

Portland Labor Press

TRADE COUNCIL
15

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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.

DOES THE END JUSTIFY THE COURSE?

Some few days ago Rev. E. M. Hill, of the Taylor Street Methodist Church, preached an able sermon on the conditions existing among working girls in this city, the effect of which was to bring many letters from different sources to Mr. Hill endorsing what he had said and expressing a desire to assist in rectifying the awful wrong known to mar the lives of the young women employees in the service of many large firms.

Among the many letters thus addressed to the reverend gentleman was the following:

"Dear Sir—In reading your sermon in The Oregonian I was very much impressed to know how truthful it is, and am very sorry that every employer in Portland could not have heard you, but I do hope that you or some society will have this sermon copied and scattered broadcast among all the employers of girls. Your statements are most truthful, and if I were able I would be glad to do all I could to stamp out this dreadful state of affairs, but as I am employed as department manager, unfortunately am not at liberty to expose my feelings on such subjects, as I would not be able to hold my position if I should do so.

"I have cut your sermon out of several papers today, and handed them to several department managers, and they all agree with me that this matter should not rest with merely your sermon and the publication of same, but should reach the people that are guilty of all you say.

"I am not a church-going man, but happily know the difference between right and wrong, and heartily applaud your stand in this matter.

"Hoping to hear of good coming from your sermon, I remain, most respectfully, yours,

ONE WHO KNOWS.

"P. S.—I would be happy to help in this work, but cannot show my hand. I know that the condition exists, as I have a number of girls in my department."

What an awful pity that man should believe his duty to hold a job is more sacred than the obligation he owes both to his Creator and to society in lending his efforts to aid in stamping out the lamentable conditions that so maliciously gnaw at the vitals of human society and tend to drag down to vilest wretchedness the very essence of our hopes and devotions—the tender womanhood of the community.

The writer prays for grace to always be ready to hurl in the face of a tyrant master his boundless goodness to permit him to be his servant at the prostitution of conscience and manhood! When woman is the victim, no man should permit earthly considerations to block for one moment his most strenuous efforts in her behalf.

Of course, standing alone, unsupported by his fellows, without organized effort, it demands almost superhuman determination on the part of the employee to face such a situation as the case referred to; but why do not all workers organize? Why is any class of wage-earners without the protection and support obtained through unity of effort? Those poor girls—for instance—were they organized as the garment workers are, they

would not be obliged to suffer those indignities for one moment.

And the men, working in those large establishments as clerks or office men or in any capacity, were they organized as the printers are, they would never dream of tolerating for a second the things that shock humanity and put to shame the men who individually seem powerless to resist.

Unite and act as one,—freedom, liberty, the sanctity of our homes demand it!

HAMILTON IN EVERETT.

For the information of the thoughtful and solicitous friend who mailed us a newspaper clipping purporting to be a correct and complete report of the proceedings of a meeting held in Everett, Washington, last Wednesday evening, let it be known that we anticipated just such a fracas as happened at said meeting.

Mr. M. Grant Hamilton called on us last Monday evening, having come to Portland to attend a session of the Shipwrights and Calkers' convention, which took place here last week, and during conversation along general topics he (Hamilton) informed us that he would attend a meeting on the following Wednesday in Everett, Washington, where he expected to experience a rough house, as the I. W. W. was, to some extent, implanted in Everett and Socialism was quite vigorous in that town. More—he, Mr. Hamilton, had information that a certain gentleman (?) prominent in one of the organizations, who had recently visited Portland on organization business (he will know who is meant) was active in the preparation of a "hot" reception for Hamilton when he should put in an appearance.

We desire to state that said hermaphrodite in labor ethics (the townsman of Everett) is one of the leading advocates of Socialism in that section and his hatred for anything that dispute his cult the right to existence, drove him, on this occasion, to plan an unwarranted attack upon M. G. Hamilton, because he had exposed, in Portland, the nefarious workings of that element in Socialism which E. V. Debs terms "Socialism in the field of labor," commonly called Industrial Workers of the World.

To say that the treatment tendered Hamilton at Everett was the result of his reference to Debs and I. W. Wism is not telling the whole truth, for, as has been shown, this course was pre-arranged by the A. F. of L. haters, and the incident was no surprise to Brother Hamilton, he having been apprised, on the preceding Monday, of the intentions of the disturbing element in the Everett labor ranks.

To contend that true adherents of the trades union movement could consistently denounce Organizer Hamilton as a "traitor" because he, as a representative of the American Federation of Labor, attacked Eugene V. Debs and I. W. Wism, is a brazen attempt to impose upon the credulity of those who may not know where Debs and his clique stand regarding the labor movement.

Let us quote Eugene V. Debs in his address delivered at Grand Central Palace, New York, Sunday, December 10, 1905. He says: "The old form of unionism has long since fulfilled its mission and out-lived its usefulness." * * * Does any trades unionist mean to defend the man who takes such a position in relation to the principles of the A. F. of L.? Is it not the duty of every representative of the trades union movement to denounce such as Debs as renegades to the true labor movement of America? Breathes there a man so shrouded in ignorance as to believe that honest, upright unionists affiliated with the A. F. of L. would take exception to Hamilton's reference to Debs' warfare in the name of the Industrial Workers against the American Federation of Labor? No; we venture to deny that such an one can be found.

Then, the explanation of the reported abuse offered Brother Hamilton by the Everett Contingent is that the organized plan of the Industrial Socialists worked more satisfactorily there than it seemed to do in Portland a few weeks ago.

Let us offer an apology to our readers for devoting so much space to the episode; but it appealed to us as possibly a duty we owe the public to put the matter in its true character that none may be deceived by a report which does not tell the whole story.

Judging from the language of Mr. E. V. Debs in the address above referred to; found in the I. W. W. — Socialist — pamphlet entitled, "Industrial Unionism," and sold in this city for 5 cents by the I. W. W. organization, we are forced to the conclusion that no more inveterate enemy of legitimate organized labor than I. W. Wism exists in this country today.

For example—"I have seen the conductors on the Chicago-Burlington and Quincy Railroad, organized in a craft union, take the places of striking union locomotive engineers on the same system"—a misstatement too ridiculous to merit contradiction. Imagine train conductors filling the places of engineers; what buncombe! "There has been," says Debs, "a ceaseless repetition of this form of scabbing of one craft union upon another until the working man, if his eyes are open, is bound to see that this kind of unionism is a CURSE and not a benefit to the working class." This, in the face of all the advantages and the blessings bestowed upon the working people of our time through the noble efforts of organized labor under the crafts system. Is it exaggeration, pray, to brand such a calumniator as a treacherous enemy of the success of the working people? And is it necessary here to review the long history of trades unionism and its splendid achievements to establish the truth of what we say in behalf of our organizations? Does not every observant man and woman within the pale of ordinary enlightenment know of the grand work accomplished in behalf of working men, women and children by the untiring efforts of the American Federation of Labor through its numerous affiliated unions? The shortening of the work-day, the increasing of wages in every trade and calling in every section of this country, the humane child labor laws with the female labor laws found upon our statute books, all have flowed from the fountain of organized labor, organized under the sane and sound principles of trades unionism, not according to that tangled theory launched in a drift-wood of ideas on a sea of verbosity and named by Debs and his kind, "Industrial Unionism." This fad, as yet, has done nothing for mankind but essay disruption.

THE GRAINHANDLERS.

We were afforded the pleasure of paying a visit to the Grainhandlers' Union in session last Wednesday evening, and we are pleased to declare with gratification the kind and courteous reception extended us by those sturdy unionists making up the splendid organization—Local No. 263, I. L. M. and T. A.

The Grainhandlers' Union comprises about 250 members, all in good standing; and, from casual observation it may be affirmed, in good health also.

Since the strike of September last, the local has grown in numbers and influence at a rate unprecedented in its history. Our readers will remember that Local 263, through its tenacity to principle, last autumn won out, in a fierce struggle for justice and the right to existence, against probably the most determined enemy of organized labor having a foot-hold in this city—the Grain Exporters' Association.

During the contest the boycott was called into action in one instance and effectively demonstrated

ated. The Association was forced to recognize the union and put back on the docks all union employees, besides allowing a reduction of one hour in the work-day together with an increase in the wages for overtime.

All this was brought about by the united efforts of the local aided materially by the unions affiliated with the Trades Council; and yet, some would-be disrupters, possessed of more cheek than regard for simple truth, in the face of these facts proclaim, upon the street corners, the falsehood that trades unionism is unavailing in the cause of the working man!

But the Granhandlers, like many other unions in Portland, know what the organization has done for their craft, therefore they hold firmly to the truth that is in them.

A slight mis-understanding between this local's delegates to the central body and the Council led the union to withdraw temporarily, but there is every reason to believe the local will, at an early date, re-affiliate with the Federated Trades Council, there to add its quota of influence for the betterment of the general movement in our lovely city.

THE WOOD SITUATION.

As soon as the sub-committee having in hand the thorough investigation of the situation can report on the best method of bringing wood into the city and the complete arrangement for the delivery of the same, we will be in a position to announce to the union men and the public generally just what can be done and what will be done in the matter of relieving the intolerable situation in the city in relation to the fuel difficulty.

The Trades Council hopes to bring this enterprise to a successful consummation, or show that the trust is so powerful that legal action is the only means of relief.

TO BE OBSERVED.

A principle in the economy of our lives must be established, and that is a living wage, below which the wage-workers should not permit themselves to be driven. The living wage must be the first consideration either in the cost or sale of an article, the product of labor.

SALIENT INFLUENCE.

Organized labor is wielding an influence upon every public question never attained before. The world's thinkers are now beginning to appreciate the fact that the demands of labor mean more than appears on the surface. They see that the demand for work is not alone one for the preservation of life in the individual, but is a human, innate right; that the movement to reduce the hours of labor is not sought to shirk the duty to toil, but the humane means by which the workless workers may find the road to employment; and that the millions of hours of increased leisure to the overtasked workers signify millions of golden opportunities for lightening the burdens of the masses, to make the homes more cheerful, the hearts of the people lighter, their hopes and aspirations nobler and broader.

NOTICE.

The Joint Labor Day Committee will hold its next meeting on Friday, 26th inst., at 7:30 P. M., in Painters' office, Drew building, 162 Second street. All members of the committee are urged to attend, as business vitally important will be then transacted.

The locals are requested to return, as early as possible, the result of referendum on parade.

By order of Committee.

My wife and I at the window one day

Stood watching the organ man's monkey.

When a cart came along in which a boy

Sat driving a long-eared donkey;

Said I to my wife by way of a joke: "There's your relative in that carriage."

She glanced at the donkey and made reply:

"Ah, yes—we're related by marriage."

—Chicago Daily News.

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