Portland Labor Press

Volume XIV. Number 24 — Portland, Oregon, September 21, 1914 — Whole Number 763

GOMPERS FORESEES WORLD'S PEACE

Universal peace will follow the European war—a war of aggrandizement and conquest, to divert people from their constructive work of humanizing and democratizing tendencies—were the views of President Gompers, in a Labor Day speech, in referring to the present continental upheaval.

"The end of this war," he said, "will mean the vanquishment of autocracy, the emergence of a society in which the people shall be supreme, and in which men's thought shall be given to the things of peace.

"Civilization had been pressing home the sacredness of human life upon the consciences of men. Knowledge had concerned itself with the problems of life that men might know themselves and the world in which they live in order to gain better mastery over the elements and conditions. Science had sought to wrest from nature understanding of life that men might have life more abundantly.

"It had studied the nature and cause of disease in order to conserve and safeguard human life. Trained minds were delving deep into the secrets of physical forces to bring them under the control of the will of mankind. They had harnessed the waters and the winds to the wheels of civilization. Minds rich in culture and love of humanity were studying the ills of society that every child might have the right to be well-born, to develop its full physical stature and to cultivate its mental and moral possibilities. In all things the purpose of civilization had been to glorify and enrich the lives of the people—all of the people.

"There were minds that were just upon the verge of giving the world the rich harvest of years of thought and study. There were hearts disciplined by life and understanding that were ready to interpret the beauty and the truth of life in the world's poetry. There were souls that were ready to voice the heart of things in music.

"There were fingers whose skill could interpret life in immortal canvasses. There were the yeomanry in the fields, the factories and the workshops giving all that was of value in muscle and in mind to the production of things necessary for the maintenance of life and civilization.

"These—all these—have been sacrificed to the service of the war lords. In a mad moment the countries of Europe are savagely condemning to terrible suffering and hardships and almost certain death these lives and talents that have been saved, cultivated and enriched at the expense of so much thought and effort. Bodies that have been protected by sanitary regulations secured after long, hard struggles; muscles and minds conserved by short workdays; young men that represent so much in sacrifices, in aspirations and possibilities, are now part of the marvelous machinery of war and devastation.

"Can this be our boasted civilization? Can this be the Europe of which Tennyson sang: 'Better a hundred years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay?'"

ALL MEMBERS WORKING

Secretary Frank A. Riley, of the Bridge, Dock and Pier Carpenters, reports that business is good in this union's line. Practically all the members are working and they have no trouble at present. This union is composed of about 100 men highly skilled in their profession. They meet every Saturday evening; have good attendance and are much interested in the affairs of the general labor movement as well as things that concern them directly. They are affiliated with the District Council of Carpenters.

CONVENTION CALL.

Washington, Sept. 19.—The A. F. of L. has issued the call for its thirty-fourth annual convention, to be held in Horticulaural Hall, Philadelphia, beginning 10 o'clock, Monday morning, November 9.

To be entitled to representation, organizations must have obtained a charter at least one month prior to the convention, and no person will be recognized as a delegate who is not a member in good standing of the organization he is elected to represent.

WANT HIGHER PAY.

Syracuse, Sept. 19.—The Stage Employes and the Musicians unions have presented new agreements to theater managers asking for wage increases and other changes. The agreement also applies to moving picture houses.

CIGARMAKERS' UNION

(By A. W. Jones.)

Cigar Makers' Local No. 202, through their connection with the Liberal League of Oregon, are entering upon a vigorous campaign to defeat the Prohibition amendment to be submitted to the voters at the next election.

The following statistics collected by the international union contains a comprehensive statement of the effect of prohibition on this particular business and conclusively shows that in this instance the local cigar makers are making a fight for the existence of their local union.

The union, therefore, appeals to friends amongst the union men of the state to vote against this proposed amendment since it is herein shown that prohibition works an injustice on their craft with no resultant benefits to any particular community.

Our Cigar Makers' International Union of America has just issued a circular showing the effect of prohibition on our trade. These are the facts as given over the signatures of the presidents and secretaries of one hundred and thirty-six unions:

Five thousand six hundred and ninety-one members were employed before prohibition.

One thousand two hundred and forty-seven members lost employment during prohibition.

Allowing for the natural increase in business, they state that 2505 members really lost employment.

Ninety-five unions report that drunkenness has not decreased during prohibition.

Eighteen unions state that drunkenness actually increased during prohibition.

Sixty-nine unions report the cost of living increased, and 80 unions state that the use of drugs increased during prohibition.

In Georgia, Kansas and Tennessee, many unions were actually driven out of business by prohibition.

MUSICIANS

Transfers cancelled — P. Marino, Irene Walker, M. Frallicciardi, Irene Snedigar, M. J. Crusoe. Transfers withdrawn — Cornelia Appy, Ethel Crowell, Gertrude Ward, E. M. Fournier, Nathan Thomas. Reinstated—I. B. Duncan. Applications pending—Joe Partipilo, piano and mandolin.

Members Please Take Notice—The attention of members of Local No. 99, A. F. of M. is called to the fact that the dues for the fourth quarter of this year are due and payable on October 1 and delinquent on the 3d. If not paid by the last of the quarter member shall be fined an additional 50 cents and stand suspended from all rights and privileges of membership.

Members of this association belonging to lodges, clubs and fraternal organizations please especially at this time agitate among your fellow members in the different orders for the employment of union music at all fraternal, lodge and club affairs. Only by the individual co-operation of every member of the association can we rid ourselves of the competition of the man who plays for $2.00 a night. As a rule these non-union players are engaged by ladies, or else by men who are opposed to fair conditions and the union men who patronize the affairs are ignorant of the fact that they are supporting a non-union element. Get busy with your brothers and sisters in the different fraternal orders, whether you make your living by dance work or not, and you will soon begin to get results. Don't delay; start today. Wherever you happen to meet members please remember that the Village Inn Cafeteria is still on the unfair list and members patronizing this place are liable to a heavy fine.

COMPLAINT MUST BE SIGNED.

A great many unsigned complaints are received by the State Labor Commissioner. Mr. Hoff wishes to inform the public that the name of the person signing the complaint is always held in the strictest confidence, and asks that persons sending in written complaints give their name and address, so that the bureau may inform the complainant as to the action taken by the bureau. The Labor Commissioner has no jurisdiction over a great many of the subjects contained in the complaints.

METAL WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 19.—Sheet metal workers in this city now realize their mistake in allowing their trade union to lapse, several years ago. They have reorganized and made application for a charter.

An Attempt to Oust the Boycott Banners

Just now some of our good citizens are very much exercised over the fact that any person is permitted to walk along the streets of this city and carry an advertisement in the shape of a banner.

Really it's not so much the carrying of the banner, or the fact that the banner is an advertisement, as it is WHO IS USING THE BANNER AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE, that worries them.

We venture the assertion that if organized labor was not using a banner to advertise certain facts that it wishes to place before the public, you would never hear a word from these highly sensitive citizens.

Speaking before the city commission last Thursday, Thos. McCusker is quoted as saying: "It's a persecution that cannot be coped with in the courts." You're perfectly right, Thomas. God knows your kind of people have tried it hard enough. But the courts refuse to recognize it as "persecution." They have said that we have a right to tell the members of the unions and the public at large that any particular person, firm or corporation operates its business under conditions which we do not approve.

Probably no one would object if we advertised the fact that Lipman, Wolfe & Co. is unfair if we used the New York or Chicago papers, but we want the members of organized labor, their families and their friends in Portland to know the fact and IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE THE BANNER IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER OF LETTING THEM KNOW IT.

The right to boycott is as old as the world and is not likely to be taken away by the city commission of Portland or anyone else.

The second fiddle of the stringed orchestra that plays when the Employers' Association crooks its finger endeavored in its report of the meeting, printed last Friday morning, to lead the public to believe that organized labor is not interested in the matter. We wish to assure the people of this city that when the proper time comes organized labor will be heard from, and in no uncertain tones.

ABOLISH STATE SENATE

If a mechanic found that any machine had a useless and worthless cog wheel in its mechanism that merely consumed power and oil to revolve it, impaired the efficiency of the machine and reduced the desirable product, while at the same time preventing the smooth operation, he would immediately begin to think how it could be cut out. If with one stroke he could disconnect it and pitch it out of sight, why should he not do so? That is why the people of Oregon should vote 350 X Yes and get rid of the lobby-ridden, expensive, interfering, utterly useless State Senate. It is the biggest drag on honest legislation and efficient state government we have, and no reason on earth exists why it should not be scrapped.

MINERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Vancouver, B. C., Sept. 19.—The long strike of United Mine Workers at Vancouver Island has been declared off. The companies agreed to employ all men in their employ at beginning of the trouble without discrimination and as rapidly as physical conditions of the mines will permit. The managements further agree that so long as the best interests of the properties under their control may be fully conserved they will not employ any new men until all of their former employes who desire work shall have been reinstated.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FINANCIER.

"The world's greatest financier is the Oregon farmer's housewife. Her daily investments exceed in shrewdness the clever transactions of Wall Street and no business concern or corporation, however ably officered, has ever been able to approach her in economy. She is the state's ablest trader and her transactions more nearly reflect the progress and prosperity of the country than the reports of our clearing houses," says Peter Radford.

Life is too short to waste it in longing.

Notice to the Public

It has been brought to our attention that solicitors for the HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY are informing the PUBLIC of this city that the difficulties between their COMPANY and the ELECTRICAL WORKERS have been settled. SUCH IS NOT THE CASE. This company still refuses to allow its employes to belong to a labor organization. This company does not want to ARBITRATE its difficulties with the Electrical Workers, nor do they suggest a settlement in any way. All we ask is the same conditions granted to us by its competitor in the telephone industry.

WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR A CLOSED SHOP, only for the right of the men in the employ of the company to organize, and the rights of their men to belong to the Electrical Workers.

IT IS THE HOME TELEPHONE COMPANY that wants a CLOSED SHOP against the UNION MAN. We will let the people of Portland know through the columns of the PUBLIC PRESS when a settlement has been made. Any information cheerfully furnished by Marshall 765.

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, LOCAL UNION NO. 125.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

Brother John Linden, of the Keystone chapel, had the misfortune to lose a brother, Albert J. Linden, in a motorcycle accident last Tuesday. Members of No. 58 deeply sympathize with Mr. Linden in his bereavement.

W. S. Powers, a former member of this local, now in Seattle, was last week set upon by a thug in that city and beaten and kicked so severely as to endanger the sight of one eye, besides losing a diamond pin. The robber was captured.

It is rumored that the Journal composing room is soon to be presided over by a new superintendent.

Fisherman Wickham, ad man on the Journal, thinks the management showed poor judgment in putting him back on the board just as the fishing season was closing.

Dave Davis, formerly with the Portland Printing House, is now employed at H. C. Browne & Co.

Lou Gottschall, who has been reading proof in the State Printing Office at Salem, is back in Portland.

Tom Murray, an old-timer along this coast, and every other coast that amounts to anything, was here recently. Tom is some roamer.

If you want any information pertaining to the printing industry in this city, call Main 2013, or better still, come up to headquarters, room 207, Oregonian building.

G. R. Holden, formerly a member of this union, left last Sunday evening for Oklahoma City, where he and his brother will operate a job shop.

PLAN TO AVERT STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Sept. 19.—The International Ladies' Garment Workers' union has appointed two representatives to sit on a proposed board of arbitration that will attempt to adjust differences between these workers and their employers. Recently a mass meeting of garment workers was addressed by President Gompers and other unionists, when the deplorable conditions in this industry were discussed, and ultimatums delivered that last year's twenty-six weeks' strike would be duplicated if relief was not granted.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Buffalo, Sept. 19.—Laundry workers in this city have organized. At the preliminary meeting it was shown that increases have been made in the price of laundry work the last few years, but no wage increases have resulted. The employes are not in favor of the laundrymen adding a 1 cent tax on every bundle to meet the cost of the operation of the compensation law. The workers charge that this is an attempt to discredit the new measure.

MAKE STEADY ADVANCES.

Los Angeles, Sept. 19.—With the signing up of another shop, the Ladies' Tailors union is attracting the attention of the local labor movement because of steady advances made. The agreements are the result of practically a 100 per cent organization, and provide for the union shop, improvement of working conditions, abolishment of piece work, the eight-hour day, no Sunday work, increased wages and the dividing up of work in slack time.

BED WORKERS GAIN.

New York, Sept. 19.—At a mass meeting of muff bed workers it was voted to strike unless better working conditions were secured. One employer has granted the demands of the union, and these female workers will in the future receive a Saturday half holiday all the year 'round, ten legal holidays with wages paid, a weekly wage increase of $2 each and a minimum wage scale of not less than $10 a week.

WOULD REDUCE HOURS.

At the recent convention of the International Photo - Engravers' union the executive council was instructed to take steps to bring about a 44-hour week instead of a 48-hour week, which now prevails. This would mean a Saturday half holiday.

The question of raising the president's and secretary-treasurer's salary will be submitted to the referendum.

We wish to call special attention to the Labor Day speech of Col. C. E. S. Wood, which appears on another page of this issue. Mr. Wood has some very pronounced ideas about laboring men and economic questions in general and is not afraid to express them. It will be worth your while to read his address carefully.

MEANS LOWER TAXES AND BETTER WAGES

Organized labor has not only endorsed the home tax exemption amendment, commonly called the $1500 tax exemption, but it put up over a quarter of the money expended to get it on the ballot (not counting the time and expense of Alfred D. Cridge, secretary of the league, who put in fully four months at soliciting signatures and attending to correspondence).

It is a measure that means lower taxes to every home owner in Oregon, more work at better wages to every working man and woman in Oregon, and the attracting to Oregon of thousands of home builders and people of small means seeking opportunities. It will exempt possibly a sixth of the property in Oregon, according to its opponents. But whose sixth?

It is one of the measures big tax dodgers are putting up money to defeat.

Whose sixth does this measure exempt if the big land speculators and big tax dodgers are fighting it with hundred dollar bills in a common pool? The so-called Non-Partisan League in the Northwestern Bank building dares not deny this, and dares not publish the list of its subscribers.

The farmers in this state do not average a thousand dollars each of the kinds of property to be exempted. A farmer in Clackamas County (H. Thiessen, Milwaukie), shows that with an improved farm of over $11,000 assessed value, his taxes would be increased one dollar. He could easily come even by clearing another acre of land, building a little more, or getting another cow or horse. This measure would encourage him to do so. He points out that a struggling settler friend of his with 40 acres in the hills and but $50 of improvements to $200 in land, would pay 40 cents less taxes, and be encouraged to further improve his place, and would find an increased demand for his labor now necessary to support his family by day's wages when he can get the work.

Whose sixth? Not the workingmen in the city. They have no valuable land. Their homes are mostly shacks and cottages worth but a few hundred dollars all told. They would have to have a house worth on the assessment rolls $1500 on a lot worth five or six times as much before their taxes would increase. Most of the land values of Portland lie within a mile of Sixth and Washington. Most of the building values are in the same circle. Workingmen do not own any of this property; nor poor widows; nor newsboys vending papers.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are kept off the tax rolls by the privileged few whose lawyers know how to dodge taxes. To reduce taxes and make good times vote 326 X Yes, and see that every man and woman does it whose association and friendship you have.

POLISHERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Detroit, Sept. 19.—The metal polishers have settled their strike against the firm of Caille Bros., who, it is claimed, attempted to inaugurate non-union conditions in their shop.

ATKINS FIRM IS UNFAIR

The Central Labor Union of Indianapolis, Ind., has sent to the various unious a copy of resolutions adopted by that body, recently, in which the true conditions in the plant of the E. C. Atkins Saw Manufacturing Co. are set forth.

The Atkins concern operates on the "open shop" plan in the following departments: Machine shop, grinding and polishing shop, toothing, setting, filing and hardening shop, also blacksmith shop, as well as plumbing, steamfitters, sheet metal workers and woodworking shop.

WELFARE COMMISSION HOLDS HEARING.

At a meeting of the State Welfare Commission, held last Wednesday evening, the matter of a minimum wage for women employed in the canneries of the state was discussed. Considerable time was spent going over the subject and Chairman O'Hara appointed several committees to investigate the conditions and report later. It is hoped that by taking the matter up now a satisfactory arrangement can be made for next season.

Representing the employes at the meeting were Mrs. M. E. Daniels and Mrs. William Addis; representing the public were J. C. English and A. M. Churchill, and the employers were H. O. Holt, of Eugene; J. F. Stangel, of Woodburn; W. S. Allen, of Salem, and A. Rupert, of Portland.