

THE LABOR JOURNAL
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THE LABOR JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE EVERETT TRADES COUNCIL

Devoted to the Interest of Organized Labor

THE LABOR JOURNAL
Is the official organ of the Trades
Council, and is read by the labor-
ing men and women of Everett.

VOL. XIX.

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1909.

No. 15.

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SHOW MEN ORGANIZED

Chorus Girls Need Union — Stage Hands United.

E. H. Springer, stage carpenter, and Claude E. Rader, property man, both connected with the "Mills of the Gods" company were visitors at the Labor Temple last Sunday afternoon. Mr. Springer belongs to Los Angeles local and Mr. Rader to Boise Idaho, local of the Theatrical and Stage Hands Alliance.

Both of these gentlemen are enthusiastic unionists and in conversation with the editor of the Journal made the following statements:

"Theatrical people generally are becoming very much interested in organization and our union is growing fast. We have now 155 locals of the Theatrical and Stage Hands Alliance and we are coming fast. All signs point to the formation of a strong union among the actors, as they have seen the benefit organization has been to our own members and to all other organized crafts. There is no branch of the theatrical profession which needs the protection of a union more than the chorus girls and if they were once organized they would stick like glue. They are clamish and quick to resent an injustice and if they could be imbued with the union spirit they would form a powerful organization in the theatrical world."

Good luck to the theatrical people and their union.

G. N. TEAM PLAYS CLASSY BALL

Despite the zero weather prevailing in sporting circles in Everett, several amateur teams have commenced the season and are playing a good article of ball. For several seasons a team composed of workmen from the G. N. shops have been giving various amateur teams throughout the county a run for their money. Last summer they finished with nearly a clean record, having walloped with but few exceptions, every aggregation of ball tossers they met. Last Sunday they played their first game of 1909 against the fast Marysville team, gotten together by Janss the old Everett player and cleaned them up by a score of 11 to 4. Sheeman and Parsyok were the battery for Everett and but four hits were made off Sheeman, while the G. N. boys touched the Marysville flinger for 10 hits. Seven errors were chalked up against Marysville as against one for the G. N. The machinists made a noise like a real ball team and are reported to be especially strong with the willow. This team is open to engagements with any amateur team and would like to hear from some of them. They play in Skykomish next Sunday. Everett fans who would like to see this team and other teams in action will have to follow them around the country until such time as somebody with real money comes forward and starts a movement to build a ball park in this city.

FIREMEN'S PENSION BILL

Rep. J. E. Campbell is the recipient of the following letter from the fire department of Seattle:

Seattle, Wash., March 27, 1909.
J. E. Campbell, Rep.,
Everett, Wash.,

Dear Sir:—
At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Seattle Fire Department Relief Association the committee elected to attend fireman's delegation at Olympia in the interests of the Firemen's Pension Bill reported that Rep. J. E. Campbell of Everett, Wash., rendered valuable assistance in the interest of the Firemen's Pension Bill therefore the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Representative J. E. Campbell, of Everett, Wash., aided the firemen's delegation in every way possible, and rendered valuable assistance in the interest of our pension bill and

Whereas, Representative J. E. Campbell cast his vote in favor of passage of Senate Bill No. 110, on February 27th, 1909, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of this association mail to Representative J. E. Campbell of Everett, Wash., a copy of these resolutions signed by the Board of Trustees, of the Seattle Fire Department Relief Association, expressing our most sincere thanks for his valuable assistance in assisting us to secure the passage of the Firemen's Pension Bill.

R. D. NORRIS, Pres.
W. H. CLARK, Secy.
PETER P. KUMPF, Vice Pres.
J. W. CARMICHAEL, Treas.
GUS NEHRLES,
C. W. GILHAM.

A Menace to White Labor They Swarm this Coast

California Once Friendly to Japanese Pay Dearly For Friendship

Many eastern newspapers seem to be highly indignant that the anti-Japanese agitation on the Pacific coast does not cease and bitterly denounce the labor agitators and the "yellow press" because they continue to cry for rigid Asiatic exclusion.

It is a pity that some of these "peace, peace at any price" gentlemen could not be forced to live in California for a few years and be compelled to compete with Mr. Jap for a livelihood. We are safe in saying that they would very soon become "labor agitators."

It is not mere bravado that prompted the people of California to almost defy the authority of the Federal government. It was the desperation of a people waging a losing fight for their food and drink against the yellow skinned people of Asia. There are no more loyal Americans—none who would sacrifice more for the honor of their flag—than these Californians. A people who will rise against the powers of graft and evil as they are doing in San Francisco now, stand as the highest type of American citizenship.

The writer was in Los Angeles a little over two years ago at the time when the anti-Japanese agitation was at its height. When the San Francisco delegation was summoned to Washington by President Roosevelt to settle the school question which had apparently almost precipitated war between the two nations. In hotel lobbies, in barber shops, on the streets, everywhere, Japanese aggression was the sole topic of conversation. So incensed were the citizens of that state that they would have been ready to declare war upon Japan alone and unaided. This feeling existed among all classes of people, among sober minded men who knew what was meant by war. It was something more than simple race prejudice that was responsible for this state of affairs.

California is not the only state that suffers from the unfair competition of the Japanese. It exists in a small degree perhaps in every Pacific coast state. On the G. N. railway system in our own state for instance, where white section crews have been given a reduction in wages and Japanese crews given an increase. In Spokane a year ago during panicky times when white labor walked the streets in idleness while every Japanese in the city was working.

We were solemnly assured by the Federal government a few months ago that through negotiations between the two governments immigration of Japanese labor to our shores would be stopped. Had this promise been kept the people of the coast states would have been satisfied and the menace to white labor removed. But everybody knows that immigration has scarcely been restricted and the Federal government knows it as well.

Congressman Hayes of California can hardly be called a "labor agitator." On the contrary, he is a large employer of labor. But he is a man of good impulses and loyal to the interests of his state and he knows the menace to American workingmen of Asiatic labor and he also knows that the degradation of American labor means serious injury to American institutions. He delivered in the House of Representatives on the 15th day of last February, a speech on "Exclusion of Chinese and other Asiatics." Read what he says in regard to excluding Japanese:

"So far as excluding Japanese is concerned, there seems to be no attempt to execute the law. The immigration act of 1907 provides in substance that when in the opinion of the president of the United States alien laborers from our island possessions or from contiguous foreign territory are entering the United States to the disturbance of labor conditions therein, he may by proclamation forbid the entry into this country of such laborers. In accordance with this law the president of the United States immediately after its passage issued his proclamation forbidding the entry of such laborers from Hawaii, Mexico or Canada. The effect of all this was, as it was intended to be, to make the entry of Japanese laborers from Hawaii, Mexico and Canada illegal, and being here contrary to the law such Japanese are subject at any time to arrest and deportation. The issuance of the proclamation seems to be about all that has been done. It may be that when Japanese present themselves to the immigration officials, these officials turn them back and forbid them to enter the United States, but there is apparently no attempt to exclude them other than this."

"On the Mexican border, the Rio Grande can most of the year easily be forded and can be crossed on row boats at any time. Hundreds of Japanese have been crossing to the United States nearly every day and there seems to be scarcely a pretense of preventing them

and no arrests and deportation of those who thus surreptitiously and unlawfully enter the country. I do not know, Mr. Chairman, that we can do anything in this matter by talking about it, but it seems to me that something ought to be done either to enforce the law in its letter and spirit or else cease to make appropriations for a service that is rapidly coming to be a byword and a jest."

What is true of the Mexican border is true of the Canadian border. It is a simple matter to slip across the line in some unprotected spot and once here they mingle with their fellow countrymen with not one chance in a hundred of ever being detected. That is why the agitation will not down. Because in spite of government sops in the way of promises to allay excitement, immigration of this class of labor continues to be crowded out of employment by this yellow horde of undesirables.

The government will produce figures to show that Japanese immigration has been checked but it should be borne in mind that these figures relate only to those applying for admission at ports of entry and takes no account of those illegally coming into the country.

There is another aspect of this Japanese question which we cannot pass by in this article: viz. the almost criminal apathy which prevails among a large proportion of our people as regards preparation for armed conflict between the two nations. God grant it may never come! War should be the last resort among nations and should never be wage until every chance of maintaining peace with honor is gone. But there are many thoughtful, intelligent men in this country who firmly believe that sooner or later the two nations, white and yellow will resort to force of arms. This might come about from several causes. Both are commercial nations striving for the supremacy of the Pacific. Modern industrial conditions have made it necessary for each country to seek foreign markets for their products and each looks with longing eye on the millions of the awakening East. No man can say that commercial victory will be won by either nation without resort to force. The history of the world spells differently.

We are living over a volcano. Our people who have on this coast come into direct competition with the Japanese in a struggle for existence will not always endure the unequal struggle. They suffer much before the upheaval comes but rumblings of an impending explosion have been heard in several states. In the legislatures of California and Nevada. In the activity of the Oriental Exclusion League. In a score of ways the people have given evidence of their discontent. It needs but a little more to throw this volcano into active eruption and plunge the nation into war.

And as we have always done, we as a nation sit idly by, relying on our past prowess, and our vast resources to pull us through somehow. Years before the civil war broke out, far seeing men saw it coming. Yet the Northern people closed their ears to the storm warnings and allowed Southern sympathizers high in the councils of state to prepare for the struggle while they did nothing.

The blowing up of the Maine which sounded the call to arms in the war against Spain found us in a wretched state of unpreparedness. Had a strong maritime nation been our opponent instead of a little, weak one more unprepared than we, one shudders to think the injury that might have been inflicted upon us.

Japan has demonstrated to the world that when she strikes she strikes with unerring aim. Not for nothing is she centralizing her hordes on the Pacific slope. Is it not significant that they prefer the Pacific coast in spite of all the agitation, against them which they cannot help but feel, to the East where they are still called our "little brown cousins"? Is it for nothing that every foot of territory is mapped and photographed by them? Two years ago a group of Japanese appeared in one of the Southern California harbors, and ostensibly engaged in the fishing industry. Day after day their little boats rocked and tossed upon the blue waters of the Pacific and darted here and there in restless energy. This continued until they were discovered taking soundings at different points in the harbor, when their fishing suddenly ceased. A few weeks ago a humble Jap applied for, and obtained a position as a house seiling in the residence of a gentleman living on Grays Harbor. In a short time he quit his job because he had been ordered to join the Japanese legation at Washington, D. C. Was it because he was near a strategic point of entry to the Puget Sound-country that a Japanese gentleman of high rank would scour pots and pans in the kitchen for a few

dollars a month? Is it at all significant that a great proportion of the Japs that infest this coast have seen active service against the Russians and are disciplined soldiers? Just one more quotation from the speech of Congressman Hayes is applicable at this point. He had received a letter from an American living in Mexico. He had enough regard for the high character of the writer and the truth of his statements to ask that the letter be printed in the Congressional Record. This letter is too lengthy to quote in its entirety but it may be found in the Congressional Record of Feb. 15th, last. The following are extracts:

"I am in a position to give you a few facts which will, I feel, be of interest to you and those who take the same position as you."

"During the last half of 1906, all of 1907, and up till Sept. 1st 1908, I was in the enjoyment of unusual facilities for observing the steady movement of Japanese toward the Rio Grande river from the interior of Mexico. * * * During the greater portion of the period to which I refer I was so employed as to be in a position where it was impossible for aliens of any kind going North to escape my observation. In the case of the Japanese, a great throng, numbering into the thousands, at one time and another passed North along the railroad right-of-way on foot. * * *

"During the daytime I was stationed in an office building about 100 feet from the southern entrance to the bridge, and in consequence it was absolutely impossible for anyone to cross without being seen by me. At night we had two watchmen under instruction to permit no one to pass. Beginning with October of 1906, groups of Japanese began passing over this bridge sometimes to the number of 100 or 200 a day. They were almost without exception clad in portions of soldier's uniforms. They seemed to have abundance of money, both Mexican and Japanese, and there was always one man who acted the part of an officer and gave orders to the others, which were implicitly obeyed. Why men so well supplied with money should choose to walk instead of taking the train was a mystery, although at the same time that these were walking the one train daily to the North usually carried a good complement of their fellow countrymen. Of course those on the train on landing at Ciudad Porfirio Diaz found themselves at once confronted with the United States immigration inspectors, while those on foot could leave the railroad track just before entering town and make their way to some appointed spot for crossing the Rio Grande undetected."

"For many months this stream of Japanese northward bound, continued, and finally from motives of patriotism and thinking that the facts with regard thereto might be of use to the immigration officials of the border, I communicated with the person in charge, located in San Antonio, and after stating the facts offered to furnish information with regard to this remarkable hegira. My offer met with such a cold reception that I did not pursue it further."

"There were several thousand of these men, practically all ex-soldiers, who were brought to this country ostensibly to work in the coal mines of Coahuila. At one time some 2000 were landed at a group of mines close together, and within two weeks not one was left. All had gone north toward the river. In one case guards were put around the mine property, but the Japanese left in the night, although they were shot at by the guards."

"In the employ of the company for which I was acting as pay master was a Mexican foreman, and native labor being scarce, he finally persuaded a number of Japanese to take temporary employment under him. This Mexican was friendly to me, as I had done him some favors, and one day he asked me if the Americans thought the Japanese were friendly to them. I told him a good many Americans thought so, but that I was from California and knew better. He then told me that I was quite right. He said that the Japanese thought the Mexicans did not like the Americans (which is largely true) and in consequence they were not afraid to talk to them."

"The Japs he said, boasted among the Mexicans that they were all soldiers; that they had their expenses paid to come to this country, and that they were all making their way over into the United States as fast as they could. When enough of them had reached the United States then there was going to be a war, and the Americans would all be killed. I told the Mexican foreman to find out all he could from others, and he repeated to me that they all talked alike; that they hated the Americans

C. O. YOUNG IN EVERETT

Returns to Portland to Complete His Work.

Organizer C. O. Young, of the American Federation of Labor accompanied by his charming wife dropped unexpectedly into Everett last Tuesday morning and remained until Thursday.

Mr. Young has a host of friends here who have known him and worked with him in the labor movement and much regret was expressed that he could not remain for some little time and work in this locality. Mr. Young himself would be glad to come back to this part of the country, but unfortunately for us, is not the director of his own movements. The executive officers of the A. F. of L. dictate to their organizers where they shall do their work according to their judgment. Bro. Young for the past year has been the greater part of the time in Portland Ore. This may seem to be a long time for one locality, but when one understands the magnitude of the work needed in that city it can not be wondered at that it takes so long. At the time he took up the work in that city, there were four distinct and separate central bodies, each working at cross purposes. The labor movement was at a standstill owing to political and personal feuds which were the result of the disrupting methods previously introduced by the I. W. W. or "Wonder Workers." By dint of hard and exhausting work the loose ends were gathered together and the unions of Portland formed into the sectional plan of organization which so many central bodies have adopted. Now over 60 unions are affiliated with the central body. The work there is by no means ended however, and the movement must be carefully watched and guided. Mr. Young promises to return to this part of the country as soon as he can be permitted to do so and help in reviving several crafts that have succumbed to adversity.

Inadvertently we omitted in our issue of last week the following business houses from our list of advertisers: Pillman Suit House and C. E. Anderson, real estate dealer. We apologize for this oversight and respectfully call our readers attention to these firms.

The Labor World enjoyed a pleasant call from Mr. A. A. Elmore, general organizer for the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union, one day last week. He says that the farmers easily see the benefits of organization, and are coming in by the thousands. They are now buying their grain sacks and other supplies direct from the manufacturer, thus saving vast sums of money that would otherwise be paid out of the middleman's profits. Another big scheme they have on foot is to build a big terminal warehouse on the coast, and market their own grain products.—Spokane Labor World.

TRADES COUNCIL

Council met in regular weekly session Wednesday evening.

The credentials of W. H. Swartz, of the Barbers' Union were accepted and delegate obligated and seated.

A communication was read from the Montana State Federation of Labor, warning union men that the representations being made as to scarcity of labor in that state were false. That the labor market was glutted with men.

The different crafts reported to the Council as follows:

Shingle Weavers, 3 initiations.

Painters, 1 application.

Plumbers' reported that the Seattle union plumbers and electrical workers, who had been working on the unfair G. N. depot had pulled off the job.

Painters, 3 initiations.

Building Trades reported that J. W. J. W. Moore fair and ordered his name fair.

Inside Wiremen busy compiling new by-laws to govern their local.

The Council concurred in the action of the Bldg. Trades Council in placing J. M. Moore fair and ordered his name stricken out of the unfair list published in the Journal.

Laundry Workers are standing pat in their refusal to handle the work of the Mitchell hotel.

Organizer C. O. Young was present and addressed the Council and explained in detail the workings of the Sectional plan of organization.

(Continued on Page 4.)