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FIVE CENTS

LABOR DAY PARADE

Trades Assembly Draws for Places in Grand Parade—President McEwen Grand Marshal.

Tinners Have a Grievance Against Glocksly—Plans for Economic Discussion.

The trades assembly drew its usually crowded house Friday evening. The following delegates were obligated: Painters, John E. Johnson; pressfeeders, Jacob Poleaski; printers, H. Dworshak; musicians, Henry Bourgealt; shoemakers, William Medd. The roll call was dispensed with and after the approval of the minutes of the last regular and special meetings the assembly buckled right down to business.

The committee on the Short Line Park bridge was discharged and the matter handed over to the executive committee. The label league delegation made a model report, the committee on the violation of the United States statutes in connection with work on the dredges was continued and then labor day matters were given the floor.

President McEwen made the report for the committee. In addition to the matters already recounted in these columns, he explained the advantages of the Driving park, told of the attractions promised by the association and stated that very satisfactory results were being obtained in the canvas for the program. The report was accepted and \$100 ordered transferred to the credit of the committee to defray necessary expenses in making preparations.

The committee on economic discussions presented a scheme of procedure. It provides for the appointment of a committee to select subjects and leaders; also for joint debates upon notice given previously by any one desiring to take issue with the declared opinions of the leader; one hour is to be devoted to such discussions and the rules regulate the time at the disposal of the various speakers. The report was accepted, but owing to the pressure of labor day affairs the appointment of the committee provided therein was deferred.

The committee to visit drug stores in the interest of Duluth made blue label cigars made a very encouraging report so far as Delegates Wilcox and Pierce for West and Central Duluth were concerned. The uptown end of the committee flunked. One member of the committee said that a dealer told him that he had fifteen customers, members of the street railway employes union, who always asked for non-union cigars. The street car boys may, like other unions, have an occasional black sheep among them, but it is safe to say that there was not a delegate in the hall but what believed the dealer was selling an unmitigated fairy tale. The street car men are not made of that kind of stuff.

Under the head of communications a request was received from the Chicago Federation of Labor asking the endorsement of postal savings banks, which was given. The building trades asked to be permitted to form a parade division in the labor parade. The request came later and resulted in much and numerous motions, was finally granted, the

position of their division being left to the discretion of the marshal of the day.

Another communication was read from Anchor federal union of Kansas City, extending thanks for the efforts of Duluth trades assembly in pushing the Armour boycott, and also telling of the desperate straits to which the boycotted house was being driven in order to dispose of its unfair products.

The international woodworkers called attention in another communication to the unfair Quincy showcase factory, and Delegates Johnson, Neal and Appleby were appointed to visit the dealers in this city and protest against the handling of their goods.

A communication from the Superior trades assembly was presented by Delegate Pierce in regard to the protest from Duluth against the Superior assembly advertising their labor day picnic in Duluth. It is claimed by the Wisconsin boys that the advertisement of their demonstration has passed out of their control, being delegated to the management of Zenith Park.

The tinners' grievance against Mr. Glocksly was taken up at this point. The offending proprietor told one story, according to the evidence, to the assembly committee and another to the officers of the tinners' union. Delegate Pierce made a vigorous arraignment of the gentleman, in which he said Glocksly did not employ any union men, although he had signed an agreement to do so, and that he had told their committee that he didn't care whether they hung up a union shop card in his establishment or not. The matter was referred to the executive committee with authority to declare a boycott unless the trouble was settled by compliance with the original agreement.

Delegates Thompson, Baker and Findley were appointed a committee to wait on Col. Graves, state capitol commissioner, in the interests of the use of both sandstone and granite in the new state capitol. The musician's union gave notice that the Union band was no longer a union organization. Referred to executive committee for investigation.

Delegate Johnson made a formal but delayed report of the State Federation meeting of June 14. A complaint concerning the employment of aliens in violation of the contract labor law, on the government dredging contracts, was referred to the committee having charge of the complaints about the violations of the eight hour statute. The musicians' union delegate requested that his organization be notified if any of its members were found patronizing non-union concerns.

The labor day parade came up again. The label league's request for a place in the parade, to be occupied by a float, was granted, and the drawing for places in the line of march resulted as follows:—Musicians, bakers, woodworkers, plasterers, Scandinavian printers, New Duluth saw mill workers, stage employes, bartenders, brewery workers, Central Duluth saw mill workers, stonemasons, waitresses, draymen, electrical workers, printers, clerks, carpenters, laundry workers, painters, longshoremen, shoemakers, cooper, freight hand-

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LESTER RIVER TRUSS

The City Council Juggles with Contract for Force Main Truss Over Lester River.

Expense of Fire Department for Past Five Months—McGregor Impeachment Fizzles.

The city council Monday night did not hold a very long session, and what there was of it was not overly productive of results. The main features were the rag-chewing match over the contract for the force main truss across Lester river and the attempt to impeach Fire Commissioner McGregor.

The charges against Mr. McGregor were turned in by Alderman Duren. They allege malfeasance, maladministration, etc. The accusation charges that President McGregor was interested in the erection of the engines and boilers for the new pumphouse, having accepted a sub-contract from the D. Clint Prescott company. It was also charged that Mr. McGregor furnished materials to the fire department and did work that could not be done by the department itself, auditing and approving his own bills. In addition to these charges it is alleged that in letting contracts, namely for coal and hay and feed, he did not give the work to the lowest bidder, but showed favoritism.

After the reading of the resolution, Alderman Duren moved that it be adopted, but the motion was amended by Alderman Stevens who moved that it be laid on the table. This amendment passed by a vote of 10 to 5, Aldermen Dahl, Duren, Simpson, Sang and Tischer voting no.

The truss contract took more time to dispose of. The matter came up on a motion to confirm the board of public works' action in awarding the contract to Fred Davis, whose bid is some \$500 or \$600 higher than the lowest bidder. Simpson moved as an amendment that the contract be awarded to C. M. Horton. Sang said five engineers had condemned Horton's bridge.

Mr. Horton was given the floor. He said that the load placed on his structure in the West Duluth shops was very much greater than that required by the specifications in this contract, and that while the load put on the bridge had made it give it had demonstrated that his bridge would do all that was claimed for it. It was not true that the bridge settled in the middle or the steel frame gave way.

Mr. C. O. Baldwin appeared in behalf of Mr. Davis. A representative for King & Steele was also present. The motion to award to Mr. Horton was lost by a vote of 6 to 9, the yeas being cast by Dahl, Duren, Harter, Simpson, Stevens and Trevillion.

The discussion then turned on the bond. Mr. Smith said that nothing but a surety company bond would go with the board of public works. A motion by Alderman Hale that the bond be submitted to the city council failed by a vote of 8 to 7, as it did not receive the votes of a majority of the members of the council. The original motion to award the contract to Mr. Davis carried by a vote of 12 to 3, but that didn't settle it.

Somebody had forgotten something and on Crassweller's motion the action was reconsidered.

Tischer made a speech opposing delay and after wrangling over the necessity of having the truss completed by September 15, because Davis couldn't promise the work to be done before October 9, the contract finally went to King & Steele, to be finished on the earlier date, the dissenters to this action being Richardson, Rowley, Stevens and Trevillion. Alderman Simpson closed the truss incident with a motion that the council extend a vote of thanks to Mr. Horton for his interest in the matter. Some of the gentlemen present expressed considerable surprise at the motion and insinuated that it was "done sarcastic." Mr. Simpson explained however, that Mr. Horton's appeal to the council was all that saved the city from indulging in a wooden truss, which would not only in the end have proven more costly, but would also have been a constant menace to the city's water supply.

Among the minor affairs considered were the acceptance of Charles Gulberg's proposition to settle his claim for damages for \$50; the allowance of the usual batch of bills and estimates; the turning down of Macey's claim for rent of the ground on which the city pound is located; the passage of a resolution authorizing the publication of the annual report of the board of public works at an expenditure of not to exceed \$100.

A proposition to open and extend 50th avenue west to the end of Grassy Point, also an intersecting street on Grassy Point, J. A. Murray, D. A. Blanchard and J. K. Dougherty, being named as appraisers, was deferred for a week.

City Engineer McGilvray reported that the estimate on the cost of extending the water plant had not been made because the engineer's office was crowded with business, but that it would be attended to as soon as possible.

The fire commissioners reported that the expenses for the department for the past six months had been as follows: March, \$7,374.35; April, \$7,053.42; May, \$7,903.68; June, \$7,355.92; July, \$7,614.27.

A Matter of Choice.

Discussing the conditions of the coal miners, one of them said to a reporter:

"We can starve to death as well without work as with it, and the dying is easier."

This suggests the marrow of the whole industrial problem. If all our energies are taken up in getting the barest kind of a living—a living on a level no higher than that of the beast—a living, meagre as it is, to be won only by such toil and privation that there is left to us no energy to put into the development of the humane and artistic elements of life, then life is not worth living. And if these conditions are, as we are told, inevitable and permanent, then is suicide justifiable for the individual and extermination merciful for the race.

"Give me liberty, or give me death!" cried Patrick Henry, and all the nation for 120 years has applauded. Let us make the sentiment more expansive: "Better an uninhabited wilderness than a nation of slaves."

The farmers must have sold or contracted the bulk of their wheat crop already. The speculators and middlemen, who have hitherto been giving out bear statements, are all sprouting horns.

AMERICAN SIBERIA

Pres. Mahon of Street Railway Employees Tells the Story in the Toledo Union.

Miners Paid Only From 42 to 77 Cents Per Day and Robbed of Half of That.

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 11, '97.
W. D. Mahon in Toledo Union.

That I should receive a request from the readers of The Toledo Union for a statement regarding the miner's conditions is not surprising. For the last three weeks I have been busy on the platform and in private, explaining to the people the conditions of the down-trodden miner and the reasons why he has laid down his tools and demanded an adjustment of his conditions before he again takes them up. But to draw a pen picture for your readers is more than I have the ability to do. Nor do I believe that we have a writer living today able to portray the exact condition of the American miner. In my past work for and with labor I have had an opportunity to see the dark side of American life from coast to coast. I have seen the slums of New York with all their horrors; I have seen the pest holes of Philadelphia; the poverty stricken districts of Chicago, but none of them compare with the poverty, misery and degradation that I have found among the American coal miners. Wherever you go you are met by grimy men; pale, haggard women; stunted and demoralized childhood. Enter their miserable abodes, in some cases unfit for human habitation, you find no ray of hope. Bare and carpetless floors, pictureless walls; furniture, none to speak of; everywhere the picture of despair is plainly visible. What has been the wages in the past that has produced these conditions? This is hard to figure. In some portions of the country the average has been as low as 42 cents per day and from that to 79 cents; scarcely higher in any community. Nor is this all. This little pittance he is compelled to spend in the company's store, where he pays from 15 to 20 per cent higher than he would have to were he allowed the freedom to deal where he pleased. Here are a few figures from the company stores through the New River and Kanawah districts of West Virginia. Common white beans are sold by the company stores to the miners, three pounds for 25 cents, and the same, I find, can be purchased from independent stores, fifteen pounds for 25 cents; dry salt meats that sell on the outside for 6 cents are sold to the miner in the company store for 12½ cents; his powder that he could buy on the outside for \$1.35 per keg, he is forced to pay \$2.50 to the company store; the lard oil which he uses in his lamp to mine by, he pays the company 80 cents per gallon and the same can be bought for 29 cents on the outside; flour that he could buy for \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel, he is charged \$7.50 to \$9 for, and so it runs all through the whole category. Nor is this the only outrage that is practiced upon the poor miner. He is again robbed in weights. The impression prevails that the miner digs coal by the ton. This is not true, at least in West Virginia. One old miner put it to me in this way: "No," he said, "we don't dig by the ton,

we dig by the heap," and investigation proves this to be true, and it is a very big heap for small pay at that. Instead of weighing his coal as it comes out from the tippie, it is measured by the car. For instance, at the Monagh mines in West Virginia, the miner loads a car for two tons; the car must be heaped ten inches above the bed and in coming out on to the tippie it passes under a wire, which is strung just ten inches above the car; connected with this wire is a bell and if the car is not heaped ten inches above the top so that it rubs the wire and causes the bell to ring the miner is docked one-half ton. These cars were measured by the representative of the New York World and each one found to contain two and three-quarter tons, showing that the miner is robbed of that amount of coal on every car load that he sends out. To show to what extent the miner is robbed in the weights of coal, I have the figures of one mine known as the Hutchins Mine. The figures were given me by a doctor who secured them from an officer of the company. On July 17th the run of the mine showed that the miners received pay upon 546½ tons of coal, but the weight of the coal upon the railroad cars as shipped by the company showed that there were 850 tons, besides the amount that went through the screens and was dumped into the coke ovens of which no one could get any account and which I imagine would amount to a great deal as the screens are very large, reminding you somewhat of the old time cattle guard at the railroad crossing.

Thus the readers of The Toledo Union can see why the misery and degradation exists among the miners and why the mine workers of America are engaged in the present struggle, nor does this battle alone concern the mine workers. I, for one, feel that it interests every one who labors, not alone the laboring man but the business man as well. If the miner loses in this contest and their organization becomes demoralized they must return to work as individuals. It threatens every department labor and business in America and we cannot afford to allow it to be lost; we should rally. The miner is degraded, starved and debased; he is unable to assert his rights, but the strong arm of American labor should assert it for him. We should arise in our might, crush this demon of greed and avarice which threatens not only the coal miners of America but threatens civilization itself.

Will men never learn that competition is warfare and that the slaughtering of hosts of human beings amid the carnage and confusion of the battlefield is not more costly nor more unnecessary than the wastes and destruction of competition? All experiences teach us the value of co-operation, and still in those fields where co-operation would prove most effective we most persistently close our eyes and refuse to acknowledge its benefits. Capital co-operates in every department of business and it is for that reason that it is invincible. But the co-operation of capital is for the robbing of the many that the few may profit. When the day comes that workingmen can co-operate for their own welfare the labor question will be put in a fair way to a final solution.

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