

Portland Union Labor Press

OFFICIAL PAPER
FEDERATED TRADES COUNCIL

Portland Labor Press

OFFICIAL PAPER
STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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

Vol. IV

PORTLAND, OREGON, NOVEMBER 13, 1903

No. 14



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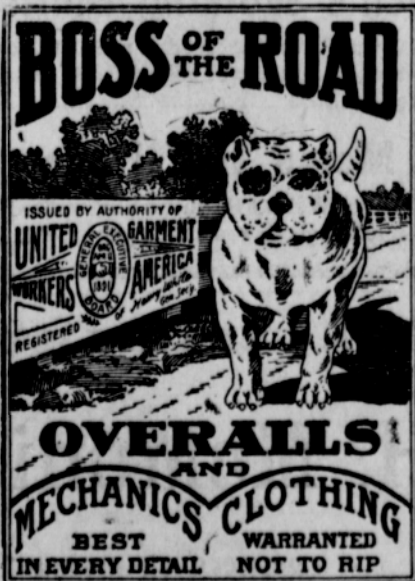
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BIG COAL STRIKE

The Tie-up More Complete Than
Expected.

THREATENED WITH FUEL FAMINE

The Miners Are Contending For an Eight
Hour Day, and an Improved
Wage Schedule.

Pursuant to the strike order issued by the executive of the United Mine Workers of America, the coal miners of Colorado made it effective on Monday, November 9, and the mines are all idle. Over 10,000 men laid down their tools, and are prepared to stay out indefinitely. The men are contending for an eight-hour day, slight increase in wages, and other concessions.

A few independent properties in the northern coal fields and elsewhere will not stop work, since the operators have agreed to concede the eight-hour day and also increased wages.

The Colorado Fuel & Iron, Victor Fuel, and Northern Coal & Coke Companies are the largest producers. Practically all of their properties have been tied up by the action of the miners. However, they are making efforts to continue operations under the protection of a strong guard. It is estimated that there are about 140 coal miners in the state with an output of some 8,000,000 tons a year and about 1,000,000 tons of coke.

It will be the policy of the United Mineworkers to depopulate the various coal districts by sending the idle men and their families to Illinois, Indian Territory, Missouri, Iowa, and other states where work has been secured for them. Some 5000 fares to these states have already been arranged for by the United Mineworkers, and today hundreds of the strikers are on their way to the new fields. The storm centers will be about Trinidad, in the southern fields, where the number of miners aggregated 8000.

The tie-up is more extensive than operators had anticipated or union leaders expected. In Las Animas County, the principal battle ground, the union leaders assert that only 100 of the 7000 men employed by the various companies are working.

In Huerfano County are 1800 miners, of whom more than 1000 are already on strike, and the leaders are confident that they will succeed in inducing the remainder to come out. Practically all the 1700 miners in Fremont County are idle.

In the northern field 1500 miners are on strike and about 400 are working on small independent properties, at which all the demands of the men have been conceded.

In Western Colorado about 1000 miners are working, but organizers are busy among them.

Union leaders at Trinidad say that 80 per cent of the miners in New Mexico have gone out. In Wyoming and Utah the strike has not yet become effective.

No violence or disorder has been reported anywhere in the coal regions.

The Colorado Fuel & Iron Company has notified all married men in its employ that they will be evicted from the company dwellings by Friday morning if they fail to return to work.

William Howells, district president of the United Mineworkers, said that since the strike was ordered more than 2000 members had been added to the unions.

Chris Evans, financial representative of the national executive board of United Mineworkers, says that there is enough money available to conduct the strike and provide homes for the evicted families of all the strikers.

The railroads are preparing for the departure of a large number of striking miners. The men will go to the Eastern coal fields unless the strike here is settled.

An effort has been made to get Governor Peabody to send the troops to the scene of the strike, but as there has been no disturbance so far he has refused to do so.

Tuesday morning a charge of dynamite was discharged under the company's electric light and power house at Hastings, without much damage, but the explosives had been so awkwardly placed that the miners were not charged with the outburst.

It was claimed at strike headquarters that the act was a scheme to get the militia into the camp, but it failed.

The railroad men of Southern Colorado are taking active interest in the strike, as it also affects many of their men. A mass meeting will be called by them in Pueblo, on the evening of November 12, for the purpose of doing what they can to bring about a settlement of the trouble.

James Kennedy, member of the national executive council of the United Mineworkers of America, said Wednesday that transportation for 4000 miners from the Trinidad district to Iowa had been arranged for, and that unless settlement with the operators was soon reached 2000 men would also be sent from Colorado to Missouri and Illinois, and 1500 to Texas. Hundreds of miners have already drawn their savings from the banks at Trinidad and gone away to seek employment elsewhere.

The Overland cotton mills, of Denver, have been closed down because of the lack of coal. This is the first large institution in Denver to close because of the strike. Four hundred persons are thrown out of employment.

The coal miners of Utah have been granted an increase of 10 per cent in their wages. Specials from the different camps show that the advance has been general, the rate of pay being raised from \$2.50 to \$2.75 a day.

The Difference.

Sitting in the Waldorf Cafe we were discussing some deep problems of the day, writes a correspondent, trying to photograph them, as it were, on the brain. The question of capital and labor came up.

"Can you tell me, Colonel, what is the difference between capital and labor?" was asked of a retired officer of the engineer corps, U. S. A.

"I flatter myself that I can, sir," said the Colonel. "Some time before my old and very dear friend, William H. Vanderbilt, died, he was run down by an unruly team at Fleetwood Park. His injuries did not even amount to a scratch, sir, but they caused a panic in Wall street and the newspapers published from two to four columns about it. At the same instant a brick mason fell from the top of a wall he was building and broke his neck. One-twentieth of a column answered for him. That, sir, is the difference between capital and labor."

Representatives of the packing interests at the Chicago Union Stock Yards have offered the striking sausage makers and canners an increase in wages that probably will be accepted by the employees, preventing a general strike in all the centers of the industry.

LABOR IN BOSTON

A. F. of L. Convention Largest
Ever Held.

A YEAR'S REMARKABLE GROWTH

The Two Million Mark Nearly Reached,
442,000 Being Added in Past
Twelve Months.

The twenty-third annual convention of the American Federation of Labor met in Boston, Mass., on November 9, in the celebrated Faneuil Hall, and will continue for about two weeks.

President Samuel Gompers delivered his annual address to the delegates, and Secretary Frank Morrison and Treasurer John B. Lennon presented their annual statements. About 450 delegates were present when the session was called to order.

President Gompers' address took up most of the afternoon. It showed that the gain in membership of the affiliated international unions and of the American Federation of Labor during the last year had been 442,000. Mr. Gompers reviewed at length what the federation had accomplished during the past year, and he made numerous recommendations. He pointed out that the grave danger which confronted the labor movement was the internecine strike due to the conflicting claims of trade jurisdiction. Mr. Gompers condemned such anti-trust legislation as was secretly against labor and urged eternal vigilance with respect to legislation.

President Gompers reported that never before has there been such uniform growth in unionism as during the past year. The American Federation of Labor has issued new charters as follows: International unions, 20; state federations, 3; central labor unions, 171; local trade unions and federal labor unions, 1139. The gain in membership has been 442,000. At the end of the fiscal year, October 1, 1903, the number of international unions in the federation was 113; state federations, 29; central labor unions, 549; local trade unions and federal labor unions, 1747.

The average membership during the year was 1,465,800. In discussing the course to be pursued by organized labor with regard to a possible continuation of business depression, Mr. Gompers said:

"It is the height of economic unwisdom to curtail the consuming power

of the masses as a means to industrial revival or prosperity. No industry, no country, has ever become great or ever can become great founded upon the poverty of its workmen. The working people should resist any attempt to reduce their wages or to increase their hours of labor.

"We are better organized and better prepared to resist encroachments upon our condition than ever before; and if perchance some of our efforts may be lost, it is better to resist and lose than not to resist at all; for to complacently accept a reduction in wages is simply to invite its repetition while it enfeebles our ability to resist further efforts in the same direction.

"We urge as a way out that wages be maintained, even if necessary to resist reductions; that as a substitute for discharges of workmen the work to be performed be divided, thus not only helping to bear each other's burdens, but more quickly to restore activity in industry, trade and commerce."

Discussing "Mongolian Immigration," President Gompers said:

"Efforts have been made to make it appear that Chinese are necessary to the industry of the American possessions. That this claim is unfounded is demonstrated not only by the investigation made by the representative of the American Federation of Labor sent to Japan and the Philippines, but is borne out by the statements of native and American workmen to the effect that there are sufficient numbers of men to perform all the work and all the kinds of work which now or which may in the near future be required. From every section comes the complaint and the warning that unrestricted Japanese immigration is as grave a danger today as was at any time in our history unrestricted immigration of Chinese. This convention should emphatically declare its position on the immigration question, not only from Continental Europe, but from China and Japan into the mainland and the insular possessions of the United States."

Mr. Gompers also spoke of anti-trust agitation and said under the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law the only persons ever indicted were a number of workmen who sought to protect their interests against an opponent.

"Under the pretense of its provisions and the so-called interstate commerce law," he continued, "the federal courts have issued many injunctions enjoining workmen from doing those things for which there is absolutely no prohibition in the laws, and the doing of which is not at variance with the constitution or any of the laws of our country. It is worse than

(Continued on page 8)

Shoe Sale Continued

THE grandest Shoe Sale we have ever inaugurated continues through this week. Shoe bargains for men, women and children—Shoes of style and quality—Shoes that will give entire satisfaction are offered at price reductions that compel every person having footwear needs to come to this shoe store, providing he or she has any idea of economy. We've certain notions about this shoe business the most important of which is that it must offer at all times better values for less money than any other store. This is practical demonstration of our ability to accomplish that object?

\$5.00 Shoes \$3.55

Six styles of J. & T. Cousins' famous shoes for women, patent leather and vici kid, lace or button styles, Louis or Cuban heel, every pair guaranteed the best \$5.00 value, all sizes and widths, for this sale only at, pair..... **\$3.55**

\$3.50 Shoes \$2.65

8 styles of \$3.50 Shoes for women—J. & T. Cousins' make in all the best leathers and styles, patent leather, vici kid, box calf, all sizes and widths, the regular \$3.50 value for this sale only, at the low price of, pair..... **\$2.65**

\$2.50 Slippers \$1.58

Ladies' Fancy Slippers in patent leather and vici kid 25 styles in values ranging from \$2.50 to \$5, all sizes, marvelous values for this sale **\$1.58** at, pair.....

All 10c Polish and Paste at 5c per box

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Men's patent leather, vici, box calf and velour calf shoes in all the best styles, all sizes and widths, regular \$3.50 and \$4.00 values at, **\$2.65** per pair.....

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Misses' Patent Colt Blucher, best styles, \$2.50 values at, per pair..... **\$1.85**
Children's Patent Bolt Blucher, all sizes, regular \$2.00 values at, per pair..... **\$1.60**
Misses' Vici Kid Lace, sizes 11 to 2, \$2.50 values at, per pair..... **\$1.60**

BOYS' SHOES

Boys' Satin Calf Shoes in plain or quilted sole, best styles 2 1/2 to 5 1/2 at \$1.50 per pair; 1 to 2 at \$1.22 per pair; 11 to 13 1/2 at, per pair..... **\$1.02**
Little Gents' \$1.50 Shoes, 11 to 13 1/2, kangaroo and satin calf, per pair..... **\$1.12**

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