

MACHINISTS GAIN GROUND.

Report on Eight-Hour Strike of Pacific Coast Contract Machinists.

Seattle, March 15, 1912.

Portland Labor Press: Five weeks having elapsed since my last report of conditions throughout the jurisdiction of District No. 26, I will give a brief outline of the changes in conditions since that time.

Seattle—Business in all eight-hour shops getting better and some of the shops are working night and day. The Metal Trades Association, through its walking delegate, Mr. Garrison, has done everything in its power to handicap the shops who have been giving the eight-hour day, but have been unsuccessful, as conditions speak for themselves. It has been rumored that the Vulcan Iron Works, the second largest shop in Seattle, which has been closed up for the last year, will resume business in the near future; the foundry and the structural iron shops are already running in a small way. The Nelson grease cup, which was placed on the unfair list in the State of Washington a couple of months ago, has decided that it is better for their business to deal with organized labor instead of the Metal Trades Association, as our boycott on the cup has been very effective, and has caused the man who owned it to sell out to two other men who have signed up an agreement and hereafter they will be made in eight-hour shops. A great deal of credit is due for this settlement to Brother Hoch, who has been untiring in his efforts, and through the co-operation of the Teamsters and Brewery Workers and other organized bodies which have been instrumental in bringing about the above results.

Everett, Wash.—Business is reported as picking up, and I understand the Sumner Iron Works is figuring on some contracts, and if the contracts are received by that firm I don't think there will be any question but that there will be a settlement made with the machinists, as it has been demonstrated to that company in the last two years that it is impossible to run their business at a profit with the class of farmers they have had working in that shop. The other small shops in Everett will be governed by whatever is done in the Sumner Iron Works.

Bellingham, Wash.—The Burpee & Letson Company are very busy on canning machinery and are hiring anything that looks like a machinist that will seab, in order to get their work out when the canning season opens. This company has started in to build a new machine for making sanitary paper milk bottles, which is now on the unfair list, and we are going to make every effort when they try to put those bottles on the market throughout the country to see if we cannot prevent the sale of them and show Mr. Burpee when he wishes to reach the public that organized labor has more power than he has ever thought.

Vancouver, B. C.—Business up to a few weeks ago has been very dull, and I have received no report from there since that time, but while in Portland, Ore., I ran

across Mr. Shaake, of the Shaake Machine Works, and he was trying to hire machinists, offering as high as 50 cents per hour for their services. The International line is overlooked completely when it comes to hiring men to go from one country to another in case of strike, or it seems so, as there is a law to prevent the hiring of men in one country to cross the line into the other.

Victoria, B. C.—Business is getting very good, and where it was impossible to get a minimum rate of over \$3.25 per day before our strike some of the shop owners in this city have offered all the machinists belonging to the union \$4 per day to go back to work and do not even insist on them throwing up their cards as union men. It is evident that the boast of the Metal Trades Association that the strike was not interfering with any shops in this part of the country can be taken about the same as the rest of their reports, as these reports are written by the walking delegates who have no interests in this part of the country and do not know any trade connected with the metal trades, but hold their position through having trouble between the men and the manufacturers.

Spokane, Wash.—It is reported from Spokane that one of the largest shops in that city is figuring on some large contracts, and it will be almost impossible for them to run on any other but an eight-hour day if they are received. I am glad to report that the trouble at the Inland Empire shop has been adjusted, and our men are again working for that firm.

Tacoma, Wash.—Conditions in Tacoma are about the same as when last reported. Only one shop of any consequence trying to run a nine-hour basis—all the rest working eight hours. It is reported that the Phoenix Engineering Company will open up under new management in the near future, and from the lesson they have had from the old management, we may be able to place that shop on an eight-hour basis; if not, we will give them the same kind of a fight that the previous owners had.

Portland, Ore.—Business is getting a little better in some of the eight-hour shops in Portland, and we have been able to add two more shops to the eight-hour list in that city within the last two months. Have placed eight or nine men to work, some of them being from the railroad shop. There is one nine-hour shop in Portland that is very busy, Smith & Watson's, having received the contract to build a fireboat for the city, and from sizing the crew up that is working in there, I am of the opinion that every shop in Portland has contributed what seabs they could let loose of to Smith & Watson's in order to get out this contract on time. Brother Dawson, an international organizer for the patternmakers, is in Portland and has been with me there for a week, and I will say that he is one international man that has come and shown a willingness to get in and do something to establish the eight-hour day in this part of the country. Previous to his coming to Portland the jobbing pattern shops had promised to raise their patternmak-

ers' wages to \$5 per day. The Metal Trades Association heard of this and gave them orders to leave the wages as they were. This is the organization that we have heard talk so much about wanting the shop owners to run their own business. The patternmakers, when they were refused the rate of wages, went in the shop on Wednesday morning, February 25, and demanded an eight-hour day at 56 cents per hour, which was refused, with the result that they walked out, and up to the present time are on the picket line. The Metal Trades Association didn't show much of a fighting spirit or much of an inclination to assist the jobbing shop owners after getting them into trouble, and some of the other shops refused to loan any of their men to the jobbing shops to assist in getting their work out for fear they would be involved in the strike. This has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Brother Dawson and myself and others who have been watching this trouble that what we have contended all the time, that the Metal Trades Association had all the fight they were looking for from the machinists alone, and there is no question in my mind that if all the rest of the trades at this time would now make demand for the eight-hour day in this part of the country there would not even be a fight, and if so, it would be of short duration. Brother Dawson and I met Brother Valentine, International President of the Molders, and went over with him, as far as possible, the conditions existing in this part of the country, but I do not know what action will be taken, as Brother Valentine has gone to Frisco to attend a conference in that city and will also attend an executive board meeting of the molders' organization. We hope that the meeting of this executive board will take some action to assist in establishing better conditions in the Northwest.

Astoria, Ore.—Business is very good in the Astoria Iron Works, and they have been trying to work a night gang. Our pickets have been successful in getting many men to leave there, and the shop is certainly having its troubles in trying to get out the canning machinery for this season. It has also been reported that Horne, the spotter, who was thrown out of this organization since the strike, was working in Astoria.

This covers all the cities that are on strike at the present time and gives an outline briefly of the conditions that exist, and if the men who are still on the picket line can receive financial assistance so as to keep them for a short time longer, I think we will be able to report very good news, but that is one thing that is one thing that is absolutely necessary, and I hope that the brothers who are able will do everything in their power to assist us, as there are men on the picket line here in this fight who have lost everything on earth, both homes and families, for sticking out and fighting for a principle.

Hoping all brothers who are able will assist us to the utmost in a financial way, and assuring you that we will, if so assisted, bring this fight in the Northwest to a successful finish, I remain

Fraternally yours,
J. A. TAYLOR,
Business Agent.

SEATTLE'S LABOR TEMPLE.

In Seattle the labor temple is owned by the labor unions. All indebtedness is held by the unions and the temple has paid over \$5,000 in dividends besides paying out rapidly the money borrowed to build with. The ground on which the temple stands was purchased five years ago and is now worth more than the building and ground together cost, which was about \$30,000.

It has 12 halls in its four stories and fully twice as many business offices and committee rooms. It is kept up in good shape, having hot and cold water on every floor and is well lighted. A central telephone with phones in every hall enables prompt communication to be kept up at any time.

The forces of organized labor in Seattle has good reason to be proud of their labor temple, and its cost is repaid many times over by the unity and association of the different crafts under one roof. The members take the labor temple as a matter of course, but in fact it is the result of much thought, sacrifice and effort and the temple management has many problems to solve in various ways that come up to it. The reading rooms and business offices are well patronized and the prompt way in which the representatives of labor can get together makes their force very effective.

WHICH DO YOU CALL IT?

The royalty paid for the coal on a large ocean steamer from Liverpool more than equals the wages and food of 333 men who labor in the hold of a trans-Atlantic floating palace. Would it be "confiscation" to take this royalty for public purposes and relieve the products of labor from taxation that much; or is it "confiscation" to take a sum equal to 333 men's wages for getting out of the way and letting the children of men have access to the storehouse of God?

Al talk of the people in British Columbia going back to the old system of taxation is simply a lie manufactured for the use of Oregon plutocrats. They are going to exempt every form of labor values there within a year. Both parties pledged to it.

COLLIER'S EXPOSES MR. GRIPE-NUTS POST.

Splitting his infinitives horribly, Charles W. Post has once more hurled the fury of his words against the labor unions. Wielding his vocabulary as the great Achilles once swung his mighty sword, Charlie alleges that his work "in the way of public and expensive paid announcements is done." He adds: "There's a reason." What the reason is we are unable to surmise, and we rather prophesy Charlie will change his mind. This "expensive and paid announcement" appears in some newspapers with the heading "Postum written above it, although Postum is not mentioned, and we suppose the use of the word was merely to indicate to the careful reader that the strikingly printed essay was an advertisement. Grape-Nuts is not mentioned, either, and there is nothing in the article about the cure of appendicitis, consumption, cancer, pip, or loose teeth. The attitude of Collier's toward such methods as those employed by Clarence Darrow through his whole history has been made sufficiently clear recently, but we do object most earnestly to the harm done by those men who seize upon every fault of every labor leader to attack the cause of unionism. Mr. Post uses such choice phrases as "the lash of the slave driver," "mock sentiment about the brotherhood of man," "insane desire to read their names in the paper," "strip the lamb's coat from the body of the wolf," "lying deceit and horrible portent," "vaporizing of sentimental drooling degenerates" in his defense of the attitude represented by the Los Angeles "Times," which he enthusiastically supports. A considerable part of his announcement is made up of his innocent offer to Gompers to conduct the cause of labor himself. The jury which gave us our \$50,000 verdict against Post was moved, as far as we could tell, by interest in our patent-medicine contests and our advertising standards, but we are inclined to believe that almost any twelve intelligent and honest men would have corresponding opinions as to the way Mr. Post is using his millions to harass and misrepresent one of the most valuable movements of modern civilization.—Collier's Weekly.

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