

# The Labor Journal.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY  
Labor Temple, Everett, Wash.

Entered at the Post Office in Everett, Washington, as second class Mail Matter.

E. P. MARSH.....Editor.  
J. E. CAMPBELL.....Business Manager.  
Phones Sunset 148, Ind. 681Y.  
Subscription \$1.00 Per Year in Advance.

Advertising Rates on Application.

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## EDITORIAL

The Court of Appeals of the district of Columbia has just handed down their decision in the contempt case against Gompers, Morrison and Mitchell, growing out of the Buck stove and range case. While the injunction was affirmed, its terms were greatly modified. The court held that labor publications could not be prohibited from referring to this case through their columns as long as the firm was not published in a "we don't patronize" list.

A more sweeping injunction was never issued in a labor dispute than the original injunction issued in this case. By its terms the officials of the A. F. of L., or any affiliated members were forbidden to refer to the fact that the Buck Stove & Range Co were unfair either by written or spoken word. President Gompers has steadily maintained that the injunction was in direct violation of the inherent right of free speech and free press and has stood ready to go to jail if necessary to uphold that right.

The case will be carried up to the Supreme court of the United States, where it is believed by the officials of the Federation that the jail sentences imposed by Judge Wright will be annulled.

Cities in the southern part of the state are puzzled to know how to care for the army of men that have been brought there expecting to obtain railroad construction work. Elma is complaining bitterly of being the dumping ground for these unemployed men, who for the most part are penniless. Several efforts have been made at previous sessions of the legislature to pass a bill prohibiting false advertisements for labor with severe penalties, attached without success. It seems to be a common custom among certain employing classes to take advantage of a scarcity of work to concentrate an army of unemployed, first at one point and then another. Wages as a consequence are beaten down to a starvation point. This process has been carried on in Alaska for several years and still draws thousands of men to the far north in a hopeless quest for work.

The Titanic struggle in which the United Hatters is engaged is being watched with anxiety and sympathy by all union

people. Probably no organization was ever called on to fight against greater odds. It is a life and death struggle with them. Their label which they have established at infinite cost is the foundation of their union. Their funds tied up in the courts pending the final outcome of the Danbury case, the little homes and even the savings banks accounts of the individual members at stake, to lose the label means a death blow to their international. Back then to the sweat shop and its misery through which they have been emerging through the power of organization. The destruction of the union label is one of the plans of the Manufacturers Association to disrupt organized labor in this country. It must not and will not succeed if union men and women do their duty. Every union in position to do so, should aid them financially and above all else, insist that the union label is sewed under the hatband in every hat you purchase.

John Smith may have a grievance, real or imaginary, against a certain firm. He may conclude that he will withhold his patronage from that firm. He may tell his neighbor that he has been treated unfairly and that he has decided to withdraw his patronage from said firm. He may (if the police don't arrest him for obstructing traffic) stand on the street corner and tell his troubles to the whole city. He is within his rights as an individual—as a free-born American citizen. But, Jim Brown AND John Smith decide that their interests are identical and that working together they can accomplish more than each working separately. They form a UNION. They both discover that some certain firm or individual is working against their mutual interests. But it is different now! What John Smith could lawfully do, John Smith and Jim Brown cannot. It is a conspiracy now, a boycott, a crime. That ever ready weapon, the injunction, steps in and if they violate it they go to jail. This in a few simple words is the construction put upon the law by many of our higher courts as well as innumerable lesser ones. It may be law, but is it justice? We teach our children in the schools that law is based on justice and we breed into their minds from the cradle that a reverence for those whose sacred duty to interpret the law that all may receive justice, is expected from all. And when we see a wholesale perversion of justice from those whom we are asked to blindly believe infallible, is it any wonder we ask, why? Is it any wonder that day by day our respect for the ponderous and too-often misapplied machinery of the court, lessens? When it occurs—if it does—that the strong arm of the law reaches out to protect the rights of the humblest of our citizens as well as those of—well, Standard Oil—then and then only can we give to it the respect and reverence which it calls for.

The Morning Tribune, all unconsciously perhaps, in an editorial printed in this morning's issue drove home a lesson to unorganized workmen in a few words. In commenting on the recently formed business men's association and their relation to the grocers' association and the farmers', they said: "Nothing can be accomplished without organization. That is why the business men have organized. But the organized business men cannot do much for the unorganized ranchers. They could do much if the ranchers were organized also." Change the words "business men" and "ranchers" to "laboring men" and these few sentences would tell the whole story of the organized labor movement.

Senator Depew, of New York, is a bitter opponent of the Direct Primary system. In a public speech the other day he is credited with the following outburst: "Under the present system which has been in vogue for over a hundred years, we have never had a bad President—we have had many great ones; we have never had a bad governor in the state of New York—we have had many great ones." Chauncey modestly forbore to mention Senator in his category.

Emerson's quotation "hitch your wagon to a star" is declared by modern cynics to be pretty sentiment but poor business. Better that, however, than to anchor it in the mud. Lofty ideals, though unattained, leave a nobler imprint on a man's character than the fulfillment of sordid ambitions.

## LABOR ITEMS IN TABLOID FORM

There are in the United States 175 weekly and 185 monthly papers devoted to the interests of organized labor.

The Board of Public Works of the city of Spokane in letting a number of contracts recently passed a resolution that the contractors must see that none but citizens of that city are employed on the work.

Walla Walla unionists plan the formation of a Sectional Trades Council similar to the ones in operation in various Sound cities.

The German Metal Workers' association is reputed to be the largest labor union in the world from the point of membership, having an enrollment of nearly 400,000.

Organized labor in Portland, Ore., is making preparations for a monster par-

ade and mass meeting on May 1st to protest against the Wright decision in the infamous 'Buck stove and range' contempt case.

The Miners' Federation of Great Britain, 500,000 strong, will affiliate with the Socialist-Labor Party.

If you have any good reading matter—newspapers, magazines—that you are through with, don't burn it up but take it to the Labor Temple reading room.

## SUMMONS NO. \_\_\_\_\_

In Justice Court before William Sheller, Justice of the Peace, in and for Everett Precinct, Snohomish County, Washington.

M. Seller & Company, Incorporated, a corporation, Plaintiff; vs. W. B. Strowbridge, Defendant.

To W. B. Strowbridge, the above named defendant: In the name of the State of Washington, you are hereby notified that M. Seller & Company, Incorporated, a corporation, the above named plaintiff has filed a complaint against you in said court which will come on to be heard at my office in the Court house in the City of Everett, Snohomish County, State of Washington, on the 26th day of March, 1909, at the hour of ten (10) o'clock A. M., unless you appear and then and there answer, the same will be taken as confessed and the demand of the plaintiff granted.

The object and demand of said complaint is to recover the sum of thirty-three and 30/100 dollars (\$33.30) for goods, wares and merchandise heretofore sold and delivered to you at your instance and request by said plaintiff, complaint filed February 25th, A. D., 1909.

WILLIAM SHELLER, Justice of the Peace. BELL, ANDERSON & McLAREN, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Office and Post-Office address: Realty Building, Everett, Snohomish County, Washington. Date of first publication, Feb. 25-09, 3t.

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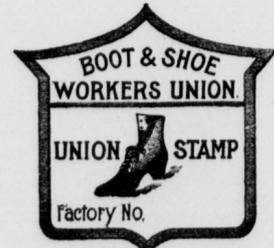
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