

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.
Entered at the Postoffice at Portland as
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.

STRIKE AVERTED.

The threatened railroad strike will not take place, a settlement of the dispute having been made last Thursday between the western roads and the unions.

By the settlement conductors in the passenger service get an increase in wages of \$10 per month, baggage-men \$7.50; flagmen and brakemen \$6.50 as applied to the schedules in effect November 1, 1906.

About three months ago the unions asked for an increase of 12 per cent and a nine-hour day. By the settlement of last week they have abandoned the nine-hour day and accepted an increase in wages of about 10 per cent, including the locomotive firemen. Overtime to be computed on the basis of 15 miles per hour for each part of the run separately.

By the terms of the agreement the roads are not to make any reduction in crews or increase in mileage for the purpose of offsetting the increased wages given the employees.

It is claimed that government mediation claims the credit for the settlement, but we are inclined to believe that the justice of the men's case and the unity of action on the part of the organizations constitute the effective influences that forced the settlement.

AN INJUSTICE.

It seems a pity that President Roosevelt should have made the statement he is credited with making in reference to Wm. Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners, now incarcerated in an Idaho prison on a charge of complicity in the murder of ex-Governor Stuenkel.

It is stated that the President wrote to Congressman Sherman saying Haywood is an undesirable citizen. That is a hard statement to make against a man who is about to be tried for his life, and coming from one so highly esteemed by the people of this country, as Mr. Roosevelt is it, it must certainly awaken undue enmity against the man whose life is at stake.

Mr. Roosevelt may know facts relative to Haywood and his character, unknown to the rest of the American citizens, which, if given publicity would brand the prisoner, in the public mind, as a desperate character, not worthy the name of American, but, on the evidence so far adduced we must in justice and fair play, regard Haywood as innocent of any crime disqualifying him for the glorious privilege of citizenship.

We are aware of the fact that Haywood was an active member of a great labor organization which stood in the way of powerful corporations, desire to rule the people with an iron rod, but we have never been informed that such a career unfits a man for desirable citizenship in the United States.

Until proven guilty, we must regard the accused as innocent, and in the case of Haywood, everything points towards his innocence. If evidence adequately proves him guilty of the heinous crime charged against

him, every union man in the United States will join with the President in demanding the severest punishment of the law, but until an impartial trial has been given the suffering prisoner, in justice let us refrain from insinuations that must inevitably antagonize his innocence in the public mind.

Possibly, the President holds that a man who agitates for American freedom and the right of the wage-worker to his just share of the product of his toil is not a safe candidate for citizenship in our great country. If this be true American citizenship would soon lose its halcyon significance and mediaeval tyranny would, in a few short years, trench its hideousness within the "Home of the brave and the land of the free."

SOCIALISM MAKES SMALL IMPRESSION.

Frequently we read of the inroads made by Socialism into the ranks of organized labor and of the probably ultimate control of the labor movement by the socialist party, but it has not been suggested that the only proclaimer of this very doubtful information is the Clarion tongue of socialist missionaries.

The truth of the matter is Socialism and labor are constantly separating and the chasm between the two doctrines is daily becoming more and more impassable. President John Mitchell of the Mine Workers' union discusses this subject in the Chicago Record-Herald as follows:

"In the United States there are approximately three million organized workmen; at the last presidential election about four hundred thousand votes were cast for the Socialist party. Not to exceed two-thirds of these four hundred thousand votes were cast by Trades Unionists. Even if the entire number had been cast by Trades Unionists, it would still be apparent that only a very small percentage of the Trades Unionists are Socialists. And if the conclusion reached and the resolutions adopted and defeated by the conventions of the American Federation of Labor and of other independent labor associations reflect properly the sentiments and desires of the workmen, there is little sympathy and absolutely no connection between the Trades Unions and the Socialist movements."

A CORRECTION.

It becomes our duty to correct an unintentional error appearing in an editorial in the Sunday Oregonian under the caption "Make the Graft Probe Deep." The writer of that editorial says, in reference to an obscure campaign sheet recently making its appearance upon the scene, "says a newly started labor organ" etc.

The correction we wish to make, for the benefit of the Oregonian, is that organized labor in Portland has but one organ—the Portland Labor Press, all other claimants to such honor being impostors of the Charlatan type.

At this juncture it may be profitable for some mountebank pretender to belch forth in hypocritical effusions as the friend and defender of the working man; yea, even such exploiters as have in the past sacrificed the interests of union men for filthy lucre make bold to proclaim their final love for the horny handed sons of honest toil that dollars may find their way into their tainted pockets. Even the Negro organ in this city is presuming to be the counsellor of the union man, and if its managers can impose upon the sordid credulity of some politicians in Portland to the extent of leading them to believe that it possesses an influence with the honest voters in the ranks of labor, doubtless the enterprise will prove comparatively profitable to the dusky editor.

The Labor Press is prepared to fight the issue of labor's interests against all comers; it is backed by the solid union movement in this city and state; it stands for the principles set forth by the American Federation of Labor, and the

men directing it are prepared to stand on their records as true union men.

When the members of organized labor in this city will have decided by referendum the ticket it proposes to support in the municipal election next June, this organ will be on hand to advocate it to the last ditch, knowing that the majority vote of unionism here is a sufficient guarantee for the honesty and purity of the men so chosen.

ANATHEMA UPON INGRATES

Is there a sin known to the decalogue so heinous in its nature as that of ingratitude?

After years of friendship and accepted favors, after pledges of undying attachment to a noble companion in return for needed assistance, to prove false and treacherous is a crime so ignominious that words fail in condemnation of the villain so vile and perfidious as he who is wilfully guilty of such dastardly conduct.

There is a story in holy writ which exemplifies such a character in lucid terms. It is told that one of the chosen twelve apostles, being imbued with an insatiable greed for money made his way to the high priests and asked "What will you give me and I will deliver him unto you (meaning Jesus)?"

And they covenanted with him for 30 pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him." Having succeeded in his diabolical treachery, Judas was jubilant in his mercenary gain until he saw his Redeemer in the hands of the executioners; then remorse filled his blackened soul and—unlike, I fear, some of the present day traitors—he, "repenting himself, brought the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, 'I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.' And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself."

The chief priests held the crime of Judas in such dread abhorrence that they would not put into the treasury the ill-gotten money because it was the price of blood.

Is this not a most terrible pronouncement against the crime of treachery and deceit? Conceive the awful fangs of remorse plunged into the wretched soul of him who played false to his generous friend and benefactor! See him flee to self-destruction that temporal relief might come to his burning conscience!

He hanged himself in desperation of ever more finding peace of mind. Today there is to be found an isolated sample of the treacherous hypocrite depicted in the above scriptural narration, and it behooves every self-respecting citizen to spurn the vile creature as you would spurn a crawling viper.

Oh! happy the day when justice coupled with honor shall rid our glorious country of this poisonous pest; when the sacred ties of friendship shall no longer be endangered by the tempting influences of earthly greed.

IT WAS NO MISTAKE.

The Oregon Journal of last Saturday gives its readers the startling bit of news that the Free Water amendment to the city charter, by an oversight, fails to provide for the 2-mill tax known as the "Bridge tax."

Mr. H. D. Wagon, president of the Free Water Association explains the case in the following communication:

To the Editor Labor Press—

In reference to the 2-mill tax known as the "Bridge tax" I wish to say the two per cent bridge tax was left out of the Free Water amendment, because it was a trick of the worst kind, and one that could not have been passed at the last election if it had not been tacked on as a rider to the bill admitting several out-lying districts to the city.

In amending any section of the city charter it is necessary to re-enact the whole section, and to re-enact the two per cent bridge tax

would have made us a party to the fraud that was practiced on the city by the legislature of 1905, and we could stand for it. So we left it out, and we expect the voters to ratify our action.

Why should the people of Sellwood or Vernon be taxed to build bridges on Portland Heights, as has been done under that bad law? Away with it!

H. W. WAGON.

HOLIDAY ON ELECTION DAY.

At the last meeting of the Federated Trades Council the following communication was received, read and adopted, and ordered referred to the local unions for their approval:

Portland, Ore., April 5, 1907.

To the Federated Trades Council—

Gentlemen and Brothers:—I have been instructed by the Central Committee of the Labor Party to ask your honorable body to use your best endeavors to have the various unions affiliated with your Council, to declare June the 4th, 1907 (Election Day) a holiday, also if possible the Primary Election Day. It is the opinion of the Central Committee of the Labor Party, that if the unions of this city will comply with this request and will devote the days above mentioned to the interests of the Labor Party Candidates there will be no question of our success and our efforts will be crowned with victory at the coming city election.

I may further state that a similar request has been sent to the building Trades Council of this city.

I remain yours for success and fraternity.

T. M. LEABO,
Secretary Labor Party.

"FLAG-HISSING" EPISODE.

It was stated in the public press and confirmed by correspondence that some frenzied traitors, masquerading under the garb of trade unionism tore down and trampled on the Stars and Strips in San Francisco.

Let these anarchists be unceasing. That flag is the flag of organized labor; its stripes are our stripes, its stars are our stars; it represents our country, our institutions, our freedom. At any time or at any place these ruffians do not like this country or its institutions no attempt will be made to keep them here.

The editor of the Mine Workers' Journal solemnly declares that if he were the executive in California or in San Francisco he would hang those people for treason, if it were the last act of his life.—United Mine Workers' Journal.

We have it on the authority of one of the speakers on the occasion above referred to that the flag was not in any way insulted, nor could it be at a meeting of the union men of San Francisco. We admire the determined patriotism of the United Mine Workers' Journal and wish to add our quota of devotion to the flag claiming for it all the editor of that Journal declares in its defense.

SLOWER TRAINS DEMANDED.

As a result of recent railway wrecks, the managers of several trunk lines leading into Chicago have expressed their intention of running trains on slower schedules. A number of prominent Chicago bankers, lawyers and railroad men have signed a petition to the New York Central and Pennsylvania managements requesting the extension of the New York and Chicago schedule from 18 to 20 hours during the summer months. No action so far has been taken, and some of the officials say that the 18-hour schedule will not be altered, and that people who want to go slower have plenty of slow trains at their disposal.

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