

The Butte Daily Bulletin

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Everybody's News Stand, 215 S. Montana
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Harkins' Grocery, 1028 Talbot Ave.
Helena Confectionery, 755 East Park St.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20, 1919.

SIGN UP!

Come down to the Bulletin office and sign a monthly pledge

LYING FOR ITS MISTRESS.

The Standard, the company sheet that appears to have forgotten that it is fighting the profiteers, is out this morning with the usual wail about its mistress—the A. C. M.—operating at a loss simply to benefit the poor people of Butte.

The bunk about 90 per cent of the mine workers being satisfied to get their dollar back is also mentioned once more. It is rather well known to the general public that the miners of this camp do not work under contract and have expressed no opinion about the company's action one way or another. The miners have not yet struck, but it seems that only a strike of the underground workers will convince the company press that they are dissatisfied.

The carpenters, teamsters, engineers and structural iron-workers are the only unions that have accepted the contract, and they comprise less than 20 per cent of the men employed by the mining companies.

The company has not operated at a loss for the very good reason that it has not sold its product for less than it cost to produce and so far as the present and future is concerned, the prospects were never rosier.

Quoting President Wilson in support of their contentions, as the Standard does, has lately become a favorite method of camouflage with all of the countess sheets.

We prefer to quote from the Financial World, a magazine of big business whose frankness is refreshing when contrasted with the hypocrisy of the Standard's authority.

In an article in its issue of Aug. 11, entitled "The Position of the Copper Industry Today," the Financial World says:

The most colossal buying of copper metal in the history of the world—exceeding even war-time rate of buying and consumption—has featured the three months of May, June and July. In these three months 590,000,000 pounds of copper metal was reported sold by a syndicate of the leading American copper producers, who ordinarily market about 95 per cent of the production of America.

Again,

It now turns out very lucky for the copper producers that they did not sell their copper early this year. Some 255,000,000 pounds output of those three months was unsold and had to be carried. It now commands about 22 1/2 cents a pound. Much of it is expected to realize 25 cents or better when the usual big September-October buying movement in the metal sets in.

There is no reason for anything but unbounded optimism on the part of the copper operators, according to the Financial World, for they say also:

At last the day has arrived when they are selling more than they produce, are receiving a fair price with likelihood of still higher prices, and their paper "surplus" (which was largely unsold metal) is being converted steadily into cash or cashable notes.

The easier cash position of the copper companies, and what is still more, what must be their steadily improving cash position from now on, is a very gratifying feature.

It explains why all the copper companies with practically no exception have voluntarily increased workers' wages to practically the war-time scale. The copper industry was the first American industry to reduce prices for the red metal after the war to pre-war figures, and is the first American industry, now that the post-bellum boom is selling in, to restore the full war-time scale.

Nor must it be assumed that high war-time costs will rule again, because war-time wages have been restored. There is more and better labor now available, resulting in more efficiency, and even though wages, supplies and freights may cost the same in dollars and cents as during the war, increased efficiency must result in greatly reduced costs per pound copper turned out, and probably greatly increased output. However, it will not be until the copper companies resume full production that the new efficiency standards will show to their true effectiveness, as regards cheaper costs of producing a pound of copper, under the new regime.

The Standard is apparently just about as reliable on the copper situation as it is on the food question.

STRIKES AND THE COST OF LIVING.

The epidemic of strikes, large and small, that is sweeping the country and causing the rulers so much anxiety, is merely the symptom of a condition that is not peculiar to the United States but that is world-wide.

All of the forces of the press and pulpit, all of the forces of "law and order" and the patriotic motive as well were invoked during the war period to keep the workers on the job.

In most instances these forces were successful: the workers' wages were kept within what the kept press is pleased to call "reasonable limits," while the prices of commodities soared.

The reason of the American worker was chloroformed for a while by the flood of poison gas that was emitted in clouds of a size that caused the despised polenta to turn an envious green, but the hunger pangs will no longer be satisfied by phrases.

The present cost of commodities—foodstuffs in particular—presents to the wage worker a problem that he is attempting to solve in what we believe to be a sensible manner; i. e., obtaining in turn a larger share of his product.

To most workers the voice of their stomach commands attention, but for the benefit of those who demand additional evidence we submit the following statistics, compiled by the

Union Stock Holders in the Butte Daily Bulletin

- UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA—Locals: Sand Coulee, Stocket, Roundup, Lehigh, Klein, Washoe, Red Lodge, Smith (Bear Creek).
- FEDERAL LABOR UNION—Livingston.
- MACHINISTS' UNION—Great Falls, Butte, Livingston.
- MACHINISTS' UNION—Great Falls, Butte, Livingston, Seattle.
- CERIAL WORKERS—Great Falls.
- TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION—Butte.
- BLACKSMITHS' UNION—Butte, Miles City, Seattle.
- ELECTRICIANS' UNION—Livingston, Deer Lodge, Butte, Anaconda, Seattle.
- BAKERS' UNION—Great Falls.
- SHOE WORKERS—Great Falls.
- PLASTERERS' UNION—Great Falls.
- RAILWAY CAR REPAIRERS—Livingston, Miles City.
- MUSICIANS' UNION—Butte.
- BREWERY WORKERS' UNION—Butte.
- HOD CARRIERS' UNION—Butte and Roseman.
- STREET CAR MEN'S UNION—Butte, Portland.
- BARBERS' UNION—Butte.
- METAL MINE WORKERS' UNION OF AMERICA.
- PRINTING PRESSMEN'S UNION—Butte.
- MAILERS' UNION—Butte.
- STEREOTYPERS AND ELECTROTYPEERS' UNION—Butte.
- BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS—Butte.
- PIPEFITTERS' UNION—Butte.
- BROTHERHOOD BOILERMAKERS AND HELPERS—Butte and Livingston.
- STEAM AND OPERATING ENGINEERS—Great Falls.
- RITTYERS' UNION—Great Falls.
- BAKERS' UNION—Butte.
- INTERNATIONAL MOLDER'S UNION, LOCAL NO. 276—Butte.
- LAUNDRY WORKERS' UNION, NO. 24—Butte.
- PLUMBERS' UNION—Butte, Seattle.
- BROTHERHOOD RAILWAY CARMEN OF AMERICA, LOCAL NO. 224—Miles City.
- TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL—Miles City.
- HOD CARRIERS' UNION—Helena.
- BROTHERHOOD RAILWAY CARMEN OF AMERICA, COPPER LODGE NO. 439—Butte.
- BUTTE FOUNDRY WORKERS' UNION—Butte.
- PAINTERS' UNION—Butte, Seattle.
- CARPENTERS' UNION, No. 1335—Seattle, Wash.
- TAILORS' PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION—Butte, Portland.
- BOILERMAKERS, SHIP BUILDERS AND HELPERS OF AMERICA—Tacoma, Seattle, Livingston.
- INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF BLACKSMITHS AND HELPERS, LOCAL NO. 211—Seattle, Wash.
- WORKERS', SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' COUNCIL—Painters' Hall, Seattle, Wash.
- BUILDING LABORERS' UNION—Seattle.
- INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL IRON WORKERS AND PILEDRIVERS' LOCAL NO. 86—Seattle.
- AND THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS IN BUTTE AND MONTANA

United States department of labor, giving the percentage of increase of 22 articles of food for a six-year period in 25 of the principal cities.

The increases given are for the following articles:

Sirloin steak, round steak, rib roast, chuck roast, plate boiling beef, pork chops, bacon, ham, hens, fresh milk, butter, cheese, lard, eggs, bread, flour, corn meal, rice, potatoes, sugar, tea and coffee.

CITY	1918.		1919.	
	Average for Year	Average for Year	June	Over
Boston	\$392.65	\$445.62	\$393.16	.64
New Haven	381.46	654.15	886.78	.71
Charleston, S. C.	260.32	600.21	675.65	.67
Washington	348.95	620.93	670.65	.78
Birmingham	356.04	594.84	669.32	.67
Richmond	345.19	598.40	666.59	.73
New York	259.48	601.99	652.77	.65
Atlanta	354.89	600.71	659.39	.69
Philadelphia	356.59	614.08	659.09	.72
Pittsburgh	354.74	606.23	654.87	.71
Dallas	257.62	586.40	652.73	.64
Newark	368.77	618.26	652.53	.68
Baltimore	330.61	601.54	641.50	.82
Los Angeles	370.71	571.00	630.99	.54
Cleveland	348.68	571.84	628.85	.66
Seattle	251.24	575.97	627.84	.64
New Orleans	340.66	559.27	624.19	.64
Detroit	324.29	562.24	623.75	.74
San Francisco	350.97	568.67	623.25	.62
Buffalo	321.72	579.81	611.36	.77
Cincinnati	327.04	546.87	608.40	.67
Kansas City	330.70	555.44	607.49	.68
St. Louis	316.82	549.30	595.46	.72
Chicago	327.92	544.74	582.02	.66
Minneapolis	311.37	509.73	577.71	.64

The average increase shown by the above table is a little more than 80 per cent. To live as well as he did six years ago, the worker must have had an increase.

The table deals only with foodstuffs. Clothing and all other necessities have risen in price and the percentage of increase is higher than in food.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the workers to live as well as they did five or six years ago should have increased their wages 100 per cent. In so doing they would merely have been standing still, making no gains.

One hundred per cent increase in wages not having been received, the workers in order to prevent further lowering of the standard of living are forced to strike.

This is the explanation of the industrial troubles that are causing so much concern, the reason for the unrest that the ruling class is powerless to allay.

ECONOMY? MAYBE!

The decision of the estimable members of the board of county commissioners to purchase a carload of army surplus foods for the county poor farm is a commendable one, since, the commissioners assure us, the price to be paid will mean a saving of several hundred dollars when contrasted with what the same supplies would cost if purchased from the local profiteers.

The decision of the board to send a representative to Seattle to select the assortment of foods in the shipment, however, is not so commendable since it appears to us that the expenses of the representative to Seattle and back will more than use up what might otherwise be saved. However, it is probable that one of the commissioners desires a vacation on the coast and sees in the trip to Seattle a way of making the taxpayers pay the expenses of his vacation.

We are living today under the profit system. All our institutions are based on that system. We are playing the profit game. A profiteer is one who plays the game strictly according to the rules. The mass of the people object to changing the rules of the game and then cry when they get their hand beaten. They are poor losers.

Dispatches inform us that the United States may secure possession of the Island of Yap in the Pacific. Stirred by its appropriate name, we suggest it as a future home for the framers of the league of nations.

The only thing about that Montana trade commission that will work is the \$250 and \$200 salaries of the market director and his two assistants.

The profiteers are still being "investigated," while Gene Debs is in jail.

Governor Stewart ought to be in big demand as a speaker at farmers' picnics.

Back to His Own



OPEN FORUM

NOTE—People are invited to use these columns as a medium of publicity upon the questions of the day—anything that is for the good of humanity. Your copy must be legible and upon one side of the paper only; also be as brief as possible. Articles appearing under his head will not necessarily carry our editorial endorsement, and the right is reserved to accept or reject any communication which may be submitted. Your correct name and address must accompany your communication, but will not be used if you request.—Editor.

To Bulletin Readers: Frequently contributions for this column are received by the Bulletin, but cannot be published because of the fact that the writer has signed an anonymous signature, but has withheld his true name and address. Oftentimes these communications bear on subjects of grave importance that are of great interest.

It may be stated here that no communications which do not bear the signatures of the contributors will be accepted for this column. The fact that we require all contributors to sign their contributions with their true names and addresses does not necessarily mean that the signature will be printed. An anonymous signature for publication in the Bulletin and as an indication of good faith we require that the writer make his or her identity known to us.—The Editor.

POLICE COURT JUSTICE.

Editor Butte Bulletin:
I noticed in your issue of last evening "that two women were fined \$10 each for walking through the crowd on Mercury street Saturday at the city market, or for sitting in their room on Mercury street across from the market—it was impossible to tell which was the offense. The technical charges was vagrancy." Personally, I do not believe that there was any offense at all but "the city needs the money." I presume that was the reason why they were found guilty. I regret to say that the way the police court is being conducted now is a disgrace not only to the city of Butte but to civilization as well. I have had some conversation with reference to this matter with the reporter of one of the daily papers (not the Bulletin) and with a high city official who happens to be present on several occasions to listen to the words of wisdom of the honorable judge of the police court, as well as to his wonderful decisions, also with a number of attorneys, and without exception all seem to agree that, from the way matters are being carried on now, the poor and unfortunate are convicted before they ever enter the courtroom. I myself have been there when there was not one iota of legal evidence produced to convict, but the assistant city attorney and the honorable judge said it was proven conclusively to their satisfaction anyway, that the parties were guilty. Let me give you a few illustrations of justice in the police court.

Sometimes ago the honorable judge fined a certain party \$300 for selling whiskey. The charge was vagrancy. Even a lay court man knows that you cannot accuse a man of crime and produce evidence of crime stealing. Especially when it has nothing to do with the case at issue. In this instance the man was charged with vagrancy and running an unlawful game, and the only evidence produced by the prosecution was that he sold some whiskey. There was not one word of evidence as to his being a vagrant, or to his being a gambler, or running an unlawful game. But that was sufficient for the honorable judge and the assistant city attorney to convict him of vagrancy and running an unlawful game. However, this is not the worst of it, the man, being a foreigner, they believed if they threatened him with deportation he would positively pay the \$300 fine. He consulted an attorney who advised him to take an appeal. A bond for \$500, the amount fixed by the court, was signed by two men who would be good for the amount of \$150,000. You could hardly believe it, but it is the truth, nevertheless, that, to the positive knowledge of the writer of this letter, one of these sureties was informed by the assistant city attorney and to the best information and belief of the writer, the other was also told that the case was very serious, that the man would probably be deported and that they

staunch republican and assisted with all his power to have the honorable judge of the police court elected at the last city election, for which he is now very sorry. The police court was bad enough in former times but at present it is at least one thousand per cent worse than it ever was before. The writer does not know whether they still waive all the rights of the prisoners with a rubber stamp, but he does know that prior to the time when the habeas corpus proceedings were begun in the case of the city of Butte vs. Madge West, it was the custom in the police court not to tell any unfortunate of his or her rights whatsoever and then after the case was over, use a rubber stamp on the docket which stated that the defendant had waived all his or her rights and was willing to go to trial immediately before the honorable judge. This was the evidence produced in the district court.

The entire republican administration is a credit to the city of Butte. The mayor is doing his best. He is working hard and actually improved conditions. The other officers are doing well. Working conscientiously for the welfare of the city and the people. But, I must repeat again that the police court, the way it is conducted now by the judge and the assistant city attorney is a disgrace not only to the city of Butte but to civilization as well.

DAVID H. WITTENBERG.

THE MILLIONAIRE GOB



Oil was recently discovered on the little farm in Texas belonging to E. L. Perkins, coal stoker on the U. S. S. Imperator. Perkins' income is now \$480,000 a year, and may reach \$1,000,000 if the well increases its output. Perkins says he will not seek discharge from the navy. He says he will use the money for the benefit of the world and Christianity.

Few Grasshoppers Found.

This seems to be an off year for grasshoppers, according to entomologists of the United States department of agriculture, who recently made a survey of the grasshopper situation. A comparatively small number of eggs were deposited last fall, probably due to parasitic insects having killed most of the hoppers before that time. Except in a few counties mentioned, fully 80 per cent of the eggs that were deposited have since been destroyed by insects that feed on them. The success of the use of poisoned bait was also noticed by the entomologists. Very few eggs could be found on the farms where poisoned bran was used last summer, but on other farms nearby the eggs were usually abundant. This difference was so great as to be noticeable even in adjacent fields.