

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER. PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY BY THE MEDFORD PRINTING CO. Office Mail Tribune Building, 25-27-29 North Fir street, telephone 72.

THE TRAINMEN'S CAUSE

THE four great brotherhoods of railroad employes, comprising over 100,000 members, have voted to strike for an 8-hour day.

A huge sum is being spent by the railroads for publicity in presenting their side of the agreement to the people to win popular support—without which no strike of this magnitude can succeed.

Railroads are enjoying the most prosperity in their history. Operating revenues for 1916 show an increase of \$290,000,000 over the previous year.

Locomotive engineers in "through" freight service now have an 8-hour day on 55 percent, and firemen on 20 percent of the mileage of the south; engineers on 5 percent, and firemen on 3 percent of the mileage west of the Mississippi.

The 8-hour day is accepted now in nearly all the large industries. It is recognized as commercially profitable to the employer as well as socially just.

The responsibility of the railroad operative has constantly grown with the efficiency of the railroads. Tractive power of locomotives has increased 33 percent, in 35 years, capacity of freight cars 30 percent, and tons carried by the average freight train, 47 percent.

Time was, and not so long ago, that the trainmen had no limit to their hours of work. And they paid the penalty. The hazardous nature of their employment makes it impossible to compare their compensation with that of other occupations—and they need a refreshed mind to minimize their hazards.

The average pay per hour of freight crews in the United States is as follows: Locomotive engineers, 48 1/2 cents; firemen, 31 cents; conductors, 40 cents; brakemen, 26.7 cents, and their life is shortened by excessive hours, terrific strain, and accidents.

There is a well defined suspicion that the strenuous campaign of the railroad managers against the demands of their employes is not directed so much to prevent the 8-hour day as to secure another increase in freight and passenger rates, upon compliance with the demands of the brotherhoods for shorter working day.

MEDFORD MEET DECLARED RED LETTER SESSION

Declaring by resolution the Medford session to be the Red Letter session in the history of the association, the 125 delegates to the Oregon State Editorial association brought their session to a close last Saturday night with the election of the following officers:

President: E. E. Brodie, Morning Enterprise, Oregon City; vice-president, A. E. Voorheis, Rogue River Courier, Grants Pass; secretary and treasurer, Phil S. Bates, Pacific Northwest, Portland; member of executive committee for three years, E. V. Aldrich, East Oregonian, Pendleton.

A committee was formed to work against the government practice of selling stamped and printed envelopes at cost, President Brodie maintaining that this was an injustice to the legitimate printing business.

The committee on free printing of government envelopes was as follows: Chas. H. Fisher, Eric W. Allen, Elbert Bede.

Resolutions Adopted The committee on resolutions of the Oregon State Editorial association in session assembled recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, that our sincere thanks be and are hereby extended to the honorable county court of Jackson county for the elaborate and generous courtesies.

To the Medford Commercial club for the wonderful automobile trip over the Jackson county boulevard to the summit of the Siskiyou.

To the Greater Medford club and the College Women's club for the special entertainment of the ladies of the association and their automobile trip through the Rogue River valley and the historic city of Jacksonville.

To the University club of Medford for the opening of their spacious club house and generous hospitality.

To J. A. Westerlund, the genial proprietor of the Holland hotel for his efforts and the Hotel Medford, the Hotel Nash and citizens of Medford for their kindness and thoughtful consideration in the supplying of rooms to the members without charge, the second time in the history of the association.

To Ben C. Sheldon and S. S. Smith, the local press and others for their untiring efforts in making successful arrangements for the entertainment of the convention.

To the Library association for the use of their assembly room for holding our meetings.

To the American Type Founders company for ledger and the Pacific Paper company for paper for program.

To the Commercial club, the Civic Improvement club and Lithia Springs commission of Ashland for their generous hospitality and entertainment in Ashland's beautiful Lithia park.

Resolved that the Oregon State Editorial association approve of the action of the board of regents of the University of Oregon in establishing during the last year in connection with the school of journalism in the university a department of printing including a practical printing office and also a laboratory for practice work and experiment on the part of the students.

Resolved, that it is the wish and desire of this association that the O. A. C. and University of Oregon school of journalism find some method of co-operation by which they can supply to the newspapers of Oregon at an advance over cost a ready print service without ads and that the board of regents be asked to assist such a movement.

Resolved that the members of this association owe a deep debt of gratitude to President Brodie and Secretary Bates for the bringing about of

closer relations among the membership brought about by their visits to the newspapers of the state.

Resolved, that we voice our appreciation of the visit and participation in the meetings of our brother publishers from Washington, and we endorse their efforts to organize a tri-state association composed of Idaho, Washington and Oregon.

Resolved, that this association recognize the Medford session as the Red Letter meeting of Oregon State Editorial association and hereby express our grateful appreciation for the many courtesies received.

Respectfully submitted, A. E. VORHEIS, Chairman E. D. ALDRICH, W. E. DEPEW, C. E. THORP, C. L. IRELAND, Resolutions Committee.

SUPPOSED LOST BARGE LOCATED

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—Attorneys for the Johnson Lighterage company, the president of which has been accused of manslaughter with three others, on charges growing out of the explosion of munitions on Black Tom island recently, today announced that barge No. 24, owned by the lighterage company and alleged by the Lehigh Valley Railroad company to have been the primary factor in the explosion, had been located today off the foot of Morris street, Jersey City. The captain of the barge, reported to have been killed by the explosion, was alive and well, they announced. It was contended that the barge, loaded with explosives, blew up and started the series of explosions on Black Tom which did more than \$20,000,000 damage and killed at least four persons.

CONFEREES AGREE UPON ARMY BILL WITH AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—National defense legislation took a long stride toward completion at an early date when conferees on the army appropriation bill reported a complete agreement and the conference committee on the naval appropriation bill reached agreement on increased personnel for the navy.

Agreement on the personnel increases by the navy conferees came as a surprise as it had been expected that this disputed section of the bill would have to be returned to the house for further consideration. Details of the agreement were not announced but a compromise is said to have been reached between the senate and house totals and on the methods of promotion.

Following agreement on personnel the conferees took up consideration of the naval construction of four battleships and four battle cruisers in 1917 will be accepted, but that the three year continuing program will be eliminated.

The conferees on the army bill returned their report today without eliminating the Hay amendment to the articles of war exempting retired officers and men from the provisions of the military code. Because the war department objected strongly to the amendment the conference committee had held up their report for several days after it was completed and signed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—George Norris of Philadelphia was designated by President Wilson today as farm loan commissioner, executive head of the farm loan bank system created by the new rural credits act.

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TWO TRIPS DAILY -BETWEEN- MEDFORD and EAGLE POINT S. H. Harnish's auto will leave Eagle Point at 8 A. M. and 1 P. M. daily, except Sunday; leave Medford 9 A. M. and 5 P. M. Will call for passengers at hotels in Medford and hotels and business houses in Eagle Point. PHONE 3-X2 OR 3-X3.

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EM-TEES

A JOY RIDE. Mrs. M. E. Engle returned last night from San Francisco. Mrs. Engle has purchased a handsome silver gray hearse for use in her business. She drove the hearse up from the city.—The Clatsop Enterprise.

SHE ANSWERED, YES. "Do you know the nature of an oath, madam?" "Well, I ought to sir. We've just moved and my husband has been laying the carpets."

No wonder a yacht jumps up and down when it is forced to get on another tack.

LONLINESS. An instance came to our attention recently that should appeal to the sympathies of all tender-hearted people, a bachelor reports that a few nights ago, while in bed, he froze both his feet.—Blackfoot (Ida.) Republican.

You promised that you would give me my answer this evening," he said. "Are you ready to do so?" "Yes," she replied, "but I want you to promise me something first." "What is it?" "I want you to promise me solemnly that you will not do anything rash—that you will not, when I give my answer, go and drown yourself or take bicarbonate of mercury."

"Oh, then, you have decided to say yes, have you?"

Talk less and think more. This is good advice to give, but hard to take.

A NATURE FAKE. FOR SALE.—A good hen, now laying eggs, also new potatoes, fence posts and russet apples.—Advt. in Kent's Mills (Va.) Herald.

FRANK KEENAN AT PAGE THEATER TONIGHT

The return of Frank Keenan to the Triangle screen is one of the big features at the Page Theatre tonight. Mr. Keenan has not been seen since the "Coward" and few who saw that lince masterpiece will ever forget the masterful characterization of the star. This Keenan feature, "The Stepping Stone," is decidedly a good one, thus preserving the balance, which is the chief aim of the Triangle system.

Added interest is given to the return of the star by the appearance of Mary Boland as his leading woman. Admirers of John Drew remember that, for years, Miss Boland was his leading woman.

She is known to Triangle theatergoers for her splendid work in the "Edge of the Abyss." All the elements that would make such a story popular on the speaking stage are present in this five film version, with the addition of a spectacular stock exchange scene and superb photography.

The other half of the bill is a Keystone comedy with Chester Conk, In and "Shorty" Hamilton as the chief mirth provokers, called "Buckling Society." Like most films bearing the Keystone brand, it is a riot of fun from start to finish.

Medford Boosters Smoke The Medford and Mt. Pitt Cigars.

PIPER URGES STUDY OF OREGON SYSTEM AT CLOSING BANQUET

A strong appeal to the editors of Oregon to carefully study the effect of the present political system of the state upon the affairs of the people was made at the banquet at the Hotel Medford Saturday night by Edgar H. Piper, editor of the Oregonian.

"I appeal to the editors of this state," said the speaker, "to study the present system for themselves and candidly determine whether or not this system needs renovation and modification, radical or moderate. I frankly admit that I tread on dangerous ground. I frankly admit that I am a critic of the present system. What I ask is that the editors of the state, regardless of the popularity of such views, as leaders of political thought and the political betterment which we all desire, express candidly the opinions which honest study and thorough consideration give, to consider our present system simply upon its merits and its actual tangible results."

the people of southern Oregon had provided.

The banquet attended by the visiting delegates and over 100 men and women of Medford was a fitting climax to the two days of festivity which have marked the present session. One of the biggest hits of the evening was an original poem full of personal allusions by Dick Popsy, prefaced by a charmingly humorous introduction, several poetic recitations by Col. W. D. G. Mercer of Salem which were much enjoyed, and short speeches by Wallace B. Jessup, president of the Washington State Press association, Philip S. Bates, secretary of the association, and Dr. T. B. Ford, district superintendent of the M. E. church, Salem. All the speakers were enthusiastic over the success of the present session and expressed appreciation of their entertainment. An unusually attractive musical program was given including selections by George Andrews, Miss Florence Hazelrigg, Win. Vawter and a quartet composed of Mrs. Isaac, Mrs. Hazelrigg, Fletcher Fish and Mr. Vawter. Musically, one of the most delightful features of the evening was a violin solo by Miss Lois Gratke, 12 year old daughter of Editor John E. Gratke of the Astoria Budget, Miss Gratke graciously responding to two encores. C. E. Gates presided as toastmaster with his usual tact and graciousness.

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