

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

Volume XI. Number 40

Portland, Oregon, December 21, 1911

Whole Number 620

ARRANGEMENTS COMPLETE FOR COMING CONVENTION

During the month the various unions and local bodies have elected delegates to represent them at the coming convention of the Oregon State Federation of Labor. The convention this year is to be held at The Dalles, and the opening session will be held on the 15th day of January.

The convention this year will be of utmost importance to the wage-earners of this state. Bitter attacks are being made on the initiative and referendum laws, and also attempts are being made to frustrate the effectiveness of the Employers' Liability Law. These two matters alone being considered at the convention, makes it worth while that every organization be affiliated.

Recent events of national importance which have affected the trades union movement, makes it imperative that organized labor stand shoulder to shoulder as a united body. The State Federation, comprising as it does all the organizations of the state, should receive earnest support, as it is the legislative branch of organized labor, and we are learning more and more that through proper legislation we can best remedy the ills that confront us.

The local committee on arrangements, headed by J. R. Foresman, has been busy planning the convention details. The committee reports that the halls of the Knights of Pythias have been engaged for holding the sessions of the convention.

The hotel rates are as follows: The Dalles Hotel, \$1.50 per day, two persons to room allowed. Hotel Albert, \$1 to \$1.50 per day, two persons allowed.

Other hotels and rooming houses, 50c to \$1 per day, two persons allowed. The Dalles Hotel will be made the headquarters for the convention. Any delegates desiring to have rooms reserved will write to John R. Foresman, 809 Union street, The Dalles, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements of The Dalles Central Labor Council.

Regarding railroad fares, the O.-W. R. & N. allow, on the certificate plan of fifty persons or over attending the convention, one and one-third fare from Portland. Delegates will buy a one-way ticket from Portland to The Dalles, demanding a certificate for the one-third return rate. As the railroad rate from Astoria to Portland is but 2c a mile, it is impossible to procure any reduction of rates on this line. The secretary has taken up the matter regarding fares on the Southern Pacific, and delegates will be notified later if reduced fares can be secured.

All organizations eligible to membership are urged to affiliate with the State Federation. The initiation fee is \$5 and the dues 1 1/2 cents per member per month. Any organization desiring to join the Federation can forward the initiation fee and one month dues to the secretary, William Noffke, Labor Temple, Portland, Oregon.

ELECTRICIANS BUSY PLANNING.

Annual Entertainment Occupies Time of Committee on Arrangements.

The committee appointed to arrange for the second annual ball of Electrical Workers No. 317 is hard at work. Each member of the committee assures THE LABOR PRESS that, although the ball last year was the social event of the season, the coming entertainment will surpass in every detail.

Last year there were 800 couples dancing and many were turned away. The illumination was brilliant and indicated what could be done by electricians along this line.

The ball will be held at the Armory, Monday evening, January 14. Burchard's orchestra will furnish the music.

PAINTERS DISCOVER ORATOR.

The recent smoker of the Painters' Union was largely attended and the program of music, speaking and story-telling was enjoyed. The big feature about the smoker was the drawing for \$30 worth of merchandise. The thirteenth number out of the box won the prize, and was held by Ira D. Smith, who also won the gold watch raffled by the Central Labor Council last spring.

On receiving the order, Bro. Smith gave an exhibition of flowery oratory which lasted for about 2 1/4 seconds, and gave expression to a vocabulary which still has the boys guessing and looking up Webster's.

The smoker was given on the occasion of the twelfth anniversary of the existence of Local No. 10, Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America.

MEATCUTTERS' UNION NEWS.

The usual well-attended meeting took place last Wednesday and several candidates were obligated. Local conditions are quiet, considering the season of the year, though the future seems prosperous.

The success of the local is in a great measure due to the support of union men and women patronizing only shops displaying the shop card.

The meat boys earnestly request a continuance of same, thus insuring them in the near future shorter hours and conditions, which they richly deserve. Look for the shop card always and always.

CO-OPERATION SUCCEEDING.

Shop Owned by Local Plumbers Makes Splendid Half-Yearly Showing.

On May 1, the date set by Plumbers' Local No. 51 for an increase of wages, the fair employers stated they could not afford nor the business warrant the increase demanded. The union thought otherwise, and instead of standing around the corner watching the other fellow doing their work, they appointed a committee of 15 to look over the ground and report on the possibilities of co-operation.

The committee found a shop with quite a stock of supplies that was in the hands of the court.

A co-operative organization, called the Northwest Plumbing & Heating Company, was formed and this plumbing shop taken over, all the members of the union having the opportunity of becoming master plumbers. From that time on there has been a working force of from 18 to 40 men.

That the volume of business transacted by the company has had its effect, is evident when one reads the figures. Since May 22 work has been contracted for to the amount of \$38,937.58. Of this sum \$9,504 has been paid in wages. Plumbing material amounted to \$27,228.84. Cartage cost \$742.75, and the office and other expenses amounted to \$1,648.

These results were accomplished on a total investment of \$5,797.17. The institution has merchandise on hand worth \$3,467, and the accounts receivable also aggregate a considerable sum.

Like all other co-operative movements, much has depended on the management. Its affairs have been in charge of Phil Pollock, the manager, and success has come largely through the manner in which he has handled the business.

DONOVAN VISITS PORTLAND.

Boot and Shoe Workers' Representative Here in Behalf of Organization.

No class of organized workers deserve more credit than the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. It has struggled with surprisingly discouraging conditions and won out. One of its general representatives is the genial and experienced J. E. Donovan. He is now in this city looking into conditions and endeavoring to secure a greater demand for the union label on shoes.

The label is a sure sign of excellent workmanship and quality. It means that men and women are employed at better wages and under better conditions than prevail in the non-union trades. It means that no prison labor enters into the construction of your shoes.

Brother Donovan has come up from San Francisco, where hundreds of working women assemble in one hall and proudly wear a union shoe. The Woman's Union Label League there is doing good work in all lines, but in no one line has greater progress been made than in creating a demand for the union label shoe among those who live from union wages.

One of the best assurances that the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union is on the right side is that it helps boost for other labels, and demands union labor in every possible way. In Boston it owns a large printing plant, publishes one of the best labor monthlies in the country, and only card men need apply for any position in connection with the enterprise.

BUILDING TRADES, ATTENTION.

Council Meets Thursday, December 28, to Avoid Holding Meetings on Holidays.

Because Christmas and New Year's Days come this season on the regular meeting nights of the Building Trades Council, it was decided Monday evening to dispense with these two meetings and hold one meeting on Thursday evening, December 28. Delegates to the Council are urged to remember this change.

New delegates accepted were: C. Johnson, J. Jukes and W. H. Harrington, of the Plasterers; R. Hollywood, of the Tile Layers; J. Sharpe and J. A. McLeod, of Machinists No. 63; J. Tucker and D. L. Hogan, of the Lathers.

The Lathers' Union is taking a referendum vote on the proposal to do away with piece work. If the result is favorable, it will mean the last union in the Building Trades Council working under the piece system will have discontinued the practice.

A letter from the Oakland (Cal.) Building Trades Council acknowledging receipt of boycott circulars and asked for further information.

PLUMBERS CHOOSE OFFICERS.

Plumbers' Union, No. 51, has elected the following officers: President—F. C. Holland. Vice-President—H. L. Moe. Recording Secretary—F. A. Goettling. Financial Secretary—O. Carlson. Treasurer—E. H. Sutton. Sentry—Tom Fellows. Chairman Executive Board—D. H. MacFarlane. Business Agent—G. W. McConnell.

"THERE IS A BOYCOTT" NAILED TO THE MAST

The T. B. Wilcox and the Woodard, Clarke & Co. boycotts are just getting a good headway.

All in the know realize that T. B. Wilcox as the result of this boycott is politically dead. He had ambitions to become U. S. Senator from Oregon. But either his greed or folly in having the Stone & Websters, i. e., the Steel Trust, erect his new skyscraper at Sixth and Washington, has lost him the votes of union men. Also the votes of men who believe that our great captains of industry surely call secure, responsible union contractors to do their building. Not pick out a member of the notoriously unfair Erectors' Association, which now through forty affiliated firms is fighting union labor throughout the length and breadth of our country.

These kings of industry are just like the kings of old. The more the people submit, the more autocratic become these kings. We all know that King Baer of anthracite coal strike fame solemnly declare that Divine Providence had placed him and his fellow-directors in charge of the mines. That they were only accountable to God. However, the successful strike of the miners and a subsequent conference at Washington, D. C., exploded that sacreligious and inhuman plea.

Also there was a king in France who said that he was the state; that he was supreme. He was Louis the Fourteenth—Louis the Great. But not so long after there met a parliament in France. That parliament refused to vote supplies to the crown. And the king and his whole establishment went the way of useless things. And went this way because he was short-sighted and refused reasonable reforms.

Just so it is with men of the Wilcox type. Instead of giving the work on his new skyscraper to union contractors the worst enemy of union labor was preferred. The union labor withheld its labor supply.

Now union labor is withholding its money supply through the boycott.

King Wilcox will be relegated into the has-been class, as were other foolish kings. Union men and friends of progress generally are determined to stay out of the Wilcox building and refrain from buying the products of the Portland Flouring Mills.

Another important thought in this connection: The Panama Canal will be finished in 1914. At present a European immigrant to reach the Pacific Slope pays a little sum of \$100 for fare, not counting his living expenses on the train. Therefore the bulk of these immigrants stay east of Chicago. With the completion of the canal this fare will not exceed \$50, with food furnished.

What will that mean? Yearly tens of thousands of European laborers and mechanics will pour into the Pacific Coast states. If the workers of the Pacific Coast states are thoroughly organized, these immigrants will be absorbed by the unions and become an important factor in the development of these states. If, however, the unions are weak and the Employers' Association powerful, these tens of thousands of incoming workers will become a curse to themselves and the workers now here settled. Wages will be lowered, hours increased, more millionaires be made.

Union workers who go into the Wilcox building or who buy flours marked "Portland Flouring Mills," prepare future misery for themselves, their children and the workers who come to our shores.

Woodard, Clarke & Co., with a retail store at Fourth and Washington, also wholesalers, are playing the Wilcox game. They are receiving the same treatment from union labor.

J. A. Dunn, who has served the Barbers' Union as a business agent and also as delegate to the Central Labor Council, has embarked in business. Brother Dunn opened up a barber shop at 354 Morrison street. He has a wide acquaintance and his friends wish him success.

REPEATS POSITION.

To those critics who have so avidly accepted this opportunity to rail against the officers of the trade union movement, we again say, as we said on May 10: "We are thankful to our critics for their good advice, but we believe we know our business, and we propose to conduct ourselves in accordance with the dictates of our best judgment. The trade unions of this country, not the present critics of the trade union movement, have built up that movement to the tremendous force that it is today. As representative of that movement, we believe we understand the desires of its members, and we will endeavor to make these aims, aspirations and desires effective through the channels that we select."—Extract from statement issued at conference of Executive Officers of the International Trade Unions with Headquarters in Indianapolis.

CARPENTERS NO. 808 ELECT.

Officers and Delegates to Local and State Organizations Are Chosen.

Carpenters' Union No. 808 has elected the following officers and delegates: President—B. W. Sleeman. Vice-President—Monte Coade. Financial Secretary and Treasurer—Jos. Howell.

Recording Secretary—George Campbell. Conductor—Sam Farquhar. Warden—D. Cummings.

Delegates to District Council of Carpenters—Jos. Howell, G. T. Hunt, Geo. Campbell and J. W. Shelley.

Delegates to Building Trades Council—B. W. Sleeman, T. J. Lemmon, Jos. Howell, G. T. Hunt and Geo. Campbell.

Delegates to Central Labor Council—G. T. Hunt, G. Schmidt, S. R. Rearick, O. E. Hibbs and Monte Coade.

Auditor—Maywood.

Trustee—S. P. Rearick.

Delegates to Oregon State Federation of Labor—O. E. Hibbs, Jos. Howell, J. F. Weatherly, G. T. Hunt and T. J. Lemmon.

Delegates to Northwest District Council—J. F. Weatherly, T. J. Lemmon and O. E. Hibbs.

MUSICIANS MEET JANUARY 2.

Call is Issued for Assessment No. 3 to Pay Death Benefit.

Death assessment No. 3 is hereby called to pay death benefit of late member Warren H. Camp, due and payable with next quarterly dues, January 1 to 3, inclusive.

Admitted on transfer card: J. Miller, Local No. 73.

Transfer card withdrawn: A. Bersee.

Resigned: J. W. Specht.

Transfer card issued: W. E. Barker.

Reinstated: John Seltenreich.

Suspended for non-payment of dues: G. Anderson, F. Anger, J. P. Caldwell, E. R. Brower, R. Doane, F. A. English, R. S. Thompson, M. J. Denny, P. F. Kissner, I. B. Duncan, C. M. Romig, C. H. Stevens, D. D. Stark.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, at 11 o'clock a. m.

FIRM FAVORS "OPEN SHOP."

Electrical Workers Send Circulars to Merchants Explaining Controversy with the C. J. English Company.

Electrical Workers No. 317 have been compelled to withdraw their members from employment with J. C. English Co., 128 Park street. This firm, which handles electrical fixtures, has endeavored to establish open shop conditions by employing boys to do a large part of its work, and other methods have been equally unsatisfactory.

As a result, the union has withdrawn its workmen and prepared a circular letter to business men with the purpose of presenting reasons for the rupture and requesting that the merchants and business men send their work to firms disposed to treat their workmen fairly and justly.

PAUL ATTENDS CONVENTION.

Portland Delegate Is Witness Before House Committee at Washington.

D. W. Paul, of Portland, who has been in attendance at the convention of the International Seamen's Union as one of the three delegates from the Sailors' Union of the Pacific, accompanied a delegation of sailors to Washington, D. C., after the close of the convention, where he appeared as a witness before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

The delegation urged the passage of the Wilson bill to improve the condition of men in seafaring trades. At the convention Brother Paul served as a member of one of the committees.

SHIP CARPENTERS INSTALL.

Ship Carpenters' Local No. 1 has installed the following officers:

President—A. Robertson.

Vice-President—John Holton.

Second Vice-President—John Dumbrosky.

Recording Secretary—Chas. Gregory.

Financial Secretary—E. G. McKay.

This means the old crew is sticking to the ship, blow high or blow low. The union is prosperous to the limit of Portland's open-shop policy.

LINEMEN, TAKE NOTICE.

The regular meeting of Linemen No. 125 next week will be held on Tuesday instead of Monday evening. Work is reported as being very good, the local having found it difficult lately to supply enough men for the work that has offered. If there are any members unemployed they are urged to report to the business agent's office.

GIVE BENEFIT BALL.

A benefit ball will be given by the Shop Federation at Christensen's Hall, Tuesday evening, January 7th. The proceeds will be used for the purpose of aiding members of the Federation now on strike. The money used in the purchase of a ticket or two is money well spent.

LOCAL FIXTUREMEN STRIKE AGAINST THE OPEN SHOP

Fixturemen engaged in the manufacture, assembling and hanging of electric and combination fixtures, employed by the J. C. English Co., 128 Park street, were called out of that shop Monday morning by Local Union 317 of the Electrical Workers, because of the havoc being wrought in that organization by the continued efforts on the part of this firm to enforce the open shop on the fixturemen; efforts, by the way, that have been more or less successful, for despite all measures used to convince this firm that "open shop" meant virtually non-union shop, with the attending wages and conditions, the proprietor of the concern has firmly and consistently refused to grant the union shop.

The Electrical Workers have never been deceived as to the final outcome should Mr. English remain obdurate, but have hoped against hope to avert a clash by finally convincing the firm that a good, clean union shop was the best for all concerned.

Matters reached a climax this past week when the representative of the Electrical Workers paid a visit to the shop and found the benches manned with boys and apprentices. Realizing that further parley would be ruinous, he immediately took note of the conditions and received from his executive board instructions to unionize the shop or call the union men out.

After two meetings with the employees and a conference with the firm, the former was found to be impossible. Promises were made to adjust the ratio of apprentices, but to unionize the shop was another matter. All non-union employees were given a chance to join hands with the Electrical Workers, but some could not see the light and were blind to their best interests and stood in the way of adjustment. It was a clean issue and a strike was called.

The Electrical Workers are proud to say that those who had kept their cards paid up during the efforts to unionize this shop responded promptly to the call. Two ex-members who had let their cards go in arrears because they found, upon investigation, that it was unnecessary to carry them to work in this shop, remained at work. J. S. McLean, of Thirteenth street, is one of the weak sisters, and W. H. Banes, of 995 East Sixteenth, is the other.

A Mr. Flaake, a political economist with blunders on, also bowed his head in humble submission and is taking his \$4 per day gained by the Electrical Workers.

Some day these three will, as is customary, when the smoke of battle has cleared away, and the victory has been won, accuse some future representative of the Electrical Workers or member thereof, and wish to become a full-fledged union man with a nice green ticket.

And some day they will howl like wolves because of this cold, cruel world, cold and cruel to them because the Electrical Workers will look askance at them and possibly delve a little too deep into their past records.

But this does not worry the tried and true members of Local Union 317.

There are rattlesnakes and many lizards on this old earth of ours.

They tell us the good Lord has an object in having them here. What that object is, the Electrical Workers do not profess to know. Neither do they profess to know why scabs are scabs unless it is for the same reason the drunken father gave to his son for his continued state of intoxication, a sort of a horrible example to keep them in the straight and narrow way.

But enough of them, for even union men have stomachs that sometimes become nauseated. The Electrical Workers promise a pretty little scrap, and in the meantime just to help the thing along, let all organized labor and friends remember that the J. C. English Co. are running and will run until further notice a scab shop, unfair to the Electrical Workers' organization and in consequence to all organized labor. (Signed)

LOCAL 317, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

BRICKLAYERS DANCE SATURDAY.

First Annual Entertainment to Be Held at the Swiss Hall.

On Saturday evening, December 23, the Bricklayers' Union will hold its first annual ball. The entertainment will include dancing and whist, a number of fine prizes having been secured.

The committee in charge has secured the large Swiss Hall at 282 1/2 Third street. Admission is 50 cents, the ladies being admitted free.

The committee is composed of the following: P. H. Scanlon, Henry Sandburg, Bob O'Brien, Ed McBride, Sam Naumann, Alex Wachnik and Walter Grandfield.

The date is this coming Saturday evening, December 23. A good time is assured every one who attends.

STEAMFITTERS WINNING.

CINCINNATI.—The Steamfitters' Union, which has been on strike for about a month, has been successful in reaching agreements with over one-half of the firms involved in the controversy, with a bright outlook for a complete settlement with all the firms very shortly.