

Portland Labor Press



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by the
PORTLAND FEDERATED TRADES
COUNCIL.

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second class matter.

GLAD TO CORRECT.

In our last issue an article ap-
pears under the caption, "Big Re-
tail Houses Organize Upon an Iron-
Clad Agreement," in which a slight
error appears and which we glad-
ly rectify.

It was stated that ALL the large
department stores in the city had
entered the combine for the pur-
pose of keeping down the wages
of clerks, but Mr. J. M. Acheson
of the firm of J. M. Acheson Co.,
informs us that his firm has boldly
refused to become associated with
the new organization known as the
Merchants' Protective Association.

The firm of J. M. Acheson Co.,
is the largest establishment of its
kind in the city of Portland and
engages a large number of clerks,
chiefly ladies.

War is now on between this firm
and the Meier and Frank company
over the fact that the Acheson peo-
ple will not agree to the enslaving
terms of the agreement presented
by the Merchants' Protective As-
sociation, and continues to offer
bigger pay, in many cases, than
the Meier and Frank people have
been paying.

It is a source of satisfaction to
the free people of Portland to
know there is at least one firm
sufficiently American in character
to spurn such cruel enslavement
of employees. A quotation from
the binding rules of this order of
feudalism will suffice to brand the
movement as anti-liberal and in-
tolerable among a free and intelli-
gent people. This is what it says:
"No member shall offer any in-
ducements to any salesman or em-
ployee of another member for the
purpose of procuring the services
of said salesman or employee from
his employer; nor shall any member
attempt to acquire or procure the
services of any employee without
the consent of his previous employ-
er given directly to the new em-
ployer and not through the em-
ployee."

If this is not slavery on a scien-
tific basis it is difficult to define
it. The ultimate analysis of the
scheme is assuredly to fix a rate
of wages for clerks which will give
them barely enough to subsist up-
on, leaving no savings by which
the energetic and ambitious young
man or woman might establish them-
selves in some line of business con-
genial to their tastes.

This barbaric system could have
no other effect upon our brilliant
young men and women, in the com-
mercial field, than to result in
the degeneracy of American mer-
cantile supremacy.

Let every liberty loving citizen
lend his noblest endeavors to crop
this nefarious scheme in its evil
inception.

BY THE WAY.

The editor of this publication de-
sires to emphatically state that he
entertains no fear whatever from
the TERRIBLE threats hurled at
him by miserable grafters and trait-
ors who have made it their special
occupation to vilify and denounce
the course he has chosen to pursue
just because it is honest and above
board.

The unlearned and vulgar vituper-
ation spued out of the mouths of
certain exposed rascals demands no
response from a man whose record
among the people of Portland has
long been clean and irreproachable,
whose devotion to the cause has
been untiring and unselfish. Suffice

it to say, that when the great judge,
the public, has calmly and im-
partially passed judgment upon our
careers, if the editor of the Labor
Press, humble though the sphere in
which he moves, comes not out of
the ordeal unscathed and exonerated
there will be no call for the sym-
pathy of lying hypocrites and pro-
fessional boddlers.

The editor of this paper knows
how to toil for honest reward, and
when the time arrives that his ser-
vices as a labor paper writer are
no longer needed, he knows full well
how to join the ranks of the honest
toilers and will owe nothing to cor-
rupt politicians nor vile manipu-
lators of unspeakable ways.

Any dirty, low-bred, untutored
freak in the newspaper world could
give expression to the slanders
appearing in what pretends to be
a respectable newspaper of this
city, but what is really nothing short
of a blackmailing vermin under the
guise of an independent publica-
tion.

SPECIAL ATTENTION.

We desire to call the attention of
union men to the fact that Billy
Brown, ex-transfer man is the prop-
rietor of the Portland Carriage and
Baggage Company with stables at
304 Irving street, near Union Depot.

Mr. Brown has always been a
staunch friend of labor, holding
membership in the team drivers' un-
ion all the years he was engaged in
the transfer business. In his new
business, he is competent and ob-
liging, prompt and courteous. He
supplies all kinds of hack services
and is prepared to handle baggage
on shortest notice. Coupe orders
night or day.

Union men should feel it their
duty to patronize this old friend
and fellow working man when re-
quiring anything in the line of
hack or baggage service.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION NOT SATISFACTORY.

We glean from an exchange that
the compulsory arbitration law of
New South Wales, Australia, has
proven very unsatisfactory.

The Australian Workers' Union
complains that the workers meet
with obstacles in having their cases
submitted to the courts, and have
virtually decided to return to the
last resort of organized labor—fight
for the conditions which the "laws
delays" deny them.

A GOOD REPORT.

C. M. Haybl, Organizer for the
Brotherhood of Painters of America
lately returned from a visit to Van-
couver, B. C., and the Puget Sound
cities. He reports a healthy condi-
tion of affairs in the Trades Union
movement. The painters of Vancou-
ver went on strike for \$4.00 per
day of eight hours, the Saturday
half holiday and the closed shop and
were successful in gaining all of
their demands.

The strike was called April 1st,
and at the time the demands were
made the local had only 42 members
and \$60.00 in their treasury, but
every man was a fighter with plenty
of grit. They were out two weeks,
and now have over 140 members
and an agreement with their employ-
ers which calls for union men only.
The Master Painters Association of
Vancouver tried the open shop sys-
tem for two years, and found it a
detriment to their business, as do
all other employers of labor if they
were only honest enough to admit
it.

Nearly all of the localities north
of Portland have made substantial
gains this spring both in wages
and conditions, and nowhere on the
Pacific Coast are painters so poorly
paid as they are in Portland. Seat-
tle, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver,
and all smaller surrounding towns
wages are from \$4 to \$4.50 per day,
with plenty of work in sight, and
the painters of Portland, just as
skilled as their brothers in the north,
work just as hard if not harder,
have been content to work for less
pay.

Organize and stay organized, edu-
cate yourselves and strive to edu-

cate others in the movement; stick
together as did the boys in Vancou-
ver, and it will not be very long un-
til your working conditions will be
as good as are enjoyed by painters
in other towns.

THE A. S. OF E. NOT A TRUST. By C. W. Bowne.

A man said to the writer, not long
since, "I don't believe in trusts of
any kind, not even a farmers' trust.
It is no sign because every other
industry is owned and run by a
trust that the farmers ought to or-
ganize one. Two wrongs don't make
one right."

That sounds nice and logical. It
is a beautiful thought. In other
words, if some fellow hits you on
the cheek, turn the other cheek; if
a man steals your coat, go after
him and give him your pants; if a
man ruins your daughter, tell him
to take your wife; also, if the leg-
islature passes a law taking the tax
off your neighbor and putting it on
you, send the same duck to the
legislature the next year; if a man
spits on you, tell him to kick the
seat of your pants, for you deserve
it. You would have been a tory
had you lived before or during the
revolution, and would have made a
model slave before the civil war.
There is an opening for you in
Florida now where the railroads are
keeping a bunch of men in bond-
age. The man who will not fight
for his rights is not fit to be a free
citizen. Thank heaven there are not
many left of that kind. In fact the
fellow who says such things is prob-
ably hired to say them.

The American Society of Equity
isn't a trust. It would be impossible
to make a trust of it. Everything is
open and above board. The people
merely agree to hold their grain or
their produce for a certain minimum
price, below which they will not sell.
The price set is the one they think
they should have. It is absolutely
necessary for them to do this to
protect their interests from the
speculators who gamble in the
wealth farmers produce. If it is
wrong to unite to protect ourselves
in this, it is also wrong to belong
to a political party which pretends
to make laws to protect us against
ourselves.

THE POOL EXPERT.

By the Rev. Charles Stelzle.

He could play pool. He was the
champion pool player of the ward.
Indeed, his reputation had extended
to nearly every saloon in town. The
saloon keepers sometimes arranged
exhibition games for him, advertis-
ing them on big posters. He en-
joyed seeing his name in display let-
ters over the saloon windows. He
was pleased with the complimentary
remarks of the audience. He didn't
get very much else out of it, ex-
cepting a few drinks and some in-
different cigars, but—he could play
pool. I saw his two little girls one
morning. One of them as pretty
a little thing as I had ever seen—
was sick. She was burning up with
a fever. He hadn't come home the
previous night. He had given an
exhibition game away off in another
section of the city, and—well, for
several reasons, he didn't get back.
The little one needed a doctor. One
was quickly found. Yes, he could
play pool. A few days later I called
again. He had been in two or
three times during the day to get
a meal. He hadn't been home nights
since the last "big" exhibition
game. Most of his meals he got
at the free lunch counter, and there
seemed always somebody who was
willing to stand treat. He had lost
his job, but—he could play pool.

The doctor told me that both his
children were now sick. "Lack of
proper nourishment," was the doc-
tor's brief comment, when I asked
him the cause of their illness. His
wife had become the bread winner
for the family. Soon afterwards I
was sent for. The children were
better but she was now in bed. They
had found her early that morning
in an alley on the way to the back
door of a saloon, where she was to
have done a day's washing. But,
as she told me, she was compelled

to go without breakfast, or the chil-
dren would have had none. She
wasn't equal to it, however, and had
collapsed even before she began her
day's work.—But he could play pool.

A month later I met him on the
street. He was wonderfully braced
up. His clothes were fresh looking.
The flush had left his face. There
was a steadiness in his gaze which
pleased me. I stopped him with a
cheery salute. "Oh, I've got a
job," he said, with a little confusion,
but as though that were the most
important event of his life. "I've
rent out the exhibition pool, too. I'll
no longer be any man's fool." He
put it stronger than that, but it
wouldn't look well in print.

CURE FOR CARELESSNESS.

A successful business man said
that these were two things which
he learned when he was eighteen,
and which were ever afterward of
great use to him—namely: "Never
to lose anything, and never to for-
get anything." The story of this
lesson is printed in The Country
Gentleman:

"An old lawyer sent the young
man with an important paper, giv-
ing him definite instructions what
to do with it.

"But," inquired the young man,
"suppose that I should happen to
lose it, what shall I do then?"

"You must not lose it," said
the lawyer, frowning.

"I don't mean to," said the
young man, "but suppose I should
happen to?"

"But I say you must not hap-
pen to. I shall make no provision
for such an occurrence. You must
not lose it."

"This put a new train of thought
in the young man's head, and he
found that if he was determined to
do a thing he could do it. He made
such a provision against every con-
tingency that he never lost anything.

"He found this equally true about
forgetting. If a certain matter of
importance was to be remembered,
he pinned it down on his mind,
fastened it there, and made it stay.
He used to declare,

"When a man tells me that he
forgot to do something, I tell him
he might as well have said, I did
not care enough about your business
to think of it again."

"I had once an intelligent
young man in my employ who deem-
ed it sufficient excuse for having
neglected an important task to say,
'I forgot.' I told him that would
not answer, if he was sufficiently
interested he would be careful to
remember. It was because he did
not care enough that he forgot. I
drilled him with this truth.

"He worked for me three years
and during the last year of the
three he was utterly changed in this
respect. He did not forget a thing.
His forgetting, he found, had been a
lazy and careless habit of mind,
and he cured it."

FINED FOR VIOLATING EIGHT HOUR LAW.

The first man in the United States
to be convicted for violating the
Federal eight hour law since the
recent order of President Roosevelt
that the statute must be rigidly
enforced, William H. Ellis, a pro-
minent Boston contractor, was re-
cently fined \$250 on each of two
counts for employing men on a
government contract more than eight
hours a day, in the United States
District Court, by Judge Dodge.

Mr. Ellis made a test case, having
persisted in employing men con-
trary to the provisions of the act
even after his indictment. It is
contended by the defense that con-
gress is not vested with authority
to regulate hours of labor on public
works. The Supreme Court will be
asked to interpret the act.

Judge Dodge, in imposing sentence,
said that the maximum penalty for
each offense was a fine of \$1,000
and imprisonment for six months.
Though he believed that this case
presented unusual features, he felt
that a substantial fine should be im-
posed to deter other contractors
from also violating the law.

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