

IN LABOR'S BEHALF

Resolutions Adopted by Oregon Federation.

MEASURES THAT ARE DEMANDED

Practical Mechanics Favored for Places on Port of Portland Commission—No Convict or Child Labor.

At the second day's session of the Oregon Federation of Labor three resolutions of paramount importance were adopted, as follows:

Demanding that two practical mechanics be placed on the Port of Portland Commission.

Demanding that the system of allowing convict labor to compete with free labor be done away with.

Demanding that child labor be forbidden.

Many other resolutions in the interests of labor were adopted. The convention will continue its labors today.

When the convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor was called to order yesterday morning, President Gurr announced the following committees:

Ways and means—Thomas, Green, Long and McCullough, of Portland, and Howard, of Oregon City.

On constitution and by-laws—Mickey, Berkeley, Alberts, Bird, Lawson, Biglin and Jones, of Portland; McMurrin, of City, and Coffey, of Salem.

Resolutions—Harry, Howell, Schroeder, Shaver and Brackett, of Portland; Hawthorn, of La Grande; Knapp, of Albany; Lornitz, of Astoria, and Johnson, of Oregon City.

Both in the morning and in the afternoon resolutions were reported almost continuously, and to assist the secretary, J. B. Kundret, was appointed reading clerk. A resolution that attracted a great deal of attention from the Portland delegates was demanding representation on the Port of Portland Commission.

It was framed by G. H. Thomas, W. A. Alger and T. Thompson, was adopted by the committee and the federation, and was as follows:

Whereas, By the act of the Legislature of the State of Oregon a commission known as the Port of Portland Commission has been created, and

Whereas, This commission has been entrusted with the work of constructing dredges, accords, a drydock and machinery in general for the benefit of the port of Portland;

Whereas, There has been appropriated large sums of money for the purpose of carrying on this work, and

Whereas, The Port of Portland Commission is composed of men in the professional walks of life, and practical skilled mechanics have no voice in the deliberations of said commission, and

Whereas, Believing that the work of said commission requires the aid of practical, skilled mechanics, therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be added to said commission a practical shipwright and a practical mechanic, to be appointed by the commission, and that they be paid such salaries as the commission may deem proper.

Resolved, By the delegates to the Oregon State Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, That they will endeavor to bring the question before the next session of the Legislature, to the end that this bill may be amended and a suitable law passed to safeguard the interests of the citizens of the state.

Discussing the resolution, Mr. Alger said that when a contract was let the commission paid little attention to the bidders or to the location of their places of business. One contract had been awarded to a contractor who lived in the city, and the other to a contractor who lived in the country. The work should be kept in Portland, and if the local firms could not bid low enough they should at least be given an opportunity to show what they could do on the big jobs.

The speaker then turned to the question of convict labor, and inspectors generally got their positions through political influence. The inspector of the state was a practical mechanic. The speaker had been informed that timber had been placed in the dredge which were not up to the standard of the state, and he had taken out later. Leakage would occur, and the taxpayer, not the commission, would have to pay the damages. Were practical mechanics added to the commission, poor work would be done. The mechanics would see that the contract was followed to the letter. Mr. Alger was loudly applauded.

Convict Labor Denounced.

The following resolution against the contracting of convicts to corporations was presented by C. E. Holzer and George Y. Harry and was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The convicts of the Oregon State Penitentiary are in direct competition with free labor in the production of staves and ranges, and

Whereas, The firms hiring such convicts are only paying a state tax of one cent per hour for skilled labor, enabling these firms to undersell firms employing union labor and paying the union scale of 45 cents per hour, and

Whereas, These prison-made goods are sold in open market in this city and distributed throughout the state by the same firms, and

Resolved, That the executive committee of the Oregon State Federation of Labor be instructed to frame a bill that will correct this above and prevent any private parties contracting for convict labor in the production of goods that would in any way come in conflict with free labor.

The following resolution against child labor was introduced by Assistant Secretary Noffke and was adopted with applause:

Child Labor.

Observing year after year greed and avarice of the employers of labor in this state by the employment of children of tender years, until boys of not more than 13 years of age have been employed on the public streets and in the mines, and

Resolved, By this convention, That the executive board of this state labor convention be instructed to prepare such a law as shall prohibit the employment of children of either sex under the age of 15 years in any capacity whatever in factories, mines, workshops and public works, and for the imposition of such penalties as shall render such act efficient.

A summary of the other resolutions reported by the committee, with recommendations, and the report was concurred in by the convention and the resolutions were adopted except where otherwise stated:

Other Resolutions.

By the Horsehoes' Union: That union men do not recognize any horse-shoeing shop unless such shop is in the union label of the Journeymen Horsehoes' Union.

By the Bakers' and Confectioners' Union: That the Oregon Federation of Labor declare the National Biscuit Company, known as the cracker trust, unfair to labor; that the label of the Journeymen Bakers' and Confectioners' International Union of America be indorsed; and that members of the federation pledge themselves to call for the label when purchasing crackers or confectionery.

By the Steam Engineers' Union: That a state license and inspection law be passed by the Legislature, for the safety of the general public.

By G. Y. Harry: That the Federation protest against the habit of corporations of the state enjoying franchises, to employ alien and non-citizen labor; that the Legislature be petitioned to pass a law against employment of non-citizen labor; or who have not declared their intention

to become such, and that the Legislative committee prepare and have introduced in the Legislature such a law.

By the Sheet-Metalworkers' Union: That an eight-hour law be passed by the Legislature, and that the executive committee of the convention be instructed to draft a bill embodying the demand.

By George H. Howell, president of Typographical Union: That the executive committee of the Federation be instructed to take such action as may be deemed necessary to bring the question of injunction and restraining orders before the next session of the Legislature, that a law may be passed guaranteeing protection to the members of labor organizations, and providing for trial by jury in all cases of contempt not committed in the presence of the court, believing that the rights and liberty of the citizen will be better protected if when an accusation is made against him he can have a jury of his peers upon his case.

By the Cooks' Alliance: That the Federation condemn the employment of 10,000 Chinamen and Japanese by the business men and others of the state as detrimental to the interests of their own people; that efforts be made to eliminate the evil, and that the election of any candidate to public office who has received support to these Chinese and Japanese be opposed.

By A. W. Jones, of the Cigar-makers' Union: That the label of the international union be indorsed, and that all the unions of the state be asked to take such action as will help to discountenance the use of cigars which do not bear the blue label.

By W. Adams: That the committee on legislation be instructed to prepare and have enacted adequate laws for the planning, drainage and ventilation of buildings; that provision be made for the appointment of a board of examiners who shall examine all master and journeymen plumbers, and issue a license to all qualified to work at or conduct a plumbing business.

By George E. Shaver: That all unions label on all articles to which the label can be attached.

By John F. Killen: That all firms which refuse to recognize the stamp or label of any union be declared unfair; that all unions affiliated with the Federation be urged to co-operate with the Coopers' Union to secure the recognition of all union labels and stamps, and urge members to patronize only such merchants or manufacturers who use the union label or stamp on their goods.

By George E. Shaver: For an eight-hour day law.

By John W. Stiger: That the Common Council pass a sanitary law, providing for the removal of coats of wall paper, kalsomine or like wall coverings in rooms in which patients with contagious diseases have been confined, for the safety of the public.

By H. H. Schroeder, of the Railway Trainmen: That not more than 30 cars be hauled over mountain divide any more than 50 over any part of any railroad in the state; that trainmen be not required to remain on duty more than 19 consecutive hours; that men in yard service be not required to remain in service more than eight consecutive hours; that experienced men be employed in all cases where human life is at hazard.

By George E. Shaver: Favoring government ownership of telegraph and railroad lines and mines.

By G. E. Shaver: Favoring the abolition of the contract system in connection with Federal, State and Municipal works, and the institution of a system under which Federal, State and Municipal governments will have supervision of the works.

By the Retail Clerks' Association: Protesting against the purchase of goods on Sunday.

By G. E. Shaver: Favoring municipal ownership of light, street railway and telephone lines.

By the Sheet-Metal Workers' Union: Favoring an eight-hour day law, and the preparation of a bill to be presented to the Legislature.

By the Union Steam Engineers: Indorsing the request of the stationary engineers for a state license law.

By G. E. Shaver: To restrain the street railway companies from transporting baggage in the city; that such corporations were not organized for such purpose, and they have not been awarded the right to transport baggage and freight; that the city collect a license from the teamsters, but not from the car companies; that the law regarding the loading and unloading of baggage on streets not dedicated for such purpose be enforced; referred to the Portland Common Council.

By S. J. Burford and E. E. Howell: Indorsing the strike of the textile workers of Oregon City and promising substantial support if necessary.

By H. H. Kundret: Favoring a system of direct elections at primary elections, and indorsing any movement that will obtain the same.

By G. Y. Harry: Making the Portland Labor Press the official organ of the Federation, and when the political conventions meet in the Fall these measures will be presented to them for consideration. The bills are for the benefit of workingmen and citizens generally, and the candidate who turns them down will stay at home. That as far as the federation went into politics, the Oregon Federation could do the same thing and be given the same credit.

By J. H. Howard: To place the Portland City & Oregon Railway on the "We don't patronize" list, on account of its determined stand against organized labor.

By G. Y. Harry: Instructing the executive committee of the Federation to draft a bill for the creation of a state labor bureau.

By G. Y. Harry: Asking all citizens to support the initiative and referendum amendment; that the state chairman be empowered to appoint a committee of 15 members to the Portland Central Council.

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By the Stabmen's Union: That a law be passed requiring suitable quarters for persons required to sleep in stables or barns.

Address by Mr. Blackman.

When the reading of the resolutions was completed, and the convention was awaiting the report of the committee on constitution and by-laws, State Labor Commissioner Blackman, of Washington, who had been invited to address the convention, came forward and made the following address:

Mr. Blackman had intended to remain in Portland until today, but business demands had called him to Seattle, and he left for home last night. In his address to the convention, Mr. Blackman said that the delegates must perfect the work which had been laid out, and they must insist that their respective organizations carry it out vigorously. Financial aid should be given to the Federation, to aid it in an effective crusade. Every workman and woman should be brought into the unions, and when the bill is done the Federation will be certain of representation in the Legislature, and the passage of beneficial laws may be secured.

The best men should be chosen for the offices of the Federation, and they should receive the support of every union man and woman.

With the growth of the organization in Portland and with the support of the American Federation of Labor, the Federation could cover the entire field and the best men in the country would be small to accommodate the delegates from the unions throughout the state. Organization was the only remedy for evils that are happening or might happen. The gigantic concerns of the country had organized for self-preservation, and the laboring man had to do the same. The duty of the delegates was to make their organization one that would be a pride to the state and the coast. The slumbering sentiment in places which are now without unions should be awakened, and the existing organizations should be strengthened. Next year the Federation of the nation would be invited to attend the session of the Washington body. Some day there would be a convention of the two states for a foundry concerned Oregon concerned Washington.

Mr. Blackman was loudly applauded, and when he concluded George H. Howell moved to the floor and asked that the extended to him and to his associate, F.

Stanley Whitney, general organizer of the American Federation of Labor. There were about 100 seconds to the motion, which was carried with a burst of applause.

The committee on constitution and by-laws then presented a report. The constitution reported was similar to that of the Washington Federation, and was considered by the convention in committee of the whole with B. A. Duke in the chair. The constitution provides that the officers shall be a president, five vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer, and that the executive committee shall consist of seven members, and that the executive committee shall have the right to call for the election of officers.

The report was partly considered and at 5 o'clock, the hour for adjournment, the committee reported progress, and an adjournment was taken until 9 A. M. today.

UNION MEN AT RALLY.

Open Meeting of State Federation.

An open meeting of the Oregon Federation of Labor was held in the A. O. U. W. Hall last night, and was attended by many members of the local unions whose presence was not required at the regular weekly assembly of their organizations.

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stockholder in the laundry which had violated the law. In Seattle he arrested another man for violating the law, and the court gave the same decision as in the first case. The matter is now before the Supreme Court, and Mr. Blackman is confident that that tribunal will sustain the law.

In conclusion, Mr. Blackman advised the delegates to do all in their power to strengthen their respective unions, so as to make the Oregon Federation the best organized one in the country.

George H. Howell, who was called upon for a speech by President Gurr, made a few remarks. His mention of John Mitchell and Eugene V. Debs as two great leaders of workmen was loudly applauded.

Stanley Whitney in his speech explained the object of unions, and said it was the duty of all workmen to organize. Oregon had a measure to vote on this year—the initiative and referendum amendment—and he was sure that that act would not be before the people but for the efforts of the trade unionists. He always thought well of the measure, and he hoped to see it carried.

T. Morgan said that the reason for organization lay in the plain fact that as long as labor was unorganized it would be absolutely at the mercy of organized capital. Organization enabled the workmen more effectively to enforce their just rights; to resist the encroachments of capital upon those rights, and to command higher and more favorable consideration from other classes, and also from the Government itself. He was glad to see the organization of the State Federation.

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