the "knocker," which is worthy of one's time. Here it is: "Modern society is responsible for a creature which has been aptly termed the knocker. This misguided individual carries a small hammer and uses it on every occasion. As a general thing he will be found to be a sneering, snarling, hacking, growling individual who prides himself upon his knowledge of human nature and least upon the imperfections of his fellow men. With his little hammer he attacks the reputation, character and the good works of others. It is knock, knock, wherever he can, seeking to destroy. If pointed out a virtue in a man, he will immediately balance it with a vice. He is ever ready to tear down, but never ready to build up. Unfortunately, we find this knocker in unions. He knocks the officers and members for doing their duty. With him union is a misfit and mere child's play. On every hand he scatters discouragement and keeps his brethren in a turmoil. Nearly every union has its knocker. Perhaps you can point him out in your union, but you should throw away that hammer, conquer that jealous spirit and seek to give praise where it will do good, ever remembering that perfection on earth has never yet been attained. American unions have no room for the knocker.

"N. B.—He who knows not and knows not that he knows not is a fool; avoid him.  
"He who knows not and knows that he knows not is simple; teach him.  
"He who knows and knows not that he knows is asleep; wake him.  
"But he who knows and knows that he knows is a wise man; follow him."

Clarence S. Darrow, attorney for the United Mineworkers before the coal commission, says it will be a month before the hearing of the anthracite coal strike inquiry is concluded: "We have finished our evidence," said Mr. Darrow, "and I believe that we have made a perfect case. The other side has begun to take testimony and state its side, but they have practically confined themselves thus far to the question of violence. They have demonstrated that, while there were some acts of violence during the five months of the strike, when the people were in a state of starvation, these acts were magnified and distorted beyond recognition. Mr. Markle and Mr. Baer had informed President Roosevelt that there were from 30 to 35 murders committed by the strikers. Thus far they have proved that one man was killed by the strikers, and it is plain that in that instance there was no intention on the part of the strikers to kill the man. They may prove two or three more similar cases, but in all there is a lack of intention proved against the strikers. We, on the other hand, will show two men killed by policemen employed by coal and iron companies for every one charged against us. The question before the inquiry is not that of violence, however. The question of the anthracite coal strike will be settled on broader lines—the questions of wages and hours of labor, the question of recognizing the union, the right of a union to exist, and the employment of child labor. The American people will never believe that a great mass of men, women and children are cutthroats, as is claimed by the operators."

Spurred to action by the anthracite coal strike commission, Factory Inspector Bishop, of Pennsylvania, has lodged information with Police Magistrate Miller for the arrest of a score of factory owners for violating the factory laws of the state in employing children under 13 years of age. Warrants have also been issued for Justices of the Peace and parents who illegally gave certificates permitting the children of miners to enter the mills. The sudden activity of the factory inspector is the result of the determined stand taken by the coal commission against child slavery. The small wages received by many of the miners have compelled them to send their little ones into the silk mills to contribute to the support of the family. These children have to work 12 hours a day. Few receive more than 4 cents an hour, and half of the millhands have to work nights. Many of the children in the mills are but 8 years old. Judge Gray, after hearing evidence as to the child slavery, said: "It is horrible that such inhuman condi-

tions can exist in the coal regions. The commission purposes to bring these slave dealers to justice." The action of the inspector has caused much consternation among the factory owners.

Signor Mayer des Planches, the Italian Ambassador at Washington, claims that he has discovered a cure for seasickness. By accident one day, while crossing the Atlantic, he looked into a mirror while laboring under a distressing attack of nausea, and to his astonishment the seasickness disappeared. He stuck pretty closely to a mirror after that, and made the passage without further inconvenience. This may work all right on the Mayer, but women are as subject to this kind of sickness as the men. His theory doesn't seem to reconcile itself with the fair lady who travels upon the ocean. She usually carries along all kinds of mirrors and looks in them often enough to keep her in a good state of health during the entire trip in spite of all kinds of weather. The Mayer may have found a particular kind of mirror, but it could not have been of the ordinary kind. We have heard of faces that would stop a clock, but never one that could defy the sea.

The Omaha Western Laborer hits the nail squarely on the head, and voices the sentiments of every true-blue trades unionist in the land, in the following editorial paragraph: "After the late election, W. R. Hearst printed a signed editorial in which he declared that 'the Democratic party and organized labor are natural allies,' but the labor papers generally are quite strong in their declaration that 'organized labor is the natural ally of no political party.' Mr. Hearst was full of enthusiasm and gratitude to the last men of New York for electing him—and he deserved election—but Mr. Hearst is not the Democratic party. Neither is Debs the Socialist party. Neither is Roosevelt the Republican party. We would denounce and condemn any effort to make organized labor the natural ally of the Democratic party just as quickly as we would the Socialist, Republican, Prohibition or Populist party. To organized labor all parties look alike—they are all good."

The Indiana Supreme Court recently held that the law against company stores is "null and void because it invades the rights of the coal operators to engage in business"—of robbing the poor devil of what little money they are obliged to earn to evade the constitutional slavery clause. Another court in Baltimore held that the so-called sweatshop law, to prevent garments being made in dwellings, is unconstitutional because it "impairs the right to the free and profitable use of property, whether occupied by the tenant or owner, thereby reducing its value, and interferes with the right to pursue any lawful occupation, not injurious to others, in one's home"—while the slave driver carries on a systematic, lawful (?) practice of starving the unfortunate toiler to death. Verily, the law, in the hands of a lawless court, is a cruel implement of torture.

H. C. Smalley, editor of the Galesburg, Ill., Labor News, was presented with a purse containing \$500 a short time ago. The donation was made up by the various unions of the city, and was presented to the editor for his untiring devotion to the cause. The good editor lost consciousness, and it was some time before he regained his senses. Even then he could hardly be persuaded that he was not the victim of an illusive dream or cruel jest. After being resuscitated, he explained to the company assembled to do him honor that editors were accustomed to receive money in homeopathic doses—never more than one year's subscription at one dose.

The Chicago Health Department, after careful experiments extending for more than three days, announces that lemon juice will destroy the typhoid fever germ. One teaspoonful of the juice to half a glassful of water is known to be a good combination, and repeated trials have invariably produced the same result—every germ was killed. This is indeed an economical expedient with which to guard the health against the ravages of this dread disease. Portland is particularly blessed as to water, as there can be a very small percentage of the germs in the pure liquid that flows from Bull Run.

The San Francisco Labor Council has boldly resolved to discontinue the raising of the price of products or commodities through any combination whatsoever between employers and trade unions. And the San Francisco Council displays good, sound sense in so doing. The function of a union is to guarantee to the employer a good standard workmanship, for which it should demand a reasonable living wage for its members, but it is not the fundamental privilege of any union to consubstantiate with the employer to distress the public.

The mine operators at Angels, Cal., have gradually been importing Austrian miners into the mines and letting the American miner, who demands more wages, go. As a result, on December 25, a clash was precipitated by an intoxicated Austrian and a revolver. Between 400 and 500 miners took a hand in the battle, with revolvers, knives and knuckles, and when the smoke cleared away one Austrian was turned over to the Coroner and another to the surgeon. There were many broken heads.

Quite a delegation from Oregon will leave for Seattle next Sunday morning

to attend the convention of the Washington State Federation of Labor, which meets in that city on January 5. The delegation is purely fraternal and its mission is to establish a closer relation between the organizations of the two states. They will also urge that Washington select an official delegation to attend the Oregon State Federation of Labor when it convenes in La Grande next May.

The Portland Labor Press has secured the patronage of many business houses in the city at which members of organized labor can purchase articles at prices that do not advertise in your labor paper. When you wish to make a purchase consult the columns of the Labor Press.

Judge Cochran, of the United States District Court, sitting in Covington, O., has granted an injunction against the Clothing Cutters' and Trimmers' Union, forbidding it to continue a boycott against Mayer, Scheur, Offner & Co., wholesale clothiers of Cincinnati.

The knocker is likened unto the dog that bites the hand that feeds it. He assails the institution and the men who compose it that give him better conditions.

The operators condemn the miners for the shortage of coal. This sounds considerably like the old story of "stop thief."

The anthracite coal commission will reconvene next Tuesday. The operators will continue their defense.

**GRAINHANDLERS' UNION.**  
At the regular meeting of Local 263, last Tuesday evening, officers were elected for the coming term, as follows: Frank H. Curtis, president; W. McDaniel, recording secretary; and John Swanson, treasurer, were unanimously elected to their respective offices. The other officers elected are: Vice-president, James Learmonth; financial secretary, C. W. McDaniel; marshal, E. A. Newman; trustees, John Bengen, A. J. Voigt, Gus Nelson; delegates to Federated Trades Council, C. W. McDaniel, John Bengen, F. H. Curtis; delegates to Water Front Federation, Ed Carey, P. A. Palm, C. W. McDaniel.

After the result of the election had been officially announced, President Curtis stated that the doors would be thrown open and a programme rendered, supported later on with sandwiches and refreshments. Pipes and tobacco were distributed to all present, and the pipe of brotherly confidence was indulged in by those whose good fortune it was to be there.

The programme was led by a trio, "Dolly Gray" was sung by John Kenney, Carl Mealey, and Jesse Howland. They were repeatedly encored, and by their excellent singing earned the compliment.

G. Y. Harry was then introduced and made a short talk on the advantages of organization, and complimented the Grainhandlers for their excellent growth and improvement.

Mr. Connors, of San Francisco, and Mike Kenney entertained the audience with a three-round contest. Both men lost the battle, and it was decided a draw.

Messrs. A. W. Jones, G. B. Thomas and H. G. Kundret also sang a trio with good effect, and were compelled to respond.

M. Fitzgerald, the night-in-bird of the union, warbled the "Bogie Man," and was received with such tumultuous applause that he could not proceed beyond the first verse. The compliment paid him was very flattering indeed. Stories were told and short addresses were made by visiting friends, among whom were W. H. Barry, A. R. Lawton, E. A. McPherson, G. B. Thomas, A. W. Jones, G. Y. Harry, George Hoffman, Andy Madsen, J. G. Hoffman, H. G. Kundret and others.

The rest of the evening was devoted to informal talks, stories, and a wholesale discussion of the good things to eat and drink.

The smoker was a great success, and simply verifies the Grainhandlers' reputation as good entertainers.

**BARTENDERS' LEAGUE.**  
The meeting was called to order Tuesday evening in the G. A. R. Hall by President Fitzgerald. Kill one and the other will die, and man will relapse into savagery. Manhood must be protected. If forced to succumb to the evil instincts responsible for modern times, it will drag nations down in its reeking train. The monumental achievements of allied wealth have become a menace by their inconceivable and uncontrollable magnitude, until what was wealth for all concerned is now bringing all alike to poverty. Manhood, not wealth, is the object. Renounce the man and you will bring peace. Continue to oppress him and you will bring war. It is the working out of a great principle, and either means will verify this conclusion, though there would seem to be a distinct choice for the genus homo. Where there is co-operation just and proper competition is insured, and monopoly destroys both, creates poverty and makes slaves of all.

Antedating every assumption of science as to all of what is meant by the term man, there was ever a profound consciousness of mighty unknown forces regarding for a fountain of life and the universe. Respect or deference to this idea has ever been manifested in unlimited and inconceivable forms of religious observance, each expressing profound regard for a fountain of life and force beyond the ken of man. Science has proclaimed its findings through research, experiment and comparison, as the whole truth upon whatever department of nature it set out to diagnose. This truth has stated a deposition as the whole truth today to destroy it tomorrow, and at length it is coming to be more generally realized that man and all he may possibly experience is but the expression of a great and eternal principle. By a misuse of his intellectual faculties with which he is enabled to discern the unfoldment of the material universe, including himself, by the action of this great principle, man has thought to divine the principle in its entirety. Herein may be discerned the distinction between truth and intellectualism, or between the prognostications of science and the developments of life.

R. A. HARRIS.

The Salem Barbers' Union has brought the charge for shaving the back of the neck, and a number of Salem men will no longer go around wearing a crop of wool on their neck like the back of a buffalo.

which portion of the entertainment, and here is where he made himself especially popular. Mr. Price is also a splendid piano player and a man of much experience, having served for years in the Navy, where he rose from service in the Spanish War. He was compelled subsequently to leave the service on account of his health. Harry Lieb sang a well-rendered song, and was warmly encored. At this time a delegation of active labor unionists, who had attended the Grainhandlers' smoker, arrived, and the programme was extended by songs, stories and short addresses from the visiting brothers. The sun set on one of the finest ever held in the city. The Bartenders' League has taken on new energy and will establish headquarters and a bureau of labor for its colleagues in a central portion of the city. An active campaign will be made to place the union house card in all of the reliable houses in Portland, and if the plans of the League are consummated, as is expected, the particular sphere in which it will have materially the character of the business.

## SERIOUS THOUGHTS

The quickening of the public mind which many people note at this time with regard to the development of a larger and more inclusive philosophy, looking to the uplifting of the laboring classes, and also to the getting back to simple honesty and purer purposes in every phase of activity, have at least three distinct phases, each of equal magnitude for good results and powerful influence. These phases are social, industrial and religious. No one should think the particular sphere in which he acts is all there is to be benefited.

Ruskin says: "There is no wealth but life. Life, including all its powers of love, of joy and of admiration. That country is the richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings. That man is the richest who, having perfected the functions of his own life to the utmost, has also the widest helpful influence over the lives of others."

Nature is optimistic. Every occurrence in her philosophy is but a stepping stone to other and better things. Life is a constant, progressive growth, and there is no such thing as failure. Every reverse is but a necessary failure; he may reason it, but every one teaches its own good lesson and contributes its share to his real development.

Life has a grand purpose for every man. That purpose is development. Its most propitious environment is peace and happiness. This condition does not prevail at its best amidst extremes of wealth and poverty, intelligence and ignorance, etc. Under such conditions the whole is but equal to the worst, as neither could exist in relative form without the other. The problem before the world is the reduction of extremes, and the consequent preservation of the individual.

If, as Ruskin says, that country is richest which nourishes the greatest number of noble and happy human beings, then that country must be poorest which nourishes the least number. It is the purely selfish which builds colossal fortunes for a very few and makes helpless slaves of the many, renders all alike poor indeed. A country is wealthy when all its people are happy. If we accept Ruskin's meaning of wealth, we plainly see that it means a condition of health, happiness and contentment among the people. A country is most wealthy then, when its wealth is most equally enjoyed. This does not imply a demand for a division of wealth, but for social regulations which will reduce the extremes of real poverty as we see them today.

Countless thousands are but slaves of a few, who have great wealth. If not in almost penal servitude, then in constant contemplation and desire. While numerous opponents of the modern trend of social evolution are loud in proclaiming certain developments will destroy the individuality in man and make him a mere machine, it is only true that the manhood of the world is welling up, breaking its servile bonds and coming forth to demand to take its rightful share of the life, the glory, the comforts and the leisure which it does the most to create. The man who gives voice to the thoughts that more certain security from want will but serve to make men live in idleness like hogs, is voicing ideals of which he may indeed be ashamed.

Co-operation is the life of competition. They are but the positive and negative constituting the moving factors of industrial life. Kill one and the other will die, and man will relapse into savagery. Manhood must be protected. If forced to succumb to the evil instincts responsible for modern times, it will drag nations down in its reeking train. The monumental achievements of allied wealth have become a menace by their inconceivable and uncontrollable magnitude, until what was wealth for all concerned is now bringing all alike to poverty. Manhood, not wealth, is the object. Renounce the man and you will bring peace. Continue to oppress him and you will bring war. It is the working out of a great principle, and either means will verify this conclusion, though there would seem to be a distinct choice for the genus homo. Where there is co-operation just and proper competition is insured, and monopoly destroys both, creates poverty and makes slaves of all.

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