

Portland Labor Press



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TELEPHONE GIRLS' STRIKE.

The present difficulty between the Pacific States Telephone Company and its operators in this city is the sequel of an attempt to subordinate the individual spirit of the average American girl to the stringent and uncompromising rules of some men's conception of business. Either this or there is at the bottom a dishonorable scheme to cast off the faithful employe, who by virtue of years of efficient service is entitled to better compensation, in favor of younger and cheaper help. To say that 200 girls are wrong and the company's officials are right in the contention at hand is an admission that the company has been wrong all these years for employing this small army of stupid girls. And to say that the girls had been stricken suddenly with an insane spasm of error would be crediting the company's officials with too much intellectual strength. Then where does the fault lie? According to the Oregonian the girls are simple things whose only achievements lie in the chewing of gum and foolish performances, but these statements are qualified by the financial sympathy that exists between the Oregonian and the Telephone Co. If one will interest themselves enough to meet the girls they will find them a bright lot, but not over-robust, due unquestionably to the nerve-straining character of their work. Several times there has been an effort made to organize the telephone operators in this city by outside parties, but nothing was accomplished. This time the movement started amongst the girls themselves, who were forced together by intolerable conditions they could not endure. Because they rebel the Oregonian charges that they have fallen under the spell of the labor Mephisto, or "agitator," whom, in fact, the operators had not seen. Such clap-trap is simply an attempt to shift the burden of the contention and make it appear that organized labor is the source of all industrial ills. The facts however are contrary. It is the grinding process of unscrupulous capital that taught the employe the power of protection that lay in unity. And it is this unity amongst the wage-worker that relieves him of industrial bondage. The telephone girls have but done what thousands have done before them, and will continue to do, so long as there are Coopers and Thatchers fawning at the feet of usurious investors. What the citizens of Portland should do is to give the telephone company to understand that they cannot acquire and hold a valuable franchise in this city, and treat its fair daughters with disrespect and impunity. Nobody will question that discipline is necessary in all well-regulated places of business, and no fair-minded workman will question this, but where discipline is used to accomplish and hide a nefarious scheme, justice itself cries out and mankind rebels. That men in strong places will ridicule a just cause for the purpose of biasing public opinion is a craven disposition that no brave man strives for. Let the fight of the telephone girls be given to the public in facts laid bare, and then the public can decide for itself whom to blame.

The attempt of the Oregonian to poison public opinion by describing the 300 Portland young ladies, who are now making a struggle for their very existence, as "gum chewers," etc., will be resented by every man and woman who has come in contact with

\$ 10

WILL BUY AT THIS STORE
A SPLENDID
SUIT OF OVERCOAT

THEY HAVE THE LABEL
AND ARE UNION MADE

these young women. But then who ever remembers the Oregonian when it did not line upon the side of corporate wealth, even though it committed an injustice in doing so?

Lost—The minds of a number of prominent citizens of Portland, who were last seen at a telephone trying to get a number. Finder will please report at the state insane asylum at Salem, and get mileage.

Prize Offer—A prize of a handsomely Morocco-bound bible will be given to any man who secures the number he wants through central without jeopardizing his chances in the kingdom come.

If the innocent and unsuspecting manager of the P. S. Telephone Co. wanted "discipline" why didn't he introduce the lockstep with the other dampfoolishness inaugurated at the Portland office?

A wise old bird is the Morning Oregonian. How its attitude toward the striking telephone operators has changed since it made the discovery that its best advertisers were the girls' friends and sympathizers.

Of course the pseudo-patriotic Citizens' Alliance must show its hatred of everything and everybody connected with organized labor by "butting in." Small business for small people.

And so General Manager Thatcher never knew of any disaffection among the telephone girls under his charge. Another case of where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be, etc.

The latest union to be started in Portland is the "Telephone Removers' Union." The charter is expected in a few days, when the officers will be elected and installed by Disorganizer Thatcher.

POINTS FOR UNION MEN.

Union men and sympathizers of organized labor throughout this state should bear in mind that the following brands of flour made by the Washburn-Crosby Milling Co., of Minneapolis, are on the unfair list: "Parisian," "Triple Ex.," "Regal," "Gold Medal," "Superlative," "Snowdrop," "Northern Pacific," "Crocker's Best," "Queen Wilhelmina," "Netherlands," "Iron Duke," Royal Milling Co.'s "Ben Hur," and "Ajax," Jenkins Co.'s "Bienna," "French Flag," "White River," Minnesota's Flour Mfg Co.'s "Rex," Humboldt Milling Co.'s "Supreme," "Big Bonanza" and "Arlington." These products are manufactured under the most unfair conditions and no union man should in any way patronize them.

The Washburn-Crosby Co. is in many ways one of the most unreasonable enemies that organized labor has had to contend with. They have ignored the request of the mayor and business men of Minneapolis to arbitrate with their employes, refusing even to see the committee of merchants who took up the matter. As a result of their attitude toward organized labor, a vigorous boycott has been placed on all the above products throughout the country, and the fight which is now being carried on has caused their stuff to disappear from some of the Western markets.

Speaking of flour, there need be no fear of a shortage of that necessary article because of the boycott on the Washburn-Crosby products. "Olympic Flour," manufactured here by the

Portland Flouring Mills Co., is superior in every way to the unfair Minneapolis brands. Because of its superiority and the fair conditions under which it is manufactured, "Olympic" should find its way into every workingman's home. A splendid opportunity presents itself to the thousands of union workers of this state to answer the appeal of their struggling brothers in Minneapolis.

Among the union label goods advertised in this issue are the Hoffman, Rothchild & Co. union-made clothing and other union lines which are carried by the Famous Clothing Co. of this city. This well-known store handles a large line of well-known union-made garments, which members of organized labor should make a note of for reference.

"Monarch Starch" and "Union Salt" are union-made goods, but their manufacturers, being located in the East, quote only car-load lots. Grocers who have been interviewed state they will order if wholesalers can be induced to carry these lines.

Schools and Labor Question.

John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, will be the principal speaker at the convention of the Minnesota Educational Association to be held in St. Paul during the Christmas holidays.

The phase of the educational question which will receive special attention during the convention will be the relations between the schools and the labor question. In this connection the convention will consider the age at which children should be permitted to begin work. Prominent men of the state will answer the question: "How may the schools of the state simplify the problems of labor and capital?"

The plans of the officials of the association are rapidly maturing for the convention, and the program, which will soon be announced, and which will include President Mitchell's address, is expected to be one of special interest to all students of social and industrial problems.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

WOODWARD'S DANCING ACADEMY.

The second series of parties given by Woodward's Dancing Academy was given at Burkhardt's Hall, Thursday evening, October 13. One hundred couples were in attendance. Kriedt's orchestra furnished the music. The next party will be given Thursday evening, October 27. Mr. Herman Ligman and Jack Erickson, instructors at Woodward's Dancing Academy, can be found at the Burkhardt Hall, Mondays and Thursdays. These gentlemen have been winning a number of prizes at the parties given in the city recently.

FOR RENT.

Complete set of oak furniture, and heavy Brussels carpet, all new, for five rooms; used only five months. The owner, a lady, will rent same for board and room. Inquire at this office.

There are 268 local unions attached to the Journeymen Stonecutters' Association of North America. Every one of these local unions maintains the eight-hour work-day; in many localities the hours are less than eight on Saturdays. Most of the unions have established scales of wages of 50 cents or more per hour. The highest rate received is 62 1/2 cents per hour, which applies only to a number of Western localities and a portion of the trade in New York City.

THE sweeping reductions of prices in Clothing and Gents' Furnishings which we offer are unprecedented in the history of the clothing business of this City. Our reasons for this almost revolutionary proceeding is a change in our business plans, January 1st, 1905. Before that time our immense stock of Men's and Boys' Clothing, Furnishings, Shoes and Hats must be sold at a temporary sacrifice. Our customers will be the gainers.

Men's Fall and Winter Suits and Overcoats

\$7.45 For Choice of Men's Fine \$15 Suits, Overcoats and Cravenettes

\$10.00 For Choice of Men's Swell Hand-Tailored Overcoats and Cravenettes, worth \$12 and \$15. Here is a bargain, and what is here won't remain long. Those who come first get pick; and a snap it will be for them. An unprecedented opportunity of picking up a rare value. All these goods are made under fair conditions, and will appeal to the Union worker.

This offering appeals to men in every walk of life. It includes Rain Coats and Winter Overcoats, as well as Suits. Hundreds to choose from in all styles, fabrics and colorings affected by careful dressers everywhere. This is certainly a splendid chance for the man with the small purse, who wishes to appear as well dressed as the man with plenty of money.

Union Made Shoes and Hats

Our lines in these departments cannot be duplicated in this City. Men's New Fall Shapes in Stiff and Soft Hats, Men's, Boys' and Ladies' Shoes in all the latest styles, and at prices that will astonish the most skeptical.

Main Clothing Store Chicago Shoe Store

N. & S. Weinstein

165 1/2-167 First Street, Between Morrison and Yamhill

All Cars Stop within Ten Steps of Our Door
Transfers to All Parts of the City

MONOPOLE



MAMA won't let me take any other brand of canned fruit or vegetables from the grocer 'cause she says Monopole is the best. Since Mama has been using Monopole canned fruit she has to lock it up, as my brothers, Jim and Jack, would eat it all up, it's so good.

PAPA says that Monopole canned oysters, lobster and crab are the best he ever tasted, and the salmon is out of sight, whatever he means by that. The oysters are all full size and have a delicious flavor.

WARNING

Don't allow your grocer to substitute any other brand for Monopole. Something just as good only exists in the brain of the dealer who wants to sell inferior goods that pay a larger profit. Assert your rights and insist on receiving this brand. After one trial you will use no other.

WADHAMS & KERR BROS.

WHOLESALE GROCERS

81-83-85 Front Street, Portland, Oregon

UNION MEN—TAKE NOTICE

HOFFMAN, ROTHCHILD & CO., of New York and San Francisco
STRUM, MEYER & CO., of Chicago
are Makers of Union Label Clothing, Suits from

\$12.50 TO \$25.00

These Goods can be bought of the

FAMOUS CLOTHING COMPANY

Corner Morrison and Second Streets

Demand Monopole Canned Goods from Your Dealer. They are the Best. None Better.