

Portland Labor Press

Volume XIV. Number 48

Portland, Oregon, March 8, 1915

Whole Number 787

Unions Will Renew Fight On Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

Two Platoon System For Fire Department

If the good people of this city will spend just about one-quarter of the energy that they displayed this Winter in dispensing charity, in an attempt to relieve a condition caused by unemployment, they can put into effect a change in municipal affairs that will do much toward bringing about better conditions.

We refer to the introduction of the two platoon system in the Fire Department. This system is now in effect in several cities in the United States, and several more have its adoption under consideration.

It goes without saying that an arrangement of this kind greatly increases the efficiency of the fire department and would promote the general health and happiness of a large number of people.

Here is something really worth while. Now will the people who so cheerfully gave alms to the poor get in and do something that will help to make alms giving unnecessary, or will they raise the time worn battlecry of "economy" in city government?

It would be interesting to see just who would oppose a change of this kind and who would support it.

Instead of making such a fuss about abolishing the boycott banners the Employers' Association would better confine its activities to the promotion of some such idea as this and thereby convince the public that they have some object in life other than the fighting of unionism.

It would really seem, too, that churches and religious organizations of all classes and denominations should be interested.

Civic leagues and public welfare societies should find here a fertile field for their activities.

Now that the women of the state are taking an active part in public affairs, they should be interested more than ever.

But most of all the firemen themselves should be interested to the extent that they should publicly demand that they be permitted to work under modern conditions.

We feel sure that if the firemen will let the public know the exact conditions under which they have to work and that they desire to have a change that will put them on an equal footing with other workers, they can start something that will be of great benefit to themselves, their families and to the working people in general, and that they would receive plenty of assistance.

Let's go.

HOME PHONE CO. IS STILL HOLDING OUT

The Home Phone Company has about decided to give up the plan of furnishing street car tickets free with each phone, and instead are said to be planning to send automobiles to carry their customers to and from work. It is thought by the company that in this manner they can counteract the feeling that the public has against them for the unfair treatment of their employees. The Electricians' Union is determined that this fight shall not be ended until the Home Phone Company puts its employees on the same footing as those working for other phone companies in this vicinity. You don't have to use a Home Phone. You don't have to patronize a business house that has a Home Phone. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose by staying with this matter until the end.

SAYS UNION BIGGER, BETTER THAN EVER

The delegates and visitors to the Central Labor Council last Friday evening were much pleased at the opportunity to hear from J. A. McClory, president of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, the story of the struggles of that organization since its foundation.

Mr. McClory said that his organization has as its chief opponent the United States Steel Co., which with its various subsidiary companies is the largest employer of labor in the United States. He told of the practical destruction by this corporation of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Tin and Steel Workers.

He dwelt especially on the trial of members of his organization on dynamite conspiracy cases, and said that despite the unfair and determined opposition of the great corporation his organization is in better shape financially and numerically today than ever in its history.

President McClory, whose headquarters are in Indianapolis, Ind., is on a trip of inspection of local unions, coming here from San Francisco.

UNIONISTS FIGHT REACTION.

Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, has received the following information from President Marsh, of the Washington State Federation of Labor:

"We are having the legislative fight of our lives this Winter to retain upon the statute books legislation achieved during the past years. Probably not in 20 years has such a reactionary body sat in our state capitol. Bills are introduced to repeal our eight-hour law on public works, eight-hour law for women, full crew, bill and mothers' pension law. We are holding public hearings on all these bills and arousing public sentiment throughout the state. You may rest assured that trade unionists in this state will fight as best they know to hold that which they have gained through many years of struggle."

CONGRESSMAN REILLY SAYS PRINTERS O. K.

Printers on strike against three daily papers in New Orleans are standing firm, despite the refusal of publishers to accept the offer of the Federal Department of Labor to arbitrate differences, which arose over the attempt of the printers to enforce a five-day law, without cost to the publishers, to relieve their out-of-work members.

The union has started a daily paper, which is proving a success. Officers of the International Typographical Union have been asking prominent citizens throughout the country to assist them in creating a sentiment for arbitration, and in response to this request Congressman Reilly, of Connecticut, wrote Robert Ewing, publisher of the Daily States, to this effect. The Eastern lawmaker said: "From what I know of the case, it would appear to me the proper thing to do."

The publisher replied: "As you admit you know little about the case of the publishers and the printers of New Orleans, it is rather surprising to me that you pass on the matter and proffer your advice and suggestions about a controversy that we consider vital to the very existence of the newspapers of this city. In order that you may better inform yourself than you have been able to do * * * I am inclosing you statement of both the printers and the publishers on the matter, published in the New Orleans press."

In answer to the above, Congressman Reilly said:

"After a careful reading of both statements, I am more convinced than ever that the suggestion in my first letter recommending arbitration is well advised. I am frank to say that I know considerable more now of the situation, thanks to your information, than I did when I wrote you first. The particular thing that I understand better is that, without expense to the newspaper publishers of New Orleans, the Typographical Union desired to get employment two days a week for the unemployed members of their craft.

"As a newspaper man of thirty years' experience, as secretary for over twenty-five years of a newspaper publishing company employing Typographical Union printers and operators, I am surprised at the stand taken in this matter by the New Orleans publishers. In these times of depression it would appear to me that any effort, especially one as fair as the one under consideration, to give work to unemployed, should receive the heartiest support instead of opposition of newspaper owners.

"The other minor differences between you and your printers, in my opinion, amount to very little. The supreme issue in this case being the desire of the union to help their unemployed brothers, I am sure that public opinion will be greatly in favor of the union in this matter."

CARPENTERS LOCAL 808

All members of this local are requested to be present at the meeting to be held on March 23, 1915, to vote on the officers for the Oregon State Federation of Labor, which is to be held on the above date. Fraternally yours, LOCAL UNION NO. 808, Will C. Shugart, Rec. Sec.

If the business agent for the Employers' Association, the members of his organization and other esthetic gentlemen who have had their finer sensibilities so rudely shocked in the past by the presence in front of the department store of Lipman, Wolfe & Co. of a banner announcing that the place was unfair to organized labor can get any satisfaction out of the announcement that the Central Council has withdrawn the banner, they are welcome to it.

But the withdrawal of the banner does not signify that the fight has been abandoned, or that the unions think that the banner was not effective, or that the firm has decided to grant their employees conditions equal to those existing in other stores.

It simply means that the unions have decided to employ different methods for imparting the desired information to their members, their friends and sympathizers.

It is proposed, for one thing, to place watchers at the entrances to the store, perhaps equipped with kodaks, and to keep an accurate tab on who patronizes the store. This method has been found to be very effective in other cases.

The management of this store has repeatedly stated that they did not believe in the principles of unionism and by their actions have proved that they favor the sweatshop, long hours and low wages and every other condition that tends to make slaves of the workers.

The Central Council has prepared the following letter to the various local unions in the state explaining the action they have taken:

To Organized Labor, Greetings:

The Central Labor Council at its regular meeting of February 26, on recommendation of its special committee on the Lipman-Wolfe boycott, removed the banner from that store. But it should be understood that the boycott still maintains and Lipman-Wolfe are still unfair.

Our committee reported that they had interviewed Mr. Lipman and requested a conference with the whole committee with a view of making a settlement and that Mr. Lipman refused to go into such a conference, stating that he leaned towards the open shop and his concern refused to unionize its store to the extent of other like stores in the city.

Lipman, Wolfe & Co. run a painters' and decorators' department and employ non-union painters and decorators.

They have an electric fixture department and employ non-union electrical workers.

They employ non-union engineers and non-union maintenance men in all departments.

Lipman, Wolfe & Co. deliberately broke their promise to the Building Trades Council by employing non-union men on their store fixtures and trim.

Organized labor has spent many dollars in prosecuting this boycott and expects to win this fight.

The Central Council believes a more effective method than the banner must be used. Hence, this letter to every union in the city asking that you, as a union, support this boycott and we urge all members to refrain from patronizing this firm.

Our committee has received reports that union men and their families are patronizing this concern and the committee gives fair warning that either this must cease or names of supposed union men guilty of this breach will be published in the Labor Press. Union men should and will see that themselves and wives do not spend their union money with Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

We are sending your union a number of cards. Please distribute same among your members and instruct your secretary to enclose one in every letter sent out by him until this firm unionizes.

Please take this matter up and write the Council letting us know your action in the matter.

Fraternally yours, E. J. STACK, Secretary.

P. S.—Frye & Co. Meat Market, Third and Yamhill, is unfair. Speak to your butcher about it.

WOULD PROTECT EMPLOYEES.

A bill has been introduced in the New York Legislature which provides that no contract for public work which is of such character that employees engaged on such work are required to be insured under the workmen's compensation law, shall hereafter be executed until the successful bidder procures a policy in compliance with the provisions of such law.

AGAINST LICENSE FEE.

The Labor Council of San Francisco has endorsed the request of the Chauffeurs' Union for assistance in securing legislation to eliminate the state license fee for chauffeurs.

The Toronto, Canada, Typographical Union has appointed a committee to negotiate with their employers the question of a new wage scale.

PRINTERS ORGANIZE A BASEBALL LEAGUE

The schedule committee is now busy arranging dates for games and managers of teams are busy looking over recruits. It is proposed to have a league of four teams to be known as Labor Press, Journal, Telegram and Oregonian.

Enthusiasm is running high and some exciting times are expected. Trade unionists in the province of Ontario, Canada, are asking that the property qualification for holding any municipal office be abolished. The injustice of this law is apparent when it is recalled that no property qualification is necessary for a candidate for the Provincial Legislature or the Federal Parliament.

HOW O. U. BOOB BECAME I. M. WISE

