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The Labor Journal

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

**In Organization
Lies the Hope
of Labor**

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Exploiters Blamed for Mexico's Troubles

BY YUCATAN WORKERS

New York.—Carlos Lovetra and Baltasar Pages, representatives of Yucatan (Mexico) organized workers, have arrived in this city and have made public an appeal to American workers for peace between Mexico and the United States signed by officers of the following Yucatan unions:

Electricians, carpenters, seamen, bakers, masons, hotel and restaurant clerks and cooks, commercial clerks, smelters, hackmen, railroad men and machinists, blacksmiths and boiler makers.

Next week the Mexicans will visit Washington and present a copy of the proclamation to President Gompers—who is now in the middle West—and also discuss with the A. F. of L. executive his proposal that a conference be held at El Paso, Texas, between representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the Mexican trade union movement.

The proclamation signed by the Mexican unionists is a stirring appeal for fraternity and peace between the two countries.

"Until the day on which our social revolution broke out," says this spirited document, "Mexico was, despite its wonderful resources, a land of desolation and misery for the real producer, for the proletarians, because sheltered by the government—represented first by Porfirio Diaz, the dictator, generally known as the czar of the Americas, and later by Victoriano Huerto—ignorance, religious intolerance, alcoholism and proletarian slavery in its most terrible form prevailed in the country.

"In shops, mines and manufacturing centers the condition of the toilers, although not so bad as in the haciendas, were still terrible; 12 or 14 hours daily, poorly paid labor was exacted without the hope of any progressive legislation at all being enacted that would secure their condition as free citizens; at the mercy of their owners, Mexican or foreigners, who—while the real producers howled, bore the yoke of servilism and suffered starvation—drove through the brilliant streets of the City of Mexico in luxurious automobiles, and built in every corner of the same villas and palaces that gave the capital of the republic universal renown.

"Public instruction, especially in the large rural districts, was entirely abandoned, because it was the dicta-

torial policy, in this respect, to drive the poor people to the great haciendas, great mine and factory regions, where they could be more easily controlled by the 'rurales' and the soldiers, instead of allowing them to go to school and get an education to become real citizens deserving of such a title.

"Workingmen in Mexico were killed if they attempted to unionize or to strike; the peasants were slaughtered in order to secure their property; the Yaqui Indians were deported or sold into slavery in Yucatan, so that the great land owners of the State of Sonora could sell their lands to American syndicates. Anybody who protested, orally or in writing, was thrown into jail, where imprisonment was worse than death.

"We want to say, very frankly, to the American toilers that the Mexican people do not hate the real American people, the people who still have in their heart the principles of Washington and Franklin; we do not have any hostile sentiment of any kind against you, American laborers. In the United States we only hate the monopolists, the great oil and railroad kings, all those who have utilized the richness of our land for their personal benefit; impudently stealing from us the fruits of our labor; the same as they do with you in your country, those very same compatriots of yours, whose only interests are their bank accounts, having no love of country, honor, or your ideas of life.

"Be on your guard, workers of the United States. The Columbus raid, all of the anti-Mexican agitation of the mercenary press of North America, all the meetings, lectures and publications of our foes in the great American cities, are only for the purpose of drowning in blood the desires of a brother people who have had the courage and the strength to rebel against their oppressors, of giving the workers of the world an example of the only social revolution that honestly deserves such a name.

"Be on watch, North American comrades. Do not allow any one to fool you with the lies of those who, as long as they can make money, do not care very much about the killing of thousands of laborers. Help us to secure that, once and forever, the United States troops be recalled, avoiding the great danger that there is and must be while a khaki uniform remains in Mexican territory."

Shingleweavers Have Rousing Meeting

Despite the inclement weather, the weavers turned out in full force to the mass meeting held at the Labor Temple last Sunday.

Brother J. G. Brown, international president of the union, made the opening address and stated that indications from all parts pointed to a complete victory for the weavers all down the line.

It was announced that Bloedel-Donovan Co. at Bellingham, one of the largest mill owners in the state, was starting with a full union crew, paying the scale. Several other mills in different parts were also commencing operations under union conditions.

Brother Swenson of the Typo's from Spokane was present and gave a very interesting talk on the need for solidarity of purpose and spirit amongst union men. Among other things Brother Swenson, in referring to Colonel Hartley's stand on unionism, said: "This is the man who in the last legislature fathered a bill to compel innocent children to salute the flag in the public schools. No wonder it requires force to make the people patriotic with men like Hartley in our legislative bodies." Brother Swenson has been on labor's firing line for a good many years. He is a consistent advocate of working class solidarity and believes in the use of the ballot as an effective weapon in the industrial emancipation of the working class, our class.

Brother Marsh also spoke a few words about the remarkable showing of the weavers, stating that when the strike was called things looked uncertain, but to a man all the weavers went out and are organized 100 per cent and today are more enthused and their ranks more solid than when the strike was called. The workers are realizing the power of solidarity.

Question—A declares that the determining factor in the price of a commodity is the law of supply and demand. B claims otherwise. Who is correct, and why?

Answer—A is right. The law of supply and demand determines the price, but not the value. In Vol. I, Marx's "Capital" this is fully discussed.

TRADES COUNCIL NEWS

The Council was called to order at 8 p. m. with President Smith in the chair.

All the local unions reported having good meetings and still growing, which proves that union labor is very much alive in Everett.

J. C. Sovde, 3419 Everett avenue, grocery store, being now fair to labor, was ordered taken off the unfair list.

John Grant was ordered placed on the unfair list by the Building Trades Council.

Longshoremen and Tug Boat Workers got the advice of the Council regarding placing the City Dock on the unfair list.

The Council passed a resolution favoring a peace parade for organized labor, on Labor Day, and a committee was appointed consisting of Brothers Mills, Michel, Wagner, Grant and Olinger to make all necessary arrangements.

Labor Day Committee met immediately after the Trades Council meeting.

Brother Mills was elected chairman and Olinger as secretary.

It was decided to invite local unions at nearby towns to participate in the parade and celebration. Locals are requested not to impose fines on members not appearing, as the committee wants the satisfaction of knowing that every union man in line is there to express his true convictions, and show the labor hating element in Everett that we mean business and are right on the job all the time.

Applications for the position of editor of the Labor Journal are desired by the Board of Control. Applicants must state salary and experience and applications to be in not later than July 16. Address Board of Control, Labor Journal, Labor Temple, Everett.

It is estimated that the average manure pile will breed 900,000 flies per ton?

Charity begins—and ends—in graft.

Hartley Favors This

LOW WAGES A BARRIER
TO PERFECT HEALTH

Detroit, Mich.—At the annual meeting of the American Medical Association, Surgeon General Blue, United States public health service, said that the lower paid workmen were not receiving sufficient wage to permit the necessarily higher plane of living and surroundings demanded for perfect health and hygienic conditions. He declared that the losses of the economic world through disease were being recognized more and more, and that the physician found poverty, ignorance, intemperance and greed his greatest enemies. Medical education of the public is beginning to have its effect, but a great struggle is still ahead before the public generally would accept all that was required, he said.

Government establishment of model counties and the upbuilding of sanitary towns, in which hygiene should rule supreme and form a model for other communities when the good results of public health became apparent, was advocated by Assistant Surgeon General Rucker, of the public health service.

Speaking on insanity, Dr. Richard H. Hutchins, of Ogdensburg, superintendent of the New York state hospital, said the reports of the great increase in insanity, due to the "high tension" of American life of today, was a myth. He said that 25 years of observation had convinced him that "if there is any increase in insanity among Americans it is very small, and that the greater proportion of insanity is found among foreign-born residents." The speaker declared that insanity is not hereditary in the true sense of the word, as has long been the belief, and that it is subject to preventative measures, just as tuberculosis is.

Dr. Helen Sumner of the children's bureau, federal department of labor, urged that physicians demand scientific data on child labor.

"We talk of preparedness," she said, "but the greatest preparedness will be to see to it that we raise healthy normal citizens, generation after generation, who will be able to pass the army examination if needed by their country."

Word has been received in Everett that San Francisco ship owners are using Mexicans to break the longshoremen's strike. SELAH.

WHY MACHINISTS STRUCK

Hamilton, Ohio.—Machinists employed at the Black & Clawson shop struck because their shop committee was discharged. With a loud flourish the company announced that the machinist was discharged because he "shirked on the job." The machinists replied that if the time sheets of the company would sustain this position the strike would be called off immediately.

The machinists are still out.

15,000 ACCIDENTS

Harrisburg, Pa.—Fifteen thousand accidents on steam railroads, street railways and other common carriers during the year ending May 31, 1916, is the record in Pennsylvania, says the public service commission's bureau of accidents.

RAILWAY CLERKS GAIN

Portland, Me.—Differences between the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the Maine Central Railroad have been adjusted. Wage increases of approximately 7 per cent for all clerks and better working conditions are agreed to.

PUSHING THE UNION LABEL

Portsmouth, Ohio.—Trade unionists in this city are actively engaged in a "label forward" movement and the demand for labeled goods has increased. The organization of a Women's Union Label League has resulted in additional agitation.

Withdrawal of Troops Would Be Noble Act

MEYER LONDON TOLD CONGRESS

Meyer London, the New York socialist representative, lifted a lone voice of protest in congress when a resolution was presented granting the president power to draft the entire militia into the federal service. And Meyer London cast one vote of the two votes against the proposition.

London told the congressmen some plain, blunt truths, spoken in the name of a party which cast almost 1,000,000 votes in the last election. He said:

"Mr. Speaker, one cannot say very much in three minutes, and there is a great deal to be said here. I do not like some of the arguments that have been advanced upon the republican side. It seems that they are playing politics. There are men who would play politics at the grave of a brother.

"The gentleman who preceded me, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. Campbell), did not have the courage to vote against an appropriation of money for the Villa expedition. That was the time to deliver the speech that he has delivered just now. It is not for him to criticize. The real question before congress at this moment is, Shall the army of the United States be sent to protect the border of the United States or shall it be permitted to invade the territory of Mexico?"

"The right to use the national guard must be restricted to the territory of the United States. That's the only way to save the country from war. Protect your own border, and withdraw the army from Mexico.

"There is no dishonor in withdrawing from Mexico. You are a hundred million strong. Mexico is distracted, writhing in the agony of revolution, small, miserable, helpless.

"No one will doubt that you are powerful enough to defeat Mexico; you are not asked to retire before a stronger army; you are not withdrawing before a superior power; you are not retreating because you are afraid; but you do retire from Mexican soil

because you are afraid to commit a wrong, to do an injustice; and I submit that to be afraid to do a wrong, to be afraid to commit an injustice, is not cowardly, but a manly thing.

"There is no glory in licking a weaker fellow. Nor is any question of dignity involved. It has been Mexico's misfortune to be ruled by foreign capital.

"The American people are not seeking either revenge or acquisition of Mexican territory. The American investor has no higher claims to security than the Mexican people themselves. He has chosen to invest American capital in Mexico. Shall he be permitted to drag the American army with him to protect his investment?"

"In what positions do you put yourselves, democrats, responsible for the conduct of the government?"

"The president has been proclaimed the great pacificator. The hope has been held out to the world that he will not only keep the United States out of the maelstrom of war, but that he will help to restore peace to Europe. Shall all these hopes be blasted?"

"If you once enter Mexico, you will never withdraw from it without appropriating a large slice of Mexico. The same influences that have forced the Villa outrage and then the blundering Villa expedition will force the retention of the invaded Mexican territory, all, of course, in the name of American dignity, and as compensation for the blood which the American people will pour out.

"Perhaps I am too much of an optimist, but I refuse to abandon the hope that the president will for the sake of this republic, for the sake of unfortunate Mexico, for the sake of Europe, anxiously looking to him to pick up the torn threads of international peace, continue to keep this country free from the horrors, the crimes, and the insanities of war."

Brother Jake Michel, the indefatigable union man, went after the signatures of Everett business men who are opposed to the Commercial Club's policy of the open shop, and found so many signers he had to come back for more petitions.

Brothers Wefferling and Stanley, on the same mission, report same kind of trouble.

PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

One group does the work and starves, the other with property has the leisure. This is privilege, plutocracy. It exists in Milwaukee and in every industrial center in the United States. Those who work are penalized because they work; those who own are rewarded because they control the resources and the means of production.

Private ownership puts it in the power of the owner to pay dying wages and charge monopoly prices. It enables the owner to say to the worker, "You toil and work and earn bread, and I'll eat it."—Professor Scott Nearing.

OPPOSE OUSTING NEARING

Toledo, Ohio.—Influences that are opposing Professor Scott Nearing are wrothly over the action of the Toledo municipal university in retaining Professor Nearing for another year and attempts are being made to have the common council reject the university tax levy.

The Central Labor Union has diplomatically notified the city lawmakers that "something will drop" if this plan is followed.

Four messages can be sent at the same time along the same telegraph wire.

"Knowledge is more than equivalent to force."—Samuel Johnson.

Maynard Shipley, former editor of the Journal, gave his last lecture in the Northwest at the "Forum" on Sunday, July 2. Brother and Comrade Shipley is now en route for Indiana to lecture on "Evolution, Social and Scientific," and although we will miss him, we wish him bon voyage and know he will make good.

AWARD TO RUPTURED WORKER

Harrisburg, Pa.—The state workmen's compensation board, in an opinion filed by Commissioner Leech, rules that hernia constitutes an "injury by accident." A coal company resisted payment on the ground that while the worker sustained a rupture his injury was simply an aggravation of a condition that had previously existed. In this connection Commissioner Leech said:

"The workmen's compensation law does not prescribe any standard of health or physical condition to which the workman must conform to qualify for compensation, nor does it imply a warranty on the employer's part that he is free from latent disease or physical defect which may develop into serious injury."

The commissioner points out that it has been a settled law in England since 1903 that nothing more is required to constitute an "injury by accident" than that the harm which the workman sustains is unexpected.

GAINS IN POUGHKEEPSIE

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Because of thorough organization painters and sheet metal workers secured betterments without resorting to strike. The former raised wages from \$3 to \$3.25 per day, and the sheet metal workers increased wages 25 cents a day. Both crafts secured the Saturday half-holiday also.

After a two weeks' strike the Plumbers' Union has established a wage rate of \$4.28 a day and secured the Saturday half-holiday.

SHIP BUILDERS ORGANIZE

Baltimore.—Over 1,000 unorganized ship builders employed by the Baltimore Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company struck to enforce better working conditions and shorter hours. Then they organized. A conference was arranged and the company agreed that a 4 per cent wage increase would become effective not later than Sept. 30 and another 4 per cent increase not later than Jan. 1, with a 50-hour week on the later date, or earlier if work now in the yard is completed.

All strikers will return to their former positions and the company agrees not to discriminate because of union affiliation and to hereafter receive committees to discuss grievances.

MACHINISTS RAISE WAGES

Owosso, Mich.—Machinists employed by the Ann Arbor railroad have secured the nine-hour day and increased wages 1½ cents an hour.

Worcester, Mass.—Machinists' Union No. 339 has signed a union shop agreement with the O. & J. Machine Company. The eight-hour day will be inaugurated by reducing the work day every three months until December 2, when eight hours shall be the rule.

HIGHER WAGES IN NEWPORT

Newport, R. I.—The Plumbers' Union has raised wages from \$4 to \$4.50 a day and upholsterers have increased their rates from \$3.50 to \$4.

PAINTERS REJECT OFFER

Johnstown, Pa.—The Painters' Union has rejected their employers' offer to return to work on a basis of eight hours for eight hours' pay. These workers are striking for eight hours with no wage reduction. They suspended work a month ago, and a large number of non-unionists have joined with them.

Brewery workers have organized all plants in this city but one—the Geoner Brewing Company. The Bar-tenders' Union is co-operating with the brewery workers to make Johnstown 100 per cent organized in this industry.

EASTERN UNIONISTS UNITE

Boston.—At a meeting of delegates of the various state branches and central labor bodies in this city, a New England State Federation of Labor was organized, permanent officers elected and a constitution and by-laws adopted. The eight-hour day was favored and Edward S. Alden, of Holyoke, Mass., chosen president and John J. Coyne, of Manchester, N. H., secretary-treasurer.

LOCOMOTIVE FIREMEN MEET

Denver, Colo.—The triennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen convened in this city last week. President Carter stated that the organization is in a most flourishing condition and that its finances now reach the high water mark, \$4,685,938.67.

NEWS AND VIEWS

STETSON STRIKE IS OVER

Philadelphia.—Although the strike at the Stetson Hat Company is over, this arrogant \$8,000,000 corporation has been taught several lessons by its workers who were forced on strike, although unorganized. These workers, for the first time, have sensed the power of solidarity and the company's promises indicate that it realizes the old days have passed forever.

One of the gains secured is the abolishment of gas complained of by strikers. The company manufactured its own gas and used it in the process of making hats. Employees were often forced to go to hospitals and lose days of work because of this gas. The percentage system will be adjusted, and the company agrees to hear the grievances of its employees.

Many of the strikers have secured other employment and declare they will never be known as Stetson employees until this concern accords its workers the right to bargain collectively and until it is forced to abandon, through the power of trade unionism, working conditions that are not indorsed by thinking men and women.

INDUSTRY'S TERRIBLE TOLL

Harrisburg, Pa.—From January 1 to June 1 of this year 862 men were killed in industrial establishments in this state. As a result of this slaughter, 537 women were made widows, 1,109 children were robbed of a father and 37 dependent parents lost a bread winner. Of the 862 men killed, 315 were unmarried. The total compensation awarded is \$742,962.75.

DEMAND EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Rochester, N. Y.—About 250 machinists and other craftsmen employed by the American Laundry Machinery Company are on strike for an eight-hour day.

Employees of this company's Toronto, Chicago and Cincinnati branches are also striking for the same reason.

FREIGHT HANDLERS QUIT WORK

Boston.—Freight handlers employed by the Eastern Steamship Corporation are on strike to raise wages from 32 to 40 cents an hour for day work, from 40 to 60 cents an hour for overtime, and from 40 to 80 cents an hour for Sundays and holidays.

STETSON HAT STRIKE ENDS

Philadelphia.—Striking employees of the Stetson Hat Company have voted to return to work, accepting the agreement made possible by Robert McWade, representing the federal department of labor. The strike started March 16 and was the culmination of continued dissatisfaction because of working conditions. About 1,000 employees are directly involved. The company agrees to improve conditions and receive committees to adjust grievances.

As an indication of conditions that formerly existed, President Cummings of the company says "the men will not be required to pass the usual physical examination."

Pretty hard to elect whiskers to office.—Youngstown Labor Record.