

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 1255, 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.
Journymen 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.
Sheetmetal Workers—J. E. Harmon, financial secretary; C. J. Wiseman, recording secretary.
Shipyards 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, 193 Quince street; C. V. Ely, financial secretary.
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.

GERMANY CONCEALS ITS PAUPERISM

The claim that pauperism in Germany is unknown because of "social reform" laws is shown to be false by Gustavus Myers, writing for the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy. This investigator says: "The idea that pauperism was about extinct in Germany became more than an impression. It settled in the minds of many people here into such a fixed belief that even after war was declared by the United States, a prominent socialist in Minnesota in a public speech there said: 'What if the Germans do come over here and rule us? What do we care who governs us so long as we are well fed and happy?'"

"He was simply voicing what others who had imbibed German propaganda were saying in private. They had absorbed so much of the praise of the German government's schemes for the prevention of poverty that they took it for granted that those schemes were both genuine and successful."

"The unusually significant fact that the German government neither published nor apparently had any comprehensive statistics on pauperism in Germany was unnoticed. Here was a potent fact that instantly should have aroused suspicion. Endlessly had the German government bragged of its thoroughness and excellence in gathering the most minute statistical details about anything and everything. Why did it or its states not have the full facts on pauperism, or if it had them why did it not publish them? Had there been such a big omission in the United States German critics would have been the first to raise an outcry about official suppression of important facts."

"German officials knew well that pauperism statistics had a greater significance than any other kind. These statistics were the real test of Germany's boastings. And why? For several reasons. If conditions in Germany were as ideal as they were represented, pauperism should have become nonexistent. If, also Germany's compulsory social insurance schemes had been so successful as they were lauded in the vaunted object of removing poverty, the statistics would have shown the gradually diminishing number of paupers, year by year."

"Well-informed Germans knew that there was plenty of pauperism. They knew that much of it was downright destitution, and that much more was the same but disguised from superficial view by palliative coverings. But the mass of Germans were effectively chloroformed by the government. With every motion of their life regulated, their beliefs and views were also regulated. When they were told to believe that everything was going on happily and harmoniously and that the compulsory social insurance laws were a great benevolence and benefit the most of them believed it. Officially assured that pauperism thereby had been immensely reduced they believed this, too, accepting the official word against the evidence of their own observation and experience. Their national pride was flattered by this agreeable misrepresentation."

"Germany's compulsory sickness and workmen's accident insurance system dates from 1883-84; its invalidity and old-age insurance from 1889. The main convincing argument used in adopting these compulsory schemes was that the powerful intervention of the state was necessary to force people to submit to

measures that would protect them against want.

"If these laws had brought about this end, or nearly so, impressive results would certainly have shown by the year 1910. By that time these as well as other so-called 'reform' laws had been in force long enough. That was the crest of the time, too, when all over the world the legend had been adroitly disseminated that Germany was a veritable paradise where contentment dwelt and bliss crowned all."

"Turning from legend to fact what do we find?"

"That instead of decreasing, pauperism in Germany increased, not only absolutely but relatively."

"At a hygiene congress in 1913 Dr. Zahn, a recognized German authority on poor relief in that country, reported as in Berlin the number of persons receiving poor relief from the public funds had increased yearly from 31,358 in 1891 to 55,601 in 1909. This was an increase in pauperism from 1.99 per 100 inhabitants in 1891 to 2.64 per 100 inhabitants in 1909. Pauper burials were frequent."

"In Hamburg pauperism was so constant that from 1895 to 1909 between 9,000 and 10,000 persons annually were given poor relief from the public funds. Many paupers were buried at public expense every year. The same conditions prevailed in Munich, Leipzig, Breslau, Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Nuremberg, Dusseldorf, Eiberfeld and other German cities. These figures do not include private and trade union aids."

"Dr. Zahn showed that pauperism was not confined to large cities. In Bavaria, the richest agricultural state in the German empire, 250,218 paupers were assisted in 1911."

"In order to conciliate the organized city working people and at the same time give a genteel outward appearance to city conditions, the usual form of poor relief in the cities has been that of grants of money. The individual sums thus given have been—well, what have they been? Commonly about \$1.50 a month or thereabouts; sometimes a little more. A \$3 or \$4 a month allowance of alms has been considered generosity. In official parlance these poor relief grants are honorably styled 'benefits.' Miserable as are these sums, they have somehow been the means of diverting a mass of paupers from being shifted to almshouses. Hidden in the congested byways and festering in the squalid back neighborhoods of the cities, these impoverished semblances of human beings have mysteriously existed. Meanwhile the officials, well knowing that these submerged elements have been lost to view, have proudly pointed out to visitors the delusive fact that their almshouse population is almost nil."

"Compared with Germany's refusal to publish pauper statistics and her boast of the absence of pauperism, statistics of the United States show that in this country for every 100,000 population the proportion of almshouse paupers has decreased from 116.6 in 1900 to 91.5 in 1910."

"Moreover—and a highly important fact it is—much of this pauperism was pauperism transplanted here direct from Europe. United States bureau of the census bulletin 120 further shows that of the 84,190 paupers admitted to almshouses in the United States in 1910, a total of 33,353 were foreign-born white paupers, 5,531 of whom, by the way, came from Germany. 'Taking the country as a whole,' says the 1910 census report on the United States, 'the foreign-born whites in proportion to their numbers contribute to almshouses about four times as many paupers as the native white.' It is this immigration that has swelled the ranks of pauperism in our large Eastern port cities and states."

"Germany has had no such problem thrust upon it. Almost wholly Germany's paupers have been native Germans or other subjects of the kaiser—home-grown products of German kultur."

TEAMSTERS TO FEED.

The local union of Teamsters and Chauffeurs has scheduled a social for Saturday evening in Labor hall. The program will consist of card playing and chat, to be followed by ice cream, cake, coffee and smokes. The committee denies the rumor that a crap table will be allowed to operate in an adjoining room for the enjoyment of a few of the boys who are devotees of the seben-come-leben sport.

MUTUAL LAUNDRY TO OPEN ON THIRD NEAR WATER.

The trustees of the Olympia Mutual Laundry Co. have rented the building adjoining the Perival dock on Third street, have placed an order for laundry machinery, and will open the new laundry there. The building, which formerly housed a soda factory, is being cleaned, painted, papered and otherwise repaired, and the machinery will be on the ground within a week. It is announced that the institution will be doing business before the first of June. It has been decided to invest the money now in hand, starting the business on a small scale and expanding with the growth of business.

YOUNG HEADLINES MONDAY'S PROGRAM OF LABORERS, RIGGERS AND FASTENERS.

District President C. B. Young, addressed the meeting of Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners Monday evening. Five applicants were initiated, and \$25 was appropriated for the benefit of W. E. Ross, a sufferer from tuberculosis.

President Young's talk was in the nature of a report of his accomplishments while on a trip to Washington, D. C., where he appeared before ship construction officials in the interest of wages and working conditions for members of the union of Laborers, Riggers and Fasteners. Members of the union already had read, in the increased figures of the pay check, the news that considerable success had attended the efforts of the district president. However, the members of the union listened with appreciation to Young's tale of the methods pursued to galvanize government officials into action upon questions which have hung fire for many moons. Every claim of the union has been agreed to except the one relating to back pay for the plankers and cellers. This matter is yet under consideration by the wage adjustment board. The union has demanded that the award of wages for plankers and cellers shall date back to August as in the case of fasteners and laborers. It is believed that this claim will finally meet the approval of the Macy board. Incorporated in the motion to appropriate \$25 for the relief of W. E. Ross was a provision for appointment of a committee with authority to solicit funds from individual members of the union for this fund. Physicians have given an opinion that Ross must seek a higher altitude and dryer atmosphere or succumb to the disease, and it is planned to send him to Arizona. Ward Good, Michael McGlynn and D. L. Gorham were named as members of the committee.

The Label League entertained the members of the Council and visitors immediately after conclusion of the regular Council business. Ice cream and cake were served. About 50 members of Ship Carpenters' union attended the social session, this union meeting upstairs on the same evening.

TRADES COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Discussion of a disagreement between the Council and the Teamsters' union over the promotion of the Mutual Laundry agency in Olympia, was the principal order of business at the Trades Council meeting of May 8. A letter from the Teamsters, setting forth this union's position was read and a committee of investigation authorized. Geo. W. Lish, G. W. Grim and R. A. Padgett constitute the committee.

The government has awarded contracts for the manufacture of 2,000,000 pairs of well shoes for the army, the price being approximately \$6.50. Contracts for 3,500,000 pairs metallic fastened field shoes has been awarded at \$7.75 a pair.

TACOMA TRADES UNIONISTS ARE IN FAVOR OF LABOR PARTY

Organized labor of Tacoma has decided to launch a labor party in the fall political campaign. T. F. Burns, a leader in the Central Labor Council of Tacoma, stood sponsor for the proposition, and it met with the approval of the delegates at a meeting of the political auxiliary of the Central body. Burns is one of the delegates from the Labor Council to the meeting of the State Federation in Aberdeen, in June, and no doubt will present the proposition to that body. This action by Tacoma union men presages a warm time in the state convention. Similar propositions have appeared before the state meeting in times past, and are fruitful of much oratory.

WHO FAVORS CONSCRIPTION?

These are days of gloom for conscription-of-labor advocates, who were hoping that this principle could be established during the war hysteria for use when peace returns. The United States emergency fleet corporation reports that another record had been made by American shipyards during the week ending May 4. In the seven days 19 steel ships, aggregating 92,000 tons, were completed and 16 hulls, representing 79,195 tons, put into the water. If this schedule were maintained during a month of 30 days the deliveries would be brought up to 473,143 tons for the month and the launchings to 328,093 tons. Officials declare that the record for launchings for May will exceed even that mark and that there will be a steady increase each month from this time.

LOCAL LABOR DISPUTES TO BE ARBITRATED.

Plans for settlement of local industrial disputes which might interfere with the nation's war program have been announced by the national war labor board in compliance with President Wilson's proclamation of April 8 last. The plan provides for appointment of local arbitration committees in industrial cities and districts and of two-member subcommittees of the board itself to act in controversies which the local committee cannot settle. These committees will be assisted by trained field agents sent out from Washington to investigate each dispute. The war labor board will act as the

supreme court and will hear cases only when its subcommittees are unable to settle a controversy or when one side or the other makes an appeal from their decisions or those of the local committees.

The board announced that it would hear appeals in the following cases:

1. Where the principles established by the president's proclamation have been violated.
2. Where an award made by a board has not been put into effect, or where the employes have refused to accept or abide by the award.
3. To determine questions of jurisdiction between government boards.

The subcommittee of the board will be composed of one from the employers' side and one from the employees' side and will be named by the joint chairmen at the instance of respective groups of the board.

Provision is made for the selection of an umpire who will render an award in case the board finds it impossible to reach a unanimous conclusion concerning a case which has been referred to it by the regular committees.

APOLOGIZES FOR PROFITEERS.

That regulation of the diet of the consumers is the prime purpose of the food administration, with regulation of prices behind the distance flag, is evidenced in the action of State Food Administrator Heberd in rushing into print with an apology for the profiteers who have held up the people on the price of wheat substitutes, following the announcement of the national food administration that the prices of substitutes were exorbitant. The present practice certainly makes the sledging easy for the food administration. By issuing an order that consumers must buy certain articles, while leaving the price of the article to the seller, the seller is made a most active partisan of the enforcement of the rule.

SHOES IN MILLION LOTS AT \$7.75.

The government has awarded contracts for the manufacture of 2,000,000 pairs of well shoes for the army, the price being approximately \$6.50. Contracts for 3,500,000 pairs metallic fastened field shoes has been awarded at \$7.75 a pair.

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UNION LABOR REQUESTED TO TAKE PART IN RED CROSS CAMPAIGN PARADE.

Chairman Jesse T. Mills, of the parade division of the Red Cross campaign committee, has requested that organized labor join in the parade, which will be held Saturday evening at 7 o'clock to evidence the opening of the drive for funds. Union men will meet at Labor hall, Third and Washington, at 6:30 o'clock Saturday evening. The parade will end at the Capitol, where a program of music and patriotic addresses has been arranged to take place.

CITY COUNCIL GREASES THE REGULATOR.

The city council has adopted an anti-sedition, unlawful assemblage, anti-I. W. W., etc., ordinance. It is reported that an anti-loaf ordinance is in the incubator.

"It will take years of work after the war to correct the wrongs done by officials in the name of public necessity," remarked a labor man, questioning the wisdom of the ordinance passed by the city council last week. And no doubt there is much merit in the labor man's conclusions. The law adopted gives to the chief of police and other officials extraordinary powers, and is an open invitation to abuse of authority.

Nothing in the way of unlawful assemblage has occurred in Olympia, nor is anything of the kind likely to occur. There has been no activity on the part of the "wobblies" in this city, nor is there the least ground for suspicion that the I. W. W. will find any encouragement hereabouts.

Then why suspend the rules of the council to adopt a law which on its face violates the common rights of all citizens, and which proposes to correct a purely imaginary ill? The council, no doubt, views its action as a highly commendable exhibition of patriotic support of the government. Whether you agree with the council, however, is largely a matter of the point of view. Many officials believe and assume that an election to public office gives them carte blanche to set up in the business of regulating the people, whom they consider their wards. Some other folks look upon officials as servants rather than guardians of the people and believe that the most worthy official is the one who exercises the greatest deliberation and caution when considering measures which are calculated to curtail privileges which every American is taught from infancy to believe are his inalienable right.

ACTION NOW!

(Edith Tish, in The Co-operator.) We submit for your consideration two propositions.

The first one, which we dismiss after merely stating it—that for so long and so unprofitably organized labor has done business with organized capital.

The second proposition, for which we urge your most earnest consideration, is that organized labor can and must do business with itself. Organized labor must organize and use its own capital.

Why should skilled workers, fully capable of producing and supplying all of their own and the world's needs, suffer for want of any of them? Why, when they do obtain them, should they do so on terms and according to the rules laid down by capital?

Granted that capital is indispensable to the present system of production and distribution, what is to prevent labor from capitalizing its co-operative efforts for the benefit of themselves and their fellows of the working class?

Only two processes are necessary in the passage of a commodity from producer to consumer—transportation and direct distribution. If such is the case, why a host of middlemen, agents or brokers? They are a burden to the working class. They are of benefit only to capital and capitalism. Why tolerate the parasitic interlopers, who take tribute at both ends, giving nothing in return?

The cure is simple, practical and immediately effective—is now within the power of the working men and women to operate.

Co-operative effort of the workers on extensive scale is the solution to many of our social and economic troubles. Co-operative effort on the part of the workers is the only force that has raised civilization to its present level. It is the only power which will raise it to further and higher levels. In union there is strength. Think these facts over, the next accordingly. But act—don't talk.

SUBSTITUTES AND SUBSTITUTES.

Manufacturers of substitutes are flooding the market with their "good as the real thing" stuff, and, incidentally, are lining their own pockets with good coin of the realm. The state chemist of Pennsylvania thus characterizes the butter substitutes: "The product turned out by the so-called 'butter mergers' is not butter, but butter mixed with milk. It,

therefore, contains nearly 40 per cent of water instead of not more than 16 per cent, as required by law. One may as well dilute his coffee, and there is no sense in such a procedure unless one expects to eat twice as much of it as the real butter, and in that case the economy has disappeared.

"It is just plain fraud, and most harmful, to use an instrument known as the 'homogenizer,' which has for its object the making of a more perfect emulsion of milk or cream and at the same time incorporating either butter or some foreign fat to increase the richness. This instrument has made it possible for manufacturers of ice cream to add foreign fats to skimmed milk, thus making a substitute cream which can be detected only by close chemical analysis."

DISCIPLINE FACES RENT PROFITTEERS.

The United States shipping board announces that it will exercise its power to commandeer houses for shipyard workers.

"Already rentals have been advanced in some cases three-fold," it is stated. "It is not the disposition of the fleet corporation to act in an arbitrary manner or to cause injustice to anyone, but it feels that it is its duty to prevent, wherever possible, flagrant cases of profiteering at the expense of shipyard workers, which cause extreme dissatisfaction among the workers and tend to an unnecessary labor turnover, and the fleet corporation will not hesitate to exercise its power under the housing bill wherever its attention is called to cases of this description."

Peaches
 Lemon Cling Peaches, in large gallon cans, per can— **45c**
 Moorpark Apricots, No. 10 cans, each— **50c**
 Blackberries, No. 10 cans, each— **60c**
 Royal Anne Cherries, No. 10 cans, each— **60c**
 Bartlett Pears, No. 10 cans, each— **45c**
 Howey's Wonder Coffee, 2 lbs for— **55c**
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