

FINISHED LABORS

(Continued from page 1)

"The purposes for which this organization was perfected have been carried out during the past year by your executive officers to the best of their ability. In making my report to this convention it is impossible for me to cover all the matters that have been handled by your state organization. The principal reason for the organization of the State Federation was to promote new unions throughout our state and to bring into our ranks the unorganized workers of Oregon. When the State Federation was organized last year at Portland we had in six different towns in Oregon, outside of Portland, about 32 different labor unions. We have now in the state, outside of Portland, I am glad to report, in 32 different towns more than 130 different labor unions. These unions have been organized through the efforts of the State Federation, and we are all of us largely indebted to the local organizers for their efforts in assisting us in their several localities. During the year I have myself organized 48 different labor unions and have promoted the organization of as many more. The impetus given the labor movement by the organization of the State Federation is responsible for the phenomenal growth of the movement in our state. After a year of experience as the head officer of the State Federation, I feel that I am in a position to make some recommendations to this convention that will be of benefit, and I ask the earnest attention of the delegates to these matters.

A Broad Organization.

"While it is not necessary that we have any cast-iron rules governing a labor organization, it should at the same time be as broad and comprehensive as possible so as not to hamper or interfere with the work of those who are entrusted with the duties of carrying out the purposes of the organization.

"One recommendation that I would suggest to the convention is that the permanent meeting place of our annual convention be fixed at Portland. The reason for this recommendation will appeal to the judgment of all our delegates from the fact that Portland is the center of the state, and to hold our convention at any other point necessitates too much expense upon the unions outside of the city.

To Abolish Treasurer.

"I would also recommend that the office of treasurer be abolished, and that the secretary of the state branch be designated as secretary-treasurer. I find in the practical work of the State Federation that the extra machinery created by the office of treasurer is only a needless complication, and in my opinion the office created under our constitution, of treasurer, is a needless office.

"The resolutions passed at our convention held in Portland last year, touching upon the various matters of interest to organized labor, have stood, and we have considered those resolutions as the instructions to the executive council for their conduct of the organization. At the meeting of the executive council held in Portland last September 1, each resolution was acted upon, and those relating to legislative matters were taken up and your president instructed with the secretary to carry out their provisions. In conformance with the instruction given me by the executive council, I attended each session of the last legislature at Salem and the subjoined report of the results of our legislative work will explain to the convention what was accomplished.

(Here follows a resume of labor legislation.)

Closer Affiliation.

"I would like to ask the earnest attention of this convention to the plan of bringing about closer affiliation of the different State Federations of the Pacific Coast, and in this connection call your attention to the fact that your president made a visit to the convention of the Washington State Federation at Seattle the 5th of last January for the purpose of recommending to that convention that fraternal delegates be elected to meet with us at this time. I am very much pleased to be able to report that my efforts were entirely successful and that we have with us three gentlemen representing the Washington State Federation as fraternal delegates, as well as the president of the Washington branch, and I would suggest that our convention suspend the rules and elect at the very earliest possible moment three fraternal delegates from our convention to meet with our brothers from Washington during the session of this convention, that they may formulate a plan to bring about a closer concert of action between the two state organizations. And that they be requested to at once form themselves into a committee and report back to this convention such recommendations as they may see fit to offer. I would further suggest that this committee be advised that it is the sense of this convention that their plans be made broad and comprehensive enough to take in all the states on the Pacific Coast.

Acting upon President Harry's recommendation to select fraternal delegates to the Washington State Federation of Labor, which convenes in Spokane next January, Arthur F. Brock and G. B. Buck were elected delegates, and William Horan and W. A. Jones alternates.

Several amendments and resolutions were then read and turned over to their proper committees, among which were two resolutions, Nos. 1 and 6, concerning the invoking of the referendum on the Lewis and Clark Fair bill, and which in the afternoon were to raise a long and bitter discussion.

The president appointed as press censors Delegates North and Hesketh, from Washington.

In the afternoon the committee on resolutions brought in its report, and after the convention had adopted several minor resolutions, resolution No. 6 was reported to the convention. The resolution provided for the invoking of the referendum on the Lewis and Clark Fair bill, after a committee of five, which should be appointed to arbitrate with the contractors and millmen, had failed to secure redress of grievances.

This resolution was opposed by the representatives of the Building Trades Council of Portland, which organization had unanimously indorsed and sent to La Grande a resolution providing for immediate action in invoking the referendum. Discussion on this resolution lasted all afternoon and through an adjourned session.

It finally developed and was openly stated that the object was to kill the fair, regardless of consequences. This then became the issue, and led by H. G. Greene, William Horan, L. D. Reed, C. T. Berkey, and opposed by Hugh Glen, C. C. Loucks, G. Y. Harry and others on each side, it was thrashed over till 9:30 p. m., when the faction in favor of the resolution No. 1, which, it is stated, is intended to "kill the fair," was finally indorsed by the convention by a vote of 45 to 20.

The third day's session of the State Labor Federation convened at 9:30 A. M. on May 6. Resolutions thanking the citizens of La Grande for courteous treatment were carried by a standing vote.

The report of the executive board was submitted. Referring to recommendations as to fraternal delegates to Washington, the committee reported a plan of concerted action looking to uniformity in working conditions, wages and legislation.

By a rising vote the convention unanimously adopted a resolution thanking Dr. Hill for his sermon and declaring in favor of arbitration. Resolutions were adopted unanimously condemning the Los Angeles Times, approving the packing-house label, advocating an elective railroad commission, advocating the appointment of a building inspector in Portland with power to inspect staging and working appliances, affirming allegiance to the American Federation of Labor, sympathy with the Portland Painters' Union, extending support to the Union Pacific strikers, favoring the appointment of union mechanics to state institutions, favoring the construction of government vessels in government yards. The constitution was amended, creating legislative and auditing committees, combining the offices of secretary and treasurer, and requiring delegates to the convention to be active workers at their trade or calling; favoring committee to co-operate with the State Child Labor Commission; against soliciting baggage by agents of transfer companies; favoring tailors' label and condemning mis-called unions in opposition to that union; against cigar trust and indorsing the "blue label"; against issuance of franchise or public utilities to corporations; favoring W. S. Wandby, of Rochester Typographical Union, for United States Labor Commissioner; opposing McMonies' leather house and calling on the various unions to assist the leatherworkers in their fight.

The convention concluded its labors by a report of the executive committee and the election of officers.

C. H. Gram, president of the Portland Federated Trades Council, was elected president over H. G. Greene, by a vote of 50 to 23. G. Y. Harry refused to be a candidate. George E. Shaver was unanimously chosen as secretary.

The vice-presidents elected are: J. C. Welch, Astoria; John Morand, La Grande; William Eagles, Albany; F. W. Krabler, Pendleton; Charles Warde, Portland. Harry Gurr was elected delegate to the National convention at Boston, with William Horan alternate. The committee on legislation is G. Y. Harry, H. G. Greene and J. E. Miller, of Salem. The auditing committee is Arthur Brock, N. H. Bird and W. A. Jones.

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A Plea for the "Georgian System of Economics."

"Man seeks to gratify his desire with the least possible exertion, whether that desire is selfish or unselfish, good or bad."

This is the fundamental law of economics as propounded by the late Henry George. And what law could be more natural?

We have desires for good living and pleasant surroundings and some of us, whose desire for accumulation overcomes all other desires, will live like a Chinaman to gratify it.

Spurred by these desires they go forth to labor for their gratification, each at the trade or calling which seems easiest or that is nearest to the dividing line of what we want and what we get.

In this common field of labor we meet on nearly equal terms, some with one talent, some with ten, but each spurred by ungratified desires.

Naturally there develops a competition, and this competition is the law of wages. "The higgling of the market" sets the value in exchange on labor as well as commodities.

All wealth is produced primarily by the application of labor to land. Labor is the active factor and land the passive one. Labor may or may not be aided by capital.

Now when the pressure of competition becomes too strong in the trades or professions it follows, naturally, that we leave the cities where land is high and "go West and grow up with the country."

At least that should be our line of retreat when the cost of gratifying our desires becomes greater than the desire.

But on turning to the country we find that there are trespass notices posted on nearly every piece of available land, and we will have to give up from five to twenty years of our lives to secure enough land to eke out a precarious living, and, that, far from the maddening crowd's ignoble strife (i.e., the Shave, Brewery, Theater and Turkish bath).

Those of us who were familiar with our capital city (Salem) twenty-five years ago, will remember the reservoir for the storage of water. This structure was a net work of posts and braces eighty feet high, supporting a large wooden tank or basin covering nearly half a block. It has long since been abandoned and torn down.

By the study and application of the natural laws of hydrostatics it is found that an even and sufficient pressure can be obtained for a city water system by pumping direct into the mains, and the old idea of pumping water up hill just to let it run down again is wasted energy. The point I wish to make clear is this: May there not be some natural law which we are at present overlooking, violating, or working in direct opposition to.

We, of the workers, whose necks are under the yoke pulling and scrambling, putting forth our utmost efforts in fear that our competitor will do a little better than we and thereby hold his job when times get dull—we, I say, have little time for study. But through the unions we have shortened our hours somewhat and nominally increased our pay. Also the present strike and lockout has given some of us the taste of enforced idleness.

It seems to me that we can as individuals make no better use of our idle time than to study political economy. Political economy has nothing to do with politics, and still less has modern politics to do with economics.

As union men we are barred from politics, are nonpartisan; therefore let us study; let us learn to reason from cause to effect, and from effect back to cause; let us apply our knowledge thus gained to our own conditions. Let us determine for ourselves if protection is a good thing (for Carnegie), or if free silver is a good thing (for the silver kings), if monopoly in general, and the trusts in particular, are good things.

Let us discover what natural laws govern our sojourn on this planet and apply them to our conditions here and those institutions that cannot stand the test. Let us abolish as slavery was abolished. In "Progress and Poverty" is outlined a system of political economy, based on natural laws and supported by the strongest, clearest logic ever penned by hand of man.

A book that spread not only over the entire English speaking world but was translated into several foreign languages twenty years ago—the logic of which has been undisputed, whose statements remain unrefuted to this day.

This book can be purchased in any book store for 25 cents (paper binding). It is systematically arranged and accurately indexed so you can turn at a moment's notice to any particular subject under discussion.

Its author was a member of the Typographical Union in San Francisco—a man who made a financial failure of his life, who pondered long over the suffering of the poor and the arrogance of the rich, and who has left behind him an untarnished reputation, a spotless character and the ground work of a system of political economy that is as unassailable as ether.

"You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." He has pointed out the way; it is for us to follow. Therefore, let us study his work carefully, accepting nothing that is not sanctioned by our own reason. In conclusion let me ask those whose faith in unionism is strongest: How many unions must be organized in our city before rents become normal again? How many unions must be organized before the general cost of living will be reduced? How many must be organized before every one of us will have, or can get remunerative employment when he needs it?

These questions are answered by the "Georgian System of Economics."

T. C. PARKER.



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NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed with the Clerk of the County Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County her final account as administratrix of the estate of Jesse Eaton, deceased, and by an order made and entered on the 4th day of April, 1903, by said County Court, Friday, the 15th day of May, 1903, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M., was fixed as the time and the courtroom of said County Court in the City of Portland, Or., was fixed as the place for the hearing of said final account and objections thereto, if any there be.

MARGARET EATON, Administratrix.

Date first publication, April 9, 1903; date last publication, May 7, 1903.

ADMINISTRATOR'S SALE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, administrator of the estate of Nancy B. Atkinson, deceased, in accordance with the order of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Multnomah County, will offer for sale and sell at private sale, for cash, subject to the approval of the court, from and after the 1st day of June, 1903, at his office, at room 302, Chamber of Commerce building, in the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, the following described real property belonging to the said estate to-wit:

Undivided one-third of lots 11, 12, and 13, block 11, in the town of Grant's Pass, Oregon.

FRANK M. WARREN, Administrator.

First date of publication, May 1, 1903.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

By virtue of an execution, decree and order of sale issued out of and under the seal of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County, to me directed, and dated the 28th day of April, 1903, upon a judgment and decree of foreclosure rendered and entered in said court on April 25, 1903, in the case of Charlotte M. Thurston, plaintiff, vs. Alexander Fargher, Ida L. Fargher, now Ida L. Ross, Horatio A. Fargher and Emma Fargher, his wife, the above described real property and all the right, title and interest which the defendants or any of them had on the dates of plaintiff's mortgages foreclosed, to satisfy said execution, decree and order of sale, interest, costs and all accruing costs.

W. A. STOREY, Sheriff of Multnomah County, Oregon. Portland, Or., April 30, 1903.

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