

Portland Labor Press

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

Last Sunday evening Dr. Short, pastor of the Taylor Street Methodist Church took for his text "Covetousness." In his sermon he referred to the strike of the telephone girls, and said their action might have been covetous, but he didn't believe that their effort to secure better conditions and a living wage was.

The San Francisco Bulletin of October 15 made a vicious attack upon Father York, the reverend labor champion, charging him with the basest tactics of the professional politician, and using his prestige and his influence to further the interests of a private corporation. The labor unions and the Irish societies have announced their allegiance to Rev. York and condemned the policy of the Bulletin.

Don't miss the telephone girls' excursion on the river. Captain Spencer has given them the use of his palatial steamboat and gentlemanly crew free of charge, and the girls are to get all the receipts from the sale of tickets. Captain Spencer is a gallant knight and a brick. If the Telephone Company had as much of the milk of human kindness in its whole carcass as the captain has in his little finger the girls would not need his steamboat to help them along.

A little red pamphlet is being circulated by a Citizen's Alliance employment agency of San Francisco, which is nothing more than an advertisement for the firm. It is a vicious attack upon organized labor, unfounded in fact, and venomous in its intention. No notice should be taken of it by organized labor as the publishers evidently intended to get the thing talked about. It is best therefore to give it no publicity or advertisement of any kind. From the looks of the job it must have been done in an "open shop."

Dr. J. Whitcomb Brounger, pastor of the First Baptist Church, has prepared a series of lectures dealing with the labor problem, that he will deliver upon dates found elsewhere mentioned in this issue. All the wage-workers who can should hear the doctor, as he is a student of industrial ethics, is a sound reasoner, fluent speaker, and fearless in his expressions. On Sunday evening, October 30, he will take up the telephone girls' grievance in his text. Later he purposes investigating the condition of girls working in department stores. What he finds will be told without fear or favor, with the view of correcting any evil that might exist. This is indeed a noble undertaking for the cause of humanity.

William R. Hearst's suit against the coal trust, which was commenced in the fall of 1902 and subjected to intermittent delays by the defense, has at last come up for trial before the Interstate Commerce Commission in New York City last Monday. This is the case wherein President Baer blasphemously referred to himself as one of God's chosen "Christian gentlemen to whom God in His wisdom had entrusted the property interests of the country." It was also in this case where the lime light of the court revealed to the world some of the criminal methods employed by unscrupulous men in the promotion and conduct of large property interests. It is promised by the prosecution in the present trial that startling evidence will be introduced criminating this "divine" combination.

The stability of a union depends in a large measure upon the degree of consistency practiced by its members. A union man who preaches unionism and then purchases nonunion-made goods is as big a hypocrite as the temperance lecturer who winds up his evening's labors by getting drunk. Hypocrisy is a malignant form of dishonesty, and is the meanest kind of ingratitude. It has become generally known that it is an easy matter to purchase clothing, shoes and hats bearing the union label, and the volume of trade in this line is steadily increasing, but so far little thought has been given to the label on collars and cuffs, suspenders, soap, brooms, bread, crackers, flour, and other household articles. These things have been mentioned at the Federated Trades Council, and the delegates should be

THE LION'S SPECIAL

\$2.35 HATS

IN ALL SHAPES AND COLORS

THEY HAVE THE UNION LABEL

WE WARRANT EVERY HAT TO GIVE SATISFACTION

instructed to report the fact back to their organizations. An active campaign should be started for the union label on all things that are made by label crafts, and the Council should take the initiative in the matter. Then when a trades unionist becomes familiar with the labels and refuses to purchase goods that contain the label, all things being equal, he should be chastened with a season of industrial bondage that will start the rusty wheels of his thinker agoing.

Whenever a corporation is granted a valuable franchise by a commonwealth there should be incorporated in the document certain moral as well as business obligations. In public works decent living wages are paid, and the same condition should obtain on quasi-public enterprises, such as the telephone, telegraph, lighting plants, and railroads. These franchises generally become valuable assets, and as a rule are pooled in the privileged class in the matter of taxation. In every way they are protected, but in no way are they bound to respect the commonwealth from whence they receive their gratuity. If the Pacific States Telephone Company was a little less securely entrenched in its public privileges the girls would never have had reason to leave their positions in a body on account of intolerable conditions imposed upon them. If these girls had been subjected to similar indignities upon the street they could have secured police protection, but since the "divine rights" of capital is involved there is no recourse for the girls but to accept the abuse without a murmur, or quit their jobs and go hungry. It seems that our city fathers have a responsibility that needs to be exercised. It is their duty to investigate the telephone trouble, and if they find the company is guilty as charged they should demand that the wrong be righted. A little discipline for the company might be a good thing.

Portland needs a free employment agency. There is hardly a day that the city attorney is not visited by an unfortunate laborer who has a grievance against the dishonest agencies that send the applicant on a fool's errand. Once in a while a victim is able to get back to the city and demand his money back, which is denied, and then the city attorney is called into service. Probably nine cases out of ten are unable to return; they have been defrauded out of the fee, and the agency is the gainer. Oftentimes the agent and an employer enters into a collusion to hire men, keep them long enough to get them in debt for a week's board and tobacco, keep all they have earned, and then discharge them for another consignment of unfortunate suckers. The whole system is criminal, and a law should be passed at the next legislature correcting the employment agency evil. Public employment offices should be opened throughout the state, which could be made self-sustaining by the applicant paying a nominal fee for a position, that he is sure to get and keep if he is capable. If not he will be loser, in which no element of fraud is attached so far as the agency is concerned. In a number of states the public employment agencies have become fixtures, and give entire satisfaction. Something should be done to regulate these industrial shysters—the present employment agencies—and give an honest laborer a chance to get a position without being held up in broad daylight by licensed brigands.

On November 29 and 30 the Citizens' Alliance of America will hold its second annual convention in New York City. The railroads have united in granting a special rate to all delegates attending the convention of one and one-fourth fare. On November 14 the American Federation of Labor will hold its twenty-fourth annual convention in San Francisco. The railroad companies have united in refusing to give delegates to this convention a special rate, as has heretofore been done, not only with the American Federation of Labor but with all labor union national and international conventions. The case will be taken before the Interstate Commerce Commission upon the contention of discrimination. While the incident will not in any way detract success from the great convention of labor it shows the inconsistency of

some corporations that is usually expected to be found in smaller affairs. It is expected of organized labor to be equitable in all of its transactions, and it should be, but where is the incentive if the captains of industry show such petty temper. How is the industrial problem to be conciliated if the employer makes special effort to offend the employed class in various ways? Probably they intend to settle the question by breaking the spirit and individual pride of the laboring classes, but if they do the American people will teach the world another lesson with as much energy as other great questions have been settled in the past. Justice sometimes moves with emigrant pace, but its sentence is as certain as the immutable law of gravity.

POINTS FOR UNION MEN.

Prospects for the advancement of union label goods were never so bright as at the present time. Throughout the country the movement has received a new impetus that is destined to accomplish by peaceable methods the principles for which organized labor has so long contended.

The agitation which is being carried on in a quiet, though systematic manner, is already beginning to show substantial results. Business men who have for years closed their ears to the reasonable demands of organized workers are now realizing the importance of this movement. Manufacturers, who have heretofore ignored the labor union, are at last awakening to the fact that the union backed up by its champion the labor paper, is a powerful factor in creating a demand for their goods.

In Portland the movement has only just begun. The Blue Label League, which is composed of members of every union in the state, is at the head of the movement. Ladies' Auxiliaries are being organized everywhere and are working in harmony with the unions. By referring to the minutes of the local Federated Trades Council in another part of this issue it will be seen that this agitation is beginning to bear fruit in this city. As will be seen in the report many local dealers were compelled by the demands made upon them to handle such household articles containing the label as crackers, soap, brooms, starch, flour, etc.

The readers of the labor press have a heart as well as a monetary interest in the success of their paper and each and all hold a like desire to make it the medium by which to judge their fellow-men. Not many years ago it was considered an act of kindness to the worker to place the smallest kind of an ad in their paper. But to-day, and as civilization advances, space in the workingman's paper is being sought for by the honest, fair-minded, far-seeing and judicious advertisers.

Every workingman should provide for that proverbial rainy day. In these times of high rent and increased cost of living it is a difficult matter to do so, but a small amount laid aside at a time may not be missed and it is surprising how these small sums grow. A deposit in a good substantial savings bank acts like a powerful magnet to subsequent deposits. In this issue the Oregon Savings Bank puts the matter very plainly to the wage earner. This bank makes a specialty of dealing with the toilers and its methods of doing business are such that they appeal to all members of organized labor.

It is the ambition of every man to own his own home whether it be a palace or a cottage. Every one can not have a mansion but it is within the reach of every thrifty workman to own a small home that he could call his own. The big announcement of the opening up of "Evelyn" the beautiful and convenient suburban residence site, appears in this issue, and we would ask our readers who are contemplating owning their own homes to read it carefully. The owner of this delightful addition offers encouraging inducements to home builders that certainly appeal to all industrious people.

Thirty per cent of all the French trades unionists are to be found in Paris.

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

Our Crop of Clothing is the Finest in Our History

A change in our business plans January 1, 1905, compels us, in order to accomplish our purpose, to move our high-grade clothing upon men's and boys' backs instead of shifting them from counter to counter or table to table. To face a loss at the very outset of a season calculates to give any merchant everything but complete satisfaction. We derive our satisfaction—what little we do get—from seeing the goods go. It means much to us to move the stock—but let us say, IT MEANS MORE TO YOU. Our purpose justifies the sacrifice—don't be skeptical. Take advantage of this great and unusual opportunity while it extends itself to you.



No Greater Line of Men's Fall and Winter Suits and Overcoats Ever Shown in Portland—A Few of Our Many Rare Bargains Owing Economical Buyers

\$5.45 For choice of Men's Elegant Cravenettes, worth \$11 and \$12 the world over. Such real values will be known as a bargain at a glance, and are bought quickly by those who are judges of value. Come pass judgment.

\$12.50 For choice of Men's Nobby \$20 and \$22.50 Suits, Rain Coats and Winter Overcoats. Hundreds to select from, in all the styles and in all the weaves, patterns and colors in vogue. A great saving here. Dollars saved for you—dollars lost to us.

\$6.50 Men's \$10 and \$12 Fall and Winter Suits or Overcoats, various shapes, styles, fabrics and patterns on which the vogue has set its seal. You would have paid 25 per cent more elsewhere on the original price.

\$7.45 Gives you your choice of Men's Fine \$15 Suits, Overcoats and Cravenettes. It includes Rain Coats and Winter Overcoats, as well as Suits. All the styles, fabrics and colorings affected by careful dressers everywhere. An offer not well for you to slight.

\$9.45 For choice of Men's \$16.50 and \$18 Suits and Overcoats. An offer including both fall and winter models created for the coming season's wear. The makers knew their business. An unlimited variety. The facts face you, the rest remains with you.

\$10.00 All we ask for choice of Men's Swell Hand-Tailored Overcoats and Cravenettes, worth \$12 and \$15. A bargain that won't remain long. Those who come first get pick; and a snap it will be for them. There's too few to last long.

Let Us Tell You About Our Boys' and Youths' Clothing

You can't prove to us there's a finer line in the city nor one where such values are offered for the money. We are strong in this department, and in order to decrease the stock we are blind to cost mark.

Youths' Suits and Overcoats from \$3.95 to \$11.25. Boys' Suits and Overcoats from \$1.00 to \$3.00.

Don't overlook our Shoe Bargains for both Men and Women. Good ones from \$1.50 to \$2.85.

N. & S. Weinstein

Main Clothing Store Chicago Shoe Store

165-167 FIRST STREET, BET. MORRISON AND YAMHILL.

All Cars Stop Within Ten Steps of Our Door.

Transfers to All Parts of the City.



CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Are the best obtainable. If you are not using this brand one trial will convince you that nothing better has ever been prepared for the market. MONOPOLE means the best in fruit, vegetables and shell fish.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

Beware of the man who has something just as good. This means inferior goods that pay a larger profit. Years of tireless energy, and a jealous regard for our good name, has made the Monopole product the most famous on the Pacific Coast. Inferior goods are dear at any price.

WADHAMS & KERR BROS.
WHOLESALE GROCERS
81-83-85 Front Street, Portland, Oregon