

I Wish You All a Happy
New Year



WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

By LENNA PITTMAN STAHL



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New Year

Will You Help Organize Card And Label League?

Do you want to become a member of an organization of women that has for its object the encouragement of the patronage of the union label and union houses and to help in making the boycott against unfair firms effective?

This is a personal appeal to all women of Portland who sympathize with the great work being done by labor unions, the improvement of working conditions, the abolishment of sweat shops, child labor, and the general betterment of social conditions of the laboring class.

You now have an opportunity to personally aid in the uplift of humanity. We are beginning at the root of the industrial problems, as the evolution of all good and successful work should begin.

We need your help. We wish to organize a big and enthusiastic card and label league. Will you join us?

Women, when interested and stirred to action, are the strongest army for good this earth possesses.

The label stands for sanitary work rooms and shops; for abolition of the sweat shop; for prevention of child labor; for education of children in schools, instead of minds dwarfed by work in mill and factory; for the mother in the home instead of toiling long hours in unsanitary, life-taking rooms and shops; for the most skilled workmen in the world; for living wages; for a work day of reasonable length; for home owners; for a prosperous community; for health, happiness, prosperity and contentment.

With these conditions realized there will be no need of the doling out of a few pennies and parcels of food in the name of charity, to the poor and hungry.

Will you lend us your aid and influence to this big, worthy cause?

We are very anxious to organize the league and will call a meeting just as soon as we can get the names and addresses of women interested.

Now don't get the idea that you must belong to a union in order to become a member. You don't.

What we want is to form an organization of women who believe that the unions are traveling in the right direction.

Fill out the coupon below and mail it today.

Editor Oregon Labor Press,
302 Oregonian Bldg.

I would like to join the Card and Label League

My name is

Street address

Phone number

WANTED, A SOCIETY PHILANTHROPIST.

A condition confronts this city at present, unique, almost unprecedented, but serious. The closing of saloons on January 1 closed doors to hundreds of men who have used these places as "rest rooms," having no homes, sleeping in cold, fireless, cheerless rooms and spending their waking hours in saloons.

During the warmer months of the year the parks and park blocks provided a place for idle men, but in cold or wet weather we are confronted with a condition with no provision for relief.

While a few saloons have continued to operate as soft drink "emporiums," conditions are much changed. Men will not feel the freedom of these places as did they enjoy the hospitality, or unquestioned liberty of the saloon, and will fight shy of places where boys and even women are, of course, permitted to enter.

If you would make a criminal of a man, or at least promote criminal inclinations, or contribute to that condition of mind most susceptible to criminal suggestion, isolate him from his fellow man, in cold, cheerless, ill-kept room, the freedom of the open world undenied, but cold, wet, disagreeable out-door conditions such as to preclude gatherings on streets or in parks.

With little or no money to purchase enjoyment or relief from the companionship of four bare walls, no work, each succeeding day becomes more dark, more dreary and the evenings filled with forebodings of added discomfort and misfortune, he becomes sullen and morose.

His mind is filled with rebellious thoughts. No matter what freaks of Dame Fortune brought about his penniless, lonely condition, he curses Fate, then damns society, and his mental anguish soon reduces him to a state when any avenue of re-

lief is weakened, even though it may lead directly to crime and violence.

While the saloon has undoubtedly reaped the benefits of Summer wages of a majority of these men, the saloon is no more, but the men are still with us.

Sleeping in city or county jails, or perhaps in the cheapest lodging houses, their days and evenings must be taken into consideration. While their regrettable condition in most cases is a direct result of past follies and poor judgment; whether or not they will profit by past experience, the deplorable condition exists, and should receive consideration.

Here is an opportunity for a society worker or association, with sufficient funds, to place the welfare of society above self and provide some measure of relief. We might have a "loafers' camp," or free rest room for men or, an "open house" of some sort where these men might congregate for the few weeks until spring work opens.

FEED THE BIRDS.

I have derived much enjoyment this Winter, as in past years, watching the birds feed in my back yard. If you would once experience the pleasure of seeing the little things flit from one place to another, snow-bird, varied thrush, chickadee, juncos, flickers, cat-birds and many other varieties, feeding together, the chirp and twitter of thanks for food these days of snow and frozen earth when feed is scarce, indeed.

Don't neglect the birds in Winter. The crumbs from your table will feed a lot of them and as you watch them and realize what this food means to the world's most beautiful, a feeling of joy and contentment will possess you.

Even though you notice no birds at present, put out the food and the birds will soon find it.

FASHION'S WHIMS

"On a rainy day
When windy was the weather
I chanced to meet a maid
All done up in leather."

Of course, the old rhyme didn't read like this, and it was, really, an old man, dressed up in leather, but that was a long, long time ago, and I didn't meet him. But I did meet the maid, and I thought me, if the old man could have seen the maid—what a revelation for his poor old eyes.

She wore a coat of leather, soft and shiny, all piped around with a contrasting color. Her shoes were very high topped and of soft dull kid, as were her gloves. And her hat! It was leather too, a smooth round crown of leather with a flaring up turned brim of fine milan and no trimming, it all—severely plain and good looking. Of course leather coats and dresses are for sports wear and automobile wear. The foolish ones will wear them whether or no, for they always do, but there is a time and place for everything, and when these leather togs are worn in their place they are charming, indeed.

For those who are not so fortunate and have not the time for sports and machines, lovely leather trimmings and accessories will be perfectly good form. Collars, belts, pipings, hat crowns—for street wear—bands and buckles may decorate suits and frocks, with charming hand bags and pocket books of leather in all the harmonious colorings of the season. It is yet too early to even predict the many surprises in leather, that yet may greet our eyes and pocket books.

WOULD SLAVERY BENEFIT BUSINESS?

I would ask the business man, the merchant who depends upon public patronage, would you have a prosperous, contented citizenry or a community where laboring men and women work long, dreary hours for a mere pittance, sufficient only to keep body and soul together, having no funds with which to buy even the necessities of life.

Would you rather have as customers prosperous men and women or, ill-clad, under fed people working for a miserly wage?

I know the answer—there is but one. Then what do you think of the person, firm or corporation bending every effort to disrupt labor unions in order that the enslaving of working people may be made easy, that they may hold a whip-hand over employees, reduce wages, lengthen hours and reduce the working population to poverty?

Do you think McCuskerism is good for a community? Do you believe the schemes and undertakings of a professional, paid emissary, whose business is to reduce the laborer to serfdom, is good for your business? Do you think McCusker or the "unfair" business places in Portland have the general welfare of the city at heart?

Do you affiliate in a business way with human blood-suckers, who would enlarge personal bank accounts at the sacrifice of human health, and even life?

Do you believe a theory meaning premature age, shrunken, weakened bodies, dwarfed minds, hunger, death-dealing fatigue, sickly and half-developed children, penniless and homeless laborers, is good for nation, state or city, good for community welfare or for your private interests?

Don't you think McCuskerism would wreck Portland's business interests dependent upon local trade? Don't you think his theories for enslaving labor would fill our almshouses and hospitals to overflowing, work charitable institutions beyond all limits, reduce our standard of citizenship, cause untold suffering in laborers' homes and fill the potter's fields of our cemeteries with the bodies of victims of greed?

The darting, forked, poisonous tongue of the serpent lurks behind the inhuman works of a slave promoter. The workings of his brain bodes ill for all mankind. He is seeking not one victim but thousands. The potions he would administer are but drugs from a brew prepared in hell by the Prince of Sin and Destruction. The mantle he would wear would be dyed with the blood of a thousand victims and his eyes would light with pleasure at the midnight lamp, burning to permit of long hours of toil or the vain administrations of some angle of mercy, striving to alleviate pain and misery caused by the successful culminations of the schemes of the fiend in human guise.

THE GARDEN

During the month of January our outside activities in gardening are halted to a great extent, but our minds should be working on schemes that are to better our gardens or grounds for the coming year. Sit down now at your desk and send for the catalogues that you may need. Read up carefully before actually ordering. Set your mind to work now on improvements. Make notes and work out a campaign. Figure how you could improve your vegetable garden, giving you more of the vegetables you like and fewer sowings of those you care for the least. Do the same for the flowers. Now is the only time you have for this purpose, as next month the active duties start again. Bulb forcing is quite simple from now on. Any of the bulbs can be flowered very easily and should be brought in as required. Water the bulbs rather freely and after the bud appears feed them with liquid manure. Don't throw away the bulbs after you have cut the flowers. They are of no further use for forcing, but they can be planted out of doors in Spring and Summer, after first having been dried off, after the flowering period has passed. They can be dried off entirely by late spring when they can be immediately set out.

You may have beautiful flowering shrubs long before spring is really here, by cutting branches of spring flowering trees and shrubs, such as peach, pussy willow, forsythia, magnolia, Japan quince, plum, apple, etc., and placing them in vases of water and put in a warm window or greenhouse. Simply spray the branches occasionally and change the water once in a while.

Pots, pans, and boxes for seed sowing must now be made ready. Wash the pots and pans and the flats, if used before, should be dried out thoroughly and given a coat of whitewash. You will need a number of flats for the spring planting of seeds and this is a good time to build them.

Garden planning, however, is the big task for January. Although the spring is some months away, the one that plans ahead will surely have better success with his garden than the person who puts off every thing until the very last moment.

Plant gooseberries very early in the Spring, as they begin to push out their buds before the grass and tree buds begin to show green, and should be in their places previous to the time any growth takes place. Therefore, see about your order now, this month. Feed the plants, after they are started, with sulphate of potash, ground bone, or nitrate of soda. A home garden of an eighth of an acre or less should contain about four gooseberry plants which should yield upward of sixteen quarts of fruit. Also in this garden plant about four currant bushes, which should yield thirty quarts of fruit.

WOMEN IN THE LABOR WORLD.

Women workers, when organized, are the most enthusiastic, the most interested and the truest laborers in the uplift work of labor unions.

No matter of detail seems to escape them, whether as to working conditions, wage agreements, union rules or the welfare and successful business of employer.

The Bindery Women delegates to the Printing Trades Council are among its most enthusiastic workers, wise in counsel, quick to suggest, adepts in execution, thoughtful of others, and take commendable interest in the general betterment of the printing industry from both the employers' and the employees' standpoint.

The women of the Garment Workers, of the Musicians Union, the Typographical Union and other organizations are valued members, doing their work as skilled mechanics with little or no friction, a benefit and help to their organizations while at the same time they are reaping the many benefits of organized labor.

The pity is that more women workers do not organize. There are so many women struggling along alone in the trades industries, buffeted, imposed upon, working ungodly hours for beggarly wages, who would take a new interest in life and their work if associated with others of their craft, banded together for mutual benefit and protection.

If these women could but be brought to a full realization of the benefits and enjoyments of organization, I feel we would soon welcome to our ranks an army of women and girls and the benefits would be mutual.

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