

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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H. J. PARKISON,
Managing Editor.
ARTHUR BROCK, Associate Editor.
Editorial Contributors:
C. E. S. WOOD, W. S. UREN,
ELEANOR F. HALLIDAY.

Office: DAILY NEWS BUILDING,
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The Animus of the Case

Much has been made by the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company and its attorneys of the referendum organized labor has to the referendum. Stress has been laid on alleged animus of the unions toward the corporation. Unions of the city have caused for hatred of this company. But on the other hand it must be conceded that we have a direct and tangible selfish interest in every project of the city. Many of our brothers are personally affected by the extensions covered by the franchise. A few minutes more or less in going and coming from work vitally affect every man who works. Even more so than professional men, whose hours are not governed by a time clock. So it is safe to say that their selfish interest will at least balance the feeling they hold against the corporation, so that their personal interest in the future welfare of the city controls their action.

In this connection the closing paragraphs of the brief in the case prepared by Isaac Swett, as our current friend of the hour, are pertinent: "In the oral argument, counsel for defendant referred to the Seattle spirit as one encouraging the growth of that city and referred in comparison to the people I am representing as retarding and hampering the progress of the city. This is unjust, unfair and, I am constrained to say, untrue. Over 15 per cent of the people of Portland petitioned that the referendum be invoked that the whole people of Portland be given an opportunity to vote upon the measure. The effort to invoke the referendum is an act of the people who, generally speaking, are prejudiced in favor of Portland, who have the local pride common to a people of the growth of a municipality as this. "The mayor of Portland vetoed the franchise because it contained provisions that are detrimental to the people of Portland. "There is nothing to prevent the defendant from obtaining a franchise without the many objectionable features of this franchise. I appear as Amicus Curiae. I have been requested to appear by a large body of citizens whose interest here is that of loyal and honorable men. There is no selfish interest of personal effect or property controlling them. On the contrary, their actions are from an altruistic standpoint—the good of the whole people. They would have Portland advance to the front rank of best municipalities, but they would not be parties to the granting of an inequitable franchise by which terms they believe the citizens of Portland are left unprotected in the rights due men and citizens of a great city, granting a franchise to a street railway company. "No one in this case appears with as clean hands—the plaintiff has himself in mind—his own property is affected and he would have relief. The defendant is seeking a valuable franchise that it may be enriched in dollars and cents. Mr. Carey, as Amicus Curiae, by representing the Swift plant who have large property interests and seeks to protect the Swift plant only that it may be enriched. But the people for whom I appear have no other interest at stake than that of broad-minded citizens who are willing to spend time and money that the right of all the people of Portland be properly conserved, that all the people of the city be properly protected, that no rights be unjustly conveyed that should be rightfully saved to the people."

Every good quality possessed by mankind has its existence in logic and reason—a broad mind. As man has experience as his reasoning powers developed; thus the world grows better, brighter and happier day by day. These facts may not appear evident to some. To these The Press would suggest a comparison of the past history of man with conditions of today, and present day conditions with the idea of our people. Of what use is wealth and prosperity if they are not to serve man—to make his life better, happier and brighter. We are fast awakening to this great fact and are legislating, legally and morally, accordingly.

SHORT SHIFTS

By A. D. Cridge.
Don't cuss the people; teach them.
Don't rail at the fool average voter; you may be one yourself on some things.
The haters had a hard fight, and it required strong hearts and brave souls to oppose the combination against them.
To hear some people talk you would think the owners of large income producing properties actually worked for the money they pay over to the tax collector.
Organized labor should have a building of its own in Portland and a secretary with such help as required to carry on a free employment and information bureau for the unemployed.
If Missouri has a state employment bureau that is square and practical we should be informed of it. The skinners running under private direction in Oregon are a disgrace to humanity. Oregon wants the best.
Land gambling goes on in all communities. The man with a capital of five or six children and a wife cannot buy land on which to support himself, and employment is so uncertain that he defers along from month to month and year to year a landless contribution to the wealth of the landed.
It sends a little queer at first to hear the ladies in Idaho say they are going to vote thus and so, and that at the last election they voted for this man or against that one, but they use as much sense and prejudice as the men with their ballots, and they are just as womanly and lovable—and otherwise—as in Oregon.
The most valuable lands are in the cities where commerce is the heaviest. Such property runs rapidly into the millions, and the producers pay the rentals in taxes yet they can never hope to own such property. The only way the vast revenues derived from the most valuable lands can be reached is through taxation on land values exclusively.
It begins to look as if the people of Oregon will decide to build their own roads with rails on them in the course of time. Oregon has more free ferries in operation than any other state, and perhaps in a few years there will be railroads run at cost, watered stock dividends unknown and rates according to mileage instead of all the traffic will bear. Nothing prevents but our own ignorance.
With all the talk against the referendum and initiative by the plunderbund howlers and organs no initiative petition to do away with it has been circulated yet. The enemies of the people hope to undermine and trick them. Look out for the constitutional convention scheme and amendments calculated to do away with the initiative while pretending to improve it. Evident vigilance is necessary in Oregon to preserve the liberties of the people. Law makers in other states and politicians everywhere are hoping and expecting something to happen to the initiative in Oregon that shall put it out of business. Something is in the wind; but whether a whole or a skunk is hard to tell.
Before the people of Oregon are again confronted with any real taxation reform they must be organized and educated along fundamental lines. It has been a case of the blind leading the blind both with the legislature and the commissions. The people are as blind as the experts. To submit some proposition such as prevails in New South Wales or New Zealand, where the most sensible and advanced steps have been taken, without a carefully made educational campaign would be to set the movement back ten years in Oregon, for the people as a mass merely aware that there is something wrong with the foolish hotchpotch tax laws and are unable to see their way out. Time has been trifled away since the last election and it will require something more than a miracle if any effective campaign can be started within the next year or so.

It's Up to You

"Is there any reason why you should wear sweatshop goods?" The above is the very significant question propounded to The Labor Press readers last week by one of the advertising patrons of The Press.

NEWS HERE AND THERE

A Building Trades Council has been formed in Winnipeg, Canada.

Naples, Italy, is threatened by a bread famine, owing to a strike of bakers.

The wash women of Malden, Mass., have formed a union to obtain higher prices.

The next biennial convention of the Order of Railway Conductors will be held in Jacksonville, Fla.

Calgary, Canada, will vote on a by-law to restrict the age of newboys to 10 years and over.

The New Hampshire legislature passed the weekly pay bill for corporations employing more than 10 persons.

Children of Hazelton, Pa., who cannot read and write, will be taken out of mills and factories by truant officers.

The new union of women employees of the bureau of engraving and printing at Washington, D. C., has more than 300 members.

The agitation for old age pensions received an impetus in France, when a Senate committee drafted a bill for that purpose.

Puddlers employed at the plant of the Leaning Iron Company, Pottsville, Pa., were notified on June 30 that their wages would be increased from \$2.75 to \$4.00 per ton.

The Barbers' Union of Los Angeles, Cal., has decided to go before the city council and urge that body to pass a Sunday closing ordinance.

San Francisco Labor Council has taken up the matter of obtaining the eight-hour day for the ambulance drivers of the hospital department.

Marine engineers in the Australian coal trade have entered into a new agreement with the shipping companies, under improved conditions.

According to the report of the United States commissioner of labor, women in buying for the family spend from 60 to 70 per cent of the total earnings.

The Alpha Portland Cement Company of Eastern Portland, Ore., announced a 10 per cent increase in wages to the 100 laboring men at its various plants.

Gas workers in Vallejo, Cal., recently obtained their charter from the American Federation of Labor and since then have reduced their hours and increased their wages.

Speaking in Toronto recently, Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, the Labrador physician-missionary, outlined his project of erecting in St. John's, Newfoundland, a home for seamen and fishermen.

High hopes are entertained by both the lake unions and the various lake states boards of arbitration for the success of the meeting called for Detroit for the termination of the present seamen's strike.

A dispute, and possibly a strike, is threatening in the cabinet-making and joiners' trade in Westphalia and Rhineland, Germany, where the Employers' Association is trying to enforce a 5 per cent reduction.

Green Bay, Wis., carpenters have come to a settlement with the contractors. The controversy was for the introduction of an eight-hour day and the establishment of a minimum scale of 30 cents an hour.

It is reported that a general movement to secure an eight-hour day for machinists throughout the country will start at the convention of the International Machinists' Association in Denver, Col., next September.

Joe Dean, a draper at Newtown, New South Wales, was fined 25 pounds recently for paying less than the minimum wage to a girl employee, and he was ordered to pay her the wages withheld by him illegally.

Four hundred miners employed at the Veteran Mine of the Cumberland-Ely Company, at Ely, Nev., struck on July 1 for an increase of wages. The demand is for \$3.50 a day for miners and \$4 for underground foremen for wet shaft work.

Forty destitute Spanish families now being cared for by the Associated Charities at San Francisco have been given the choice of being deported to Spain or of returning to work on the sugar plantations of the Hawaiian Islands.

In consequence of the increasing cost of the necessities of life, a deputation from the Melbourne (Australia) Trades Hall recently urged the Premier of Victoria to introduce a bill to Parliament with a view of regulating prices.

An order was issued by the local board of the United Mine Workers of America, at Pittsburgh, Pa., on July 2, instructing the striking miners in the Kansas district, 2,000 in number, to return to work pending the outcome of a conference of miners and operators.

Because the old wage agreement expired on July 1 and officials of the company asked that a reduction be made in the new wage agreement because of present business conditions, the Judson Iron Works, of Oakland, Cal., employing 350 men, ceased operations on July 2.

The Builders' Exchange, at San Jose, Cal., has sent notice to the Building Trades Council of Santa Clara County that it is necessary to have a new wage agreement.

The people of the state of New

NEWS HERE AND THERE

The secretary of the South Wales Coal Owners' Association has given notice of a 5 per cent reduction in wages, but the question will have to come before the conciliation board. The unemployed colliers in South Wales are so numerous that \$15,000 was not to relieve their distress by the federation.

The French government's project to pension servants of the state railways has been presented to a preliminary commission. It provides for the retiring of engineers and firemen over 50 years of age who have been 25 years in the service on half pay, and it gives pensions to disabled men who have 15 years of service to their credit.

In Norway, in 1908, in 112 cases, involving 7,958 members, improvements in wages were obtained, whilst 59 strikes and lockouts, with 8,647 members, were fought out. In the last six years the unions have largely increased the benefit side of their organizations, establishing sick, out of work, funeral and superannuation and other benefits.

Telegraphers in the commercial branch are openly and freely discussing the matter of inaugurating another general strike next spring. They have been reorganizing for some months and expect to continue their efforts to combine in the face of all opposition from the companies. The operators declare that as a result of the failure of their last strike wages have been cut to a point in many instances below the living line as low as \$25 a month being paid to Morse operators.

Some weeks ago the vest makers of New York struck for better conditions. At first the bosses made quite a fight, but as time went on they weakened, and finally have given up the fight almost entirely. The following extract from the Bulletin, the organ of the Garment Workers of America, tells the story and makes interesting reading:

The two locals involved in the contest in Greater New York, Nos. 16 and 186 have worked untiringly to bring about the result. Up to the present time 40 shops in Manhattan and 12 in Brooklyn have signed with the union, and in all these the old employees have returned to work.

Many more shops might have been signed had not the strike committee been exceedingly careful in having all union conditions complied with before signing with the contractors.

Before the week is over there is good prospect that every shop affected by the strike will have come to terms with the union.

The jacket-makers, affiliated with locals 10 and 155 have been quite as successful as the vest makers, and their members are assured of a complete victory. So far 56 shops have signed with the union, and it is only a question of a few days when all the shops will be under union conditions.

The strike of the 450 buttonhole makers of local 244, which practically paralyzed the whole clothing industry, returned to work on June 24, under union terms, getting an increase in wages of 15 per cent, with a shortening of the hours of labor from 10 to 9.

The outlook for prosperity to the garment workers for some time to come is most excellent, and their recent successes in securing just terms of employment will be to strengthen their organizations to resist future efforts at disruption.

With the beginning of the present fiscal year the republic of Cuba established a bureau of information, President Gomez appointing Leon J. Canova, an experienced newspaper man, to head it. Leon J. Canova, 41 years and has a wide acquaintance with the island, as its director.

Parties wishing information of any nature concerning Cuba can obtain same, free of charge, by writing to Leon J. Canova, Utility and Information Bureau, Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, Havana, Cuba.

THE POMPOUS MAN.
(From the Emporia, Kas., Gazette.)
I do not like the pompous man. I do not wish him for a friend. He's built on such a gorgeous plan that he can only condescend, and when he bows his neck is strained. He walks as though he owned the earth—us though his vest and shirt combined all that there is of sterling worth. With sacred joy I see him tread upon a stray banana rind and leave a furrow on his head, and leave a trail of smoke behind.

Time evens up everything except the gas bill.

A man may talk a whole lot and say nothing.

If ignorance is bliss, this must be a happy age.

Laughter is the sunshine of human existence.

Interest paid on time deposits and savings accounts. Accounts of banks, firms, corporations and individuals solicited. Travelers' checks for sale and drafts issued available in all countries of Europe.

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REFERENDUM APPEAL IS UP

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As was stated in last week's Press, the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company is endeavoring to extricate the franchise from the grip of the referendum.

This grant of special privilege gives the monopoly the power to legally rob Portlanders of vast sums of money, and they do not want it to go to a vote of the people.

The entire case rests on an interpretation of the state law. Judge Swett very ably contends that "the act of 1907 providing that the referendum may be invoked within 30 days stays the franchise." While the defendant corporation claims that section 108 of the charter of the city of Portland, providing that the referendum be invoked within 15 days, is the act governing the referendum, and since same was not invoked within 15 days, the franchise is in full force and effect."

Judge Swett points out plainly to the court that the state laws govern in this case, as they are in perfect harmony and carrying out the intent of the constitutional amendments secured by a vote of the people.

These laws were enacted by the legislature to make effective the amendments. They superceded the present city charter, which was the product of the legislature, whereas the state laws governing the point at issue were enacted in 1907.

The brief cites an array of authorities and presents many decisions and the application of the state laws in a forceful and logical manner.

The corporation attorneys filed an answer to Judge Swett's brief, and the case is now being considered by Judge Bronaugh. A decision is looked for daily.

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Thoughts Only So by Contact

To the Editor of The Labor Press: In your last issue you asked for some one to kindly inform The Press what a thought is. In answering, I will say that a thought is nothing within itself, it comes in contact with something else. If there was nothing to think about we would not think; if there was nothing to see we would not see; if there was nothing to hear we would not hear.

Things only become known in connection with something else. Our brain serves the function of giving us ideas of some object outside of us. Ideas do not fall from heaven. They are received from our surroundings. A child gets its ideas of heat by putting its finger on the stove. But from where would the child get the idea if there was nothing hot?

Nothing is everything within itself; everything is part of the whole—the universe.

You ask why a man thinks what he does think. I walk along the street and I see a big hole in front of me. I immediately think to walk around or fall in, or become previous or experience had taught me to go around.

I think I am broke because I cannot find any money in my pockets.

The union man, as an idea that he can better his condition by united action, because he found this out by past experience. One's environment determines one's ideas. The ideas of an angel, heaven or hell, are received from one's surroundings.

There is nothing unknowable, but there are lots of things we don't know yet.

OTTO NEWMAN.

Proceedings of the Musicians

Local No. 99 of the A. F. of M. Room 1, 253 1-2 Alder Street.

The regular meeting commenced at 12:15 p. m. with a fairly good attendance. Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

F. S. Sonson and F. Lucas were elected as directors to serve for one year, starting from date.

For Orphans' day, June 2, this association will in the future donate the services of a band to the proper authorities having the occasion in charge.

Notice is hereby given that a rehearsing on the indebtedness of the Third Eastern Oregon Agricultural Association to members of this local will be had at the next regular meeting. C. L. Brown was appointed to serve on the examining committee.

Transfer card was issued to D. Vena; transfer card returned to E. G. D'Albair; suspended for non-payment of dues, F. Crest, G. L. Flanagan, J. A. Kienow, F. E. Kienow; erased for non-payment of dues, H. G. Meyers, G. Partillo, S. W. Driscoll, R. Kaps, Miss C. Othier and J. F. O'Reilly.

False friends, like false teeth, are apt to fall out.

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AT LAST

We can now dress the Union Man in Union-Made Garments from head to foot. Read the list and see if anything is missing:

Union-Made Hat, Collar, Tie, Shirt, Underwear, Sox, Garters, Arm Bands, Suspenders, Belt, Shoes, Suit, Overcoat and Dress Kid Gloves—Is there any reason why you should wear sweat-shop goods?

HOME OF THE UNION LABEL

THE LION CLOTHIERS

NUMBERS 166-170 THIRD STREET

PROTZMAN CAMPBELL Shoes

Stand squarely on your determination to get a union shoe. They are stronger and neater than others. If you have had difficulty in getting a perfect fit in a shoe that possessed style

TRY THE

PROTZMAN-CAMPBELL COOPERATIVE SHOE CO.

146 FIFTH STREET. OPPOSITE MEIER & FRANK.

JUST A WORD

WHERE DO YOU TRADE?

WHY NOT GIVE A TRIAL TO THE STORE THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY TO LABOR UNIONS? Ask any union man where McAllen stands on the union question. We carry a complete stock of

SHIRTS, OVERALLS, SOX, GLOVES, ETC.

UNION-MADE GOODS

McAllen-McDonnell

The Popular Dry Goods Store, Corner Third and Morrison Sts.

ROBERTS BROTHERS

COR. THIRD AND MORRISON STS.

Chambray Shirts

A special offering of Men's Plain Blue Chambray Shirts, made of excellent quality material, with soft button-down collar, sleeves are faced and have two buttons, all seams felled. These garments are cut to fit and are of superior make and finish. Best \$1.00 values—

89c