

Olds, Wortman & King Offer Bait

This Firm, Unfair to Organized Labor, Ask Union Workmen to Put a Finish on Unfair Work---Want Labor to Sell Its Birthright

The Olds, Wortman & King building, department store, now nearing completion, is being constructed under non-union and open-shop conditions.

Organized labor of Portland declared the Trust Company of Portland, the concern erecting this building, as unfair to labor.

It is generally understood that these trustee companies, on unit and other plans, secure the people's money to do their business.

This Trustee Company was doing this kind of work, getting money on pocket bank and other schemes.

The unfair notice evidently interfered with this game. So under a great flourish of business trumpets the Trustee Company announced that its manager and officers were given over to the Union Bank & Trust Company.

People who claim to know about such dodges said the Trustee Company of Portland was transformed into the Union Bank & Trust Company to get away

from the unfair notice.

And this practice of dodging, of hedging, of hypocrisy, is the story of the building of the Olds, Wortman & King building.

Olds, Wortman & King gained trade through professing love for philanthropy and reform.

However, when Olds, Wortman & King needed larger quarters, these professions were forgotten. The Trustee Company of Portland, under a different name unfair to labor in Seattle, secured the building of the new home of Olds, Wortman & King.

And Olds, Wortman & King, when interviewed and remonstrated with by committees of organized labor, declared they were innocent of any wrongdoing. Mr. Olds claimed the Trustee Company was the bad fellow.

What rot; what hypocrisy; what buncombe. Olds, Wortman & King, under fire from the Building Trades Council, now wants to make peace.

This firm fears that if their unfair acts to labor are fully advertised to the union men and women of

Portland; that if the members of the granges are told all about it—the erection of the new Olds, Wortman & King building, by non-union and open-shop labor, might prove very unprofitable. There might be the new palatial department store. But there might be no customers. So finesse is depended upon to turn the trick.

Olds, Wortman & King, having to pay about half a million dollars for their new home to the Trustee Company—the labor-hating concern—now offer union conditions to men to put up shelving, boxes, etc.

A member of the building trades exposed this scheme by saying:

"Olds, Wortman & King are spending forty-nine dollars on scab labor for their new home. Now they offer one dollar to union labor, so as to put on the union finish and hide their rottenness."

But every indication points to the conclusion that organized labor of Portland is neither ignorant nor can it be bought.

In the past the boast of unfair employers of labor

was that the representatives of labor had no brains. They could easily be fooled or scared. It is also reported that our present mayor, when discussing union labor, said: "I bought them in the past, I shall buy them again when I need them."

However, if the Labor Press is correctly informed, and it believes it is, there will be no union finish on the unfair building of Olds, Wortman & King. The rank and file of organized labor will not sell its birthright for a mess of pottage, though the bait is offered by the smiling and plausible Mr. Olds.

The time has come for organized labor to make an example of unfairness and hypocrisy.

Olds, Wortman & King, evidently backed by the Employers' Association, have seen fit to sow the wind. Let them reap the whirlwind.

Organized labor is bound to succeed in this just fight. Then there will be peace and prosperity for the building trades.

But above all, there must be no acceptance of one dollar baits to cover up forty-nine dollars' unfair work.

OBJECT TO THE USE OF EASTERN BUILDING STONE

Building Council Executive Committee, After a Thorough and Exhaustive Investigation, in Open Letter to County Commissioners, Gives Reasons for Using the Oregon Stone

The Building Trades Council is objecting to the way Judge Webster and County Commissioners Barnes and Lightner are doing the county business.

The council wants the stone contract to be given to Oregon concerns, so all moneys spent will benefit local business firms and mechanics.

The Executive Board of the Council has issued an open letter on the subject. It reads:

"An open letter to Judge Webster and County Commissioners Lightner and Barnes.

"We, the Executive Committee of the Building Trades Council, consisting of one member from each of the eighteen affiliated unions, has just received a report of our committee relative to the granting of

the contract for stone and construction work on the new court house. This report in substance is as follows:

"First. That Commissioners Lightner and Barnes and Judge Webster have not as yet let the proposed contract.

"Second. That said Lightner, Barnes and Judge Webster made the statement that they had given their word to some contractor that they will grant the same to him, and that they intend so to do.

"Third. That the said proposed contract is for an eastern stone which by actual test is inferior to our Oregon stone. Said contract is for but about one-third of the stone and work required.

"Fourth. That the said Lightner, Barnes and

Judge Webster have secured no guarantee or agreement of any kind from the eastern stone concern that it will not raise the price of stone for the major part of the building yet to be let at a subsequent date.

"Sixth. That Commissioners Lightner and Barnes and Judge Webster prefer the eastern stone because of its color only.

"We believe this contract should go to an Oregon concern, thus to develop our home industry to the benefit of our local workmen and business men.

"We believe Mr. Lightner, Mr. Barnes and Judge Webster will make a great mistake if they let the proposed contract to an eastern concern for eastern stone for these reasons.

"We believe further that the present plan to let

the contract for one-third of the work, thus requiring the same stone for the balance, will give the eastern concern the opportunity and will result in their raising the prices.

"From investigation we are convinced that Oregon stone concerns, on the total contract, can do better than the eastern concern.

"We respectfully request that they be given the opportunity so to do, thus giving Oregon people and concerns the preference and stopping almost certain possibilities of graft.

"EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL, WILLIAM NOFFKE, Secretary."

PREPARING FOR THE CONVENTION

Central Labor Council of Portland Will Act as Host to the Annual Gathering of Oregon Union Labor

All is in readiness for the Seventh Annual Convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor, which will convene at 9 a. m. next Monday, at 205 1-2 First street.

President Will Daly and Secretary-Treasurer Cassidy have been busy with their reports and necessary details all this last week.

Mr. Cassidy reports that the convention will be from 80 to 100 per cent larger than the last convention. Already many more credentials have been received than the total for the last convention. Unions from Roseburg, Salem and Astoria are all sending their full quota of delegates.

The membership of the Federation has been much increased by the affiliation of a large number of unions.

"We have just about completed final arrangements for the convention," said President Daly to a Labor Press reporter yesterday. "President J. A. Madsen of the Central Labor Council of Portland" he continued, "will welcome the convention to the city. So far we have decided to extend an invitation to W. S. U'Ren to speak to us upon subjects pertaining to direct legislation; State Lecturer J. J. Johnson of the Oregon Grange upon the educational and other work done by the Grange; C. E. S. Wood upon the proposed state railroad constitutional amendment.

"In all probability the convention will extend an invitation to others to speak upon questions of moment to the welfare of our people and state."

President Daly stated further

taxed and exempted, whether proposed by the legislative assembly or by initiative petition; but the people of the several counties are hereby empowered and authorized to regulate taxation and exemptions within their several counties, subject to any general law which may be hereafter enacted.

The convention will deal with the land values tax question, the proposed "assembly" and the 1911 constitutional convention question.

It is understood that several measures which will puncture the armor of the corporation representatives will also be before the convention. Many of the delegates believe that labor must control the law-making bodies of our cities and state, thus preventing them from granting special privileges to corporations, before labor can effectively deal with the large interests.

With 60 cents a month the Mutual Benefit Association of Multnomah Typographical Union is maintaining a sick benefit degree that has resulted in a well-filled treasury and payment of \$12 a week to the sick and injured. In this connection the painters reported at the Central Labor Council that for six cents a month they had been able to give \$5 a week for five weeks to sick and injured members.

This will give labor a voice at the next city election in June, 1911.

The tax committee is to recommend the indorsement of a constitutional amendment which will require that the legislature submit all tax measures to the people before they become law. The proposed amendment is designed to strengthen the proposed grange amendments which are now on the ballot for the 1911 election.

The committee's amendment reads as follows:

"ARTICLE IX. Section 14. No bill regulating taxation or exemption throughout the state shall become a law until approved by the people of the state at a regular general election, none of the restrictions of the constitution shall apply to measures approved by the people, declaring what shall be subject to taxation or exemption, and how it shall be

NEW YEAR GREETING TO OUR READERS

With the New Year, many a man and woman, baffled and battered in life's battles and almost discouraged, determines to try again for the heights. To these William Ernest Henley's paen of courage is here presented as the guiding star:

Out of the night that covers me, Black as the pit from pole to pole, I thank whatever gods may be For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance I have not winced nor cried aloud. Under the bludgeonings of chance My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears Looms but the horror of the shade, And yet the menace of the years Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll, I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.

BENEFIT ENTERTAINMENT

Electrical Workers No. 317 will give a smoker and general good time to members and friends, at the Auditorium, Third street near Taylor, Thursday evening, January 27. This benefit is for sick and disabled members. Admission 50 cents

BRICKLAYERS ELECT

Bricklayers International Union No. 1 of Oregon, at its regular meeting held Thursday evening, December 3, elected the following officers to serve the ensuing term: President, W. E. Thayer; vice president, A. Steinback; corresponding secretary, Joe Clark; financial secretary, William Burch; treasurer, Theodore Dunn; sergeant-at-arms, James Dorney, Sr.; board of directors, George Blackley, R. L. Shahan, Thomas Brown, William Foxley, J. H. Rogers; trustees, Ben L. Casen, George Rimer, J. Sherman.

TO ENTERTAIN DELEGATES

The Central Labor Council will entertain the delegates to the Oregon Federation of Labor.

Last Friday the central body appointed W. J. Fitzgerald, L. E. Gotshall and Paul Musa to prepare plans for the entertainment of the convention, with instructions to report at the regular meeting tomorrow night.

Theatre parties, a banquet and trolley rides will be in the recommendations, according to one of the committee.

Union painters in Fort Worth, Texas, have captured the last un-fair shop.



J. F. CASSIDY, Secretary-Treasurer Oregon State Federation of Labor.

FREE TEXTBOOK LAW PROPOSED

Report to Oregon State Federation of Labor Recommends a Law to Be Introduced at the Next Session

Executive Committee Oregon Federation of Labor—Dear Sirs and Brothers: We, your committee appointed for the purpose of carrying out the instructions of the sixth annual convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor that the free text book system be investigated, report that we have inquired and secured data from numerous states and school districts throughout the United States.

This question is a broad subject. We have, therefore, after satisfying ourselves as to the practicability of the state, county or district furnishing text books free of cost to students of such state, county or school district, confined ourselves largely to the following questions:

First—Is the cost of books to the residents of any particular district reduced by co-operative buying and furnishing them free of cost to all students alike?

Second—Does the free text book system increase school attendance?

Third—Does the system assist in the organization and administration of the schools?

Fourth—How does the school law of the districts operating the free text book system compare with those of Oregon?

Altogether we have examined the reports of over 100 individual states, counties and school districts, and have had extended correspondence with many state superintendents of public instruction, and county superintendents, among

these the officials of Nebraska, Utah and Michigan.

As to the first question, relative to the cost, we have found the cost much reduced to the community as soon as the system was adopted. This first cost was itself greatly reduced as soon as the districts perfected a system for properly caring for the books and fixing the responsibility for their care with certain of the school board, officials or teachers.

In the state of Nebraska, which has furnished text books free since 1891 the cost, according to reports received, is set forth in a detailed report received from the department of public instruction, which is concluded by the following brief statement, to-wit:

"Relative to the difference in cost of textbooks when purchased by parents individually and by the district as a whole, I will say that under normal conditions the average cost per child (including children from the kindergarten to the end of the high school course) for books when purchased by the individual parent would not be less than two dollars per year. Figuring on the enrollment in the schools of the state for the past five years and the amount expended for textbooks and pupils' supplies for the same time, an average of sixty-four cents per child per year is the cost under the plan of district purchase.

The number of districts in the state is 666; the number of districts furnishing free textbooks is 666. The 666 districts not now

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