

Local People and Incidents

At the meeting of the Bartenders' next Sunday nomination of officers will be in order. The election will take place the last Sunday in this month.

There is some thought on the part of delegates to the Metal Trades Council of sending a delegate to the convention of the Metal Trades Department this year, although nothing definite has been made as yet.

George Wolf, a member of Longshoremen's Union No. 6, was seriously injured last Thursday, while working on the American-Hawaiian Company's Steamship Isthmian. He fell from the top deck to the alley, receiving injuries that crushed his chest and head. While seriously injured, it is believed he will recover.

"Gene" Smith, vice-president of the Electrical Workers visited in the city last week and attended the meeting of the Central Labor Council. He left Portland for San Francisco and is expected back in about a week.

Those "No seen" suspenders with the union label on every box are all right. Why, at the Lion Clothing Store, of course.

Mrs. Rater, wife of B. A. Rater, member of Carpenters' No. 869, died last Saturday from an paralytic stroke. The funeral was held Monday.

The attractions of the Rose Festival were too great for the delegates to the Building Trades Council, and as a result no meeting was held Monday evening.

BREWERY STRIKE SETTLED.

For some time Steam Engineers No. 87 have been endeavoring to have the North Pacific Brewing Company at Astoria change the place of storing their products in Portland from an unfair cold storage to some place where union conditions obtain. After several conferences the engineers in the plant went on strike and later the Brewery Workers also quit work.

Two conferences were held in Portland between the manager and representatives of the unions involved and a settlement of the controversy was reached last Friday morning, when the men returned to work.

The Engineers intend to make a fight to continue until all local and Eastern beer is stored in fair plants. They are also looking after the Weatherly ice cream, the product of the Crystal Ice & Cold Storage Company, which is on the unfair list of the Central Council. The Engineers have been securing results, and there is no reason to doubt that they will meet with success along this line.

SMOKER A PLEASANT EVENT.

The smoker given last Thursday evening by the Teamsters' Union proved to be a success socially, and also a medium to interest workmen not affiliated with the organization. Fitzgerald, Madsen and other workers were on hand to give short talks, and Mr. Kubli also gave a few words of encouragement. Of course, a light lunch was also served to round out the evening.

As a result of the smoker a number of applications for membership were received and others paid up delinquent dues. The union has a representative in the field soliciting membership, and he has been securing results.

SPEAKS FOR COMPENSATION BILL.

Washington.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, last Thursday urged the House Committee on the Judiciary to make a favorable report on the Brantley Workmen's Compensation Bill. Gompers said the federation's 2,000,000 organized workmen would be benefited.

"The opposition to this measure comes from an army of lawyers, doctors and ambulance chasers," he said. "Injured workmen get but 25 or 35 per cent of the money awarded to them as damages when they are litigants. The rest goes to the lawyers and others who make a business of prosecuting damage suits."

Determined opposition to the bill has developed. Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, Representative Hardwick, of that state, and Representative Henry and the Texas delegation will voice their protests to the committee before a vote is taken.

A boycott designated as "special and permanent" has been inaugurated by the Socialists of Seattle against The Seattle Times because of repeated vicious misrepresentations by that paper and particularly its statements concerning the May Day celebration. In a circular scattered broadcast over the city, all advertisers using The Times are named. The struggle will be watched with interest as it is the first time that a political movement has attempted to place a "special and permanent boycott" on all advertisers of a newspaper.

The San Francisco Typographical Union, by a vote of 436 to 168, has disapproved of direct political action by the San Francisco Labor Council and its affiliated unions. The union has also rejected the proposition to limit salaries of officers to two consecutive terms in office, the vote on this amendment being 316 to 287.

Declarations of the American Federation of Labor.

A few of its declarations upon which it appeals to all working people to organize, unite, federate and cement the bonds of fraternity:

The abolition of all forms of involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.

Free schools, free text-books and compulsory education

Unrelenting protest against the issuance and abuse of injunction process in labor disputes.

A workday of not more than eight hours in the twenty-four hour day.

A strict recognition of not over eight hours per day on all federal, state or municipal work and at not less than the prevailing per diem wage rate of the class of employment in the vicinity where the work is performed.

Release from employment one day in seven.

The abolition of the contract system on public work.

The municipal ownership of public utilities.

The abolition of the sweat shop system.

Sanitary inspection of factory, workshop, mine and home.

Liability of employers, for injury to body or loss of life.

The nationalization of telegraph and telephone.

The passage of anti-child labor laws in states where they do not exist and rigid defense of them where they have been enacted into law.

Women suffrage co-equal with man suffrage.

Suitable and plentiful play grounds for children in all cities.

The initiative and referendum and the imperative mandate and right of recall.

Continued agitation for the public bath system in all cities.

Qualifications in permits to build of all cities and towns that there shall be bathroom attachments in all houses or compartments used for habitation.

We favor a system of finance whereby money shall be issued exclusively by the government with such regulations and restrictions as will protect it from manipulation by the banking interests for their own private gain.

The above is a partial statement of the demands which organized labor, in the interest of the workers—aye, of all the people of our country—makes upon modern society.

Higher wages, shorter workday, better labor conditions, better homes, better and safer workshops, factories, mills and mines. In a word, a better, higher and noble life.

We favor a system of United States government postal savings banks.

Conscious of the justice, wisdom, and nobility of our cause the American Federation of Labor appeals to all men and women of labor to join with us in the great movement for its achievement.

More than two million wage earners who have reaped the advantages of organization and federation appeal to their brothers and sisters of toil to unite with them and participate in the glorious movement with its attendant benefits.

- By purchasing Weatherly ice cream you are employing non-union labor. For the manufacturers, Crystal Ice & Cold Storage Co., are on the unfair list of the Central Labor Council.

URGES GOOD WAGES.

Spokane.—"For the merchants and other business men to attack labor and to work for the reduction in the wages of working men and women means injury to themselves and their business," declared A. W. Doland before an open meeting of the Spokane Sectional Central Labor Council Monday night.

Mr. Doland, who, for many years was at the head of the Spokane Merchants' Association, and was one of the leaders in the fight for lower freight rates for Spokane, addressed representatives of nearly every trade and labor organization of the city for nearly an hour in Waiters' Union Hall, 722 First avenue. Many non-union men were present, a general invitation to attend the gathering having been extended to all wage earners of Spokane.

"The working class forms the foundation of prosperity and when that foundation is attacked or weakened the entire structure of the city's or nation's prosperity must suffer accordingly," Mr. Doland continued in effect.

"Rentals, cost of household necessities, rates of money interest and various other items that go to make up the cost of living and cost of doing business should be lowered before the wages of the working men are reduced.

"China was a prosperous nation two or three thousand years ago, but its people are among the poorest of the world today and the nation is weak. The downfall of China's prosperity has resulted from ill paid labor.

"On the contrary we find Japan a thrifty and prosperous nation today with its working people better paid than ever before. They are rapidly organizing and striving to further improve their condition."

Mr. Doland recently returned from an extensive tour of the Orient studying industrial and commercial conditions.

Here, There and Everywhere

Through the pressure of organized labor, New Zealand state owned railroads carry school children 120 miles for from three to six cents, where they attend high schools. And the railroads make a profit then. Labor unions are such awful things!

Duluth, Minn., has been conducting a series of meetings under the auspices of the union labor forward movement. Prominent labor men who have been attending a similar movement in Minneapolis and St. Paul are in this city, and have assisted materially in the various meetings which have been held in furthering the cause of union labor.

Work in the building trades line is reported as being rather poor in eastern Oregon, but in a number of cities and towns in the Willamette Valley and the Coast work is fair. At Eugene, Independence, Albany, Corvallis, Florence, Mt. Angel, Crabtree and Coos Bay country there is a fair demand for workers, although the wages are lower and working hours longer than at Portland. Work at Salem is stated to be rather quiet.

A law has been enacted by the Massachusetts legislature and signed by the governor regulating the hours of labor of street railway employees. After January 1, 1913, the work day of regular trainmen will be based upon nine hours platform time, to be performed within twelve consecutive hours. For extra men eight hours must intervene between the close of one day's labor and the beginning of the next.

OPPOSE MINIMUM WAGE.

Paul Scharrenberg, secretary-treasurer of the California State Federation of Labor, has sent the following in reply to a communication of P. Share, acting president of the so-called Universal Eight-Hour League, asking for the support of the state body:

"A copy of your proposed eight-hour and minimum wage law was submitted to the meeting of our executive council, held in this city on March 31, 1912, and referred to the legislative committee for analysis. The committee has secured legal advice upon the bill and after careful consideration come to the conclusion that we cannot see our way clear to advise the working people of California to further the measure submitted by you. Your bill, if enacted, would nullify the women's eight-hour law, and we do not propose to go backward or recede one step if we can help it.

"Organized labor in this country is not quite a unit about the advantage of a minimum wage law, and as far as the organized workers of California are concerned there have been serious and valid objections raised against the legislative enactment of such a measure. We all believe in a minimum wage, but some of us think it is better for obvious reasons to enforce a minimum wage through our organizations."

ACT PROTECTS FOREIGNERS.

London.—The Crow's Nest Pass Coal company, located in British Columbia, refused four years ago to pay, under the compensation law, the widow of a miner killed while in the performance of his duty the sum to which she was entitled under the law. The case went to the inferior courts and the company was sustained in its contention that the widow could not claim benefits because she resided in Austria. The case was then carried to the highest tribunal, the Privy Council of Great Britain, which has just rendered a decision reversing the inferior courts and granting the widow the compensation to which she is entitled under the statute.

RAILWAY SERVANTS GROWING.

London, June 8.—There has been a large increase in the membership of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The fortieth annual report shows an increase from 75,153 to 116,516 during the year. The society's income was \$561,000, being nearly \$100,000 in excess of the last fiscal year. The historic national railway strike is the evident cause of the tremendous growth in the organization.

CARPENTERS GET RAISE.

London.—Ten pence an hour is the scale agreed to for carpenters and joiners under the new agreement with the Manchester Salford and District Building Trades Employers' Association. From March to October 49½ hours per week are to be worked, 41½ in December and January and 44 hours in November and February. Traveling expenses outside of the city, lodging money and overtime charges are also regulated by the agreement.

START "TITANIC" FUND.

It is reported that the 18th annual convention of the American Federation of Musicians, held recently in Omaha, inaugurated a plan to raise funds for the purpose of relieving the widows and orphans of the members of the Titanic band, and in addition to erect a marble shaft to the memory of the musicians who perished in that disaster.

Workingmen who think that to scatter efforts is to benefit the individual, shut their eyes to all history and experience.

THE PORT OF PORTLAND BILL.

A bill to provide for the election of the commissioners of the Port of Portland has been approved by the Central Labor Council of Portland and signatures are now being secured to place the bill before the people at the election this Fall. E. J. Stack has been appointed by the Council to have charge of the work of securing signatures and solicitors were put to work on Wednesday, it being the intention to complete the petition as soon as possible. The bill in full is as follows:

"A Bill for an act to elect the members of the Port of Portland Commission and to safeguard and provide for the deposit of such funds as may come into the hands of the Port of Portland Commission, and to amend Section 6100, Section 6110, Section 6103, and Section 6105 of Lord's Oregon Laws.

"BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OREGON:

"Section 1. That Section 6100 of Lord's Oregon Laws be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6100. The power and authority given to the said the Port of Portland by this act is vested in, and shall be exercised by, a board of commissioners consisting of three members, to be appointed within 30 days after the passage of this act by the Governor of the State, and upon the appointment of such commissioners, the present incumbents, within two days after such appointment, shall vacate their offices, and the appointees shall immediately proceed with the transaction of the business of the said Port of Portland. Said appointees shall be qualified voters and residents of the district comprising the Port of Portland. Said appointees shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. At the general election in 1914, three commissioners, qualified voters and residents within the limits of the Port of Portland, shall be elected under the provisions of the law applying to the election of county officers, and the three persons so elected shall draw lots as to which shall act for a period of two years, four years and six years respectively, and within 30 days after such election, such commissioners so elected shall qualify and take possession of the business of the said the Port of Portland, and every two years after the election of such commissioners, there shall be one member elected in the manner provided by law to serve for one term of six years. Each commissioner shall devote his entire time to the duties of the Port of Portland, for which he is to receive an annual salary of three thousand six hundred (\$3600.00) dollars to be paid monthly out of the general fund. This provision as to salary applies to the appointees, herein named. Said persons so appointed, and their successors in office, to be chosen as herein provided are hereby created and constituted a board of commissioners, and as such shall be authorized and empowered to act as a board of commissioners in the manner as is usual and customary with similar bodies. Said board of commissioners shall be continuously in session for the transaction of any and all such business as may come before it in connection with the said the Port of Portland, and they are to maintain an office suitable and convenient to the public for the transaction of the business of the Port of Portland. It has the authority to provide and establish such rules and regulations as are necessary for the dispatch of any and all business in connection with the Port of Portland.

"Section 2. That Section 6101 of Lord's Oregon Laws be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6101. The commissioners in this act appointed shall hold their first meeting as a board at as early a day after the going into effect of this act as is practicable, and at such meeting, and annually thereafter, on such day as may be fixed by them, shall choose from their number a president, a secretary and a treasurer, who shall hold their offices until the next election of officers, and shall respectively have the powers and perform the duties usual in such cases, and shall be known as the president, secretary and treasurer of the said the Port of Portland; the treasurer shall give bonds as such to the said the Port of Portland, conditioned for the paying over by him of all money coming into his hands as such treasurer, the amount of which bonds shall be fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars, and must be acceptable to the board of commissioners. All expenses incident to the giving of such bond, if any such there be, shall be paid by the said the Port of Portland from its general fund. It shall be the duty of the treasurer, however, to deposit all money coming into his hands as such treasurer in any bank or banks situated within the limits of the Port of Portland, with a paid-up capital of not less than fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars, which desires to receive on deposit a portion or all of the funds of the Port of the Portland Commission. Any such banks or bank shall, prior to the first Monday in April of each year, file with the treasurer an application for such deposits. Such application shall state:

"First: The amount and character of security the applicant has to offer; and,

"Second: The rates of interest the applicant will pay on open account and on time certificates of deposit. The treasurer shall present such applications, together with his recommendations, to the board of commissioners. The board shall thereupon determine what bank or banks shall receive the Port of Portland funds and be designated as its depository, but the value of the securities offered by any bank must be at all times twice the amount of money on deposit with such bank, and the board

of commissioners shall not consider as security anything except state bonds, county bonds or municipal improvement bonds.

"Section 3. That Section 6103 of Lord's Oregon Laws be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6103. If any of the commissioners elected under the provisions of this act shall at any time cease to reside within the limits of said the Port of Portland, he shall cease to be a commissioner, and his place shall be and become vacant. If any commissioner shall fail to attend, for a period of 30 successive days, his place shall be and become vacant; provided, that the board may, in their discretion, grant a leave of absence to any commissioner unable to attend by reason of illness or continued absence from the Port of Portland; but such leave of absence shall not be for a period of more than 90 days. All vacancies arising in said commission from any cause shall be filled by appointment of the Governor to serve until the next regular election, when said vacancy so created shall be filled by election as provided in this act.

"Section 4. That Section 6105 of Lord's Oregon Laws be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6105. It shall be the duty of said board of commissioners to report to the Secretary of State, semi-annually, everything done or performed by said board under this act.

"Section 5. All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed."

The Public: San Diego affords a significant warning. The outbreak there on the labor side has been of the "direct action" spirit in that element of the working class everywhere, which, feeling acutely the injustice of industrial conditions, is at fever heat for violent revolt. Widely advertised opportunities for work have brought to the Pacific Coast three workers for every possible job. This relative inadequacy of jobs has begun to make prospective fortunes for another class, and the fighting blood of that class rises to fever heat as recklessly at interferences with anticipated plunder as does the blood of the working class under economic pressure. In those circumstances the situation at San Diego is symptomatic of a general industrial condition. Rightly or wrongly, the property class interfered with street speaking. Rightly or wrongly there was resistance. Some of the property class thereupon became the wild beasts for which that class has in all ages been notable, whenever privileges of labor-exploitation have been menaced. Consequently outrages have been perpetrated in San Diego in utter defiance of law, many of them in shameless disregard of human decency, yet in the name—save the mark—of "law and order;" and not only perpetrated, but perpetrated by "good" citizens, applauded by "good" newspapers and commended by "good" business organizations. Lawlessness from such sources does more to bring on social chaos than lawlessness from any other.

When the legislative, judicial and executive appropriation bill was under consideration in the House of Representatives a provision was inserted limiting the tenure of office of civil service employees to five years, with the further provision that these clerks could again be reappointed either with or without examination. Upon the passage of the bill it went to the senate and the committee in charge of the bill in the upper branch of congress struck out the provision and the senate concurred in the committee's report. In all probability when the bill goes to the conference committee the senate's action will prevail.

All suits brought against Organizer Emmett Flood of the American Federation of Labor have been dropped by the authorities of Muscatine. Flood has had charge of the Button Workers' strike in that city, and was charged with every crime on the calendar. Much publicity was given the case, and we were assured that a vast and complicated system of terrorism would be exposed. The matter was quietly dropped last week by the prosecuting attorney when called upon by the defense to make good his boasts before a court of justice.

The decision of the California supreme court confirming the eight-hour law for women was worked for by hard legal rustling on the part of Leon Yanekwich of Modesto, California. This gentleman spent a great deal of time hunting up data and authorities. The decision upholds nearly every point Attorney Yanekwich made. Organized labor in California is now going after the minimum wage law for women and Leon Yanekwich is relied upon to help on the legal end of this measure also. Both Harry Yanekwich of Portland and his California brother are always ready to do service for progressive legislation, and have done such service time and again for less than a thank you and felt repaid to see the world advanced thereby.

Notwithstanding the awful burning alive of hundreds of women and girls in New York a few months ago, it is still the custom to lock the doors of the sweatshop shirt factories in Eastern cities and to allow the floors to litter with lint and rags. The locking of the doors means—well, some time it will mean more sensational dispatches, more murder for greed. When you buy a 39-cent shirt you encourage this sort of thing. A shirt with a union label on it has not been made in a prison or a sweatshop.