Peace And Plenty

(By Scott Nearing.)

The Democratic campaign leaders spent all of October and a portion of November telling the American people that they were enjoying a greater measure of prosperity than at any time for a generation. The appeal of the party in power during the campaign of 1916 was an appeal for the maintenance of things as they are.

Are the American people prosperous?

Some of the economic facts that have come to light in recent days suggest that the prosperity about which so much has been said is only skin deep. It seems to be a bankers-manufacturers-merchants variety of prosperity. While billions have been added to the fortunes of the few, the masses are fighting frantically for the necessaries of bare existence.

The facts brought out by the Bayonne strike give a clue to the whole situation. A great corporation, earning handsome returns on its investment was paying its laborers a wage upon which health and social decency for a family of five were impossible. The Illinois Vice Commision reported that more than half of the girls in five of the large Chicago department stores, were receiving a wage that the store managers themselves acknowledged was insufficient to provide a decent living. Strikes, industrial disorders and official investigations in other parts of the country have led to similar revelations of a great gulf between American wages and the health of the American people. Indeed, Bulletin 76 of the Federal Bureau of Health suggests that a third of the American families are below the poverty line.

Within a few weeks the telephone operators of a mid-West city, with a population of somewhat less than a quarter of a million, struck for higher wages and better conditions of labor. An appeal to the official evidence brought out some interesing facts.

The State Bureau of Labor Statistics prepared a report which showed that in 1915 there were 533 female wage earners eighteen years of age and over in the telegraph and telephone industry of the city. Their wages were as follows—more than one quarter of the total number (28 per cent) were paid a weekly wage of less than $6.00 per week; over one-half of the girls (55 per cent) were paid less than $7.00 per week, and three-quarters of them (78 per cent) were paid less than $8.00 per week. According to this report only 8.5 per cent of all the girls employed in the telephone and telegraph industry in the city received $10.00 or more per week.

There has been no official investigation into the cost of living of working women in this city, but a report recently published by the Industrial Commission of the State, suggests pretty conclusively that it cost about $400 per year or $8.00 per week to provide the minimum necessaries of health and social decency for a single woman. This amount corresponds to similar conclusions reached in other industrial sections of the country. In view of the recent increase of prices it should undoubtedly be increased to at least $9.00 per week.

Accept the figure $8.00 per week as a minimum of health and decency for a single woman and compare it with the wages in the telephone industry as reported by the State Industrial Commission. The result is startling. If the girls work full time, and very few of them do, more than three-quarters of them would be getting less than a living wage, and more than half of them, receiving less than $7.00 a week, would be far below the level of living decency.

"Security first" echoes from the house-tops.

What is security?

Who is to be made secure?

Congress voted a hugh Army and Navy appropriation last Summer, for the purpose of defending the people of the United States—of guaranteeing a continuance of their peace and plenty. What will the fifteen inch guns do to the seven dollar wage?

Food Embargo! Why?

(By Job Harriman.)

Embargo on wheat? Would not this interfere with the rights of personal property? Would it not infringe upon the freedom of contract, and the pursuit of happiness?

The farmer sold his wheat at threshing time for $1.25 per hundred weight. Now the same wheat is selling for $2.50.

How happy is he who buys for $1.25 and sells for $2.50? Who shall say no? Upon the profits of one good deal he may live for a life time. Is not the pursuit of happiness guaranteed by the constitution as a fundamental right?

Then, too, the soldiers in the trenches would not be able to fight were they not fed. And as for the starving people in the United States; might not that be worse if our exporting business were cut off?

Of what use would our ships of commerce be in case of an embargo? And what would become of our markets? Let them go to other nations? What nonsense! For what could our navy be used if not to protect our foreign markets? We must not forget that we have just appropriated $635,000,000 and this would all be lost.

We must not keep our wheat at home. This would not be business. If we do not feed our sister countries while they slaughter each other, they would never forgive us. We must remember that there are courtesies of state.

Those in charge of governmental affairs cannot be in the trenches. They are the guardians of the public interests. If they were slain how would the machinery of government be manned; and who would preserve the great fortunes; and who would conduct the commercial affairs of the country; and who would be able to decide when the millions of citizens should be sent to die in the trenches for their country?

Those who urge embargo surely do not understand the blessing that war always brings; the prosperity that always follows in its trail; and the tremendous fighting qualities it develops. True, a certain brutality develops, but this always follows and accompanies all our business transactions, even in times of peace. We cannot be too chary of our conscience in business. Were humanity to adopt this course, no fortunes would accumulate, culture would disappear; humanity would be reduced to a common level and there would be no class wise enough to guide and care for the millions of helpless creatures who are always present in times of peace and whose numbers are multiplied by every war.

In the meantime the embattled golf players are swatting the swat heard round the world.

Every man is flattered to be told that it is gout that ails him, though he knows it isn't.

DIRECTORY of LOCAL UNIONS

The Labor Press makes a charge of 50 cents per month for registering unions under this head, except where the union subscribes for the paper for its entire membership.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL—Third Friday evening. Room 300 Oregonian Bldg. George H. Hoxsey, secretary, Oregonian composing room.

BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL — Meets 8 P. M., Monday, Labor Temple, 162½ Second street. Chas. MacMasters, secretary, 162½ Second street. Telephone Marshall 765.

CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL—Meets every Thursday, 8 P. M., room 201 Labor Temple. E. E. Smith, president; E. J. Stack, secretary, Labor Temple.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS—Meets Second and Fourth Saturdays. B. W. Sleeman, business agent; W. A. Weaver, secretary, 469 Jefferson. Telephone, Marshall 765. Labor Temple.

LOCAL LABEL TRADES SECTION—Second and fourth Tuesdays, 8 P. M., at 230½ Yamhill. Ed J. Stack, president; M. W. Peterson, secretary-treasurer.

METAL TRADES COUNCIL — First and third Thursday nights. E. R. Nelson, secretary, 195 E. Water street. Headquarters and hall, room 401 Stock Exchange Bldg. Marshall 1641.

THEATRICAL FEDERATION—Meets second and fourth Tuesday each month, 206-207 Goodnough building, Marshall 3290. F. E. Neuberger, secretary, 12 M to 1 P. M. daily.

WATERFRONT FEDERATION—Second and fourth Tuesdays, 8 P. M., 126½ Second street. J. I. Tucker, secretary, 84 Russell street.

BARBERS UNION No. 75 — Meets third Tuesday each month in Forresters' Hall, Fourth and Washington. L. A. Wheeler, president; C. H. Kelly, secretary. Office, 709 Spalding Bldg. Phone Main 9139.

BEER DRIVERS AND BOTTLERS—First and third Thursdays, Labor Temple, 162½ Second street. V. P. Ritter, secretary, 67 East 12th N. Phone East 5190.

BINDERY WOMEN No. 113—Meets second Monday evening in Room 300 Oregonian Bldg. Jessie Henderson, 547 Webster street, Woodlawn 2416, recording secretary; Jessie Squires, 120 E. Buffalo st., financial secretary.

BOILERMAKERS — Second and fourth Thursdays. Corner Second and Yamhill. Secretary, Frank Poehler, 654 E. 25th street. Telephone Sellwood 896. Joe Reed, business agent, 507 Bismarck street. Office, 312 Stock Exchange.

BOOKBINDERS No. 90 — Third Tuesday, Labor Temple. Secretary, J. R. Braendle, P. O. Box 147. Phone Main 8817.

BREWERY WORKMEN — 230½ Yamhill. Every second and fourth Saturday at 8 P. M. C. H. Heinemann, secretary, P. O. Box 171.

BRICKLAYERS—Meets every Friday evening, 230½ Yamhill street. Frank Barnes, financial secretary; W. B. McAtee, corresponding secretary and treasurer, Box 328, city.

BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL AND ORNAMENTAL IRON WORKERS, REINFORCED STEEL AND PILE DRIVERS—Tuesday, 8 P. M., Labor Temple, third floor. Frank Hannan, business agent. Telephone Marshall 765.

BUILDING LABORERS — Meets every Tuesday night in Labor Temple, 162½ Second street, at 8 o'clock. Geo. Kerr, recording secretary; Sam Harris, financial secretary and business agent, phone Marshall 765.

CARPENTERS No. 226—Meets every Tuesday, Labor Temple. W. A. Weaver, recording secretary, 469 Jefferson street; Stephen Clark, financial secretary, 97 Morris street.

CARPENTERS No. 1106 — Meets every Wednesday, Laurelwood Hall. H. Hill, 4604 70th street S. E., recording secretary; Gustaf Arf, 5129 67th S. E., financial secretary.

CARPET AND SHADE WORKERS LOCAL No. 2—Meets first and third Fridays at 230½ Yamhill. C. S. Kenney, 906 East Yamhill.

CHAUFFEURS LOCAL No. 163 (Jitney Drivers)—Meets every First and Third Monday evening at 8 P. M., Labor Temple. H. B. Maltby, secretary, 314 Gerlinger Bldg. Main 5105.

CIGARMAKERS — Second Thursday each month, Labor Temple. Theo. Hirsh, secretary, Labor Temple, 162½ Second street.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL UNION No. 48 (Inside Wiremen) — Meets first and third Friday each month, Hall 302 Labor Temple. Executive board meets every Wednesday, 8 P. M. Frank Manin, financial secretary, 162½ Second street. Marshall 765.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL No. 125—Meets Monday evening, Labor Temple. F. J. Shubert, president; C. D. Phillips, financial secretary; H. Deimel, recording secretary. All mail Box 644.

GARMENT WORKERS — First and third Thursday evenings, East Side Business Men's Hall, Grand avenue and East Alder. Mrs. L. Gee, president, 575 East Stark. Phone East 3729. T. LaFollette, recording secretary, 1225 East Yamhill.

GRAINHANDLERS—First and third Tuesday. Meeting place and headquarters, 84 Russell street. J. I. Tucker, business agent. John Swanson, secretary.

HOISTING AND PORTABLE ENGINEERS, LOCAL No. 372—Meets Thursday night, 126½ Second street. F. H. Meyer, recording secretary, Sellwood 2056; Irwin Baldwin, financial secretary and business agent, 386 E. 42d North, Tabor 3899, or Marshall 1249.

IRON MOULDERS—First and third Wednesdays, Bartenders' Hall, 205½ First street. C. F. Smith, 838 Colonial avenue, Overlook.

LATHERS UNION No. 54—Meets first and third Thursdays, 8 P. M., Labor Temple. J. J. Mathis, secretary. Telephone Tabor 49.

LONGSHOREMEN, LOCAL 5 — First and third Thursdays, Hill Hall, 8 P. M. Robert Orr, business agent; C. P. Holgate, secretary. Headquarters, 272 Glisan street Broadway 394.

LONGSHOREMEN, LOCAL No. 6 — Meets first and third Wednesday evenings, 248 Flanders street. M. P. Cannon, president; A. E. Barnes, business agent. Headquarters 248 Flanders. Telephone Broadway 2061.

MACHINISTS, WILLAMETTE LODGE No 63—Meets every Friday night, 8 P. M. Labor Temple. Office 312 Stock Exchange Bldg., Third and Yamhill. A. L. Sutherland, 85 Blandena, recording secretary; H. H. Long, financial secretary. Phone Marshall 1641.

MAILERS—Fourth Tuesday, 7 P. M., Room 215 Oregonian Bldg. Max Clark, secretary, 1248 E. Alder street.

MEAT CUTTERS — First and third Monday night, 431 Washington street. A. McLeod, secretary. Arthur Westerbeck, business agent. Hours, 10 to 12 A. M. Phone Main 5204.

MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS' PROTECTIVE UNION, LOCAL No. 159, I. A. T. S. E.—Meets second and fourth Monday of each month at 206 Goodnough Bldg., at 11:15 P. M. H. H. Moyer, secretary, P. O. Box 453. 11 A. M. to 12 M. daily. Phone Marshall 3290.

MUSICIANS' MUTUAL ASSOCIATION, LOCAL No. 99, A. F. of M. — First Tuesday, 11 A. M., 128½ Fourth street Board meets Wednesday, 11:00 A. M., same place. H. C. Banzer, secretary. Office phone, Marshall 2161; headquarters, Main 6007.

PAINTERS' LOCAL No. 10—Every Wednesday, Labor Temple, 162½ Second street. E. H. Pickard, recording secretary, 266 12th street; W. G. Townsend, Labor Temple, financial secretary; E. E. Edwards, Labor Temple, business agent Telephone Marshall 765.

PATTERNMAKERS—Wm. V. Raser, secretary, 302 Stanton street. East 3326.

PLASTERERS No. 82—8 P. M., Wednesday. Labor Temple, 162½ Second street. Barney Caraher, business agent, Labor Temple; Marshall 765.

PLUMBERS, U. A. LOCAL No. 51—Second and fourth Mondays at 8 P. M., Labor Temple, 162½ Second Street. Phil Pollock, business agent. Telephone Marshall 765.

PORTLAND PHOTO-ENGRAVERS, LOCAL No. 31—Room 300 Oregonian Bldg. Meets first Sunday each month, 11 A. M. Carl F. Freilinger, secretary, P. O. Box 689.

PRESSMEN No. 43—First Thursday evening, 8 o'clock, 303 Labor Temple, 162½ Second St. F. L. Riggs, secretary, 115 E. 53d street. Tabor 5131.

RIVER STEAMBOATMEN'S UNION—Second and fourth Saturday in each month at 8 P. M., 61 N. Second street. Broadway 1866. Chas Bennett, business agent.

SAILORS' UNION OF THE PACIFIC — Monday night, 44 Union avenue N. Jack Rosen, secretary. Telephone East 4912.

SHEET METAL WORKERS—Friday evening, Hall 301 Labor Temple, 162½ Second street. W. L. Sullivan, business agent, Labor Temple. Marshall 765.

SHIPWRIGHTS AND JOINERS No. 1020—Meets second and fourth Mondays each month, 245 Ash street. Charles Gregory, secretary, 484 Union avenue. Telephone Sellwood 1486.

STEAM ENGINEERS, LOCAL No. 87 — Meets every Saturday evening in Selling Hirsch Bldg., 10th and Washington. Wm. Mackenzie, secretary, 875 E. Ninth street North.

STEAMFITTERS, U. A. LOCAL 235—Friday, 8 P. M., Labor Temple, 162½ Second. J. Kelly, financial secretary, 651 Belmont; Chas. Upham, recording secretary, Labor Temple, 162½ Second St.

STEREOTYPERS & ELECTROTYPERS No. 48—Meets fourth Wednesday in month at Room 300 Oregonian Bldg. J. W. Summers, secretary, care Portland News.

SWITCHMEN'S UNION OF NORTH AMERICA—Meets first Sunday at 2 P. M.; third Monday, 8 P. M., Woodman Hall Russell street. President, B. F. Charles, 208 S. 17th street; secretary and treasurer, A. F. Schumann, 503½ Union Ave. N., Mayo Apts.

TAILORS, No. 74—Second and fourth Monday, Forresters' Hall, 129 4th St. John Barandun, secretary, Box 620.

TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, STABLEMEN AND HELPERS, LOCAL No. 162—Every first and third Tuesday evening at 129 Fourth street. Ben Rosenblum, recording secretary, 310 17th street; G. A. Rogers, secretary-treasurer, 1497 East Ash street.

THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYES, I. A. T. S. E., LOCAL No. 28—Meets second and fourth Tuesday each month, 10 A. M., Room 206, Goodnough Bldg. Wm. E. Day, recording secretary, P. O. Box 560.

TILE LAYERS AND HELPERS No. 42—Second Thursday, 8 P. M., Labor Temple. R. Burton, 9853 56th avenue S. E.

TYPOGRAPHICAL No. 58—First Sunday in month, 1 P. M., Arcanum Hall, 13th and Washington. D. O. Gallup, secretary; office, 300 Oregonian Bldg.

UPHOLSTERERS AND TRIMMERS' LOCAL No. 65—Meets second and fourth Tuesday of each month, Labor Temple. G. W. Haines, recording secretary, 626 Marshall street.

WEB PRESSMEN'S UNION No. 17—Meets first Tuesday in the month, 300 Oregonian Bldg. J. H. Brooks, secretary, 686 E. 69th N.

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