

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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Board of Control.
Otis D. Forte, Pres. Brewery Trades
A. C. Raven, Secretary .. Printing Trades
E. J. Stack, Metal Trades
Frank B. Raebig, Building Trades
W. L. Sullivan, Waterfront
M. T. Cannon, Waterfront

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A. H. HARRIS, Editor and Manager.

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Monday, October 13, 1913

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

The union label promotes unionism only in such proportion as it is demanded. If it is frequently demanded, the progress of the labor movement is rapid and substantial. If it is seldom demanded, the movement lags, founders and makes but little headway.—Labor Clarion.

NATIONALIZATION OF TELEPHONES.

An elaborate defense of the Bell telephone system, by its president, Theodore N. Vail, appeared in the advertising columns of many newspapers recently. The pith thereof is the contention that the telephone is a natural monopoly; that private ownership is better than government ownership; and that monopoly and private ownership make for efficiency.

Do monopoly and private ownership make for efficiency, and is efficiency the only thing to be considered?

The New Haven Railroad system is an answer. It represents a monopoly of the transportation business of New England. It is an example also of private ownership. Not content with its own large railroad business, the New Haven system absorbed all other railroads in New England and bargained to keep out the Grand Trunk, a possible competitor from Canada. The New Haven also took over the steamship and trolley lines. The plan was not conceived and executed by tyros or weaklings. Pierpont Morgan, Mellon and their associates represented the best brains of the financial and big business world.

What more lamentable failure?

The New Haven proved itself wasteful of both life and capital. It has been inefficient and expensive. And, as is always the case with monopoly, sooner or later, it became indifferent to public opinion and to the performance of its public duties. The recent disclosures and occurrences are merely the bursting of the boil which has been coming to a head for a long time.

And the same tendencies are apparent in the Bell telephone system. Not content with absorbing independent telephone lines, it has reached out in other directions. It went into the business of manufacturing telephone and electrical supplies. And, if you want to have a modern instance of the aim and methods of monopoly, study how it sought to put an end to the competition of the Kellogg Switchboard Company, as disclosed in the litigation in Illinois.

Then the Bell system cast covetous eyes on the telegraph business and took over the Western Union Telegraph Company.

But the most vital thing is the fact that private monopoly is not content with managing business—it also insists upon managing government. The trusts reached out and secured control of the Republican party. Tammany in New York and Quay and Penrose in Pennsylvania are illustrations of monopolistic control of public affairs. The Southern Pacific Railway became the government of California. In many cities we see utilities which ought to be regulated by the government, seeking to control the government.

And the Bell telephone system is not free from attempting to control government. Judge Ben Lindsey, in his battles with the "Beast" in Denver, found E. B. Field (president of the Bell telephone system's Colorado subsidiary) the head and front of the forces that preyed upon the public and made representative government a farce.

Public ownership and operation may not at once be all that its advocates expect, but its shortcomings will have to be very great indeed if it does not make a better record in efficiency than private ownership of public utility monopolies has made in this country.—World, Duluth, Minn.

STUDYING PATERNALISM.

The Cincinnati Enquirer, one of the ablest capitalistic papers of the country, has been studying the old age pension and other state aid measures in Germany, and does not like any of

them. In fact, the paper says that individual effort is the greatest force in the industrial world and should be allowed full sway. The Enquirer looks upon the German idea of aiding the weak and aged as Socialistic heresy.

"Necessity is not only the mother of invention but the greatest incentive to hard work and steady progress," says the editor of the Enquirer. "That there should be provision against the vicissitudes of life for the laboring classes, to prevent their suffering from accident, illness, lack of employment, or old age, is coming to be universally realized, but it should be brought about by a combination of thrift and saving on their part, and a system of social insurance in which labor and capital should join, and to establish which both should contribute. This is already being extensively done, with such beneficial results as to make it probable that it will, as it should, become the universal practice. It accomplishes all that government interference and pensions attempt without any of the detrimental and demoralizing effects which they produce."

DULUTH'S WINTER WORK PLAN

The Duluth system of providing work for men involuntarily idle during the winter is compelling widespread attention. No other city on this continent it is said, has developed a system for dealing with the unemployed problem comparable with the Duluth system, which the New York Evening Post declares to be superior in some ways to any plan with the same end in view as yet in operation in Great Britain, Germany or Switzerland—the three countries that have led in unemployed relief.

Other Western cities in the United States, notably Kansas City, Cleveland and Cincinnati, which already have progressive ways of dealing with the temporarily out-of-work, are reported by their newspapers to be considering favorably the adoption of the plan which Duluth has been perfecting since 1910. The chief merit of that plan is the simplicity with which it meets the main objections to ordinary relief. The work which Duluth offers the winter unemployed—farm hands, dock workers and construction gangs, whose problem means a relatively heavier tax on Duluth, as the New York Evening Post points out, than any similar tax on New York or Chicago—is not useless, but consists in the cutting away of a stony wall which has to be removed, as it would in time bar the city's further growth.

The men working at that job are not receiving charity in the guise of wages, and the taxpayers of Duluth know that a necessary public improvement is being effected. The men are answerable to supervisors, who punish incompetence or indolence by discharge, so that no worker receives relief without putting forth as sturdy an effort as would be required by a private employer. Most important of all, each worker is required to submit a scheme for returning to regular employment, and it is understood that his wages are simply to rehabilitate him or otherwise assist him in carrying out this scheme. By these safeguards Duluth has secured the objects of guaranteed employment with a minimum of such evils as were recently exposed by the British Royal Commission on the Poor Laws.

The significance of the achievement, as is pointed out by the Survey, is apparent in the fact that, except for Kansas City and Cincinnati, the Duluth system is the first case on this continent of the establishment on a permanent basis of the "winter work" that is carried on in more than 100 German cities and elsewhere in Western Europe. One important feature of the Duluth plan remains to be noted. The public work in question is completely stopped during the summer; it begins again with the hardships of winter.

In most cities there is work which might be carried on in this way. This planning of public work so that it will be done in dull seasons is a settled policy of the German states.—Free Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUMS.

In the report on billboard advertising, the special commission appointed by the late Mayor Gaynor of New York City, gives the result of studious investigation when it says:

"There is serious doubt as to whether billboard advertising is as profitable to the merchant advertiser as other forms of advertising."

This conclusion is based on the testimony of merchants who have adequately tested the billboard in comparison with the newspapers. One finds that "we must rely on the newspapers for any great success in advertising." Another records the opinion that "there is nothing that can take the place of newspapers." This decision has been reached by scores of advertisers after long and costly experience, in which they sought to find the best means to increase their transactions, not to prove the superiority of one medium over another.

While the commission was at work, the Corset and Underwear Review was engaged in an inquiry in the trade to

which it is devoted, as to the relative value of newspaper and magazine advertising. It was the belief of one corset manufacturer that the general magazines had "struck twelve." It is asserted that "with the exception of one magazine, published in New York City, the women's magazines of America have suffered somewhat of a setback during the last few seasons. Many big important accounts which five years ago consumed an enormous amount of space, are rarely found now in the general magazines," and "it was stated some time ago by the advertising manager of one of the large Eastern department stores, that magazine advertising did not direct business into the retail stores to any appreciable degree, quoting, by way of example, several specific instances of magazine advertising campaigns which under careful analysis failed absolutely to justify the retailer to stocking the goods to the exclusion of non-advertised brands."

The advantage of the newspaper is that it is "more direct in its action" and its benefits on the local trade are readily recognizable. The transfer of advertising activities from magazines and billboards to newspapers has been in progress for some time. It is an unquestionable fact that closest students among the so-called "national advertisers" have come more and more to recognize the superiority of the local newspaper as a means for acquainting the public with the merits of the goods they offer.

A LESSON FOR OREGON.

The abandonment of their nets by Hudson River shad fishermen, because there are no more shad to catch, marks the final extinction of an industry in which the city took a sentimental interest but which it made no effort to preserve. Commerce has its uses, but there is an opinion that this noble stream has not been cared for by the state and city in a way to realize its great possibilities for other besides commercial purposes.—The New York World.

No man nor any corporation can plunder the public except by virtue of special privilege obtained by legal legerdemain. The cupidity of the few and the stupidity of the many have enabled privilege to make our laws, and now, finding that a day's labor will hardly buy a dinner, we stand bewildered while the attorneys for privilege kindly and learnedly explain that the real causes of trouble are "lack of farmers," "labor unions," the "law of diminishing returns," "the extravagance of the working classes," "the discovery of too much gold," and so forth.—Richard Caverly.

It is stated officially, that the Saratoga, Sampson's flagship in the Spanish-American War; the Brooklyn, Schley's flagship; the Olympia, Evans' flagship; the Oregon, Indiana and Massachusetts, which cost the government \$130,000,000 no longer ago than the date of that war, are fit only for the junk pile. Those who make and sell armor-plate and those who manufacture guns and ammunition can smile. The rest of the country could well groan.—San Francisco Star.

The Argentine Republic, with 7,500,000 people, will spend next year \$34,000,000 for harbor improvements, \$20,000,000 for state railroads, and \$63,000,000 for education. Uncle Sam is spending lots of money for harbor improvements and education, but how much is he spending for public railroads?

Don't knock the union unless you can show something better that will improve your immediate conditions.

A community organization is an incubator for ideas.

REGISTER FOR THE ELECTION

Women are especially urged to register at once for the special election, November 4. Five issues are before the people for determination. Women suffrage will be judged by the result of the first state election. The registration books close Saturday. Register today.

Great Economic Waste.

The present annual cost of the army and navy, including interest on war bonds and loss of the regular soldiers' labor power, but not including military pensions, would furnish an annual old-age industrial pension of more than \$290 each for 1,450,000 people.

Just Like the Colonel.

"Indivisibility," said Colonel Roosevelt, in one of his speeches in the West, "is the noblest word in the lexicon of American nationality." And the Houston Post immediately observed that there are six "i's" in it.—Southern Lumberman.

Wants Chips to Fly.

"Aren't you going to say your prayers, Willie?"
"No, I'm not. I am tired of praying for this family without getting any results."—Life.



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Every article guaranteed. Established in 1890. Expert Watch and Jewelry Repairing.

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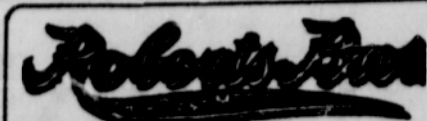
All White Help.
Wanted—Woman to work for herself and husband's room and board.
97 Russell Street

I. L. A. PURE FOOD RESTAURANT

21 Meals \$4.20
The Best of Everything to Eat.
White Help—Neat and Clean.
CATHERINE A. MARTIN, Prop.
75 Russell Street

Interest the Non-Union Man

Every loyal member of a labor organization should try to induce fellow workers who are not now members to join. The dangers which seem to threaten one union threaten us all, and are not confined to the organized, nor to the unorganized. The members of the union may look to the union for protection and feel somewhat safer than those who are not members. Still, if those who are not members have their wages reduced, competition may bring wage troubles upon those who are members. For this reason it is to the interest of every member that he shall induce the largest possible number of non-union workers to become members of the union.



More New Dress Goods and Silks

The smartest and most fashionable fabrics of the new season are showing in Dress Goods and Silks. A wonderfully broad variety from which to make selections. Included are the most staple plain weaves, the most attractive novelties and the latest new colorings. And of equal importance is the fact that ALL ARE MOST MODERATELY PRICED.

Yard-Wide Silk Poplins on Special Sale, a Yard, 75c.

Just in—a great shipment of Yard-Wide Silk Poplins in all wanted plain colors. A very durable silk of splendid weight and perfect finish, in black, cream and the correct street and evening shades.

Plain Swiss Messalines, Specially Priced, a Yard, 75c.

26-inch Solid Colored Swiss Messaline Silks of very fine quality, weight and finish, shown in every good color. Beautiful new silks of matchless quality on special sale at 75c a yard.

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Union  Made

Overalls

There Are None Better

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Weekly Dep. of Savings	Rate of Interest	Will in 5 Years Amount to	Will in 10 Years Amount to	Will in 15 Years Amount to	Will in 20 Years Amount to
\$1.00	4% Per cent	\$73.12	\$162.32	\$283.34	\$420.61
50¢	4% Per cent	36.56	81.16	141.67	210.30
1.00	4% Per cent	73.12	162.32	283.34	420.61
2.00	4% Per cent	146.24	324.64	566.68	841.22
5.00	4% Per cent	365.60	811.60	1416.70	2103.05

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OF AMERICA
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It Stands for Good Wages and Fair Conditions

Are You a Union Man?

Then See That the Label Is On
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UNION LABEL
your custom-made clothing. Demand it. It is an indication of fair conditions, and taken the place of boycotts, strikes and lockouts.

Further the Home Industry Movement by having this Label appear on your printed matter. It stands for good workmanship, good citizenship, fair wages and the upbuilding of the city.

Allied Printing Trades Council
composed of:
Typographical Union
Web Pressmen's Union
Printing Pressmen's Union
Press Assistants' Union
Stereotypers' and Electrotypers' Union
Bookbinders' Union
Bindery Women's Union
Malters' Union
Photoengravers' Union

Union Bars Display This Union Card

Union Bar
Bartenders Wear This Button
Bartenders International League of America

PHOTO ENGRAVERS

First-class photo-engraving with the union label, can be obtained at the following Portland houses only: Hicks-Chatter Engraving Co., Blake McFall Bldg.; Beaver Engraving Co., First and Ankeny; Oregonian Engraving Department, Oregonian Bldg.; Oregon Engraving Co., Journal Bldg.; Sandvall Engraving Company, 133 1/2 First Street.

Bartenders Wear This Button

HB

CUT OUT THIS AD

Present it at Hofmeister's Studio and get one high grade 8x10 Enlargement free with your dozen Cabinets or one 8x10 Iridium for framing, free with your dozen post cards. All of our high grade photographs \$6.37 and \$8. Cabinets finished in Sepia, Buff, etc., you get at \$5 per dozen. We also make Cabinets for \$2, \$3 and \$4 per dozen. Postals and First class postals \$1 per dozen. Call and see samples and get prices before going elsewhere. **HOFMEISTER'S STUDIO**, 165 Third St., bet. Morrison and Yamhill.

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