

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, 515 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 Paper-hangers—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, 163 Quince street; C. V. Ely, financial secretary, J. A. McCaughan, business agent, 702 East Fourth
Stage Employees—Al Galloway, 315 East Fourth
Steam Engineers—A. J. Stocks, 417 Tenth street
Teamsters and Chauffeurs—Lott McGonigle, 205 1/2 Franklin
Typographical Union—Geo. L. Levy, Recorder building.

YEAR'S HISTORY OF S. L., R. & F.

BUSINESS AGENT OF LABORERS, RIGGERS AND FASTENERS RECALLS PROGRESS OF UNION.

By GEO. W. LISH, Secretary and Business Agent Shipyard Laborers, Riggers & Fasteners.

The first anniversary of the institution of the local union of Shipyard Laborers occurred this month.

One year ago there was formed in Olympia an organization, to be known as the Shipyard Laborers' Union, with a federal union charter granted by the American Federation of Labor.

The charter membership was 52, and the first official meeting was held on March 31, 1917. Today the number of members is 412.

The rank and file of the union was made up of men from all walks of life—some were working in the shipyards, others were seeking employment therein; there were shingle-weavers, loggers, miners, clerks, traveling men and many others, and under this federal charter banded themselves together as one for the legitimate purpose of bettering their working conditions, shortening the hours of labor and to secure a living wage, in order that they might live in comfort and enjoy more of the fruits of their labor, giving to their children the birthright of every free born American—a sufficient amount of education to enable them to continue this struggle of ours for industrial freedom.

At the time this organization was formed, the wages paid men performing the class of work claimed by our organization ranged from \$2.50 to \$3 a day, and, as everyone will remember, the cost of living at that time was high—potatoes at \$3.50 to \$4 per hundred and meat at 30 cents to 40 cents a pound—such wages could hardly be considered a living wage.

In July the organization, through its committees, secured for the common laborer an increase of 50 cents a day and for all other classes of employees under its jurisdiction, a 15 per cent increase over the old scale. August 1 we presented to the employers a wage scale and set of working rules, drawn up by our representatives after weeks of thorough study of all angles of the question, taking into consideration increased cost of foodstuffs, higher rentals, increased price of clothing, and in fact the premium placed on all the necessities of life, which made it impossible for the workingman to make both ends meet under the current scale of wages.

Employers refused to consider the scale of wages proposed, although it was much lower, in most items, than is being paid at this time, so, on August 1, the entire working force of both shipyards ceased work. The men returned to work on August 3d, with the understanding that the yards here would pay the same scale of wages as was settled on by the majority of the yards in the Puget sound district. On and after August 1 a large majority of the yards in the district entered into agreements with the different organizations whereby substantial increases in wages were received, yet the man-

agement here continued to hold out against any increase whatsoever. One manager claimed that he, having government contracts, his hands were tied, but it has transpired they were not tied so tight that he could not pull the wool over the eyes of certain government officials and secure enormous prices for his contracts.

November 1 the men again walked out, to enforce the agreement made on August 1, having given the employer three months to bring the yards here up to the standard of the majority of the yards on Puget sound. It was a well known fact that at this time the men in the Olympia yards were the lowest paid workmen in the shipbuilding industry in this district.

After daily conferences with the employers and the government representative, Mr. McBride, the men returned to work November 12, with the understanding that the employers would abide by the Macey board's decision on the questions of wages and working conditions, and that all wages would be retroactive to August 1.

There is a clause in the Macey decision providing for the payment of all back pay within 12 days after the decision was handed down. It is now four and a half months since the decision was rendered and all of the back pay has not yet been paid. (Special reference is here made to the Olympia Shipbuilding company). Do you wonder that men are dissatisfied when such conditions exist?

The Macey board, in setting the wage scale of the wooden ship yards took into consideration three classes of work only—carpenters, caulkers and laborers—thus leaving a large majority of the workers without classification or a scale of wages. Representatives of this union have been trying for months to get the different lines of work classified and a wage scale to cover them, and in January succeeded in getting a scale of \$4.95 for fasteners, but there are a number of kinds of work still unclassified and which have not been covered by adjustment awards, and these classifications and wages for same have been agreed to by the committee of the shipbuilders and the government representative and are now in the hands of the federal wage adjustment board in Washington, D. C. Let us hope that we shall get results.

February 11, 1918, this organization secured a charter from the International Longshoremen's Association, and is now known as Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners of the Pacific Coast.

The Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners has sprung from an organization of about 300 in April last year to a membership of more than 8,000 at the present time, embracing ports in British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, with every indication of doubling its membership before the summer months are gone.

The organization has secured for its membership an increase of wages of approximately 50 per cent, a shorter workday in a number of cases and various improvements in working conditions. This is considered, by men who have had years of experience in the labor movement, to be a wonderful record for so young an organization, taking into consideration the years of struggle other older unions have passed through to secure similar results. I will cite the six years' struggle of the United Mine Workers to secure the check-off system, under which system all dues, fines and assessments were taken off at the company office. Each year for six years this question was fought out at the wage conventions between the Miners' organization and the coal operators. Five times the boys went down in defeat, but the sixth time they came back stronger than before and, with the backing of the entire membership of the state, some four thousand, they carried the point and won. And nothing went further toward cementing the entire membership than the winning of this point.

So let the members of this organization on this their first anniversary, re-pledge themselves to stand shoulder to shoulder in the great struggle that is before us. We have the foundation of a splendid organization. Let us strive to make it one of the strongest and most progressive on the Pacific coast. We can do this if we but work together and put our best efforts in the right direction.

Do not depend altogether on your officers to do the work of the organization—the real strength of any organization lies in the rank and file. Pay your dues promptly, accept your responsibility as a member by

acting on committees when requested to do so and, above all else, attend the meetings as often as possible. By doing these things you will greatly assist the organized labor movement. For the man who simply pays his dues, but never attends a meeting or helps in the work of the organization is not a union man.

DONATIONS COLLECTED AT THE PAY COUNTER.

Discussing Thrift societies, and as an illustration of the patriotic response of the workers of Lewis county, we were informed by a Thrift club organizer this week that many workmen had agreed that their subscriptions to Thrift Stamps and Liberty Loan bonds be collected by the employer from their pay check.

It was suggested that possibly coercion figured in the ready acceptance of the principle of the employer constituting himself a collection bureau for the several worthy causes, that section of country being without union organization among the workmen.

This question of coercion by employers it was found necessary in Seattle to hand through the union. The Metal Trades Council last week took emphatic action to stop the practice of forcing contributions from employees.

Accounts of various delegates indicated clearly the extent to which contributions to various excellent causes had been wrung from the pockets of workmen who could ill afford them, in order that employing companies might receive credit for the generosity of their employees. In one case it was reported that a workman who had already Red Cross membership for every member of his family, was forced by the fear of discharge to take out another membership, and that in another institution no less than 40 men were discharged who had refused to sign for contributions to another cause of recognized merit. In these and all the other instances mentioned by the delegates, the contributions were declared to be voluntary.

The council instructed the secretary to give notice to all employers that while they were perfectly willing that boxes should be installed at the gates in which the workers could deposit the money which they desired to donate to any cause, the practice of making deductions from pay checks and the circulation of petitions in the yards and shops must be discontinued. Notices to this effect are to be posted in all the yards.

Along this same line the Metal Trades notified the employers that "where union representatives and officers cannot go union men cannot work, so long as the shipbuilding program is not seriously hampered."

This action was determined upon following knowledge that the shipping board had sent letters to shipyard employers ruling that business representatives and officers of labor unions be excluded from the shipyards except in case of labor trouble in the yard, with the employers determining the definition of "labor troubles."

EMPLOYERS HIT BY FEDERAL AGENT.

After visiting chambers of commerce and other business groups in Western cities, Roger W. Babson, the Boston statistician, who is assisting the United States employment service, says he returns convinced of these points:

"The labor difficulty at present is one of improper distribution rather than of shortage. The complaints of manufacturers, I found, have arisen not so much from their difficulty in obtaining labor but from the difficulty which the manufacturers desire to pay. My principal difficulty was in convincing manufacturers of the increase in the cost of living to wage earners and in the reasonableness of advancing wages corresponding to the advances in the price of materials.

"Manufacturers who are not complaining about paying advances of 100 per cent or more for material are strenuously objecting to paying a fraction of this advance in wages.

"I started on my trip with the idea of educating workers to the difficulty and needs of the present situation. I returned with the idea that employers, especially those in some localities, need fully as much 'missionary work' as do the workers.

"Employers cheerfully pay heavy taxes, give bountifully to the Red Cross and similar organizations, are willing to work in Washington for

To Laboring Men

and the public in general.

TOM BARKER

of the Federal Speakers' Bureau, will give an address in the House Chamber, State Capitol,

Monday Evening APRIL 8

The Relation of Labor to the War will be the subject of his talk. An invitation is extended to everyone.

\$1 a year, and permit their wives to knit from morning to night; but there is one thing which they will not do—give up one-sixteenth of their so-called 'inherited rights of the employing class.' Like the weakest link in a chain, this may be the weakness of our whole industrial structure."

LOCAL UNION MEETINGS.

Steam Engineers, Tuesday night, put four candidates over the hurdles through their examination committee. Three of the candidates managed to "get by," while the fourth will try again after "brushing up" in engineering lore. The union voted to attend the Barker meeting at the house chamber, Monday, April 8.

Sheetmetal Workers held their first formal meeting in Labor Hall Wednesday evening. The union will affiliate with the Trades Council, making No. 23 in Council affiliations.

Electrical Workers have decided to transfer meetings to the Labor Hall. The first meeting in the new location will occur the evening of April 10.

Teamsters and Chauffeurs last night heard a report of its dance committee. The receipts were \$50 net. Expenses of the dance ran high, due to a large orchestra and considerable advertising, while the admission tickets were low, 50 cents. Announcement of the placing in service of an automobile by the Mutual Laundry was received with applause.

Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners considered many bills payable at its meeting Monday night. This is the beginning of the second quarter of the year and the remittances called for by the District Council, the State Federation, the Trades Council, subscriptions to the Standard, and numerous lesser items, gave the treasury a considerable jolt. However, there are several times remaining and then some, as the treasury is contributed to by 412 members at this time. In the last month 46 candidates were initiated. The union will attend the Barker meeting in a body.

The call of Spring constrained the Typographical Union to suspend its regular monthly meeting Sunday last. Much of the routine work of this union is transacted in chapels. Election of officers for the year occurs at the next meeting, the last Sunday in April.

Plumbers held a short special Sunday afternoon, the purpose being to iron out some small difficulties before they became over-ripe. At the regular meeting, the preceding Friday, a number of candidates were initiated.

MOONEY PROBABLY WILL BE FREED BY GOVERNOR.

President Wilson has suggested to the governor of California that he pardon Thomas J. Mooney, convicted, by the testimony of a perjurer, of the San Francisco bomb outrage.

The California supreme court has handed down a decision directing the re-sentencing to death of Mooney for the reason that nothing in the record of the case indicated the fact that he was convicted upon perjured testimony.

At a mass meeting in New York Bourke Cochran said of this travesty on justice:

"I say to you, and I think I speak the language of moderation, that while there have been miscarriages of justice under every political system, while there have been perversions of justice, while innocent men have been condemned not merely through mistake, but through conspiracy, nevertheless I state deliber-

tely that this conviction of Thomas Mooney is the most glaring perversion of justice in the whole history of jurisprudence in America or in England or in any other country in the world.

"Every other execution or conviction has been attended at least by circumstances which justified the pretense that the judges were executing the law. Here the constituted authorities themselves agree in declaring that a conviction involving the life of a human being has been brought about by perjury, and the supreme court of the state declares that it cannot examine the record of what occurred at the trial; that it has no power to consider subsequent disclosures, which show that that record is a record of perjury and crime.

"According to their decision, the court, created to defend the lives and liberties of the people, announce themselves powerless to meet and overthrow a conspiracy between a few wretches of the underworld and some leaders, so-called, of the upper world."

TRADES COUNCIL MINUTES.

T. H. Newell of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers presented credentials and is now a member of the Trades Council.

A letter from the Union Label Trades Department of the A. F. of L. urging campaigns for the union label and shop card was read.

John J. Manning, secretary of the Union Label Department of the A. F. of L. urged formation of War Savings societies.

C. L. Baine, chairman of the section on Labor Organizations, of the National War Savings Committee, asked that a war savings committee be kept in the field.

The Mutual Laundry Agency was transferred to the Mutual Laundry company.

Miss Wicke, president of Women's Card and Label League, announced a social session for third Thursday in April.

Delegate Mohler called attention to the law which provides for convening at 8 o'clock instead of 7:30, beginning with the first meeting in April.

Improvements in the hall were ordered, consisting of a supplemental door between the two rooms and additions to the pantry.

LOGGERS BEGIN TO KICK.

Employees of the logging camps have started the pilgrimage to the Labor Commissioner's office, to file protests against the regulations and wages promulgated by Colonel Disque. The Labor Commissioner, Monday, told a delegation of complainants that the labor department was without jurisdiction in the matter.

DEMOCRACY TEST OF CHARACTER.

Senator Borah, in speech in the United States senate, declared that the present world war is a life and death struggle between two forces contending for and against free government and democratic institutions—a conflict which cannot end until one or the other absolutely falls.

"Shall men be governed by some remorseless and soulless entity softly called the state," he asked, "or shall the instrumentality of government yield alone and at all times to the wants and necessities, the hopes and aspirations of the masses? That is now the issue. Nothing should longer conceal it. It is but another and more stupendous phase of the old struggle, a struggle as ancient and as inevitable as the thirst for power and the love of liberty, a struggle in which men have fought and sacrificed all the way from Marathon to Verdun.

"The policy of Frederick the Great, which would make of all human souls mere cogs in a vast military machine, and the policies of George Washington, which would make government the expression and the instrument of popular power, are contending for supremacy on the battle fields of Europe. To lose sight of this fact is to miss the supreme purpose of the war. Beside this issue all other issues are trivial.

"Democracy is the severest test of character which can be put upon a people and must be earned and acquired in the right school of experience. It cannot be handed whole and complete to any people though every member of the community were a Socrates. But what we have determined in this crisis, as I understand, is that we will keep the road of democracy open. No one shall close it."

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