

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

(By D. O. Gallup, Secretary.)

Charles T. Able, carrying a Salem card, and just out of a Salem hospital, where he underwent a serious operation, was in Portland last Thursday, and left the same day for Seattle, where he has many friends. Mr. Able was in Portland during December, 1909.

The monthly Bulletin of the Northwestern Typographical Conference reports general trade conditions as very dull, with reports of normal business from Baker, Olympia, Portland and Bremerton. All other towns are reported as extremely quiet.

August B. Stoehr, a delegate from Pittsburg, Pa., Typographical Union to the convention just closed at Los Angeles, was in Portland last Wednesday, and paid this office a pleasant call.

George P. Nichols, the union warhorse of Baltimore, Md., on his way home from the convention at Indianapolis, was in Portland Wednesday, and had an enjoyable visit with George Howell, with whom he has been associated in several former conventions.

James J. Murphy, Supervising Factory Inspector, Department of Labor, of the State of New York, called at our headquarters Thursday.

Charles N. Smith, third vice-president of the International Typographical Union and president of the Mailers' Union, called at Union headquarters Thursday.

B. J. ("Barney") Mensing stopped in Portland Thursday on his way home from the convention at Los Angeles and looked up several old friends, including "Billy" Wells, Ed Schloth, Harry Austin, E. D. DeWert and Arthur Brock. Barney is well known on the Coast, and is one of the few remnants of the old band of "Missouri River pirates" which infested the Middle West 25 or 30 years ago. Mr. Mensing is located in St. Louis and is prospering. The writer knew him 25 years ago in St. Joseph, Mo.

W. S. Barnard, circulation manager of the Woman's National Weekly of St. Louis, paid this office a pleasant visit Thursday. Mr. Barnard is traveling with Barney Mensing, and the pair will return East via the Canadian Rockies.

The writer has just returned from a week's trip to the Sound country, and while there met several former Portlanders. Arthur Lawton, for many years a member of Portland

Union, is in Everett, working for the E. B. Hawes Printing Company. Willard Hall, who was here about the first of March, 1901, is machinist-operator on the Everett Herald. W. S. Powers is in Seattle, and the writer met many others in Seattle and Tacoma who wished to be remembered to old friends in Portland. Working conditions are bad, but almost everybody seemed to have some hope on the future which warrahts the belief that times will soon be better. Old residents are complaining of the warmest and driest summer in the history of Puget Sound.

Claude Robinson has taken a traveling card and is now in the wilds of Tillamook.

E. H. Stivers has again severed connection with this local by taking a traveler.

Guy McGreer, who has been on the Oregonian since September 7, 1912, has taken a traveling card. Mr. McGreer's wife, formerly Miss Nora Evans, was also a member of this Union.

The families of John Daly, Oliver Gallup, C. P. Howard and O. W. Athey are encamped at Columbia Beach, on the Columbia River, and expect to remain there during the continuation of the present summer weather. The families of several friends are also encamped nearby, and an enjoyable time is being had.

During the next week the office of the Typographical Union will be closed at 5:10 P. M.

A meeting of members of the allied printing trades unions who are interested in the formation of a duckpin league for the coming winter season will be held at this office at 5:15 Wednesday, September 8. Six teams are to be entered, and a full representation is requested. Enough progress has been made to assure the success of the league, and each union is requested to see that as many as are interested attend.

Not much talk has been heard to date as to the organization of a newspaper league, but the writer is of the opinion that it would not be difficult to get at least four and possibly six teams. The organization work this year will devolve upon some one else besides the secretary, but all assistance possible will be rendered. Several from different offices have already volunteered.

A shortage of cartridges is interfering with revolutions in South America. Quotation for this: "It's an ill wind," etc.

Greeks And Their Gifts

By Grant Hamilton, Legislative Committee American Federation of Labor.

During the temporary cessation of the activities of the uplifter and philanthropists, who are waiting for the decision of the United States Supreme Court upon the constitutionality of minimum wage legislation, it will be profitable for the wage earner to consider carefully the nature of such legislation—to consider the source from which come these insistent demands for minimum wage legislation.

The heart and core of the movement is a group of professional social regulators who wish "to do things for (or to) the poor wage earners," and who, while arranging their halos, feel a fine glow of personal gratification in helping the unfortunate. In addition to this professional group there is a coterie of employers of unusual discernment and keen appreciation of the policies that will best promote "their" interests, which has given its endorsement to the regulation of wages in private employment by legislation. This in itself ought to be sufficient to arouse concern among wage earners, who are the persons most vitally interested in higher wages. Workers ought to receive higher wages—they must receive higher wages—but is there no other way than that arranged for manipulation by uplifters and those of like predilection?

There is another way by which betterment may come into the lives of those who do the world's work—through organization. By organization the changes that come into the working conditions of the workers correspond to the development within the lives of the workers. As the wage earner catches a vision of better things he reaches out to make them real. He himself grows in initiative, in assurance and in resourcefulness.

Organization develops character. It develops in the workers a knowledge and an appreciation of their power. It teaches them their rights and reveals their opportunities. It develops insistence and resistance. The general establishment of regulation of wages and hours of work by governmental agencies will foster and induce dependence. It is conducive to inaction—to expecting some

outside authority to take the initiative in correcting wrongs, preventing injustice and to assume responsibility for existing conditions. It deprives the wage earners of direct responsibility and power to regulate matters which vitally concern their lives and their welfare.

A peculiar danger threatens the wage earners of the United States in minimum wage legislation. Under our scheme of government the courts are ultimately the agents to which is entrusted the rights and the liberties of the people. This makes the courts the most powerful single governmental element.

The wage earners have had some bitter experiences with having the courts interpret industrial relations. Their assumption of the right to issue injunctions to regulate labor relations in industrial disputes and their interpretation of the Sherman anti-trust act so as to outlaw labor organizations and make criminal their normal activities, are warnings against empowering courts with authority to control industrial relations through court reviews, and court decisions upon rulings and awards of labor commissions.

After having for years been hampered and injured by injunctions that forbade men to strike, to picket, to pay strike benefits, to meet peacefully to discuss their wrongs and methods of securing relief; after having been denied by the courts constitutional and necessary rights; after the many judicial decisions and opinions that have either directly or indirectly declared that the labor power of workers is necessary to the employers' right to do business, and since the right to do business has been interpreted as a property right, the labor power of employers has been made subject to all the regulations and interpretations intended for property.

After all these experiences are wage earners willing to delegate to governmental agencies control over wages and hours of work?

Under the American system, therefore, to delegate authority to governmental agencies is to agree to place ultimate control in the judiciary. Every such agency is infected with the American exaltation of the judiciary—every committee and every commission adopts the customs, the

spirit and the methods of the judiciary. Wherever minimum wage legislation has been adopted court review has been provided in almost every case.

The wage earners of California have been somewhat dazzled by the virtues imputed to the legislative method of promoting their welfare. Though they firmly opposed minimum wage legislation, yet they inclined favorably to an eight-hour day in private employment. The recent attempt of California employers to secure control over apprentice regulation through the pernicious open shop bill is a forceful demonstration of how susceptible legislative regulation is to manipulation by employers.

During the last session of the Utah legislature an attempt to lengthen the work day in the mines came within an eyelash of being successful. The measure did unanimously pass the state senate, and was about to be railroaded through the house when a friend of labor objected, thereby affording opportunity for the workers to be heard in opposition to the infamous scheme, with the result that the measure was defeated.

The union printers of Sydney, Australia, are facing a serious situation. A decision has been rendered by the judge of an industrial arbitration court permitting apprentices to be indentured solely to operate linotype machines, thus destroying the apprenticeship regulations of the union, which provided opportunity for a thorough course of instruction and experience in every division of the composing room.

These experiences ought to convince the wage earners that they can trust their welfare only to economic action.

To be sure, organization, with its concomitant of benefits, does not yet embrace all of the workers, but the remedy for that is more organization. Let all skill, thought and resources be devoted to the work of organization, and none be lost in vain search for magic methods, and the new life in the cause of labor will bring wonderful impetus and development to the organized labor movement.

The old inhabitant who crossed the prairie in a schooner in '56 has a grandson who motors back with the schooner inside.

What says international law about the use of poisonous war news?

ITS TIME TO WAKE UP.

For years there has been more or less strife and fruitless bickering between the "leaders" of the Socialist movement and the "leaders" of the American Federation of Labor.

Starting in the Socialist Labor Party, with Daniel DeLeon at the helm vicious attacks have been made upon the person of Samuel Gompers and other leaders of the American Federation of Labor. The Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance under the domination of the Socialist Labor Party was organized, later to be swallowed up by the I. W. W. which later divided on the question of political action. These organizations were formed upon abstract theories and were the outgrowth of "dreams" which took but little note of the temper of the American workers and really failed to understand the development of industry in the United States as compared with European nations.

The greater amount of the antagonism between Mr. Gompers and the Socialist party is the outcome of the meddling in labor unions by "intellectuals" and self styled "saviours of the working class."

It is time for the Socialist party of the United States to "wake up." Attacks upon the leaders of the American Federation of Labor and upon the present organization of the A. F. of L. avail the party nothing and assuredly keeps from its ranks many who are in sympathy with the movement. The American Federation of Labor is far from disintegrating as was predicted by Berger and certainly shows no signs of "dying of dry rot."

If the American socialists are truly desirous of aiding the working class then it is time they took heed of the trade unionists who are carrying red cards. To scoff at and scorn the efforts and accomplishments of the American Federation of Labor is the greatest of lies. To imagine that the ranks of the socialist movement have a monopoly on the brains of the labor movement denotes a conceit verging on sheer ignorance.

If the workers would unite into a compact body it is time that these senseless bickerings are brought to a halt. The welfare of the labor movement demands it.

As further evidence that this is a beautiful world to live in, scientists find that about 36,000,000 babies are born every year.

Labor Press Circulation Talk No. 1

BY THE CIRCULATOR

To Circulate or Not to Circulate—that's the question—it has been regularly moved—seconded and carried—in the Sanctum Sanctorium of the Labor Press—that said Labor Press do circulate—and circulate as it never did circulate before—Open confession—is good for the soul—Someone told me that one—years ago—and I believe it—sometimes—and this is one of the times—and I am going to confess—to you all—so there won't be any question—as to the openness of the confession—Here it is—The Labor Press is NOT—being read—by every union man—and woman in Portland—It hurts to confess this—But that's the idea—of an open confession—to cause a hurt—so you won't do it again—and have to confess again—and though it hurts to confess openly—this fact—it would hurt more to not so confess—and that's another peculiarity of open confession—to make it—hurt less than to keep a guilty secret—kicking promiscuously around—inside your anatomy—Try it—and be convinced it's great—I know—because I feel better already—But to get back to my text—Why?—That's it—Why does not every union man—and woman—in Portland subscribe for—and read the Labor Press and—Read it in his or her home—Is it because of hard times?—I think not—because—the subscription price—is only fifty cents per year—one cent, minus, per copy—So what the—good people that's no reason—Is it because unionists don't read?—Most emphatically NO—for if they did not read—they would be—ignorant—and unionists are not—ignorant—Thomas McCusker to the contrary—notwithstanding—Elimination—that's the process—the price is right—unionists have the price—unionists read—they

are not ignorant—Still many do not—subscribe for, read and boost the Labor Press—See where we are going?—first we said read—then we said subscribe for and read—and now subscribe for, read AND BOOST—Well—what is the answer?—O!—you guess they—don't like the paper—It's too conservative—it's too radical—not enough local labor news in it—too dry reading—not enough kick in it—too much kick—ad infinitum—ad finem—ad damnum—ad interim—ad intercessionem—I don't know what the foregoing means—but that is—what I thought—you would say—and am glad—it's out—of your system—and now I am—going to do—a little system cleansing—myself—for the Good Book says—go thou—and do—likewise—and I believe—the advice is good—this time—or I wouldn't take it—as Rex Lampman—would say—or write—if he were—writing this—which he is not—as you can easily—tell—without the fellow who—is writing this—telling you so—Listen!—The owner—and publisher of the Portland Labor Press—The Central Labor Council—of Portland and vicinity—is not a millionaire—nor backed by a millionaire—nor interests that are interests of millionaires—What we want—to impress on your mind—is this—that the owner—before mentioned—never did—exploit labor—and the land—and our natural resources—until our city—was so poor—that S. Benson had to PHILANTHROPE—that we might have—sanitary drinking fountains—where Bull Run—might run—and hence has no assets—except you—and you have—all our money—and you won't let—loose—and except we get money—we can't give you a paper—such as we could—did we get money—and then again—if we had lots of

money—from other sources—than you—we wouldn't be apt—to run—a labor paper—because our source of money—and our sensitive advertisers—wouldn't let us—Isn't that true?—I think so—for our advertising man told me—that one advertiser at least—in Portland—told him—that he—would not advertise in—the Portland Labor Press—because he didn't like—its policy—and Editor Rynerson got stubborn—and wouldn't recommend—to the Board of Control—a change of policy—and the advertising man lost a commission—and the circulator got—a hint—to speed up—And I notice—this same advertiser—advertises in—other Portland papers—and I opine—their policy must suit him—and I know their policy don't suit you—because they all have a policy—consistent with—and favorable to—private ownership—of natural monopolies—and control of your job—and welfare of your family—or if their belief—is different—it's a private belief—never expressed—and because it isn't expressed—it's unpopular—and you will probably—be unemployed—this winter—with no medium—through which—to effectively reach—your fellow—workers—organized and unorganized—and thereby get—concerted action—against the enemy—because you did—not boost—the Labor Press—this summer—Just pass this along—there's more coming—next week—So long. P. S.—The Ad man—told me—to tell you that—the friends of—Organized Labor—are advertising in—The Portland Labor Press—and for you to—look them up—when making purchases—Will you?—Thanks. N. B.—H. G. Parsons, makes fine cigars—He calls them the Don John—and Safety First—Ask for them.

COUPON

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