

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., Dec. 29, 1905.

Meeting of the Federated Trades Council called to order at 8 o'clock. Vice-President Jones presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting accepted as read.

Credentials—Bartenders, Mr. V. C. Wells; Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers, Chas. Schultz, E. A. Austin, and L. M. Dobyns; Cooks and Waiters, Geale Downes, D. J. Needham and Carl Frederick.

Bills—The following bills were approved by the trustees and ordered paid: W. H. Fitzgerald, salary for one month, \$20.00; postage, \$4.50; Miss Lucy White, salary for month, \$5.00.

Reports of Committees—The Retail Trades reported that the Women's Union Label League had decided to write a letter to the Standard Sewing Machine Co. of Cleveland, Ohio, and the local agency located at 280 Yamhill street, Portland, Or., and would inform them that organized labor would not purchase the Standard Sewing machine until the factory was unionized. The Retail Trades Committee recommended that the Council and affiliated unions take the same course, report accepted and recommendations concurred in.

The Legislative Committee recommended that the Council endorse two bills prepared by the Oregon Grange, taxing sleeping car companies, telephone, telegraph, express and Standard Oil companies on their gross earnings.

On motion the recommendation was concurred in.

A motion was adopted that the secretary circulate the petitions for signatures to all affiliated unions with an explanatory letter.

Committee on Messenger Boys' dance reported that the dance had been a financial and social success; report accepted.

New business—The new constitution and by-laws were approved as corrected and 500 ordered printed.

Reports of organizations—Cooks and Waiters reported that the East Portland Restaurant was now fair. The Typographical Union reported that on the first of the year the general movement for the eight hour day would be inaugurated in their trade and that one of the largest concerns that they would have to fight would be the Crowell Publishing House, publishers of the Women's Home Companion, and it was urged that union people refrain from purchasing the Women's Home Companion.

The Bartenders reported that the Fulton saloon had signed up and was now a fair house.

The Theatrical Stage Employees asked for advice on a matter affecting their calling which was, after a thorough discussion, freely given.

Disbursements, \$29.50.

Meeting adjourned.

W. H. FITZGERALD,
Secretary.

JOSEPH EWING PASSES AWAY.

Joseph Ewing, charter member of the Shipwrights' and Calkers' Union of this city, died New Year's eve, at his home on North Twentieth street, of pneumonia, at the age of 66 years. He leaves a wife and one son. Mr. Ewing was born in Scotland, and has made Portland his home since the early '80s. He was a man of fine character, upright in his dealings, and a favorite amongst his neighbors, friends, and fellow craftsmen. He was a member of the Clan Macleay, and the funeral exercises were held under the auspices of the union and the clan. Mr. Ewing was also a member and officer of St. John's Presbyterian church. He was a prosperous mechanic and a good provider, and

was one of the owners of the St. Johns Ship yard. He leaves his family well provided for.

Out of respect for the deceased the South Portland Ship Yard Company and the Supply yards closed Wednesday afternoon, and the workmen attended the funeral in a body. J. A. Robertson was present at the funeral rites as a representative from the Portland Dry Dock. The remains were buried in the Riverside cemetery in the plot owned by Clan Macleay. At all times Mr. Ewing lived the life he professed. He was a church member and a trades unionist and these doctrines he never placed under a half bushel. His beliefs were as open as his character and yet he never imposed them upon any one. He was consistent in his profession, and his church and union will miss his energy and devotion to their respective interests.

The union will take official recognition of the death of this brother by draping its charter for the requisite number of weeks.

AUXILIARY MEETING.

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Typographical Union held its regular meeting in hall No. 300 Alisky block, last Tuesday evening, at which there was a good attendance of members and friends. In fact, there was a larger attendance than usual and there seems to be an awakening of interest that is sure to result in good and a thoroughly live organization.

The early part of the evening was taken up in routine business, and the latter part in cards.

A committee was appointed to visit the various stores in the city that handle the patterns and publications of the Butterick Publishing Company of New York and the Crowell Publishing Company of Springfield, Ill. The former company issues the Delineator, New Idea Magazine and Standard Patterns. The Crowell Company issues the Farm and Fireside and the Woman's Home Companion. The firms in this city will be asked to withdraw their patronage from the Butterick and the Crowell companies until the latter have adjusted their differences with the International Typographical Union, whose members they looked out, anticipating the general demand of the union for the eight-hour day on the first of this year.

Several hours were indulged in card playing, and prizes were awarded as follows: Ladies' prize, Mrs. Fred Perry; gentleman's prize, Mr. Harry Shaw; consolation, Mrs. Shaw.

The last social dance given by the Auxiliary was such a pronounced success that the members are again demanding another, which will take place in Hall No. 400, Alisky building, on January 16th. Tickets are being printed and will be available by the latter part of this week. Special attention will be given to the social features of the Auxiliary from this time on.

SIGN YEARLY CONTRACT.

Branch No. 47, Paving Cutters' Union of United States and Canada, located at St. Helens, Ore., has just concluded and signed up its yearly bill of prices with Contractor McKie for the year 1906, as follows: Paving blocks, 6 to 9 inches long, 4 to 4½ to 5½ inches deep, 3½ to 5 inches in width, 2½ cents per block; making new blocks out of old ones, \$14 per thousand; sewer blocks, 10 to 15 inches long, 5 and 6 cents per block, according to conditions. The agreement was signed by the president and secretary of the union and Contractor McKie. Between fifteen and twenty men are engaged at this work in St. Helens, and frequently they are brought up to Portland to work on a job of street paving or building. As a rule these men make good wages—from \$4 to \$8 per day—upon what is known as the piece system. This is probably the only instance around the country where the piece system is being worked satisfactorily, or where such wages as these can be made.

CIGAR MAKERS TAKE A REST.

Many people have been wondering at the great increase in Portland's population during the last ten days. The sidewalks from Schiller's Cigar factory to Second and Washington streets have been congested with a swarm of well-dressed, well-fed and happy looking fellows, nearly all of whom were industriously puffing at all hours, cigars that looked good enough to be union made. No one could account for such a sudden increase in the population. The Lewis and Clark

Fair was over, the circus had gone to Seattle and there was no Democratic convention being held. Indeed it was a mystery.

But there was no mystery about it to the benighted Labor Press staff. It was New Year's week, and the cigar makers of Portland were taking their customary week's lay-off. Business has been unusually good with the members of this craft, so good in fact that the supply of cigar boxes in the city could not keep up with the demand and consequently the workmen had a ten day rest while waiting for a new supply. Boxes arrived by the railroad Tuesday and on Wednesday morning the streets took on their usual appearance.

FIRST MEETING OF YEAR.

Local No. 264, I. L. M. & T. A., held a rousing meeting at Federated Trades Hall, Union Block, Tuesday afternoon. It was the first meeting which the longshoremen of this local have held for a month and it brought out nearly every member of the union. An abundance of work along the city front during the past month has prevented the local from transacting its affairs and as a result much accumulated business had to be disposed of at Tuesday's meeting. Many matters of importance were taken up and the alacrity with which they were disposed of was gratifying to President Filber and the members of the organization. Messrs. Kundret and McCord of the Labor Press were given the privilege of the floor and were received with courtesy by every member in the hall.

No. 264 is one of the oldest labor organizations in the city. It has had many vicissitudes during its existence, but today it is firmly established in the union directory of Portland, and its influence for good is felt along the entire city front.

GRAIN HANDLERS WILL DANCE.

The Cigarmakers of Portland have had their annual dance and also the Messenger Boys, but the best one of all is yet to come. The 200 strapping lads who compose Grain Handlers' Union, No. 263, this is about time that they were having some fun of their own, so they are looking forward to the time of their lives at Dave's hall, corner of Russell and Alisky avenue, Wednesday, January 17. The dance will begin at 8 o'clock and arrangements will be made so that union men who attend from the West side can catch the last car. Ladies will be admitted free and the price of admission will be 25 cents to all males. Don't forget that this will be one of the most enjoyable affairs of the season.

VISITOR FROM TROUTDALE.

Frank Portello, president of the Butchers' Union at Troutdale, also former president of the Federal Labor Union of that city, was in Portland Wednesday visiting friends. The Labor Press acknowledges a pleasant call from that gentleman. Mr. Portello is one of the genuine trades unionists that it does one's heart good to meet. He is there at all times with "the goods," conservative and level-headed. He reports that the Butchers' Union of his city is second to none, and though not as large as some will compare in relative strength to the very best. He also has good words for the Federal Labor Union.

INSTALL OFFICERS.

The Musicians' Union held its regular meeting last Tuesday afternoon, at which time their newly elected officers were installed.

C. H. Gram, president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, made the musicians a visit, and in a convincing address urged the union to become affiliated with the state federation. His remarks were frequently applauded, and upon the invitation of Mr. Gram to join, a vote was taken in the affirmative by unanimous consent.

STILL DOING BUSINESS.

A discouraging rumor has been going the rounds lately to the effect that the local Citizens' Alliance had wound up its affairs and sold its office desk. It has even been talked around that there was nothing to show of the one-time lively aggregation of local patriots but the gilt lettered sign on the window at the corner of Third and Washington streets, and the hard-worked secretary going around like Micawber, looking for something to turn up—in the printing offices.

The Labor Press hastens to deny

this slanderous rumor. We assure our readers that there is nothing in it. The Citizens' Alliance may have had its troubles, owing to a lack of interest among its members and the measly attendance at meetings; but it hasn't gone out of business as yet, not by a long shot. The appended letter emanating from the fertile and imaginative brain of the indefatigable secretary shows that there is still a little business being carried on at the old stand, and that that individual is making an effort to earn his salary.

The letter is sent out to the tardy members, notifying them of the election of officers for 1906 and encloses a list of six candidates, three for president and three for vice-president. Those for president are: W. C. Francis, S. G. Reed, R. A. Marshall; for vice president the candidates are Geo. Lawrence, Jr., Samuel Connell and Frank Barrett. The last line of Mr. Kunz' letter will cause many smiles among those who are familiar with his "peaceful" methods:

Portland, January 2, 1906.
Dear Sir: Owing to the small attendance at our last annual meeting, not commensurate with our membership, the executive board has decided to adopt a different plan by which we may get an expression of our entire membership regarding the election of officers for 1906.

We beg to enclose a card and submit several names for the respective elective officers and ask you to return the same in enclosed stamped envelope, marked by yourself with a cross (X) opposite your choice with your signature.

We take this opportunity of informing you that the affairs of the association are in a prosperous condition; that during 1905 we were able to meet all financial demands made on us; furthermore that we succeeded to maintain peace in all industries.

Respectfully yours,
THE CITIZENS' ALLIANCE.
Alexander Kunz, Secretary.

STOPS OFF AT PORTLAND.

M. J. Sullivan, vice president of the International Electrical Workers' Union spent New Year's day in Portland. Mr. Sullivan is visiting Butte, Montana, in the interests of his organization and will return to Portland in about ten days. While here Mr. Sullivan conferred with officers of the local electrical workers who took him around the city during his short stay.

No Strike Among Builders.

No workers are happier than the 100,000 skilled men in the building trades of New York. It was announced Christmas day that every union, with the exception of the Housecarpenters and Bridgemen, had signed a trade agreement of from one to three years, to go into effect on January 1.

By this action the unions have officially repudiated the strike of the Structural Ironworkers.

In many of the trades the prevailing wage will continue for the coming year. The wages of the house carpenters, however, will be increased 30 cents a day and the cabinet makers will receive an increase of 22 cents a day, beginning next July.

The trade agreements now date from January 1 instead of May, as heretofore. This step was taken because the employers do not want strikes on their hands on May 1, when the busy building season begins.

Half Million Labor Temple.

At a recent meeting of the Building Trades Council of San Francisco, plans were outlined by the committee appointed for the purpose of a union labor temple. It is anticipated that the site and improvements will cost in the neighborhood of half a million dollars. A nine-story structure is considered sufficient for the needs of organized labor. In the report of the committee the building proposed would contain a barber shop in the basement with modern bath houses, on the first floor general headquarters. The second floor will contain a spacious meeting hall. In each of the other floors from four to six meeting halls are contemplated. The proposed building brought out many speeches on the subject and all thought the time was ripe for the erection of a home in that city for organized labor.

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