

LEATHER WORKERS OUT ON STRIKE

Employers Refuse to Sign Agreement for Coming Year and All Shops Will Close Monday—Minor Questions Only at Issue.

Failing to induce their employers to sign the yearly agreement by 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, nearly every leather worker in the city walked out and a strike has now practically been declared.

The men in the employ of the P. J. Cronin company have been on strike nearly all week. But there are only seven of them, and they went out because non-union men were being employed. Tomorrow there will not be a union man at work in any of the shops, and 186 leatherworkers will be idle. The firms which will be affected are the Brennan Leather company, the John Clark company, the George Lawrence company, the P. J. Cronin company and the J. P. Sharkey leather house.

The new agreement, which the employes prepared and presented for signing is very similar to that which has been in the effect during the past year. With the exception of a few minor items it is said to be identical with the old agreement. One of the larger employers said last night:

"The great stumbling-block standing in the way of a speedy settlement of the trouble is the matter of the apprentices, while the journeymen claim that they are entitled to do it. They claim that it ought to be included in the regular piece work. A special meeting is arranged for Monday forenoon, I think the matter will be amicably settled. We will confer with the union committee at that time, and I am confident that we will be able to reach a satisfactory agreement." In the meantime there will be no work done Monday. We have given all of our men a full holiday.

"We will not show up for work again," said one of the prominent union men, "until the differences have been satisfactorily adjusted. Only a few of us remained in the shops yesterday afternoon, and that was for the purpose of

finishing up some piece work which could not very well be neglected. A rousing meeting was held, at which it was unanimously decided that no one would be permitted to report for work until the agreement had been signed.

"In reality there is not very much between us. It consists mostly of a few little stipulations that the public would not understand if apprised of them. It has reference more to piece work than anything else. We are not complaining of wages or hours. The minimum scale for harnessmakers is \$1.75 for a nine-hour day, and \$2 for saddlemakers. Of course, many of us get \$4.50 and \$5 a day.

"The men who struck at the P. J. Cronin shop have a different grievance. They were being forced to work with non-union men. One of them formerly belonged to the union, but he left the city a few years ago and but recently returned. When he came back he refused to have anything to do with organized labor, but he was put to work in the shop along with the other men. Another employe at the shop is a teamster and knows nothing about the leatherworker trade. The unionists could put up with the situation no longer and walked out. Several of the firms have expressed a willingness to sign up, and I do not look for a long struggle."

Last summer the leatherworkers asked for a reduction of one hour from a day's work. The employers refused to accede to their demands and several of the shops were closed down. At the end of a week, however, the men won out. They did not call it a strike, but said the time was spent in making negotiations. The employers stated that they were giving their men a week's holiday.

Both sides are confident that the trouble will be of very short duration. They state that conferences will be held until an amicable settlement is reached, and they are inclined to believe that this will occur very shortly.

FAIR POPULAR IN EASTERN STATES

G. M. Carey, of the commissary department of the Pullman company, has returned from a visit to his old home in Mansfield, Ohio, where he was formerly employed as ticket agent by the Baltimore & Ohio. He reports that people throughout the country are talking in general of coming to the Lewis and Clark exposition.

"You hear a great deal more in the East about the Lewis and Clark fair than you do of the St. Louis fair," said Mr. Carey. "The St. Louis fair does not stand well with the people, while all seem anxious to go to the Lewis and Clark show. The people of that section of the country are just

getting alive to the fact that the Pacific coast is the greatest in resources, and many will come to the exposition never to return. I look for a great attendance at the fair from the states in the Mississippi valley, for the low rates will enable the people to see the great Northwest and the fair at one and the same time. St. Louis has no attractions for them, but the Lewis and Clark fair has a two-fold one. Looking at it from this standpoint the St. Louis fair will not injure the exposition to be held in Portland."

The Japs are fully as loquacious as Matthew Stanley Quay.

POOL ROOMS ARE TO BE CLOSED

MAYOR ANNOUNCES THAT HIS EDICT AGAINST THESE AND SLOT MACHINES IS FINAL—LOCAL GAM- BLERS BLAME APPELGATE FOR "BUTTING IN."

"I mean to see that the ordinance closing poolrooms is enforced," said the mayor yesterday afternoon. "The poolrooms will be closed, and if they refuse to do so they will be fined so generously that they will understand we mean business. I mean to give them five days' notice, and after that an arrest will follow each opening of the rooms, if it be once a day."

"I understand that the slot machines are being taken out," the mayor continued. "All that are not out in five days will be destroyed. I have given the chief of police notice to that effect. The slot machine is a losing game for the man that plays it, and there is no room for games of that kind in Portland."

"If the mayor says he ordered us to close up it must be so," said Peter Grant, owner of the Portland Club. "I have not heard that he made such a statement. So far as Mr. Applegate's poolroom is concerned, I have nothing to do with him. I have no doubt but that if the papers keep hammering away at this proposition they will succeed in accomplishing something—the Lord only knows what, for I am sure I don't."

"No establishment in this city has ever been given permission by the authorities to operate a poolroom. Our poolroom is a part of our establishment and has existed as long as the place. We took it for granted that the fines imposed on us included the poolroom. Mayor Williams has asserted time and time again that the present situation is intolerable only because of local people being engaged exclusively in the gambling and poolroom business. He has declared that no more places of the kind would be tolerated, and that outsiders would not be permitted to enter. I believe he intends to keep his word. To my certain knowledge Seattle men are now awaiting the outcome of Applegate's effort. If he succeeds in breaking in, there is no doubt that they will come over here in a swarm."

"The town was quiet before Applegate arrived. If he were a man of moderate means and made this venture win or lose, it would be different. But he is a man of wealth, and the common opinion is that it was unimportant of him to disturb a peaceful situation when he was making money elsewhere. It looks now as if jangling and strife would result. I wish it plainly understood that the Portland Club is making no fight against Applegate. The authorities are the people with whom he has to deal. If they are unwilling for Applegate to conduct a poolroom here, he is likely to have a rocky road."

"The Portland Club poolroom was running full blast yesterday afternoon. Just what was meant by the council adopting such an ordinance is more than I am prepared to say at this moment," said Colonel Applegate. "Several constructions might be placed on it, but I am inclined to think that the idea of the ordinance is merely to provide for a poolroom. I do not believe there will be any vigorous objection to our doing business here."

"One thing is certain; there is nothing in this talk about enforcing the law against me alone or of keeping me out of business here. Mayor or no mayor council or no council, I will conduct a pool-room or nobody else shall. If the mayor tries to enforce the law against me I will in turn see that it is enforced against the Portland Club. We either operate together in the future or there will be no pool rooms here."

"I desire to add that it will be impossible to collect one fine from us and a lighter one from the Portland Club. An official record is kept of those things. I think that it would be foolish for the Portland Club to exhibit any active hostility to us. Experience has shown that a town is always better when it can afford two poolrooms. People drift back and forth and new players are constantly created. I know the Portland Club people personally and am satisfied they are of the right sort."

L. L. Hildebrand, the partner of Colonel Applegate, spoke along the same lines. He was optimistic so far as the ultimate results of opening the poolrooms are concerned. Colonel Applegate will leave for San Francisco, where he usually spends his winters, within a few days, as soon as "things are in running order," and from there will make a trip to his home at Louisville, Ky.

A majority of the slot machines were running yesterday. In only one or two places had the machines been moved, and then they were merely turned to the wall instead of being taken from the room. "Whenever the chief issues the order to close, the machines under our control will close," said S. Martin, one of the largest slot-machine operators in the city. "I have heard nothing of the matter except what I have read in the newspapers, but I understand from the reports that we will have to close."

"I can only speak for myself, but if the order comes it will be observed to the strictest letter by me. I believe in the laws and the strict enforcement of the same, and I will not have to be told the second time."



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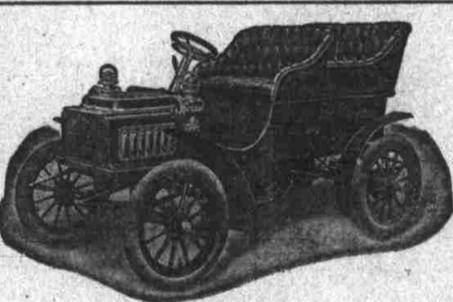
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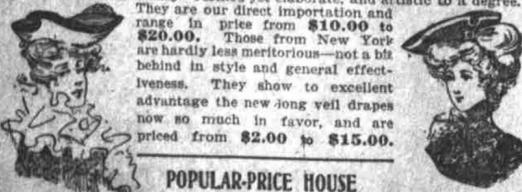
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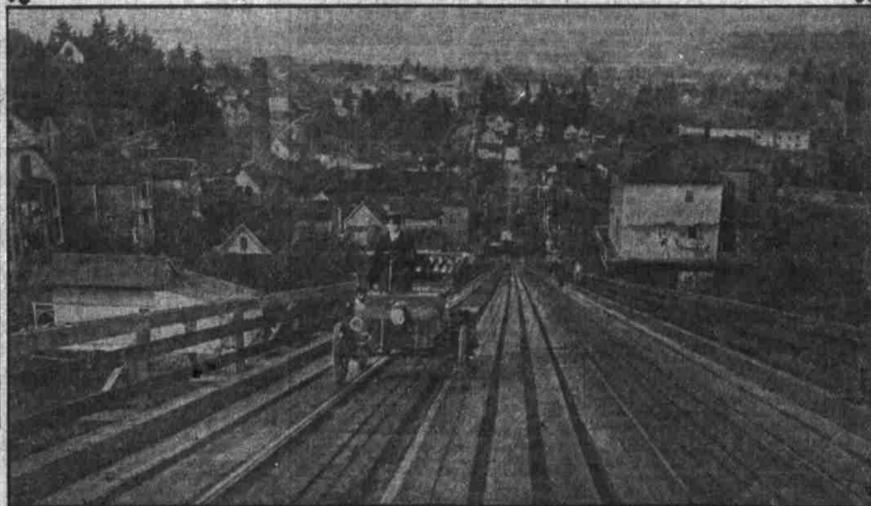
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