

AROUND TOWN

What the Union Men of Portland Are Doing.

A GOOD SHOWING IN ALL TRADES

A Compendium of the Various Local Organizations in the City—All in a Healthy Condition and Growing.

FEDERATED TRADES COUNCIL.

Portland, Or., June 24, 1904.

Meeting called to order at 8 o'clock, Vice-President Williams in the chair. Minutes of the previous meeting read and approved.

Credentials—Stereotypers and Electrotypers, S. C. Wood; Barbers, Ed O. Mayer.

Communications — From Retail Clerks' Union, asking that the Council assist them in closing a number of stores on First street that now keep open after 6 o'clock; referred to the retail trades committee. From Painters', Paper Hangers' and Decorators' Union, asking that the Sheet Metal Workers and Plasterers' Unions be expelled from the Council for working on the theater building on Fourteenth and Washington streets, after it was placed on the unfair list; laid over until the order of new business is reached. From same union, offering resolutions relative to the situation in Colorado, and asking that the Council adopt similar resolutions; request complied with. From Team Drivers' Union, stating that that union will contribute the sum of \$5 per week to assist the Leather Workers in their struggle; placed on file. From American Federation of Labor, urging central bodies to promptly enforce the decisions of the Federation conventions; placed on file. At this time Mr. Will Wolf, a clothing merchant, asked for and was granted the privilege of the floor. He complains that the Retail Clerks' Union is not treating him fairly in allowing stores in his locality to remain open after 6 o'clock while he is required to close his store at 6 o'clock. He stated that he has complained to the Clerks' Union, but has received no satisfaction; he asks that the Council take steps to compel the Clerks to remedy the trouble. Mr. Wolf then retired and the matter was referred to the retail trades committee.

Committee on organization report that they have visited a number of unions during the week and are hopeful of building up the weaker organizations of the city; report accepted as progress. Committee on Empire restaurant trouble report the trouble at that place has not been adjusted and the prospects are not encouraging; committee continued for one week further. Carnival committee report that everything is in readiness for the opening of the carnival on next Tuesday. Saturday, July 2, has been set aside as labor day and union men and families are urged to do all in their power to make the attendance on that day the record breaker.

New Business — Request of the Painters that the Plasterers and Sheet Metal Workers be expelled from the Council was taken up. Motion that a committee of five be elected to try the charges made by the Painters' Union; carried. G. L. McIntire, W. H. Blaney, T. J. O'Connor, Harry Gurr, A. B. Leper, J. W. Gorman and H. S. Recob were nominated. Chair appointed Brothers Parsons and Sparks as tellers. Brothers McIntire, Leper, O'Connor, Recob and Blaney received a majority of all votes cast and were declared elected. The committee then retired to the ante-room and when they returned they recommended that the Plasterers and Sheet Metal Workers be notified to appear before the committee on next Friday evening at 8 o'clock to answer the charges; recommendations concurred in and secretary instructed to notify the Plasterers and Sheet Metal Workers.

Receipts—Donations to the Leather Workers, Lathers, \$8; Cigar Makers, \$4.50; Team Drivers, No. 162, \$5; Laundry Workers, \$5. Total, \$19.50. Dues—Lathers, \$3; Beer Drivers and Bottlers, \$3; Bricklayers, \$3; Hod Carriers and Building Laborers, \$3. Total, \$12.

Meeting adjourned.

GRANT McDONALD, Sec.

LADIES' AUXILIARY.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Portland Typographical Union will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening, July 5, in the Alisky building, northwest corner of Third and Morrison streets, second floor. Matters of importance will be added to the routine business of the meeting. Dues for the ensuing quarter will be cheerfully accepted for by the secretary.

The details of a picnic to be given by the ladies on Sunday, July 10, will also be considered and perfected. The outing will be taken in Magoon's Park. One of the entertainments of the day will be a ball game between the chapters of the Journal and the Telegram. Further announcement of the picnic will be made in next week's issue of the Labor Press.

EIGHT-HOUR BILL TAKEN UP.

Exhaustive Inquiries and Investigation to Be Made.

The investigation concerning the desirability and practicability of an eight-hour law as proposed by the Gompers bill, which during the closing days of the last session of Congress was referred to the department of commerce and labor for a report, has been undertaken by Carroll D. Wright, chief of the Bureau of Labor, who has already planned the inquiry in detail and has left Washington for a tour that will occupy several weeks, during which he will devote the greater portion of his time to a personal investigation of certain phases of this important problem.

The resolution referring the eight-hour bill to the department of commerce and labor for a report requests information with regard to the following questions:

1. What would be the additional cost to the United States of the various materials and articles which it customarily procures by contract, which would be governed by the limitations set out in said bill?
2. What damage, if any, would be done to the manufacturing interests affected by the provisions of the bill, if enacted?
3. Whether manufacturers who have heretofore furnished materials and articles to the government under contract would continue to contract with the government if such contracts were within the peremptory eight-hour limitation provided by the said bill.
4. What would be the effect of the enactment of the said bill upon the shipbuilding industry?
5. What would be the effect of the enactment of the said bill, if any, upon the export trade of the country?
6. Are the laborers of the country, organized and unorganized, who would be affected by the proposed legislation, willing to have taken away from them the right to labor more than eight hours per day, if they so desire to do so?
7. What effect, if any, will this proposed legislation have upon the agricultural interests of the country?

Colonel Wright's first step has been to address a letter over the signature of Secretary Cortelyou to each member of the cabinet, requesting a detailed statement of the quantity and kind of articles and materials purchased by contract, the prices paid for them and the full text of all contracts under which purchases are made, together with the names and addresses of parties, whether manufacturers or agents, from whom goods have been bought during the past year. This information is to be carefully classified, with a view to determining, if possible, which articles or materials would be subject to the operation of the eight-hour bill, if passed, and which would be exempt.

When this information has been received and classified, a schedule of inquiries will be prepared and forwarded to all manufacturers with whom the government has recently made contracts. Manufacturers will be asked to state the proportion which the goods which they sell to the government bear to those sold commercially; the number of hours their plants are now operating and the additional cost, if any, that would be involved in a reduction to eight hours; and whether manufacturers would continue to contract with the government if their products were held within the limitation provided by the bill. The schedule of inquiries to be submitted to manufacturers has not yet been completed, as it is anticipated that the replies received from the several cabinet officers will suggest additional questions, the answers to which may shed further light upon this very complex subject.

An important feature of Colonel Wright's investigation will be the effect of the enactment of the bill upon the export trade of the country. This question will be treated, however, solely from the standpoint of the direct, rather than the indirect, results that may follow the enactment of a national eight-hour law. He will assume that only those manufacturing plants will be affected by the bill as are now doing work for the government, and in this connection he will closely scrutinize the replies made by contractors as to the percentages of their respective outputs sold to the government and exported, and their answers to the inquiry as to whether they would continue to take government contracts if the bill should become a law.

The much more important question as to the indirect effect of the passage of the eight-hour bill, which, it has been contended, would result, through labor agitation, in forcing to

FESTIVE GATES ARE OPEN

Thousands of People Pay Homage to The Queen, and Participate in The Feast of Fun.

The Mardi Gras and Carnival was formally opened Tuesday evening with great splendor and at the time appointed. At exactly 15 minutes to 12 King Rex, accompanied by his Lord High Chancellor, stepped aboard the monitor Wyoming and was greeted by Commodore Cottman and staff of officers. The crew were drawn up in line of salutation of His Royal Highness, and the colors were dipped in honor of the visit.

The royal party landed at the foot of Washington street shortly after the noon hour, where they were received and driven through the city in carriages, preceded by heralds and buglers, to the carnival grounds.

The parade announced to occur at 7 o'clock in the evening was promptly pulled off without hitch or hindrance. A detachment of police acted as advance guard, followed by the marines from the warships in the harbor. Then came the Mayor and city officials, carnival officers and committeemen, queen and ladies, and king and attendants, all in carriages, and finally a number of unique and attractive floats. The parade terminated at the carnival grounds, where the royal party alighted from their vehicles and prepared for the coronation.

Promptly at 8:30 Queen Margaret and the king ascended the throne at the circus, dressed in royal colors, attended by the court ladies and servants.

After the Lord High Chancellor delivered his charge to Her Majesty and the crown had been placed upon her brow by the king, Mayor Williams presented the keys to the city and the freedom thereof to the court.

The dancing maids then entertained the royal party with pretty figures and graceful maneuvers, nor was the entertainment complete until the bull had been slain by the intrepid matadore. After this the games in the circus were performed in regular order.

There was a large attendance at the opening evening, but on the second day the intense heat and a humid atmosphere persuaded many people to seek some cooler retreat.

The electric fountain is one of the

an eight-hour basis all concerns in the same industry with those having government contracts, will not be considered in detail by Colonel Wright, as he does not regard this phase of the case as being susceptible of demonstration, being wholly problematical and one to be determined by experience. In connection with the export trade phase of the question the bureau of statistics will be called upon to make a special compilation showing in detail the exports from this country of such goods as are similar in character to those that would be manufactured for the government on an eight-hour basis, should the bill become a law.

Special agents of the Bureau of Labor have been detailed to make up an accurate list of all the manufacturers in the country who are now operating their plants on an eight-hour basis, and this list will be extended so as to include various branches of the building trades. Schedules of inquiry will be sent to these concerns for the purpose of ascertaining the effect that has been noted in the change from a longer day to an eight-hour day. Colonel Wright anticipates that the answers to these inquiries will show a considerable reduction in the amount of work performed per day in the building trades, but he is in doubt as to the showing that will be made in the various manufacturing industries. In this connection manufacturers will be asked to make a general statement as to the effect of the change to eight hours upon the operatives, as well as upon the output of the plants, and all information that will shed any light upon the desirability of an eight-hour day will be solicited.

A phase of investigation of special interest will be the evidence which Colonel Wright intends to procure from a number of prominent British manufacturers who placed their plants on an eight-hour basis some years ago, and who took prompt steps to obtain scientifically accurate data for a comparison between the old

chief attractions of the carnival and it is alone worth the price of admission. "Daredevil" Edwards is a great drawing card. The first night he made the bicycle leap successfully, but in practicing the feat on Wednesday afternoon he was thrown violently to the ground, and for a time was rendered unconscious. No bones were broken, but he was so badly bruised that he was unable to carry out his act in the evening. By the following day, however, he was able to appear in his usual role.

On the Fourth of July the large parade will take place, and this will undoubtedly be the greatest day that has ever been seen in Portland. The officers of the warships and the full complement of men will participate, as well as the military, the fraternal organizations, trades unions and citizens. Tons and tons of powder will be exploded, and in the evening there will be plenty of fireworks and pyrotechnical displays. The great guns on board the naval vessels will usher in the national holiday, and at intervals will speak the language that gained us our liberty.

On July 7 and 8 an old-fashioned hose contest will take place—the kind that used to occur annually before the steam engine and the cart drawn by horses.

Astoria now has the crack company of the state, but there are other aspirants from the valley, and there will be in the competition teams from Albany, Corvallis, Vancouver, The Dalles, Oregon City and Independence.

These exhibitions will be held on the open street down town. The Mardi Gras also intends holding on the Fourth of July impromptu sports with field and track events on the carnival grounds at Multnomah Field, where the running track has not been disturbed. This will be mainly for the benefit of the strong and fleet among the visitors who can enter on the spot. There will be races for men and women, all taken in the true carnival spirit, with no attention paid to records, but everything in the spirit of fun.

system and the new. Colonel Wright has special facilities for securing this information and regards it as very valuable, not only because of the care exercised, but because of the disinterestedness of the parties furnishing it.

No formal hearings will be given in connection with this investigation. The experience of the Bureau of Labor has demonstrated to the satisfaction of its officials that testimony adduced at hearings is usually of very little value, and is far less satisfactory than specific information obtained by the personal application of special agents. The bureau will correspond with many manufacturers aside from those to whom schedules of inquiry will be addressed, and will endeavor in every way to obtain the fullest and most impartial information. Colonel Wright desires it understood that the inquiry and report will be made without reference to preconceived ideas of his officials or his own with respect to the general desirability of an eight-hour day, and that the questions propounded by the house committee on labor will be answered as specifically as possible, although it will probably be necessary to go beyond the direct interrogatories in compiling the department's report. A number of prominent manufacturers have advised the department that they desire to present statements bearing upon the questions submitted by the house committee, and it is understood that the labor leaders also wish to place their side of the case before the department in writing.

It will be seen from the magnitude of the work outlined by Colonel Wright that several months will be occupied in gathering the desired information. The scope of the inquiry will probably be broadened as it proceeds. Both Colonel Wright and Secretary Cortelyou are confident that the task will be completed in time to present the results to the house committee when Congress reconvenes in December.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

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