

Portland Labor Press



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REGISTRATION RE-OPENS TODAY.

Mr. F. S. Fields, County Clerk, informs us that the registration of voters will be resumed today, continuing tonight to 9:30, Tuesday to 9:30 p. m., and Wednesday until 5 o'clock p. m.
There can be no excuse for the citizen who is eligible to registration not doing so. Why should any citizen, who is desirous of promoting good government fail to take advantage of this second opportunity to qualify as a voter?

Let every union man in the city see to it that his name appears upon the registration books and that he presents himself at the polls on election day and casts his ballot for the Labor ticket.

There will be a Union Labor ticket, filled with bona fide union candidates, placed upon the official ballot at the Municipal June election, and we contend that every loyal union man will go to the polls on the 3d day of June next and vote the ticket straight. The fact that the primary test proved unavailing is no acceptable reason why the Labor party should not pursue its original purpose—that of an independent campaign in the general election fought out on labor lines.

DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE'S POWER.

To the studious reader of the press it must seem strikingly clear that a wonderful impetus has been given the popular movement throughout this country for the power of the people in government, and that within the space of a few short years.

Ten years ago, it was considered the delirium of a faltering mind to give expression to opinions that favored direct legislation in any state of the Union, but at the present time it would appear no sane, unselfish American would dare to oppose, openly, the onward march of the populace toward the hallowed goal of human ambition—government by the people.

What a terrible blow was dealt to the knights of political corruption and clique rule in the initiative and referendum laws of Oregon. How those grafting manipulators squealed and wriggled under the lash of the emancipated electorate when the selection of party candidates was taken out of the hands of the "ring" and placed where it properly belongs—in the will of the people.

There never was so deadly a wound inflicted upon a plundering band of adventurers as that directed against the schemes of the "inner circle" through the adoption of the Direct Primary Law, and no measure in the history of governments has been more effective in giving expression to popular will than this modern idea in American politics.

The election of United States Senators, where this law prevails, is virtually direct from the voter, and a greater boon has not come upon the people than the removal from the legislative body of the struggle and strife of electing a United States Senator under the former system. While it is a fact that the legislature still has the right or the power to elect the senator, the voice of the people has been heard in the choice, and legislators will not dare to ignore the wish of the electorate when it has been firmly stated. The choice of the people will be the guiding influence in sel-

ting the election on all occasions, thus destroying the vilest source of corruption existing in former Oregon politics—the manipulation of United States senatorial elections in the State Legislature.

What a wonderful step forward the people have recently taken towards popular control is demonstrated in the referendum law, where the voter has the right to say whether an act shall or shall not become a law.

Through the initiative law legislation may be effected which corporate interests would never permit to pass into law through the legislative body; thus curbing the tyranny of inordinate wealth and placing the freeman in a position where he can use most eloquent argument in his own defense.

All this has been brought about by the persistency and philanthropy of men who love more the rights of their fellowmen than self aggrandizement, and let us here remind our readers, without egotistical boast, that organized labor has ever been in the van of the grand work which is establishing the rule of the people.

A CHEERING REPORT.

Secretary Morrison, of the A. F. of L., makes a most satisfactory report of the growth of the great organization during the five months elapsing since the close of the fiscal year. An increase of 50,000 members, as compared with the corresponding five months of last year, is the gratifying result of the splendid organization work done by earnest workers in the cause of unionism during the above-mentioned period.

The financial status of the organization has been raised from a very low ebb on the 1st of last October, to the healthy amount of \$116,114, exclusive of the funds of affiliated national and international unions.

This notable development in numerical strength as well as financial stability will give life and encouragement to the veterans whose labors have been so devotedly given to the upbuilding of the grandest movement the human mind and heart have ever engaged in.

Let the unprejudiced student of social economy reflect for a few moments on the magnificent achievements of the American Federation of Labor during the past quarter of a century and in his innermost soul say whether or not an equal competitor for the improvement of the masses of humanity has ever played a part in the world's affairs. An influence never before attained is being wielded by organized labor upon every public question. The world's best thinkers are convinced of the fact that the demand for work is not alone of selfish motive or a desire to preserve life in the individual, but is rather an innate right in all humanity. They agree that the fight for the 8-hour day is not born of a desire to shirk the duty of honest toil, but the just means of leading to the employment of the workless that they, too, may find the wherewithal to make life happy for those dependent upon them, and that the millions of leisure hours thus afforded the overworked may be turned to golden account in the intellectual and moral improvement of the working people.

An able writer has summed up the noble mission of trades unionism in the following paragraphs:
"The trade unions are the reflects in organized, crystallized form of the best thought, activity and hopes of the wage-workers. They represent the aggregate expression of discontent of labor with existing economic, social and political misrule. The trade unions are exactly what the wage-workers are, and can be made exactly what they may please to make them. Active or sluggish; keen or dull; narrow or broad-gauged, just as the members are intellectual or otherwise. But, represent as they may either of these alternatives, the trades union is the best form of organization for the toilers to protect their present interests, as well as to work out their salvation from all wrong."
"In politics we shall be as we always have been, independent. In-

dependent of all parties, regardless under which name they may be known. The only interest we shall have in either is their real, not merely their avowed, attitude toward labor. We shall endeavor to aid in exposing the folly of being a union man 364 days in the year and failing to remember the union man's duty on election day. But we shall unqualifiedly oppose the attempt to impress the thought upon the workmen that so long as they "vote right" on one day in the year, they may be remiss in their membership and all their other duties every other day in the year."

LABOR'S PROSPERITY.

The status of organized labor in Portland at the present time is certainly most encouraging to the faithful worker in the ranks. Almost every organization has, within the past three months, secured an increase in wages for its members, as well as getting improved conditions under which to toil.

Beginning with the Teamdrivers' Union which has secured an agreement with the employers, giving the men a 25-cent raise, down the line, the Typographical Union receiving a raise of \$3.30 per week; the Boilermakers, winning their strike and securing their full demands; the Plumbers gaining an increase of 50 cents per day; the Building laborers getting 50 cents per day added to their wages; the Carpenters fixing the minimum at \$4 per day of 8 hours; the Railway Freight Handlers receiving a decent increase in pay, and the Painters making arrangements that will result in giving them better conditions and a substantial increase in wages.

The membership in every local in the city has greatly increased during the past six months, and the prospect for an unusually successful season could not be brighter than the present conditions guarantee.

The Iron Moulders are standing firmly by their position, and on the arrival of President Valentine we look for a speedy culmination of the dispute between the employers and the union.

The Carmen are still hopeful of accomplishing results through the boycott against the Oaks Amusement Grounds. Their international has arranged to financially assist the strikers in picketing the resort.

Persistency and cool deliberation will bring the movement in Portland to that state of efficiency where the power of capitalistic and political antagonism will be forced to cease from their vain endeavors to blast the hopes and aspirations of the noblest class in humanity—the men who toil for their bread.

STRIKES PRODUCTIVE OF EXCELLENT RESULTS.

If there had never been any strikes, the condition of labor today would be intolerable. The necessity for them is always to be regretted, their immediate effects greatly deplored, yet the conditions forced upon labor by capital has in nearly every instance justified the act.

But how about the "farmers' strikes"? Can they strike? Why not? While they, in one sense of the word, do not work for anybody but themselves, does not the whole world look to them to produce the necessities of life? Their income is in their crops and the wages are hidden in the price thereof. Is their determination to have something to say in the setting of the price of their products to be considered a strike?

When the American Society of Equity called a "farmers' strike" nearly two years ago, the hoodlums and grafters winked one eye and went to sleep while the national press gave publicity to the call out of pure novelty of the idea. A year later they sat up and took notice that something had happened. Now they are rushing around frantically and howling about "farmers' trusts," "restraint of trade" and "unlawful combination." Right funny, isn't it?—Equity Press Bureau.

WHAT UNIONS ACCOMPLISH.

If the labor unions did nothing else than call attention to the misery that abounds, their existence would be justifiable; but they have done more, they have not only called attention to the effects, they have shown the causes. They have done more still, they have produced remedies, up-on the merits and demerits of which professors, editors and ministers now discuss and advocate. Labor unions have produced thinkers and educators from out their own ranks, and have drawn students and teachers from the wealthy and professional. And more yet; while doing this, they have bettered the condition of thousands of families, by securing higher wages, shorter hours and greater independence, individually and collectively. The result is

something to be proud of. The carpenter, the printer, cigarmaker, clerk, shoemaker, tailor, working long hours on short rations, have stepped boldly to the front and worked revolution in American thought. It is a fact, beyond cavil.—American Federation.

FROM THE METAL POLISHERS.

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 23.
To Organized Labor, Greeting:

This local, for the last three months, has been involved in a fight with the firm of J. W. York & Sons, band instrument makers, who discharged our members because they belonged to our organization. After careful investigation by this local and a member of our international, it was evident that this firm is hostile to our union and consequently has been declared unfair by our International Executive Board. This strike has not only been endorsed by our International Union, but by our Central Labor Union also.

Now, brothers, we have one great factor in this fight that will help us wonderfully, if you brothers will help us—that is our label. Three of the largest band instrument factories in the country are using our label. Namely, The Martin, the C. G. Conn, and the Buescher Band Instrument Companies of Elkhart, Ind.

Now, brothers, what we would like to have you do for us is this. Write J. W. York & Sons asking them to settle this trouble with the Metal Polishers, Buffers, Platers and Brass Workers' Union. Also visit the music dealers of your city and where you find J. W. York & Sons instruments notify them that this firm is unfair to organized labor. At the same time boost our label. Brothers, if you will do this for us, (as this is the only way we have of fighting this firm), it will be but a short time before this strike will be settled and the Metal Polishers' Union will be stronger than ever in this city to help you when in like circumstances.

Now, Brother, don't file this communication, but act at once, for every knock done now will help settle this trouble all the sooner. Thanking you in advance for all favors in our behalf we remain,

Fraternally yours,
METAL POLISHERS, BUFFERS, PLATERS AND BRASS WORKERS UNION No. 7.
Address, J. W. YORK & SONS, Ranville Building, Grand Rapids, Mich. Lyon and Campau streets.

WARNING—BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL OF LOS ANGELES.

Los Angeles, Cal., May 2, 1907.
To Federated Trades Assembly.

The firm of Cohen-Goldwater & Co., of Los Angeles, Cal., manufacturers of the "Boss" overalls, shirts and aprons, has been declared unfair to organized labor.

This firm has treated the Building Trades Council of Los Angeles and its representatives with contempt, and has let the contracts for the repairing and building of its stores and warehouses to a contractor who uses "scab" labor, in spite of the best efforts of the Building Trades Council, and the Central Labor Council, to prevent them from doing so.

The products of this firm are used entirely by working people, and are largely sold in California and the mining regions of the southwest.

Brothers, do the right thing by us in this matter.

"23" for the "Boss" overalls and shirts.
Fraternally,
JOE HOW, President.
The Building Trades Council of Los Angeles,
RICHARD ALBRIGHT, Secretary.
Approved: Central Labor Council, W. A. ENGLE, Sec.Treas.

PARSONS IS GRATEFUL.

To the Editor:—
Dear Sir: Permit me to tender my sincerest thanks, through your columns, to the many good union men and friends who so heartily assisted in my recent primary campaign for nomination as councilman-at-large.

I am pleased to know that my fellow unionists took so lively an interest in my campaign, and wish to say that though we did not come out of the ordeal with victory pinned to our banner, yet the showing was a good one, and had our people been registered, and had the polls opened at the legally appointed time in every case, the result would have been decidedly different. We were beaten, boys, but not finally conquered, and the day may soon be here when unionism will show to the world the power of its righteous mission.

Again gratefully thanking all who lent their aid in my behalf on the 4th inst., I am
Fraternally, H. G. PARSONS.

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IS YOUR HOUSE WIRED?

PHONE MAIN 6688 for OUR REPRESENTATIVE. He will prove these statements with facts and figures.

Portland Railway Light & Power Co.

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