

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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THE OPEN SHOP BOGEY.

Word comes from Stockton, Cal., that a number of business men and others, all well meaning, perhaps, have set out to put Stockton on the map as an "open shop" town. A lot of fuss has already been made, and it is likely that more will follow before the end aimed at will be gained, if ever it can be.

The fight for the open shop becomes a sort of nightmare to men who fail to learn the lesson that wise men have learned, to-wit: That labor is worthy of its hire; that man must have a square deal with machinery and with capital.

If the people of the country understood what is meant by the term "open shop" there would be little doubt but that the support of the "banner of freedom" would disappear like snow before the sun. In the ignorance of the men who put up the money as well as in the prejudice of other men, lie the strength of the "open shop" movement, if indeed any strength is to be found.

The open shop should be a shop where men are employed because there is work to be done and because they are fitted by experience and training to do that work. The true open shop could not exist on the plan offered by trouble makers, who propose to maintain a shop system where union men cannot find employment, whether they be efficient or inefficient.

If members of a union are not allowed to work in a shop that shop cannot be truly an open shop. If members of the Catholic Church or the Baptist Church are prohibited from being employed in a shop or factory that plant cannot be truly on the open shop basis. Such a thing as an open shop is not found on every street corner, even with conditions as they are.

The "open shop" advocates in this country demand control of their property and also of the men who do the work. And why should they be denied this privilege? Do they not have control of the iron and steel machines in the plant, and do not these machines cost more money than the men who operate them a few hours each day? So far in the discussion on the "open shop" it seems impossible for the captains of industry to separate the human element from the equipment or capitalistic element, and they insist on the right of controlling labor as they control pig iron or fir lumber.

Many broad-minded men think they believe in the "open shop" as it is offered by the manufacturers and big business interests. They think thus because they honestly assume that the "open shop" offered is truly the open shop of well organized industry. These men would not follow men in a blind rush for wealth at the expense of men and women, but they follow the noise produced by leaders in industry when they oppose unionism and organization. The "open shop" cry sounds plausible to men who have not dealt with the practically non-union shop, for they assume that in a plant so conducted any efficient man may find employment when it is to be had. These good fellows do not understand that unionism is barred in every plant where the "open shop" theory is put into practice, and that men in all their helplessness must beg for the right to work, with the fear of dismissal always before their eyes.

A man, even though wonderfully skilled in his work, has small chance in the world of industry today, when he applies for a chance to labor as an individual, with the support only of his hands and his head, without the strength of his fellow workers behind him. It is easy to talk about the right of contract, but what right has a man whose family must be fed, sheltered and clothed, when he applies for work in a plant where hundreds of men are employed, many of whom could be shifted to his task in a moment and when perhaps hundreds of men are on a waiting list, hoping that he will be dismissed or die?

Under ideal conditions in industry the true open shop might be possible

and practicable. Under ideal conditions organization of men would not be necessary because human selfishness would be controlled. Under ideal conditions our whole system of living would have to be changed, and the open shop could be accepted with good grace. But we are not living under ideal conditions, and only extremely hopeful folk believe we ever will.

In the meantime, why does not capital take it for granted that men have the same right to organize as has dollars; that men must protect themselves and maintain a level of prosperity or society will suffer? Why is it necessary to try to do the impossible, and then charge back on society the expense in profits on the business? And at the same time men have to use the hard earned dollars which are needed by women and children to carry on the fight for rights which any fair-minded group of men of broad vision would concede should be gladly acknowledged as the rights of self-respecting American citizens?

Even when organized labor wants to be constructive and peaceable, little fellows with more money than brains must keep up the fuss, it seems.

LESS WORK, MORE PLAY.

Business men of Oregon who are agitated lest the proposed eight-hour day law should kill industry in the state, will feel much better if they will only read the statement of Dr. Charles B. Steinmetz, generally recognized as the nation's leading electrical scientist, now the head of the greatest electrical concern in the world, the General Electric Company. He has never been a union man.

Dr. Steinmetz says that: "Eight hours a day is too long, far too long for a human being to tend a machine. The man who works in a shop eight hours today works longer than the man who worked 12 or 14 hours years ago. In those days his occupation may have been crude, but he could get interested in it. He was making something, a shoe or a wheel or a box. There was much disagreeable labor thrown in, but his occupation gave him some play for his creative faculties. The machine has taken that opportunity away."

"The day's work should be reduced to four hours. Men could stand that much drudgery and have initiative enough left to enable them to take up interesting occupations. Society, instead of being impoverished by the shorter workday, would be enriched by all the greater accomplishments these men would undertake."

"The tendency of the machine itself is to bring about the very change. There is no reason to believe that the labor saving machine has reached a final stage of development. Inventions will go on. But heretofore the labor saving machine has meant a tremendous increase in production, instead of an actual reduction in the hours of labor, and each machine has required the service of a machine tender."

"Yet now automatic machines, the machines which superintend themselves, are coming in. These are supplanting human drudgery. I see no reason why the factory may not be changed as much in this respect as it has already been changed in the transformation from hand to machine production."

"If it is necessary for the disagreeable duties of life to be shifted to certain shoulders, there ought to be a premium on that particular work. If there is to be a distinction in rewards and honors the people who do the most distasteful work of all should receive the greatest rewards and the highest honors. Why should I be honored or paid more than the ditch digger? Society could worry along for some time without its engineers, but it couldn't get along without its laborers."

WOMEN PLEAD FOR SHORT DAY

Strong Argument for Eight-Hour Day to Appear in Pamphlet.

The Women's Eight-Hour League has arranged for the publication of the following argument in the state pamphlet:

"If American women are to be the mothers of the race they must have time for education and development of the mind; they must not be drudges in factory or shop. They must have fresh air, recreation, the association of other women; they must have opportunity for organization in clubs, in societies, in efforts to understand the problems which their children will be called upon to solve."

"Women cannot work from dawn to dark daily and live the lives which the times demand they should live. Men have regulated their own day's work, and year after year the hours have been lessened, until about one-third of the average day's time in industry has been cut off, with chances that further reduction in working time will be forced through legislation during the coming years."

"If the American people are to maintain a position of prominence in the progress of the world, American women must be given opportunity in education, in industry, in civic activity. If women are to be given the rights and powers of citizenship, and are to be forced into industry to labor with men, they must at least be given the rights now held by men to leisure to maintain health, to develop bodies equal to the demands made upon them."

"While men have demanded and se-

ured recognition in industry, women have been denied the right to share in the benefits gained. In many cases women have to work much longer hours than men doing practically the same work, and for much less pay. This, we submit, is unfair, unjust, and should not be tolerated in this progressive country."

"Human effort is limited; human life can be sacrificed on the altar of haste, carelessness, short-sightedness and greed. Society must protect itself against evils which will surely sap the vitality of the race, decrease the earning power of the individual and add burdens of wreckage upon the coming generations. Society must demand that woman, as a worker in industry, shall have a square deal, shall have time as a citizen as well as labor as a worker."

"The purpose of this measure is to give to the women of the state of Oregon who must needs spend their lives in industry nearly the same opportunity that men now enjoy as to hours of daily toil. The measure does not touch the women whose work is not of the grinding—the killing—kind; it does not intend to offer aid for those who do not need aid. But it is intended to regulate the employment of women where their lives might be blighted, where the right to proper hours of labor are denied, where the interests of society are being trampled upon."

"The demands of the race, the rights of the individual, the rights of society, the rights of unborn children, the hope of real greatness for the state of Oregon, all are wrapped up in the success of this measure."

"The people of Oregon pride themselves on their progressiveness, on their purpose to lead in liberal citizenship. The voters of the state have given to themselves rights which mean much in the progress of good government. The men finally gave women the right of the ballot. Women have earned the right to a place in industry. Now the mothers, sisters and daughters of the men of Oregon ask the right to do a fair day's work—a right which men have claimed for themselves—with the right to have brief periods of leisure for rest, for development, for building up health necessary to withstand the strain of toil in these days of tremendous activity."

"Men of Oregon, women of Oregon, the question is clearly before you in this measure. Will you prove equal to the emergency, or will you admit that women have no rights in industry when profit dividends are demanded?"

UNEMPLOYMENT GRAVE SOCIAL PROBLEM.

America is awakening to a realization of the fact that she has a large standing army of unemployed—an army probably many times larger than the regular army of which the President of the United States is Commander-in-Chief. For those who march in this army, there is no discrimination as to age, sex, physical or mental condition. All are eligible. A majority of wage earners enter the ranks more or less frequently. In addition to this regular army of unemployed, which marches about the country in search of seasonal occupations, there are troops of volunteer recruits, which periodically swell its ranks.

The army of the unemployed is unorganized. Its companies are either not commanded or poorly commanded. It has some captains, but no generals. It is well known that a disorganized army—an army without an able commander—is a source not of security, but of danger to a community in which it exists. The United States has quartered in every city, in every industrial community, her regular army of unemployed men, women and children, who are out of work at some season of the year. At times like the present, when the army is swelled by the addition of those forced into the ranks, there is always a large number of volunteers ready for service—especially about the mess-houses. They are the camp followers who capitalize a condition of abnormal unemployment."

The same men of this country have at last sighted this army. They are beginning to realize that its presence in our midst, disorganized and uncommanded, constitutes one of the greatest social problems which confront this country today. Statesmen and students, economists and wise business men, labor leaders and social workers everywhere, are demanding that this problem shall be stated clearly, that the facts in relation to it shall be gathered and analyzed, and that the solution for it must be found. They are insisting that America shall no longer lag behind the rest of the civilized world in this phase of its industrial organization."

In many aspects of industry the United States has caught up and overtaken her sisters across the water; she has studied to her advantage the experience of European countries; she has taken the best which they have to offer and has made it better. But in the matter of dealing with men and women out of work, she has failed lamentably. With the experience of Germany before her, with England to stimulate her, with little Denmark clearly pointing the way—America has stood deaf, dumb and blind to the presence of this great social problem."

To be sure, a few of the more intelligent states—Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Oregon—have made creditable beginnings, not simply in stating the problem, but in finding a solution for it. The larger communities, however—the most wealthy cities, the big industrial centers which command the ablest talent in most every phase of life—are just reaching the stage of awareness that a problem exists.—Hon. John A. Kingsbury, in American Review of Reviews.

RESPECT DUE THE WAGE EARNER

A woman who has won considerable success in the business world and holds a position of responsibility and honor was heard to make the remark that she had the greatest respect for a woman who was a wage earner, but none at all for one who was ashamed of it.

Those who do not have the proper appreciation for ability and the necessary ambition required to put it into effect are the ones who consider that they are above their work, and unconsciously a woman is showing her idea of these distinctive qualities by her attitude toward work. Naturally this affects the success of what she has undertaken to do, for no one ever heard of a girl who was ashamed of her work advancing to a very high position, as it would be impossible for her to take the necessary interest in it.

When women made their initial bow to the business world, public opinion was shocked, the male members of the families were greatly mortified because it was generally conceded that no man would allow women of his household to become wage-earners if he could support them, and women absorbed much of the same idea. The story is told of a professional man whose daughter longed for the activity of a profession or business, but he would not listen to an idea which he considered so shocking. Ambition, which was one of the young girl's strong characteristics, would not be put aside for false pride, and finally the father, through much coaxing, compromised by allowing her to become a teacher for one year only.

With the advance of the times and the broader outlook for women which public opinion has permitted, ideas have changed to such an extent that the world admires the wide-awake woman who is capable of making a success and whose ability enables her to hold as high a position as men in business. The idea of pride as to one's necessity for working has disappeared in the greater pride of her ability to do the work, for many a woman who is holding an enviable position is doing so through the sheer joy of the activity which is hers and the success which she has achieved.

The knowledge that she is playing a part in the world's work, the satisfaction that comes through serving or meeting the needs of others by her labors, and to be doing things that the world wants in the very best way that she can do it, are more to her than merely enjoying the things which money can buy and the male members of her family could supply.

The young woman who through necessity was obliged to secure a position and walked around the block when she went to the car in the morning to prevent her acquaintances from knowing that she was at work had nothing of the joy which the other experienced. The former was richer not only in money, but in a happiness derived from service which the great stumbling-block of pride could not permit the other to enjoy.

ECONOMICS OF MODERN WAGES

Gulf Between the Worker and His Product Is Widening.

About twenty-five years ago the skilled laborer received for a day's toil, which then constituted about ten or twelve hours, a recompense on an average of about \$2. He created in these ten or twelve hours a product of about \$5 in value, being exploited in the process the difference between the \$2 he received in wages and the \$5 product he created, an exploitation of \$3.

Today, owing to the development in machinery, the wage earner has been able to double and in many industries even treble his former output. Wages, however, have not increased in proportion to the wage earner's increased productivity. The wage earner today receives for ten hours of labor a recompense on an average of about \$3, creating in the lapse of ten hours a product to the value of about \$10, being exploited therein the difference.

Back in the eighties it was impossible for the wage earner to buy back his \$5 product with a \$2 wage. Why, then, should we today be perplexed at his inability to buy back a \$10 product with a meager \$3? And yet some people are unable to comprehend the real cause of panics.

It might add that just in proportion to the development of machinery that vast gulf now existing between the producer and his product is ever widening and will continue to grow ever wider, because year after year the worker's producing capacity is increasing and the workers are paid proportionately less. This takes into consideration the fact that commerce could not be promoted or even maintained without the realization of at least a small profit.

Viewing the wage earner's position from another phase, it is noted that machinery wherever installed recruits more honest and ambitious workers to the ever growing army of the unemployed.

Here are some problems worth consideration for real progressive men and women: How is it that in a civilization such as ours, with all modern means and producing processes and in spite of the fact that we supply the needs of millions of others abroad, there continues to reign throughout this land of boasted wealth an ever increasing amount of involuntary poverty? How is the gap between the producer and his product to be narrowed? How are all honest, ambitious workers to be given employment? Is increasing poverty a problem of production or a problem of distribution?—John H. Soller in Chicago News.

Man's first duty is to organize.

Resolutions of Condolence.

Whereas, The Almighty in His infinite wisdom, has seen fit to remove from our midst Brother H. J. Parkison; and

Whereas, The labor movement lost in Brother Parkison one who for many years gave his untiring efforts to the cause of making the lot of those who have to toil for a livelihood easier and more worth while and showing to those with whom he left the work of bettering our fellow man, that only by the same tireless energy and sacrifices that he displayed will our efforts be crowned with success; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Central Labor Council of Portland and Vicinity, that we, on behalf of all organized labor in Portland, extend to the loved ones left by Brother Parkison, our deepest regrets and heartfelt sympathies, assuring them that their loss is also our loss; be it further

Resolved, That these lines of condolence be spread upon our minutes and copies furnished Brother Parkison's family and given to the press; be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for a period of thirty days.

CARL F. CAUFIELD, E. J. STACK, R. O. RECTOR, Committee.

Resolutions of Condolence.

Whereas, The Supreme Architect of the Universe in His great wisdom has seen fit to call from earth our beloved and esteemed brother, H. J. Parkison; and

Whereas, By his untimely death Carpenters' Local No. 808 of the United Brotherhood has lost one of its faithful, trustworthy and efficient members; and

Whereas, We, the members of Carpenters' Local No. 808, sincerely deplore the loss of our late brother, we humbly submit to the call of the Supreme Architect, knowing that He doeth all things well, and we unite our sympathy with the members of the bereaved family in their hour of affliction; therefore be it

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of Carpenters' Local No. 808, and the charter be draped for a period of thirty days; that a copy of these resolutions be published in The Labor Press, and that a copy be delivered to the family of our deceased brother.

OLIVER E. HIBBS, WILL C. SHUGART, J. F. WEATHERBY, Committee.

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Dairy Creek. From Wilkesboro, on United Railways. Leave Third and Stark 8:10 A. M. and 1:05 P. M. daily, 9:10 and 10:10 A. M. Saturdays and Sundays.

Deschutes River. Train with tourist sleeper, leaves 7 P. M., reaches choice of Deschutes Canyon points at hours for early fishing. Returning, train leaves after evening fishing, arriving Portland 8:10 A. M.

Columbia River Streams. Columbia River locals leave 8:20 A. M. and 6 P. M. for Washougal, Wind River, Klickitat, Carson and other anglers' resorts. Marshall 920.

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