In Organization There Is Strength!

The Labor Journal

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE EVERETT TRADES COUNCIL DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF ORGANIZED LABOR.

Ask for the Label A Sign of Progress

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Merchants Who Advertise In the Journal Depend Upon the Loyalty of Organized Labor For Their Patronage and Support, On the Basis of Reciprocity---"That's Fair Enough"

Efforts of Organized Labor Bring Results

ELECTRIC LIGHT RATES ARE CUT BY COMMISSION

MINIMUM CHARGE IS REDUCED FROM ONE DOLLAR TO SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Other Reductions Made

Thanks to the persistent efforts of the Everett Trades Council, and the able legal services of Attorney R. J. Faussett, the state public service commission last week ordered a substantial reduction in lighting rates for residence and commercial purposes in Everett, giving this city, according to Chairman Reynolds, of the commission, the lowest rate of any city in the state.

REDUCTIONS

The minimum rate for residence lighting has been ordered reduced from $1, which 44 per cent. of the consumers have been paying, to 75 cents a month. For the first 20 k.w.h. consumption per month the rate will be 7.7c per k.w.h.; for the second 20 k.w.h. the rate will be 5.5c and 3.3.c for all over 40 k.w.h.; with a 10 per cent. reduction for bills paid within 10 days, giving a flat rate of seven, five and three cents.

Commercial lighting is reduced 20 per cent.

Present rates charged by the company are: First 20 k.w.h., 8c; all up to 60 the same price and all over 60 k.w.h. 6.66. The present minimum charge is $1.11. Ten per cent. discount is allowed.

The commission finds a fair valuation of the property of the Puget Sound Railway & Power company for the purpose of fixing lighting rates to be $2,170,592.54.

18.93 PER CENT. PROFIT

The value of the light and power department was found to be $469,465.48, on which the company in 1914 made a profit of 18.93 per cent. including 3.12 per cent. allowed for depreciation. The commission says: "This return is far in excess of the fair, reasonable, just and sufficient return contemplated by the statute," and orders a reduction of rates which with the same patronage will allow the company a return of 8 per cent. The commission denies the electric company has any right to consider its street railway department in conjunction with its lighting department and to use the profits from the latter to make good any deficit which may occur in any other department.

NOT REVOLUTIONARY

The success of organized labor in securing for Everett a lower rate on electric lighting is, of course, not revolutionary. It is not a spectacular achievement. But it is a splendid object lesson in the efficacy of political action in reducing the cost of living; which is tantamount to a proportionate increase in wages. While the sum involved is very little, per capita, yet the **principle involved** is the same as though it were the equivalent of a 20 per cent. increase in wages.

Nor need we lose sight of the fact that a general decrease of 20 per cent. in the average cost of living in Everett would **eventually** be followed by a proportionate decrease in the average amount of wages paid in this city. For it is true that the curve of the average wages paid the workers from year to year follows the rise or fall of the average cost of the necessaries of life. If the electric light and water services were furnished the workers free, the result, in the long run, would merely be a proportionate lowering of the average wages.

The chief lesson of labor's achievement in this instance is that the political agents of the ruling class realize that, in the last analysis, **their jobs depend upon the votes of the workers**; and that when labor makes a **united demand**, this **demand** might be backed up, in the near future, by a **united vote.**

The office-holders realize, also,—and so do **their** masters of the counting-house,—that if certain concessions are not made the workers, it would be only a matter of time when the latter would form a political party of their own, and secure the political offices for themselves, as was done in Australia.

The ideal toward which society is fast being carried, first, by force of Socialist propaganda, and, secondly, by the trend of economic evolution, is abolition of **all profits** in public utilities. There is no good reason why the people should voluntarily "divide up" their earnings with some powerful, corrupting gang of parasitical monopolists, and it is only a matter of a few years now when **such a procedure** will be considered little short of idiotic.

Maybe the King of Roumania and the King of Greece are bidding against each other for the Nobel peace prize.—New York Morning Telegraph.

THEY'RE ORGANIZED

A story worth repeating was told at our convention by the private secretary of the mayor of St. Paul in his welcoming address:

A Southern negro was displaying his skill with a bull whip by cutting heads off of flowers and tearing bits of paper to pieces with the cracker and enjoying the plaudits of the throng of less skillful negroes when one of the crowd noticed a hornet near its nest, and suggested that Ike jest pop it in half with his whip. The whip expert looked and said, "You'all pick out sumpin else, nigger. I ain't gone to monkey none with that Mr. Hornet, **they're Organized.**"

Mr. Nigger knew he would have to deal with all the hornets if he injured one and so the lone hornet was safe.

When the employer knows that an injury to one workman will stir up the entire nest he may pick on other things but will let the workmen alone. Workmen will then be as safe as that one hornet. They may want to strike him, but like Mr. Nigger, thy'll take one look and say hit something else, boys, **they're organized.**—Journal of Elec. Workers and Operators.

Premier Okuma asserts that Japan couldn't send a large armed force to Europe if it would, because of its lack of adequate means of transport. But why shouldn't Japan bring out of its hiding-places the fleet of transports that has been waiting to land a quarter-million men on our Pacific Coast? —Springfield Republican.

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JOLTS

From Plumbers', Gas and Steam Fitters' Journal

Remember the union label can never be served with an injunction.

Beware of the loud-mouther Judas in your local union. We have discovered several recently who were employed by our enemies.

Absolutely the most efficient coin on earth is the dollar.

If Europe knows how it is going to pay its war debts it is wiser than the rest of the world.

Judging by the conduct of Culebra Cut, North and South America do not like to be separated.

Very likely there will continue to be wars until the idea of brotherly love is spread wider and deeper.

Between Port Arthur and Warsaw poor old Russia has been taking some very expensive lessons in military efficiency.

Europe should have had the wisdom to make itself into a United States of Europe long ago, thus saving itself a lot of trouble.

Spain may "oust the British from Gibraltar," as Berlin sadly predicts, but she never can wipe that life insurance ad off the rock.

Where there is no hope, there can be no endeavor.—Johnson.

News of Labor's Activities

LABOR LAW OPENS SCHOOLS

PHILADELPHIA.—Supt. of Public Schools Garber estimates that about 20,000 working children will be returned to school for eight hours a week after Jan. 1, when the new child labor law, passed by the last legislature, becomes effective.

NEW WAGE SCALE NOT A RAISE

BOSTON.—The Telephone Operators' Union is preparing a new wage scale. This may account for the company posting notice of "a voluntary raise in wages."

These union girls, however, show that the so-called "raise in wages" consists of reducing the number of years before the weekly maximum of $12 is paid. The maximum was formerly six years, but the company has volunteered to make it five years.

P. O. REVENUES ARE LARGE

WASHINGTON.—November revenues of the 50 largest postoffices of the country, producing approximately one-half of the postal receipts, show an increase of $2,033,138, or 17.96 per cent. for those offices over November a year ago.

VIOLATE WOMEN'S LAW; FINED

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.—District Court Judge Shinn has fined several shopkeepers for violating the state law prohibiting a work day for women in shops and factories of more than 10 hours. This is the first Atlantic City conviction under this law. Complaint was made by Labor Commissioner Bryant.

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IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

WASHINGTON—The Ninth Annual Convention of the American Association for Labor Legislation is announced to be held in the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, Dec. 28 and 29.

The program is devoted to vital questions of the day, the main topics for discussion being the LaFollett law for the protection of American seamen, the New York Industrial Commission, health insurance for wage earners, and the progress made throughout America in industrial hygiene in relation to dangerous trades, child labor, protection for female wage earners and factory situation.

The result of a newly completed investigation extending over a year into conditions affecting the welfare of American seamen will be presented by Prof. Henry W. Farnam, of Yale, who has directed the investigation. The report will be discussed by Andrew Furuseth, President of the International Seamen's Union of America, the leading advocate of the new seamen's law during the twenty years it was before congress. A representative of the shipping interests is to deal with the report from the standpoint of ship owners.

Questions relating to the organization and first half-year's work of the New York State Industrial Commission of which John Mitchell is chairman, will be discussed by delegates and visitors from all over the country.

The most practicable form of health insurance for workers, bills for which are to be introduced into several legislatures next year will be discussed, while the general principles of legislation will be dealt with by Prof. H. R. Seager, of Columbia, president of the American Association for Labor Legislation and Prof. Ernest Freund in a joint meeting with the American Political Science Association.

At the annual business meeting on the morning of the 29th reports will be submitted by the chairmen of the various working committees, and officers for the year 1916 will be elected.

The closing meeting of the convention promises to be of special interest. It is to be held jointly with the Pan-American Scientific Congress and eight representative speakers from South and North America will outline the progress made in industrial hygiene in the different republics. The Association announces that all interested members of the public are invited to attend the meeting.

UNION MEETING FIRST AND LAST

SAN FRANCISCO.—Trade union meetings dedicated and closed the civic auditorium of the Panama-Pacific exposition, which was officially ended last Saturday. The district council of retail clerks' convention was the first and the A. F. of L. building trades department the last gathering at the auditorium.

The exposition was open 288 days and was attended by nearly 19,000,000 people. The total expense for preparing the site and buildings for the opening day approximated $50,000,000. It is estimated that the exposition management will report a profit of $2,000,000. Most of the buildings are to be demolished. The American Federation of Labor exhibit will be removed to Washington, where it will be installed in the new A. F. of L. office building. The palace of fine arts, one of the most imposing structures at the exposition, stands on government land, and efforts will be made to save this building.

WASHINGTON.—All publishers of trade union **official** journals and weekly labor **papers** who have been forwarding **copies** of their publications to the **A. F. of** L. exhibit at the **Panama-Pacific Exposition, San Francisco**, are requested to discontinue same on account of the closing of the exposition.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY APRIL 1

MADISON.—Striking machinists at the Steinle Machine company's plant have returned to work. The management has promised an eight-hour day with ten hour's pay after April 1. The union has increased its membership nearly ten-fold within the past few months.

MEN WORK BETTER WHEN THE BAND PLAYS

The United States navy regulations contain this sentence: "The band shall play while coaling ship." No discretion is given to the commander or any one else, so that the band always plays throughout that most arduous, monotonous job. E. J. Delano, writing in the Manufacturers' News, says, "Uncle Sam has found by careful experiment that about 30 per cent. more coal is put in with music than without." Mr. Delano mentions several great manufacturing concerns that have bands and find their playing at certain hours improves both quality and quantity of work.

IRON WORKERS' STRIKE ENDS

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—The Rhode Island Perkins Horse Shoe company, at Valley Falls, near here, has ended a five months' strike by reaching an agreement with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers. The company first imported strikebreakers, but later closed its mills because of unsatisfactory service by these nonunionists.

5-DAY WEEK FOR WINTER

SAN FRANCISCO.—Five days a week during the winter season is the new rule announced by the Varnishers' and Polishers' union, which is attempting to equalize work. The Painters' unions of this city are working under the same rule.

A man who fell off an elephant in the New York zoo is bringing suit for damages. Has the Colonel thought of that?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Greece is more interested in finding out who is the hardest hitter than in discovering who is the highest bidder —Charleston News and Courier.

Railroad men certainly have their trials.—Washington Post.

A. F. OF L. DEPARTMENTS ELECT

SAN FRANCISCO.—The various conventions of A. F. of L. departments have elected the following officers.

Metal trades—President, James O'Connell, machinists; secretary-treasurer, A. J. Berres, pattern makers; first vice president, J. W. Kline, blacksmiths; second vice president, J. A. Franklin, boilermakers; third vice president, J. A. Alpine, plumbers; fourth vice president, J. J. Hynes sheet metal workers; fifth vice president, J. F. Valentine, iron molders; sixth vice president, W. W. Britton, metal polishers.

Building trades—President, T. J. Williams, tile layers; secretary-treasurer, W. J. Spencer, plumbers; first vice president, G. F. Hedrick; painters; second vice president, John Donlin, plasterers; third vice president, W. J. McSorley, lathers; fourth vice president, D. D'Alessandro, hod carriers, building and common laborers; fifth vice president, W. L. Hutcheson, carpenters.

Union label trades—President, J. W. Hays, typographical; secretary-treasurer, T. F. Tracy, cigar makers; first vice president, Jacob Fischer, barbers; second vice president, T. A. Rickert, garment workers; third vice president, A. McAndrew, tobacco workers; fourth vice president, Matthew Woll, photo engravers; fifth vice president, Joseph Proebstle, brewery workers.

Metal trades—President, Jas. Lord, United Mine Workers' union; secretary-treasurer, Ernest Mills, Western Federation Miners; executive board, Frank Hayes, United Mine Workers' union; Joseph D. Cannon, Western Federation of Miners; John Williams, iron, steel and tin workers.

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LABOR LAW HIT IN VITAL PART

COLUMBUS, O.—Judge Bigger of the common pleas court has annulled an important section of the workmen's compensation act.

The law provides that where employers have not taken out state insurance nor established a relief fund of their own, injured employes have a right to appeal to the state industrial commission or institute action in a court of law. If the commission is appealed to, it can grant the employe a hearing and assess damages as in cases where the state insurance is used. If the employer refuses to pay, the state attorney general is required to bring suit against him for the award and a penalty of 50 per cent.

The state industrial commission will contest Judge Bigger's decision.

LOW WAGES FOR NAVY WORKERS

The Affiliated Trades of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, representing 4,000 skilled mechanics in the employ of the United States, will send a strong delegation to Washington to attend a hearing before Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, to protest against the low wages paid by the Navy Board to all employes in navy yards, arsenals and the Panama Zone, and also to ask the abolition of military and naval control over civilian employes.

HOW ABOUT WAGES?

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—An increase in the price of furniture is necessary, declared speakers at the convention of the National Furniture Manufacturers' association. Figures were quoted alleging that lumber had increased 10 per cent., hardware and trimmings 100 to 150 per cent., mirrors15 per cent., and stains 200 per cent.

As wage rates in the furniture industry are among the lowest, the speakers made no reference to this cost.

Between one-fourth and one-third of male workers in factories and mines, 18 years of age and over, earn less than $10 per week, and only one tenth earn more than $20 per week.

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They Call It "Preparedness"

By William J. Fielding

After these months of battle—
An age of gruesome strife,
With an endless flood of human blood
Spilled from the fount of life;
An age of dull death-rattle,
Of carnage on review,
Of the blinding tide of the fratricide—
What are we asked to do?

Prepare ourselves for slaughter—
Into the gory swim!
Follow the trail of war's travail
And reap the harvest grim.
Now that the nations totter,
Plunge in the crimson bath,
And consecrate our souls to hate
Here in a reign of wrath!

After these months of madness,
Crazed by the murder spell,
With the countless troops of frenzied dupes
Storming the gates of hell;
After these months of sadness—
Horrors ever anew,
Of anguish, fears and war-wrung tears—
What would they have us do?

Arm like the yonder legions,
Line up in wolfish packs,
Until we feel the Iron Heel
Implanted on our backs!
Call on the nether regions,
Fume like the devil's breath,
Hurrah and shout, then gallop out
Into the whirl of death!

Making "Patriotism" Pay

CONGRESSMAN TAVENNER "BAWLS THEM OUT"

House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.,
Dec. 12, 1915.

Col. Robert M. Thompson,
President, Navy League,
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Colonel:

I assume from your letter of the 20th ult., and from your various utterances as President of the Navy League, that the impression you desire to create in the minds of the American people is that none of the men who founded, or who have been, or are now, directors of, or contributors to, the Navy League, have ever been, or are now, in any manner interested in any concern which would profit financially from the $500,000,000 bond issue for battleships, etc., which you are advocating.

I understand your position to be that none of the money which the Navy League has used to banquet members of congress and secretaries of the navy or to carry on the propaganda for the vastly increased naval appropriations which you advocate, has come from any gentlemen who stand to profit therefrom. I contend that the opposite is true.

In your letter you request that I give you some specific information.

I call your attention to the fact that Elbert H. Gary, who is described in the directory of Directors for 1914 as "Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the United States Steel Corporation," contributed $1,000 on June 10, 1915, and that on the same date representatives of the J. P. Morgan estate subscribed $2,000.

I call your attention to the fact that J. P. Morgan, who is a director of the United States Steel Corporation, was formerly treasurer of the Navy League and is now a director of and a contributor to the Navy League and that J. P. Morgan's brother-in-law, Herbert L. Satterlee, was one of the incorporators of the League, and is at the present time the general counsel of the League. I also note that Edward T. Stotesbury, a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and a director of the Baldwin Locomotive Works, Cambria Steel Co., Phoenix Iron Co., Riverside Metal Co., Temple Iron Co., Wm. Cramp & Sons Ship and Engine Building Co., and fifty-four other corporations, banks and trust companies, is one of the honorary vice-presidents of the Navy League.

I also call your attention to the fact that George F. Baker, Jr., No. 2 Wall Street, New York, son of a director of United States Steel, contributed $1,000 to the Navy League, June 10, 1915.

I call your attention to the fact that Robert Bacon, formerly a member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and now first director of United States Steel, is a director of the Navy League.

I call your attention to the fact that Henry C. Frick, a director of United States Steel, and ten other corporations, banks and trust companies, is one of the vice-presidents of the Navy League.

United States Steel controls the Carnegie Steel Company, which has drawn down from the navy contracts aggregating $32,954,377 for armor plate alone, and if the Navy League's $500,000,000 bond issue goes through congress this firm will profit still further.

I call your attention to the fact that Allan A. Ryan, a director of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, contributed $100 to the Navy League on June 10, 1915, and to the further fact that George R. Sheldon, a director of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation, and the American Locomotive Co., both of which concerns have profited hugely from European war orders, is one of the vice-presidents of the Navy League. Mr. Sheldon is also a director of twenty-four other corporations.

The Bethlehem Steel Corporation has obtained from the navy department armor contracts amounting to $42,321,237, and if the Navy League's program goes through, Bethlehem stands to receive increased orders.

From the foregoing it would appear that two of the three concerns composing the armor ring in this country have representation either among the contributors to the Navy League or among the officers or directors of the Navy League.

The government has purchased from these two concerns, Bethlehem and Carnegie, $75,275,614 worth of armor plate, paying an average price of approximately $440 a ton therefor.

If this armor plate had been manufactured in a government plate factory, which the Navy League has cold-shouldered, at least $25,000,000 could have been saved to the American taxpayers. There have been ten estimates by government officials as to the cost of armor in a government plant and the average of these estimates is $238 a ton. By contrasting $440, the price we have paid the private manufacturers, with $238, the cost at which we might have manufactured this armor in a government plant, it is possible to obtain an inkling as to the reason we do not now have more preparedness to show for the colossal appropriations made for that purpose.

I note there are thirty-one directors of the Navy League. The personal fortunes of these thirty-one men, by the most conservative estimate aggregate $100,000,000, or $3,000,000 to each director. I contend that any board of directors whose individual fortunes average $3,000,000 can hardly be considered as representative of the views, feelings and heartbeats of the great mass of the American people.

I now desire in all good faith to take the responsibility of making a suggestion to the Navy League. I suggest that you call a meeting of the Board of Directors and go on record in favor of the government manufacture of battleships, submarines, armament, munitions, etc., in order that the people may obtain the preparedness which you are advocating at cost. I recommend that you either do this or fold your tent and quietly take your departure from the National Capital.

Very respectfully,
CLYDE H. TAVENNER.

And this from the Philadelphia Evening Ledger: "The only way to win is to poll more votes than the other party." The only way to win in Philadelphia is to get more votes counted than the other party.—New York Morning Telegraph.