

EMPLOYERS MAKE REPLY

Unionizing Industries and Eight-Hour Day Held to Retard Progress

The Employers' Association of Oregon, on April 17, issued a rejoinder in the discussion between the association and the Portland Central Labor Council...

EMPLOYERS STATE POSITION.

The Employers' Association of Oregon recently made public a statement defining its position in regard to the increasing demands of the labor unions...

"First, be it stated that there is no more potent factor for industrial peace than the strongly organized labor union. Where the unions are strong, their very strength makes them conservative in their demands...

Our answer to this argument is a comparison with the real facts as developed by actual happenings in San Francisco and Chicago, which are the greatest strongholds of union labor...

In Chicago the big manufacturers have one by one been driven out of the city, and their plants are now located in various adjacent communities...

It is pertinent to recall the remark of Abe Ruef at the time of his trial, and that of Mayor Schmitz during his defense, in referring to the contributory causes of their downfall...

INCREASED WAGE CLAIM.

Again referring to the Labor Council's statement, it reads as follows: 'The Employers' Association claims increased wages would stop the progress of Portland. Now the wages demanded by the Portland workers are only the wages and hours given by the employers of San Francisco, Tacoma, Seattle and Spokane...

Our comment on this statement is, that it is inherently false, for the reason that the Employers' Association had never made the claim that increased wages would stop the progress of Portland...

The whole work of the Employers' Association is the maintenance of open-shop conditions which enable the high-class mechanics to receive their just reward and rise above the dead-level of lazy, inefficient workmen...

COMPARISON MADE WITH OTHER CITIES.

We again turn to the arguments of the labor union leaders and note the following: 'The vapid argument that the increased wages will hurt the growth of Portland is absurd, because other Western cities are paying such increased wages, and are progressing at about the same rate as Portland...

The only comment on this statement by the Employers' Association is inference to last Sunday's Oregonian, where there was a compilation taken from the American Contractor, showing the building operations throughout the country...

These comparisons, which are in no way fanciful, but drawn directly from the statements voluntarily made by the executive council of the Federated Trades, make it apparent that their arguments for the advantages of the closed-shop conditions are totally deficient in both truth and logic...

At this critical stage of our industrial growth, we can hardly afford to cast aside the fundamental principles which have given the City of Portland its present position, and apply theories of industrial management which have resulted so disastrously for those who have tried them.

A LABOR PARTY

United States Has One in Active and Successful Operation

(By Robert Hunter, in New York Call.) In reading a trade union journal the other day, I learned that there is a labor party in the United States, and a very successful one.

And I saw printed in that journal an appeal to the union men of America for money to help the political work of this labor party.

The appeal was made by unionists to unionists, and signed by a state secretary of the Federation of Labor and the state organizer of the Federation of Labor.

The officials of the bakers, the machinists, the brewery workers, the metal workers also signed this appeal, asking for support of THEIR labor party.

This appeal of trade unionists to trade unionists said that this labor party had increased its vote in the following manner:

In 1888 it had 2,400 votes; in 1900, 5,000; in 1902, 8,000; in 1904, 15,000; in 1906, 16,000, and in 1908, 21,000 votes.

The appeal stated that this labor party had 10 members of the city council out of 35; 6 members of the county board out of 16; 1 state senator out of 33; 3 members of the state assembly out of 100, and 4 members of the school board out of 15.

The appeal also stated that this party had fought loyally for every measure advocated by the State Federation of Labor.

I rubbed my eyes. What, said I, a labor party, a successful labor party, a powerful labor party, in this benighted and barbarous country of America? Nonsense—it is impossible!

But I read on, until I learned that in one place in America the working class had begun to take intelligent political action, and along with its unions to strike, it had its unions to vote.

And the curious thing about this labor party is, that it doesn't elect a Democrat for one term and fire him out at the end of it to put a Republican in his place.

Here, at last, was a body of workmen that did not have to beg at the doors of the legislature. It was impudent enough to send its own men to the lawmaking body to advocate its measures and to fight in its interests.

And it was wise enough to adopt a form of working class politics that did not consist in obtaining soft political jobs for a few leaders.

And I rubbed my eyes again and said, what is this America, my old beloved, benighted, barbarous country?

And I found that this labor party has a complete thought-out program.

It actually has demands to make on the existing order for the purpose of improving the condition of the working class.

It has a municipal program, a state program, and a national program.

It has a program for its day's work, its week's work, its year's work, and its life work.

It has its own building, its own press, its own machine.

The more I read the more I rubbed my eyes and asked myself, is this America, my own beloved, benighted country?

And I asked myself, why does the Civic Federation allow the workers to have such a party? Why doesn't Hearst go into that state and run a party of his own?

And then I learned the most terrible thing of all—that Socialists and trade unionists are working hand in hand, and this made me wonder more than ever why Mr. Belmont allows this thing to go on.

And this labor party, made up of unionists and Socialists, is at this moment straining every muscle to win the government of a great city.

It is at this moment in the midst of an intense campaign, fighting both Republicans and Democrats, with the intention of taking a city into its own hands.

Great meetings are now being held, literature is now being distributed at every door, agitation is at its height and THE WORKERS HOPE TO WIN.

And if any unionist who happens to see these lines wants to know more of this labor party that is bound to grow bigger and bigger until all the workers of America are part of it, let him write to the secretary of his union in Milwaukee and ask for more information.

And let him not be surprised if he learns that this labor party of Wisconsin is already powerful and destined in the not far distant future to rule that state in the interests of the workers.

The Key to Conservation

Conservation leaders like Roosevelt and Pinchot are pointing out that the monopoly of the water power of the country can be prevented and broken up where established to any degree by the simple process of taxing the used and unused power alike and placing a reasonable assessment and valuation on the property claimed. There are over one hundred horse powers idle to one horse power used. A very light tax on the used would be a crushing tax on the trust that would attempt to keep the ninety-nine idle, and thereby prevent competition. As Roosevelt points out, a tax of fifty cents per horse power a year would probably be sufficient, while at the same time being no burden on the capital engaged in utilization.

This solution of the water power trust is the solution of any monopoly of any gift of Nature to man. Some day we will realize this in Oregon.

One publicly-owned railroad down the Willamette Valley from Portland to Eugene would not have to pay interest nor dividends on watered securities. If leased to an operating company, it could be regulated as to fares and charges without appeals to U. S. courts, and it could be operated on legitimate returns to legitimate capital. No trustified, watered stock concern, trying to pay interest on a valuation of four times the actual worth, and taxes on half the real cost, could compete with a district road. That is why the Oregonian turns eleven shrieking fainting spells at the suggestion. It is the plunderbund organ.

The Port Commissioners of Tillamook have agreed to improve the channel from Tillamook bay. This will make the town more easily reached by vessels, and aid considerably in retaining the commercial supremacy of that point. It seems strange that men with large holdings of valuable town property, dependent for future increment in value upon the ship channels being improved and kept open, will oppose such work, but Tillamook is in part composed of some very near-sighted land speculators. There are the others who see that public improvements increase land values, and boost accordingly.

We wonder at the increase in the cost of living, and the "drift to the cities"; and we cry: "Back to the land!" Let the slum-dwellers who would work in the Master's vineyard go back to the land, if he will, and if he can; he will find ample room unoccupied, but owned, "held for a rise." He must make terms with monopoly; and between the landlordism of the slums and the landlordism of the fields he is between the Devil and the deep sea.—Joseph Fols.

It has long been written in the Book of Fate: That he who will not for his freedom fight, Shall for his master wait.

People who run around in a circle generally use all means to call attention to their progress.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" AT THE LYRIC THEATRE



ALICE CONDON, APPEARING AS TOSPY IN "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN" AT THE LYRIC NEXT WEEK

Commencing with Sunday's matinee, and running all the week, with the usual Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday matinees, the popular Athou Players will produce at the Lyric Theatre that favorite of all the favorite plays—"Uncle Tom's Cabin."

No doubt this play has been produced more than any other play ever written, by good, bad and indifferent companies; but as played by the popular players of the Lyric Theatre it will please the most skeptical. The scenery will be made a special feature, all being especially constructed for this magnificent production. This play should be witnessed by all, both young and old, as the lesson it teaches is one that is never forgotten and one that is or was true to life.

Following "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Kate Claxton's great play, "The Two Orphans," will be the attraction, after which comes the greatest sensation that has been seen at any theatre in this city. Opening on Monday, May 9, "Conversing" pictures with vaudeville will be the attraction and lasting through the summer. This will be the first time that these pictures have been shown in the west. Not only the pictures and vaudeville will be given, but the members of the present company will be retained and they will present a funny farce for the closing.

Canada is not all peaches and cream. Its western provinces are cinched by the railroad combine almost as bad as in Eastern Oregon. It conserves its timber and coal, however, without selling the land or allowing it to be "guggenholmed." Timber is cut and coal mined by men who do not own the land and never will, and the timber is growing again for future generations.

Did you get in without your wife hearing you last night? No; and I didn't get in without hearing her, either.

Make as many of life's events happy as you can—we have no control over the sorry ones.

SEE THAT THIS BLUE LABEL IS ON THE BOX WHEN YOU BUY A CIGAR

Advertisement for Union-made Cigars. It features a graphic of a blue label with the text 'Union-made Cigars' and 'LOCAL STAMP'. Below the graphic, it says: 'Mr. Union Man, insist on the Blue Label. By so doing you employ a Union Cigarmaker. If you accept a cigar from a box that does not bear the Union Label, you employ a non-union cigarmaker, and in most cases a strikebreaker.'

Smoke LA GRAN MARCA THE SCHILLER SCHILLER UNION 5¢

Retail Stores: Sixth and Wash. and Fourth and Wash. Phones: Main 1381, A 1405

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Blue label cigars can be found everywhere, and may be had for the asking. Likewise, however, cigars may still be found without this label. It ought to be the privilege of every smoker to assist in changing this condition of affairs until the blue label—the mark of quality—shall adorn every box.

Advertisement for Union House. It features a graphic of a house with the text 'UNION HOUSE' and 'HELP THOSE WHO HELP YOU'. Below the graphic, it says: 'Please patronize the restaurants named below only. You can tell them by the blue house card. See that the waiter wears THIS BUTTON.'

Albion Ferry Hotel, 94 Albion Ave. American Restaurant, 33 and 35 N. 24. Acme Cafe, 122 3d. Estela Cafe, Baltimore Restaurant, 303 Hawthorne. Billy Sunday Restaurant, 98 1/2 6th. E. & B. Oyster & Chop House, 51 N. 6th. Bismarck Restaurant, 200 Morrison. Dewey's Grill, Third and Jefferson. East Portland Restaurant, 410 East Morrison. Eastern Grill Restaurant, 125 N. 6th. Germania, 154 Fourth, corner Taylor. Grand Restaurant, 152 Grand. G. C. to Restaurant, 271 Yamhill bet. 3 and 4. Margaret Restaurant, 140 6th. Meyers Restaurant, 11th and Hoyt. New Grand Central, 94 North Third. North Portland Restaurant, 91 N. 6th. Pad's restaurant, 187 Morrison street.

Portland Bartenders Union

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This Label stands for Sanitary Conditions, Union Wages and Reasonable Hours

FOLLOWING BAKERIES USE THE UNION LABEL

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CHOICE MEATS, BUTTER, EGGS, FRESH AND SALT MEATS OF ALL KINDS, SAUSAGES, LARD, ETC.

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FRESH AND SALT MEATS OF ALL KINDS, SAUSAGES, LARD, ETC.

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Local No. 217

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