

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

May 3rd, 1907.

Portland Federated Trades Council held regular session this date. Minutes of previous meeting read, corrected and adopted. The following credentials were received and the delegates seated. Electrical Workers, No. 125, Trullinger and McIntosh; Women's Union Label League, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Fisher and Miss Richtenbach.

A communication from the Upholsterers of San Francisco was read and referred to the organizer, Bro. Pitschke.

Reports of Committees—The Executive Board reported the matter of Albers Bros., employing a non-union engineer was still in statu quo. On motion, the matter was handed over to the organizer, Bro. Pitschke. The delegation to the Peace Commission reported the election of officers at the last meeting held on Monday the 29th inst.

The committee appointed to confer with the street committee of the city council reported having accomplished nothing in that connection.

New Business—Bro. Fisher of the Carmen's Union called the attention of the Council to the fact that union musicians are engaged to play at the Oaks Amusement grounds in violation of the rules under boycott. The matter was referred back to the carmen to be taken up with the Musicians' Union.

Reports of Organizations—The delegates from Electrical Workers No. 125 reported that the Pacific States Telephone and Telegraph Company has practically recognized their union. The Home Telephone Company is expected soon to make a reasonable settlement with the union.

Delegates from the Building Laborers reported having secured a raise in wages of 50 cents per day. Bro. Brew of the Iron Moulders reported the organization as being splendidly prepared for the threatened strike which will likely take place if the terms asked are not granted by the 15th inst.

Mrs. Brown of the Label League reported that the League would hold an open meeting on Thursday the 9th inst., in their hall, No. 303 Drew Bldg., and cordially invited all union men and their wives and daughters to be present. A nice programme will be carried out and refreshments served.

Receipts—Printing Pressmen, \$3; Electrical Workers, No. 125, \$9; total, \$12.

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

P. M. McDONALD,
Secretary.

WOMEN'S LABEL LEAGUE.

No report from the League was found in the paper owing to unavoidable circumstances, which prevented the attendance of your humble servant for a few weeks.

Since our last report the Trades Council has given seats to three delegates from the League. Sisters Brown, Fisher and Richtenbach were duly elected and will be initiated into this new work this coming Friday evening. And it is to be hoped they will be able to arouse an interest that will demand united action instead of mere words of praise which has been 99 per cent of the support heretofore received.

The choir of the social committee reported that we were to be treated to a surprise in the program for the open meeting to be held May 9; also a valuable prize is to be given away, besides we are promised a satisfactory supply of "real" home made cake to be furnished by the sisters' own skill.

All union folks and their friends are cordially invited to come and partake of the above named treats.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The union label guarantees that "Bell Brand" collars and cuffs are not made by contract in sweat shops. Insist on getting them.

NEWS BULLETIN NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR PEOPLE'S RULE.

Termination of Machine Rule in Pennsylvania.

Without debate, without amendment, and without a dissenting vote, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives has agreed to terminate machine rule in cities and boroughs, and the bill now goes to the Senate. The bill is for the immediate establishment of a system whereby the people of cities and boroughs can ballot direct on municipal questions—the Initiative and Referendum.

Two weeks before this the House, also by unanimous vote, adopted a bill for popular election of United States Senators.

Last year at a special session the Pennsylvania Legislature amended the ballot law and established a direct nominations system.

Verily we are witnessing the termination of machine rule in Pennsylvania. The final power as to legislation, as well as to nominations, is being transferred from the machine to the people. The establishment of these direct vote systems places the final power in the people.

It is the People's Rule.

TOILING SWISS.

Americans often wonder how it is possible for the Swiss to produce articles requiring so much hand labor at such ridiculously low prices. To understand the question one must to a certain extent study the sociological side of the peasant life. I am very much impressed with the industry of the people. Of course, during the summer their work is largely in the fields, but the moment the crops are harvested and the wood cut and stored for the winter the entire peasant family engages itself in indoor work, such as weaving or knitting on the hand looms (always loaned to the peasant by the large manufacturers of knit and straw goods). I know personally of one family of peasants, and this is not in the least a unique case, but is typical of probably 75 per cent of these peasant families, who work during the six winter months of the year at three looms weaving narrow silk and cotton tapes.

This family consists of four persons who are grown up and seven children, whose labor is available out of school hours, and every winter for several years two of the looms have never stopped night or day except for oiling or the introduction of new raw material. The third loom is run only during the daytime by the younger children when home from school. These peasants are industrious and sober people, and I am informed authoritatively as well as with a daily profit on the work of the entire eleven members of the family of from 96 cents to \$1.34 per day on their entire output for six months of winter. This is characteristic of the labor of the Swiss, and especially of the "unskilled" labor, which produces the straw and imitation straw braids, enabling the Swiss manufacturers to ship to the United States in spite of American duties in competition with American workmen.—United States Consular Report.

AN ANCIENT TRADES-UNION.

Unlike the trades-union of today, the company of pewterers of olden times was composed of the masters only; and disobedience of the rules was punished with a vigor far exceeding anything of the kind at the present day. The laws were made for the protection of the general public, and not for the workman alone; consequently the articles turned out by a master pewterer and bearing his "touch" had to be up to a given standard of excellence. Before a man could set up as a master pewterer he was obliged to serve an apprenticeship of about six years, after which he had to produce his "essay" pieces under certain test conditions; and only after these pieces had been approved by the authorities of the craft was he allowed to register his private

A. L. BARBUR



Republican Nominee for City Auditor

"touch" at the company's hall and set up as a master pewterer. The company was not content merely to pass upon the work of a craftsman, but came very near regulating the minor details of his life. The penalty was very heavy for employing a helper who had not served a regular apprenticeship, and any master so daring as to employ a foreigner was fined £10, and all articles made by him were confiscated, the object being to keep the trade secrets from spreading.—Ex.

THE ALLIANCE FEARS GOVERNOR GUILD.

The American Industries, the mouthpiece of Parry-Post-VanCleave declares that Governor Curtis Guild, Jr., of Massachusetts, "is the most dangerous executive in the United States—far more dangerous to the progress and prosperity of the old Bay State than were those wild Populist governors in the Rocky Mountain states in the 'nineties.'" Why? Because, as the cheap labor organ says, "the governor boasts that he runs a union shop and will hire no man unless he holds a union card; because he has studiously cultivated the friendship of the American Federation of Labor leaders; because he has declared himself in favor of the bill prohibiting the labor of women and children in mills and factories between the hours of 6 p. m. and 1 a. m.; because the bill now pending before the legislature to make peaceful picketing legal; and because he has butted into southern states in an effort to get labor legislation similar to that in Massachusetts."

JUDGE FINED HIMSELF.

An English judge, Gwilym Williams was a great stickler for form in his court, and especially that robes should be worn by solicitors. He was so insistent upon this that one day recently, when he ascended the bench without being duly robed, all in his court room knew that he must have been unusually engaged to cause him to neglect the matter. When the judge noticed the lack of his robes, he stopped the court proceedings, made a speech to the solicitors on the absence of his gown and wig and fined himself 10 shillings, which sum he immediately paid into the poor box.—Glasgow Times.

PLUMBERS TO RECEIVE \$6.50 PER DAY.

Firms employing 80 per cent of the members of the Plumbers' Union of Spokane have expressed their willingness to pay \$6.50 a day for eight hours to members of the organization. This is an advance of \$1 a day over the present schedule.

While no demand has been presented by the union, the employers have been approached with the foregoing result. The executive committee of the union first disapproved an increase of 50 cents a day, but it has since been decided to ask for a straight advance of \$1. It is now given out that a demand will be made in time to have it in effect May 1. Every man in the union is employed, and there is a need for more competent workmen.—Ex.

THE PEOPLE'S PRAYER.

God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
Men whom the spoils of office can not buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking;
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking
For while the rabble with their thumbworn creeds,
Their large profession and their little deeds,
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,
Wrong rules the land, and waiting Justice sleeps.
—J. G. HOLLAND.

PRIMARY LAW IN MICHIGAN.

The lower branch of the Michigan State Legislature has carried primary law and there is every probability of its becoming a law in the state. One important point in the bill, which was strongly advocated by Governor Warner is the provision for popular vote on candidates for United States Senator. It also does away with the provision in the present law to the effect that where less than 40 per cent of the votes cast has been secured by any candidate for Governor, as also for Lieutenant, the nominations must be made by the Convention. Newspaper advertising by candidates is prohibited by the bill.

GOMPERS ON ROOSEVELT'S REPLY.

When President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, was shown the President's letter to the Chicago Moyer-Haywood Conference on Wednesday, he said: "It is a remarkable letter, and the President seems to have gone very fully into the question. I do not feel in a position to make any statement just at present, while the discussion is at its heat. This letter will undoubtedly cause a great deal of comment and further discussion, and I must decline to be drawn into it. When the opportune moment arrives I shall be glad to express my opinion."

BRICKLAYERS WANT HALF HOLIDAY.

Officers of the structural building trades unions in Spokane have taken up a movement originated by the bricklayers' union for a half holiday on Saturdays at the expense of the men. The bricklayers have asked the international executive board to sanction the plan, and if this is granted other building unions in the city will also ask for similar action, the plan being to have the holiday

season begin early in July and continue throughout the summer. This plan will mean employment to 10 per cent more men, the demand for which is already far in excess of the supply because of increased building operations in Spokane.—Ex.



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