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Central Council Will Aid The Unemployed Members

Here's Story of the Public Auditorium

An investigation of the status of the proposition to build a Public Auditorium reveals the following:

On June 5, 1911, the people voted by a substantial majority a bond issue of \$600,000 for the purpose of building a public auditorium.

June 15, 1911, Mayor Simon appointed the following men as members of the Auditorium Commission: W. D. Fenton, J. R. Weatherbee, H. Hume, T. B. Wilcox and Phil Met-schan, Jr.

August 9, 1911, the Market block was selected as a site for the auditorium. E. F. Lawrence was appointed as professional advisor for the architectural competition.

October 30, 1911, the jury of award was chosen, consisting of Willis Polk, of San Francisco; Kirk C. Cutter, of Spokane, and E. F. Lawrence, of Portland.

October 31, 1911, the jury filed its report on sites and recommended as its preference the old exposition site at 19th and Washington streets, provided additional money could be secured. The commission asked the City Council to submit an amendment to the charter providing for an additional \$350,000 bond issue. The amendment was submitted to the voters and defeated.

Dec. 5, 1911, a committee asked for the erection of the auditorium on the East Side. A resolution was adopted authorizing the sale of the bonds.

January 22, 1913, a contract was entered into between the Public Auditorium Commission and the architects, J. H. Friedlander and A. D. Seymour. The site was formally adopted and included block 132 and the north half of block 133, with intervening street, Market street. A resolution was adopted providing for the sale of \$300,000 of bonds.

April 4, 1913, bids on bonds opened and rejected. Highest bid, 91.

April 10, 1913, auditor directed to advertise \$200,000 of bonds for sale.

April 23, bids for bonds were opened and rejected. Highest bid, \$7.78.

No further meetings of the commission were held.

The commission was abolished by the present council August 27, 1913.

The plans and specifications were received from the architect in August, 1913.

The city charter had to be amended so as to permit the vacation of Market street and this accounts for the fact that nothing was done in 1912.

Bonds of the par value of \$35,000 were sold on December 1, 1913, for \$32,329.50.

In 1911 the Auditorium Commission borrowed from the general fund of the city \$7,500. The entire amount was used, most of it being paid out as prize awards for plans

for the building and to the professional advisor.

After the present council abolished the old Auditorium Commission Mayor Albee placed the matter in the hands of W. L. Brewster, Commissioner of Public Affairs. Mr. Brewster made a detailed report of the matter to the commissioners on December 27, 1913, and was given permission to appoint an advisory board to further investigate the subject.

This board, consisting of Commissioner Brewster, J. B. Kerr, F. C. Knapp, H. M. Haller and Commissioner Bigelow, were confronted with the fact that the plans were made for a building to cover a block and a half and that there would not be sufficient money realized from the bond issue to purchase the additional half block and build the building, and they decided to have new plans made for a building to cover one block, and then a number of property owners, some of whom owned property abutting the Market block, filed a suit to enjoin the city from building an auditorium on that block on the ground that the block was dedicated to the city for a specific purpose, namely, for the establishment of a public market, and could not be used for any other purpose.

The case is now in the Supreme Court. The briefs have been completed and filed recently and it will come up for consideration—well, let's say some time in the future.

It seems to be just another one of those seemingly unavoidable tangles and delays into which public officials get when they try to do something. That the building is not built does not seem to be the fault of any one in particular, yet every one knows that had a private concern started to build the building in June, 1911, they would have been collecting rent from it for some time past.

The Central Labor Council committee on unemployment submitted a report, at the regular meeting Friday, Dec. 18, relative to the conditions that exist in the city, also covering the activities of the committee since last report, including visits to county and city commissioners.

Civic organizations and charitable institutions have been urged to provide work and civic organizations have been urged to endorse practical plans to relieve unemployment.

The recommendations of the committee include endorsement of unemployed organizations and further recommendations that funds be raised to take care of members of affiliated locals who are in need. We believe that the labor movement owes that much to itself, indeed to the community, that no members of our unions should be added to the burden, which must be borne this Winter by the community.

Every union man in the city must realize that it is a duty which cannot be shirked, because every man out of work is involuntarily a menace to the man who has a job.

If you have been too busy to give this subject serious consideration, think it over now.

At a meeting of the committee held at the Labor Temple last Saturday a definite plan of action was decided upon, which is embodied in the following circular letter, which will be mailed to the various unions:

To All Local Unions of Portland and Vicinity—Greetings:
The Central Labor Council at its last regular meeting instructed its committee on unemployment to take immediate steps to afford relief to the unemployed and needy members of organized labor.

The unemployment committee was appointed by this Council for two purposes: First, to devise ways and means to alleviate the condition of union men and those dependent upon them who may be in need because of unemployment; and, second, to suggest and help promote such measures as will assure to the workers more steady and remunerative employment in the future.

Labor unfortunately is divided in two classes—the unorganized and

the organized. The various relief committees of the city from different civic bodies must be looked to for immediate relief of the unorganized. For the relief of the organized this Council looks to and demands of its affiliated unions and their individual members who may be so fortunate as to be employed. Organized labor must take care of its own.

The unemployment committee has the following plan for relief under way:

Headquarters for unemployed union men at Front and Montgomery streets.

Direct telephone communication with the Labor Temple will be established.

Cots and bedding will be installed for those who have no other place to sleep.

A caretaker will be placed in charge who, aided by the committee, will keep the quarters clean and orderly.

The caretaker will be provided with meal tickets for those who need them.

It is estimated by the committee that from 100 to 200 union men will daily avail themselves of this relief. Rent, water, light, heat, telephone, and incidentals will cost \$150 per month.

Equipment will cost about \$300.

Such labor as is necessary to fit the place up the committee expects to have donated by other unemployed union men who may afterwards enjoy the privileges of the place.

The committee has arranged with the Labor Temple Association to receive supplies, clothing, food and other contributions. All such should be brought to the Labor Temple and turned in to the representative in the Building Trades Council office.

Any union family needing assistance should apply to their local union secretary and receive credentials and bring same to our relief committee, who will do everything possible to relieve the condition. All such aid given will be strictly private and will not be given as charity but as that which every union man

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Stay Away From Great Falls, Mont.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners No. 286, of Great Falls, Mont., has sent out the following warning to anyone who may have been tempted to go to Great Falls:

"Building tradesmen and workmen of all kinds are being lured to Great Falls, by newspaper advertisements appearing in papers all over the country, which state that this city is short of labor and that fabulous wages are being paid and work is to be had for all comers, immediately upon their arrival in this city.

"These advertisements are lies, criminal lies, circulated for the sole and express purpose of flooding this city with jobless workers, who will be compelled to sell their labor—when work can be found—at a price lower than the prevailing rates and scales of wages which organized labor has struggled for years to obtain.

"The employers of this city are operating under the name and title of the 'Great Falls Builders' Exchange, which is not a builders ex-

change, but an employers' association, as its membership is composed of merchants, manufacturers, building-material dealers, real estate sharks and shyster lawyers.

"The Builders' Exchange a few weeks ago issued an ultimatum that the carpenters' wages would be cut fifty (50) cents per day and about five per cent of the membership of Local Union No. 286 accepted the cut in wages, and this number of men supplied all the carpenters required to do the work that the members of the Builders' Exchange have under way at this time, and which is being rapidly finished.

"The total amount of building construction that is to be done here during the present winter will not cost to exceed \$2500.00 in wages for all building tradesmen required to complete it.

"There are one thousand building tradesmen in this city at the present time, and the great majority of these will be compelled to go elsewhere to secure employment during the present winter.

"Spread the facts contained in this letter to all building tradesmen in your city and vicinity, that none whom you may be able to reach will become victims of the Builders' Exchange campaign to flood Great Falls with an army of hungry and jobless workers."

ELECTRICIANS RAISE WAGES.

Electrical workers in San Diego, Cal., have raised wages from \$4 to \$4.50 per day to take effect March 1 next. This increase applies to inside workmen. All contractors have agreed to recognize the union, and employ only members of that organization.

WYOMING IN LINE.

Unofficial returns show that the constitutional amendment, providing for workmen's compensation, in Wyoming, has carried by a vote of 3,208. It is believed the official returns will not bring about a sufficient change to defeat the amendment.

WHY DON'T SANTA CLAUS COME TO OUR HOUSE?



This cartoon, depicting misery and anguish such as only the families of the poor and destitute know, appeared in the Morning Oregonian Monday, December 14.

Here are some of the reasons why:

- Long hours of labor.—Low wages.
- Insufficient food and clothing. Uncertainty of employment.
- Child labor. Lack of protection against profit-mad employers.
- The trusts, which are permitted by law to control the necessities of life.
- The monopoly of the land by the few.
- The "system" which gives to the few the control of the opportunity to work.

FISHERMEN AGREE TO BURY HATCHET

H. M. Lorntsen, whose official title is guardian of the destinies of the Columbia River Fishermen's Union, of Astoria, was in the city last Thursday and Friday in attendance at a meeting of the State Fish Commission and representatives of all the commercial fishing interests of District No. 1 which includes the Columbia river.

As a result of the meeting it is said that the prospects are brighter for the elimination of the bi-annual squabble among the commercial fishing interests of the state.

By practically unanimous consent it was decided by the fishing interests represented, with the beaming approval of the commission, that no efforts would be made by any faction at the coming session to change existing fishing laws, so far as the Columbia river is concerned. If this agreement is adhered to it will mean the elimination of a vast deal of squabbling that heretofore has held legislation back immeasurably, created great ill feeling and resulted in unsatisfactory laws.

ASK HALF OFF SATURDAYS.

Municipal employees at Duluth, Minn., have petitioned the city commissioners for a Saturday half holiday during the entire year. The rule now is for a Saturday half holiday from May 1 to September 1.

"To What Extent Am I Responsible?"

It's odd, isn't it, that with the advent of Christmas the heart of mankind warms and glows with the spirit of brotherly love, all because two thousand years ago there lived one who preached to mortals the doctrine of humanity.

It's still more odd that after the conscience has been quieted by a few days or a fortnight of right living that we should so easily forget.

Year after year society, because so organized, has its problem of suffering and destitution. Year after year society discharges its social obligations by giving, in the spirit of the "Nazarene," a little to make suffering less acute, grief less poignant, poverty less unbearable.

Every member of society is more or less responsible for the condition of society wherein the few are wasting the wealth of the world and the many are in want and penury. Every member of society who lives to be of service is bigger and better because of rendering service.

Charity at Yuletide, or at any other time, is wholesome and commendable, and is more wholesome and more commendable because of the spirit that is kindled in man.

But the spirit should live throughout the year. Men should be actuated by justice 365 days in the year. Then there would be no need for charity upon the anniversary of the birth of Christ.

Let every man ask himself this question: "To what extent am I responsible?" Answer it in justice, then shoulder the responsibility and a very few years would pass until commercialism would lose its stranglehold on civilization and poverty would be reduced to the minimum.

Then, indeed, will we have "Peace on earth, good will toward men."