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A PUBLIC BENEFIT.

The opinion of the Oregon Supreme Court reversing the decision of Judge George in declaring the barbers' license law a violation of the constitution of the state is published elsewhere in this issue of the Labor Press, and should be carefully read by all trades unionists.

The decision is not only a victory for the Barbers' Union in the state, but will conserve the welfare of the public. There is perhaps no other trade or calling that is in need of stricter regulation than that of a barber. While it is true that all well regulated shops already meet the standard of excellence required by the board, yet it is a business that can be acquired with small capital and little experience, in a way, and while the proprietor might earn more with one or two chairs than he could by working for someone else, the public is the sufferer by his inexperience in the business. It is indeed a physical impossibility for a student in the barber school to attain even a degree of efficiency in the six weeks' term allowed him in the school. As a result there is now half a dozen young fellows that graduated at the Briggs' school in this city that have started shops, and are imposing their inferior workmanship upon the innocent public. The greatest item of importance in the barbering business, however, is that of sanitation, and the policy of protecting the next customer. This the cheap shops do not afford, and from these inferior places an infection sometimes creeps into the first-class tonsorial parlors in spite of the vigilance and experience of the better workmen.

As to the constitutionality of the law, Judge George undoubtedly decided conscientiously as he viewed it; so has the supreme court; it is simply a matter of diversity of judicial opinion, in which the public is favored by the final authority of the higher court. It appears, however, that Judge George permitted technical assumption to lead him away from sound judgment. The legislature created the act and defined the duties of the board of examiners, but the legislature is hardly competent to say what is required for a good barber. The members of the board are skilled in this particular line, and they must be allowed some arbitrary power. Every one holding a position of trust is delegated this right to a more or less degree. If there is a fault it would seem that the remedy should be applied to the individuality of the board, as the court remarks: "The board is required to exercise the power conferred, by prescribing fair and reasonable qualifications appropriate to the calling intended to be regulated, operating generally and impartially upon all in like situations, and there is no pretense that it has done so. If it should act arbitrarily or oppressively, its conduct might call for a remedy against the members of the board, but it would not furnish a ground for declaring the act invalid."

It is to be regretted that Judge Hogue could not see his way clear to mete greater punishment upon the saloonkeepers who have been found guilty of selling liquor to a 14-year-old girl than a simple fine of \$50. The extreme penalty is \$500, and nine days in jail, and these unprincipled vultures on decency should have got half the limit anyway. It was even proved that one of the saloonkeepers sold the girl and her companion enough liquor to make them drunk, and then got

them a bed to sleep in. The girl's paramour is in jail, and in all probability will be sent to prison, where he belongs, but he is not one whit better than these men who abetted him in his crime. There was at least a dozen saloons where liquor was sold to this girl and her companion, which is an alarming proof that the selling of liquor to minors has been carried on indiscriminately throughout the city. Where proof has been established so clearly as it was in this instance the violators of the civil and moral law should not only be required to serve a term in prison, but they should be heavily fined and their licenses revoked. It is only by such vigorous action that this evil will be suppressed. The crime will justify the means.

The Citizens' Alliance of Denver, Colo., that levied a boycott against Senator Patterson's papers, the News and the Times, because that gentleman persisted in giving a truthful report of the outrageous acts committed by the administration in the strike district of Colorado, has been compelled to withdraw its taboo. Their boycott cut both ways. As soon as the members began to withdraw their ads from the News and the Times the people began to withdraw their patronage from these stores. It was purely a dearth of business that drove them back into the columns of Senator Patterson's papers, and they went back with meek and contrite hearts. And this may be but the preamble to a petition submitted by a galaxy of submissive mine owners and their sycophants who may humble themselves before their persecuted and beg for mercy, after the returns from the November election is counted. And they will not depart empty handed, for suffering begets mercy, and the good God knows that his people in Colorado have been scourged by the heartless rich. Yes, they should get mercy, but their systems of vengeance should be burned deep into their memories with coals of charity.

Unless some outside parties take the matter in hand the Chicago strike of packing house butchers is liable to take on unlooked-for proportions. It can hardly be possible that the beef trust can violate the civil and moral laws of our country with impunity, and not come in for its share of punishment. It is no secret that the trust of the "Big Six" regulates the prices of their purchases, the price of sale, receive special privileges on all transportation lines that their independent competitors do not enjoy, and now they would dictate to their employees a starvation wage, that a man could not possibly live upon in any kind of a decent way. This shows the proportionate strength of capital and muscle. Here six men with their trust, and nearly sixty thousand workmen with their trust, and the only commodity the latter possess is the right to say what they shall sell the brawn of sixty thousand men and women for. The comparison is somewhat odious when one comes to think about it.

Merchants make a mistake if they fail to place an ad in the mammoth Labor Day edition of the Portland Labor Press. It is going to be a winner, and it will reach the hands of all the organized wage earners in the state. An ad in this number is simply a message to our readers inviting them to return to you some of their patronage. It is a guarantee that you are not antagonistic to the cause that would make the purchaser better able to buy. There are still a number of good positions left in the dummy. If our advertising man don't get to you, call up the office of the Portland Labor Press. The phone number can be found in the book.

An active committee has been selected by the Federated Trades Council to promote a plan for the celebration of Labor Day. The time is short and the committee should lose no time in getting down to business. To increase the committee to more than a half dozen would be a mistake, for large bodies move slowly, and this is invariably the case in the matter of committees. The real work generally falls onto two or three anyway, and the rest of the committee get in the way. Then if a few men do the work they should be entitled to the praise, if any has been earned.

A determined effort is being made by officials of the United Textile Workers of America to organize the 480,000 unorganized operatives in cotton, woolen and silk mills, in order that they may present a solid front with the 35,000 organized operatives against any further reduction in wages. It is said that wages have already reached the lowest point compatible with existence, and that it is proposed to fight any further reduction to the bitter end.

NO ICE FOR MEAT

Both Sides Make Arrangements for Long and Hard Struggle.

Arrangements have been made by the strikers at the stock yards for a long struggle with the packers. A strike committee, consisting of three representatives of the Butcher Workmen, Chicago Federation of Labor and each of the twenty-three allied trades engaged in a sympathetic strike has been appointed to conduct the struggle.

Relief stations have been established, and are now doing a big business.

Nearly 600 strike-breakers were escorted out of the yards last Saturday by union officials. The strike-breakers said that they had been told by the packers that they would be killed off if they left the yards, and they remained at work several days longer than they desired because of that information.

Union officials declared that they defeated a conspiracy, originating with the packers, which had for its object the stopping of all butchers working for independent plants.

Tuesday marked the beginning of the fourth week of the great meat strike. Both sides appear to stand as firm as the first day the original walkout took place. In one respect it is the most remarkable strike in the history of the United States, because of the comparatively few disturbances with the great number of men involved.

The scene of battle shifted from the stockyards to the courts. The packers secured their third injunction against the unions, this time the defendants being the strikers at St. Joseph, Mo. Injunctions are now in effect at Belleville, Ill., Omaha and St. Joseph.

The labor leaders, in turn, secured the arrest of Superintendent Farris of the Nelson Morris plant on the charge of violating the child labor law. It is announced that arrests of packers or their employees will follow.

Complaint was also made to the building department that the use of some of the structures at the stockyards was in direct violation of law. It was pointed out that the buildings are now hotels and lodging-houses, with inadequate fire protection.

Labor leaders also notified the health department that in their opinion the yards were in an unsanitary condition and that the strike-breakers are housed in the same places in which cattle are killed and the meat prepared for market.

Will Break Meat Trust.

Last Wednesday, Homer D. Call, international secretary of the butchers' organization, said:

"The greatest feature of the strike is that the meat trust has been broken. Instead of the packers disrupting the union, the disintegration of one of the greatest combinations the world has ever seen has already set in. For ten years, from 1890 to 1900, the consolidation of the meat companies was carried on, and from 1741 packing plants in this country the number was reduced to 760.

"Now the tide will set in the other way. The packers know that they have already lost control of a large part of their business and that the livestock dealers will do all that is possible to assist in the defeat. Since the strike the independent plants of Chicago, Louisville, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Springfield, Mass., have been working night and day. This trade will never be regained by the trust.

"The public is supporting the independent plants because of the damaging evidence secured by the government against the meat monopoly."

Ice men Join Strikers.

To aid the strikers the ice handlers and ice wagon drivers have refused to supply refrigerator cars to the strike-affected packing plants. Without ice the packers are unable to ship meats except for short hauls and cannot export any. Nonunion men are being pressed into service, but their efforts are not sufficient. Armour & Company are using fruit cars for shipping meat.

Notwithstanding the claim of the packing-house managers that they have no difficulty in securing workmen, they are said to be making very strong efforts to induce their former employees to return to work. The latest move made in that line is the distribution of cards among the wives of the strikers urging them to induce their husbands to return to the packing plants and offering increased pay. The firm of Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Co. notified the county officials that it could not make the usual weekly delivery of meat according to contract, and the superintendent of public service placed an

order for \$4000 worth of meat with an independent firm.

Government Inquiry.

A description of conditions in the stockyards at Chicago during the strike now in progress there is expected to form an interesting feature of the report of the beef industry, which will be made by the President to Congress in response to the Martin resolution passed at the last session. Fifteen or twenty inspectors are in the field, under the direction of the department of commerce and labor, collecting information required by the terms of the resolution. Their labors have taken them over a great portion of the country and their inquiries have covered every branch of the beef industry. This embraces the herding and ranching of cattle on the plains, their slaughter and the shipment of the dressed product.

The inspectors have been engaged at this work since early in April, and reports from some of them are daily expected at the department. The inspection has been conducted under the immediate supervision of James R. Garfield, the commissioner of the bureau of corporations of the department of commerce and labor. Mr. Garfield has taken a personal hand in some features of the investigation. Such portions of the report as bear on the strike now in progress at Chicago, it is said, are incidental to the general line of inquiry.

Packers Denounced.

At a session of the National Master Butchers' Association, held in St. Louis, July 25, Mr. James A. Hoffman, a delegate, was very pronounced in his views on the strike situation. He held that the strike was due to the packing interests' effort to rob the public by selling the great quantities of provisions alleged to be stored in their coolers. "It is not a strike for increased wages, but one for time," said Mr. Hoffman. "The store houses of the 'Big Six,' the meat combine, are bursting with extra supplies, and the packers desire to have this strike in order that they may get rid of this meat at fictitious prices. They will rob the public through us retailers of six to ten million dollars with their high prices, and then, when their coolers are empty, will take back the men and all will be serene for a time. I have worked with these big packing interests for thirteen years, and I know whereof I speak."

FORCED ITS HAND.

Carpenters' Union Bests Citizens' Alliance at Its Own Game.

By using a little tact and patience the Carpenters' Union of Des Moines, Iowa, defeated the Citizens' Alliance by forcing that organization to make the fight against the union. The story of the brief skirmish is told by W. H. McFarlane, organizer of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, in one of the labor papers of that state, as follows:

"The Citizens' Alliance of Des Moines, Ia., was formed over one year and a half ago. Its membership included all those who were members of the Builders' Exchange, Material Men's Exchange, Merchants' Exchange, and the Manufacturers' Association. After their organization had been perfected they served notice, through the public press, that they were going to wipe out of existence all labor organizations in that city. The journeymen plumbers were the first to lock horns with the alliance on the first of March, 1904. Then followed the electrical workers about the middle of March. Next came the members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners. The above-named organizations were locked out for over six weeks. On or about the first of January, 1904, the secretary of the district council of the U. B. of C. & J. of A. notified the secretary of the Contracting Carpenters' Association that the carpenters' locals of Des Moines desired a renewal of last year's contract or agreement, to which the secretary of the contractors' association replied that their association would enter into no agreement whatever. The secretary of the district council of carpenters replied that the journeymen carpenters would work without an agreement. The first week in April passed and the contractors seeing that the carpenters were not going to strike, they, the employers, closed down all their mills and shops and buildings, and told the men they would have to sign an agreement with their employers to the effect that they had resigned their membership in their union and would not again become a member of any labor organization. This the members of the U. B. refused to do and started in to do contracting for themselves. The contractors soon learned of this and demanded of the material men that they refuse to sell lumber to any member of the carpenters' union. The material men complied with the demands of the contractors and the hardware merchants likewise. The lockout was then complete. The members of the



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various unions held daily meetings; conducted themselves in an orderly manner, and watched patiently the progress of the lockout. They finally became impatient with the manner in which their employers were handling their first strike or lockout and took a hand in the matter themselves. The United Brotherhood locals appointed a committee of three and sent them to Chicago, Ill., to inquire if there was any lumber and hardware for sale in that city. They returned and reported that they could get all the lumber and hardware they wanted—all that was necessary was the money. A special meeting of the carpenters was called, and over \$10,000 cash was subscribed towards starting a co-operative lumber yard and hardware store. They purchased their lumber from Green & Co. (the lumber pirates of the West, as they are called by the Lumber Dealers' Association), and their hardware and other building material from well-known firms in Chicago. When the members of the Citizens' Alliance learned of the first ten carloads of lumber to arrive in Des Moines the members of the Material Men's Association, so called, were frantic in their efforts to bring about a settlement. The district council of carpenters and joiners appointed a committee to meet with a committee from the contracting carpenters, as the carpenters informed the alliance they had nothing to do with dry goods, merchants, butchers, patent medicine men, etc., but the committee must be contracting carpenters. The committees met and not only got a written agreement for one year, but an advance of two and one-half cents per hour to make up for the time lost in enforced idleness and all men to return to their former positions. The men did all return to work.

"The members of the Material Men's Association presented bills to the Citizens' Alliance for money lost in closing their lumber yards during the lockout. There was not sufficient money in the treasury of the Citizens' Alliance to pay the bills presented. Lawsuits followed thick and fast. The alliance scattered to the winds and thus ended Parryism in Des Moines, Ia., but the carpenters' co-operative lumber yard and hardware store is still doing business and all carpenters are working."

Turn Away Japs.

Twelve Japanese laborers got off the train at Elma Friday afternoon, July 22, to go to work for Henry McCleary in his sawmill. A large crowd of Elma citizens met them at the train and ordered them back onto the train, but the conductor refused to take them unless their fares were prepaid. A collection was taken up and their fares paid to Satsop. There is great indignation here among the people and trouble is feared if an attempt be made to employ Japs in the mill. This is the first attempt to employ Japs in the Grays Harbor country, and the Shingle Weavers' Union is making a strong effort to keep them out. A mass meeting is to be called and nothing else is talked of. Public sentiment is opposed to the employment of Japs in any form.—Gray's Harbor Post.

The Knights of Labor—once so powerful—still exist with a membership of 40,000.