

Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Portland Labor Press Publishing Association. (Incorporated August 18, 1900.)

OFFICE:
Room 8, 232 1/2 Washington Street.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:
In Advance.
One year \$1.00
Six months50

ADVERTISING RATES:
Rates will be made known upon application.

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Entered at the Postoffice as second-class matter, September 29, 1900.

LESSON FROM PARKS.

Withal that Sam Parks has just commenced a deserved sentence there is just a little mark of pathos connected with the whole affair. Standing as he does upon the brink of the grave from physical collapse, his last words before entering prison upon his service of sentence are similar to those expressed by a man who is about to be hung. He acknowledges his guilt and holds his career up as a warning to others who are liable to be carried away by their ambitions. His advice is good, but 'tis a pity that he did not live what he now advocates. He would have been a power for good instead of a force of evil. He was a man of wonderful energy and action and could have taken his organization along with him in the forward and upward race. Before he left his cell in the city jail to begin serving his sentence of more than two years in Sing Sing prison, he called about him a number of newspaper men to bid them farewell. In so doing he made the following statement:

"It's only taken a little more than seven years for them to get me here. It has been a hard fight and I've lost; that's all. I'm down and out and I know when I've got enough. I'll be forgotten in less than a year except by some of the boys who thought there was some good in me, and I am sorry for it. Every laboring man in this country should remember me for years to come. I should be a warning to them. I'm the victim of a custom that is older than I am, and that is the habit of having money transactions with employers. That put me here.

"The salvation of the unions lies in stopping that practice at once. They must give up fines, waiting time, back pay for strikes and everything like that. That's the loophole through which this 'grafting,' as they call it, creeps in. The employers never leave any tracks. I could name 100 employers here who have made a practice of using labor unions against competitors. I know plenty of employers who have made fortunes by the use of money of a young fellow who has never made more than a couple of dollars a day and has been in authority by his union."

The flurry in Wall street and the stock centers of the East, occasioned by an expose of the actual amount of moisture contained in the capitalization of several of the monster trusts which rendered their collapse, in no wise indicates that the country is on the verge of a panic. It is rather a proof that the country is so industrially healthy that a thieving corporation of this character cannot operate. Legitimate business is all right. Inflated prosperity may get a setback, but the genuine article is here yet and has no intention of giving up the ghost. The country needs a little shaking up, however, in regard to enforcing the laws. If equity in court was as promptly attended to as injunction proceedings against some labor organization for trying to get a small percentage more of legitimate business, J. P. Morgan and Chas. Schwab would now be serving time in Sing Sing with Sam Parks. The difference between Parks and Morgan-Schwab is that Parks is an extortioner and the two aforesaid gentlemen are promoters.

Miss Ida Jackson, a Wisconsin factory inspector, tells, in Harper's Bazar, why factory girls refuse to do housework. She has interviewed 700 factory girls and gives their opinions. Sixty-nine of the girls preferred housework, but did not know how to cook. The others said that they

would rather do any kind of factory work than to be house servants. "Factory work gives me my evenings and Sundays free," was the principal reason given by the girls. "We are treated better in the factory," said others. "We have regular hours for work, and only a certain number of things to do. If we do extra work we get extra pay. We are more independent, and we can live at home. Good mistresses are rare. Most of them do not know what a day's work is. Servants are too often treated as if they were made of wood." Some of the girls who were interviewed are packing shingles in lumber mills, washing bottles in breweries, soldering cans in tinshops and laboring in the dust and noise of foundries.

A case of much interest to unionists will come up for trial in the Superior Court next week, says the Seattle Union Record; it is that charging conspiracy against the hardware dealers in this city who refuse to sell supplies to employers of union horse-shoers. A temporary restraining order was obtained against the dealers some time ago. The motion now pending is to make the restraining order permanent. If the court decides that its previous order shall stand it will be a severe blow to the Master Horsehoers' Association, as it is an open secret that the hardware dealers obeyed the requests of that organization in refusing to sell material to employers of union horse-shoers. If the order be vacated it will establish a precedent very dangerous to union labor. If employers' associations are allowed to determine who shall and who shall not be allowed to buy raw materials on which mechanics work the small employer will be driven out of business and the mechanic will never rise above the level of a hired man.

The World's Work relates a little story that is in itself a most potent sermon to members of organized labor. In a factory where 1500 men work their labor union made an unreasonable demand of the owner. The next day a number of old men went to him and said: "We are sorry that the union did this, and we want you to know that we were not at the meeting." The owner replied: "Then you are to blame for it. You belong to the union properly, and it is your duty to attend its meetings. If all the best men had attended the meeting the action of the union would have been wiser. Any demand that all the men in the shop make after careful deliberation is likely to be a reasonable demand. Labor unions sometimes have bad government for the same reason that cities have it. The best men do not vote. To be of use the union should comprise the best men, and they should attend its meetings and direct its conduct."

"From what I have learned about the United States Shipbuilding Company, its inception, its formation and its collapse, it seems to me to be the ordinary 'con' game conducted on a big scale," says District Attorney Jerome, of New York City, in a recent interview with an Examiner reporter. "I have not examined the affair closely enough to know yet whether any of the manipulators have made themselves amenable to the criminal law, but when the hearing is ended it is my purpose to go over all the testimony carefully, and if there is any way of reaching a swindler through the machinery of the District Attorney's office we will reach him, whether he is connected with the shipbuilding trust or any other get-rich-quick game." New York City is therefore liable to some surprises in the near future, that will work a hardship upon a number of the influential promoters, or, more properly, "confidence men."

The failure of the injunction to work as it was expected has led employers to use a new weapon, also a product of the law, says an Eastern exchange. It is called "tort," which means that a civil act or injury has been done for which an action in law will lie. Rand, McNally & Co., of Chicago, have just filed a suit in tort against the Franklin Press Feeders, claiming \$20,000 damages. Under this form the individual members of the union may be thrown into jail and their property taken if the treasury of the union is not sufficient to pay the damages. The claim for damages by Rand, McNally & Co. is based upon losses said to have resulted from the recent strike of the press feeders and the consequent tying up of publishing houses. The action is a new procedure against organized labor, the popularity of which will depend upon the efficiency of its service.

The iron workers at Bilbao, Spain, have just gained a great victory, but they are prevented from organizing a union to clinch it. For over a week there was rioting and tumult, but finally the employers consented



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to make some reforms in their business methods. The miners will no longer be compelled to remain cooped up in barracks, nor buy food only from company stores, and they will be paid their wages in money once a week. Some 35,000 workers were involved, and they in turn were backed by the entire labor element of the district. Matters had gone so far that street barricades had been built. Only the reluctant consent of the employers to confer and make a few concessions stopped what might eventually have involved the whole nation.

Children of tender years, victims of the "sweatshop" evil and subjected to so-called "slavery" in Chicago's manufacturing establishments, have found new friends in the Chicago Teachers' Club. At the meeting held September 25, the club voted to cooperate with the state factory inspectors in an effort to wipe out the "child slavery evil." Intense interest was manifested in the work by the teachers and the vote to undertake the work of rescuing the children was unanimous. The number of children employed in Chicago under 14 years of age is about 2500; number of children employed in Chicago between 14

year's." This don't look much like the gamblers of Wall street controlled the legitimate business of the country.

Capital preaches the enforcement of law; it must itself practice what it preaches, says Public Policy. Evasion of law by capital incites open defiance of law by labor. Labor preaches the doctrine of fair play, fair wages, a fair division of the profits of business, fair hours and conditions of work. It must itself practice what it preaches, and not use the power of organization, as a gigantic trust might do, to crush out competition in order to withhold from nonunion men the same rights it claims for itself.

"The gravest charge I have to bring against child labor," says Jane Adams, "is that it pauperizes the consumers. If I wear a garment which has been made in a sweatshop or a garment for which the maker has not been paid a living wage—a wage so small that her earnings had to be supplemented by the earnings of her husband and children—then I am in debt to the woman who made my cloak. I am a pauper, and I permit myself to accept charity from the poorest people of the community."

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and 16, 15,000; number of children employed in Chicago through fraudulent certificates and thus violating the law, 3000; number of children employed in shops, working under unsanitary conditions, 2000.

The general conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of America, in session in Grand Rapids, Mich., passed resolutions stating that the church is not in favor of labor unions because they are secret societies. The resolution also states that the church is against the use of the boycott and the calling out of men by unions when they are working on contract. Why don't the Methodist church also resolve against the lockout and the blacklist, and the Manufacturers' Association because it is a secret organization, and the stock thief, who organizes a corporation upon a basis of three-quarters watered capital, and evils ad libitum? It may be the way of the church to shield the rich and rebuke the poor, but it was not Christ's way.

The calling of a special session of the Montana Legislature and the passage of a fair trial bill may relieve the situation temporarily, but it does not and will not free the people of the state from the yoke of the money power. Montana is essentially a corporation state. Its rich ore deposits and great tracts of timber attract the attention of the kings of capital, and its small population offers little resistance. If a combination is effected between the Heinze interests and the Amalgamated Copper Company, which will surely come, it will practically become a "one-man" state. We tremble for the people of Montana. With all of its richness its prospects are not bright, at least for the common people.

The Weekly Review of Trade, issued by Dun & Co., says: "While there is evidence of a setback in the steel industry and some hesitation in textiles at the East the general tenor of these reports is encouraging for a continuance of prosperity, particularly in the sections where agriculture is the chief occupation. Merchandise is freely distributed, railway earnings for October thus far surpassing last

Tammany seems to have been generally supported by the trades unions of New York City in the recent election victory. It seems that the union men stood by Tammany this time because the promises made by the fusionists were never carried out. Two years ago the union labor vote was against Tammany Hall. Perhaps the one thing that drew the labor forces to the Democracy more than anything else was the Hearst syndicate of newspapers. These the union people swear by.

Governor Chamberlain is quite right in demanding a promise from the legislators not to take up other legislation than the remedy of the tax law. And it is well that it should be made in writing. There may be other reliefs needed, but it would only be a question of the 20-day limit if the bill got started. Two or three days would suffice to relieve the state revenue quandary, and the large expense of the full extra session limit would be cut off.

Edward A. Moffett, editor of the "Bricklayer and Mason," says that all trade "unionists who have been in the movement sufficiently long to have been taught discipline, condemn violent methods as inimical to their interests, and as good citizens they condemn violence in all its forms, whether it be the subtle violence of corruption and bribery, or that physical injury done by a striker or a murderous Sheriff's posse as at Latimer.

The reason of the lull in Chicago building operations, says Boyce's Weekly, has been traced by a real estate man to the fact of the high price of material and the costliness of sites rather than to the cost of labor. He argues that labor is really more effective than ever, and that skilled men at big rates are really the cheapest. So far as the cost of labor is concerned, a big building can be put up cheaper now than ever before in the history of Chicago.

It is reported that Harvard is about to establish a department for the study of economic questions, principally the industrial, relating to trades unionism.

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