NEWS OF OLYMPIA LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

BY FRED HUDSON, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE OLYMPIA TRADES COUNCIL

UNIONS AND SECRETARIES.

American Federation—Frank Morrison, A. F. of L. building, Washington, D. C.
State Federation—Charles Perry Taylor, P. O. Box 1285, Tacoma, Wash.
Olympia Trades Council—Fred Hudson, 503 Columbia.
Label League—Mrs. E. R. Mohler.
Allied Printing Trades Council—F. L. Satterlee, 315 East Fourth.
Blacksmiths—Richard Alderson.
Bookbinders—Al Galloway, 315 East Fourth.
Carpenters and Joiners—C. A. Gloyd, 212 West Third.
Clerks' Association — Mrs. Bernice Kelly, 1114 Main.
Cooks and Waiters — E. C. Fields, Olympia Cafe.
Electricians—Claud Wolf, 1801 East Fourth.
Journeymen Barbers—Paul Werner, 519 Main.
Machinists—C. VanVlack, 354 Franklin.
Meat Cutters—S. L. Kaler
Musicians—Elmer Jones.
Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers—P. M. Kendrick, 315 Twelfth.
Plumbers and Steamfitters — C. S. Ziegler, Hancock street.
Printing Pressmen—H. L. Wortman, 503 Columbia.
Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners—Secretary, L. H. Gorham; financial secretary, Geo. W. Lish, Labor Hall, corner Third and Washington.
Shingle Weavers — Morton Bissell, care Olympia Shingle company.
Shipwrights, Ship Carpenters and Joiners — C. D. Adams, secretary, 103 Quince street; C. V. Ely, financial secretary; J. A. McCaughan, business agent, 702 East Fourth.
Stage Employes—Al Galloway,, 315 East Fourth.
Steam Engineers—A. J. Stocks, 417 Tenth street.
Teamsters and Chauffeurs—Lott McGonigle, 205¼ Franklin.
Typographical Union—Geo. L. Levy, Recorder building.

SHIPYARD HEADS REMOVED.

Heads of the Sloan shipyards in this city, during the last few months, tendered their resignations, by request, Saturday last. The decision to behead these gentlemen was reached after an investigation due to the unfortunate strike of last week. It transpired that the directors of the yard who were fired cherished rabid anti-union sentiments and, of course, had used their position to antagonize the unions and foment trouble among the men. Mr. Piggott, who has had more than a quarter century's experience in dealing with organized labor in his own business, promptly struck at the root of the difficulty by handing the manager and the superintendent of the yards their passports.

One of the discharged men had reinstated Barnes and refused to allow him to quit work when he desired to do so.

The other had listened to the coaching of certain financial pirates and refused to carry out in good faith the rules of the federal labor adjustment board.

Stalling, and baiting the skilled men employed in the shipyards finally called for a showdown and these two officials met their Waterloo.

It is the old story of the stretching of a little brief authority far beyond reason. These men, like many others, are still ignorant of the fact that the skilled craftsmen of the American Labor Movement constitute the most intelligent and independent class of our citizenship.

At the time of the walkout, as the younger men were leaving the yard, they were threatened, by the office force, with immediate draft into the army, and a local patriot, addressing the Carpenters Wednesday night, while saying that he intended no veiled threat, went on to elucidate what the government might do to the strikers. The amusing part of it is that these limbs of the "codfish aristocracy" seem to place exceeding great faith in the theory that "the government" consists of themselves and a few of their kind.

President Wilson and his advisers clearly understand the part that organized labor is playing and have outlined a policy of co-operation with our millions of skilled craftsmen. And President Wilson is bearing his tremendous burden courageously, but he can't attend to every detail. All over the country petty politicians, lawyers and financiers have seized control of subordinate boards and commissions and have conducted operations from a spirit of prejudice against organized labor and to a considerable extent for personal aggrandizement, and while most of them are clothed with little or no positive authority, they issue orders right and left as though they were direct representatives of a kaiser. They are securing oodles of publicity through a pliant press, but are more often a liability than an asset to the nation.

The president, in his address to the Buffalo convention of the A. F. of L., said: "It means not only that we must do what we have declared our purpose to do, see that the conditions of labor are not rendered more onerous by the war, but also that we shall see to it that instrumentalities by which the conditions of labor are improved are not blocked or checked."

And whenever the piratical practice of some board or some swellhead official is brought to his notice, he at once proceeds to undo the work of the mischief-maker.

And about every second "wise gink" in the community is positive that "the government" cannot and will not recognize the closed shop. None, however, have put forward any good reason why the government could not or would not recognize such conditions. You perhaps have noticed that the government does recognize the closed shop in the lawyers' game, in the doctors' line, in the right to fulminate as a preacher.

To deny workers the right of associated action is to leave them with no protection against employers' ignorance or greed. Employers' greed is no creation of imagination. Read the statement of the president, who has had national and world-wide opportunities for information. In his address to congress December 2, he said: "The law of supply and demand, I am sorry to say, has been replaced by the law of unrestrained selfishness."

The fact is that results are desired in the war industries, and the way to get results is through recognition of the unions, because practically all of the skilled craftsmen are union men. Membership in a union is the hallmark of intelligence and skill. Only blockheads and the inefficient among workingmen hold aloof from labor organizations.

A complete understanding has been reached with the new management, and as we have the past attitude of the superintendent by which to guage his future acts, the men are assured that all covenants will be carried out in good faith.

The men secure conditions that they demand, the yard secures hearty co-operation of all employes, and we may expect gratifying results in the shipyards from this date forward.

Our local papers were oh, so patriotically indignant at the Ship Carpenters, and so quiet as to the dirty tactics played by the shipyard managers, though they well understood that the walkout was due to acts of the yard superintendent and manager, prompted by personal prejudice against union labor.

They run true to their training in sycophancy and this was never better illustrated than in the attacks of local "moulders of public opinion" upon union labor in the last week. All their "wise" admonitions to labor might better have found a resting place in the waste-paper basket, and the lies in which they specialized and the careful way in which they guarded against exposure of the part played by the management of the yard is disgusting to all honest and reasonable men. The only effect upon the union men is to further satisfy them that the average editor is just a simple tool of the representatives of the employing class.

OLYMPIA TRADES COUNCIL.

The Trades Council, at the meeting of February 14, decided to give Wednesday night dances in the large hall, ordered the purchase of 50 new chairs, and indorsed Geo. W. Lish as a member of the executive committee of the Public Service Reserve.

Geo. W. Lish, Bert Goodman, Wm. Wilson, Robert Johnson and R. A. Padgett presented credentials of the Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners. These delegates were members of the Council, but presented new credentials on account of the change of affiliation and name of the Shipyard Laborers' union.

Machinists' union sent E. H. Paris, E. R. Cook and Edward Taylor; Ship Carpenters, Shipwrights and Joiners added H. H. Hunt, J. Taylor and N. A. Olson to its list of delegates, and Printing Pressmen's union sent Geo. Basham. All these delegates were accepted and given the obligation.

Congressman Albert Johnson, replying to the Council's protest against conscription of labor said that he purposed sustaining the president in the prosecution of the war and that he reserved the right to investigate any conscription law that may be offered and support it or oppose it on the merits of the bill, considering the necessities of the government.

Senator Jones said that he would not support legislation which singled out labor as a special class to which conscription should be applied.

The Union Record asked for support of the paper as a daily, which transformation will take place in the near future.

Secretary Taylor of the State Federation drew attention in a letter to the fact that Loju and Applju were unfair and that there were many similar products on the market that were produced under union conditions. He also called attention to the fight of the Confectionery Workers against unfair candy manufacturers of Seattle. Locally several stores have on sale candy made by union factories.

C. B. Young, in a communication, announced his withdrawal as a member of the advisory board of the local Public Service Reserve committee, on account of pressure of duties in connection with his position as president and organizer of the Pacific Coast District Council of Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners. He said he had recommended the appointment of Geo. W. Lish to the place made vacant by his resignation. The Council gave its indorsement to Brother Lish. In this connection Lish made a talk explanatory of the purpose of the Public Service Reserve and asked the unions to name committees to assist him in the work.

Secretary was directed to have telephone installed in Labor hall.

A committee of five was named to have charge of the Wednesday night dances which will be held in the large hall. Raymond's orchestra will furnish music for the dance, and the committee consists of Goodman, Padgett, Adams, Raymond and Hudson.

Financial statement indicated a balance in the treasury of $157.89.

LAUNDRY AGENCY DOES GOOD BUSINESS.

To improve the conditions and protect the interests of the overworked and underpaid laundry girls of Olympia will be the first consideration of the union labor forces when an agreement of settlement is reached with the local laundrymen.

The Mutual Laundry Agency made large shipments every day last week, and while the prompt service hoped for and promised did not materialize to the entire satisfaction of the promoters, the delay was due to unforseen circumstances, as explained in a letter from the manager of the Mutual Laundry, and correction is promised. The manager says:

"I have been as busy as two men should be this week so far. To commence with, I did not understand from your letter that you were going to start the rat killing in the way of picking up business until next Monday morning, and we set out to fix ourselves up for this plan. Wednesday evening, about 5 o'clock, I was advised by those at the wharf that there was a shipment of laundry there for us, but I thought it was from across the Sound some place, so I asked the down-town man to pick it up on his first trip. At 9:30 he came in and told me what was there, and that he could not get it in the rig. So then I got busy and got the three boxes in at once, but I am not so sure that I will get them out tomorrow, since our crew is short this week, and, as you know, we are setting up this new equipment, so in a general way we are tied up a little. Our new mangle is also on the ground, and we will set it up Sunday. So I want you boys to appreciate what we are up against here at this particular time. We will do everything in our power to win the strike for them. You may tell them that we worked three shifts per day for three weeks to win our Seattle strike, and that the public bore with us in a noble manner. We will again work nights to win the strike for you people in Olympia, so sit tight, with a firm determination to win at all hazards. It is worth a good hard fight. Just have the drivers ask their customers to make a special effort to help them win out in this contest. Ask them, in the interest of the laundry girls, to put up with some little inconvenience."

The delay was annoying, but the quality of the work made up in large measures for the delay in shipments.

In the future prompt service, as well as high class laundry work will be the rule.

The measure of discipline already has had its effect upon the local concerns, and the hard conditions of their employes have been improved. Part of this is due to a dropping away of business and part to a desire to show a cleaner slate in the face of public condemnation.

The public may be assured that the defenseless laundry girls will be protected to the full extent of the power of organized labor.

TRADES COUNCIL DANCE.

Sixty couples had a most enjoyable time at the dance given by the Trades Council in Eagles' hall Wednesday. The musicians started promptly at 8 o'clock and until 12 played without intermission the latest dance music with a "pep" that pleased the dancers.

In order to make these regular Wednesday night dances absolutely clean socially, it is the intention of the present committee to issue admission tickets, of which a record will be kept and in this way bar any undesirable characters. Two women will be added to the permanent dance committee.

ENGINEERS DANCE.

Tonight at Tumwater clubhouse, will be given the first annual dance of Steam and Operating Engineers' union. Elaborate preparations have been made by the Engineers, and a large attendance is assured. The Engineers plan to make their dance one of the most attractive social gatherings of the year.

Meeting night has been changed to uesday, in the large hall.

CONSTRUCTIVE RADICALISM

Constructive radicalism is that force in society which constitutes a motive power capable of material achievement. It establishes new outposts in the field of endeavor for the overthrow of injustice among men. With singular preciseness and harmony of detail the millions are in agreement as to the nature and extent of existing industrial, social, and political wrongs of our time, but in evolving a remedy a wide divergence of opinions and efforts exist.

Two schools of thought which clash are those devoted solely to partisan political action as against economic effort supplemented by independent political activity. Speculative political theories are seductive and appeal overpoweringly to impractical sentimentalists and to those who fail to comprehend that political power and control are based upon economic power and control.

On the other hand, the trade unions, concerned in large measure with economic determination of questions which affect the daily lives and welfare of their adherents, form a group of constructive radical units that avail themselves of the opportunities of the hour to add to their achievements. Their goal is to secure economic substance rather than to pursue political shadows. Their program is flexible and departs from the obstinate lxity of the status quo. yet they prescribe no cataclysm as a means to attain an end.

The unions of labor were and are being born out of necessity that a shelter may be provided against the elements of greed. Because of their mission and the tangible results accruing day by day as a result of their policy and persistence, they are constantly increasing numerically and adding to their influence and power. Because of their constructive nature, although they were always radical and are still radical, their efforts have been directed to a gradual program which has not operated to dislocate simultaneously all of the machinery of society. Their process of leveling up has been conducted with a view to maintaining, as a strategic policy, the present structure of our institutions, and to securing a constantly increasing share of the rewards inuring to industrial operations. In fact, their radicalism is felt in every hamlet where the organizations of labor are formed and maintained.

With the whole world deranged by a conflict of terrifying intensity, the unions of labor, with their policy of collective bargaining and the enhancing of their economic position because of the needs for gigantic production, have been enabled to meet their age-old opponents upon a basis approaching equality. Even governments have been compelled to render due consideration to the rightful demands made by our organizations. Conspicuous as has been the change in relationship between the British government and the trade unions of that country, the change in relationhsip between our government and the trade unions has likewise been marked. The constructive radicalism of the organized labor movement is the basis upon which rests the great power and influence which has been developed. Equipped with experience in organization, conscious of their strength and its limitations, realizing their duty to our country and to themselves, the unions of labor have become the most potent factors in the nation.

With the entrance of this country into the war, it became necessary to utilize and coordinate every instrumentality in our national life. Individualism is being swallowed up by the necessity for unity of action. Forces in society formerly economically hostile are drawn into the vortex of necessity and compelled to contemplate the attitude of each other at close range and determine the basis upon which harmonious cooperation can be established. The radical constructive ability of the trade unions has been translated into concrete results, as indicated by the recognition of government and employers of the potency and effectiveness of organized cooperation.

Our nation, in order that its material resources and the spirit of its people may be mobilized to make a supreme effort, is becoming conscious that the preservation and extension of democratic control of political affairs leads to a natural corollary of the establishment of democratic control in industry. The philosophy and policy of the trade unions in meeting the great crisis fully justiled, and the prophetic wisfully justified, and the prophetir wisdom of the founders of our movement vindicated and appreciated. Today the influence, power and effectiveness of our economic organizations completely overshadow and overwhelm any theoretical partisan political dogma. The process of concentrating all our forces to the attainment of a specific result, necessitates the adoption of a comprehensive economic program, with political ideas as an incident thereto. Therefore the needs of the hour afford a striking opportunity for organizations of labor to carry out their constructively radical program.

With a confidence born of experience, the men and women of labor face the future with the assurance that when the war shall have been concluded our unions will occupy a position in society which will assure them the admitted right to a larger part in determining the manner in which industry shall be conducted. Although not yet granted the full confidence to which they are entitled, our societies will not retrace any step forward which has been taken, but, on the contrary, a further advance toward larger control of our nation's economic affairs can not be prevented with a corresponding influence in our political affairs. With confidence engendered as the result of achievements through organized effort, we shall enter the reconstruction period following the war with the means at our command to determine the relationships which shall exist between employer and employe.

Every trade unionist views with gratification the success which has attended lang and persistent efforts to establish our unions and co-relate their influence that all of the wage-earners have become integral factors in the life of the nation. That we have been justified in the course pursued, is fully demonstrated by our work. Constructive radicalism is best exemplified in the unions of labor.—Grant Hamilton, in American Federationist.

CHANGE IN POLICY OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION PROBABLE.

The communication from the A. F. of L. at the last meeting of the Council is apropos at this time, the local school district having slated an election for director on March 2. Federation officials endeavored to impress upon the working people the necessity of representation on school boards, of aid to teachers' organizations; of support of increased wages for teachers, and support of a more democratic school system.

A large number of our people have an idea that clique control is directing the school system of Olympia and there is some foundation for the belief.

A change in the administrative policy of our local public schools will probably be attempted at the forthcoming school election through retiring to private life the present member of the school board whose term expires at that time.

In the opinion of a great many of our citizens one or two vacancies in the teaching force is very much in order, to the end that an enlightened progress may be substituted for the Salem ideas that the school board has allowed to be foisted upon Olympia's public school system.

The assumption that the scholars are bred-in-the-bone incorrigibles and that the chief duty of the teacher is to correct this tendency through imposition of the cramped viewpoint of a certain few pedagogues, has long been a matter of condemnation by our citizens, and this coming election will without doubt witness concentration of votes in order to remedy the evil at its source — the school directors.

It is fair to the teaching force of the city to say that responsibility for conditions which have aroused parents to the necessity of a change has been confined to one or two people. The power of these people, however, by reason of their authority to determine policies, is a serious menace to the welfare of the young manhood and womanhood of the community.

The question before the electors will be whether we shall have teachers broadminded in an understanding of present-day conceptions of human rights, or continue to hobble the progress of our school children by imposing upon them teachers whose infirmities of mind and heart entirely unfit them for the great work they are attempting to do.

Fellow officers of the Trades Council expressed their sympathy with Paul Kendrick in the sad bereavement of Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick in the death of their daughter last week. A floral piece was provided for the funeral services.

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INTERNATIONAL OFFICER VISITS TEAMSTERS UNION.

Geo. Wm. Briggs, general auditor of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers, visited Olympia Tuesday and conferred with the officers and members of the local Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union. Mr. Briggs reports the condition of the international union the best in its history.