

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—Clara Wolf, 1801 East Fourth.
Journeyman Carbers—Paul Werner, 519 Main.
Machinists—C. VanVlack, 354 Franklin.
Meat Cutters—S. L. Kaler.
Musicians—Elmer Jones.
Painters, Decorators and Paper-hangers—F. M. Kendrick, 315 Twelfth.
Plumbers and Steamfitters—C. S. Ziegler, Hancock street.
Printing Pressmen—H. L. Wortman, 503 Columbia.
Sheetmetal Workers—J. E. Harmon, financial secretary; C. J. Wiseman, recording secretary.
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.
State 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AUTHORITY CURTAILED.

The attempt of the public service commission of this state to substitute its will for provisions of contracts between public service corporations and cities was given a setback in recent decisions of the state supreme court. The court decided that franchise provisions were binding upon the street railway companies and could not be set aside by the public service commission.

The Stone & Webster corporation attempted in Seattle and Tacoma to ignore the franchise provisions which compelled the company to pave between its rails. It also sought to raise its fares beyond the franchise limit. In Seattle the street railway company refused to pave between its tracks in streets being improved by the city, the refusal being based on the ground that the public service commission had before it the proposition to relieve the company of all its franchise obligations. In Tacoma complaint was made against the street railway claiming inadequate service. The company admitted that the service was inadequate, but pleaded lack of funds and again asked to be relieved of its franchise obligations. The public service commission divided on the question of its authority to thus relieve the company. Chairman Blaine insisting that it had this authority.

The company then applied to the supreme court for a writ of mandate to compel the commission to permit it to violate the franchise.

The court holds that the public service commission has no power to relieve corporations of franchise obligations, that the company must pay its share of paving streets, where franchises so specify, and denies the right of the public service commission to raise the rate of fare above that provided in the franchise.

TYPOS ELECT OFFICERS FOR EN-SUING YEAR.

Olympia Typographical Union re-elected the incumbents in most of its offices at the regular meeting last Sunday. The elected officials were installed and are as follows: President, Fred Hudson; vice-president, Thos. P. Holcraft; secretary-treasurer, Geo. L. Levy; sergeant-at-arms, C. H. Howard; executive committee-men, Claude Flesher, H. L. Messogee; Trades Council delegates, Fred Hudson, H. L. Messogee, H. B. Fultz; Allied Printing Trades Council delegates, T. P. Holcraft, Frank Satterlee, D. R. Wickersham.

After adjournment of the union, the members took up the matter of war service in the line of food conservation and the purchase of thrift stamps, and organized a War savings society, to be affiliated with the state and national War Savings societies. D. R. Wickersham was elected president and Geo. L. Levy secretary, and the society will meet once a month. Hudson, Leavelle and Holcraft were named as the program committee.

54 MEMBERS ADDED TO LABORERS, RIGGERS AND FASTENERS DURING MONTH.

Report of Financial Secretary Geo. W. Lish, at the last meeting of Shipyard Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners, showed that 33 applicants had been received into full membership in the union during the month. The report indicated a most prosperous condition of the union in other respects than number of members—a good bank account, a good attendance at the meetings, and sustained interest in the activities of the union upon the part of all the members. A good example of the fruits of

union effort was cited by reference to the awards of the labor adjustment board, brought about by the efforts of the union organization. The awards to date are as follows: Shipyard laborers, \$5.57 1/2; helpers of carpenters, shipwrights and wood-working machine men, \$4.40; oakum spinners, \$4. in 30 days \$4.50; boring machine men, \$4.95; air-hammer men, \$4.95; air-clinching men, \$4.95; bolt stickers, spotters, fitters and setters, \$4.95; plankers and cellers, \$4.95; stage riggers, \$5.95; beetlers, \$4.50, in 30 days \$5.00; hook tenders, \$4.30; journeymen riggers, \$5.50; foreman riggers, \$6.

In addition to the minimum wage above quoted, which is a raise from a minimum of \$2.50 a year ago, union activity has secured to the men thousands of dollars in back-pay. Verily, the union is worth while.

FIRST-AID DISCUSSION.

That St. Peter's Hospital, which holds the first-aid contract with the Sloan Corporation, would carry out the terms of its contract in good faith and that any grievances of injured employees coming under the contract would be rectified if called to the attention of the hospital, was the consensus of opinion arrived at in the meeting of Ship Carpenters, Shipwrights and Joiners, which made the discussion of first-aid contracts a special order at its meeting of Thursday evening, April 25.

Commissioner Harley Hughes explained in detail the provisions of the law as applied to the Sloan contract, said that the industrial insurance commission was without jurisdiction in the case of contracts entered into between companies and employees and hospitals or physicians, except upon a showing of fraud or violation of the terms of the contract. He said that the commission had found the local hospital most reasonable and suggested that the Sisters of St. Peter's would without doubt willingly correct their service in order to make it entirely satisfactory to the men at the shipyards. Hughes submitted to queries of those present and cleared up many misapprehensions regarding the scope of the first-aid law.

During the discussion it was brought out that a section of the Macey decision covering shipyards provided for a first-aid station in all shipyards. Such a station was not being maintained at the Sloan yards, and this fact and the hardships entailed in case of accident because of the absence of apparatus, remedies and a nurse, caused a great deal of the dissatisfaction that existed.

The question of employment of unskilled men in the work of building scaffolds was given the once or twice over, some of the speakers insisting that the practice of working men in the scaffolding crews who lacked all knowledge of correct methods in this important work was very close to criminal negligence on the part of the employers.

A permanent committee, representing the different crafts in the yards will be established and this committee will formally protest against any tendency to side-step the medical service due the injured under the first-aid contract. The committee will also look after enforcement of the terms of the Macey decision bearing upon the question of a first-aid station in shipyards.

TRADES COUNCIL MINUTES.

There was an absentee list about a yard long attached to the Trades Council roll call Thursday evening, April 25. The few faithful present transacted the business of the central body in a subdued manner.

The secretary of the Council being absent on work with the Mutual Laundry committee, Alex Urquhart was selected to record the minutes of the meeting.

Credentials of J. A. Simmons and C. G. McGrath, of the Steam Engineers, were presented and accepted by the Council.

Telegrams and letters from Mr. Patterson, advance agent of the Rena Mooney tour, in which Mrs. Mooney's Olympia date was cancelled, were read and, after a few remarks by the special committee which had charge of arrangements for the meeting, the documents were ordered filed.

The New York State Federation of Labor sent in a communication protesting against the second-class mail provisions of the war revenue bill. The Council concurred.

The Allied Wall Paper Trades, transmitted to the Council a list of firms who manufacture non-union paper, also a list of union firms, and suggested that unionists should ask for the union-made brand of wall paper. The Council concurred in the recommendations of this letter.

The special committee to investigate the fire department wage question made a report of a conciliatory tint, the Council accepted it, and this squabble is shelved for the nonce.

Trustee Mohler made a report of his examination of the accounts of the secretary, and it was accepted.

Label League delegates announced that League meetings would be held Thursday evening, at 7:30 o'clock. Financial report indicated a balance in the treasury of \$992.50.

MUTUAL LAUNDRY COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH SHIP CARPENTERS.

The Mutual Laundry stock sale committee attended the meeting of Ship Carpenters, Shipwrights and Joiners Thursday evening of last week, but were sidetracked to some extent because of the first-aid discussion. The Secretary of the Trades Council spoke upon the question, as did Mr. A. J. Marts, and upon the suggestion of the laundry committee the Carpenters appointed a special committee of their members to investigate the matter and the committee was given another hearing last night.

M. A. Griffin, manager of the Seattle Mutual Laundry and O. H. McGill, industrial organizer, assisted the laundry committee in presenting the question to the Shipwrights last evening. The special committee also made its report, commending the local attempt to establish a co-operative institution and approving the articles of incorporation and by-laws of the Olympia Mutual Laundry Co.

CO-OPERATIVE NOTES.

(By Carl E. Lunn, Seattle.)
 The Union Co-operative Public Market is a tremendous success. The profits for the first 14 days, ending March 30 were \$1,486.27, better than \$100 per day, and the month of April will be better than any previous month under private ownership. The total sales will exceed \$60,000.

The slaughter house, at Renton Junction is now completed and will soon be in operation. Before long a large market will be opened up town.

Unions, union men and organized farmers are subscribing liberally to the stock sales, which has reached about \$50,000.

The co-operative grocery store is now operating in the Union Co-operative market, and plans are under way to open store No. 2 at Fifth and Denny way, shortly.

The Civil Service League (city employees) has opened a co-operative grocery store at Fourth and Columbia streets.

The co-operative bakery will open a bakery lunch room at Union Co-operative market May 10. The bakery has outgrown its present quarters and is taking over a larger establishment.

Another union Mutual Laundry in the district is contemplated, this time at Vancouver, B. C. Attempts to organize the drivers and the laundry workers was prevented by the flag-waving bosses, who deliberately discharged everybody showing union activity. Therefore, the union workers of Vancouver are preparing to enter into direct competition with the patriotic owners.

Spokane is to own and operate a union co-operative laundry, in order to force organization of the workers and secure decent condition of employment and wages suitable for American men and women.

Soon the labor-owned laundries may organize their purchasing power and buy in large quantities. At present we have the Seattle Mutual in operation, Olympia Mutual soon to open, and with Vancouver and Spokane and one proposed for Everett, we may make things very interesting for the Laundry Kings' Association.

CARD OF THANKS.

We extend our thanks to the Ship Carpenters, Shipwrights and Joiners' union for the many kindnesses shown and flowers given, and also to our friends for their assistance and sympathy during our recent bereavement.

MRS. T. D. WATERS.
 H. J. WATERS.

MUTUAL LAUNDRY AGENCY TO CLOSE.

The Mutual Laundry Agency, located at 122 Fifth street, will close its doors Saturday night of this week, May 4. This action was decided upon at a meeting of the trustees of the Olympia Mutual Laundry company, Wednesday. Two reasons of the first importance are given by the trustees for the action decided upon: Citizens generally do not relish the necessity of sending their laundry work out of the city; the committee desires to devote all of its time to the promotion of the Mutual Laundry company. An active stock selling campaign will now be undertaken and persisted in until installation of the machinery of a new laundry is accomplished. Eight hundred dollars worth of stock has already been sold, practically without solicitation, the principal work of the committee thus far having been presentation of the company's plans to the different labor unions and securing official indorsement. This work is practically complete. The stock sale will now be carried forward without delay, and the funds deposited in the bank, there to remain until the details of machinery, building and operating force are completed. The committee announces that 60 days will be needed to complete the work, when installation of the equipment will begin.

MEMBERS OF BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS ENJOY SOCIAL EVENING.

Ship Carpenters, Shipwrights and Joiners gave a most enjoyable affair in Central hall Tuesday evening, at which the "House" Carpenters were the guests of honor. About three hundred union men attended, accompanied by members of their families.

The program consisted of a patriotic speech by Thos. M. Vance, which occasioned hearty response by the gathering. This was followed by several appropriate numbers by the orchestra.

Superintendent Andrew Peterson, widely known on this coast as a shipbuilder of proven experience, addressed the gathering and in his own happy way made the men and their families feel that they were truly one great big family, working together for a common cause, and that each one should feel proud of the fact that they or their loved ones are engaged in so useful and, at the present time, so glorious an occupation as that of shipbuilding.

Brother Thompson, a foreman in the yard, rendered a beautiful vocal solo and was forced to respond to encores.

The committee in charge expressed disappointment in that several numbers promised could not be put on. But as this was the first of what it is expected to be a regular affair with the Carpenters, more complete preparation will be possible by the next gathering and a larger program will be in order. However the committee appeared the only unsatisfied member of the party. The speeches were good, the solos entertaining and the music stirring. Ice cream and cake followed and the evening wound up with a dance during which everything was provided, from the most graceful of all dances, the waltz, to the old-time square dances. Everyone journeyed homeward feeling that they had had one good time.

SHIPYARD NOTES.

Plumbers employed at the shipyards asked for their time Tuesday night and will seek work elsewhere. The action of the men follows extended negotiations over wages. The current scale for journeymen plumbers on Puget Sound is \$7.20 a day. In the Sloan yards \$5.77 was all that

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the management would agree to pay, and so the men decided to seek more remunerative positions. A compromise was offered by the employees offering to accept the same wages paid to carpenters, but the management declined to consider this. While not an official strike, the withdrawal of the men will have the same effect on the yards. The controversy will become current among plumbers everywhere and no one will seek employment at the yards. This is just one more incident in the long list of unwise decisions by the management. There is no question of the justice of the claims of the men, but the matter was referred and re-referred to some authority above until patience upon the part of the workers ceased to be a virtue.

Many improvements are under way at the Sloan plant—new machines of various kinds and a brand new locomotive, which will be used to switch cars once in a while. Anent this locomotive, it has been insinuated it is more in the nature of a plaything than a utility under conditions at this shipyard.

The first-aid committee, provided for by the several unions, held a session at Labor Hall Wednesday night. The committee was permanently organized and the situation given extended discussion.

The dance given by the S. S. A. A. at their hall on Columbia street last Friday night was one of the most enjoyable affairs staged in Olympia in a long time. The hall was decorated in the national and allied colors, the orchestra was in fine fettle and more than 500 of the members enjoyed to the full this laudable endeavor of the association to see that everyone had a feel-acquainted sensation.

This highly successful social affair is but the forerunner of many entertainments of the future under like auspices. There is an enthusiastic demand for the activities of the Athletic association and it is receiving unanimous and hearty support.

Framed ships have been lying in the Sloan yards for more than twelve months. Will someone, in all frankness analyze the conditions that make such a situation possible? It seems exceeding strange that the government would spend hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary to keep these yards in operation and then put men at the heads of departments who, playing the political game for personal ends, would deliberately cause the delays by placing obstructions—incompetent understrappers who know nothing of the shipbuilding game. The lives and safety of our people are at stake. Shall political manipulation be tolerated in place of patriotic duty? In some of the yards, with workers as capable as could be found anywhere, the work is dragging along at 30 to 40 per cent efficiency, where it could be and should be at least 90 per cent. Equipment orders are held up, lumber invoices pigeon-holed, insufficient machinery and tools of all kinds, and then the men, whose earnest desire is to give their best efforts to the furtherance of our government's work, are held up by the slackers in fact as malcontents and incompetents. In the interim the big interests sit back and gather in the shekels, the fruits of a despicable, deeply-laid plot.

UNEMPLOYED PROBLEM.

In view of the sentiment created by "shortage-of-labor" claimants, if a person insisted that there was an unemployed problem in many large cities, he would be looked upon with suspicion.

But this statement has been made by the United States department of labor, which says that reports received up to April 6 show that conditions in the building trades are "still serious." Only five cities show a shortage and 34 show a surplus of labor. Many of the larger cities, including Chicago, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and Los Angeles show "that unemployment is a serious problem."

In this city building trades craftsmen find that employment is hard to secure, the only alternative being to "horn in" on the ship building game, and the vacancies in the yards for skilled men are not as common as some people claim.

NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU ON LABOR SHORTAGE.

"As for the labor shortage itself, take New York state for example. There were 3,300,000 men registered here in the last census as being employed in gainful occupations. About 175,000 were taken in the draft. With that small per cent gone is there any reason now for taking on women as conductors or guards? I am not against women going into industry, and the time may come when they will have to fill men's places—but the situation requires careful study. We know why they were selected in many cases for the positions they hold on subway and surface traffic."

WAGES DO NOT KEEP PACE WITH RISING COST OF LIVING.

Wage increases in the United States are not keeping pace with the advance in the cost of living, Assistant Secretary of Labor Post asserts. Figures compiled by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor, he says, show that while the cost of food last year increased 25 per cent for the entire country, wages rose only one-half or two-thirds of that rate.

The statement issued by the bureau of labor statistics showing the increased living costs throughout the United States for the year ending January 15 says:

"Comparing January 15, 1918, with January 15, 1917, the price of food as a whole increased 25 per cent. All articles show decided increases with the exception of potatoes, which decreased 16 per cent. Cornmeal shows the greatest price change, an increase of 77 per cent. Bacon increased 64 per cent; lard, 53 per cent; pork chops, 44 per cent; ham, 42 per cent; milk, 35 per cent; hens, 29 per cent; butter, 25 per cent; eggs, 23 per cent; bread, 19 per cent; sugar, 18 per cent, and flour, 17 per cent."

STATE FEDERATION IN ABERDEEN, JUNE 24.

It has been definitely decided that the convention of the State Federation of Labor will convene at Aberdeen, Monday, June 24. Bremerton was chosen at the 1917 convention as the place of meeting in 1918, but the executive board's investigation of hotel facilities in the navy yard city showed that there would be no place for the convention delegate to lay his head. In the face of this condition the convention was transferred to Aberdeen, as being Bremerton's chief contender for the 1918 convention.

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