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# The Labor Journal

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

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## A Dangerous Decision

The industrial insurance commission and Labor Commissioner E. W. Olson both see, in a decision rendered last week by Judge D. F. Wright of the Thurston county superior court, a source of great danger to the effectiveness of the compensation act and the eight hour public works law. Judge Wright's decision was that station workers on a highway are not laborers, but sub-contractors, not coming under the compensation act.

If this decision is followed to its logical conclusion, the state officials contend, it will enable almost any employer to evade the provisions of the compensation act, the eight hour public works law and possibly the minimum wage law for women, by putting employes on a piecework basis.

At the request of Chairman Floyd L. Daggett of the industrial insurance commission, the case will be appealed immediately to the supreme court.

Labor Commissioner Olson has instituted a separate case in Seattle to test specifically the question of whether an employer can with impunity work station men more than eight hours on public work. This case was heard Tuesday in the King county superior court and an early decision is anticipated.

## LEAGUE NOTES

The League met last Friday evening and elected the following officers: President, Mrs. E. Francois; vice president, Mrs. M. Stauffer; secretary, Mrs. D. Johnson; treasurer, Mrs. J. Alliman; guard, Miss Riddle; trustee, Mrs. G. Vingen; delegates to Trades Council, Mrs. E. Francois, Mrs. J. Alliman and Mrs. D. Johnson.

There will be no meeting Dec. 24 nor Dec. 31.

The next regular meeting will be Jan. 7, when there will be installation of officers.

### BARBERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS

At the last regular meeting of the local Journeymen barbers, held at the Labor Temple Nov. 16, the following officers were elected to guide this local for the next twelve months: W. P. Wells, president; F. M. Butler, vice president; W. O. McAllister, financial secretary; Geo. B. Sharpless, recording secretary; S. A. Emnott, treasurer; Van Sharpless, guide; C. S. Maning, guard. W. O. McAllister, with Dan Guisinger alternate, was elected delegate to the Washington State Federation of Labor, also as delegate to the Washington State Federation of Barbers, which meets in North Yakima at the same time with the State Federation of Labor. The barbers will be strong at North Yakima this year as they are going to try and get resolutions before the convention that will make the barbers in the state come under the supervision of the examining board of the state the same as barbers of cities of the 2nd and 3rd class.

In honor of the new officers elected it was decided that we hold a little get-together meeting, where light refreshments, cigars and music would be served. It was put in the hands of a live wire committee composed of W. J. Senzig, F. M. Butler and Perry Van Epps. They were given full power to put on such things as they saw fit and we all look forward to the night with great pleasure.

This is probably the last get-together meeting for some time and it is hoped that we will have a full house (probably will.)

The barber shops will be open till 9 o'clock Friday night and till 12 o'clock noon Saturday and all those wanting barber work must not forget.

### THE BUSINESS AGENT

The B. A.—pity him. You ought to
if you don't,
He is blamed by some because he
does, by others because he don't;
Through all the day and half the
night, he is always on the job,
A task like his cannot be filled well
by a bone-head, mutt or slob.
On Sunday if he should desire to go
to church,
When he is not Johnny on the spot,
for him they start to search,
Inside of a month he listens to a thousand tales of woe,
And some think there is not a thing
he does not know;
He is the target for the moocher, and
cannot keep him out of range,
Of the tourist who is stranded, badly
needs a piece of change.
Then the knockers with their hammers keep stirring up a stink,
Yes, his path in life is a pleasure,
strewn with roses, I don't think.
—C. E. Sewell.

The stockholders of the Du Pont Powder Company, who are to receive an extra dividend of 28½ per cent., no doubt feel that General Sherman indulged in gross exaggeration when he defined war.—Indianapolis News.

The appearance of character makes the state unnecessary—Emerson.

### ANTI-RESTRICTION THEORY EXPLODED

WASHINGTON.—With the convening of congress last Monday, the American Federation of Labor is preparing to renew its fight for immigration restriction legislation, which has been passed by successve congresses, only to be vetoed by the last three presidents.

A recent document issued by the bureau of naturalization, department of labor, answers the claim of anti-restrictionists that all of our immigrants come to America for the purpose of becoming a part of democratic institutions. In discussing its efforts to interest these immigrants in citizenship, the bureau says:

"While the above figures indicate a large number among the foreign element of this country coming forward for citizenship, the number does not appear relatively very large when it is known that in 1910 there were nearly 14,000,000 foreigners in this country, that of this number 9,000,000 were not citizens, and that the foreign body has been increased nearly 1,000,000 annually since then.

"By far the larger portion of the foreign residents of this country have retained their allegiance to the sovereignty of their birth. Recently, reports in the public press have shown many of these are ready to respond to the behest of these sovereignities. It is well known that large numbers returned immediately upon the call of the country of their nativity, leaving the ties, personal, family, industrial, and others, which have grown up in this country, for the stronger call of allegiance to the foreign sovereignty. This was the case prior to the great war of Europe, in the lesser wars among the Balkan states.

"Among the approximately 14,000,000 foreign alien residents, 1,650,361 are classed as illiterates. These illiterates are the natural prey of the designing and scheming foreigners and natives, as well, at every turn. They compel them to pay tribute, both in cash and blood, for every service, both real and imagined, and in the gratification of their desires, however unscrupulous or unnatural."

### YOUR DUTY TO THE LABOR PRESS

One of the best tests of the loyalty of a union man to the cause of the workers is his attitude toward the labor press.

When you hear a union member knocking the labor paper, just keep your eye open and you are apt to find that he is not doing it for the good of organized labor.

The labor paper is just as vital a part of the labor movement as a labor council or a labor temple.

It may make mistakes and it may not suit every member of the organization it represents. But what institution of labor is without mistakes and just what every member of labor would have it be?

Here's the estimate of Samuel Gompers, the "Grand Old Man of Labor," put on the labor pres.

"Publicity is a mighty force in propagating any cause. No matter how worthy or how noble the purpose of the movement, if they can not be correctly interested and brought to the attention of the people, the movement loses in effectiveness and force.

"Labor papers have done much to clarify public thought and to impart correct impression of the purposes and policies of the workers.

"The men giving their time to these labor papers are performing a work very necessary to the success of the organized labor movement.

"Regular and burdensome is the duty whose greatest reward is the satisfaction of promoting the well-being of the workers. Many are the temptations to turn aside for the handful of silver, the office, or the honor offered. But, true to their conscience and humanity's best interests, this group of labor editors stays faithfully by their chosen work and help mold a public opinion and conscience that shall be aware of tendencies and their meaning.

"All the workingmen owe the labor editors both moral and financial support, and honor and gratitude for the services rendered day after day.

"They are doing a work of formative power that will have a telling effect upon history, but their services should be recognized by the men of today as well as in the pages of history."—Trade Unionist.

## News of Labor's Progress

### GAINS BY PRESSMEN

PRESSMEN'S HOME, Tenn.—Pres. Berry of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' union makes this announcement:

During the past three weeks or more, increases and improvements in wages have been accomplished in the following cities: Oklahoma City and Ardmore, Okla.; El Paso, Texas; Joplin, Mo.; Fargo and Bismarck, N. D.; Missoula, Mont.; Riverside, Cal.; Ogden, Utah; Kankakee, Quincy and Rockford, Ill.; La Crosse, Wis.; Muncie and Indianapolis, Ind.; Dayton, Toledo, Columbus and Hamilton, Ohio; Bay City and Jackson, Mich.; Hartford, Conn.; Paterson, Passaic and Newkark, N. J.; Erie and Reading, Pa.; Augusta, Ga.; Wilmington, N. C.; Memphis, Tenn.; London and Montreal, Canada, and many other cities where incidental improvements have been made and negotiations consummated.

### 8-HOUR DAY MARCH 1

WILMINGTON, Del. — Machinists employed by the Hilles & Jones company have returned to work on a 51-hour week schedule, which will be decreased to 48 hours on March 1.

Nearly 100 bolters-up and helpers employed by the Harlan & Hollingsworth corporation are on strike for 25 and 23 cents an hour, respectively. The strikers are mostly Polish, ignorant of American ways, and have been receiving from 14 to 18 cents an hour for the hardest kind of work.

### MACHINISTS WIN STRIKE

COLUMBUS, O. — Machinists employed by the Modern Tool, Die and Machine company have won their strike, securing an eight-hour day and wage increases that average 6 per cent. The company has agreed to dismiss an injunction against the strikers. William Blackman, federal department of labor conciliator, assisted in adjusting the differences.

### CARPENTERS WANT 8 HOURS

BALTIMORE.—Carpenters in this city are demanding $4.50 for an 8-hour day, beginning the first of the year. The present rate is $3.50. These workers say Baltimore ranks among the leading cities near the fifty mark in wages and sixth in population.

### IGNORE UNSIGNED COMPLAINTS

WASHINGTON.—If the unorganized street car men of this city expect the public utilities commission to relieve them from long working hours they must sign their names to letters of complaint.

Or they must organize.

The commission does not express these sentiments — they merely intimate them by adopting an elaborate set of rules. The street car men have been sending the commission anonymous letters complaining of excessive working hours. In an effort to force action, one writer threatened to "take the matter up with Samuel Gompers." The commission has made indirect answer by adopting rules which include a definite policy to ignore unsigned letters.

In has been announced in the public press that the street car men could secure no relief unless their long hours interfered with "good service." As these workers know they will be discharged if they sign their names some are questioning whether they are really "free and independent workmen," as anti-unionists insist.

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### PLUMBERS RAISE WAGES

MACON, Ga.—Plumbers have raised wages to $5.00 for an eight-hour day without suspending work.

Retail clerks, chauffeurs and laundry workers are discussing organization and it is believed locals in these callings will be formed in the near future.

### UNIQUE COPPER STRIKE; GUNMEN ARE BARRED

PHOENIX, Ariz.—A most unusual strike is being waged in the big copper camps at Clifton, Morenci and Metcalf, where 5000 employes suspended work Sept. 11 to enforce the wage scale paid in other parts of the state for similar work, and for the right to organize. Other complaints are: The companies deduct $1 per month from each man for water; force them to pay water rent at the house where they live and compel single men to live in company boarding houses.

The strike is unique in that there has been no violence, because the peace officers of the state have refused to assist strikebreakers in creating turmoil. At the last meeting of the executive board of the Western Federation of Labor it was stated that: "The men of every craft and nationality are a unit in waging this strike. The sheriff's office has been used to keep the peace, not to break the strike."

The San Francisco convention of the A. F. of L., in endorsing an appeal for aid on behalf of these strikers, declared: "The powers of the governor's office or those of the office of sheriff are not being used to demoralize or defeat the strikers, and be it said to the great credit of the governor of Arizona, and the sheriff of Greenlee county, that they have zealously guarded the honor and trust placed in their keeping by the people of that state and county."

### OPPOSED TO MILITARISM

#### Secretary of State Federation of Labor on Militarism in Schools

OAKLAND, Cal.—In view of the strenuous campaign being waged by the members of organized labor against the introduction of military training in the public school of Alameda county, Secretary Spooner of the Ceneral Labor Council wrote to Paul Scharrenberg, Secretary of the California State Federation of Labor for his views on the question.

The following letter from Secretary Scharrenberg is in response to Brother Spooner's communication:

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 2, 1195.

Wr. Wm. A. Spooner, Secretary Central Labor Council, 812 Broadway, Oakland, Cal.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Yours of the first instant at hand.

As far as I am personally concerned you may rest assured that I am in hearty sympathy with any legislation that will eliminate the teaching of militarism in our public schools.

To prove my sentiments I refer you to the secretary-treasurer's report to the Stockton convention, also the report of the committee on officers' reports upon that subject, forwarded under separate cover.

In accordance with these sentiments the delegate of the California State Federation of Labor to the recent A. F. of L. convention, introduced a resolution deploring the tendency to promote military drill and the war spirit in the public schools of our country, etc. As you probably know this resolution was defeated, as was a similar resolution introduced by a delegate from the United Mine Workers' Union.

Hence, the attitude of the American Federation of Labor seems to be in favor of the military drill in the public schools. However, that may be, I can see no reason why we should not go ahead in this state and further legislate to destroy the military germ that has already obtained a foothold in our public schools.

With best wishes.

Fraternally yours,

PAUL SCHARRENBERG,
Secretary-Treasurer, California State Federation of Labor.

The German deserted who has been interned at Ellis Island will not be admitted to the United States, which, it seems, has no use for Teutonic citizens who are traitors to Germany. —Boston Transcript.

### ELECTRICIANS ACCEPT NEW WAGE SCHEDULE

Deputy City Electrician George Vingen received word from San Francisco that the convention of electricians had voted, at a ratio of two to one, to accept the agreement tendered by the telephone companies concerning hours of employment and wage schedule.

### CARPENTERS MAKE GAINS

PORTLAND, Me.—The Carpenters' union has secured a 3-year agreement with employers. Union shop conditions are to prevail, as are shorter hours and increased wages.

### WILL "REFORM" THEMSELVES

CHICAGO.—"A hot air clearing house" was the term applied by C. D. Resler, farmer, of Chanute, Kans., to a gathering of professors, bankers, editors, conservationists, rural credit and co-operative experts who have been discussing the farmer and his "rights," during the past week.

"They have made a patient of the farmer and gathered in Chicago to talk over his ills," said Resler. "And not one single practical farmer has had a chance to throw a word in edgewise for four days. They have talked, talked and talked about reforming everything under the canopy of heaven, and we actual farmers have had to sit here and take it."

### RECORD FOR R.R. EARNINGS

WASHINGTON.—The net earnings of the 187 principal railroads in the country for September, 1915, are far in excess of the earnings for the same month of 1914, says the interstate commerce commission. The net earnings for September, 1915, were $109,263,653, a net of $447 per mile, against a net of $402 per mile in 1914.

### GARMENT WORKERS STRIKE

PITTSBURG, Pa.—Garment workers employed in the Nat Sanger tailor shop are on strike to enforce a 50-hour week, increased wages, sanitary workshops, pay for overtime and recognition of the United Garment Workers' union. These demands have been agreed to by about 50 other employers.

### EARNINGS REACH HIGH POINT

PHILADELPHIA—All previous records of earnings for the month were surpassed in October by the Pennsylvania railroad system. The statement shows gross revenues of $36,204,904, as compared with $35,470,609 for the previous month, and an increase of $5,248,191 over the earnings for October, 1914.

### SHEET METAL WORKERS STRIKE

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Because employers ignored their demand for a wage increase, over 100 sheet metal workers suspended work. They have been joined by other employes and the plants are completely tied up.

### SHINGLE PRICES ARE CLIMBING HIGHER

Red cedar shingles are taking an upward trend in prices, according to local handlers. Stars are now quoted to the trade at $1.45 a thousand, while clears are selling at $1.85. In lumber circles as well as with shingle sellers little or no new business is being booked under the new tariff sheets, for during holiday season yard men are taking inventories and do not intend restocking until after that annual work is finished. The manufacturers in Everett confidently look for a good and lively business after the first of the year.

In time some obscrue American will gain world-wide notoriety by publicly confessing that he does not know how to make peace in Europe.—New York World.

Wonder whether Sir Thomas Lipton will accuse Ford of sending a ship across the Atlantic just for advertising purposes?—Philadelphia American

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## Broke at Christmas Time

BY JAMES K. COLE

W'en a feller's flat agin th' wall an' hezent got a sou,
An' things jes sort o'go contrarywise;
He mopes along without a home, a feelin' hungry, too,
Th' tears er jest wellin' to his eyes;
He empties out hiz pockets in a listless sort o' way,
An' can't rake up a solitary dime;
It's a queerish kin' o' shiver as he looks inta th' river,
We'n a feller's broke 'long 'bout Chris'mus time.

Ye feel yerself a outcast, ez thru th' streets ye roam,
Ye really don' no wa t' say er do;
An' thoughts jes keep a risin' uv th' luvin ones at home,
A watchin' an' a waitin' there for you;
W'en th' copper roughly shoves ye, an' sez "now move on, jay,
An' don't 'che dish me eny uv yer whine";
W'y ye jes can't help wishin' in a broken-hearted way,
Thet you wuz dead, 'long 'bout Chris'mus time.

Peepul pas by heedless uv a dirty wretch like you,
Th' wind, it almost takes away yer breath;
Yer nose iz sorely frosted, yer lips er thin an' blue;
It's times like these a feller thinks uv death,
Th' crowds all bump an' push ye, th' sleet drips down yer neck;
Th' 'lectric lights jes seem t' lose ther shine,
Th' snow iz ten times colder an' ye feel jes ten times older,
W'en a feller's broke 'long 'bout Chris'mus time.

We look into a winda all ablaze with light,
See children rompin' roun' a Chris'mus tree,
A suckin' "all day suckers," ther faces shinin' bright;
Th' ole folks joinin' in th' jamboree.
Then ye think uv yer own mother, an' th' story thet she told,
'Bout a babe who came to banish sin an' crime;
An' ye wonder if he'd care, if he wuz here, fer sich az you,
W'en a feller's broke 'long 'bout Chris'mus time.

### MAKE CONGRESS PRINT INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REPORT

By Julian I. Pierce

WASHINGTON.—There are twenty-five millions of wage earners in the United States. Three millions of them are welded into compact organizations

#### Report Must Go to the Workers

If the forty-eight pages of the report of the Industrial Relations Commission dealing with the question of "Social Justice" and the denial of it to the workers through the admitted alliance of the machinery of government with the exploiters of the workers, if this report alone were placed in the hands of the workers it would arouse a revolution in the psychology of the working people that would be productive of inestimable results in the labor forward movement.

The report must be placed in the hands of the millions of workers in America.

#### Direct Pressure on Congress

Its free distribution can only be accomplished by the passage of a resolution by both the House of Representatives and the Senate ordering the report printed.

The readers of the labor papers and the trade union journals can obtain the publication of an unlimited edition of the report.

Members of congress are amenable to intelligent pressure from their constituents. An intelligent pressure will result in congress ordering an immediate edition of two hundred thousand copies. The most intelligent and effective pressure is a personal letter.

Every reader of a labor paper needs two of these reports. He needs one for himself and one for some acquaintance among the workers. Each wage earner lives in the district of some representative in congress. He is also the constituent of a United States senator. Let each reader of a labor paper or trade union journal write to one of the Senators from his state and to the representative in congress in whose district he lives and ask each of them for a copy of the "Final Report of the Commission on Industrial Relations"

If this is done, and done quickly, the presses in the government printing office will soon begin to work overtime on the job.

### COMPETITION

The editor handed the manuscript back after hastily scrutinizing the sheets, and said in a lofty manner:

"We don't print any such stuff as that."

"Well, you needn't be so haughty about it," retorted the Spasmodical Contributor. "You're not the only one who won't print it."—Illustrated Sunday Magazine.

In order to protect itself against Mr. Bryan's troublemaking propensities in 1920, 1924, 1928, etc., the Democratic Party at its next convention may devise a plank limiting to about three the number of times a man may run for the presidency.—Boston Herald.

### 200,000 COPIES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REPORT?

By Julian I. Pierce

WASHINGTON.—Five resolutions providing for printing the final report of the Commission on Industrial Relations have been introduced in the 64th congress. Two are senate resolutions. The number of copies authorized runs from 14,550 to 200,000.

Senator Poindexter's resolution calls for 100,000 copies. Senator Ashurst's resolution also authorizes 100,000. The two senate resolutions were referred to the senate Committee on Printing.

In the House a resolution emanating from Rep. Smith, of Texas, authorizes 15,550 bound copies of the report and hearings.

Representative Raker, of California, places a somewhat higher estimate on the probable demand for the work of the Commission and increases Rep. Smith's figures by 185,450 copies. Raker's resolution authorizes 200,000 copies of the final report, together with all the testimony taken by the Commission.

Representative Cary, of Wisconsin, also hits the two hundred thousand figure, but does not include the hearings. Cary's resolution provides for 200,000 copies of the final report, 200,000 copies of the report on the Colorado strike, and 200,000 copies of the report on the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers and the National Erectors' Association.

The three resolutions have been referred to the House Committee on Printing.

It is understood that a spirited fight will be put up in both House and Senate by the employers' group if the Committee on Printing reports favorably on any of the "high figure" resolutions.

### A SOBERING THOUGHT

(From the Safety Bulletin of the Kimberly-Clark Co.)

Germany seems to be indifferent to human life in waging war against the world, but even if the war is a long one and 630,000 Germans are killed and injured each year of the war, she will not have lost as many of her people as we here in the United States kill and injure each year, in industries and otherwise.

Germany promoted Safety Campaigns long before we in America woke up to it. She preserved her men by protecting them from disease and accident so that now she has men ready and willing to fight for her.

Is it any worse to die in battle than it is to die from preventable disease or avoidable accident?

This is not an argument in favor of war but it is a thought worthy of our serious reflection.

If we go in for preparedness, let us remember that the German government also prepares against factory-fires and Eastland disasters.—New York Evening Post.

Mr. Bryan is no warrior, but it isn't because he can't charge.—Columbia State.