

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

April 26, 1907.

Portland Federated Trades Council met this date in regular session, President McKenzie in the chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Credentials from Plumbers union were read and accepted and Delegate D. J. Marsh seated.

At this point Mr. John B. Coffey was admitted to the floor, and addressed the meeting, in behalf of his candidacy for nomination for the mayoralty of this city.

Mr. Wm. R. McGarry also spoke in his own behalf as candidate for nomination for City Attorney.

Communications—A communication from Brother Sam'l Gompers, Pres. A. F. of L., regarding the appointment of Bro. Pitschke as organizer of the A. F. of L. for Portland was received and placed on file. A communication from Bro. Frank Morrison, Secretary A. F. of L., stating that the constitution of the A. F. of L. forbids the affiliation with chartered central bodies of any independent union. In this connection the matter of the local union of Carpet Mechanics' affiliation with this body was placed in the hands of Organizer Pitschke. A communication from the Secretary of the Labor Party was received and filed. Communication from Mr. A. L. Barbur, announcing his candidacy for nomination in the primaries for the position of City Auditor was read and placed on file. Communication from Rev. E. S. Mueckley inviting all to be present at Open Forum meeting in the First Christian church, Park and Columbia streets, on Sunday night, the 28th inst., was read and filed. The minutes of the Building Trades Alliance's meeting were read and filed.

Bills—A bill for \$22.50, Recording Secretary's salary, and postage stamps for April; a bill for \$5, Statistical Secretary's salary for April, were ordered paid.

Reports of Standing Committees—The delegates to the Labor Party reported the work being done by that organization and suggested that the Council donate \$43 for advertising the Labor candidates in both the Labor Press and the Advertiser, and that the management of the Labor Press be instructed to "issue an extra edition immediately before the primary election. On motion the amount was ordered appropriated.

The committee to the Industrial Peace Association reported what had been done at the meetings of that organization which the members had attended, stating that a Board of Directors had been appointed and the ranks of labor had secured a representation thereof of seven members: Pitschke, Foster, Gurr, Gram, Fitzgerald, Kelly and McDonald. Bro. Pitschke urged all the delegates to make it a point to be present at the session of the Board next Monday night, the 29th inst., in the Y. M. C. A. Auditorium.

New Business—Under this order Bro. Gurr reported having made some inquiry from well informed sources regarding the questions to be submitted to the electors by referendum at the June election and learned that 23 or 24 questions will be so submitted. He suggested that a committee of three delegates with other interested citizens concerning those questions with a view to ascertaining as much information as possible bearing upon the matter and report same to this Council. On motion the recommendation of Bro. Gurr was adopted, and Bros. Gurr, Pitschke and McKenzie were named as the committee. Bro. Burdett of the Carmen's union asked that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Street Committee of the City Council to urge upon it the justice and the necessity of granting the United Railways Co. an extension of its franchise. The committee was, on motion, appointed as follows: Burdett, McDonald and Foster.

Mr. H. G. Parsons, candidate for nomination for Councilman-at-large, was here introduced and made a nice speech in behalf of his candidacy. His remarks were received with enthusiastic applause.

Reports of Organizations—The delegates from Teamsters' union and Longshoremen's Local No. 265 reported the fact that both these unions had decided to close down operations in their work on the afternoon of May 4th for the purpose of letting the men have an opportunity to vote at the primaries. Bro. Drew reported that the organizer of the Moulders' International would arrive in this city about the 10th of May, and if a settlement of the 8-hour question cannot be effected with the bosses, a strike will likely ensue. Bro. Ewing of the Carriage & Wagon Workers' union reported

the success of that local's movement in securing all but one shop to sign the new scale and grant the nine-hour day. Bro. Frederick of the Cooks and Waiters' said his organization would soon present to the proprietors a new scale of wages and expected to be able to report success at the proper time.

Receipts—Typographical Union No. 58, \$3; Barbers, \$3. Total, \$6. Disbursements, \$27.50.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned for one week.

P. McDONALD,
Secretary.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION CENSURED.

Portland, Oregon, April 24, 1907.

To the Editor Labor Press:

At the last meeting of the Bartenders League Local 339 Tuesday the 23rd inst., the matter of the action of the civil service commission of Portland, Ore., regarding the application of Jacob Gerdes to take the examination for watchman in said city, where in said commission refused to consider said application on the grounds, that said Jacob Gerdes had worked as a bartender for several years in Portland, Ore., the League took the matter up and on finding that Mr. Gerdes had secured the signatures of citizens and business men of this city, declaring that they had known Mr. Gerdes for a number of years and that his reputation to their knowledge is above reproach as a citizen and a man, we the members of Bartenders League, local 339 do hereby endorse the following resolution:

Whereas, The Civil Service Commission of the city of Portland, Ore., has most arrogantly ruled against the application of Jacob Gerdes and has refused him an examination for the position of watchman in this city, on the grounds, that he (Mr. Gerdes) has served as a bartender in this city, and

Whereas, The city charter does not warrant any such ruling, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we the members of Bartenders League, Local 339 do hereby condemn the arrogant ruling of said Commission and call upon all good citizens to support us in our stand against the autocracy of any body of men, who presume to rule in such despotic and prejudicial manner.

We herewith present to the public a copy of the letter from the Civil Service Commission addressed to Mr. Gerdes.

Mr. Jacob Gerdes, 643 Hood street, City.

Sir:—You are hereby notified, that the Civil Service Commission have this day directed that your application for watchman under the classified civil service of this city be cancelled and that you be excluded from taking the examination for said position on account of your application showing that you have for the past five years been employed in various saloons in this city as a bartender.

Respectfully,
O. L. McPHERSON,
Secretary.

To prove his good character Mr. Gerdes circulated the following petition:

To whom it may concern:

This is to certify that we the undersigned residents of the city of Portland have known Mr. Jacob Gerdes for a number of years and during our term of acquaintance, we have never known anything detrimental in the conduct or character of Mr. Gerdes, on the contrary we can truly say, that he has been a sober, industrious and honest citizen, well qualified for the position of watchman in this city.

Signed, A. R. Mendenhall, Attorney at Law; W. N. Good, Retired Merchant; A. Forbes, Contractor; M. Hansen, Cigars; E. E. Whistler, Contractor; A. D. McDonald, Sign Painter.

CHAS. GRASSMAN,
Sec. Bartenders' League No. 339

NOT BY BREAD ALONE.

By the Rev. Charles Stelzle.

The economic interpretation of history completely satisfies the man "whose God is his belly," and who has forgotten that Christ once said to the tempter: "Man does not live by bread alone."

It is unquestionably true that history has been greatly influenced by economic considerations, especially during the earlier periods when almost the only occupation of man was that of getting a living. To a large extent, that is the chief occupation of multitudes today. But there are few who would admit

that life means to them nothing more than this. If all that men had to live for were the securing of enough meat to keep body and soul together, and a house in which to shelter the body, this would be a sad, sorry world, and it might be better to permit the soul to depart.

Important as the economic influence may be, there are other and still more important forces in life which determine the destiny of the human race. The Great Teacher once asked: "Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" These—meat and raiment—are simply a means to an end, and not an end in themselves. Men desire economic goods for the sake of life, not life for the sake of the means of life. Men have frequently sacrificed their economic interests because of the great passions. Wars have been waged, which, while they may have had an economic origin, were really concerned about other issues, some of which were worthy, but many of which were not. The history of religion cannot be explained by economic principles. The story of conquest has not always had a materialistic basis. Morals and ethics have had much to do with the rise and fall of nations. One can see this fact being worked out in the nations of our own generation. The economic interpretation of history explains many of the phenomena in the life of man kind, but it is by no means an all-inclusive interpretation. There are so many factors in human nature which are left out of consideration in such an interpretation, that it cannot be accepted as a basis upon which to prophecy the ultimate destiny of human society.

Much less is it safe to make the deduction that a certain economic theory, as yet untried, will meet all the needs of men—physical, social and religious—when even its value as an economic system is disputed. If it were true that the interpretation of history is economic, it by no means follows that the future must be based upon the same factors which governed the past. New and unknown quantities are constantly being introduced, which are surely determining the character of the days to come. There is no mountain peak which, climbing, gives us an outlook as to where we are marching. That we are making progress no one will dispute. And to insist, after a very superficial study, upon the introduction of an artificial and an unnatural social and economic system—that or no other—may hinder the forward movement of all humanity. Far better is it to take advantage of every opportunity which presents itself, to improve the human race, leaving the matter of the final system or systems to care for themselves. For, as we prepare men for that millennial dawn, the sooner will its glow be seen upon the horizon.

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