

# PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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## IMMIGRATION PROBLEM CONFERENCE SUBJECT

Portland Central Labor Council Issues Call for Workers of the Western States to Gather in Conference to Study Panama Canal Immigration.

The Central Labor Council of Portland has taken the initiative in a movement to study the foreign immigration problem, as it may affect the workers of the Pacific coast and the intermountain states.

The Central Labor Councils in 76 cities and towns in the Western states have been asked to send delegates to a conference to be held in Portland, beginning June 5, at which plans will be developed to aid immigrants after their arrival in this country.

### Call for Conference.

The letter calling the conference is as follows:

"At the regular meeting of the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity, held March 28th, its special committee on European immigration, via the Panama Canal route reported as follows:

"Information of more or less general nature has come through the press and other sources that steamship companies are already gathering immigrants in European countries to come to the Pacific Coast States on the opening of the Panama Canal.

"Labor conditions in the Western States have been and still are on the whole, on a slightly higher level than the labor conditions in the Eastern States.

"Numerous efforts on the part of the employers' associations to lower Pacific Coast labor conditions have failed, so far. The tide of Chinese, Japanese and Hindu labor has been turned back. The long haul by steamer and rail from Europe has left the European immigrants in very large numbers East of the Rocky Mountains.

"It therefore behooves the organized workers of the West to take steps to safeguard the achievements of the last 50 years.

"This can only be done by organized labor.

"How best to do it is now the question.

"Your committee recommends that the Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity authorize this special committee to send a letter embodying the statements here made to the secretaries of the Central Labor Councils of the following states: Washington, California, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and the Canadian Province of British Columbia, requesting these Councils to send one or two delegates from each council to a conference to devise ways and means to stem this threatened injurious immigration. Your committee suggests that this conference be held at Portland, Ore., commencing June 5th. Also that answer as to sending of delegates be returned to the special committee of the Council within one month."

"This report was unanimously adopted and the special committee instructed to issue the call. Therefore you are hereby cordially invited and strongly urged to send delegates to this conference. Also inform the secretary of the Special Committee at your earliest opportunity of your decision.

"Commencing June 1, the railroads will give special rates to Portland, the Portland Rose Carnival beginning June 9. It was deemed advisable to take advantage of this saving in railroad fares.

"The Special Committee was also instructed to compile data as to the activity of the steamship companies in Europe. Letters are being sent to the secretaries of the trades unions of Europe asking for such data, for use at the conference.

"Information is also sought on the conditions of the so-called unskilled and migratory laborers of the West. Secretaries of labor councils can greatly aid this part of the work by forwarding to the secretary of the Special Committee, reports of labor commissioners and other data bearing upon this matter.

"Press reports state that in Cali-

fornia within the next few weeks a meeting of the California Immigration League will be held, to take care of the immigrants when they arrive. That is laudable endeavor, but unquestionably the action of the Portland conference can and will result in preventing a great deal of injurious and surplus immigration coming to California, thus in the most practical manner assisting the Immigration League.

"Address all communications to Ed. Rosenberg, Secretary, Special Immigration Committee, room 219 Goodnough building, Portland, Oregon.

"Respeaking for this important matter your most careful consideration and favorable action, we are, fraternally yours,

"R. O. RECTOR, Chairman.  
"ED. ROSENBERG, Secretary,  
Special Immigration Committee, Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity."

### The European Inquiry.

The letters sent to 50 Trade Union organizations in Europe contain this statement of the case:

"The Panama Canal is expected to be opened to traffic in 1914. The Pacific Coast States of North America are threatened, as the result of this opening, with a great flood of artificially induced immigration. Press reports state that the great steamship companies are scouring the European countries, especially those of Southern Europe, fathering laborers for a rush to settle in California, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia and the Western States generally.

"These steamship companies are actuated of course by the most selfish reasons. They want passengers and profits. What becomes of the people once they are dumped upon the Pacific Coast States is no concern of theirs.

"The great corporations of the West, always bidding for cheaper and cheaper labor, are supporting these steamship companies. Vast sums of money have been appropriated by commercial bodies and some of the State Legislatures to picture the Western States in the most alluring colors, as a land where milk and honey flows for all who settle there.

"Now the plain truth is that while our Western country is fertile and suitable for the settlement of the white race, the great combinations of capital are largely in control of its resources. There is very little opportunity for acquiring good land, except by men of considerable means. The wages of labor, especially of the so-called unskilled or common labor kind, are simply up to the standard of bare subsistence, just enough to furnish energy to respond to the fierce driving of the boss.

"In the skilled trades wages are somewhat above this bare level of subsistence, but the immigrant possessing such skill has for some time to contend against the handicap of different methods of work and often against the inability to understand the English language.

"Delegates from 11 Western States will hold a conference at Portland, Ore., June 5, to deal with this danger of abnormal immigration, a danger not only to the working people of the Western States of America, but also of great hardship and suffering to the misguided immigrants who may come.

"At this conference steps will be taken to emphasize the fact that the organized working people of these Western States freely welcome our brothers and sisters from Europe who of their own free will and with full understanding of conditions here wish to cast their lot with ours.

"Our purpose in writing you is to sound an initial note of warning and to ask you to send at your earliest opportunity definite information as to the methods used by the agents of the steamship companies to secure immigrants. It is rumored that tickets via the Panama Canal route to Pacific Coast ports are being sold on the installment plan. Try to find out as to the truth of this rumor and the method of payment, if true. All other information bearing on this subject of immigration that you can send us will not only help to protect labor of the United States of America, but prevent great injury to the workers of Europe.

"The data you furnish will be used by the conference to aid its work. We therefore again ask that you kindly answer at your earliest opportunity. Address all communications to Ed. Rosenberg, Secretary Special Immigration Committee, room 219, Goodnough building, Portland, Ore., U. S. A.

"Respeaking your co-operation in this great humanitarian work, we are, fraternally yours,

"R. O. RECTOR, Chairman.  
"ED. ROSENBERG, Secretary,  
Special Immigration Committee, Central Labor Council of Portland and vicinity."

### Union-Made Goods.

Resolved, That members of this organization should make it a rule, when purchasing goods, to call for those which bear the trademark of organized labor, and when any individual, firm or corporation shall strike a blow at labor organizations, they are earnestly requested to give that individual, firm or corporation their careful consideration. No good union man can kiss the rod that whips him.—Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

## 250,000 DANGEROUS SCHOOLS IN COUNTRY

Insurance Engineering Charges that Buildings Now Being Constructed 'Are Built to Burn'; Fire Loss Last Year More than \$3,000,000.

There are 250,000 dangerous school buildings in the United States and that those now being built are "built to burn," according to Insurance Engineering, which publishes a sensational article on the risks to property and to life in the school houses of the country. A tabulated list of cities where the magazine's investigations have shown dangerous conditions includes Portland.

"In 1911," says Insurance Engineering, "the value of school and college buildings destroyed by fire approximated \$3,000,000. In 1912 the losses exceeded that. If the rate of burning in 1913 continues as it has begun, the fire losses this year will exceed \$3,500,000. Fires gain headway because the means are not at hand to extinguish them in incipient stages. A chemical extinguisher, a line of hose ready for use, a pail of sand or a bucket of water would have saved many schools from total destruction.

"Built to burn" is a placard that could be tacked on more than 250,000 schoolhouses in the United States. The local jail is usually a safer building than the local schoolhouse.

It is shown that in New York City all stairways, even in the old buildings, and constructed fireproof and smokeproof, with automatic self-closing doors, each building with a sufficient number to permit its occupants vacating in three and one-half minutes at the longest. Each building has interior signaling apparatus for notifying teachers and pupils as to the need of rapid dismissals, and communication with fire alarm telegraph system by means of a city fire alarm box.

### Carmen Get Raise.

A new wage scale has been granted by the court to the employees of the Seattle, Renton & Southern Railway Company, all of whom are members of the union. The schedule becomes effective at once and provides an increase of one cent an hour to all classes up to the fourth year, when a flat wage of 32 cents per hour is made.

## GRANITE CUTTERS GAIN HALF HOLIDAY

International Union Makes Effective Order for Short Working Week; New Schedule of Wages to be Made Operative in Three Years.

A new wage scale providing for a minimum of \$4 per day is to be placed in effect throughout the Nation April 1, 1916, by the Granite Cutters' International Union.

Many of the granite cutters of this section of the country will be paid a much higher rate, the schedule depending upon the grade of their workmanship, as it is stated that the minimum wage scale will be based by the union upon the earning capacity of its ordinary members.

On the first of the present month a Saturday half holiday was enforced by the granite cutters' union throughout the entire jurisdiction. Thousands of men are affected by this regulation.

### Label Directory Issued.

The first number of the Label Directory, issued by the Label Trade Section of the Central Labor Council is being distributed in the city. The booklet is well printed and is a creditable effort in behalf of the union label. The advertising is representative of enterprising Portland firms. The issue consists of 15,000 copies of the booklet, containing 48 pages and cover.

The man who can turn his head to anything is usually too lazy to make the turn.

### Lecture at Public Library.

Miss Elnor Baldwin will speak at the East Side Library, East Eleventh and Alder streets, Wednesday evening, April 23. Subject, "The Printed Lie and the Truth Suppressed."

### ENDORSE MAGUIRE

Strong Union Will Aid Member in Campaign for Mayoralty.

At the regular meeting of Engineers' Local No. 87, Saturday night a resolution endorsing the candidacy of James Maguire for mayor was passed and a liberal contribution to a campaign fund to assist in the work was made. Mr. Maguire has long been a member of the local and is one of its leading spirits.

## CENTRAL COUNCIL'S CHARTER REVOKED

Seattle's Organization Refuses to Unseat Two Locals of Electrical Workers and American Federation Calls for Charter; Work Will be Continued.

The charter of the Seattle Central Labor Council has been revoked by the American Federation because the council refused to unseat two locals of Electrical Workers from the Reid faction of the brotherhood. The vote was taken Wednesday night, the result being 60 votes for refusal to unseat and 18 affirmative votes.

Immediately upon the announcement of the result of the vote General Organizer Taylor requested that the Secretary be instructed to turn over to him the charter of the Council to be returned to Washington. The President so instructed the Secretary and the charter was immediately delivered up.

### WOULD CONTROL NEWSPAPERS.

Colorado May Declare Daily Papers to be Public Utilities.

In Colorado petitions are being circulated, supposedly by the recently organized Citizens' Protective League, for the submission of an amendment to the state constitution placing newspapers under the control of the public utilities commission and declaring them to be public utilities.

Four hundred workers are said to be circulating the petitions, and it is proposed to obtain 21,291 signatures, the required number to have the amendment placed on the ballot, so that the petition may be held at once and thus have precedence, as but six can be submitted at an election.

### Stay Away From Nelson.

Portland members of organized labor have been requested in communications to stay away from Nelson, B. C., because of the strike that is now on for higher wages and changed working conditions in that city by the building trades unionists. Practically every building trade and labor union in Nelson is involved in the strike and nearly all, with the exception of the carpenters, are demanding higher wages or a reduction in hours.

## LABOR MOVEMENT BROAD IN PURPOSE

Great Movement Has Many Functions for Good of Workers and Performs All Well; Features Appeal to All Classes.

There is no law limiting the scope of trade unions. Neither is there any artificial barrier to check the usefulness of growth and development. The functions and beneficence are as broad as the universe, and as protective as human ingenuity can devise. With growing intelligence and the elimination of narrow selfishness, the trade unions can fulfill a mission, overshadowing the best and noblest traits of human endeavor and character in the world's progress.

The scope of the trade unions is developing with the growth of organization on a permanent basis. The keystones to the arch of permanency are the protective and benevolent features. What we need is a wider scope, rising above petty selfishness and the apprehension of timid minds. A more perfect organization of labor on a trade union basis is the most stupendous work of modern times. It has no parallel in history. Prejudice, ignorance, selfishness and cowardice are some of the obstacles in the path of progress which have to be removed.

### Many Valuable Features.

The scope of a trade union, as constituted at present, embraces many valuable features:

It is a protective organization. It raises wages and prevents reductions. It equalizes wages for equal work performed. It endeavors to secure a living to all. It establishes a minimum wage for common work. It restricts cut-throat and unfair competitions.

It is a fraternal association. It sympathizes with the sick and afflicted and the unemployed by the payment of stipulated benefits. In case of special distress, the help extended is of a substantial nature.

It is an insurance society. The cooperative insurance in case of death and total disability is superior and less costly than the rates charged by the ordinary insurance companies, with a class of high salaried officials and agents absorbing excessive premiums. It is mutual, safe and economical.

It is a savings bank. The trade union enables the worker with limited means, and not overburdened with thrift and the habit of saving for a rainy day, to deposit weekly small sums of money in the shape of dues and assessments, which are returned to him when most needed—when sick, out of

work, traveling, etc. The deposits being scattered over a large territory, make them absolutely safe. The amount lost by the failure of a few banks does not exceed a fraction of one per cent. The deposits draw interest for the benefit of all members.

It is a legislative body. It plans, adopts and amends a constitution and local by-laws without any interference and advice from outside parties. Mistakes can be rectified speedily whenever necessary. There is no conflict of interests to any appreciable extent. Local differences can be adjusted in the interest of the general welfare, viewed from a broad standpoint.

It is a direct legislation league. The initiative and referendum, which are the cardinal features in the structure of the constitution, enable a small number of unions to propose amendments and substitutes. They are submitted to a referendum vote, with or without any discussion, as the case may be, and approved or rejected. This form of legislation is simple, direct and effective.

It is a school on economics. The Manchester School of Political Economy, from Adam Smith to the present day, has evolved a school of doctrines and critics of all shades and colors. It has evolved a system of speculative philosophy not based on concrete cases and facts. Numerous books have been issued on the functions of capital, the value of labor, the rate of wages and profit, the laws of supply and demand, of exchange, finance, etc. The trade union is developing a new school, which is pure and simple, and based on facts and scientific investigation.

It is a debating club. The business of the union, be it of a routine character or of a more complicated nature, involving questions of vital importance, requires discussion and deliberation. Points of order are raised which require careful discussion. The motions under debate are amended and substituted. Parliamentary skill is brought into play. The natural abilities of the members as debaters and parliamentarians are developed by constant practice. The progress made in this direction, in the course of years, is of vital influence in the affairs of the nation.

It is a trial court. The rules of the union require, for the management of its affairs, the enforcement of discipline and obedience to the laws enacted by the majority. Punishment as a deterrent, in the shape of fines, suspension and expulsion from membership, forms a part of the laws. The right of trial and defense is accorded to every member, with the privilege of appeal from one court to another, reaching a final decision in the highest court by a referendum vote of the members.

It is an industrial democracy. The object of the trade union is primarily industrial. It aims to elevate the economic conditions which affect the welfare of the workers upon a higher standard of usefulness and efficiency. The ideal is equity based on a full measure of justice, compatible with the general welfare. From these objects it cannot depart without destroying the foundation upon which its structure is reared.—Cigarmakers' Journal.

### Stitt Endorsed for Office.

George W. Stitt, an engineer employed by the Central Heating Company, has announced his candidacy for councilman from the Tenth Ward. Mr. Stitt is a member of Steam Engineers' Local No. 87, and in his campaign will have the hearty support of the members of his union.

### UNION TAILORS IN PORTLAND.

The following tailors can furnish the union label:

Huffman & Grant, 287 1/2 Washington street; Oxford Tailors, 143 Broadway; Elmgren & Lewis, 2d floor Dekum Building; O'Neil Tailoring House, Sixth near Stark; Tom Gallagher, 392 Washington; J. Polifka & Co., Corbett Building; William Velten, Dekum Building; H. J. Hejek, Columbia Building; H. J. Benson, Couch Building; R. E. Hayward, Northwest Building; R. A. Nielsen, Selling Building; McDonald & Collet, 229 Washington street; Alfred Ogilbee, 227 1/2 Washington; R. W. Bryan, 6538 Foster road; A. Pautz, 131 Grand Avenue; K. S. Ervin & Co., Selling Building; Reed Bros., Wilcox Building; John B. Coffee, Elks Building; A. J. Bruant, 293 1/2 Stark street; W. P. Kramer & Co., Couch Building; Herbert Greenland, Rothchild Building; John Reitzel, John Jost, Jr., 326 1/2 Washington street; F. J. McLeod, 349 1/2 Washington street; J. E. Norgaard, 208 Morrison street; R. Siegel, 423 Jefferson street; Braun Bros., 240 Alder street; Werner Petterson, 313 1/2 Washington street.

### Two Million Mark Passed.

The International and National unions, federal labor and local trade unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, according to returns made to headquarters during the last six months, October, November, December, 1912; January, February, and March, 1913, show an average membership of 1,952,131. For the month of March per capita tax was paid on a membership of 2,007,650.

## COUNCILMAN CHARGES MANY IRREGULARITIES

Abuses Which Have Grown in the City Government are Pointed Out by Councilman Maguire, Who Issues His Reasons for Candidacy for Mayoralty.

Councilman James Maguire has issued the following statement of his reasons for entering the race for mayor of Portland:

"First. I cannot remain as a member of the City Council because the salary is not sufficient.

"Second. Our municipal government is now and has been for 27 years run by a bunch of politicians, who pay attention to the interests of the common people only when they want votes.

"Third. Since I have been a member of the City Council, I have seen and heard the attorney of the Southern Pacific Railroad tell the councilman then seated on my left how to vote.

"I have seen a street worth a quarter of a million dollars given away in defiance of the city charter.

"I have seen a law initiated once passed by the people, revoked by the Council and another passed by the Council to take the place of the law, which was drafted by the attorney for the interested party.

"I have seen an arbitration board named by the city and the Southern Pacific Railroad to determine the value of the upper deck of the new Southern Pacific bridge, and before the arbitrators had time to discuss the matter the City Council confirmed the decision of the arbitrators and when the decision was rendered the city was charged \$4,400 per year more than was asked by the Southern Pacific Company in the first place. The city paid them arbitrators \$2,500 for rendering the decision.

"I have seen men and women from the suburbs pleading with the means committee of the Council for water when millions of gallons were being sold to large interests on the river front which could have pumped the water out of the river, but would not do so because the water board was selling them city water at a cheaper rate than they could pump it.

"I have seen the water board take \$24,000 out of the water fund and use it for private property development.

"I have seen a report on file in the city hall where one clerk in the water department stole about \$3500 and no effort has ever been made to make him account for it. The same report shows that two and two thirds miles of water pipe ranging in size from the 4-inch service main to the 32-inch main is missing for the year 1911 and cannot be accounted for. This means that the water consumers lost a whole train load of pipe during the year 1911 and no one in authority seems to know what has become of it. The report also shows 39,983 pounds of lead missing in the same year. It also shows a shortage of \$600 in the Albina branch office. The same report shows that 10,067 corporation cocks were purchased for the year 1911 and only 4,802 can be accounted for.

"I have seen the executive board on the recommodator of the mayor put a valuation of \$750 per year on the Fourth street franchise and at the same time charge a pennant wagon \$600 per year for a license to use a space about 4x8 feet on the same street.

"I have seen car loads of produce sent to the crematorium and there consumed at the expense of the taxpayers in order to allow a commission trust to keep up the prices.

"I have never seen a man that entered into an agreement with the city forced to line up to his agreement. In every instance the city has been found to keep its agreement and usually pay a large bonus besides.

"I have seen special privileges worth millions given to a favored few without any compensation whatever.

"I have seen the whole liquor license system of the city turned over to a few brewers, so that it was impossible for any person to get a license to sell liquor in this city unless he went to a brewer and paid from \$2500.00 to \$4000.00 for a license besides the \$800.00 per annum that the city charged.

"I am informed by a good authority that when four or five large grill operators were arrested for violating the liquor license law the executive of the liquor went to the police station and removed the blotter from the desk and had another substituted so that every trace of the cases would be obliterated.

"Seeing the above conditions I made up my mind that I have the ability and the backbone to stop these abuses without asking for any more authority than is now vested in the mayor. I do not ask the public to take my word. Come with me and I will prove it from the records.

"JAMES MAGUIRE."

### REMEMBER

The first annual ball to be given by the Building Trades Council, Friday, April 25, at the Armory. Burchard's orchestra will furnish music. Gentlemen 50 cents; ladies + free.