

"CHARITY" TO LAND OWNERS

Legislative Committee of Central Labor Council Thus Characterizes Simon's Water Main Amendment

At the Central Labor Council last Friday evening great attention was given to the report of the legislative committee on the water main graft. It was read by Alfred D. Cridge of the Labor Press, who had been devoting considerable time to looking the matter up and examining the reports of those who had been assisting the committee in securing the records.

The report was in part as follows:

"Your legislative committee, having investigated the proposed amendment to the city charter to be voted upon by the people on February 15, 1916, finding that it is simply a proposal to revert to the old system of constructing water mains at the cost of the consumers, instead of the property to be benefited.

"Men who will pay this increased and unnecessary cost for water are for the most part men of small means.

"The amount of surplus on hand with the water board, waiting to be paid out to land speculators if this amendment passes, your committee was unable to ascertain, but it is probably in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million, and may be considerably more.

"It appears that the water board in 1908 spent \$225,000 in furnishing water to the people, and received over \$600,000. Much of the expense incurred was simply extravagance.

"The Prescott street main was constructed in 1904-5. It cost \$240,000, and made sudden values to over 15,000 lots of over \$150 each, or \$2,250,000, nearly 1200 lots of which were largely owned in the Vernon tract by the present mayor. His profits alone were over half the cost of the main. He never had to pay a cent for a public improvement that made his lots sell for from \$250 to \$400 where before they would hardly sell at all for \$25.

"A total sum of nearly \$2,700,000 was expended in all for such larger and smaller 'charities' to property owners and land speculators since 1887. Such expenditures did not increase the cost of constructing houses, but tended to slightly decrease such cost, so that a house was worth no more because of the extension of a water main. The lot, however, on which the house stood became more desirable and therefore more valuable, and so did every other lot affected by the main, whether built upon or not. This is the case with all public improvements and services of whatever kind or nature, and when the deductions from a realization of this fact sink into the minds of more fully there will be great economic changes in Oregon.

"Retrospective payments will be liberally allowed under the amendment. Laurelhurst alone, with 4700 lots, will take \$50,000 and more. The water board has always been liberal. This tract has always dodged its just share of taxation, and it has lain idle for years to now have its water mains given to it by the workers and producers of the city. There are many others. Not less than 25,000 building lots will press upon the board for mains, new or old, to be paid for out of the consumers' pockets.

"Your committee finds that the records show clearly vast interests in vacant property owned by members of the city government. Corporate interests extend into vast vistas of graft in connection with this free water main amendment. The records show why this amendment is pushed on the people at this time. Among the beneficiaries are the following:

Mayor Simon, interest in . . . 3,385
Seven members city council, 2,905
Eight members executive board . . . 1,144
Three members water board . . . 523
Total . . . 7,960
Property owned by the Ladd interests, represented on executive board by Theodore B. Wilcox . . . 10,194
This is some of the property which will benefit if the proposed amendment is passed.

"Mayor Simon has interest in Vernon Addition, Hyde Park, Rose City Park, Sherlock Addition, Caruthers Addition, Couch Addition, Holladay Addition, Irving's Addition, Sullivan's Addition. He has 80 acres of land just outside the city limits, and owns a one-fourth interest in 100 acres near Fremont street.

households goes to \$2.50 a month, at which price it once was since the city owned its system.

"With consummate cunning the promoters of this graft rely on the small owners in the outskirts to vote for it. The small speculators will help some. Mains cost about \$40 per lot, as low as \$25 a lot if the large mains are not charged up against the property benefited. To get 4000 votes will cost \$160,000 at the utmost. The water consumers will pay this: at first, and by reason of unjust charges and increased charges, every cent will be paid back by the small property owner voting a burden on the backs of the water consumer in hopes of getting something for nothing himself. The large property owners will make millions.

"Out of the water consumers have come two million seven hundred thousand dollars for free water mains, mostly helping out big speculators. There is from a quarter to half a million in addition now held awaiting action of the people in hopes of turning it in to help build the seventy miles of mains already demanded and which will cost over seven millions of dollars. This will necessitate higher rates. Many thousands of the 170,000 building lots are held for speculation by non-residents. Why should they not pay for water mains as they now pay for sewer mains, sidewalks and pavements?

"The limping excuse is made that contractors will not bid on district water mains. The remedy is for the city to directly pay them, if that is the case. The city has ample power to do so.

"Your committee recommends that the proposed water graft be voted down; that at the next election the people be given an initiative amendment which shall compel water to be furnished at cost or at a reasonable figure. The cost is now from three to eight times too high. It should be furnished for five cents a thousand gallons, and at a flat rate of \$3 a year, collected by the year. Mains should be paid for by the property benefited, large mains from the general fund, and interest and sinking funds from the property of the whole city. The value of every inch of the city is increased by the presence of abundant and pure water. The big estates and properties should pay their share.

"Your committee recommends that the Central Labor Council declare that it will submit a just system for paying for water at the earliest opportunity by means of the initiative.

"Your committee further recommends that legal proceedings be instituted by the city auditor to put an opposition argument in pamphlet form before the people."

The report of the committee was adopted by a unanimous vote.

MCCARTHY

NO CONTROL OF CITY AFFAIRS IN SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, Jan. 8.—Patrick H. McCarthy, the union labor leader, became mayor of San Francisco at noon today, succeeding Mayor Edward Ross Taylor. The retiring board of supervisors met and welcomed the newly elected members, who thereupon took charge of the city's affairs.

William P. Haggerty, chairman of the last union labor party convention, was elected clerk of the board. The committee chairmanships were announced, showing that in each instance a union labor man had been chosen.

With the board of supervisors organized in this manner the new union labor administration has complete control over the city government, representatives of all other parties being in the minority.

Mayor McCarthy in his first message to the supervisors outlined his policies and laid down a vigorous program of action under which the administration will assume the burdens of a number of great municipal problems which it must solve.

The appointments announced by Mayor McCarthy were as follows: Michael Casey, commissioner of public works; Richard I. Whelan, board of education; Harry P. Flannery, police commissioner; Frank J. Kilham, board of health; John P. Hare, election commissioner; Frank C. McDonald, civil service commissioner; E. C. Leffingwell, secretary to the mayor; Edward T. Crosby, mayor's messenger.

The chairmen of the committees of the board of supervisors are: John A. Kelly, finance; Wm. C. Pugh, public utilities; Charles A. Nelson, public buildings; Thomas D. O'Dowd, police licenses; John C. Walsh, lights; Cornelius Deasy, electricity.

Wm. P. Haggerty, chairman of the labor union party convention, was elected clerk of the board of supervisors.

condition became intolerable they selected a comrade to go to the employer to beg for better conditions. The embryo trade union leader told the employer about the misery of the men, and that poverty would drive them to revolt. He threatened the employer that the men might unite; might even strike. But they did not unite; and they did not strike. And the employers grew more arrogant and oppressive. At last in desperation the workmen did unite and did strike. Not until then did the employer begin to make terms. It is a matter of history what untold value the industrial strike has been to the workers. The employers today control the government. A few labor leaders go to them and tell them the misery of the people; and tell them that the workers might unite politically and strike at the ballot box. But the workers do not unite, and do not strike. The employers, the courts, the legislators, grow more arrogant and oppressive. The trade unionist who knows history will tell you that begging never won anything for labor. It failed on the industrial field. It will fail on the political field. Labor begins even now to realize it."

ANOTHER

UNKNOWN KILLED THROUGH FAULTY SCAFFOLDING

Another member of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union came to his death on the third inst. as the result of the faulty manner in which scaffolding was constructed.

Bro. Herman Wilhelm, aged 32 years, was plunged to the pavement from a building at Twentieth and Washington streets, caused by the breaking of the arm of the scaffold.

The arm, under which there was no brace, snapped under the weight of Mr. Wilhelm. It had a large cross-grained knot in it. After the accident Bro. Wilhelm was taken to St. Vincent's hospital and there given every attention by the Sheet Metal Workers' Union up to the time of his death on Thursday of last week.

The scaffolding was constructed by the non-union carpenters in the employ of W. L. Morgan.

French bakers have a strong fight on for no Sunday work.

The Cherry mine disaster investigation is being officially smothered.

The Knights of Labor are working for compulsory arbitration of labor disputes.

In California organizers of the A. F. of L. are working to unite the farm and common laborers.

Co-operation among Danish farmers has stopped emigration and greatly increased profits. They are nearly all strongly in favor of the single tax.

The ice trust pirates have been convicted in New York, but the higher courts will be relied upon to take care of them.

It is said that in Alabama there are 60,000 slaves kept by a few thousand whites in three counties and but few have ever left the plantations on which they were born. They are sold, bartered, whipped, and if they run away are killed if caught.

In Illinois children are forced to stand up at machines in manufacturing establishments from 7 a. m. to 10 p. m. The laws regulating child labor are flagrantly violated and the inspectors do nothing. Young girls are being kept on their feet for 16 hours a day in some places.

Two winters ago the Neal bank in Atlanta, Ga., was closed. Depositors have been paid 55 per cent. They may get some more next year. Two weeks ago a bank was closed in an Oklahoma town. Depositors got 100 per cent the next day. The people of Oregon have had some experiences, too. Which will they vote for, guarantee or gamble?

The railroad trust managers have known for a long time that the way to keep labor from receiving a square deal was to keep the men divided, and when possible to get different unions to fighting and scabbing on one another. When the railroad workers have as thorough understanding of the way they are beaten as have their masters, why, then there will be things happen.

The Photo Engravers' Union made the following report for the A. F. of L. for the year: Charters issued, 4; gain in membership, 231; number of strikes, 1; won 1; number of persons involved, 82; cost of strikes, \$4410.50; advantages gained without strike, 21 local agreements signed; no reduction in wages in the past year; death benefits, \$1275. As a result of organization the eight-hour day has been established with increase in wages, working agreements in every city, and better sanitary conditions in workshops.

TEAMDRIVERS ELECT.

The following officers were elected on January 4, by Teamdrivers' Union No. 162, for the ensuing term: President, S. T. Chapin; vice president, David Duncan; secretary-treasurer, John E. Steuer; recording secretary, G. E. Schoenholz; trustees, J. S. Omeara, Frank Gray, E. B. Crofoot; delegates to Oregon Federation of Labor, G. A. Rogers, J. S. Omeara, E. B. Crofoot, John E. Steuer.

NEW FACES IN COUNCIL

FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR SEES MANY CHANGES IN LINE-UP OF MEMBERSHIP

At the Central Labor Council last Friday a number of new members were sworn in. When the report of the committee on the water main graft was read, a scene in a camp of the Woodmen of the World. The following were in line before the uplifted hand of President Madsen:

Salvors, Ed Rosenberg and F. Knoff; Cooks, Jamison and James; Brewery Workers, Maundy; Tailors, Swanson and Twade; Painters, Robinson and McGillan; Meatcutters, O. Klum and George Molar; Sprinkler Fitters, Sam Graham; Grainhandlers, Steeny and L. S. Robinson; Carpenters 808, Parkison and Rennie; Beer Drivers, O. D. Forte and Dick.

The consideration of the water main graft was the main event of the evening. The report of the legislative committee was read by Brother A. D. Cridge, a member of the Typographical Union, and it passed by unanimous vote. It was the blow to the graft "that killed father," as after events proved, and the Central Labor Council is to be commended for taking the matter up so thoroughly and investigating it from "the grass roots to hardpan," for it was a rich mine of graft that was uncovered.

The Painters reported conditions and prospects excellent. The Braas Workers reported doing well. The Garment Workers were taking up the appeal of the St. Louis Garment Workers and intended trying to affect the local orders for the unfair firms of that city.

A communication from the Pasadena Central Labor Council relative to conservation of natural resources was referred to the legislative committee.

A very interesting letter from the Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. was sent to the label committee. This appears elsewhere in the Labor Press.

Report from the Meatcutters was that many new shops were coming under the folds of the label, but that one firm was bitterly opposed to the union and discharged any man seen talking with a union organizer or leader.

At the last meeting of the Central Labor Council Brother Will Daily reported for the Printers that the newspapers were making a good deal out of the demand of the job printers and the bindery women for better pay, but that nobody appeared to be scared, but some of the employers as to the outcome.

A delinquent union was considered, and a committee appointed to visit it and see if any matter that might be misunderstood.

A request from the Woodmen of the World for a few minutes' time to explain the objects of the order was placed on file. This organization has been to some loss and sacrifice to maintain the union label on its official organ, the Pacific Woodmen, and in spite of some open shop efforts has nailed it in its columns for three years.

TRUSTEES

TO PRESERVE RESOURCES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

At the Forum last Sunday J. N. Teal spoke very sincerely and interestingly on "Conservation of Natural Resources." The gentleman very forcibly presented the idea that we were but trustees for future generations and have no right to wantonly waste nor to hand over to corporations and monopolies and allow them to oppress posterity as the holders of the natural opportunities of Great Britain have the British people for centuries. He praised that newer form of patriotism evidenced by Pinchot, the dismissed chief forester of this nation, "the service of the people," and Teal impressed his hearers with the necessity of our doing all we can to save our forests, lands and streams from destruction or from monopoly.

When it comes to a remedy Teal is hazy. His protests will be of no avail, even if united with that of the voice of the people of all Oregon in a mighty protest to congress and the president of the United States.

The Washington officials are determined to make every one of the new patriots of the Pinchot stripe "walk the plank," and the natural resources, under pretense of conservation, are going to be handed over to the Guggenheims, Weyerhaeusers, Hills and others to conserve for the benefit of a few. Mr. Teal himself is inclined to support the scheme of exempting timber lands from taxation in order to conserve them. A better plan to suit the timber trust and land speculators could not be devised.

TUBERCULOSIS

SURVEY OF YEAR'S WORK GIVES INTERESTING DATA.

Based on reports gathered from all parts of the United States the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis issues a bulletin today in which it is stated that \$8,180,621.50 was expended during the year just closed by the various interests in fighting consumption in the United States. The bulletin, which is preliminary to a longer report, shows that in the year 1909 over 10,000,000 pieces of literature were distributed, and that 117,312 patients were treated and assisted by the sanatoria, dispensaries and

the anti-tuberculosis associations. By far the largest amount of money spent during the past year was for the treatment of tuberculosis patients in sanatoria and hospitals, \$5,292,289.77 being expended in this way. The anti-tuberculosis associations spent \$975,889.56, the tuberculosis dispensaries and clinics \$640,474.64, and the various municipalities, for special tuberculosis work spent \$1,111,967.53. The anti-tuberculosis associations distributed the most literature, spreading far and wide 8,400,000 copies of circulars, pamphlets, and other printed matter for the purpose of educating the public about consumption. The health departments of the different cities also distributed more than 1,056,000 copies, which, with the work done by state departments of health, brings the number of pieces distributed during the year well over 10,000,000. The largest number of patients treated during the year was by the dispensaries, where 61,588 patients were given free treatment and advice. The sanatoria and hospitals treated 38,758 patients, while anti-tuberculosis associations assisted 16,968.

New York state leads in the anti-tuberculosis work done during the past year, having spent more money, distributed more literature and treated more patients than any other state. Pennsylvania comes next and Massachusetts is third. The next seven states are Illinois, Maryland, New Jersey, California, Colorado, Connecticut and Ohio. The following table shows the work done in these 10 states:

State	Expenditures	Literature, pieces
New York	\$1,669,179.76	4,997,600
Pennsylvania	1,515,664.02	351,300
Massachusetts	1,069,123.53	217,505
Illinois	202,820.53	254,500
Maryland	195,691.07	29,500
Ohio	245,502.17	127,000
New Jersey	211,660.42	287,500
Colorado	566,205.17	37,000
California	264,707.14	107,075
Connecticut	220,190.98	13,500

Patients treated—New York, 41,779; Pennsylvania, 24,410; Massachusetts, 10,645; Illinois, 4826; Maryland, 5829; Ohio, 3197; New Jersey, 2159; Colorado, 3229; California, 1500; Connecticut, 1141.

Although the survey of the past year's work shows that much has been done, the reports from all parts of the country indicate that next year the amount of money to be expended and the actual number of patients that will be treated will be more than double that of the past year. For instance, special appropriations have been made in the various municipalities for next year's anti-tuberculosis work, aggregating \$3,976,500. In addition to these appropriations over \$4,000,000 has been set aside by the different state legislatures for the campaign against tuberculosis next year. Besides these sums, a large number of the present existing hospitals and dispensaries are planning enlargements of their work, and new organizations are being formed daily.

Never bite off more than you can chew—you may get acute indigestion.

The future would be all bright if it were not for the shadows of the past.

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BINDERY GIRLS WIN FIGHT

REACH A COMPROMISE WITH EMPLOYERS, SECURING MATERIAL RAISE OF WAGES

The daily papers of Portland have made a good deal of fuss over the demand of the Bindery Workers for better pay, and also the new scale of the job printers, which will go into effect on February 20. There is really no need for the notoriety given the matter. The bosses at first haughtily refused to meet the bindery workers, but after a week all of them came to their senses but one firm, and that will gradually come around all right.

The loss of business and annoyance of having to call on their wives, daughters and sisters to help out with rush jobs would have been avoided had their backs not been too stiff to unbend to a working woman. The result was in the end that the scale was advanced all around.

The scare heads that job printing houses are hurt by the strike is simply nonsense. There is no strike of the printers nor pressmen yet, and not likely to be. If in the course of time some of the houses conclude to boycott union labor they will find plenty of good union houses doing the business that by such action the anti-union houses will kick from their doors.

The press feeders had a demand in for an increase, but the pressmen did not endorse it, and until this matter is adjusted between these two classes of skilled labor the employers do not need to borrow any trouble.

Nobody wants any strikes in Portland. Organized labor does not. The employers who have any sense left after reading some open shop screed do not. A strike injures the entire community more or less, and the employer or employee who starts lockout or strike is hunting for trouble. If the bosses in any line of industry will unbend sufficiently to talk things over in a friendly spirit, and if the employers of labor will "put themselves in his place" when considering increased scales, there will be no strike and no lockouts and no "open shops" in Portland.

There are some paid agents of the Citizens' Alliance in Portland who may want a strike, but they are not here long enough to be citizens yet, and they will probably not remain long enough to qualify. They would like to see some big mercantile firm ruined, some hundreds of workmen idle and some thousands of dollars kept out of circulation in order to justify their presence among us.

When the time comes for Los Angeles, or some other scab town, and enjoy life a while.

The future would be all bright if it were not for the shadows of the past.

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