

## CONTRACTORS DECLINE TO GIVE IN AND ONE HUNDRED CARPENTERS WALK OUT

**Men Endeavor to Be Reasonable in Their Demands but Are Determined to Hold Out for Eight-Hour Day.**

**Have no Wish to Take Work From Employers, So Will Not Contract on Their Own Account Until as Last Resort--Wilson Bros. Accede to Demands and Will Have Regular Force at Work This Morning.**

About 100 union carpenters yesterday morning quit their places as the result of the failure of the contractors of the city to comply with their demands for an eight-hour day. At several of the stores, where carpenter work was absolutely necessary to the conduct of business, the carpenters permitted their men to work, merely as a matter of accommodation to the merchants interested, but those carpenters in the employ of the contractors all declined to work upon being told their demands would not be met.

The carpenters are making every effort to be reasonable in their strike, and among other things intend that no misinformation shall appear in the papers. With this end in view, the union has appointed one of its officers to act as press agent, and this gentleman will keep the papers posted as to the progress of events and all matters of an official nature will be given publicity through him. Last evening he called at the office of The Astorian to make a statement on behalf of his union.

### Say They Gave Notice

The attention of the writer was called to the following statement which appeared in yesterday's Budget:

"....The contractors had little to say except that they would have full crews at work again in a few days at the old scale. They did state positively that the union had never given them formal notice of the impending strike, and it was not until the day before that they actually knew it, although there were some rumors to that effect...."

This allegation on the part of the contractors is denied by the officials of the union, who left with The Astorian the following copy of the original notice, which was served on all of the contractors:

"Astoria, Ore., December 8, 1903.—To the Contractors of Astoria—Gentlemen: At a meeting of union 917, C. and J. of America, held November 28, 1903, it was decided to ask for an eight-hour day in the near future, and a committee was appointed to wait on you, gentlemen, and ask you to sign the following agreement.

"F. E. WRIGHT, President,

"T. D. SOUDEN, Secretary.

"We, the contractors of Astoria, agree to an eight-hour day on and after April 1, 1904."

This document was, the union's representative said, presented to all of the contractors, and at the time of the determination of the union to appoint the committee. It is offered by the carpenters as proof of their assertion that three months' notice was given the contractors of the decision to quit work April 1 if the eight-hour day were not granted.

### One Firm Gives In.

One contracting firm yesterday gave in to the demands of the men and this morning its full force will resume work under the eight-hour arrangement. The firm is Wilson Bros., West Astoria shipbuilders and general contractors. Their men yesterday morning notified them of the demand and declined to go to work unless the demand were complied with. The Messrs. Wilson gave the matter their consideration and later informed the union that its demand would be met.

"I am satisfied Wilson Bros., all along intended granting the eight-hour day," said the union's representative last

evening. "They say they appreciate the justice of our demands, and that yesterday would not have been lost had they given consideration to the matter. We are pleased with this evidence of fairness, but I would not care to make any statement as to the probable effect on the other contractors of this action on the part of the West Astoria firm."

### Contractors Not Talkative.

The contractors of the city are inclined to be rather reticent in regard to the strike. They contend that they can not see their way clear to grant the demands of the men, and aver they will shortly have full forces to take the places of the union men who have left because of the refusal to comply with the demand. It so happens that the strike has been ordered at a season of the year when building is just beginning, and for some time to come the contractors will not be very seriously inconvenienced. They seem to be acting harmoniously and to have determined to hold out indefinitely.

### Blames the Mayor.

"I blame Mayor Suprenant for this strike," said the union representative. "When we prepared our agreement, a copy of which has been left with you, we presented it to him for his signature. He had been elected by the laboring men on an eight-hour platform, and we believed he should have been the very first to sign it. Had he done so, the other contractors undoubtedly would have followed suit. He refused to sign. I know if I were a contractor I would have looked to the mayor to take the initiative."

### Want to Be Reasonable.

"We are actuated by a desire to be reasonable in this matter, and our official acts will be the result of careful deliberation. We regret very much that there has been occasion for this strike, and all of us hope for speedy settlement. We believe, however, our demand is a just one. Every other mechanic who works on a house labors but eight hours—the painter, the plumber, the plasterer and bricklayer. We feel that we are entitled to as much consideration in this respect as the men belonging to the other unions."

"The statement has been made that

we would ourselves accept contracts during the strike, but it is not our intention to make this a general rule unless the strike develops into a protracted one. We do not wish to make the general public suffer because of our differences with the contractors, but we would much prefer settlement and return to the usual method of business procedure, although we would make better wages contracting for ourselves. Should the strike continue for an indefinite period, we would be compelled to support ourselves, and therefore would accept contracts. But this will not be done until the lapse of a reasonable length of time. We want to afford the contractors every opportunity to carry on their business under union regulations, and until we are satisfied there is no chance of settlement we will refrain from interfering with them by accepting contracts."

### Some Men Are Working.

At several of the stores extensive alterations were under way when the strike was ordered, and the union, anxious to accommodate the business men, agreed to an arrangement by which the carpenters could continue at work. Under this arrangement, the contracts were annulled and the merchants themselves engaged the carpenters, on the eight-hour basis.

At Altoona, Wash., there are several union carpenters from Astoria at work and when final notice was yesterday given the employers they granted the demand. The Altoona force is working under F. E. Wright.

### Inefficient Labor.

The union's representative gave an interesting illustration of the reason for the charge that some of the union men are not proficient workmen. He attributes this to the action of the employers. The gentleman said of the matter:

"Not infrequently we hear the complaint that all of the union men are not competent workmen, but the employers are to blame for this. It often happens that some very good unskilled workman will be put to work by a contractor on a rough job. The man is strong and capable of more work than the ordinary man. If he does not belong to the union, we will file complaint with the contractor, who, in turn, will insist that he is perfectly satisfied with the laborer. The contractor will say to us that he is willing to pay the man union wages, as he does his work well, and will demand that he be per-

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mitted to join the union. He is there-upon taken in. But when he goes to work on some other job it is found by the contractor that he is not a mechanic. He holds a union card, however, and is entitled to as much consideration as any other man. We must protect him, invariably at the expense of our organization, which is discredited in this manner. Primarily the fault is with the employer, as may readily be understood. If the employers were careful to employ none but union men, we could exercise more care in admitting men to our union, but as it is we frequently are required to take in men who are not entitled to union cards. The remedy rests with the employers."

### Baseball Scores.

Fresno—Tacoma, 1; Seattle, 2.

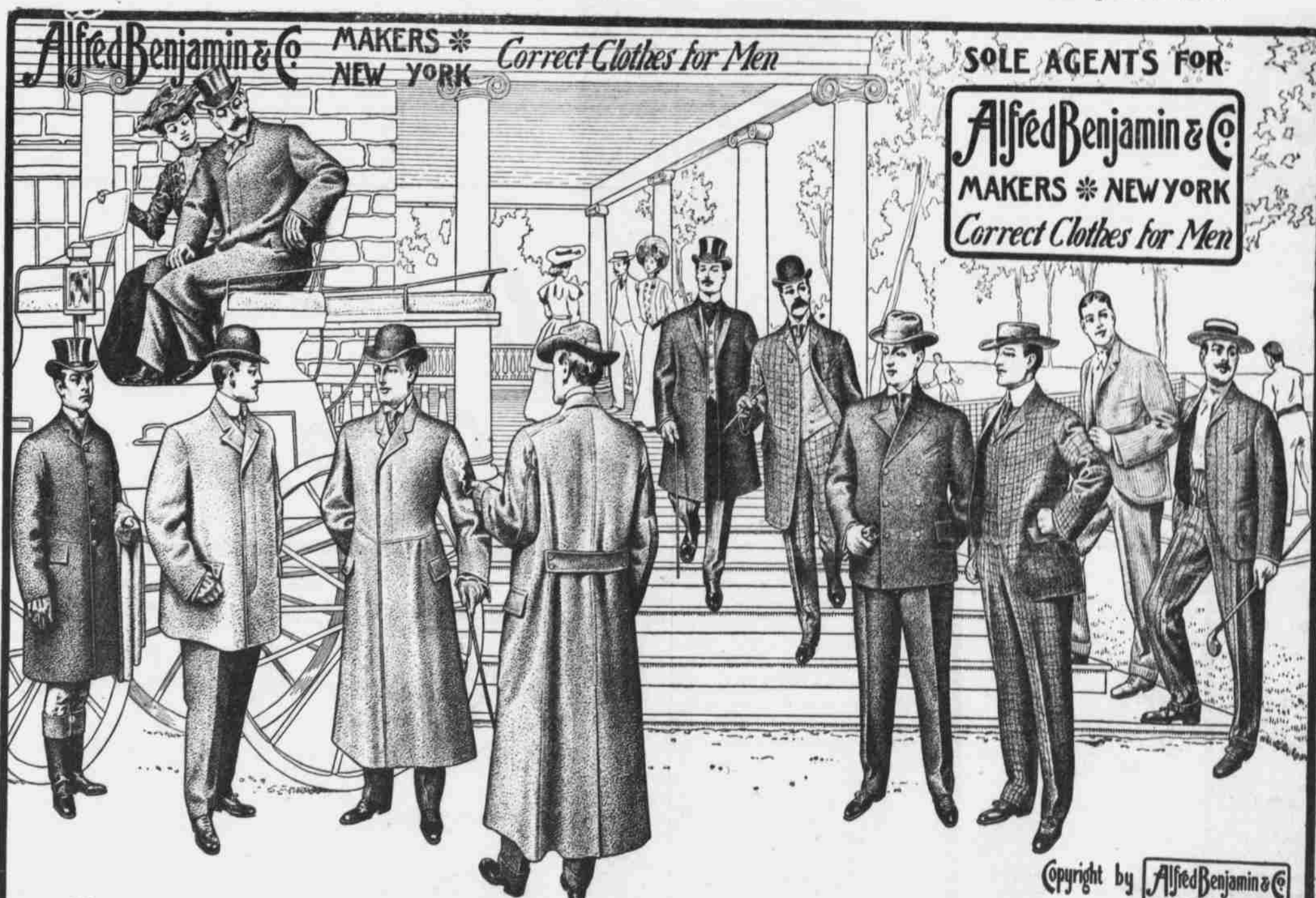
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.  
There will be Easter services both morning and evening. Rev. C. F. Clapp will occupy the pulpit.

### ROBBED THE GRAVE

A startling incident is related by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50 cents, guaranteed, at Charles Rogers' drugist.

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