

WANT FREE TEXTBOOKS

(Continued From Page One)

furnishing free textbooks could be compelled to supply them upon complaint of any one taxpayer in each of said districts, provided it is within the power of the district to furnish said books.

The state of Utah has had a similar experience. The report from that state reads:

"Four years ago a law was passed by the legislature providing that free textbooks should be furnished to the pupils of the schools in the present counties of the state. On the whole, the operation of the free textbook law has been very beneficial. Every pupil has had throughout the entire term of his attendance at school every required book. He has had the necessary text ever at hand to aid him in the preparation of his tasks, and in addition he has had access to many supplemental books which he otherwise could not have secured. As a result higher class records have been maintained and greater efficiency in school work secured."

"From the financial point of view, there has been a substantial gain in the furnishing of textbooks free of charge to pupils. In 1924, the first year that all the school districts not included in cities of the first and second classes operated under the free textbook law, the cost of books to those districts was \$104,104.36, or \$1.90 per pupil enrolled or \$1.62 per pupil of school age. The cost of books for the year 1925 was 57 cents per capita in the counties. For the year ending June 30, 1926, the cost of textbooks per pupil in the counties was 50 cents; in the cities 39 cents. In Salt Lake City the last year the cost per pupil enrolled was 46 cents, while in such counties as Utah, San Pete and Cache, it was approximately 50 cents per pupil. This difference of cost is largely to be found in the better care bestowed on textbooks in the schools of the cities."

Each and every report shows the same substantial reduction in the cost of books. These reductions amount to from 60 to 75 per cent of the actual total cost.

Today in Oregon each pupil is compelled to secure his or her own books. These are used but a few months and outgrown, only to be cast aside, and for the most part never used again. Under the free textbook law the books would be properly preserved and passed on to the pupils as they come up through the many grades.

The many superintendents' reports examined by us establish conclusively that the free textbook system is advantageous in this:

1. They increase the school attendance.
2. They save time in the organization of the school.
3. They enable teachers to control better the organization and administration of the school.
4. They afford a richer course before pupils in the lower grades.
5. They are much cheaper to the community.

In those states and districts where the law is in operation it gives satisfaction to the great majority of the people—those interested in school work.

In this connection the report of State Superintendent W. R. Jackson of Nebraska is interesting. The report in part reads:

"Reports having reached this office that our present free textbook law is not giving satisfaction, it was thought expedient to canvass the views of the people generally throughout the state for the purpose of ascertaining the exact status of this matter, thus enabling me to recommend such measures for the consideration of the legislature as might be best for the educational interests of the state. For this purpose the following questions were submitted to school officers, principals and superintendents throughout the state:

- "1. In your judgment has this law had the effect of improving the school work in your community?"
- "2. Are the people of your community satisfied with it?"
- "3. Has it, in your judgment, had the effect of reducing the cost of school books?"
- "4. Would you favor a change in the law? If so, in what respect?"
- "5. Would you favor a repeal of the law altogether and a return to the old plan of individual purchase; that is, where the pupils purchase the books themselves?"
- "6. Additional remarks and suggestions."

"I have received replies from over 3,000 persons. Of this number, only five out of 132 towns and city superintendents favor a repeal of the present law. But one or two county superintendents are opposed to the law as it stands, and a vast majority of school officers reporting for their districts say they are in favor of the present law. Eighty per cent of the school officers answer the first question in the affirmative; 83 per cent are satisfied with present conditions; 76 per cent inform me that the present law results in a reduction of the cost of books; 28 per cent favor some change in the law, but the changes proposed are almost as numerous as the persons suggesting them, many suggesting points already covered by the law; while 18 per cent favor a repeal of the law altogether, the reason given by the major portion is 'that individual ownership would result in better care of books.' Under 'Additional remarks and suggestions,' the statements made would indicate that in some districts too little pains is taken in the care of text books; while on the whole these remarks would indicate that the present law is about as satisfactory as it would be possible to make it."

We have heard no objection of

merit presented against the law. Some argue that individual ownership of the books by the child is worth the extra cost of from 200 to 300 per cent. Again, it is contended that old books will cause the spread of disease.

It can be seen at a glance that the former objection is much an idle fancy while the latter can be properly regulated by law.

We believe the free text book system a very proper law to adopt in this state.

The present school laws of Oregon must be taken into consideration, however, in the establishment of this proposed system. Our laws now require that at the school books of the state be selected once each six years. This is for the country schools, while the board of education selects the books to be used by city schools. The school board, of which the governor is chairman, makes all contracts for books for the six years upon the recommendation of the authorities mentioned.

New books were selected in 1927. Therefore there will be a revision of all books in the year 1933. In our opinion a free text book law should go into effect at this time—1933—when all contracts with publishers expire.

We would therefore recommend to the seventh annual convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor that the executive committee be instructed to prepare a free text book law and present the same to the eighth annual convention of the Oregon Federation in proper shape to be presented to the 1931 session of the legislative assembly. This convention can then, if the law is found satisfactory, instruct its executive committee to get the same passed by the legislature, and in case of failure, then to have the same submitted by initiative petition to the voters of the state in No. 1912. This will give plenty of time to have the law in proper shape for all new book contracts in 1933.

Respectfully submitted,
J. F. CASSIDY,
H. J. PARKINSON,
Committee.

CZARS OF WEBFOOT

By E. E. Harris, Eugene, Or.
We're the "Czars of Webfoot" state.

And a law unto ourselves—
Law of brag, bluff and bravado—
Down the "Union"! We're for self.

Work eight hours! What damned folly!
Lots of "carpenters" we'll be bound,

Will be quiter, by golly!
When we've got 'em under ground.

With our "hiredlings" in great numbers
And our gold and silver, too,
We will bid a stern defiance
To your "Union doodle-doo."

For your blooming "unionism"
And your principles—"so grand"
Or judicial execution,
We don't care a tinker's d—n.

We're content with old conditions,
For improvement is a flaw,
And we'll teach your "union"
To sit tight and hold its jaw.

Union men demand the wage scale
"Hartog" scattered o'er the land,
But our profits will be greater
If we balk at Hartog's plan.

And our "hiredlings" help us splendidly,
Buy their jobs with Christmas gifts;
They may learn in future years
That they're refused a lift.

We're helping kind contractors
To uphold their sacred rights
To the earth, and kill those Jonahs
Who would work long hours and nights.

We're for property, not the people
Money's better than mankind,
Why the dollar's on the steeple
And the cross is 'way behind.

We're not keeper to our brother,
Beh! The nation makes us laugh.
Man should sacrifice his mother
To the Holy Golden Calf.

Hang these carpenters! They began it,
And they flout us to our face;
How we wish they were off the planet
And deported into space.

How we wish we owned Matanzas
Or Siberia, or h—l!
We'll force them out of here—
Maybe that will do as well.

We will be the "union's" sexton
And will corner work so well
That we'll drive it from this city
We will be their parting knell.

We're the "Czars of Webfoot" state
And the Kings of Have and Get,
Boss of Brag, Bluff and Bravado,
And our will is law, you bet!

WATERS ELECT OFFICERS

The Waters and Waterless Union elected the following officers by ballot of the membership last Tuesday: President, R. J. Leslie; vice president, Oscar Holst; secretary, C. T. Frederick; chaplain, Carl Ducas; inspector, Milton Henderson; recording secretary, Jerry Hardman; inside guard, Tom Fitzgerald; delegates Central Labor Council, Carmichael, Kander and Merry; joint executive board, Fitzgerald, Carmichael, Merry; executive board, Talmont, Merry, Leslie, Kander, Fitzgerald, Carmichael.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS

The Electrical Workers' Union No. 317, the inside electricians, are hard at work to help their sick and disabled. The funds for this purpose are

exhausted, an unusually large number of accidents having occurred of late, also a great deal of sickness.

In all of their past efforts to play their "all union part" in the ranks of labor, whether it was strike assessments or other union levy bearing hard on the individual members and the union treasury, the electrical workers always paid willingly and liberally.

They claim no credit for such action. They know that independence and self-help always pay in the long run, through growth of intelligence and character.

However, the electrical workers need some money for their sick and disabled. The treasury is weakened. Knowing that their talent can put up a first-class entertainment, worth many times every penny paid for price of admission, a typical smoker is being arranged for the latter part of January.

There will be more about this "smoker." Look out for advertisements and further notices," say the officers of the union.

SUGGESTIONS

PREPARED FOR THE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

J. F. Cassidy, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, has given out suggestions which will appear in more concrete form in his annual report to the convention that opens next Monday at 10 a. m., at 205 1-2 First street.

Cassidy, in thus feeling the pulse of the active trades union men of Oregon, is simply following in the footsteps of our great public men, from the president down.

And why not? President Taft before issuing his message to congress consults the presidents of our railroads, our banks and the trusts generally. What they want goes into the message, sometimes toned down a little so as not to appear too raw.

Secretary Cassidy, after finding out that the trades unionists of the state are fully determined to have popular government in its fullest and purest form, is going to recommend that the Federation use its utmost powers to preserve and extend the initiative and referendum.

Also that one of the leading issues be the demand for proportional representation, which insures to the minority party its full quota of representatives, while at the same time safeguarding the rights of the majority.

Employers liability laws are likewise to be leading demands of the workers upon the voters and legislators of Oregon.

BARTENDERS

Last Sunday's meeting was well attended and a great deal of important routine business transacted. Applications for re-instatement of Frank O'Brien was rejected. O'Brien was a member of Portland local in 1907 and 1908, and is now in Salt Lake City. From there he writes for re-instatement. This was denied, because O'Brien when in this city became business agent of the Retail Liquor Dealers Association. He then evidently convinced his employers that he could engineer a scheme to reduce the wages of the bartenders and otherwise deprive them of conditions gained by the union. O'Brien failed in his little scheme. Not wanted any more by his employers, because he had made good, O'Brien then left Portland. The members of the Portland local, in refusing consent to O'Brien's reinstatement, believe they are doing a good service to the union. They are also doing a good turn to the fair employers, who at times might be taken in by a clever speller, especially if he has wormed himself into membership in a union and plays off he knows all about it, and can pull off the game.

ALLIANCE NO ARGUMENT.

The city will not issue the customary voters' bulletin at the special February election.

The law requires the auditor to accept statements from candidates at primary nominating elections, and at regular elections, as well as arguments for and against any measure to be voted upon. These are printed and mailed to all voters of the city.

Auditor Barber stated yesterday that this bulletin would not be issued on the water question, as section 9 of the Huntley corrupt practices act does not make it compulsory to issue the pamphlet where proposed laws are alone considered at an election.

The legislative committee of the Central Labor Council has, at a cost of \$75, prepared an argument against the proposed water laws to go on the pamphlet.

SOCIALIST PROGRAM

Branch 8 of the Socialist Party, 208 1-2 Stark street, will have a change in program at its 8 p. m. Sunday, January 9, meeting. The announcement is as follows: "Special William Morris meeting; addresses, 'Morris the Poet,' by J. D. Stevens; 'Morris the Craftsman,' by Miss Kate Cameron; 'Morris the Socialist,' by H. Langerock; readings and recitations from Morris' works, music, etc."

UNION 125, I. B. E. W.

These officers were elected by Electrical Workers' No. 125: W. S. Junkin, president; Alex. Pringle, vice president; F. A. Bergman, recording secretary; C. D. McCann, financial secretary; C. A. Jordan, treasurer; O. F. Hendrick, first inspector; J. M. White, second inspector; W. F. Wilson, foreman; H. W. Young, W. L. Trullinger, trustees; H. T. Fitzgerald, press secretary.

PAINTERS NEW OFFICERS

The Painters Union elected delegates and officers at its meeting

DEMAND MORE MONEY

BINDERY WOMEN SAY THEY CAN'T LIVE DECENTLY ON WAGES PAID AT PRESENT

The ten book binderies of Portland are shut down because of a failure to agree with the Bindery Workers. The membership of local 113 is practically all out. The girls asked for an increase of wages some weeks ago. The employers refused it.

Like some other labor controversies that come to the acute stage, it partakes of both a lockout and a strike in its nature. Monday the wives and daughters of the employers helped get out some pressing work, and from what the members of the Bookbinders say, it served to demonstrate that Bindery Workers Local 113 is composed of skilled labor. In one shop a job that should ordinarily require 15 minutes consumed four hours.

Tuesday morning most of the 60 girls that were out were down at the hall in the Mulkey building, chatting over the events and seemingly glad to be relieved of the daily grind for a holiday.

The bindery workers ask for an increase of the scale from \$9 to \$11 a week on blank book work and \$10 for those working on pamphlets. Apprentices are asking an increase of \$1 a week, from \$4 to \$5, while 50 cents raise every half year for four years. The scale has not been altered for eight years, and the increased cost of living has reduced the ultimate wage fully 40 per cent.

The girls say they simply cannot live on the pay, and that in other lines wages are better for even unskilled labor.

"It requires four years to make a skilled bindery worker, and if the girls cannot earn more than \$10.50 a day they better study medicine," said one of the bookbinders to a Labor Press representative.

"It would only take them three years to be a lawyer or a doctor."

There are 60 women out, and their demands are not any more than what is being received in San Francisco and Seattle.

The employers who are starting in the fight to make this an open shop town in the printing trades, are Anderson & Dunway, James Printing Company, Howe, Davis & Kilham, Lovejoy & Lincoln, Bushong & Co., Glass & Prudden, Portland Printing House, Irwin-Hodson Company, Dygert & Co., Kilham Stationery & Printing Company. They put the usual plea that is made by every employer in the west, to the effect that they have to compete with the cheap labor of the east and south, and cannot do so unless they pay low wages here. In some eastern binderies girls work for as low as \$2 a week, so they claim.

After they have declared over and over again that they cannot pay the scale they will pay it—if the workers stand together. In every line of industry wages are higher (and so is living) in Portland.

The employers also make the usual plea that they want to pay efficient workers more than the inefficient. This is not prevented by any scale, but the rate is fixed as a minimum, above which the employer can reward those who are most efficient to as high a point as he pleases.

For some time there has been an influence at work in Portland toward a "open shop," clearly traced to the Citizens' Alliance and Manufacturers' Association. The bindery workers have been selected to start the ball rolling in the allied printing trades. The bosses are facing a demand from the press feeders and job printers for increased pay or betterment of conditions. If they yield to the bindery workers they will have to go down the line. The agents of the "open shop" opponents of organized labor have led some of the employing firms to think they are very much abused by the unions, and they want to prove themselves patriots by fighting for lower wages for the workers, and as an inevitable result, if it passes along the various lines of productive industries, for lower returns for their own labor and investments in the end.

The bookbinders are laying off at this writing because of lack of helpers and feeders, and the wives and daughters of the employers are trying to hold down the tables until such time as the union workers give in, or green hands can be secured and taught the trade. The loss involved in this effort to establish the "open shop" will be great, for not only will contracts be lost, material spoiled and the new help paid very dearly in proportion to the work put out, but the work done away from the city while the matter is being adjusted will be still greater, and some of it will be years in coming back. However, such conditions are what the Manufacturers' Association, Citizens' Alliance and "open shop" patriots earnestly seek to establish. When the town gets through with these cheap labor advocates it will know more.

The Pacific Printing & Stationery Company signed the scale promptly and none of its employees stopped working. Others are expected to come through to the scale without any prolonged strike. Some of the men who have been working for less than \$2 a day have also demanded an increase at which some of the employers are greatly shocked, grieved and surprised, of course.

PAINTERS NEW OFFICERS

The Painters Union elected delegates and officers at its meeting

last week, for the ensuing term. All the old officers were re-elected with one exception, and in this case the old officer did not care to run for office again.

William Noffke, A. E. Cheyne and A. J. Waech were elected delegates to the Oregon Federation of Labor convention, which convenes next Monday. Building Trades Council delegates are John Lambert, A. E. Cheyne, William Noffke and Gene West; Central Labor Council delegates, D. W. Robinson, W. G. Todd and William Noffke; the officers chosen were, O. K. Hartwig, president; Bert Crockett, vice president; Bert Bigelow, secretary; A. J. Wach, financial secretary; W. Schwanke, guard; Barry Larouge, conductor; E. A. Cheyne, treasurer.

SPOKANE NOTES

Spokane Falls Typographical Union will have a man on the job at their local headquarters beginning with the New Year. At the regular election of officers W. D. Wheaton was elected secretary-treasurer with the provision that he is to devote his time exclusively to the affairs of the union. He was placed on a salary of \$30 a week. Other officers are: Fred Barker, president; Harley Shafer, vice president; W. S. Sorenson, sergeant-at-arms; Garrison, Grothe, Purdy and Cleland, executive committee.

The new union directory for 1932 is out. It contains a complete directory of the local unions of the city. A list of the blocks, streets, churches, etc., is also given. The novel feature of the directory is a list of the names of firms in different parts of the United States which produce union made goods. It is a book of 72 pages.

D. L. Hunt of this city, who was elected fourth vice president of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, will have big territory to cover. He will have the northern states, and his jurisdiction will include California, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming. It will be known as the fourth district.

CONTEMPLATE A CHANGE

The press feeders have been contemplating a change in the scale for some time. They are asking for the San Francisco scale of \$10.50. They have been consulting with the pressmen and have been encouraged to demand \$16 a week. The two unions meet this evening and will probably come to an agreement as to what is best to demand of the employers in Portland. With the bindery women they form a link in the chain of the Allied Printing Trades, and it is expected that the strike of the bindery women will extend if the "open shop" and low pay movement among the employers—for the two always go together—is pushed a little further.

HERE AND THERE

Union printers of Boston start the new year with an increased pay scale.

The tinner of Spokane are hoping soon to capture the entire trade of Spokane.

A maimed worker in a community deserves a pension as much as a soldier wounded in battle.

A scab union in the building trades of Seattle is not giving much concern to the real thing.

Shipowners all over the world are forming with hostile intent on the seamen, and a big strike is likely.

In New York state are 1,500 abandoned farms. Bad climate and worse roads is said to be the chief reasons.

The Spanish conservatives propose to close all private and public schools other than those of the church.

For a labor temple the unions of Lincoln, Neb., recently raised the first payment of \$4,000 in a few days.

Investigations in England by scientific men show that vice is largely caused by overwork and insufficient food.

Ask for the union card from every mechanic who does any work on your house. He can get it if he is any good.

In Lincoln, Neb., a so-called voluntary raise in wages of the employees of the streetcar trust is in fact a reduction.

Hundreds of labor unions throughout the United States have signed the petition to congress for woman suffrage.

Unfair contractors on a building were thrown out in Cincinnati because the terms of the contract specified union labor.

The new supreme court of Colorado has decided that perpetual franchises to public utility corporations are absolutely void.

Retail clerks in Seattle are organizing under the A. F. of L. The old employers, open-shop, do-nothing, so-called union is a fake.

A Colorado labor paper says that the ballots in the hands of women has done nothing to relieve the laboring women from oppression.

A dry goods and department store in Sacramento has decided to give its employees from one to two weeks vacation each year with full pay.

The postal savings bank movement is hopeful of bringing the matter to a vote in congress.

LOCAL LABOR NOTES

The carpenters of local 53 and 508 are to have a supper together the last Tuesday night of this month. Arrangements are now in the hands of a joint committee of six.

Brothers W. E. Jenkins and Herman Ross, organizers for the Bakers Union, were in Salem on Monday investigating bake shop conditions in the various state institutions.

The painters are carefully setting a nest of eggs, so their delegate at the Central Labor Council reported last Friday; and if the eggs hatch well he result will be some \$4 days strutting around next spring.

At Monday night's meeting of the Sailors' Union F. Knopf and Ed Rosenberg were elected delegates to the Oregon Federation of Labor convention. They were also elected as delegates to the Central Labor Council.

The State Federation of Labor will have the matter of the people being allowed to build railroads before it. The people should be allowed to build railroads and to operate them the same as they do irrigating canals and county roads? Why not?

William Noffke at the Central Labor Council said he would serve on a committee, although he had already agreed to be in two other places at the same time. He had succeeded in doing this stunt more than once by aid of the telephone and a little hustling.

Henry Dickell, one of the young but very popular members of the Plumbers Union, was hurt by falling from the roof of a building in Ladd's addition. His left arm and leg were broken. He is resting comfortably, however, with his people at 937 East Tenth North.

One of the firms in Portland that thought the Sheet Metal Workers was a union that did not amount to shucks after the hogs had picked out the nubbins, has signed up and will hereafter not appreciate the advertisements freely given by organized labor to an institution that fights union labor.

Both B. S. Josselyn and the members of the City Council protest that the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company do not own the City Council. Probably the deed is not on record, but the actions of the officials of the city speak more definitely than the records on that point.

It was the opinion of most of the delegates present at the Central Labor Council last Friday evening that there should be a systematic effort made to organize over 4,000 men outside the unions in Portland. With experienced and earnest men engaged in the work all the time much could be accomplished.

Andy Madsen, president of the Central Labor Council, has been antagonized the unions by establishing trade schools where in six weeks plumbers and other skilled trades are graduated for \$100. The time is too short, but the graduates make good scabs in a strike as helpers.

In Illinois and New York the politicians are trying to save as much as possible in the primary laws that will be enacted. All these "improvements" over the Oregon primary law so far proposed are simply to improve the prospects of the corporation attorney, ward healer and machine man. If improvements were sought the preferential vote would be adopted.

MUSICIANS UNION

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

The regular weekly meeting of the board of directors was held on Wednesday, December 23.

A committee of three was appointed to call on the Moyer Clothing Company to induce it not to patronize the unfair hat manufacturers, Crofut & Knapp.

The following resolution, adopted by the meeting, should be carefully read and remembered for future reference: "The supplying by members of refreshments of any nature, at any time, or offering and other inducements to secure business, will be construed as a breach of good faith and fair dealing."

BOSS OF ALL OVERALLS

Carried by all Dealers

We, the sole manufacturers of the famous "BOSS OF ALL" OVERALLS and "FITZWELL" SHIRTS, are manufacturing in Portland the above garments under the union label. Our brands are the best made Overalls and Shirts offered to the public. We manufacture Patent Carpenter Apron Overalls with pant leg from the knee down. Once worn you will wear no other. Demand "Boss of All" Overalls and "Fitzwell" Shirts, made by H. Wolf & Sons, Portland, Oregon