

PORTLAND UNIONS PROSPERING

Report of Secretary-Treasurer of the Building Trades Council Shows Encouraging Condition in This City

Organized labor of Portland is prospering and making a great growth. George H. Farrar, secretary-treasurer of the Building Trades Council, made a general review of local conditions in his annual report rendered at the last meeting of the council.

The report in part reads: "Worthy Chairman and Brother Delegates: I take great pleasure in submitting to you my third annual report, giving a brief history of the council during the past year.

"The twelve months just past have been a remarkable year in more than one instance, and at the rate the council is now progressing it will not be many days before our beautiful city will be a 'closed town,' to use a union term.

"One year ago, and before we were doing business by a so-called 'board of governors,' one governor from each local affiliated. Their duties were to settle all disputes

hours, and as a result a bill of \$45 was presented and paid by the council. Now nearly all the work is done evenings or between 4:30 and 6 p. m., thereby doing more business in one week than the old board did in six months. Hence the advancement of the council.

"Another important move on the part of the council was the getting together of the several business agents at a stated day. They, too, have accomplished great results, exemplifying the old saying, 'you can break one stick very easily, but put a number in a bundle, or 'union,' and the result is far different.' Hence the coming together of all the business agents with one united effort upon a man, firm or corporation is generally successful.

"During the past year the council was driven from home by fire, and has been a wanderer up to a few days ago. Through one of the most noble union acts by a staunch union brother, a scheme was perfected by less than half a dozen brothers of different crafts, and of equal fortitude and union progressiveness, whereby a labor temple was planned in 'embryo.' What was the result? Before the necessary arrangements could be perfected for the different locals the board of directors was swamped with applications for hall and office space. More room has since been looked for on the two upper floors, and soon all may be accommodated, making one grand labor headquarters, where each and all may have a home, and where their business may be attended to.

"The past year has been a prosperous one as to business. Nearly all the locals have been busy. Some of them were short of men to handle the work and had to send out of town for help. With one or two exceptions the locals have increased in membership. Then again, the 'conditions' of the different locals have gone out for have been obtained both by the united effort of each individual member and the aid of the splendid business methods of the council.

"Last, but not least, a wise move by organized labor was the creation of a 'central body,' composed of delegates from all the different 'sections of industry,' making a higher court to resort to in case the different sections cannot come to some agreeable settlement by themselves. Then the whole combined body of union people are behind the local in trouble.

"Financially the council has done well, meeting all its obligations with promptness and dispatch."



GEORGE H. FARRAR, Secretary-Treasurer Portland Building Trades Council.

and handle all business of the council. Meeting only when the occasion required—some times once a month or perhaps in three months.

"Now how is it? Those 'governors,' as we called them, now are known by a different title, namely the 'executive board,' and instead of meeting once in awhile, now meet regularly every Thursday evening, and have business to attend to, too, at each meeting. The old board of governors did business as a committee of the whole. Now different committees of the board do the work, thereby curtailing expenses to the council. I remember on one occasion the old board was called for duty during business

CUSTOM TAILORS LABEL



The question of purchasing goods bearing the union label is one of very much importance to all trade unionists and to all men and women who are favorable to a living wage and decent industrial conditions. Every trade unionist, whether man or woman, and the family of every trade unionist, should purchase no goods without the label that can be had with a union label thereon.

If the trade unionists and their families in North America that are now in the union would adhere strictly to this, very few factories or firms could do business without employing union labor. The purchasing power of the trade unionist and his family is something enormous. The millions into which it would run, no man can tell, and it all concentrated upon the purchase of union label goods, would make it practically impossible to sell those without a label.

The journeyman tailors have a union label and have had for a number of years. Present Journeyman Tailors' Union of America was organized in 1883 and has had a continued existence ever since. At its beginning there were nine local unions, now approaching 400. The label was adopted in 1891. For some years it had but little use, but recently its use has been materially extended and is now probably as generally used by our members as is the label of any other trade.

Custom made clothing bearing the Journeyman Tailors' label can be depended upon to be well made and under sanitary conditions and to be of a quality that it is represented to have.

The local union in Portland for some years now has been quite strong. Prior to that it had many ups and downs, sometimes strong, and again very weak. But it has now a hold upon the tailors of this city that is apparently to last permanently. Our local union is attached to the Journeyman Tailors' Union of America, without which, of course, no local union can have a label to use. We especially call the attention of the people who wear good clothes in Portland to our label, a cut of which is herewith published, and ask them when purchasing custom made clothing to purchase

from no firm that cannot furnish this label in their clothing.

SHORT HISTORY.
The Tailors' Union of Portland was organized December 12, 1885. Progressed to 1893, when an unwise strike was called, which failed on account of non-support from the national union and local funds tied up in the banks, and after seven weeks' duration finally lost.

The charter was held by a few members of local 74. An independent union was also started, which lasted until the reorganization of the union in April, 1901, into which the independent union finally was brought by the 13 charter members. The membership grew to about 170, which has at times dwindled down to 150.

The prices were very low, \$6 and \$7—which was gradually raised until in 1906 it was \$9. In the spring of 1907 \$10 was secured, which the bosses refused to pay in the fall, under the financial depression, which almost brought on a strike. By a majority vote the union agreed to go back to the previous bill on a written agreement from the Merchant Tailors' Exchange to pay the present bill when times proved better.

A demand was made in the spring of 1908, which the bosses rejected, and in the strength of the agreement a strike was called, which lasted for four weeks and finally was settled in full victory for the local.

WERNER COMPANK BROKE.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 10.—Because it tried to fight trade unionism and stay the progress of organized labor, the Werner Company, a \$3,600,000 "scab" publishing house of Akron, O., has been thrown into a receivership, carrying with it in the crash the South Cleveland Banking Company, one of the strongest of Cleveland's suburban banks, with \$1,600,000 savings deposits. The bank has filed a deed of assignment.

The Werner Company, one of the largest publishers in the country, was one of the bitter opponents of the eight-hour strike of the bookbinders, in addition to the struggle for better conditions put

up by the Typographical Union. In this respect the firm stood side by side with the Butterick Company, of New York, which has lately acquired Everybody's magazine.

Nearly all the other publishers in the country have signed the agreements presented to them by organized labor, but the Werner Company still held out. It waged long battles in the courts against the union, finally proving a victim of its own greed.

"BRICKS WITHOUT STRAW."

Dr. W. H. Foulkes, at the Presbyterian Church, last Sunday, gave a sermon entitled, "Bricks Without Straw." Pharos required the production of bricks from the Chosen People without furnishing the raw material. Great commercial organizations are doing the same thing with labor. Captains of industry prefer the lives of workers to be sacrificed rather than reduce dividends. The preacher said he was satisfied that organized labor was coming into its own.

ENGRAVERS ELECT.

At their recent election the Photo-Engravers' Union elected the following officers: President, L. F. Otto; vice-president, Robert Seyer; secretary, A. F. Purdy; treasurer, Edward Anderson; delegates to Allied Printing Trades Council, Robert Seyer, L. M. Egbert; delegates to Central Labor Council, R. M. Saint, Mose Olney. A committee was appointed to arrange for quarters in the new labor temple.

SHORT SHIFTS

By A. D. Gridge.

We are to have Gypsy Smith to conduct revival services next fall. As the campaign will be running at the same time there will be lots of interesting opportunities to spend an evening without going far or paying much.

By careful selection the Oregonian has obtained an almost unanimous endorsement of the assembly scheme from 97.12 per cent of old-line politicians. These statesmen are living infusing links between the old grafters and the all-statured citizens. Some of them are as politically dead as an Egyptian mummy.

The passing of the vehicle tax after the people had voted it down was an insult to the whole city. The council that passed it and the mayor who signed it deserve a call for that infamy alone, but they will have to earn their recall several times over before they get it. They apparently intend to earn it once or twice more, at least.

A city entirely at the mercy of a city council and a mayor has all sorts of grafts, of which the collapsed water main graft was a sample, placed upon it. But for the lurking fear of a recall, with the certainty of the initiative in the future to restore to the people just water rates, our city council and mayor would have perpetrated the graft on us.

The problem before the statesman in Washington this winter is how to amend the anti-trust law so as to prevent further annoyance to the trusts and at the same time apply it to labor organizations. The problem is complicated by the necessity of so wording the changes as to make it apparent to the people until after next November for fear it might have some effect on the elections.

The speeches and proceedings of the Oregon Federation of Labor, in its seventh annual convention, are of deeper interest to the people of this commonwealth than any session of the legislature for some time. What the State Federation has done along fundamental lines will yield more benefit to the people than enacted by the sovereigns of Oregon than the whole libraries of laws such as the average legislature produces.

A part of the city has been sold to a new master, and delivery has been given. The new master is a branch of a New York syndicate. With its franchise and about \$3,000,000 worth of watered stock it will have the pleasure and delight of collecting from two to five times the value of the gas it furnishes. To that extent it has bought a portion of the people of our city as effectually as if it had secured chattel slaves sufficient to return from their earnings over and above their keep \$150,000 a year. How many workmen will it take to save that sum in a year? The answer will be the number of slaves the New York syndicate, which is probably a member of the Standard Oil family, now has in Portland.

A LIVELY SUBURB.

Arlita is a part of Portland now, but it still keeps up the Mount Scott News, which is a local paper with some sensible inclinations. The News says that great developments are to be carried out all along the line, and this once country town is to be clothed with police, letter-carriers, fire company, sidewalks, new streetcar lines and all sorts of up-to-date news. All this means greater property values and more boosting of prices for lots in a section that if in some parts of Oregon would be a big city by itself.

It is said that in Catlow valley, Lake county, there are still some fine sagebrush homesteads to be taken up. The "dry farming" farmers say this is about the last of it in that section of the state. Soon there will not be a quarter section capable of keeping a goat left in all Oregon.

JURISDICTION DISPUTES

BUILDING TRADES DEPARTMENT OF A. F. OF L. ANNOUNCES ITS DECISIONS

The local Building Trades Council has been informed by the building trades department of the A. F. of L. of rulings made by the department.

The Sheet Metal Workers' Union is given the right of manufacturing and erecting all metal door and trim." The Carpenters' Union has claimed this work heretofore in some localities.

The Bridge and Structural Iron Workers are "conceded full and complete jurisdiction over the fabrication, erection and placing of all iron and steel in reinforced concrete and cement construction" work. The Metal Lathers claimed the work heretofore.

The Marble Workers have been awarded jurisdiction in the installation of "slate treads on stairways." This work has been claimed by the Iron Workers.

The Pittsburgh agreement of February 13, 1909, between the International Association of Plumbers and Fitters and the United Association of Plumbers and Fitters has been approved and made a law of the department after the two agreements failed to come to an agreement at a joint meeting held in Chicago on December 4, 1909.

The agreement referred to requires all I. A. and U. A. locals to work under the directions of a joint board, when there is a local of each association in one city. And among other requirements neither association is permitted to organize or issue new charters in cities when the other is organized.

SUSPENDER MAKERS.

How easy it seems to me and to me to sit at a sewing machine and make an apron or a dress. Have you tried to work on a electrical sewing machine in a suspender factory? You have only to touch your foot to the treadle and away it buzzes, pulling the first piece of leather after it so fast that you can hardly keep your hand upon it. Your thread snaps; the hot needle runs through your finger; you pull the leather from the machine, and finally you remember to take your foot from the treadle and let it stop. You may nurse your smarting finger, but you look at your work in despair. The stitching is zigzag, and the piece of leather is spoiled! Many girls work a long time at one of these noisy, hissing machines, trying to get control of it, and at last give up the attempt, hopeless of learning the trade. Perhaps it is quite as well for them, however, that they cannot learn it, for the continual high speed and the close attention required by the little pieces of material, is very trying, indeed, to a woman's nerves, workers at this trade experience nervous breakdowns. In various ways the trade union is an aid to the suspender makers. In non-union shops the piece rates are frequently cut. Seventeen dollars a week for the heavy leather "rollers" appears to be considered by some employers too great a wage for a girl. For the non-union girl the rate is cut, or else the amount she may earn a day is limited to 22. It is impossible to practice this cutting in a union factory where the label of the American Federation of Labor is used. The union has done much good work in raising the wages and in improving the sanitary conditions where they had been below the standard.

NEEDS NO PROTECTION.

(Salem Capital Journal.)
Some of the ring-tailed, striped and streaked machine politicians are worried lest the Grange get into political disfavor. Many subordinate Granges are protesting against the proposed assembly of the Republican party to name the next State ticket. The State political machine which has its headquarters at Eugene "for revenue only" is alarmed for the Grange.

Some anonymous blatherskite, who cannot think of politics outside of the function of additional offices and taxes, warns the Grange not to meddle with politics. Let the ring-streaked and striped cattle that drink at Jacob's well of political inspiration in Portland borrow no trouble for the Grange. It can take care of itself, and needs no protector established to guide it in the perilous quicksand of Oregon politics.

It is today the greatest power for good clean legislation and pure political methods there is in the State.

A LIVELY SUBURB.

Arlita is a part of Portland now, but it still keeps up the Mount Scott News, which is a local paper with some sensible inclinations. The News says that great developments are to be carried out all along the line, and this once country town is to be clothed with police, letter-carriers, fire company, sidewalks, new streetcar lines and all sorts of up-to-date news. All this means greater property values and more boosting of prices for lots in a section that if in some parts of Oregon would be a big city by itself.

It is said that in Catlow valley, Lake county, there are still some fine sagebrush homesteads to be taken up. The "dry farming" farmers say this is about the last of it in that section of the state. Soon there will not be a quarter section capable of keeping a goat left in all Oregon.

THE LAND FAMINE.

All over Oregon land values have increased with great rapidity in the last year. The wave of land-seekers has absorbed practically all the free land in the United States. It is turning back on itself like a rising tide and all up and down the Pacific slope the values of lands are rising. There is an artificial land famine impending. The developments of communities are making real values, and the monopoly of land is making speculative values.

The labor movement was not formed merely for the purpose of getting more wages and shorter hours. The purpose of the labor movement is to secure a better standard of living and to make the lives of men, women and children happier and brighter.—John Mitchell.

OUR ANNUAL Suit and Overcoat Sale

is doing much to keep things humming at The Lion during the usually quiet January. The public is beginning to find out that "WE ADVERTISE FACTS ONLY," and know that when we say \$30 Suits for \$21.85, they are sure to find the Suits and not excuses when they come here.

THESE PRICES PREVAIL DURING JANUARY

\$35.00 and \$40.00 Suits, reduced to	\$26.85
\$30.00 Suits, reduced to	\$21.85
\$25.00 Suits and Overcoats, reduced to	\$18.65
\$20.00 Suits and Overcoats, reduced to	\$14.85
\$15.00 Suits and Overcoats, reduced to	\$11.85

This means Union-Label Suits and Overcoats.

CONVENTION SPECIAL

Home of the Union Label

CONVENTION SPECIAL

Just to let the out-of-town delegates to the Convention know what good Neckwear can be had in Portland with the label, we will sell this week all of our \$1.50 Union-Label Ties at **85¢**

Not enough union men seen to know about our Union-Made Dress Gloves. Just to boost 'em along we will sell all this week our regular lines all new \$2.00 Union-Label Gloves at **\$1.50**

166 - 168 - 170 Third Street

NEUSTADTER BROS.

MANUFACTURERS OF

Standard SHIRTS

BOSS OF THE ROAD OVERALLS

FACTORY:

GRAND AVENUE AND EAST TAYLOR

PORTLAND, OREGON