

Portland Labor Press



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COUNCIL.

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REMOVED.

The Portland Labor Press has removed its office to Room 4, 167 1/2 First street, Telephone for the present, Pacific 1501. Will be pleased to meet our friends and patrons at the new headquarters.

ENCOURAGING CONDITION.

The present condition of organized labor in Portland is excellent. Three newly chartered unions booming and glowing with primal vigor, all the old locals developing in strength and numbers, each craft enjoying increase in wages wrung from the employers during the last six months, many of the strong unions having secured agreements with the employers establishing the closed shop and everything pointing to a continuance of the existing prosperity.

What more could a city desire in its labor circles than that the organization be firm and harmonious, the wages and conditions satisfactory, all brought about by the effectual efforts of our safe and sane policy taught by the great American Federation of Labor.

While this state of affairs exists, there will be meager hope for the success of union-smashers.

It is evident that this band of rovers which is seeking free advertisement through the columns of the daily press, is about on its last legs in the labor arena of Portland. These boastful challenges so profusely tendered the members of the A. F. of L., are the extreme resort for notoriety, and we are anxiously awaiting any argument adduced worthy of reply.

Unionism of the same school is too strong in its vitals to be worried by the ravings of theorists whose monuments of achievements are yet to be erected. Practical men look for beneficial results.

TO CONTROL TRUSTS.

At the last meeting of the Executive Board of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas, the statutes of the state of Oregon contain no law to prohibit or regulate trusts or combinations in restraint of trade and alliances to control and manipulate prices for the sole and selfish benefit of the parties allied, and

Whereas, the state of Oregon is cursed with business combinations and alliances which restrain trade, control and manipulate prices for personal and selfish ends to a degree entirely foreign to what would be the result of natural conditions, thus constituting a rank abuse, oppression and annoyance to the people; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the executive board of the Oregon State Federation of Labor hereby recommends, urges and pledges co-operation and support to the earliest enactment of a state law similar in purpose to the laws now in effect in many of the other states, and to the Sherman anti-trust law, to correct the evils referred to herein, and be it further

Resolved, That steps be at once taken to initiate such a law to be voted on by the people at the next state election."

Unless the business of the trust takes on the nature of interstate trade, the Sherman Anti-Trust Law has no jurisdiction, hence the crying necessity in Oregon for a state anti-trust law.

The State Federation of Labor is responsible for some of the best laws now upon the statutes of Ore-

gon, it has also promulgated some of the best bills that were introduced at the last session of our legislature, unfortunately, many of which were defeated by corporate combinations assisted by faithless renegades to the cause of labor and the common people. This organization representing as it does, some sixty unions throughout the state, is famous for its energetic activity in behalf of legislation in the interest of the people; and on the present occasion, it is to be hoped the masses will stand firmly behind and in support of this proposed law.

Oregon, being blessed with the power of the Initiative Law, can do more in one election to right the wrongs of corrupt legislation than any state not possessing this boon could do in a century.

Let every voter, not a member of a trust, take a hand in this work of curbing the awful power of these degenerating combinations. Oregon can win in such a fight if the honest voters will only bestir themselves.

We regret very much that the Morning Oregonian of the 3rd, inst., in its editorial on this proposed law, failed to give due credit to the State Federation of Labor for originating the agitation and for resolving to take the proper steps to bring the matter to a successful culmination.

However, labor must not expect much from the general public for the great good it has accomplished for mankind, and an apparent slight must be taken in the spirit of broad unselfishness which has characterized every act of organized labor during the quarter of a century it has been prominent in the affairs of our country.

Let us have the anti-trust law at all events.

BEARD HIM IN HIS DEN!

And the wise, magnanimous, slabwood king—Banfield—grows angry at the determination of the labor unions to free themselves from the strangling grip of the vile octopus in the catalogue of trusts—the fuel combination.

Poor old monarch of slabdom! Do you not realize that your ignorant fulmination merely convinces the thinking public of the righteousness of the position of the Federated Trades Council and the untenable-

ness of your extorting attitude? If the statements made by you were in the main true, what necessity for insinuating unworthy motives on the part of the committee having the question of fuel supply in charge? The man who is right in the premises does not necessarily indulge in abuse nor the imputing of dishonorable intentions to his opponent.

If it be true that Mr. Banfield would like to see the Trades Council bring into the city 50,000 cords of wood, as he states in his interview in yesterday's Oregonian, why does he endeavor to ridicule the enterprise by charging the union men of Portland with insufficient ability to "run a peanut stand?" Does M. C. Banfield, famous for nothing but his notorious extortion proclivities, presume the bold effrontery that the ranks of organized labor in this city do not embrace men of more intelligence and business capabilities than is requisite in the honest management of a slabwood yard? Possibly none of them could manage a peanut stand, but the parasites of the fuel trust will learn to their chagrin and overthrow that the Trades Unions of Portland can buy their supply of slabwood independently of the abomination which Banfield seems to represent.

Don't be fooled, you fellows of the octopus, by relying longer on the endurance of our patience; the case has reached the limit and patience is no longer a virtue with us.

The statements made by Mr. Banfield in the interview referred to will not bear the cold scrutiny of investigation. If the supply and demand regulate the price of slabwood here, why did the price constantly ascend, during that very period when the ordinance he speaks of was vetoed by the mayor, in the

face of his own statement that their yards were completely buried with wood and they were obliged to dump 1,500 cords of wood into the sloughs? Was not the supply, at that time in excess of the demand, and yet the price kept crawling skyward?

Is this fact not ample evidence that a combination exists which controls the price of slabwood irrespective of the output from the mills?

The purpose of Mayor Lane's vetoing the ordinance referred to was not to prevent people from piling a reasonable quantity of firewood on the sidewalk, but to force the trust to sell at reasonable prices instead of holding its surplus by piling upon the public streets.

It is common knowledge that today great piles of slabwood lie encroaching upon the city property, and we presume the mayor is extremely lenient with this body of trespassers that deny the truth of the charge that they constitute a gigantic and injurious trust.

However, it is not with Banfield the unions have to deal in this matter; it is their own business, and they need not fear failure because prophesied by those who dread the independence of the consumers.

While it may be true that some of the men whose names Banfield takes holy exception to would not be proper persons to supervise the purchase and sale of a quantity of wood in the name of the Federated Trades Council, yet we wish to point out to this same guy or any other despoiler of the suffering people that no mean, low, despicable insinuations against the trustworthiness of these men—any of them—shall be permitted to go unchallenged! None of the members making up the committee is noted for intrigue, business schemery or commercial vandalism, but their business tact and commercial knowledge is surely equal to the requirements of honestly conducting a business (if it may be such) as humble in character as that of a slabwood peddler.

Let the union men of the city, as well as all good citizens, bestir themselves along the lines proposed by the Federated Trades Council and they need have no fear as to the success of the movement.

Millwood and cordwood can be landed in Portland for 65 per cent of the prevailing trust prices. If that is necessary is to call for better tenders for any quantity of fuel and within 30 days we can have at our docks an ample supply to keep the consumers fully provided.

Be awake to the situation here, and suffer this cursed graft no longer.

COURT DECISION.

The Superior Court of Snohomish county issued a temporary restraining order against the Snohomish Shingle Weavers' Union No. 1 on June 6th and to be returnable on June 10th. The shingle weavers on the 10th proved to the court that they had at all times been acting in an orderly manner, and the "seabs" denied everything that they had sworn to in the affidavits, thereby perjuring themselves. Nevertheless they were good witnesses for the defendant union, and it is only the next time the Cascade Lumber and Shingle Co., of Snohomish, tries to secure an injunction they will train their "seabs" to lie. Of course, there have been many injunctions issued by the courts of guess evidence than they had in this case, but when a judge is any way fair it is refused, as it was in this case. The great trouble with the unions is that the majority the judges are not fair and new look on labor's side of the question. The Snohomish local is still working for the victory and expect it to win the fight by constant work the part of its members in peeing men from working in the scade mills.—Shingle Weaver.

The union label on "Belland" collars and cuffs means they made under union conditions. Demand them of your dealer.

Omaha, June 28, 1907.

Editor Labor Press, Portland, Ore.

Dear Sir: The committee who had charge of the Great Northwest Trade Excursion met today and among many other things adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, The Great Northwest Trade Excursion of Omaha The Market Town has been conducted with great success and we feel has benefited not only Omaha, but the entire country visited by educating those who participated to realize and appreciate the present activity, prosperous condition and future possibilities of the country traversed, and

Whereas, the trip would not have been the success it was without the hearty co-operation and valuable assistance of the press, therefore be it

Resolved, that the thanks of the committee in charge of the Great Northwest Trade Excursion be extended to every newspaper along the line of our excursion for their kind and invaluable co-operation.

The committee intends to compile a complete record of the trip by securing from each city visited a copy of their newspapers making mention in any way whatever of the Great Northwest Trade Excursion. We will, therefore, appreciate very much your gathering together a copy of each issue carrying either news items or editorials in regard to the trip, either before arrival in your city, during or after visit. Same should be mailed to the Commercial Club of Omaha.

Yours very truly,

WILL L. YETTER.

Chairman Executive Committee.

J. H. TAYLOR,

Chairman Gt. NW Trade Excursion.

J. M. GUILD,

Commissioner.

CRAFTING FOREMEN.

The "Lynn Item" recently made an exposure of some foremen in shoe factories in that city, charging them with receiving money for furnishing employment to shoe workers. In some cases it is said to cost \$5 to get a job and 50 cents a week to hold it.

Several ingenious methods were exposed by which payments were requested or made, and it is said that some foremen made as high as \$60 a week by this method.

This system of buying jobs and promotions from foremen, foremen "borrowing" money (and never paying it back,) and presentation of boxes of cigars and bottles of whiskey and wine was one of the worst the garment workers were once subjected to. In some instances they were fairly bled by unscrupulous foremen.

But not so at present in union shops or shops that are even partially union, while it still exists in non-union shops.—Ex.

THE GOOD ACHIEVED BY STRIKES.

Here are some extracts from a sermon delivered some time ago by the Rev. Alan Hudson, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Brockton, Mass.:

"Will any man say that the strikes that redeemed children from a fifteen hour day in the factories were wrong? Will he say that the strikes that have transformed the lives of mill women from slaves to that of human beings were wrong? Strikes have brought about temporary distress, but they have done much to better the condition of the toiler. They have made the factories healthier; they have transformed the worker from a serf to a man; they have made it possible for a child to study instead of slave.

"Unless he is compelled to, what does the railroad magnate care about the brakeman or engineer who falls beneath the wheels? What if some poor devil of a mechanic falls from a building and dashes out his life? What if he is mangled by a machine like an old rag? Throw him aside; put another in his place. He must not interfere with the piling up of the dividends. In the face of these facts the worker should express and demand his rights."—Ex.

UNION MACHINISTS REFUSE BRIBE.

Dispatches from LeClair, Ill., where the union machinists are on a strike, state that the manager of the N. O. Nelson machine shop proposed to the men to grant them the 10 per cent. increase asked if they would return to work and give up the union. Up to date not a man has broken his union pledge and all spurn the proposition, as true union men should. A boycott of all products of the Nelson company will be asked if a settlement is not reached soon.

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

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