

Portland Labor Press

Published every Thursday by the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity under the direction of the following Board of Control: R. J. Rector, president, representing Building Trades Council; A. W. Lawrence, secretary, representing Printing Trades Council; Wm. Mackenzie, representing Metal Trades Council; W. B. Fitzgerald, representing Label Trades Council; M. E. Nolan, representing Water Front Council; G. D. Forte, representing Brewery Trades Council. Board meets first and third Mondays at the Labor Press office, Labor Temple, at 8 p. m.

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Subscription, \$1 in advance per year; to unions, one cent per week.

Entered at the postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second class mail matter.

Official publication for the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity and the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

Thursday, December 21, 1911

CHRISTMAS.

Christmas has come again with its happy festivities and outpouring of good-will and evidences of love and affection. All the civilized world is celebrating the advent on earth of the Man of Sorrow, a workingman, a failure in life from every material standpoint, a teacher of peace, a lover of the children of men, the advocate of justice but not the sword; who preached to the poor, who scorned the rich, who cursed the money-changers, who suffered in prison, who faced a packed and cowardly court and who was put to death by the most ignominious process known nineteen centuries ago.

The glad tidings of great joy that has cheered the lowly all these centuries since has been all that men were brothers of a common Father, and that the bounties of Nature were His gifts to all men. Jesus of Nazareth preached equality, liberty, peace, love, hope, progress.

The way has been long, the milestones are marked with the blood of innocents. The nations of the earth and their peoples have wandered far from the path; but slowly the real fundamental truths taught by the Nazarene are being partly applied, realized, some what lived up to.

We are today taking up collections to give the hungry thousands of Portland one meal a year—a Christmas dinner. How long the dawning of the day when all shall sit at the Father's table and partake of the bounties thereof, with none of the proud ones to make them afraid, with none of the forestallers to crowd them away? "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, ON EARTH as it is in heaven."

When the avowed followers of the Carpenter of Galilee learn to repeat this prayer with due emphasis and true faith, there will not be any need for charity on the public streets to feed children once a year. There will be some inquiry as to the cause of destitution and the causes of hunger in the midst of plenty, disemployed by thousands amid the bounties of a generous Father.

Christmas has come, with its mockeries, its extravagances, its fake charity, its senseless rush, its luxurious presents to those who have no need for anything, its imitation brotherhood, its cruelties, its tortures of the workers in shops and stores, its doles to the needy, its assumption of piety, its flaring beggar and its awful gilding of barbarism.

Many a little heart will throb with pleasure because of a Christmas gift; but many a heart will be dull with pain because of the injustice of man to man, because the spirit, the true Christmas spirit, has not yet been fully manifest in the course of the nations and the peoples of the earth.

THE OTHER WAY ROUND.

The Journal of this city, in common with other newspapers, has read several lectures on organized labor recently to the effect that all accusations against organized labor are true, and it assumes that there is no violence during strikes anywhere except that committed by union pickets and union men.

Suppose this daily paper, read by thousands of union workingmen in this city, investigate and report upon the violence committed by imported thugs and gunmen, many of them ex-convicts of the most degraded type? Employers have deliberately preferred to pay out excessive wages to such cattle in human shape. The lower courts have refused to convict men when arrested for carrying concealed weapons, juries being packed and witnesses being spirited away through the connivance of the employers.

If it had not been for the workingmen's votes there would now be hundreds of men in the county jail, held there for spite for standing on the street and talking about a strike, or for merely informing a man that there was a strike in answer to an inquiry by him. Convictions in such cases being impossible because of the fairness of the average man.

Where workingmen are not as powerful in the possession of a ballot as in Portland, young girls by scores have been beaten, kicked, stamped upon, their hair torn from their heads and flung in jail with the lowest creatures of their sex for the "crime" of telling about premeditated murder on the part of their recent employers.

Take a part of its editorial in Tuesday's issue and turn it around a little. When it can publish matters so changed the workers will have more faith in its protestations of friendship for organized labor.

"The Employers' Association should not further permit itself to suffer from boss rule. It should not permit its machinery and its policies to be directed by irresponsibles and unprincipled leadership. The demagogues who counsel employers to violence and the crooks who lead them into disregard of good order are no more the friends of the Employers' Association than the cheap (or dear) politician is the friend of the people. The crimes of the coal mine owners of Illinois in sacrificing the lives of hundreds of men for

dividends were not committed for the benefit of capital's true interests and prosperity, but for the benefit of the stockholders and other lawless manipulators of great industries. In this country men cannot succeed by the strong arm. It is a land of peace and public opinion, and not of the bludgeon, cutlass and club in the hands of imported thugs to beat down the protests of honest workingmen and women.

"Organized employers, manufacturers' associations, employers' associations, of whatever title, can gain millions of adherents by the process of peace; they can lose all their prestige by the process of intimidation. The employers of Portland must preserve the peace."

When the Journal and other newspapers will take to lecturing the employers of labor for their known and admitted violence, thuggery, spiriting away of witnesses, importation of lawless characters, etc., into Portland the organized workers of this city will believe its sincerity.

For instance, a man recently boldly collected a can of oil and filth and announced his intention to others of throwing it on passers-by, some of whom were women, in order to get at one striker. This case was condoned by the employers, witnesses terrorized, sent out of the state, and the accused, although known to be guilty, had to be acquitted. This man is still employed, and is still gloating over his anarchy.

Men arrested with arms concealed, boasting and threatening peaceful citizens, have been turned loose by the grossest form of mock trials.

A tax on the implements of agriculture is notice to the farmer that we want him to be as out-of-date as possible.

rigging in behalf of predatory interests may proceed without interruption.

TO PROMOTE CHRISTMAS FEELING.

Another little bank broke in time to hand out a package of hardship and imposition upon a few hundred poor men and women in Portland. Possibly the depositors may get back 75 cents on the dollar. Possibly they may have shovled off on them some wildcat stock for the balance. All this is as unnecessary as highway robbery in daylight; as foolish to permit as to license porch climbers.

There can be a bank guarantee law passed by the people. Why should not the other banks cash those deposits and call on a state guarantee fund? The banks do not like a guarantee. The people do not like the present condition. This little bank was not in the bankers' union, and 2,200 depositors are out nearly \$180,000. Financiers are not concerned, but the Merry Christmas celebrations of many a working man and woman and child will suffer because of this little failure that looms up so big with despair to the needy.

WEST TO EAST.

The attacks on Governor West for telling people in the East something about Oregon's initiative, referendum, recall, direct primary and Statement No. 1, are absurd. There things are not politics. They are horse sense, and have advertised Oregon to a far greater extent and at far less cost than all the boom and boost literature ever sent out by the Chamber of Commerce.

If this and similar institutions throughout Oregon would send out with their pictures of trees, fruit and natural an unnatural re-

PORTLAND CITIZENS URGE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

The burning question with the working people of this country is the high cost of living. The wage-earners have from time to time secured advances in salary, but within a few months they again realized that the price of necessities was advancing out of all proportion to the price of labor.

Inquiry, conducted by both groups of private citizens and federal committees, has revealed the fact that the producer shares in a very small part in this increase in price. The values have become inflated through the use of fancy packages, short weights and greater profits to the non-producing element—the purchasing agent, the wholesaler, the jobber, etc.—but the greatest added burden the consumer is called upon to bear is that of advertising.

And to advertising can be traced in some cases 50 per cent of the advanced price of the commodity. As soon as an article has become "standardized" through advertising, for which the consumer has paid, the size of the package is frequently reduced, the sale price raised, and very often an arbitrary sale price is dictated by the manufacturer or jobber at which that certain article must be sold.

Then the consumer is paying an extortionate price for a very small quantity of "guaranteed" commodity and the quantity becomes continually less as the volume of advertising increases. The consumer pays any price for the "guaranteed" article rather than make investigation for himself and compel competition by comparison.

And the public becomes a party to this method of throttling competition when it (the public) demands articles of a particular advertised brand and fails or refuses to investigate the merits and compare the quality of like goods sold in bulk.

The American people are paying a million dollars yearly for pasteboard boxes and advertising matter and tin cans with fancy labels!

But knowledge of the reason for this condition is of little value to the consumer unless a remedy can be suggested that will afford relief. The remedy, which has proven a sure cure for this ill by groups of citizens in other countries, is being proposed in the City of Portland for the first time.

A number of Portland citizens, actuated by humanitarian motives, men who have won the respect and confidence of the community, are now proposing to the working people of the city a plan of co-operation and collective purchasing that has been the salvation of the toiling masses in other countries. It is proposed to form this organization, to be known as the Mutualist Association, of which any citizen of Portland is eligible to become a stockholder. Stock in the association to be of the par value of \$25 per share, and no person can hold more than one share. Dividends or rebates to be declared at stated periods. The plan outlined is tentative, as it is desired to give the widest latitude to the society to construct and adopt its own constitution and plan of government.

The association is to be regularly incorporated and its officers bonded to secure the financial affairs of the enterprise, and its conduct will be co-operative in all that the word implies. Its chief advantage will be that of collective buying, and it is planned to buy all staple wares and merchandise direct from the manufacturers and producers in carload quantities, thereby cutting out all middlemen's profits. Goods in packages and widely advertised brands will be tabooed as far possible, and experienced buyers will make selections according to the quality of the goods in bulk, thereby in a great measure relieving the consumer of the burden of advertising special brands of goods.

It is contemplated to district the city and establish distributing stores at strategic points which will minimize the element of deliveries, and it is estimated that six great stores, economically and scientifically conducted, can minister satisfactorily to 25,000 to 30,000 families.

It is further planned to lease or purchase tracts of fertile land and employ our idle men, under skillful superintendents, to till it on intensified and diversified lines. Also to develop a gigantic milk and creamery depot, directed and controlled entirely by the association along co-operative lines, the product of which would be guaranteed by the association.

The city council has adopted a resolution authorizing the mayor to appoint a committee of citizens to look after the affairs of the association in its formative period. This plan was adopted in order to safeguard the interests of the people until the association can be regularly incorporated and its officers bonded. The appointment of this committee, it is expected, will be announced very shortly, when an active canvass of the city will begin.

The greatest interest has been aroused in this enterprise and a number are becoming impatient at the delay, but the public may rest assured that the plan will go forward as speedily as is consistent with safety to the interests of all.

Pertinent to this plan is an item appearing in the Evening Telegram of December 18th, as follows:

"Indianapolis, Dec. 18.—Mayor Samuel Lewis Shank's personally conducted sales of potatoes and turkey at cut prices have resulted in the formation of an association to reinforce the mayor in his 'war on the middleman.'

"Two thousand shares of stock in a Wage-Earners' Co-operative Association were put on sale today at \$5 a share. Its organizers plan to open a depot where the ultimate consumer of foodstuffs shall meet the producer, thereby eliminating the jobber's profit.

"The campaign for extended membership will be made largely through the Central Labor Union."



Another Way to Raise Wages

TAFT'S EXPLANATION.

Mr. Taft handles in a very gingerly manner, (as well he might), the heavily loaded questions about his Supreme Court appointments asked him by William J. Bryan. His answer is:

"I have spared no effort to secure for the Supreme Court and other courts the best men I could get, with the full appreciation that the Federal Courts and especially the Supreme Court, constitute the chief bulwark of the institution of civil liberty created by the constitution."

Stripped of its buncombe, this answer simply means that he preferred a pro-trust Democrat like Justice White to an anti-trust Republican like Justice Harlan. "The civil liberty created by the constitution" is only a euphemistic term for the distortion by the Federal Courts of the Fourteenth Amendment and other sections of the Constitution into a prohibition of legislation that interferes with predatory practices of privileged monopolies. Gingerly as he has handled Mr. Bryan's questions, President Taft is unable to escape confessing that his judicial appointments were made in order that thimble-

sources, a brief, truthful and well-worded statement of the "Oregon Way" of making laws and public servants, there would, be some sense displayed that is now lacking.

Governor West is not reported as saying much along these lines, but what he did say was to the point; and the railroad bunch that does not like it can lump it. West has more friends in Oregon now than he had the day of election, and the kind of knocking and the source of the knocking is making him more friends right along. He is making some mistakes, and will make some more, no doubt; but the critics who fling mud and darts at him are not in the confidence nor esteem of the people by several degrees of latitude.

REAL COST; FAIR PROFITS.

Physical valuation should be the basis of regulation of rates on railroads. What is the road worth? What did it cost, all graft and contracting companies' profits excluded? What would it cost to duplicate or reproduce it now?

These facts ascertained, public interest and development of the country would be served by restricting the charges of the public-serving corporations to reasonable profits on the actual capital invested.

Taft and his experts may quibble and halt, and justify the rule of "all the traffic will bear," but either strict regulation along these lines must be provided or the people will wipe out the whole crew of trust pirates off the face of the earth and proceed to administer through direct public ownership a score of more of vital industries connected with transportation production and distribution.

We are assured that trusting lawmaking to the people will result in demagogues running the country and the establishment of tyranny and spoliation by the majority. If law-making is left to a few, it results in tyranny and spoliation by the few. Between two evils, we can choose the least. The opponents of the initiative and referendum make out no case against them that they do not make out against a system of government without them.

Give "Oregon Made" Preference

Life insurance premiums paid to outside companies are a drain on this state and indirect drain on every citizen.

GIVE YOUR LIFE INSURANCE TO

Oregon Life

The Only Company "Exclusively Oregon"

THIS IS BEST FOR YOU and BEST for all OTHER Oregonians.

Home Office: Corbett Bldg., Fifth and Morrison Sts., Portland
 A. L. MILLS, President L. SAMUEL, General Manager
 CLARENCE S. SAMUEL, Assistant Manager

LOOK HERE!

Three thousand dollars given away to men and women of energy. No experience necessary. Straight business. Come and see. B. Z. No. 374 West Park and Yamhill Street, Portland, Oregon.

To comply with the 54-hour law for mills and factories which was passed by the Massachusetts State Legislature, and which goes into effect on January 1 next, the mills at Lawrence are planning changes to conform with the law.

Unfair Unfair Unfair Woodard, Clarke & Co.

Druggists, Fourth & Washington

T. B. Wilcox Building

Sixth and Washington

All Products Marked

Portland Flouring Mills

UNFAIR ROYAL BREAD

Made by Non-Union Men

Union men and women buying and eating this bread are helping the Employers' Association to lower wages and lengthen hours.

UNFAIR BARS

Lotus Bar, 127 Sixth.
 Hofbrau Bar, 128 Sixth.
 Louvre Bar, Fourth and Alder.
 Perkins Hotel Bar, Fifth and Washington.
 Northern Bar, Geo. Schultz, Prop., Fifth and Washington.
 The Quella Bar, Sixth and Stark.
 Union men should not patronize these unfair bars.

FAIR BARS

Fair bars in the vicinity of the unfair bars are:

Crane, Geo. M., 326 Alder.
 Chandler Bar, Seventh and Washington.
 Stutt & Howland, Sixth and Washington.
 W-W., 108 1/2 Sixth.
 The Olympian, 309 Washington.
 The Mascot, Seventh and Washington.
 Kelly, John E., 354 Morrison.
 Ellison & Savage, 48 Morrison.
 Marzetti & Knepper, 285 Yamhill.
 Turnhalle, Fourth and Yamhill.
 Log Cabin, Billy Winters, Prop., 167 Third.
 Alisky, 267 Morrison.
 Bismark, 147 1/2 Third.
 Pantheon, 130 Third.
 Gulley, James, 246 Yamhill.
 The Bachelor, 143 Third.
 The Yale, 164 Alder.
 The Fulton, Fourth and Alder.
 Alder Hotel Bar, Fourth and Alder.
 Blazier & Barrett, 122 Fourth.
 Elder, C. D., Fourth and Washington.
 Eaton, Harry R., 110 Fourth.
 The Real McCoy, 105 Fourth.
 National Wine Co., 295 Stark.
 Atkins, Tice, 95 Sixth.
 Tilley, J. A., Third and Alder.
 Myers & Parberry, 253 Morrison.

Nick's Place Straight Whiskey 5c A Drink Equal to Any Whiskey 215 First Street