

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Portland, Ore., July 26, 1907.
Portland Federated Trades Council met this date in regular session, President McKenzie in the chair.

Credentials—Teamdrivers, Braithwaite and Sparks; Blacksmiths, A. R. Francis, H. G. Beckmann; Beer-drivers and Bottlers, P. Johnson. The delegates were seated.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Communications—From the Bookbinders Union, stating that organization had decided to withdraw from this Council, was placed in the hands of the organization committee; from Frank L. Smith Meat Company, asking information concerning Meat Cutters' Union; in this connection the secretary stated he had answered the Smith Company to the effect that at present there is no Meat Cutters' Union in Portland, but that a move is on foot for the installation of a local of Meat Cutters & Butchers Amalgamated in this city. The minutes of the last meeting were read and ordered filed.

Bills—Sub-committee on firewood, for expenses and wages, \$42.20; secretary's salary and postage for July, \$22.50; statistical secretary's salary for July, \$5, were ordered paid.

Reports of Committees—The committee on firewood investigation read the following report made by the sub-committee appointed at preceding meeting: "We began our work on Monday morning, going to Boring and Eagle Creek; found a limited quantity of slab at those mills which would cost \$3 delivered on cars at O. W. P. depot, none to be delivered before 30 days, and not more than 14 cords per day. Cordwood was quoted to us at from \$4 to \$4.50 delivered on cars in Portland. Our investigation of the mills in Portland show no chance to secure slabwood in any available quantity. The North Pacific mill is delivering wood in the section of city north of Washington street, on the West Side, for \$3 a load—very good wood—but the supply is limited and the price may go up. The Eastern & Western Lumber Company's output is in the hands of the Portland General Electric Company, who deliver in a prescribed district for about the same figures as the N. P. mill.

At St. Johns and vicinity we found that those mills had contracted their output to the Steel Bridge Fuel Company, at what prices we did not learn.

At the Linnton mill we could secure 20 cords per week placed on barge for \$2 per cord, but this was a poor grade of wood, as all lumber fit for laths was cut into that commodity. At Vancouver the price of cordwood is \$4.50 to \$5 loaded on barge. At Rainier a limited supply of four-foot slab can be got for \$1.50 per cord on cars. The freight to Portland is \$1 per cord, making the cost here \$2.50. Cordwood is selling in Rainier for \$5 per cord. At Maygers, we are informed, cordwood is held at \$3 loaded on barge. This is the best proposition in all our investigation, and if barges and tugs can be secured, this offer could be successfully handled. To sum up: We have to say that indications point towards a shortage, during the coming winter, in cordwood, as that industry has been neglected during the past year, chiefly because cars could not be secured to bring it to market. Several good offers of wood on the stump have been received, and we would suggest that the unions and the public in general turn their attention toward organizing a committee for the purpose of securing wood-choppers and making the necessary arrangements for getting cordwood into the city, both by rail and by water. This seems to be the only solution of the present gloomy situation. It may be expected that the element having control of the supply now available will take advantage of the conditions and charge enormous prices if something of this nature is not undertaken to relieve the situation."

(Signed)

W. H. DREW.

WILLIAM MCKENZIE.

The report was accepted and the main committee continued.

The Labor Day committee reported having decided on holding a monster parade on Labor Day, and it is requested that all locals return the result of the referendum on that question as early as possible. The Lewis and Clark fair grounds will be the site of the celebration. The locals are urged to make the necessary preparation for the big parade—badges, banners, etc., and every member in line. The committee will hold next meeting on Sunday, the 28th inst., at 11 a. m. in Painters' headquarters. The report was accepted as progress.

Reports of Organizations—All report conditions good and unionism on the upward trend.

Election and Installation of Officers—The following set of officers were elected and installed for the ensuing term: President, William McKenzie (re-elected); vice-president, W. H. Drew; treasurer, T. M. Leabo (re-elected); statistical secretary, Miss Lucy White (re-elected); conductor, R. Richardson; guard, V. C. Wells; trustees, C. H. Herr (re-elected), C. H. Kelly and H. G. Parsons. The recording secretary's office is a hold-over position. Secretary McDonald performed the ceremonies of installation. All the officers were elected by acclamation, there being no contest in any case.

Good of the Council—Under this order of business Brother Burdett, of the Street Carmen's Union, called to the notice of the delegates the fact that the Portland Railway, Light & Power Co. was advertising through the public press a grand benefit to be held on August 8, and in connection are using the name "Carmen" in such a manner as to lead the public to believe that it is the Street Carmen's Union that is to participate in this benefit. For the information of all concerned, Brother Burdett wished it to be made clear that it is not the Amalgamated Association of Street & Electric Railway Employees who are to benefit by this affair, but the company's employees.

Receipts—Typographical Union 58, \$3; Beerdrivers & Bottlers, \$6. Total, \$9.

Disbursements, \$69.70.

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

P. McDONALD, Sec.

A HINT FROM THE LABOR COMMISSIONER.

Salem, July 25, 1907.—To whom it may concern: I beg to call your attention to the act found on page 148, laws of 1903, and as amended by chapter 200, page 360, laws of 1907, known as the "Ten-Hour Labor Law for Females."

Since there is pending an appeal in the United States Supreme Court to test the validity of this law, there seems to have entered the minds of some a doubt as to whether it will be enforced in the meantime. Our Supreme Court has often held that it is the duty of all public officers to enforce all laws until they are declared void by a court of competent jurisdiction or repealed. It, therefore, becomes my duty to enforce this law the same as if no question as to its validity had ever been raised, and I shall endeavor to perform this duty at all times by a strict enforcement of this as well as all other labor laws. Respectfully yours, O. P. HOFF, Commissioner.

EIGHT HOURS OCTOBER 1.

Bookbinders and Pressmen Preparing for Shorter Workday Struggle.

Robert Glocking, president of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders of North America, was in Washington recently, conferring with the officers and members of the local union upon matters of interest to the craft. Asked regarding the efforts to be made by the Brotherhood for an eight hour workday, declared for at the general convention held in Washington, President Glocking said that the eight hour workday would be put into effect by bookbinders and printing pressmen, Tuesday, October 1. President Glocking left Washington for Akron, O., where the Werner Publishing Company, anticipating the request of the bookbinders for eight hours, had offered its employees an open shop proposition, and being refused, has locked out its men and women binders.

RAILWAY FREIGHTHANDLERS GROWING IN NUMBER AND POWER; LIVELY SESSION ON 28th INST.

Splendid Speeches and Interesting Reports Arouse Membership to True Spirit of Unionism.

Yesterday afternoon the Railway Freighthandlers, Local 334, held regular session and initiated three candidates to full membership in the union.

This organization is on the rapid march to successful unionism, almost every man working as a freight-handler being now affiliated with the local. The boys have learned that unity of action is the thing, and the only thing, that brings satisfactory results. Before strengthening the union, about 10 months ago, the wages ranged from \$2.10 to \$2.50 per day. Now the boys receive a scale running from \$2.30 to \$2.80 per day and enjoy much more satisfactory conditions than prevailed a year ago.

Brother Hoff was reported on the disabled list, having been injured

some days ago by the fall of a heavy piece of metal upon his foot. The committee on sick and distressed was instructed to visit Brother Hoff, also Brother Gambell, who has been on the sick list for some time, and render any assistance needed in either case.

Brother Blake delivered a splendid speech on the evils of the trust, and showed clearly that "Native Son" in his attempted arguments to prove that organized labor is a trust had displayed a sad neglect of economic training in his early education. Brother Blake is a union man from pedal extremity to cranium summit, and though he has not been anxious in forging to the front as an oratorical quantity, he has given ample evidence of his ability as a thinker as well as an exceptionally able public speaker.

Brother Boman made a strong point against the Socialistic contention that man, because of his evolution from the money to his present social state, is entitled to the full product of his toil, showing that if every WORKER claimed and received the total product of his labor, there would be a large number of soap-box orators hungry from Sunday morning until Saturday night. Bowman is a keen debater and an eloquent speaker. He may consent to be one of the Labor Day speakers if the severe attack of cold which he is now suffering from, by that time, completely overcame.

The boys were glad to know that Brother Herr has about completed his new cottage, and, as "coming events cast their shadows before," the members of Local 334 are living in joyous expectation of all that go to make merry when the happy event occurs.

Brother Saub made a very interesting talk on the "Brotherhood of Man," and said if women could only be taught to recognize the "Sisterhood of Woman," as unionism has taught men to do, there would be no further call for feminine oratory in behalf of woman's suffrage. Saub is all right when once aroused to the spirit of his subject.

Brother Mike O'Shea's speech on truthfulness and honesty was probably the effort of the evening. With native Irish wit and eloquence he branded the man of dishonest and untruthful character as a criminal whose heinous form should never be permitted to cast a shadow in the ranks of organized labor. Brother Mike is modest till aroused; then his pyrotechny of eloquence makes the withering of his sarcasm most seething. More of Brother O'Shea in future.

The meeting, on the whole, was the most enthusiastic held for many months. Next meeting will be held on August 11, at 3 o'clock p. m., in Drew hall. All members are urged to attend as important business will then be transacted. Music and other features of entertainment. COM.

PATRONIZE A FRIEND.

And he is a friend. Who? Why, Billy Brown—proprietor of Portland Carriage & Baggage Co., 304 Irving street, near union depot. He's a union man and an up-to-date lively man; one into whose hands you may trust your life as well as your property. When you (union men especially) need service in the hack or baggage transfer lines, do not fail to call up Brown of the Portland Carriage & Baggage Company. Phone Main 55.

EDWARD A. MOFFETT.

Labor Editor Appointed to Place Under Civic Federation.

The commission on public ownership and operation of the National Civic Federation has in its secretary, Brother Edward A. Moffett, a man of special ability and extraordinary energy. He has long been an earnest student of social and industrial conditions and his knowledge and service has proved of the greatest value to the commission.

For seven years Brother Moffett was the editor of the Bricklayer and Mason, the official journal of the Bricklayers' and Masons' International Union of America. He resigned at the convention held in January, 1906, to assume the duties of his present position, and was voted \$500 as a testimonial.

He was elected secretary of the public ownership commission of the National Civic Federation at a meeting held at Columbia University, which was attended by over 200 leading men of the country, and has helped investigate the four public utilities under consideration—water, gas, electric lighting power and street railways. He was in Europe with the commission all last summer, and since returning home has spoken in several cities on political and social conditions abroad. He is a member of the board of trustees of the People's and Cooper Institutes, of New



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York, and has frequently spoken at the latter place.

Brother Moffett has made two visits of investigation to the canal zone in Panama, the second trip being for the purpose of making a report to the canal commission upon the question of recreation for the thousands of employees. He has done considerable writing on economic subjects for various publications, and was also the author of the epigrams formerly published in the Columbiad under the heading, "After Hours With the Editor."

Brother Moffett, who is 37 years old, is a charter member of St. Paul Council 655. He is unmarried and lives in Brooklyn.—The Columbiad.

NOT A TRUST.

Trades unionism is not a "labor trust." A trust excludes the many for the benefit of the few. Trades unionism opens wide its door to every workman in the craft, frequently reducing or abrogating the initiation fee in order to make it easier for the candidate. A trust is a close corporation; a trades union diligently seeks new members. Its officials are not high salaried officials. They are usually underpaid when one considers the character of the work and the other demands which are made upon them. The business agent of a labor union receives as his salary only the rate of wages which prevails in his craft. The international officers, who carry great responsibilities, which demand executive ability of a high order, receive only what is paid an ordinary clerk in the office of a corporation.—Ex.

A TECHNICALITY.

Judge Brewer cites a striking example of the sort of spoke which the trickster can surreptitiously insert in the wheels of justice. A witness testified in a certain case that a person named Mary was present when a particular conversation took place, and the question was asked, "What did Mary say?" This was objected to, and after some discussion the judge ruled out the question. An "exception" to this decision was immediately taken and on appeal the higher court reversed the verdict and ordered a new trial on the ground that the question should have been answered. At the second trial the same inquiry was propounded and elicited the information that Mary said nothing!—Putnam's Magazine.

To the Federated Trades:

Even though the allied trusts of Portland should succeed in throwing down the city trust ordinance just as it froze you out at the legislature in Salem, do not give up hope, leave it to the initiative and referendum and you will win hands down. Smith has stood by you in your fight; make it your duty to

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