

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

Volume XII. Number 40

Portland, Oregon, January 13, 1913

Whole Number 676

WORKERS IN TIMBER MUST BE ORGANIZED

Power of Organized Labor Would Be Greatly Increased by Affiliation of 250,000 Workers in Leading Industry—Conditions Bad in Many Sections.

Lumbering is the predominating industry in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Northern California, Northern Idaho and Western Montana. Not less than 250,000 workers are employed in this territory, which practically embraces what is known as the Pacific Northwest.

The organized forces of labor in this timber district total about 50,000. In other words, the organization of the quarter of a million toilers would multiply the number of organized men by six. And the power of labor would be multiplied almost beyond calculation.

Workers Are Unorganized.

Take the Grays Harbor district as an example. Less than 2000 men are organized. These are among dozens of small trades. Barbers, bartenders, cooks, waiters, cigarmakers, tailors, musicians, electricians, teamsters, clerks and a few hundred mechanics in the building trades constitute the bulk of the organized labor movement in the Grays Harbor district.

None of these trades are engaged in the industries that form the very basis of Grays Harbor's prosperity—lumbering and shipping. The great lumber industry, with the exception of the shingle mills, is wholly unorganized. The workers engaged in shipping have in the sailors and longshoremen's unions some measure of power.

There are about 8000 workers in the lumber industry in the district embracing what is known as Grays Harbor. Their entire organized strength is contained in about 150 members of the shingle weavers' union.

Power Would Come to Toilers.

Let us look into the future and see what might happen were these 8000 producers of lumber organized for mutual protection and affiliated with the rest of the organized toilers of Grays Harbor.

There would be no more skinning employment sharks to fatten off the hard-earned dollars of the loggers and mill workers. The members of the union would see to it that the bosses would go to headquarters for their workmen.

The hospital graft would be abolished. The workers could, if they so desired, follow the example of the organized coal miners in most communities and organize their own hospital associations, erect their own hospitals and take care of the sick and disabled among their members and their families.

Reforms Are Needed.

There would be no more such outrages as the Cosmopolis messhouse. Men would eat where they please and could refuse to accept whatever might be placed before them in form of food.

Nor would there be any more victims of the vicious company store system. In Cosmopolis and other places today the workers are the slaves of the company, whether they work or eat or sleep. A good union would enable them to be free men when away from their jobs at least.

Shorter Work Day Would Come.

The length of the work day would not be wholly determined by the boss, as it is today. A maximum of working hours would be set and adhered to. If found necessary to exceed this limit overtime pay would be exacted. In many mills at present men are working one and a quarter time, or 12½ hours per day and no more is paid per hour for the overtime than for regular time.

A uniformity of wages would be paid. The men would no longer be compelled to be victims of unscrupulous employers, some of whom pay much less than others. And wherever and whenever wages were considered insufficient the men who receive the wages would have something to say about determining them. At present, not acting together, they are powerless. These are but a few of the advantages that would come directly to the men in the lumber industry.

Strengthen Present Unions.

Imagine that the cooks and waiters should demand a ten-hour day instead of 12 hours as at present. That would be reasonable enough. Or suppose they should decide to take a day off each week like other civilized human beings. Should the restaurant proprietors be a little reluctant about granting the demands it would be an easy matter to secure a written statement from each of the lumber workers' local unions, pledging their support. Do you think the owners would be likely to risk losing the patronage of these lumber workers by refusing to grant the demands? If the restaurant owner did not would probably not do it if he knew that the same would hold true in the other trades. Bartenders, barbers, cooks and all the rest of them would

feel the backing of the powerful organizations of the lumber workers.

Lumber Really Essential.

The power of the organized building trades would be multiplied manifold. No construction can be carried on without lumber. Whenever the building trades or any portion of them would have a grievance against a building contractor it would need but a note from the lumber workers' locals, pledging their support to their aggrieved fellow workers. A contractor would not hesitate long if he knew what the support of the lumber workers meant. Or if he tasted the power of these hitherto scorned workers once he would probably not do it again.

The fact is that the organization of the timber workers would be the most powerful single factor in the economic line of the Pacific Northwest, barring none. With power would come self-respect. Power and self-respect on the part of these hundreds of thousands of toilers would compel the respect of all others, including that of the employers. For, after all, nothing is respected as much as power.

Co-Operative Plan to Succeed.

Co-operating with the rest of the labor movement the lumber workers would strengthen organized labor to such an extent that the feeling of timidity which now generally prevails in many labor unions would cease to exist.

The organization of the lumber workers would also tend to encourage the organization of thousands of other unorganized members of the army of labor. Railroad construction workers, harvest hands, city laborers and many others of the so-called migratory workers, so numerous in the West, would soon follow the example set them by the men in the lumber industry.

One of the most important phases of the proposed organization is the possibility which lies in guiding the hundreds of thousands of immigrants that are certain to land on this coast as soon as the Panama Canal is ready for use.

Not Hard to Understand.

"A man 'd play thunder makin' livin' f'r a woman if he put in his time monkeyin' aroun' lovin' her."

EXPRESS COMPANIES FIGHT PARCELS POST

Reduced Rates on Small Packages Announced by Great Carrier Systems in Their Effort to Retain Their Hold on This Highly Profitable Business.

With the parcels post established January 1, the express companies in almost feverish haste are meeting the rates adopted by the Postoffice Department, and in some instances, at least, are cutting under the parcels post rates.

One instance is reported where a prune shipper in California proposed to ship that fruit in eight-pound boxes, and under the parcels post rate would amount to 96 cents per box. The express companies, which formerly have had a monopoly of shipments of this character, cut the rate to 35 cents.

This fact will no doubt stimulate many other shippers to pack their products in containers coming within the weight allowed by the parcels post (11 pounds being the limit of weight permitted in packages). The express companies, in order to maintain their business, will be compelled to meet the parcels post rate, or as in the instance given, cut below it.

Indications are that the parcels post is striking a harder blow at the express monopoly than was anticipated. That express rates will be reduced to rock bottom by both the express companies and railroads is practically a foregone conclusion. While the limit of weight necessarily will compel shippers to use small packages, yet the big cut in rates which undoubtedly will take place will cover and exceed in most instances the extra cost of packing.

Car shortages will become a thing of the past, so far as the shippers of perishable foodstuffs are concerned, as the government will not suffer produce in its cars to become ruined by the policy of railroads in withdrawing cars. The outlook is indeed bright for the parcels post to revolutionize the transportation business of the country.

SHINGLE WEAVERS ARE TO MEET

Second Meeting of International Union in Portland This Week.

The annual convention of the International Shingle Weavers' Union of America will convene in Portland Thursday morning and will be in session the balance of the week. This is expected to be the most important session ever held by the shingle weavers, as plans will be worked out in detail for the extension of jurisdiction to include the entire timber industry as approved by the members in a recent referendum vote.

International officers and members of auditing and law committees will meet in Portland today.

DEPARTMENT STORE TIRES OF THE FIGHT

Big Portland Concern That Drove Organized Labor From Its Doors Feels Keenly the Loss of Business, and a Settlement May Be Expected Soon.

Indications are that as time passes and the effect of the loss of the business of hundreds and even thousands of union men and their families reaches the heads of the firm of Lipman, Wolfe & Company, the disposition to stop the drain of dollars is taking hold firmly, and it will not be surprising to know that a settlement has been perfected within a short time. There can be no doubting the fact that the big concern recognizes the great mistake that was made, and that plans to overcome the disaffection of the workingmen are being seriously considered.

For months the union men of Portland have been trading with stores fair to organized labor, and neglecting to trade with the department store which enjoyed a fair share of union patronage before the days when the management had a chance to patronize organized labor in the construction and equipment of a large store building. When the unfair work was done it was thought that it was not considered possible that organized labor would resent the insult by diverting trade to other places. The result of the fight for a few months shows conclusively that the boycott is effective and that the unfair concern is losing a tremendous amount of good business—business deliberately driven from its doors, perhaps unintentionally, however.

Organized labor is not accustomed to contests being determined in brief spaces of time, so nobody is worrying yet that a settlement has not been made. It usually takes business quite a while to realize that a stream of dollars that has been going in one direction for years can be diverted to other channels by men whose sole purpose in the world, some people think, is to earn money and not to direct its expenditure.

If any one thinks that the fight against organized labor which Lipman, Wolfe & Company has been directing for months is not costing the firm tremendous sums he had better take a run through the store during any time of the day and look for the union men or members of his family. The proof of the pudding will be found in the lack of union patronage, not only today, but yesterday, and tomorrow, too.

PAPER FORGETS UNION LABEL

"The Menace" Appeals to Union Men to Aid Cause.

Workingmen who may be inclined to read or subscribe to the "Menace," published at Aurora, Mo., will do well to look for the union label on this publication. The paper poses as the friend of the masses against the Roman Catholic Church, but it does not show the union label, a mark that every workingman has a right to insist on seeing on printed matter that pretends to lay claim to his attention.

Here's a matter that workers should look into when the "Menace" is sent them or they are asked to read it. Readers may have different opinions about the policy of the "Menace" and the propaganda it is carrying on, but they will surely agree in demanding the use of the union label, if indeed the publishers at Aurora have the right to use it.

Stage Employees Install Officers.

The following officers of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees were installed at the meeting January 10, for the ensuing year:

President, W. E. Day; vice-president, Michael Lyons; Fin. Sec.-Treas. C. M. Campbell; Rec. Sec., R. H. Clark. Executive Board—James Williams, W. O. Ward, E. J. Brennan; Business Agent, Chester Smith; Sergeant-at-Arms, Geo. Lincoln. Examining Board—James Williams, A. Labrache, Chester Smith, Ed Wageman, Frank Mays. Delegates to the International Convention, C. M. Campbell, H. B. McCabe.

Longshoremen Elect.

At the meeting of Longshoremen's Local No. 6 the following officers were elected: President, E. Ferguson; vice-president, W. Gunther; business agent, E. A. Schneider; financial secretary, S. McLaughlin; recording secretary, H. Larson; treasurer, A. Holm; musician, C. Warner; trustees, G. Benson, R. Arnold, D. McQuillen.

The meeting night of the local has been changed to the first and third Wednesday, at the hall, 126½ Alder street, near Washington.

Industrial Workers to Organize.

Inviting another clash with the American Federation of Labor in the industrial arena of the Pacific Coast and the Northwest, the Industrial Workers of the World has begun the organization of tailoring trades employees in this section of the nation.

Lessons in Housekeeping.

More than 7000 women are taking the correspondence courses of 24 lessons in housekeeping which the Kansas Agricultural college has arranged for use in club meetings this winter.

SOCIALIST UPLIFT WORK SUCCESSFUL

Municipal Control of Funerals and Extension of Credit to Unemployed People Tried Out; Little Idleness Among Men Able to Work.

An interesting report has just been issued by W. N. Kraus, commissioner of charities of Schenectady, N. Y., who has introduced a number of new ideas into the old method of caring for the unemployed and the unfortunate. It will be remembered that Schenectady voted in Socialistic government in 1911.

The extension of city credit to unemployed workingmen with families last winter marked the institution of a new form of relief. These persons could neither be found nor given the work which is their right. They requested the loan of supplies until they were able to pay. They signed agreements to pay within a stated period, and a considerable proportion of the persons have properly met their obligations. In some instances it is clear that, for varied reasons, no payment can be expected—in which cases the account is finally charged up to charitable relief—which would have been extended in the beginning had the persons not stated a desire to repay the advance, and not to have his or her name registered on the relief roll.

Municipal Funerals.

The city funerals have been standardized so that all the people may know what they are to get and all be treated alike. The city will furnish the elements of a simple decent burial with individual grave and headstone for any one. The city must be consulted before a funeral is ordered at its expense, and it will not make itself party to the expense of finery. The number of burials during the year was twenty-six. The department deprecates the common practice of carrying insurance policies to pay burial costs.

Legal advice and assistance has been extended in a number of cases to compel mutually responsible relatives to support one another and to protect the rights of illegitimate children.

Caring for the Unfortunate.

During the year the department has not only cared for the needs of 2286 persons, but has inaugurated several new services which are of great value to them and to the public at large. In caring for individuals and families in need it has been our policy and endeavor to meet every apparent need promptly and generously, determining by knowledge what would be adequate.

The wisdom and humanity of this course has been proved by the remarkable decrease in the number of dependent individuals and families—from 148 families, including 680 individuals, a year ago, to 100 families, including 444 individuals, today. Of these 100 families thirty-one are widows and receive pensions of varying amounts up to \$7 per week, according to the size of their families and other considerations. Thirty-six are pensioned on account of invalidism, fifteen on account of old age and sixteen on account of the desertion of the breadwinner. In the last group we feel that the city should assist until the deserter can be brought to justice. One such has been brought back from Pennsylvania; one each from Massachusetts and Connecticut, and one sent for to Texas.

Sixty-nine families receive groceries and coal; fifteen groceries alone; seven coal only; twenty-four shoes and other clothing; seven special diet; two cash pensions, and one boy has had a scholarship to stay in grade school while another is so aided in getting a high school education. The Free Employment Bureau, adequate to nourishment, full free medical care and general restoration of good conditions, together with continuous training and encouragement to the families, and development of their resources by the overseer and the dietitian have enabled an unusually high proportion to regain their independence.

Free Employment Bureau.

The department established a Municipal Free Employment Bureau in January, which quickly determined the extent and character of unemployment in the city, and after proving of great value in placing both men and women in employment under fair conditions, was transferred to the Department of Public Works, where its usefulness is still greater. It has no doubt been a considerable factor in reducing dependence, for it placed over 800 persons in its first four months.

Today there is little enforced idleness for able bodied men. Woman's work, however, is and will long be characterized by greater uncertainty, poorer pay and conditions. Women doing home laundry and sewing receive no more than they did fifteen years ago, while their employers are no more considerate in suspending or postponing the work. It is time that the housewife who wishes to be fair to her sister whom she employs spasmodically for drudgery should increase her pay to at least 20 cents an hour.

Municipal Lodging House.

The Municipal Lodging House is

equipped with everything necessary to simple comfort and cleanliness—including two shower baths and two stationary tubs, where the men can wash out their linen. The city furnishes good coffee with milk and sugar, and as much bread as the men care for. Men may be referred either through the police or directly by any resident.

The municipal farm was started late in the season on land hired and borrowed for the purpose. Considering the unprepared condition of the soil, bad weather and delay on tools and that we paid one man and depended for other necessary labor on the able applicants for relief, the results of the first season are fairly satisfactory.

The Dignity of Labor.

Perhaps the dignity of labor has never been anything more than an idiom of forum and market-place; so, at least, the cynical and disillusioned would tell us. In any case, while you have been clothing him with a pretended dignity and honor, the workman himself is at last convinced that these attributes do not exist. At last he accepts the frightful paradox of modern industry: "Thou must increase, I must decrease."

He knows that, while industry requires a development of intellect as never before, this intellect can accomplish its perfect work only by taking the soul from the workman and reducing him to a machine; that, while the perquisites of labor are tremendous and heroic as never before, the laborer himself must ever grow less and less. Whether rightly or wrongly, he accepts as an accomplished fact the schism between hand and brain and believes it to be growing deeper day by day. It has all been not unlike the fairy story of old. We have pretended that he was beautifully clothed, and now at last he himself, with an almost childish simplicity, has cried out, "Yes, but I have nothing on!"—Wilbur M. Urban, in the December Atlantic.

Wages Out 20 Per Cent.

The salaries of 15,000 employees of the city of Chicago were cut 20 per cent by the City Council January 1. All municipal employees except the Mayor and executive heads, whose salaries are fixed by statute, and laborers, whose wages are fixed by contract, are affected by the cut.

TEAMSTERS PULL OFF DELIGHTFUL SMOKER

Three Hundred and Fifty Men Enjoy Evening With Local Organization, With Installation of Officers and Union-Made Cigars as the Features.

About 350 members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers and their friends attended a smoker given January 9 in Musicians' Hall. The evening was devoted to a brief program of addresses, sports and the installation of officers.

President H. A. Case presided during the program, introducing A. J. Madison, of the Longshoremen's union, who spoke on the need of organization and the work in Portland, and William Mackenzie, of the Steam Engineers, who gave a brief talk along organization lines. William A. Marshall, of the Typographical Union, gave an interesting address on the proposed compensation act which it is expected will come before the Legislature. In discussing proposed legislation Representative Lawrence spoke interestingly on some of the work before Oregon lawmakers.

Installing officers for the year 1913 became the duty of retiring President Case. The officers installed are: President, Ed. Jones; vice-president, Ed. Davis; recording secretary, G. A. Rogers; secretary-treasurer, Ed. Braithwaite; trustee, M. E. Nolan. Delegates to the Oregon State Federation of Labor were J. P. McCullough and M. E. Nolan.

Following the installation ceremonies, a boxing contest was staged by Referee Lewis. "Kid" Calhoun and "Dopey" Anderson boxed a three-round draw, and "Bobbie" Bush and "Vic" Basley made a good exhibition for three rounds. Brother Rans entertained with whistling of a high class. Pillow fights and novel boxing stunts concluded the program.

POLITICAL CLUB MEETING

Ways and Means Committee to Consider Plans Tomorrow Night.

The ways and means committee of the Workingmen's Political Club will hold a meeting at Bartenders' Hall, tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 7 o'clock. All delegates are requested to be present as important business is to come before the committee.

Iron Workers Elect Officers.

At the meeting Monday night the Iron Workers elected the following officers: President, William Small; vice-president, William Thomas; financial secretary, Ben Osborne; treasurer, R. H. Hunt.

A whispered call to duty can be heard by a deaf man—if his heart is in the right place.

RAILWAY FRANCHISES UNFAIR TO PEOPLE

City Council Gives Unusual Rights to Hill and Harriman Interests and Refuses to Give the People the Right to Stop Off on East Side of River.

When the City Council gets busy with franchises it does business in a hurry. Witness the passage of the steam and electric railway franchises passed on Wednesday. And, then the newspapers tell the story about letting loose \$14,000,000 in railroad construction and improvements.

The people of Oregon have long been "bottled up" more or less at least, by the Harriman interests, and it had been hoped as the years passed the cork would be pulled and the people would have a fighting chance. If the action of the Council in dealing with the Harriman interests, the Hill interests and the people is to be taken as a criterion, the railroads have the situation as completely under control as ever the Harriman interests had before the advent of the Hill lines.

May Prevent Competition.

If the granting of the franchises is intended to prevent the entry into Portland of any other competing railroad the situation in Portland is to be deplored. If the Council deliberately played into the hands of the two big concerns and did not amply protect the interests of the people with a sufficient common user clause in the franchises of the steam roads, the loss to the people in all the years to come cannot be estimated.

In the granting of the franchises it was quite clear that Councilman Maguire stood firmly for the interests of the people, and did everything he could to get proper provisions inserted. Maguire took the position that he was representing the whole people, and as a representative was acting not only for today but for all the coming years—so far as the present generation is concerned.

No Shopping Privilege.

In granting the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company's franchises the Mayor cast the deciding vote, after the Council had tied on the matter of granting an hour stopover for people on the East Side. The plan to give women and men, too, an hour on the East Side in which to do trading, en route home, was a good one, and should have been supported, because of its advantage to the people, while it could do no harm to the interests of the railroad. The franchises gave the use of 18 miles of streets, yet the people could not have the right to stop off the cars long enough to do a bit of trading. The company seems to need the additional fares which another trip down town would necessitate being spent by the woman who wants to shop awhile.

Whatever may be said of the franchises, this much can be said, that Councilman Maguire made a good fight for the stopover privilege on the street car lines and for the common user right on the steam lines. Councilman Clyde was absent, being out of the city. Councilmen Daly and Jennings were strong for the people's rights in the controversy, but were hopelessly voted down.

Carpenters Install Officers.

Carpenters' Local 808 installed the following officers at the meeting Monday night.

President, B. W. Sleeman; vice-president, O. E. Hibbs; financial secretary, J. F. Weatherby; recording secretary, P. R. Lingman; warden, L. D. Moore; conductor, Ed Roe; auditor, I. D. Lemmons; trustee, G. W. Hunt.

Delegates to District Council of Carpenters—P. R. Lingman, G. T. Hunt, J. F. Weatherby, J. W. Dobbins, O. J. Wright.

Delegates to the Building Trades Council—W. C. Shugart, B. W. Sleeman, G. W. Stanley, O. E. Hibbs, G. T. Hunt.

Delegates to the Central Labor Council—S. P. Rearick, G. W. Stanley, W. C. Shugart, B. W. Sleeman, L. E. Selberg.

Editor Would Be President.

H. L. Hughes, editor of the Spokane Labor World, is slated for election as president of the Washington State Federation of Labor to succeed Charles R. Case, of Seattle, at the coming convention, which is to open in Olympia, January 20, according to reports from Spokane. President Case recently was appointed general foreman of streets at Seattle and, according to reports in labor circles, he will not be a candidate for re-election.

Salmon Fishermen Busy.

With a total pack of 5,904,354 cases of salmon for the Pacific Coast, including Alaska and the Columbia River, for the season, the industry will add between \$35,000,000 and \$37,000,000 to the country's product.

The Robert Morgan Appeal.

The crusade officials ask that no money be paid to solicitors for the "appeal fund" for this cause, except by subscription blanks, signed by Nina Evaline Wood, as president, and Delphine H. McHenry, as secretary, of the anti-capital punishment crusade.