

Portland Labor Press



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by the
PORTLAND FEDERATED TRADES
COUNCIL.

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ADVERTISING RATES
Will be made known on application.

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second class matter.

No wage-earner in the City should fail to register as a voter before the books close. Go to the Court House and register. It is your dearest privilege and your sacred duty to do so.

THE LABOR PARTY PREPARES TICKET.

After four months of assiduous organization work the Labor party, at its last meeting, settled down to the practical business of preparing a ballot for the referendum vote of the several local unions affiliated with the central committee. A very enthusiastic meeting was held on Wednesday evening of last week and a ticket almost complete was adopted which is being forwarded to the unions for final approval.

For several of the municipal offices the names of more than one candidate have been placed upon the ballot; it now remains for the members of organized labor to decide by ballot, or otherwise, who shall be the standard bearer of the plain people's party.

It is a matter of choice with the locals how they cast their votes, whether by secret ballot or by a majority vote by ayes and nays.

However, the vote may be taken, let it be fairly and voluntarily done. Do not permit your local, brothers, to be invaded by some mercenary spoiler whose mission it is to "knock" some candidate before the unions for what he can get out of such nefarious work. Doubtless, we each have our choice of candidates, and while it must be assumed that every name submitted to the unions for referendum is worthy of consideration, yet we know of blatant hirelings who have constituted themselves "representatives of unionism," and are nosing about among union men seeking to influence the voters against all but their own advantageous choice. We use the word, "advantageous" advisedly, for we know of what we speak.

Our advice to all locals regarding this matter is TO THROW HIM OUT, should the imp show up during your business session, or at any other time so far as that is concerned.

Those presumptuous ignoramus who are so impudent and insulting as to offer advice to the intelligent class of union men found in Portland, pointing out to them whom they should vote for or against, should be strenuously dealt with.

A few wretches whose last hope of happiness on earth is in making trouble for everyone else, have been, during the past few days attacking the Labor party and all connected with it that they cannot control. Of course there may be "something in it" for those hypocrites who pretend to be friends of labor, yet pour out the vilest venom upon the cause whenever an audience can be obtained; but that fact makes it all the more obligatory upon us to remind our friends, the union men of Portland, of their duty in treating with those miserable vipers whose highest ambition is to breed dissension in the ranks to which some of them clandestinely gained admission, for, were there true character known to all, they would not today be in possession of a union card.

Once more let us importune the good men of organized labor to keep aloof from such deceptive, slimy creatures as those referred to, and when the vote for choice of candidates is taken in the union let merit

and true manhood be the standard by which the men shall be judged, not personal spite nor mercenary motives.

ACCEPTABLE ARBITRATION.

At the peace meeting held in this city some few days ago Mr. Yarrow, of the I. W. W. assumed the right to speak for labor, but it is to be hoped his sentiments will not be regarded as those of organized labor.

Labor stands for fair and unbiased arbitration of troubles existing between employer and employee; in evidence of which we have only to refer to the negotiation carried on between the Grainhandlers and the Exporters during the strike last autumn, when the union proposed arbitration; also the Street Carmen, who are still on strike in Portland; they, too, have submitted to the street railway company the proposition to arbitrate, going so far, indeed, as to consent to arbitrate the question "Is there anything to arbitrate?"

That organized labor opposes equitable arbitration is a false impression to leave upon the public mind. There has never been a strike in this country, conducted by any recognized labor organization, where the union did not offer and importune the peaceful means of settling the dispute between it and the employer, and when Mr. Yarrow intimates that labor does not favor such arbitration he states what is not a fact.

There is, however, a plan of arbitration which has found some support in this country to which organized labor is decidedly opposed; that is, compulsory arbitration.

Those who advocate compulsory arbitration see only the side of the question that immediately concerns the business interests of the community. They have not taken the time to review the history of such a system, nor have they taken cognizance of the fact that the selection of the third arbitrator is invariably made in the interest of the employer.

Australia has had an experiment in the form of courts' jurisdiction over labor disputes, and the result has been anything but satisfactory to the cause of unionism. But where the parties in dispute, by mutual consent, refer their case to a fair arbitration board whose finding is not compulsory upon either party, the result is usually accepted by the contestants and business tranquility thereby restored.

While our courts continue, to a great extent, the creation of the money interests, labor can never consent to risk its chances for existence in the hands of a tribunal surrounded by influences to which it logically must cater. If the supreme tribunals of justice were the creation of the popular will through the ballot there would be tenable grounds for compulsory arbitration on the score of economy, though the constitutionality of a law that would forbid men to cease work or prevent employees from discharging help is a question of grave doubt.

Nevertheless, labor is always confident in the righteousness of its case, and is ever ready to accept the decisions of an impartial arbitrator, knowing that justice and honesty will ultimately win before the all-powerful judgment seat of public opinion.

DEMAND A HOLIDAY.

It seems but just that the Mayor of the city should proclaim a holiday on election day that every voter be afforded an opportunity to cast his ballot for his choice of candidates for municipal office.

Let every wage-worker make an appeal for this privilege and there is no doubt the request will be granted. To keep an employee at his task from 7 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening is virtually disfranchising him. The rights of American citizenship, and the privilege of the ballot constitute a mere mockery to the poor man who is doomed to toil from early morn till late at night for a bare pittance, a sheer existence.

Through the combined efforts of the Federated Trades, the Building Trades Alliance, the Labor party and the Reform Association of the city this boon can be secured.

While the City Council may not

have the authority to compel employers to observe a proclamation of that nature, yet it is a moral certainty that such action on the part of the city government would have the effect of closing up every source of industry on both primary and election day. Let us make a bold and united effort to secure this simple right.

A WORD TO THE PUBLIC.

We desire to state, for the information of the public as well as our union friends that the Labor Press is the only organ of organized labor in this city. It is published by the Federated Trades Council, is the organ of the State Federation as well, and alone stands for pure unionism in the State of Oregon.

Advertisers would do well to note this fact, as this paper is the proper medium through which to reach the union people of Oregon. Any upstart claiming to voice the sentiments of organized labor in this city, simply falsifies the true position, as can be verified by applying to the Trades Council or the State Federation of Labor.

The great majority of the unions affiliated with the Building Trades Alliance are also affiliated with the Portland Federated Trades Council, are subscribers to the Labor Press, and regard it as their organ.

The advertiser who wishes to reach the union people of this city and state is hereby warned not to be fooled into believing that any other medium will serve the purpose in the smallest degree. This paper is, and has been for the past seven years, the ONLY organ of organized labor in the State of Oregon.

THE UNION MEAT COMPANY CHANGES OWNERSHIP.

The Union Meat Company, one of the oldest and most popular industrial institutions in Portland has passed into the hands of a new management.

We learn that the enterprising management has made extensive preparations for an immense packing plant at Peninsula, just north of the city, where a million dollars will be expended in the establishment of the packing house and stock yards.

This will be a great boon to the people of that section, inasmuch as real estate has already risen 75 per cent in value since the securing of the site for the great plant of the reliable Union Meat Company.

In a country like Oregon, so specially adapted to the business of stock-raising, no industry is so vitally essential to the general prosperity as the modern packing house. The history of every city in the United States, situated as Portland fortunately is, goes to prove the contention that unprecedented prosperity follows the advent of the great packing industry, and while some adventurers may endeavor to arouse antagonism on the charge of "Trust," we are warranted in stating, after having made full investigation of the matter that such a "trust" exists only in the advertisements of men who would exploit popular sentiment against genuine monopoly of industry, where no evil exists. The progressive labor movement will hail with delight the coming of the modern packing house, knowing that its success depends largely upon the prosperity of the farming community; and history demonstrates the advantages to the agriculturist of the great packing industry.

THE MAYORALTY.

According to the Sunday Oregonian of yesterday, John B. Coffey is the probable choice of the Labor party for candidate for mayor of this city.

Well, all we have to remark in this connection is that if Mr. Coffey gets the support of organized labor for the important position of mayor of Portland, and if he will stand as firmly for labor's interest, should he be elected to office, as he did while serving this county as representative in the late Legislature, labor will never regret the act. Coffey has been labor's staunchest friend both in public and private life, and should he be chosen our candidate, we shall have no fault to find with the result of their referendum.

LABOR NOTES

If you must wear somebody's collar, see that it is union labeled. The "Bell Brand" are not only union labeled but the best made.

To be collared and cuffed rightly, these articles should be stamped "Bell Brand." This guarantees that they are union made and well made.

The advances made in material, moral, and social conditions of the working people are the achievements of the much abused, maligned, and oft misunderstood trade union movement.

There are times when you may have to go "elsewhere" in order to get the "Bell Brand" collar in the style you wish. Do this and encourage the dealer who tries to carry the collar in ALL styles. He is entitled to your patronage.

In speaking with Mr. Byrne, of the Carpenters' Union, we learn that his organization is now in splendid shape and will likely secure a raise in wages for the men in the near future. Brother Byrne is an energetic organizer and will not be put off with a smooth story when he goes after a refractory element.

Ranchers and fruit growers in various parts of the Inland Empire have decided to import men to work in the fields and orchards this season. They are unable to obtain the number required in the west. Growers in the Spokane country are offering from \$35 to \$50 a month and board and at that the demand is 80 per cent greater than the supply.

Secretary Campbell of the International Shingle Weavers' Union, announces that if the manufacturers do not raise the wage of weavers the employers will have strikes to contend with throughout the year. He adds that while in his belief no strike would be ordered by the International union, employees might go out individually. An advance of 25 per cent in wages is desired by the men.

Frank Didisch, vice president and district organizer of the Northwest Council of the Electrical Workers' Union had this to say regarding the local situation. "We are well satisfied and great progress is reported by unions along the coast. The growth since the first of the year has been phenomenal. In the Northwest we have gained 800 new members and nine new charters have been issued on the coast. Local and national treasuries are in good condition."

Hodecarriers and building laborers' unions in Spokane will put into effect early in April a new wage scale, providing for an advance of 50 cents a day, or \$4 for eight hours' work. Men wheeling sand for buildings will receive \$3.50 instead of \$3, while mortar mixers will receive \$4 instead of \$3.50, and men working with plasterers will receive \$4.50. No trouble is expected, as a number of contractors are said to be already paying the advanced scale, while the others are expected to fall in line.

Spokane Plumbers' Union has decided to raise the scale of wages from \$5.50 to \$6 a day of eight hours. The advance is to come into effect early in May. While the master plumbers have not been notified a cursory canvass brought out the statement the men will have no trouble in obtaining the increase, for the reason there is a shortage of competent plumbers and orders for more than five months' work are already on the books. Spokane is experiencing the greatest building period in its history, and hundreds of skilled craftsmen are required to carry out the work.

Spokane, Wash., March 29.—Advances of from one to three cents an hour, effective April 1, have just been made in the wages of all street car men in the employ of the Washington Water Power Company, thus placing Spokane in the first place in the Northwest so far as the scale is concerned. The order will effect 260 men in the employ of the company. The new scale follows: First six months of service, 25 cents an hour; second six months, 26 cents an hour; second, third and fourth years, 27 cents an hour; fifth, sixth and seventh years, 28 cents an hour; eighth, ninth and tenth years, 29 cents an hour; eleventh and twelfth years, 30 cents an hour; thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth years, 31 cents an hour; after fifteen years of service, 33 cents an hour.

The Boston Packing Co. Inc.

Third and Ankeny Streets. Phone Main 414

BOSTON MARKET

First and Burnside Streets. Phone Main 164

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Something Good

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A Hat of Style \$2.50 A Hat of Quality

All the Latest Shapes and Shades

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SOLE AGENTS

Meals Can Be Ready At Any Hour of the Day

All you need for this great convenience is a Gas Range. If you have not one at your home, you are in a great minority. There are a very few modern homes where Gas Ranges are not used. The same is beginning to be true of Gas Water Heaters. When the great comfort of having hot water at any time you want it, at small expense, is known, nearly everybody will have a Water Heater. It will do you a lot of good, and no harm, to call at our office and see how they work. Pay for them when you pay your gas bills.

AT YOUR SERVICE

THE GAS COMPANY

Tel. Pri. Ex. 26 Fifth and Yamhill Sts.

THE LIGHT THAT'S BRIGHT

Electric light is pre-eminently the light of happy content. It dispels gloom, dinginess and discouragement. Light homes make light hearts.

Electric light is practical light—a light that is at once clean, convenient and economical. At the prevailing rates for current on meter basis it is well within the means of all, and when used sensibly—economically—electric light is as cheap as it is good.

IS YOUR HOUSE WIRED?

PHONE MAIN 6688 for OUR REPRESENTATIVE. He will prove these statements with facts and figures.

Portland Railway Light & Power Co.

First and Alder Streets