

## BALANCING ACCOUNTS

AN ABLE RESUME OF LABOR'S RESULTS BY ROBT. BURTON BRUCE.

It is near the time to foot up the columns, inventory stock, find profit and loss, view the prospective and consider the conditions that have advanced or retarded business. Whether we be a merchant, a manufacturer or a workman, particularly should there be no attempt, especially on the part of the manufacturer or workman, to over or under-estimate the results, whatever they are, or have been, or appear to be. If the proof sheet is clear and errorless, the lesson should be carefully, thoughtfully gone over and over until there is no possible reason for charging it was not thoroughly consulted, considered and understood.

Plain facts must be stated, plain truths revealed, plain language used, and prompt decisive action taken to avoid the errors of the past by guarding against any menace or repetition in the future, and I can but believe there will be none to say this is not only the proper but the wisest course to pursue. The position I hold is not a private one. It brings me in contact with the public at large in towns, cities and states, with employers and employees and consumers of large and small means, thus affording unrestricted opportunities for wide and varied observation. Hence, I have nothing to gain by drawing upon far-fetched imagination or views tempered with personal grievances or desire for redress. In my opinion, the man who seeks to improve industrial conditions should be supported, just as the union workman should be encouraged in his efforts to raise the standard and the value of his labor, for I believe the union workman is of a higher order than the vagrant who is satisfied to live amidst the squalor and the seam of poverty's hovels, and that therefore the former is entitled to recognition socially, morally and intellectually higher, broader and wider, especially since he labors not for his own good alone but for the good of his employer and fellow-workman, and when he fails to place the interests of either next to his own, he is true to neither himself nor his employer nor his associates. On the other hand, the man who degrades his employees, tyrannizes over them, is avaricious and subjects all to struggle for a fair and reasonable livelihood, is an object of humanity no intelligent, broad-minded community should tolerate or respect.

Now it must be charged that labor has been too slow in placing its power upon a plane that would give it value and advantages of inestimable worth. The charge is not alone in its standing. By its side must be placed another which, reduced to a single word, we recognize as overconfidence. Therefore, it is time to strike a balance sheet, open a new ledger and set down a course free from methods and means which have proven futile, unsafe and based upon no reasonable, practical view.

It has been asserted, principally by political haranguers and greedy capitalists, that union labor is based upon the principle of selfishness and avarice when it demands to be placed upon the highest standard of value. Such an assertion, however, finds only condemnation with impartial, broad-minded thinkers. Nevertheless, there are charlatans of capital and fawning politicians who would have us believe union labor has gained and proposed largely in the year closing, and that only the indolent have failed to take advantage of or be benefitted by this asserted prosperity.

I am ready to concede that, in a certain way, union labor has made a remarkable and encouraging advance not only to its own surprise but to the astonishment of those who have fought its every effort to improve industrial benefits by the power of money, the prejudice of courts, the influence of political forces and the odium caused by the ignorant, pliable vagrant. It is sadly unfortunate in a

country where science, skilled labor and a high order of intelligence are factors which have given it power and prominence among the nations of the earth, that such blemishes are found, more unfortunate than the greed of the capitalist and the ambition of public officials—not excepting the judicial ermine—should embrace every opportunity to give encouragement and employment to such worthless elements, still more unfortunate that there are people and communities that permit their sympathies to aid and assist this encouragement, but most deplorable of all is that there are members of unionized labor who weaken their own cause and power by a feeble, faltering, vacillating and inconsistent support.

A careful survey of these conditions shows that notwithstanding their adverse effect, there is a strong determination, on the part of those who are guarding and guiding the cause of union labor, to strengthen it by moving along the lines of pacific and educational argument and away from methods not sanctioned by them, because they are methods violating law and order. This is as it should be, and the farther organized labor leads itself and its advocates from such methods, the stronger does and will it grow with the general public.

Here is where union labor finds the balance sheet in its favor, and indeed it is gratifying to note that the impartial public is accepting this course as sincere and the wisest, since the advance is toward higher, broader grounds of stable defense and presentation of skilled, intelligent, honest labor and for better conditions and relations between employer and employee.

At the same time, it is not to be denied but more strongly maintained that capital has exerted its power to force downward the value of skilled workmanship without lowering the cost of manufactured and purchasable articles, increasing their production or raising their standard of excellence; nor must it be overlooked that it has fought and continues to fight for greater increments to itself, but not for the consumer nor the factor—the workman—who turns the tendency toward the profit side.

The consumer is not a participant in this increase on the profit side. His account is on the left, in fact so heavily on the left that he often finds it is balanced only by a transfer to the losing side of profit and loss. It is the same with the workman. The digest is, that both are forced to bear the burdens of deprivations, the unfortunate fact existing that the man who really creates this benefit is the one who does so by greater toil, longer hours and less pay.

Thus it is seen that while union labor has gained a higher standing in public opinion, its wage has not advanced the cost of living; in fact, its struggle has been to hold what it has in hand. Were it otherwise, it would have no cause for complaining it was underpaid or not sufficiently to meet the demands for comfortable living, and that it was unjustly charged with demanding a wage forcing upward material cost.

These circumstances and conditions are all the more serious in view of the fact that capital has gone still farther in its unjustness to the workman and consumer in general by blinding civil and judicial influences to uphold its ruinous conquest, which, however, must not be accepted as permanent, for sooner or later the public will cease to rely upon the promises and pledges, the claims and assertions of leagues, clubs, associations and alliances that hold out to labor the rosate hue of profitable employment and reductions in the cost of living, neither of which will bear the searchlight of investigation. Instances are not confined. One which can and must be taken is a true record of all. It is that of an Employers' Association—"Not a million of miles" from the office of The Carpenter—and it gives what must be accepted as facts; that of the 11,740 names it had registered for employment 713 were employed, of which number 535 quit, 78 were discharged, 49 were "laid off," leaving 51 of the 11,740 holding positions. The report is a confidential one to the

members of the association, not all of whom, however, favor the "wide open" system which the association encourages.

This report is for a year, and I leave it to the thoughtful public and the workmen at large to ponder over as they read this article.

### COOLIE LABOR IN VINEYARDS.

It is undeniable that many California fruit growers favor immigration of Chinese and Japanese laborers, declaring the labor supply insufficient to handle the fruit crops. They much prefer Chinese, as mere intelligent, tractable and trustworthy, but, if they can not get them, they insist upon the need of Japanese.

No doubt it is true that if all the Chinese and Japanese were in a twinkling removed from the state, there would be difficulty in picking, curing and packing the crops in many of the orchards and vineyards. The demand is not so much for cheap labor as for hands enough to do the work. The relative scarcity of Asiatics of late years has enabled them to ask and obtain good wages. And the Japanese, in particular, have a way of taking advantage of local necessities that often involves bad faith on their part.

These facts and conditions, however, constitute no valid argument for permitting further immigration of Japanese or Chinese. The fruit growers of other states have no difficulty in getting along without Asiatic laborers, and had both Chinese and Japanese been kept out of California our fruit industry would probably have made even more progress than it has attained. There would not have been so many large orchards and vineyards, but more small ones, and that would be better for the state.

The demand for Chinese and Japanese comes entirely from the owners of large properties, not from the small farmers or fruit growers who live with their families upon the acres they till.

It would be a good thing for California if the big orchards and vineyards were cut up into parcels not exceeding ten or twenty acres in size, and the great ranches likewise subdivided into small farms. Such changes would not only multiply the number of rural homes but also add greater dignity to agricultural labor, now more or less prejudiced through the hiring of coolies. And the result would be a higher average quality of the products of the soil, for that is everywhere the effect of the intensive cultivation that follows subdivision. "The little farm well tilled" remains the best aim for the state to promote.—Sacramento Bee.

### THE BOYCOTT.

The daily papers of Portland seem to know more about the workings of the Federated Trades Council than the officers of that body. During the past week much has been written regarding a proposed boycott on the Oaks Amusement resort, and a great deal of the stuff appearing from day to day is sadly without foundation.

The Carmen's Union applied to the Federated Trades Council, some two weeks ago, for the placing of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company upon the unfair list, but on the advice of their attorney, Mr. Wm. McGarry, the delegates from the Street Carmen's Union, at the last meeting of the Trades Council, withdrew the appeal for such boycott, and instead, asked for a boycott against the Oaks Amusement Company, on the grounds that the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company is the real owner of the Oaks.

The Council was obliged to consider the argument that the Oaks resort is held under lease by a company having no connections, whatever, with the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, and that it would be decidedly unfair to boycott an innocent party; hence, a special committee was appointed to interview the management of the Oaks Amusement Company with a view to learning the facts in the case and to endeavor to effect some settlement of the trouble between the street railway company and the strikers through the good offices of the Oaks company.

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Doubtless such a boycott would have a telling effect upon the income of the company controlling the resort, but if the revenue does not ultimately find its way to the coffers of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, very little would be thereby accomplished in behalf of the strikers.

Much credit is due the self-sacrificing stand taken by the carmen in yielding up their right to boycott in the interest of organized labor in this city. It is a matter of fact that the Council was obliged to grant the original request of the strikers, and there is no doubt but that such would have been the result of the referendum vote.

Mr. Fisher, the president of the union, made a strong appeal to his men to stand by unionism and not to force an issue which must necessarily cause great suffering to the members of organized labor, and possibly bring about serious dissatisfaction in the ranks of labor.

The carmen are justly entitled to every consideration at the hands of organized labor and unless something is accomplished by the committee to wait upon the Oaks management, the boycott is almost certain to be granted at the next Council meeting.

### WORTH KNOWING.

The Armory Canteen and the Royal Cafe—the first at Tenth and Couch streets, the second at Tenth and Everett streets, are nice clean places, both owned by Mr. Minor Lewis, a gentleman well known to union men and a staunch friend to organized labor.

You will always find the card and the button in both these resorts, and you will always be treated kindly and squarely by the men behind the bar.

It is said that Japanese laborers now in Hawaii who desire to enter the United States propose to do so by going through Mexico.



**Trade Union Directory**

Following will be found a directory of Portland unions, giving the name, time and place of meeting, and wherever possible for the Labor Press to ascertain the name and address of the secretary. Secretaries will confer a favor upon the Labor Press by notifying the management of errors or changes in this list:

**SUNDAY.**  
Shingle Weavers' Union No. 65—Every Sunday, 2 p. m., Fulton.  
Shipyard Workers' Union—Eleven o'clock first Sunday, Room 214, Goodnough Building.  
Geo. Handley, Oregonian.  
Railway Freight Handlers—Second and fourth Sunday, 2 p. m., Drew Hall, P. McDonald, 162 Second.  
Typographical, No. 58—First Sunday afternoon, 410 E. W. Hall, Building-Hirsch Building, Geo. A. Vth, Journal.

**MONDAY.**  
Building Trades Council—Every Monday evening at 8 o'clock in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.  
Building Laborers—Every Monday evening, Bartenders' Hall, 164 1/2 Alder street. M. J. Conroy, 244 Alder.  
Carriage and Wagon Workers—First and third Tuesday evenings, Drew Hall, Robert Ewing, 287 Morris St.  
Cigar Makers—Second Monday, Drew Hall, W. H. Fitzgerald, 162 Second.  
Electricians, No. 125 (Line Men)—Every Monday night, Drew Hall, W. S. Jenkins, 248 E. Thirty-fourth.  
Pattern Makers—First and third Monday, Drew Hall.  
Plumbers—Every Monday evening, Arion Hall.  
Sailors—Every Monday night, 7:30, No. 40 Union avenue, L. W. Paul.  
Shipwrights and Caulkers—Every second and fourth Monday, Drew Hall.  
Structural Building Trades Alliance—Every Monday night at 12:30 Fifth street.  
Web Pressmen—First Monday, Room 214 Goodnough Building.

**TUESDAY.**  
Bartenders' League, No. 339, in Bartenders' hall, 244 1/2 Alder street, every 1st and 3rd Tuesday afternoon.  
Blacksmiths and Helpers Union—Every second and fourth Tuesday, Drew Hall.  
Bindery Women's Union, No. 113—First Tuesday evening, 162 Second street.  
Bookbinders No. 90—Third Tuesday, Room 200 Drew Building. E. J. Sonnenburg, box 1 Woodlawn.  
Carpenters—Every Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, hall 302 Drew Bldg., 162 Second.  
Cooks and Waiters—1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays at 8:30 P. M., and 2d Tuesday at 2:30 P. M., in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.  
Locomotive Engineers—First and third Tuesday at 11 a. m., Drew Hall.  
Musicians—First Tuesday afternoon at No. 162 Second street. Board meeting every Tuesday afternoon at same place. Room 106, at 8 o'clock p. m., F. E. Newberger.  
Sheet Metal Workers—First and third Tuesdays, Drew Hall, Ira S. Hill, 1169 E. Main.  
Team Drivers' Union, Local 162—Every Tuesday night, Union Hall, Second and Stark W. J. Rogers, 1508 Northrup.

**WEDNESDAY.**  
Allied Printing Trade Council—Second Wednesday evening, 214 Goodnough Building.  
Bricklayers' Union—Every Wednesday evening, Arion Hall, 228 1/4 Yamhill. Chas. Stokes, Box 328.  
Grainhandlers, Local 263—Every Wednesday evening at Davis Hall, corner Russell street and Albina avenue. L. L. Ray, 120 Sellwood.  
Labor Party—Every Wednesday at 8 P. M., in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.  
Leatherworkers—Every Wednesday evening, 162 Second, third floor. Manley Davis, 214 Union avenue.  
Messenger Boys' Protective Union—Every Wednesday night Drew Hall, Cecil E. Messinger, 844 E. Seventh, N.  
Painters—Every Wednesday night at 8 o'clock, hall 201 Drew Bldg., 162 Second.  
Plasterers' Union, 821—Every Wednesday evening, Plasterers' Hall, 127 1/2 First.  
Riggers and Shipbuilders, No. 329—First Wednesday evening in month, Hall 300, Alley Building, Henry Arnold, 248 Burnside.  
Stereotypers and Electrotypers, 48—First Wednesday evening, Room 214, Goodnough Building. Frank Land, Journal.  
Street Railway Employees—Every Wednesday, Drew Hall.  
Journeyman Tailors' Union, No. 74—Second and fourth Wednesday, Union Hall, Second and Stark. J. M. Bendroth, Box 122.

**THURSDAY.**  
Barbers—Second and fourth Thursday evening, 162 Second. T. M. Leabo, secretary, 167 1/2 First; phone, Pacific 1501.  
Women's Union Label League—Every Thursday night in Hall 302, Drew Building, 162 Second street.  
Boiler Makers' Union—Second and fourth Thursday evening, Arion Hall 228 1/4 Yamhill.  
Coopers' Union—First and third Thursday evenings, Bartenders' Hall, 244 1/2 Alder.  
Garment Workers—First and third Thursdays evening, 162 Second street.  
Longshoremen's Association, 265—First and third Thursday evening, Union Hall, Second and Stark, third floor.  
Lathers' Union—Every Thursday at 8 P. M., in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.  
Printing Pressmen, Local 45—First Thursday, 127 1/2 First. W. H. Gerdes, American Type Foundry Co.  
Retail Clerks Union—First and third Thursday, Drew Hall, Geo. Rodner, Lion Clothing Co.  
Theatrical Employees, Local 25—Second and fourth Thursday, 228 1/4 Yamhill. C. M. Campbell, Star Theatre.  
Wood, Wire and Metal Lathers Union—Thursday evening, Lathers' Hall, 218 1/2 First.

**FRIDAY.**  
Carpet Workers, Local 8—Friday evening, 230 1/2 Yamhill. H. C. Brown, 463 Florence.  
Electrical Workers, No. 317—Friday, Drew Hall, J. L. Crookwell, box 414.  
Federated Trades Council—Every Friday night at 8 o'clock, hall 302 Drew Bldg., 162 Second.  
Inside Electrical Workers—Every Friday evening at 8 o'clock in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.  
Machinists, Williamette Lodge, No. 63—Friday evening, 162 Second. W. A. Daisell, 1004 E. Yamhill.

**SATURDAY.**  
Bakery and Confectionery Workers, Local 114—First and third Saturday, 6 o'clock p. m., 228 1/4 Yamhill. A. Dupois, 293 Burnside.  
Beer Drivers and Bottlers—First and third Saturday, Drew Hall. G. C. Goldenberg, 811 Kelley.  
Brewers' Union—Second and fourth Saturday evening, 228 1/4 Yamhill, Arion Hall.  
Otto Kulka, box 171.  
Bridge and Structural Iron Workers—Saturday evening, 230 1/2 Yamhill.  
Stationary Firemen—First and third Saturday evening, Musicians' Hall, 227 Chamber of Commerce. James Roberts, 514 Perrygrove.  
Longshoremen, Local 264—At call of president, Hibernal Hall, Second and Stark.  
Hush Pritch, 37 N. Front.  
Stationary Engineers—Every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, in Cooks and Waiters' hall, 128 1/2 Fifth street.

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