

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, MAY 27, 1909.

No. 20.

FOR YOUR SERVICE

Everett's largest and most liberal Home Furnishing Store is anxious to help you furnish your home. Everything marked in plain figures and no extra charge for credit. For seventeen years we have been helping Everett's ambitious home builders.

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HONORS REST NEARLY EVEN

Non-Combatant Tells of His Experience in Dry Town

The battle for the elimination, or at least the partial suppression, of the saloon as an American institution is being waged right royally all over the country. Both sides are flooding the country with literature and it is probable that in their zeal to present their case in the best light possible many statements are made that are not strictly accurate. In the following article Marien E. Pew, a correspondent for the United Press, writes of conditions as he found them in Decatur, Ill., a city about the size of Everett, after being dry for a period of twelve months:

"There is a deal of 'fibbing' going on these days about whether prohibition is a good thing for a town. Advocates of the saloon, driven by financial motives, and anti-saloon men, altruistic but sometimes extreme in their statements and often even fanatical, are battling in almost every state and their press bureaus are issuing enough highly seasoned propaganda literature to wad the guns of history. Their claims are contradictory.

The situation seems to call for an impartial statement based upon actual conditions as found in a city which has been dry for at least one year.

Here's a Sample.

Decatur has 32,000 people and a little of almost every kind of life known to a city. It has been dry for a year and the people have just elected a new dry mayor, whose instruction is to see to it that the local option law is rigidly enforced.

The town is normally republican, but the new mayor is a democrat. His republican adversary was an avowed wet, and for that he fell. This seems to show that Decatur likes to be dry.

"This is not a 'dead town,' financially, industrially or socially. The factories are running, every one seems to be busy, and the writer does not remember of having visited a town where there are more pleasant faced people to the city block, where the people seem to be having a better time in whole some ways, and where so few ragged people are seen.

"Dead Town" Socially.

"This is a 'dead town' socially, if a 'sporting town' may be called a live one. It is 10 o'clock at night and the writer is looking down upon the main business street.

"It is deserted.
"There are no sounds, there is no rivalry there or in the hotel. Some 32,000 people are somewhere; I suppose they are at home, many of them asleep. In an hour a few hundred people will leave the theaters, 'Ben Hur' and vaudeville are the rival attractions. There are a few score people attending the moving picture shows.

"The morning newspaper, scheduled social, musical or religious meetings at the various churches for every night this week. The town is baseball mad.

Drinking Somewhere.

"I suppose 300 men are at their clubs. Those who drink may drink there. Members keep bottles in lockers. In one club, at least, it is possible to take a warm bottle from a locker and exchange it for a cool bottle to be found in an ice box.

"This local option works no hardship on tipping club members or people who can buy booze in quantities and drink from sideboards. The mail order houses in Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, send spirits in, while beer, shipped in potato or flour barrels, or unsuspicious boxes, comes in from nearby wet towns, such as Springfield, Bloomington and Peoria. The poor man who cannot afford to buy a bottle of a case may go without or take a trolley ride.

The "Booze Special."

"The train arriving here on Saturday nights, 11 o'clock, is called the 'booze special,' because it brings into the city from Peoria packages, boxes or barrels unmarked and consigned to 25 or 30 Decatur citizens. These people meet the special and cart their packages home for Sunday or week consumption.

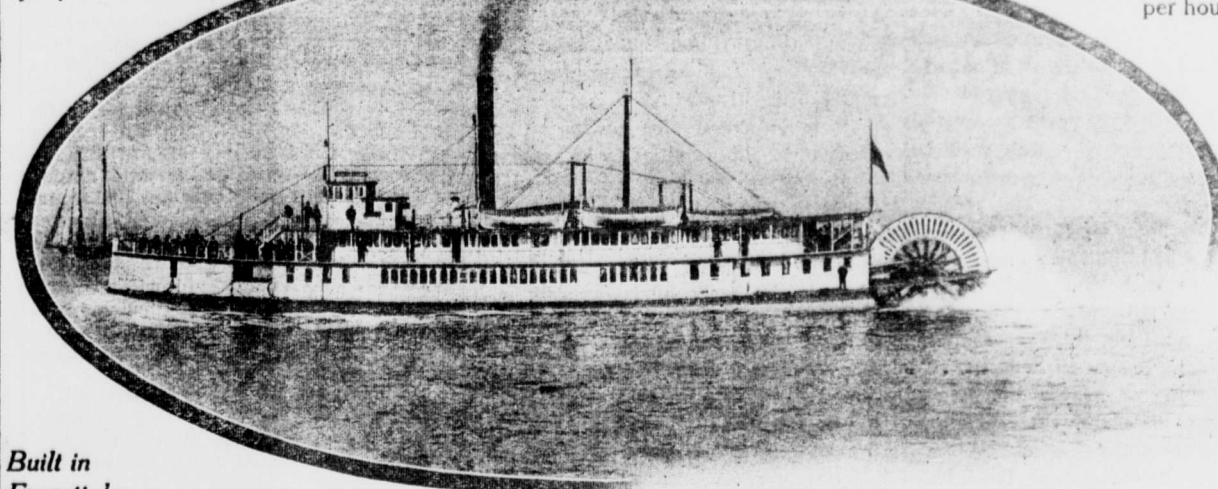
"There are 32 'soft drink' parlors in the town, converted saloons, where pop, ginger ale and 'water wagon beer' are dispensed. The latter tastes like the real thing, but it is said to contain less than one-half of 1 per cent alcohol, the alcohol having been evaporated at the brewery.

"The drys object to this, because it is a malt beverage, and they have taken their case into court. There have been in a year nearly 100 arrests for illegal selling, bootlegging (peddling from a bottle or soliciting), blind tiger, or selling in soft drink parlors. The booze sold thus, like some that is imported, is said to be of poor quality. Jim Sheets, a farmer, drank one two-finger 'smile' in a blind tiger and in an hour fell dead. The local newspapers declared that the 'smile' did the business.

Gains in Population.

The city is said to have gained in population during the year; there are

S. S. TELEGRAPH
Commodious, Safe and
Speedy



Will run between Everett and Seattle during the fair.

Will run between Everett and Seattle during the fair.

Fastest Stern Wheel
ever built, 21 miles
per hour

"OPEN SHOP" WAS SLOGAN

Building Contractors Forced to Abandon Its Policy

Nearly every city is pestered with a lot of cheap building contractors who use every means possible to glut the labor market with mechanics of all trades with the end in view of coping off fat profits for themselves at the cost of long hours and small wages to the hordes of workmen thrown into the community. Everett has so far been very fortunate in being free for the most part of this class of contractors, but our neighboring cities of Seattle and Tacoma have not been so fortunate. In the above named cities these gentry formed what is known as the Builders' Exchange with the "open shop" slogan as their rallying war cry. They advertised extensively throughout the east for workmen of all trades, claiming a scarcity of labor supply. They offered glowing inducements to half-baked union men to desert the union of their craft and work under the fatherly protection of this great American institution, the Builders' Exchange. They did not hesitate to break contracts they had with the unions in the building lines which called for specified wages and other terms of employment. In Seattle they used the A.Y.P. as a bulwark from behind which they sought to break down the power of the labor unions. Some foolish union men were credulous enough in both cities to believe the glittering promises held out to them and desert the organization of their fellows which stood for their interest.

Right there was where the contractors made a blunder. Hard feeling naturally arose between the union seceders and those who stood pat. Had the employers paid the union scale of wages to the ex-unionists for a time at least it would have been good policy. It was the promise of good wages and freedom from "irksome union discipline" that got them away. The longer they staid out the wider grew the breach and gradually the wages could have been reduced. But no, the contractors wanted to make big money and they wanted to make it quick, so they slashed wages far below the level of the union scale. No method could have been surer to open the eyes of the misguided seceders or deserters (whichever term describes them best) to the difference in real material benefit to the worker in a closed shop and an open shop. As a result the majority of the men who left the unions to work for these builders' exchange outfits are back once more inside the union of their craft, and though they are sadder through their experience, they are wiser men and better unionists.

The builders' exchange in Tacoma is now bawling for mechanics. "A dearth in all lines of skilled mechanics," "good openings for industrious workmen." There is no dearth of skilled labor in Tacoma but the mechanics in that city have got their wisdom teeth cut. It is inside the union and refuse to work for rat wages. Just as the builders' exchange in Seattle has been forced to abandon its drastic open shop policy so will their open shop brethren in Tacoma have to do the same.

There are several classes of people who are loudly crying "open shop." It is not our purpose in this article to enumerate or classify them. Some are sincere and some are not, and the employing class are not in the latter category. The open shop employer loudly prates about the "independent workmen" and "a free country," hoping by his noise to conceal the fact that he has both hands in the public's pockets. Labor power represents profits to them and is reckoned just as so much horse power. A man in his hey is just so much muscle and bone. Get all the work you can out of them and when they wear out throw them in the scrap heap. Heartless? Yes. Untrue? No. It is the attitude of the most of the big employers of labor and all of the open shop fellows. Cheap labor and fat profits though the heavens fall.

PROCEEDINGS OF EVERETT TRADES COUNCIL.

The credentials of C. Montell of the Tailors' union and Chauncey Riggs of the Machinists' were accepted and the delegates obligated and seated.

Communication from Gov. Hay was read and ordered placed on file.

Communication was read from the International union of plumbers and gas fitters in regard to jurisdiction, which was ordered filed for future reference.

Reports by unions:
Shingle Weavers—One initiation.

Tailors—Levied assessment for the hatters.

Laundry Workers—One re-instatement.

Cooks and Waiters—One initiation; donated to the hatters.

Painters—Three initiations.

Engineers—Donated to the hatters.

Building Trades—Working to adjust the electrical workers' grievance at the high school building. Placed Thomas Ferguson, painter, of Snohomish, and Joe Bramquist, carpenter, on the unfair list and asked Trades Council to concur in their action. Council concurred in the request and ordered the names inserted in the Labor Journal unfair list.

Inside Wiremen—One of the local theaters having wiring done by non-union men. Committee appointed to investigate.

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MISS CAMPBELL WINS W. O. W. CONTEST

HOOT, MON! THE OWLS WIN!

The popular fraternal society with the nocturnal name landed over the wire a winner in the spirited contest for queen of the Woodmen carnival and their candidate, Miss Hazel Campbell, will, on the 8th of June, wield the scepter over a host of willing subjects. The contest was close throughout. Each fair contestant had hosts of friends who backed them to win and many a man's pocketbook is lighter from the terrific bombardment of votes. That grand piano was a prize which any girl would covet and the candidates worked as hard as they knew how to win it. Only one could win, however, and Miss Campbell was the lucky maid.

Here is the story in figures of the contest as announced by the manager of the contest Thursday noon:

Miss Hazel Campbell, Order of

Owls' candidate 38,408

Miss Myrtle Elvrum, Scandinavian

candidate 37,308

Miss Tillie Freeman, unions' candi-

date 32,255

Miss Julia Moody, W. O. W. can-

didate 21,320

The Woodmen are planning great things for the people who attend the merry-making from June 9th to 18th, inclusive. All the popular features of a carnival will be in evidence and many brand new attractions. Dull care will have no place in Everett during this celebration but mirth and merriment will reign. And don't forget to see the crowning of the queen, June 9th to 18th is the time of the big doings and Everett is the place.

"The 1908 postal receipts were \$111,373.59; in 1907, \$104,119.48. Last Christmas showed the biggest postal receipts in the history of the city.

Which and 'Tother.

"Merchants view the conditions of trade variously. The majority of tradespeople say that they notice no difference, and the larger department store people prove that their trade has not decreased. One department store man says that his business has improved. A men's furnishings outfit declared that some of his trade had 'gone out of town.' A shoe merchant reports a loss of 4 per cent, but considers adverse weather conditions. There was increased sale of children's shoes," he says.

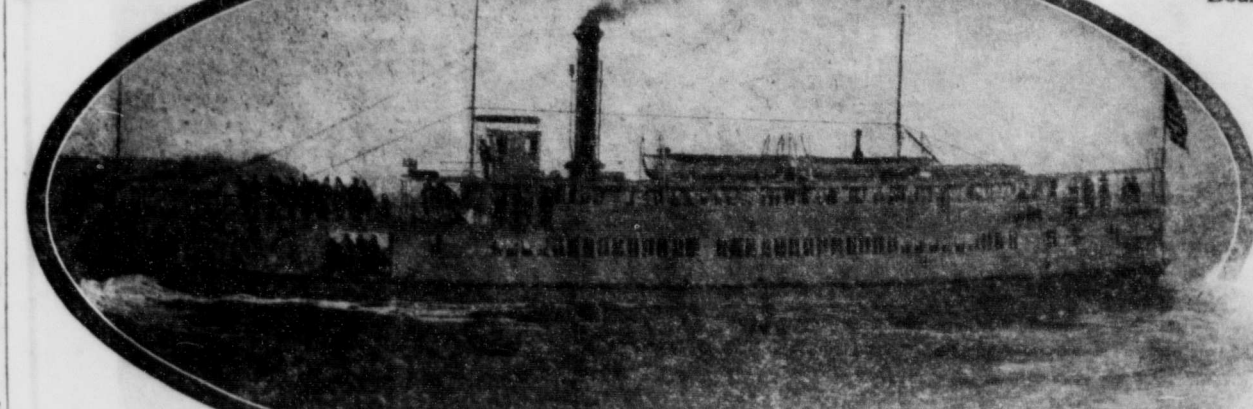
"Druggists have lost some business. They cannot sell alcohol in any form, even upon a doctor's prescription. Physicians now carry a supply of liquor for medicinal purposes, but they are using substitutes wherever possible—strychnine, for instance—for stimulant.

Here's a Hot One.

"One small merchant, shoes, complained of business, and gives this novel reason: "Men are usually more generous to their families when intoxicated. A man used to buy his children new shoes or his wife a new hat when he got drunk. Now these men can't get drunk and they seem to be holding onto their money."

"There are records of many individual cases of families made more comfortable and happy. One woman, name known to the writer, said that her husband is now supporting her for the first time in years. He has always worked, but could never get his pay envelope by a saloon. I now get dollars where I

CITY OF EVERETT
Daily Excursions to
Everett



Will run between Everett and Seattle during the fair.