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RAILROAD WORKERS STAND WAGE LOSS

Figures for May Show That Operating Expenses Have Decreased on Great Systems in United States, While Managers Demand Increase in Rates.

While the railroads of the country are trying strenuously to induce the Interstate Commerce Commissioners to advance freight rates 5 per cent, figures already made public prove that the operating expenses of ninety-nine railroads during May decreased from \$121,358,467 to \$110,941,733, indicating that a large number of employees are earning less. The following gives the summary of the financial result of operations during May, made public by the commission:

The ninety-nine railroads have a mileage of 125,520. Compared with the same part of May, 1913, their gross operating revenues fell from \$169,309,875 to \$152,645,328, a loss of \$16,664,550. All that rate loss on the entire month will be close to, if not altogether, \$30,000,000.

The Commissioners are in agreement as to the necessity for increases on class rates in Central Freight Association territory, which is that west of the Buffalo-Pittsburg line to the Mississippi and north of the Ohio. They are also agreed that if a carrier performs a special service for a shipper in "spotting" a car on a sidetrack, no matter whether on a company or so-called private siding, it should receive special compensation, but that is as far as they can go. They cannot well adhere to their decision in the industrial railways case in view of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Tapline case. They have already given formal notice of their intention to permit the industrial railroads, owned chiefly by the United States Steel Corporation, the Harvester Trust, the Fanning Trust and some independent steel companies to go into court for a judicial determination of the question as to whether they are or are not common carrier railroads.

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE.

Industrial insurance is attracting much attention in England, Germany, Norway and other European countries. In England, following the passage of Lloyd-George's industrial insurance bill two years ago, at one stroke, fourteen million workmen and women, many of whom were unable to pay for medical services under the old plan, were taken out of the field of private practice and were provided with these services, largely at the expense of the state. In Germany, governmental industrial insurance has been in force for a number of years and its scope has been gradually enlarged, until, in some districts, 95 per cent of the people are said to be affected by its operations.

Dr. J. W. Schereschewsky, of the United States public health service, recently read a paper on the subject before the National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis. Considering the social and evolutionary phases of the question rather than the practical and administrative side, Dr. Schereschewsky finds the explanation for the development of industrial insurance in the gradual growth of appreciation of the consequence to and interdependence on each other of the individual members of society.

"The bitter lessons taught by the ravages of devastating epidemics, the concentration of population in cities, the high degree of specialization in manufactures and similar conditions have all increasingly emphasized man's dependence upon his fellow and shown us how properly to assess the value of the individual unit to society at large."

The efficiency of the social unit is conditioned more by the physical status of the individual than by any other one factor. Inefficiency due to ill health constitutes a burden to be borne by the whole of society rather than by the individual. This is the addition to our social concept which may really be regarded as a new discovery.

The sickness and disability of the individual is not a burden which should be borne by the individual alone, but is rather a liability for which society, as a whole, is responsible and which should be borne by it, unless the causes for such disability are plainly the fault of the individual. Industrial insurance is the method by which the burden of physical disability is equitably distributed.

In this field, as in all others in which it is possible to ascertain the aggregate result of a limited set of causes, it is inevitable that efforts at prevention should at once be inaugurated. Consequently, as soon as any system of industrial insurance has been in operation long enough to acquire definite data as to the cause of disease, it is inevitable that systematic efforts for the prevention of disease will follow, just as systematic efforts for fire prevention have followed the development of fire insurance. This

involves, as Dr. Schereschewsky points out, the detection of incipient defects and diseases among workers and the prevention of the development of diseased conditions by proper precautionary measures. This can be secured only by frequent periodical examination of employees and frequent inspection of their environment. Not only bad shop conditions but total environment of the worker must be included.

This means that the unhygienic home as well as the unhygienic workshop must be found, recognized and corrected, and the entire surroundings of the individual subjected to careful scrutiny. The inauguration of such a system, no matter on what basis or exactly at what point the dividing line would be drawn between the insured and the uninsured, would result in the establishment and maintenance of suitable hygienic standards of living for all classes. Enormous economic gains would result through the reduction in the loss of working-time, the saving in expenses for medical attendance, nursing, drugs, etc., and the largely increased wage-earning capacity through increased efficiency.

Labor unions and workmen are coming to realize more and more that sound physical health is the only capital which the laborer possesses, and the belief is growing, says the Journal of the American Medical Association, that it is as much the duty of the state to protect and conserve the capital of the laborer as it is to protect the capital of the employer. When labor unions fully realize the importance of this fact, the workmen of the country will demand that the state take suitable measures for the protection of their health.

ENGINEERS TO GIVE RIVER EXCURSION

Steam Engineers, Local No. 87, Will Take Women and Children for Day's Outing Down the Columbia; Program of Sports Arranged.

The annual excursion given by Steam Engineers No. 87, has been set for July 19, next Sunday, when the Steamer Joseph Kellogg will carry a large party to Columbia City, below St. Helens. The steamer will leave the dock at 8:30 in the morning, arriving at the picnic grounds before noon, where dinner will be enjoyed, it being the plan for everybody to take along a well-filled basket.

During the afternoon a program of sports, music and novel stunts will be given, men, women and children being offered opportunity for winning prizes of considerable value. A number of well-known business houses have donated prizes well worth the effort needed to win them.

The committee in charge of the program consists of James Ristig, Fred Kroll, A. Ehinger, C. Nern, William MacKenzie and P. Draper. The committee promises enough novel features to please everybody. Foot races, by fat men and lean men, egg races by men, women and children, marathons by such slender fellows as Maguire and MacKenzie, and contests in the high cost of living, will furnish amusement galore.

Complaint has already been heard about the "Hotel de Stevenson" that engineers are making the early morning hours hideous with their efforts at running races and getting wind for the events down the river.

No liquors will be sold on the boat or on the picnic grounds, but refreshments will be served to those who so far forget themselves as to go without lunch, plenty of lunch. All the concessions, including the doll rack and greased pig—which stunts will be fathered by Fred Kroll—will be under direct charge of the organization. Burchard's orchestra will furnish plenty of good music for the voyage and at the dancing pavilion during the afternoon.

The boat will return to the city about 7 o'clock in the evening.

TEAMSTERS DISAVOW ACTION

Local Union Says Name Was Used Without Authority.

Portland, Oregon, June 3, 1914.—Editor Portland Labor Press—A few weeks ago the Central Labor Council passed a resolution opposing state-wide prohibition. This resolution was signed by a member of the Teamsters' Union and has given out the impression that the Teamsters have taken a stand on the liquor question, which is not a fact. The Teamsters' Union has so far absolutely refused to take sides in this fight.

The Teamsters wish this letter published because our delegate to the Liberal League signed the name of this organization to said resolution without the authority of said local, and said local wants to publicly announce that it will not stand for its name being used in any way, either for or against prohibition.

Yours fraternally,
M. E. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary Teamsters' Local No. 162.

PAPER WORKERS WIN BIG CONCESSIONS

Substantial Increases in Wages for Firemen and Pulpmakers in Mills of International Paper Company Result of New Agreement.

Workers in paper mills in the United States are well organized. The signing up of the International Paper Company a few days ago practically unionizes the entire paper industry throughout the country. The Great Northern Paper Company, St. Croix Paper Company and the Grand Lake Paper Company signed agreements last May. These combined companies employ almost 7000 men.

The agreement covers all the trades in the employ of the International. Among them are paper makers, pulp and sulphite workers, machinists, electricians, plumbers, steam fitters, engineers, firemen, carpenters and several laborers' organizations.

Among the concessions wrested from the company are that the day workers be paid four hours' pay for all overtime work, no matter how long they have to work. In all cases, however, are the men to be paid time and a half for overtime work.

Labor day, Christmas day and Independence day are to be considered legal holidays. In case the men are asked to work on these days they are to get the regular day's pay plus time and a half.

The paper makers' wage scale, which had been irregular, has been readjusted and they will receive a slight increase in wages. The pulp and sulphite workers get an increase in wages of 1 cent per hour. Engineers get a minimum scale of wages of 30 cents an hour. This is satisfactory to the men, as it gives them a flat rate which they have not enjoyed before.

First firemen working on less than five boilers get an increase of 1 cent an hour. Those working on more than five get 2 cents more.

The company also agreed to help establish an apprentice system in its thirty-two mills, a demand the union men have been after for years.

YEAGER THEATRE IS FAIR.

The Building Trades Council having reached an agreement with Mrs. R. M. Yeager, owner of the Yeager Theatre building which has been on the unfair list since it was opened, to the effect that all future buildings erected by her and all repair work on this or any other building she owns or may own will be done exclusively by union labor, and also the new management agreeing that members of all unions represented in the theatrical industry will be employed in this theatre, the Council at its last meeting removed this house from the unfair list and wishes to thank the members of organized labor and friends of Lents for the support given them and recommend that this theatre be given their patronage in the future.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL OF PORTLAND AND VICINITY.

Ben Osborne, President;
E. E. Smith, Secretary.

CENTRAL COUNCIL AT EUGENE

E. J. Stack Assists in Organizing Central Body in University City.

The Eugene Central Labor Council was organized the other day by the election of W. G. Harbinson as president and J. R. Blakely, secretary-treasurer. The council begins activity with affiliation of the Carpenters, Plumbers, Typographical, Bricklayers, Electrical Workers and Painters. Active interest in the labor movement is being aroused in Eugene.

E. J. Stack, secretary of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, went to Eugene and assisted in getting the central body on its feet. It is said that the organization of skilled men in the University City will be kept up until all the crafts shall be represented in a strong central body.

Stop Sunday Work.

Railway men of Great Britain have gone on record as unanimously pledging their union to bring pressure on the railroads for the stoppage of all Sunday work.

HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY STILL FIGHTS.

The Home Telephone Company still refuses to make any kind of a settlement of the difficulty with the Electrical Workers, even refusing to arbitrate. Local No. 125, Electrical Workers, is making good progress, and we want to assure our friends that this boycott is having a very good effect. But we must do better yet to win. We ask all members of organized labor and their friends to not patronize the Home Telephone Company until it lives up to its promises.

The concern even refuses to allow employees to be organized. Local 125, Electrical Workers, is going to continue this campaign just as long as the Home Telephone Company maintains its unfair attitude. Again we ask you to discontinue the use of this company's instruments.

Any information will be gladly furnished by calling Marshall 765.

PUBLIC OWNERSHIP POPULAR IN SEATTLE

Metropolis of State of Washington Spends \$25,000,000 Each Year on Public Utilities, Which Are Being Operated Successfully.

Seattle is spending in round numbers \$25,000,000 on public owned utilities and is one of the best examples in the United States of a city which has tested and proved the real and lasting success of municipal ownership.

Twenty-four years ago when the town tried its first venture in municipal ownership in the purchase of the small privately owned water system, big business interests were active with the old argument that the proposition would be a losing one for the city, a burden to the taxpayers and a dismal failure in the end.

This same argument has been advanced as the town grew and at various times voted to take over other utilities, until today the present magnificent showing is made.

In every venture Seattle has proved the fallacy of the argument of big business. It has shown that a city can buy and operate public utilities successfully; can give consumers a far cheaper rate than private companies ever advanced; can improve the service and still make money.

Under private ownership water cost a minimum of \$2.50 a month to residences. Under municipal ownership the minimum meter rate is 50 cents a month.

It has been figured recently that if the old rate were now charged the returns would be, over and above operation expense, \$3,000,000 a year—as much as is received by direct taxation. This fat roll represents the profit for stockholders under the old plan.

When the city went into the light and power business citizens were paying as high as 20 cents a kilowatt hour for residence lighting. The city now has a rate of 6 cents a kilowatt hour for the first sixty hours and a reduction to 5 cents has been proposed.

Sanitary conditions were materially improved by municipal garbage collection, which increased the tax levy a little more than one mill. Opponents of the plan talked high taxes, but the small property owner found the garbage tax was about \$2 a year, while under the old plan he paid \$9.

City owned street railways in Seattle are in their infancy. A bond issue of \$800,000 was voted for the construction of "Division A" and a line through Rainier alley. The first division is now in successful operation.

Eventually municipal ownership enthusiasts plan to operate a city line throughout the entire town. This plan will probably mean the taking over of the present unsatisfactory system of the Puget Sound Traction, Light and Power Company, which offers decidedly poor service to the public at high rates.

The Seattle Port Commission is right now in the midst of the enjoyable task of spending \$6,000,000 on extensive harbor improvements, including immense docks, piers, wharfage facilities, warehouses, cold storage plants and a belt line railroad to tie the various docks to gether in a cheap and home controlled switching system, to buck a discrimination of freight rates now existing.

UNION CIGARMAKERS SUFFER

Asiatics Drive White Workers From Industry in California.

Chinese are practically in control of the cigarmaking industry of San Francisco, according to statistics furnished by the Anti-Japanese Laundry League.

There are at present in San Francisco 350 white men engaged in the manufacture of cigars. These men are employed only ten months in the year, according to figures furnished by the Anti-Japanese Laundry League. There are 400 Chinese employed in this industry in San Francisco, all of whom, it is claimed, work overtime throughout the twelve months of the year.

The wages paid to the Chinese cigarmakers, it is said, are about one-third those paid to union cigarmakers. Many members of the Cigarmakers' Union of

that city are out of employment, while there is an ever-increasing demand for Chinese cigarmakers, due to the increasing demand for the products of the firms employing Chinese.

The San Francisco Labor Council, the Cigarmakers' Union, the Label Section and the Anti-Japanese Laundry League are appealing to union men and their friends to demand the label of the Cigarmakers' Union, placed on cigar boxes, when purchasing cigars. If this is done, it is claimed, 2000 cigarmakers, instead of only 200 organized cigarmakers, will be given steady employment in this industry in San Francisco.

The label of the Cigarmakers' Union stands for fair wages for a fair day's work under sanitary conditions. A demand for this label means everything to the Cigarmakers' Union, which cares for its sick, disabled and out-of-work members, buries its dead and provides for the widows and orphans of deceased members.

Most Deadly Instrument.

The second most deadly instrument of destruction is the dynamite gun—the first is the human tongue. The gun merely kills bodies; the tongue kills reputations and, oftentimes, ruins character. Each gun works alone; each loaded tongue has a hundred accomplices. The havoc of the gun is visible at once. The full evil of the tongue lives through all the years; even the eye of Omnipotence might grow tired in tracing it to its finality.—William George Jordan.

Congo Industries.

The Belgian Congo has no native industries.

AMALGAMATION MAY COME IN IRON WORKS

Sheet Metal Workers, Bridge and Structural Iron Workers and Boilermakers Likely to Form International Body Soon.

Amalgamation of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers, the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers into one union is in prospect, and is considered by many concerned to be almost a certainty in the near future.

This plan, which has for a long time been considered with favor by many of the unionists, has been advanced further toward realization by the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Ship Builders and Helpers of America through the adoption of a declaration at its biennial convention, which closed a few days ago in San Francisco.

The plan is to be taken up for discussion and definite action at a conference of representatives of the three different organizations, which will be held in Philadelphia next November in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

If the plan is passed upon favorably at the conference it will then be submitted to a referendum vote of the membership of the three unions at large.

CANDIDATES ARE NOMINATED

Central Labor Council Names Men Available as Officers.

At the meeting Friday night the following named well known workers in the cause of labor were nominated for office in the Council:

For President—Glen Harris and J. J. Solhaug.
For Vice-President—Eugene Smith and J. S. Haughey.
For Secretary—E. E. Southard and G. A. Rogers.

For Reading Clerk—A. T. Edwards.
For Treasurer—Everett Logan.
For Conductor—C. G. Ockwig.
For Warden—Henry Harder.

For Trustees—R. O. Rector, W. G. Todd, Mrs. L. Gee and G. S. Warner.
For Executive Committee—Mrs. L. Gee, M. E. Nolan, C. H. Kelly.
For Organization Committee—Everett Logan, J. E. Brown.
For Legislative Committee—C. G. Ockwig, E. E. Southard.
Additional nominations may be made next Friday evening.

Logan Busy at Cecil.

Everett Logan, who is engaged in construction at Cecil, Oregon, came to Portland, Thursday, to visit his family and attend to business matters. He will be busy on the east side of the mountains for several weeks.

Only Outside Clean.

There are some frenzied financiers who appear to think that taking two baths a day and donning fresh linen ought to excuse them for being thieves.—Galveston News.

Night Workers in London.

Including policemen, pressmen, bakers, postal employees and market people, at least 120,000 people are working all night in London.

PLANS FOR LABOR DAY CELEBRATION FORMING

Central Labor Council Takes Lead in Preparing for Proper Observance of National Holiday in Honor of Toll; Parade May Be Omitted.

The Central Labor Council is to lead in a movement to celebrate Labor Day, September 7. Plans are already under way to make the event one of unusual importance in the labor movement of Oregon.

At the meeting Friday night a committee to have charge of the preparations for the celebration was named. It consists of Ben Osborne, of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers; Eugene Smith, of Electrical Workers, No. 125; Henry Harder, of the Waiters and Waitresses; Glenn Harris, of Carpenters, No. 808, and M. W. Petersen, of Typographical, No. 58. The committee held a meeting yesterday and laid plans for attractions and features for a picnic or gathering in which all the unions of the city will be expected to take part.

It is not likely that a parade will be part of the demonstration in honor of Labor Day. The expense of putting out a big parade is heavy, much heavier than at first appears, and it is likely that part of the money will be put into features which all can enjoy.

Music will be a feature of the celebration, it being planned to have a big union band during the afternoon, and a big orchestra for the ball at night.

It is hoped that by next week something of a programme can be offered, as the committee will meet again in a few days and receive reports on the different suggestions for entertainment.

LENTS THEATRE FAIR TO LABOR

Picture Show House Settles With Building Trades Council.

The boycott against the Yeager Theatre at Lents has been lifted and the house is fair. Settlement followed a fight of a few weeks, during which time the patronage of the house was light. In announcing the settlement the Lents Herald said:

"The troubles the Yeager Theatre has been having for some time have been adjusted. Officers of the labor unions came to Lents Thursday morning and agreements were signed whereby all the matters which heretofore have interfered in the success of the work of the theatre were satisfactorily settled and the boycott that was declared several weeks ago was raised. The theatre will therefore be ready to meet all its friends and patrons without further interference on account of the misunderstandings that have heretofore stood in the way of its success."

"The result of the anticipated adjustment of difficulties had already been felt. The audience have grown for the past week to more than double the size that have customarily been in attendance. Some extra good shows have been put on in the meantime. The production of the "Squaw Man" on Wednesday evening was one of the best things that was ever seen in Lents. It was seen by an unusually good house but not what it should have been. This is one of the best things ever put on in any theatre and when presented at the Heilig a few weeks ago seats were sold for 25 cents and up. The Yeager will continue to list some of the finest attractions on the road. It will be worth the public's while to watch for Yeager announcements, for a seat at the Yeager will save you money. You can see the best productions here for less than half what it will cost you down town."

"This of itself should be enough to ensure the success of this beautiful show house, but the advantages it offers for space and conveniences will make it doubly attractive to all lovers of good service."

Carpenters Elect Officers.

Carpenters No. 808 elected officers at the last regular meeting, the honor of being president going to A. B. Senior, who has been active in the local for a long time. The other officers chosen are: Vice-president, J. U. Dobbins; recording secretary, Will C. Shugart; financial secretary, J. F. Weatherly; warden, C. S. Warner. Delegates to the District Council, R. O. Rector and J. F. Weatherly; alternates, O. E. Hibbs and G. S. Warner.

Shugart To Represent Carpenters.

Will C. Shugart goes to Seattle Wednesday to represent the local district council of Carpenters at the annual convention which will continue three days. In the election of officers for the District Council the following selections were made: President, T. J. Lowry; vice-president, I. T. Lemmon; business agent, B. W. Sleeman; secretary-treasurer, S. Clark.

The people who never make mistakes must lead a mighty monotonous existence.