

CRISIS WILL BE REACHED BY MONDAY

If Demand for Increase Is Not Met, Grainhandlers Will Walk Out.

MEETING THIS MORNING

Unless Reply From Exporters Is Favorable, Men Will Not Go to Work—Union Recognition Is Not Involved.

It is nearly certain that the grainhandlers will declare a strike today. A walkout is threatened if the wheat exporters do not grant an increase in wages from 35 cents to 40 cents an hour.

Grainhandlers' Union, No. 203, is virtually out on strike. The members will not return to work this morning unless they receive word from the Grain Exporters' Association that an increase in wages from 35 to 40 cents an hour has been granted.

The union numbers about 200 men. With it are affiliated the two longshoremen's unions, Nos. 34 and 35. The grainhandlers say that in case a strike occurs, the two longshoremen's unions will also join it.

In case the strike is a public nuisance in that it would add to the cost of shipping grain here and would increase the burden of exporters. They also say that wages are higher here than in other coast ports.

The basis of the strike is the dissatisfaction of the men with their wages. The union has been asking for some time for a reestablishment of the 40 cent an hour scale for handling grain that was in force in Portland prior to the hard times of 1892.

The communication from the exporters came to the union last Friday and was considered at a special meeting Friday night. The exporters asked for a reply not later than the next day.

The new agreement was passed up to the exporters Saturday, but up to last night it had not been signed. The dealers say they will not sign it. What plans they have, if any, for filling the places of the strikers, they will not divulge.

"If men were given fair wages in proportion to the kind of work they are doing, it has been fair," declared Oscar Melby, business agent for the grainhandlers.

"During the last three years the wages in every branch of labor has increased, with the exception of the grainhandlers. And ours is the hardest work a man ever tackled. The work is much harder now than it was formerly, owing to the bigger loads carried by freight cars, but notwithstanding this fact, the wages paid now are lower than they were prior to 1892. At that time wages were cut from 40 to 30 cents, and four years ago, when the union demanded a return to the old wages, a compromise was made on 30 cents, which has been paid ever since."

"We think our demands are just, because of the large amount of broken time that enters into our employment, and because of the fact that our work lasts not to exceed the six months of the year when wheat is moving from the interior to the coast."

Laid Before Grain Exporters. "We waited on a committee of the exporters about three weeks ago and made representations to them of the increased cost of living and the other reasons why we think a return to the old wage is just. We were advised that the matter would be taken under consideration. Later we received a letter from the exporters that a conference was desired. We were then told that they did not see how our request could be granted. We told them we did not see our way clear to work longer at the old scale."

"At the meeting of the union Friday night a communication was read from the exporters asking that we sign the present contract, which has been renewed from year to year. We were requested to let them have the contract back by the next day. Instead of complying with their request, we made a new contract calling for 40 cents."

"Recognition of the union is not involved in the present trouble, for this has always been given. There is a minor consideration that is objected to by the dealers, and this is the request that we signers and signers. There are a number of these men, with very few exceptions, have already joined the union, this is a small matter."

"In case of trouble, the longshoremen stand with the freight handlers, and we expect their aid if a strike is necessary. A meeting of the union will be held Monday morning at 7 o'clock at union headquarters, 459 Albina avenue, and if an adjustment of the difficulty is not reached, the men will not return to work."

Peter Kerr, secretary of the Exporters' Association, said his organization would not agree to the advance of wages, and Walter J. Burns, resident partner of Blair, Grotz & Co., confirmed the determination of the dealers to "stand pat." Mr. Burns said: "The demand for higher wages is very

unfortunate and if granted would result in a public nuisance; it would drive business to the South ports. The effect would be to increase charges here and use on the disadvantage with respect to wheat shipping points. The Columbia River now laborers under a disadvantage on account of the differential against Portland and higher loading charges would make it all the harder for this port. The exporters desired quick action on the renewal of the contract with the men to ease the movement of wheat is now commencing and will soon be on heavily. It is better, of course, to have some thing settled before the movement is at its height."

New grain is coming in daily and is being unloaded into the warehouses. As yet there are no ships here for grain, but several are due within a short time. The exporters will not be embarrassed for warehouse room for some weeks, even if it should prove impossible to get cargoes loaded. The difficulty at present will be the unloading of wheat trains.

Grainhandlers complain that although their wages have been reduced from what was paid 15 years ago, their work has become harder. In the old days 15-ton cars were used, and the men had to do was to run a truck under them and haul out the pile bodily. But in the bigger loads the sacks are bulkheaded in order to prevent the heavier weight of grain from bursting out the sides of the car in going around curves. For this reason the sacks have to be handled separately and this adds to the labor of unloading.

Work Is Very Arduous. In the warehouses the sacks are generally piled eight high, and as each sack weighs 34 pounds, it is no child's play for two men to heave these sacks for 10 hours at a stretch. In fact, the grainhandlers and longshoremen are credited with performing the hardest manual labor in the city, and it is only men who are of unusually strong physique who can stand it.

That the work was easier in the days of smaller box cars is shown, say the men, by the fact that in those days a day could be made in those days was dug only one or two terms. There would be a small saving also in elimination of dealer's profits.

The total cost of books each term in Multnomah for 2,000 pupils enrolled last year, according to Prof. Robinson's estimate, was some \$17,000, but as many books are used second hand he makes a 50 per cent allowance on this account from the total expenditure, leaving \$8,500, as representing one term's outlay for books in Multnomah County. Under the free-book system he estimates that the outlay would be \$6,000 a term, which would make a saving of \$2,500 a term of \$14,000 a year, based on last year's enrollment.

What City Now Spends. Text-books used in the city public schools, the cost of each and the approximate number bought each term, taking the last term of 1905-1906 (17,000 enrollment) as a basis:

Table with 2 columns: Item, Total cost. Includes Wheeler's Primer, 1271 at 30c, 381.30; Cys's First Reader, 1233 at 30c, 369.90; Cys's Second Reader, 1233 at 30c, 369.90; Cys's Third Reader, 1215 at 40c, 487.20; Cys's Fourth Reader, 1215 at 40c, 487.20; Cys's Fifth Reader, 965 at 30c, 289.50; Cys's Literary Reader, 752 at 75c, 564.00.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Total cost. Includes Spelling, 1182 at 22c, 260.04; Arithmetic, 1182 at 22c, 260.04; Wentworth's Practical Arithmetic, 1182 at 22c, 260.04; Broekmann's Mental Arithmetic, 1022 at 20c, 204.40.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Total cost. Includes Dole's The American Citizen, 694 at 80c, 555.20; Reed's Word Lessons, 1182 at 22c, 260.04; Wentworth's Practical Arithmetic, 1182 at 22c, 260.04; Broekmann's Mental Arithmetic, 1022 at 20c, 204.40.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Total cost. Includes Wheeler's Primer, 318 at 30c, 95.40; Cys's First Reader, 410 at 25c, 102.50; Cys's Second Reader, 308 at 30c, 92.40; Cys's Third Reader, 304 at 40c, 121.60; Cys's Fourth Reader, 304 at 40c, 121.60; Cys's Fifth Reader, 218 at 30c, 65.40; Cys's Literary Reader, 195 at 75c, 146.25.

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PORTLAND, Sept. 18.—(To the Editor.)—I was very pleased to see the letter in Sunday's Oregonian by "One Friend of Music," for she only voices the sentiments of a great many more of the good women of our city that go to the Oaks simply to hear the music alone. I go as often as I possibly can and take my family and a number of friends, and all understand more or less music, and can appreciate what they

SAVING TO STATE WOULD BE \$30,000

County School Superintendent Robinson Talks on Free Text Book Bill.

ECONOMY IS POINTED OUT

Publications Now Used but Two Terms Under Private Ownership Could Be Used for One Under Other Plan.

That school texts supplied by districts, will reduce the total outlay for books in Multnomah \$4,000 a year and in Oregon \$20,000 a year in primary and grammar grade is the estimate of R. F. Robinson, school superintendent for Multnomah county. Under the present system the cost, based on last year's enrollment in each grade, is 57 cents a year for each pupil under the proposed free book system, the cost would be about 24 cents.

The saving would be made chiefly in the longer use of books, for when the books are supplied by districts they last an average of five terms before wearing out, while at present most of the books are used only one or two terms. There would be a small saving also in elimination of dealer's profits.

The total cost of books each term in Multnomah for 2,000 pupils enrolled last year, according to Prof. Robinson's estimate, was some \$17,000, but as many books are used second hand he makes a 50 per cent allowance on this account from the total expenditure, leaving \$8,500, as representing one term's outlay for books in Multnomah County. Under the free-book system he estimates that the outlay would be \$6,000 a term, which would make a saving of \$2,500 a term of \$14,000 a year, based on last year's enrollment.

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hear. I consider that to listen to D'Urbano's Band is not only a good lesson to the student, but the teacher, also. If the admission price was \$1, it is well worth it to hear the grand sextette alone, not to mention other beautiful pieces. They are truly musicians that feel what they play, for with such a brilliant young leader, who throws his heart and soul completely into his work, they cannot help but respond to his masterly baton; for he not only inspires the musicians with music, but those that listen, also. I am sure that the editor will agree with me in saying that every place is what the people make it. Listening to D'Urbano's Band at The Oaks, you will find some of our best citizens that, I can assure Mr. Friedlander, go, not for the brass buttons, or any other attraction at The Oaks, but to listen to the best music that an artistic leader and his musicians can give us; for the Italians are certainly the first in music; and supposing the women do talk to the musicians about they not be treated as gentlemen if they are such? We feel sorry we cannot have such music much longer, although there are citizens in the Winter also. We hope for their return next year, otherwise there are hundreds that will seek the estimate announced by the local band at The Oaks their attraction this Summer.

QUESTIONS THE ESTIMATE

DIRECTORY WRONG ON POPULATION, SAYS ASSESSOR.

Thinks 120,000 to 125,000 More Nearly Correct Than 185,000.

Nothing Gained by Padding.

That the gain in Portland's population has been rapid since the census was taken last year, is the opinion of B. D. Sigler, Assessor of Multnomah County, but that it has reached a total of 185,000, the estimate announced by the local management of R. L. Polk & Co., or any figure approaching it, is regarded by him as unlikely. Mr. Sigler takes the position that Portland has just cause to be proud of the excellent showing which really has been made, but that her citizens would do harm by claiming a population which has been disproven by an accurate canvass of the city.

Based upon the count last year, and his observations since that time, Mr. Sigler takes the position that the population of the city at present in all probability is between 120,000 and 125,000, thus indicating a gain of 100,000, which has been advanced by the Polk & Co. The census and the postal receipts go to show that this creditable increase in population has been made, according to Mr. Sigler.

"And these factors form a very good criterion," he added, "far more reliable than the arbitrary multiple of two and one-half taken as a basis for estimating the census from the directory."

In regard to the advisability of presenting the population of the city to the world just as it is, Mr. Sigler believes it is best for the interests of Portland.

"If we should go on making wild estimates, such as the one of 185,000, it would be bad for the city in the end," he said. "By 1910 an absurdly large figure will have been reached, and when the Federal census is taken that year there will be a big drop. It is far better to stick to the real total than to give out inflated statistics which would surely be shown up at that time. The real increase in population will probably be even more rapid during the next few years than it has in the past, and it will be far more satisfactory to have the census at all times than to adopt the padding methods in vogue in some other cities."

"I feel confident that the census, as taken last year, will open with a military precision that year there will be no padding. The city was divided into districts and each district was thoroughly canvassed. I believe that some of the names missed, but I believe that they were very few and I think that this fact was established conclusively during the directory canvass of the time."

"The census was not padded, but represented the city's exact population as nearly as I believe, as it was positioned to obtain a true count. It was not padded to give credit to overbooked streets as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain. It was not padded to give credit to overbooked streets as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain. It was not padded to give credit to overbooked streets as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain."

"It seems to me that it was clearly demonstrated after the census was taken that it was approximately correct. Some people at the time were of the opinion that it was too low, just as there is a tendency in every city to claim a greater population than the regular census shows. A great clamor arose and it was said that hundreds and probably thousands of names had been omitted from the rolls. I invited anyone who thought he had been overlooked to call my attention to the fact. In spite of the outcry that had come up, few were reported and in virtually every case it was found, upon reference to the books, that FICHTER, who thought they had been left out, had been included during the canvass."

In reference to the attempt which was made to discredit his figures, Mr. Sigler spoke as follows: "The figures were made by the compilers of the Polk directory."

"Mrs. H. M. Clinton, local manager for the directory company, asserted at the time that my figures were 'low,' he said. 'I have no doubt she firmly believed she was right, but when it came to a test, the figures of the official census were vindicated.'"

"In one word especially Mrs. Clinton was certain that my canvassers had made gross errors. She was wrong. She was certain that my canvassers had made gross errors. She was wrong. She was certain that my canvassers had made gross errors. She was wrong."

Arrivals and Departures. ASTORIA, Sept. 23.—Condition of the bar at 5 P. M., rough, wind southeast, weather cloudy. Arrived down at 7 A. M., British steamship King of Siam, from San Francisco; arrived at 9 A. M., steamer Irene, from Redondo; arrived at 12 M., schooner Virginia, from San Francisco; left at 7 P. M., schooner Irene and American Gale; arrived down at 4:30 P. M., schooner Oliver J. Olson.

San Francisco, Sept. 23.—Arrived—French steamer Admiral, from Shanghai, via Yokohama.

National Fire Insurance Company AND THE Colonial Fire Underwriters Both of HARTFORD, CONN. have nearly completed the adjustment and payment of all direct claims against them arising from the earthquake and fire of April 18th, and on policies amounting to \$2,200,000.00 have paid \$2,000,000.00, showing a disposition for the payment of claims in full, and all other charges, amounting to only 6 per cent, leaving an average of 94 per cent of the statements which have appeared in these papers that the National and Colonial are not paying out of other leading foreign and American companies, and we invite comparison with the figures of any other company. The National after reserving \$2,700,000 for its unpaid losses, had a surplus to policy-holders on the first day of July, 1906, of \$2,000,000.00, and to show this amount was not obliged to issue additional stock or assess its stockholders. M'NEAR & WAYMAN, Gen'l Agents, Pacific Department, Oakland, Cal. J. Thorburn Ross & Co., Resident Agents, 240 WASHINGTON ST., PORTLAND, OR.



"The Political Intelligence Office Set up by me Frind Lincoln Steffens."

Mr. Dooley on The Power of the Press

By F. P. DUNNE

The American Magazine for October

Beginning with this number the magazine will be conducted by John S. Phillips (for many years one of the editors and owners of McClure's Magazine) in association with the following writers and editors:

- Ida M. Tarbell F. P. Dunne
Author of "Life of Lincoln," "History of the Standard Oil Company," etc. The Humorist and Philosopher, Creator of "Mr. Dooley."
William Allen White Lincoln Steffens
Author of "Boysville Stories," "In Our Town," etc. Known from Maine to California as a writer on political subjects.
Ray Stannard Baker
Author of "Railroads on Trial" and many important magazine articles.

The October magazine is their first number. The spirit of the new AMERICAN MAGAZINE is splendidly illustrated in William Allen White's beautiful article "The Partnership of Society," an inspiring piece of writing which every American should read. The whole number is compact of good reading; many capital short stories, including "A Stolen Rescue," by Lincoln Steffens; articles such as "The Wonders of High Explosives," by Samuel Hopkins Adams; numerous portraits and pictures, etc.

Get it at any news-stand 10 cents THE PHILLIPS PUBLISHING COMPANY, 147-147 Fifth Avenue New York City.

was larger than that based on the directory census. "After the census of 1905 was completed, a local paper claimed that a large part of the residents had been overlooked during the canvass. It announced that all who had been left off the rolls might hand their names to it, and requested them to do so. The only result was that a few names were brought to me by representatives of that paper. When they found that in practically every case those names were on the census rolls, their efforts to discredit my figures was abandoned. Neither was any list of the names received by that paper ever published. If Portland did have 185,000 inhabitants, and I shall rejoice when we reach that point as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain. It was not padded to give credit to overbooked streets as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain. It was not padded to give credit to overbooked streets as we certainly shall, and pass it off as a great gain."

HARRY G. BROWN MARRIED

Portland Man Weds Miss Valeria King Maslan at Detroit.

DETROIT, Mich., Sept. 23.—(Special)—An annually pretty home wedding was that of Miss Valeria King Maslan, one of the most popular among Detroit's attractive debutantes, to Harry G. Brown, of Portland, Oregon. The ceremony took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Maslan, on Parkworth avenue, today in the presence of a select company of guests, including a number from out of the city.

The parlors in which the knot was tied, were decorated in white roses, smilax and palms. The bride was attended by Miss Bertha Loch, of Detroit, while Dr. Charles E. Hampton acted as best man. The bridal gown was of white organdie over pink silk, and the young woman carried a slender bouquet of white roses. After the ceremony the pair left for an extended wedding tour in the East, and South, after which they will go direct to their new home in Portland.

"The Best Pill I ever used," is the frequent remark of purchasers of Carter's Little Liver Pills. When you try them you will say the same.

KEITH'S KONQUEROR SHOES FOR MEN

In full view for public examination supported by our Konqueror trade-mark. Shoes made on honor to retail at \$5.00, \$4.00, and \$3.50.

PRESTON B. KEITH SHOE CO., Makers, Brockton, Mass. SOLD BY W. J. FULLAM, 283-285 Morrison St.

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Take a glass of carbonated Waukesha Arcadian Water on arising. Organically pure—has just enough mineral properties to act as tonic on the digestive tract. Helps the normal functions of the stomach—sharpens the appetite. Bottled at the spring in quarts, pints and spits. W. J. VAN SCHUYVER CO. DISTRIBUTORS PORTLAND, - OREGON