

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

Portland, Ore., Nov. 15, 1907.
Portland Federated Trades Council met this date, in regular session, President Delamater in the chair.
Credentials—Cooks and Waiters, F. H. Meyer; Stationary Firemen, L. A. Mugler. The delegates were seated.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Communications—From Building Trades Alliance saying that body had adopted the proposal from the Council to hear a committee on the Engineers' dispute; also informing this Council of the unfair character of Hazelwood Creamery Co., placed on file. Committee instructed to appear before S. B. T. A. next Monday night. A communication from Barbers' Union saying that local had voted in favor of the proposed increase in per capita to the F. T. C. placed on file. The minutes of Structural Building Trades Alliance were read and ordered filed. Request from Label League for financial aid, \$1.00 per month, granted.

Reports of Committees—The Joint Unfair and Boycott Committee reports it will make final report next meeting; report adopted as progress.

The committee appointed to visit the Stationary Firemen regarding the Steam Engineers' troubles reported having attended the last meeting of that organization, and having been cordially received, made full statement of the case and felt satisfied the Firemen saw the situation in its true light. The report was adopted and the committee discharged.

Unfinished Business—The election of two delegates to the O. S. F. of L. Convention was taken up and the following candidates nominated: Parsons, Drew, McDonald and Wells. The ballot resulted in the election of Parsons and McDonald. On motion the other two candidates were made alternates.

The appointment of Labor Temple Committee, laid over from last meeting, was taken up and the following committee appointed: Fitzgerald, Drew, McDonald, Steinbach, Sparks, Lewis, Thorpe, Leabo, Wood and Shaffer.

New Business—On motion, a committee of three—Fisher, Burdett and Braithwait—was appointed to draft resolutions of condolence to the friends of the late W. G. Burton who was recently killed by street car in San Francisco.

Receipts—Garment Workers, \$12; Carmen, \$5. Total, \$15.00.

Adjournment.
P. McDONALD, Sec.

WILL BE UNIVERSAL.

Soon or late, somehow, some time, by cordiality and concession or by force, by amity and argument or by the resistless march of opinion, the men who work for wages in this country, are to be blessed with the eight-hour day.

The progress toward this end has been slow, but steadfast. Trade by trade obtains it. The latest effort and the latest success has been that of the job printers.

Years ago many laborers worked 12 hours out of the 24. Not so far in the past many mechanics of the skilled trades worked 10 hours. Some of these have cut their time to nine and now hope for eight.

The end is absolute. Before not long all of us who work with our hands will have the eight-hour day, because the irresistible trend, as moves the glacier, slow but inevitable, sets that way.

Then will come the full realization of that hope of labor voiced in the motto, "Eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, eight hours for what you will."

STREET CAR STRIKE IN LOUISVILLE, KY.

On the 14th inst., the 800 employees of the Louisville Street Railway Co. went on strike for the enforcement of better conditions, which were to follow the settlement of the strike occurring last May.

Five hundred strikebreakers were brought into the city, but their services were of no avail, for the public refused to ride the cars manned by such a hobo element.

The few cars being moved were protected by heavy wire netting, and an army of police accompany each car to protect the scabs from the attacks of the enraged public.

It is expected that the company will be forced, at an early date, to accede to the just demands of the employees.

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GOMPERS ON FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, on Monday characterized the present financial flurry as "nothing more nor less than a gamblers' panic," and warned employers of labor against attempting wage reductions at their peril, because, he says, labor will not tolerate it. He recommends that labor and civic organizations which have withdrawn money from the banks help "defeat the gamblers' scheme" by investing in government bonds. His statement is as follows:

"Of course, all realize that there is a stringency in the circulating medium—money. That is, there is an insufficient amount of currency to carry on the enormous increased production of the past year, and the means for its general distribution. This condition has been manipulated by the so-called financiers. They have taken advantage of it regardless upon whom ruin may fall. Indeed, the whole entire 'financial flurry' of the past two weeks is nothing more than a 'gamblers' panic.'"

"In my judgment, labor and civic organizations which have money in safety-deposit vaults would do a world of good to defeat the gamblers' schemes and relieve the bonafide business world if this money were withdrawn and invested in United States Government bonds."

"At the same time it is urged upon all employers of labor not to attempt the false measure of supposed relief of the present situation by wage reductions. In similar financial situations in the past such policy has simply resulted in making conditions worse and more acute and prolonging them."

"In any event the working people of our country have resolved to resist and will resist any attempt to reduce their wages. There is neither necessity nor wisdom in reducing wages as a way out of the situation. Moreover, labor will not tolerate it."

WHAT LABOR DOES.

At a dinner recently given in St. Louis by the Advertising Men's League, Mr. Leo Landau spoke in part, as follows:

"He who spends his Saturday nights in theatre or summer garden and has not seen the laborer at market or shop, with babe in arms and good wife by his side, looking twice at a ten-cent piece before he parts with it; he who has no knowledge of the laborer's condition, except that acquired from books and theory, is not, in my mind, competent to criticize his methods of preservation and protection. The information that I have is entirely practical and comes of actual contact and observation from real life, and while I would not aver that my mind and ideas and conclusions on the situation will not change in time to come, my sympathies are, at this period of my life, entirely with the workingman and his method of organization, commonly termed 'organized labor.'"

"Have you ever seriously considered how much your health, happiness and actual existence really depend on the forms of labor, which are the most menial and which you, with all your brains couldn't perform? Have you ever considered that the house you live in, the bricks that build it, every nail that holds its parts together, that every inch of plaster which keeps out the cold, all these things are the result of labor?"

Continuing Mr. Landau argued that under present conditions it was necessary for workingmen to organize. He admitted that organized labor was at times wrong and that leaders sometimes were not wise leaders, "but on the whole," he said, "it will compare favorably with all other forms of organizations."

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167½ First Street

AT THE PEOPLES FORUM.

On account of a misunderstanding in the arrangement for the discussion of Asiatic Coolie immigration into this country the question has been postponed to a future occasion. Mr. McAllister having discussed at last night's meeting of the Peoples Forum, the Financial Situation.

A Speaker from the Federated Trades Council was to have opened the discussion on Asiatic Immigration, but as has been stated, the dates of the appointments got slightly mixed and the Asiatic question was consequently postponed to a future evening.

Mr. McAllister ably discussed the financial situation showing that all panics in the money world are caused by false values in land, and through mad speculation and exploitation with the depositors' money the banks find themselves unable to meet demands for withdrawals when the public confidence becomes shaken through a settling back towards true

values in real estate. The speaker showed clearly the disgraceful wrong perpetrated upon the unsuspecting public by the act of Congress which originally gave those institutions called by the misnomer, "National Banks," the enormous special privilege of doing a banking business based upon a limited security of United States Bonds against a 10 per cent levy on all outsiders. His remedy for the evils of our banking system as well as the present inefficient monetary system is, "the U. S. Government to buy all bullion and issue all money, be it fiat or what you will." He showed, with telling effect, that the stability of U. S. Bonds rests on the power of the Government to tax, and the productiveness of our natural resources. At the conclusion of Mr. McAllister's able address, five-minute criticisms were in order. The remarks by the majority of those who took part in the discussion followed in harmony with the general trend of the main address.

There is no excuse for buying non-union shoes; the best makes always contain the union label.

Portland Labor Unions

The Chicago Beef Trust has been turning off men at the lick of 500 a day, on account of the panic—not 500 a week, but 500 every day or so. This is the way it protects the working man in time of need. You Portland folks can show your contempt for the Beef Trust by refusing to eat its meats. Smith's meats are the kind for you.

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