OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL OF PORTLAND AND VICINITY

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"TRADES UNIONS ARE THE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES"—W. E. GLADSTONE

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OREGON STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR MEETS

Labor Unions and the Granges Strengthen Bonds of Unity--Olds, Wortman & King's Open Shop Policy Condemned--Employers' Liability Law Goes to People--Principle of Direct Legislation Enlarged Upon--Proportional Representation Demanded--State-Wide Prohibition Condemned

The seventh annual convention of the Oregon State Federation of Labor will go on record as the most optimistic congregation of labor delegates Oregon has seen. The spirit of the west, the spirit of progress, no matter what the difficulties, had its full swing. And unity of the toilers of Oregon was the watchword.

The fraternal delegates of the granges of Oregon, representing the organized workers of the farms, brought messages to the organized workers of the cities, fully pledging more and more co-operation on the part of the farmers in the struggle for a better and better day for all men and women who are the real producers of all wealth.

Olds, Wortman & King, tools of the Employers' Association, in efforts to degrade labor through the hypocrisy of the open shop, were roundly scored. Every member of the trades unions of Oregon and the farmers will be informed about the anti-labor policy of Olds, Wortman & King and the Trustee Company of Portland.

The employers' liability law will be the principal legislative effort of the organized workers of the state. It will be referred to the direct vote of the people; and unquestionably will carry because it is just, and so far has only been defeated through lobbyists at Salem

Direct legislation, the right of the people to initiate laws and vote upon them, the right of the people through direct primaries and otherwise elect their representatives to office, was affirmed and enlarged upon.

Proportional representation measures will be advanced. Through it the majority and minority will have their fair share of representation, and no more.

As taxation is the most favored weapon of the ruling class to oppress the common people, laws will be presented to give the common people the final word on all taxation laws.

State-wide prohibition was condemned because the delegates believed existing laws regulating the liquor traffic gave the people of cities and counties the ultimate say in the matter.

The seventh annual convention of the Oregon State Federation of Labor was called to order by President Will Daly promptly at 10 o'clock at 205 1-2 First street, Portland, Or., on January 10.

The labor unions of the state, with Portland predominating, were well represented.

The convention call was read by Reading Clerk William Noffke.

Then J. Andy Madsen, presdent of the Portland Labor Council, welcomed the delegates.

Straight from the shoulder hit this representative of labor. He mixed no words. He called a spade a spade.

Madsen's Welcome

"The Employers' Association, endeavoring and partly succeeding in blocking labor legislation in the state, was called forth by the activity of the State Federation of Labor," said Madsen. "They had to announce they represented thirty million dollars of invested capital, to be able to offset labor's claim for recognition at Salem," continued the speaker.

"The laws somewhat protecting labor were placed on the statute books of the state since the organization of the State Federation of Labor.

"Chief among them is the child labor law. Prior to its passage many of our so-called leaders of industry and society made their wealth out of the labor of children, stunting their physical and moral growth.

"The State Federation put a stop to this crime against the children of our state.

"I am sorry to say we have many of these men still with us. While they are prevented from enriching themselves from the labor of children we find these 'gentlemen' ready and willing to enrich themselves through long hours forced upon the men and women workers and through payment of low wages under the open shop method.

"Hypocrisy is rampant among these employers. But organized labor knows them and will not be fooled.

"Let the State Federation of Labor and the State Grange continue in its present policy of co operation for the workers of city and farm, and more progress will be made in the future. What has been gained in the past will be preserved."

Brother Madsen was roundly applauded, President Daly saying a welcome from a union man with a union card in his pocket was better than the most flowery speech from some professing friend.

Eugene Palmer

The next speaker was Eugene Palmer, fraternal delegate from the Oregon Grange.

Brother Palmer said:

"I assure you that I appreciate this privilege of meeting with you upon this occasion. Many of your faces here are familiar to me, for I had the privilege of meeting once before some of your workers along these lines."

Then urging unity along political lines, Palmer warned against the tricks always used in the past to divide the workers of the state on election day. With great impressiveness this sturdy farmer exclaimed:

"If we allow ourselves upon that momentous occasion to be split up into factions and divided into different manners of thinking and for supporting different men, our organizations and our works are of no avail. This is a trick that has been established for many years. We will get together in the grange and in our organizations here, or your organization and we will pass resolutions, and then the next thing we do we will get out and we will forget all about it and support some man that is not supporting us. Now, that is the trouble. There is no use for us to attempt to put a man into office who is kicking at our principles.

"I had the pleasure of meeting your committee in the state legislature last session and we worked shoulder to shoulder for the same cause and the same purposes and we did what we could. We saw what we were up against, we saw that there was opposition there that was endeavoring to grind down the laboring man, no matter what his calling, and I want to assure you that the State Grange is an organization of laborers. They are an organization of farmers—they are organized for the betterment of the people at large. Their scope is a large one. They embrace the welfare of the human race, for the farmer feeds them all. Now, there is no discount on that, and at an early stage of the game the grange was laughed and scoffed at, but through our perseverence that time has passed. If they want anything right bad, they do not want to offend the State Grange very much. They are very anxious to get around and see if we are in harmony with this measure. This is somewhat political. I understand what your organization is here for. It is not a political organization, neither is ours, but at the same time we have to deal somewhat in politics. We are not partisans, but we are for the upbuilding of the farmers and laborers of the State of Oregon, and I believe I was partly instrumental in this coming together of these organizations.

At one of our meetings I urged the time was now right, or ought to be right, when we cultivated a better understanding with the state labor organizations. Now, you people are really the consumers, we are really the producers. As we also work ourselves, besides employing labor, we understand from both standpoints what is wanted.

"Now, I will tell you I hope, I trust, I pray for the day when the laboring man and the farmer comes together, hand in hand, and go marching right up to the polls and vote their sentiments and vote their man, vote in the man that helps them, not the other fellow. I hope the time will come when we will march right up in solid ranks and install our man in the halls of the Legislature, in the halls of Congress, which we can do with a unit. But now let me tell you again, beware of this division. A house divided against itself cannot stand. I being a Republican, you being a Socialist, this other fellow a Democrat, we all feel all right until the time comes. We are so habituated to the fact of voting our sentiments at the polls that we cannot vote our sentiments to protect our pockets, our hearts and our children."

Speaking about the assembly trick to do away with the primaries, Brother Palmer told the following pertinent story:

"A great effort is being made to get that assembly plan in working order, but I hope that none of you will give the bosses an opportunity to dictate and rule. It reminds me of a story a gentleman, who was fond of hunting, told me. 'A coon left his hole, went out and toured the farmer's hen coops. When he returned, he found his hole occupied. "Who are you?" questioned the coon. "I am a coon," came the answer. "If you don't believe it, look at me; reach in your paw and feel of me." The coon did this, then said: "You look a little like a coon, and you feel a little like a coon, but you smell like a skunk, and I believe you are a skunk."

"I do not know that there is anything more to be said, only that the State Grange is very thankful for this privilege of meeting with you gentlemen. We may not agree upon all points, but if we differ, we will disagree amicably. There will be no harm done; but what we can agree on we will certainly lend a hand, and we will try and get along. And now I will tell you I am very thankful for this privilege."

O. P. Hoff

The next speaker was Labor Commissioner O. P. Hoff. He said:

"Boys and Girls, Mr. Chairman, I understood I was to be the last one, and then I could not have so very much to say. I am thankful for the invitation to be here. I have attended your conventions every year, except the first one, and it helps me in my work. Your work is my work. Mine is yours. While I am suppozed to represent in my official capacity all the working people in the State, whether they are organized or unorganized. I think that it is pretty well acknowledged that the organization of labor unions sets the pace, and that wages whenever they are raised are raised through your efforts. Every person who does not belong to unions must in his heart acknowledge that where he gets better pay in the City of Portland, or anywhere else, it is due to the efforts of organized labor. There is no question about that. As I said in meeting with you here I like to renew the acquaintances, and my work is of such a nature that all the backing I can get helps me. I want to enforce one idea on your minds, and that is, as to the gravity or importance of the business you are engaged in. You represent, perhaps throughout the unions, say 7,000 to 8,000 people. But as your pace has to do with the rest of the workmen of the State of Oregon, you are representing two-thirds of the people of the State of Oregon. In checking up the statistics in my office in my first report, I found that two-thirds of the voters of the State of Oregon were wage-earners, and that was not counting in the gentlemen which our brother farmer represents; but I presume if you take them, they leave very little for the other fellows; and you can see what force you have, if you place that force in the right direction and the results. In place of representing 8,000 or 20,000 people, I venture to say that you represent not less than 600,000 people in this State, and your work does not stop here. It goes to other States. What we do in this State is known and asked for in other States. The labor bureaus of other States want to know what we have done, to send them data in regard to the laws that have been enacted, how they operate, and all those things. They come from as far back as New York. Even the larger States feel that they can get pointers from the little State of Oregon."

Mr. B. G. Leedy, fraternal delegate from Oregon State Grange, was the next speaker.

"Mr. Chairman, Delegates of the Oregon Federation of Labor: As a representative of the State Grange of Oregon, I am very glad to be with you here today. I assure you I extend you greetings from that organization, and I hope that during these meetings we can get better acquainted than we have been in the past. There is no good reason that I can see why our two organizations should not work together and co-operate in so far as our interests are identical, and they are, I am sure, to a very great extent.

"Wishing you all the success that is possible, I thank you very much."

Mr. C. H. Gram, ex-President of the State Federation, was the next speaker.

"Mr. President, Brothers and Sisters: A week ago I was afraid I could not attend this convention. I came up here to meet the old friends, and when I received an invitation from Brother Daly, I just say it felt like old times.

"We certainly can be proud of what has been done by the Federation. But there is still a whole lot more work to do. As we grow older, and as we advance, the work becomes all the more harder. I understand there are several important measures to come up this time. Unity and hard work will and must bring success."

STATE LABOR COMMISSIONER O. P. HOFF

A Distinguished Guest of the Convention, Whose Untiring Work in Behalf of Oregon's Working People Gives Him the Fullest Entree to Every Function of Organized Labor, as Well as Its Unfailing Support and Assistance

WILL DALY
President of the Oregon State Federation of Labor

Washington Greetings

The following delegates were appointed to draft greetings to Wordhyte State Federation of Labor: W. H. Fitzgerald, Cigar Makers; Ed. Rosenberg, Sailors; Chas. W. Splawn, Bartenders. Their report was adopted.

Carl F. Caulfield, fraternal delegate to the Washington State Federation of Labor, took the following message to Hoquiam, Wash., where the Washington Federation opens on January 12:

"Portland(Or., Jan. 10, 1910.

"To the Officers and Members Washington State Federation of Labor:

"Greeting—The Oregon State Federation of Labor, in seventh annual session assembled at Portland, Oregon, hereby sends through its fraternal delegate, C. F. Caulfield, its most sincere wishes for the success of the Washington Federation. The trades unionists of Washington, with their State Federation organized somewhat ahead of Oregon, and by its aid having done splendid work on behalf of the toilers of Washington, have no warmer admirers than the union men and women of Oregon.

"Go on and on and on, brothers and sisters, in your efforts to secure shorter hours of labor, better pay, fairer treatment wherever men and women wage workers toil.

"We of Oregon shall try to follow you whenever we find we lag behind. If we outstrip you in the race at times, rest assured that your example has been our incentive.

"This year the Oregon State Federation of Labor will make special efforts to secure an efficient employers' liability law. The maiming and killing, especially of the unorganized, and thus less protected workers of our state, is still appalling, though the factory inspection law has somewhat checked it.

"But nothing short of heavy monetary loss on the part of careless or greedy employers will really minimize the present industrial slaughter of the workers.

"Oregon workers urge upon the workers of Washington to concentrate their economic and political power for the adoption of the initiative and referendum, and other methods of direct legislation.

"Representative form of government is breaking down more and more the corrupting influence of our trusts and corporations. The only hope to preserve the people's government rests in increased unity, intelligence and courage of the great mass of the people. The initiative and referendum has proven of the greatest aid to the workers of Oregon. By their application of late, plutocracy has been frequently checked in its predatory designs upon the rights and liberties of the people.

"However, plutocracy is working and plotting against the initiative and referendum.

"We believe that the organized workers of the cities represented in the State Federation of Labor, and the organized workers of the farms, the State Grange, fighting shoulder to shoulder, will succeed in saving direct legislation for Oregon.

"However, we need all the help we can get. No greater help could come to us than the adoption of the initiative and referendum by the workers of Washington.

"Brothers and sisters of Washington, make a supreme effort for direct legislation, are the parting words of cheer from the delegates now assembled at Portland.

"Fraternally and sincerely yours,

"WILLIAM DALY,
"President.

"J. F. CASSIDY,
"Secretary.

"Oregon State Federation of Labor."

Commmittees

The chair announced the following officers and committees:

Reading clerk—Wm. Noffke.

Sergeant-at-arms — Charles R. Price.

Committee on credentials—T. H. Burchard, Central Labor Council of Portland; Charles Hough, Machinists No. 63, Portland; J. F. Wisner, Carpenters No. 1065, Salem; Wm. Bell, Carpenters, Astoria; W. S. Junkin, I. B. E. W. No. 121, Portland.

Committee on label examination—C. Ockwig, Tailors No. 74, Portland; Mrs. Ross, Garment Workers, Portland; L. E. Gotshall, Typographical Union No. 58, Portland; W. H. Gerdes, Printing Pressmen No. 43, Portland; C. W. Ryan, Carpenters No. 50, Portland; Paul L. Mausa, Metal Polishers, Portland.

Committee on laws and legislation—J. D. M. Crockwell, I. B. E. W. No. 317, Portland; J. L. Ledwidge, Carpenters No. 50, Portland; H. M. Lorntsen, Fishermen's, Astoria.

Committee on by-laws and constitution—H. G. Parsons, Cigarmakers No. 202, Portland; T. D. Hathaway, Carpenters No. 50, Portland; E. B. Crofott, Teamsters No. 162, Portland; W. J. Sheley, Carpenters No. 808, Portland; C. C. Lessard, Typographical Union No. 58, Portland.

Committee on ways and means—R. A. Harris, Typographical No. 210, Salem; E. A. Cheyne, Painters No. 10, Portland; Albert Johnson, Bartenders No. 142, Astoria; Dan Belcher, Teamsters No. 182, Astoria; H. B. Woods, Plumbers No. 481, Eugene.

Committee on resolutions—Ed Rosenberg, Sailors, Portland; Chas R. Price, Bartenders No. 339, Portland; W. H. Fitzgerald, Cigarmakers, Portland.

Committee on grievances—James L. Moore, Central Labor Council, Astoria; W. E. Jenkins, Bakers, Portland; Wm. Olsen, Carpenters, Astoria.

Committee on labels and boycotts—R. S. Hayner, Machinists No. 63, Portland; Chas. Angler, Bartenders No. 339, Portland; J. M. St. Clair, Carpenters, No. 1455, Eugene.

Committee on officers' report—R. A. Willison, Plasterers, Portland; Carl Stoll, Musicians, Portland; R. O. Rector, Carpenters No. 50, Portland.

Committee to get speakers on economic questions—R. A. Harris and J. L. Ledwidge.

J. J. Johnson

Representing the grange of Oregon, J. J. Johnson spoke in part as follows:

"The order of Patrons of Husbandry was organized over forty years ago, in 1866. It was organized by men and by women who appreciated the difficulties of farm life, who fully appreciated the indifference to their condition and the laws they should adopt to better those conditions. They were men and women of high ideals, men and women of broad experience, who could look far into the future, and knew if the farming people and all the great masses of people did not take the reins, that they must necessarily be working in the interests of these great corporate bodies. In other words, the farmers must co-operate one with another along educational lines, economic lines, political lines ,etc. In order to get this co-operation, they must organize. They knew if this order was to exist and to continue to exist and to do the great good which they hoped to do, it must be founded upon educational matters. It must have for their purpose the educating of farmers to think for themselves. If this order was to work in harmony, it must not discuss those questions from a partisan or sectarian standpoint.

"They fully appreciated that it was just as necessary to have a gentle and refining influence of the wives and mothers as it was to have them in our homes. Our wives and our mothers are interested, and we encourage them to be interested. You occasionally find a man who does not want his wife to have an idea, but I am very glad to see that people are getting over those notions. The Grange not only stands for these things, but has accomplished a good deal. The Grange is a national institution,, with over a million members in these United States; and when the national Grange wants to put its influence for or against a measure, it sends word to the different State orders, and then branches out, and you can see in a few weeks its influence is felt. We discuss these questions every time we have a Grange meeting.

"Take, for instance, the Agricultural College. You will readily see it is far ahead of what it was a few years ago, and that better men have come through the influence of the Grange. Our State University the same. Then take the common schools. The common school has at least six months' term of school. It has been only a few years when they could only have a three months' term. It will not be long before they will have a nine months' school. There is no reason why a boy and girl should not have nine months, who happens not to live in the city. I hope the time will soon come when the boy in the city and the boy of the country will meet hand in hand with a good education, and when the common people have that education, then, and then only will they be able to control the affairs of this State and these United States. The Grange has done more than that: it has taught we older people some few things which we didn't know before.

"A few years ago we supposed anybody could be a farmer, and a successful one. Men who could not do anything else probably thought he could be a farmer, but we have learned it takes brains to be a farmer.

"You should study questions pertaining to your welfare, whether it is in your home, or politically, and the farmer should do the same. He should study questions of political nature. If you will ask some of the great corporations what they think of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and what they think of the influence, they will say the Grange went beyond its province; but if you will ask a farmer what he thinks of the Interstate Commerce law, he will tell you that the Grange did a great service to this Nation and the people at large, and the Grange worked for years to put that law upon the statute books.

"If you will ask the great corporations, who have made millions of dollars out of their business, what they think of the International Pure Food law, they will tell you the Grange went beyond its province when it used its influence for that purpose. If you will ask the great mass of people, if you will ask the manufacturer, who is dealing in honest produce, or if you will ask the consumer who has to use these things, what they think of this great law and the influence of the Grange, they will tell you at once it did the international government a great service. This is a political question, but not a partisan question.

"If you will take the rural free delivery, which is one of the greatest benefits of the farming communities, and ask some of these interests what they think of getting that law passed, they will tell you the same thing, that it creates a debt every year, and the Grange went beyond its province in having it passed; but the country people will tell you that the Grange did exactly what it should do in using its influence to have the law passed. You ask the good father and good mother who can stand in their own door and can get a letter every day fro mtheir boy or girl away at school or in the city, and ask the boy who wants an encouraging word from his father at home. It is a medium for the farmers to receive their daily papers, magazines and many other things it is a great benefit. We do deal with political questions, but those great questions are for your benefit and ours. We have a common interest. We should pull together.

"Let us come to the State of Oregon. We are aware of the fact that we had a great part to do in placing the initiative and referendum upon the statute books of this State. Those interests are still fighting it today, and they will fight it as long as there is any hope to defeat it. There is reasons for that. The direct primary was passed by the people. It was not Republican nor Democrat. The Legislature did not want it. It went before the epople, and was passed by a large majority. You take the tax upon corporations, etc. There was a bill taxing them one per cent, and they opposed that; then the State Grange initiated a bill taxing them 2 or 3 per cent, and that bill passed by over 60,000 majority. Is it any wonder the corporations love the Grange so well? Those very same corporations did not pay the tax; they fought that assessment through the courts of this county, they fought it through the Supreme Court, then they took it to the United States Supreme Court on the ground that the law was unconstitutional. You have put up some of your money to defend that law. We are defending that law. The Grange is opposed to that constitutional convention, and I believe you are also.

"You will hear that they must have an assembly to name your candidates. The assembly plan is simply a scheme whereby they will put up certain men to defeat in the end the very thing for which we have been so long working.

"There are other matters which I think this body should consider which are of national political importance. We should have a par-

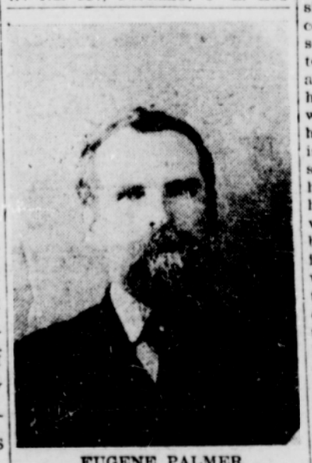
ORGANIZED LABOR WINS

The Labor Press and the Central Labor Council, aided greatly by the Daily News, followed by the Oregonian and the Journal, is what forced Joe Simon to lay down his big stick that was pushing through to success the water main graft. The report of the Legislative Committee to the Central Labor Council, which will be found in another column, was a warm one, and when His Honor realized that something of the sort would be published in the official pamphlet and sent to every voter, that was the last two-by-four scantling on his back, and he retired ignominiously from the field. The forces of organized labor in Portland have saved the laboring people from being skinned for from three to six million dollars. Brother Simon is still with us, however, and he is pretty sure to incubate another graft to the hatching point before his term is out.

Mayor Simon says that many miles of hard-surface pavement will be held up because mains cannot be laid ahead of them by the city under the present law. The reason mains cannot be laid is that contractors will not bid on them within the estimates of the city engineer. This is simply bosh. The city can put a force of men to laying those mains tomorrow. Those men would have to be paid decent wages and given reasonable hours. That is all that is bothering Mayor Simon.

C. O. YOUNG
Fraternal Delegate from Washington State Federation

J. J. JOHNSON
Grange Officer Who Spoke at the State Convention



EUGENE PALMER
Fraternal Delegate to State Convention from State Grange

CHAS. H. GRAM
Former President of the State Federation of Labor