

The American standard of living must be maintained in order that American institutions may not be subject to perils of discontent.

# Montana Labor News

There can be no prosperity without justly high wages. Earnings of working people are the basis and index of progress in any community.

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## BUTTE CLERKS WINNING WAGE-CUT CONFLICT

### THERE IS NO SANTA CLAUS

**A. C. M. Co. Given Credit for Undeserved Humanitarianism; Uses Government Relief Funds to Break Labor in Butte.**

The people of Butte have been led to believe that the Anaconda Copper Mining Company has been playing Santa Claus to the suffering of Butte during the depression. Through its subsidized press this corporation has made the people of Butte believe that at last it is interested in the suffering of our citizenry. As a result the people of Butte have felt kindly toward this organization that is interested in nothing but reducing the workers of Butte to a state of peonage. At last we have discovered that there is no Santa Claus and that this corporation is using government money to enslave the free-born citizens of Butte.

Reports from Helena regarding the distribution of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation allotment to Montana show that most of Butte's relief is coming through the government. Since September first Silver Bow county has received, according to these reports, \$27,500 per month for local relief. Add to this the contributions of merchants, workers, professional men, and Red Cross; subtract this sum from the total amount spent for relief and you have the amount contributed by the corporations in Butte, which is negligible.

How is this fund being used? It is being used solely to break down the working conditions of the workers of Silver Bow county. It is reported that men are sent out to work from the relief on jobs at lower wages than workers of Butte are being paid. They are paid, not in money, but in flour, fat bacon and other starchy and fatty foods. If a man refuses to betray his fellow worker by taking a lower wage rate he is cut off the relief. The orders for these foods are now being given to stores that stand with the Employers' Association in their fight to lower wages and increase hours among the clerks. When the boy-

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### TO DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS INDIVIDUALLY

**TO INVESTIGATE USE OF R. F. C. FUNDS IN BUTTE**

**SENATOR WHEELER TO LOOK INTO MATTER OF CORPORATION USING RELIEF FUNDS TO FEED STRIKEBREAKERS.**

The following telegrams tell of a deplorable condition existing in Butte at the present time. They also give some indication of the drastic investigation that will soon be made.

Nov. 28, 1932.

U. S. Senator B. K. Wheeler, Washington, D. C.  
Silver Bow Trades and Labor Council requests you to investigate the legality of Butte Relief Association using funds received from government through Reconstruction Finance Corporation to feed and provide people who are working as strikebreakers. Would appreciate answer at your earliest convenience.

Chas. Malloy, President, Silver Bow Trades and Labor Council.

Washington, Nov. 29, 1932.  
Charles Malloy, President, Silver Bow Trades and Labor Council, Butte, Mont.

Will take matter up immediately.  
B. K. Wheeler, J. W. Anderson, Sec'y.

### VOLSTEAD ACT CHANGE ASKED AT A. F. L. MEET

**LEGAL MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF 2.75 BEER WOULD MAKE WORK FOR MANY.**

CINCINNATI, OHIO.—The immediate amendment of the Volstead Act so as to permit the manufacture and sale of beer containing 2.75 per cent alcohol by weight was demanded by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor in the

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**Butte Labor Unions Find Employers' Association a Stumbling Block in Path of Friendly Relationship.**

A large mass meeting of all unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor was held in Carpenters hall last Saturday night. Never before was such unanimity shown among the unions. Every delegate present showed that as far as he and his organization were concerned there would be nothing but unanimity in fighting the proposed wage slashes that would reduce Butte Labor to a lower level than slavery.

"We are merely having an existence now and a further slash would mean starvation. We might as well die fighting"; "We either die together fighting, or die together starving as slaves"; "Our backs are to the wall, we must stand or fall together," were a few of the remarks that showed the attitude of Butte Labor toward accepting the starvation wages offered them by the various groups of the Employers' Association. This spirit shows that there is more co-operation in the labor movement today than there was two years ago when an effort was made to destroy the working conditions bought by the very life's blood of the pioneers of the labor movement in Silver Bow county. The desperation of the men and women present was merely a symbol of the desperation of workers the country over. Fighting for freedom, even though it means the supreme sacrifice, is preferable to submission like the ox of the field before the whip of the heartless master. This meeting showed that Butte Labor still has the spirit of the pioneers of the movement.

**REFUSE TO DEAL WITH EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**

Due to the fact that the Employers' Associations are merely instruments for the open shop plan and

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### Sam Gompers Cigar Made in Two Sizes

**Excellent Combination of Tobacco in Both Five and Ten-Cent Sizes.**

Definite progress is being made toward providing manufacturers in the Cigarmakers Co-operative Association with material for a 10-cent cigar. It is intended that this cigar will contain quality Havana filler with a Connecticut binder and a Sumatra wrapper. This combination assures the smoker of a cigar that is identical with the successful 10-cent cigars of New England and far superior to most advertised, non-union cigars at the same price. The Association is assured that the material can be furnished at a price that will make its manufacture possible in any part of the country. A beautiful design, the picture of the Gompers memorial statue, was agreed upon for the 10-cent cigar, and just as soon as the lithograph company makes delivery and cellophane can be secured their 10-cent brand will be ready to go into production.

### Vice-Pres. Is Welcomed But Welcomers Get Gyped

DENVER—(F.P.)—Vice-President Charles Curtis got a great welcome on his recent trip to Denver, with a parade and banners and everything, and a good turnout. Then the men who had carried the banners in the parade went to the state labor commissioner to complain that they had been promised \$3 apiece if they would take part in the parade and they had been given a 35-cent meal. They demanded that the state take action to force the Republican state committee to pay their wages for their enthusiasm.

"This office has no power to collect wages or to compel the keeping of political promises," they were told. "There are many garages with no automobiles and pots with no chickens, but there's nothing we can do about it."

### Montana Hardware Open Shop

**The Montana Hardware opened its doors Thursday morning under the open-shop plan.**

None of the union clerks has returned to work, and are standing by the action of the union taken last Monday night.

### The Following Stores Have Signed Contracts With the Clerks and Deserve Your Patronage:

- Keene Shoe Co.
- Al's Photo Shop.
- Chicago Shoe Co.
- Clem's Bootery.
- T. C. Truscott.
- Red Boot Shoe Co.
- Florsheim Shoe Co.
- Hubert Shoe Co.
- Tomich Grocery Co.
- Post Office News Stand.
- Kelly-Alton.
- Walk-Over Shoe Co.
- Marsello.
- Butte Furniture Exchange.
- Beckman Bros.
- Finberg Furniture Co.
- Bake-Rite Bakery.
- Gleason Candy Co.
- Harrington Cash Grocery.
- Waldorf Market.
- T. J. Bennetts & Co.
- South Side Hardware.
- Sheehan's Apparel Store.
- Meaderville Merc. Co.
- Western Auto Supply.
- Mc. L. Y.
- Federal Bakery.
- Montana Street Grocery
- Matt Christie, W. Granite St.
- S. & S. Jewelry.
- Eclipse Grocery Co.
- Aldine Market.
- Range Market.
- Park Clothing.

LOOK FOR WINDOW CARD.

### Workingmen, Streetcar Men in Joint Session

**Discuss Drastic Wage Reductions; Employers Ignored Unions.**

The executive committee of the Street Car Men's Union and the committee of the Workingmen's union held a joint meeting at 11 a. m. Tuesday, Nov. 29, at which a general discussion took place as to the relations of the two unions in the attempted reduction of pay of members of the Workingmen's Union. The sympathy of the unions and of the public is with the members of the Workingmen's Union. The proposed reduction of pay is too drastic, especially in view of the fact that these men are allowed to work only three days a week. Another feature of this phase of the labor situation is that the employers instead of notifying the union that the men were to be reduced, ignored the union and told the men individually at their places of work that the reduction was in effect. This attempted repudiation of the recognition of the union in negotiating wage matters and working conditions, which has prevailed for years, takes away the principle of collective bargaining from the men and puts them entirely at the mercy of arbitrary and highly organized employing interests.

### LESS WAGES, LESS WORK.

BOSTON—(F.P.)—The value of proposed building in Massachusetts in October was down 67.3 per cent from October, 1931. Boston carpenters took a big wage cut this spring on the promise it would increase work. It didn't.

### EFFORTS MADE TO REDUCE WAGES AND INCREASE WORKING HOURS; MOVE IS MADE BY CHAIN STORES

**Pledged Support of Silver Bow Employers' Association and Corporate Backing is Seen in Present Move.**

### BUTTE CLERKS REFUSE TO BE MADE SLAVES

On Monday night a meeting of the Butte Clerks' Union was held in the high school auditorium to discuss the proposal of the Silver Bow Employers' Association to reduce wages 20 per cent and increase the hours of labor. The Employers' Association made this demand after the secretary of that body admitted that such reductions would not increase employment in Butte and would merely make matters worse and prolong the depression, according to reports of those on the committee that met with the association.

The clerks voted 100 per cent to refuse the cut.

### MOVE TO PROTECT WOMEN EMPLOYEES.

The move of the Clerks' Union was made to protect, primarily, the standards of women working in Butte stores. This group is the lowest paid in Butte. A reduction at this time would work untold suffering, for many of these women are the sole support of their families at the present time. This move would be the first to bring their wages down to the level of wages of women in chain stores in other sections of the country, which means seven to ten dollars per week. No community that believes in decency wants to see the wages of women cut to such a low level, and Butte, in spite of its reputation, still believes in decency and decent standards of living.

### THE THIRTY-DAY CONTRACT.

Much has been made of the fact, in the daily press, that the Employers' Association was willing to sign a 30-day contract with the Clerks' Union. Why a 30-day contract? The most feeble-minded person has intelligence enough to see through this offer. Within 30 days the Christmas business would be over. The stores are depending on this business for much of their profit. If they can keep the clerks pacified until they have made their profit, from the season commemorating the birth of Him who hated exploitation, they could do as they pleased with the wages of the clerks with little loss to themselves. The clerks failed to see why they should sign a 30-day contract for the first time in over 35 years. They consequently refused to accept such a contract.

### CLERKS TAKE FIRM STAND.

The clerks voted, without a dissenting voice, not to return to stores unfair to their union (i. e. stores not having a contract with the union). It was also voted, without a dissenting voice, to charge all members of the union who violated this ruling a re-instatement fee of \$100 plus \$10 for every day they violated the union's ruling. It was also voted that no store would be recognized who employed clerks who had not paid the re-instatement fee. It was also voted to deal only with individual merchants and not with the Employers' Association.

### TO REAL WITH INDIVIDUAL MERCHANTS ONLY.

The refusal of the clerks to deal with the Employers' Association was made after a consideration of the history of the union in Butte. For 25 years the clerks had dealt only with individual merchants and during that time the clerks had never had any difficulties with the employers. During the ten years of dealing with the Employers' Association the Butte Clerks' Union has had three strikes and lock-outs. This is due to the fact that the Employers' Association does not want to be fair to the employees but has only one idea in mind—that of breaking up the unions. For that reason they hired, as one of their officials, one who had a state-wide reputation of being a "Union Buster." The clerks want to be fair to their employers and the employers as a whole, want to be fair to their employees; but the Employers' Association, dominated by the controlling economic force in Montana, discards fairness in favor of exploitation and dooms the employer and employee to a condition of

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### COUNCIL NOTES

Last Tuesday night saw the largest attendance at a meeting of the Council in the past two years. There was a 100 per cent attendance and many visitors from the Building Trades attended. The walls were lined two rows deep with chairs and every chair was filled. The same spirit was shown that was shown at the special meeting held last Saturday night. At last there is solidarity in the Butte labor movement.

The present high-handed methods of the Employers' Association were discussed and the unions were unanimous in their protest. Various delegates reported on the actions of their unions and these reports showed a unanimity in the ranks of the locals.

The Clerks reported that they were on the road to victory in their struggle against starvation conditions. Sam Mitchell thanked the unions and the Butte public for their co-operation. Sentiment has been with the Clerks and it has been due to the sympathetic co-operation of the buying public and fellow workers that such rapid progress has been made.

When the meeting adjourned there was a feeling on the part of all present that Butte will never be a slave compound but a city where workers can enjoy a decent American standard of living.

### RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF BARNETT M. LINDSAY.

To the Officers and Members of Butte Stationary Engineers Union No. 83:

Whereas; It has pleased the Supreme Being to take from our midst our late Brother Barnett M. Lindsay, and

Whereas; His family loses a faithful and loving husband and father, and

Whereas; In the passing of Brother Barnett M. Lindsay the Engineers Union No. 83 loses a loyal and faithful member, and the organized labor movement a conscientious worker, loyal friend and supporter; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Engineers Union No. 83 extend to the bereaved family in this, their hour of bereavement, and be it further

Resolved, That our minutes show an acknowledgement of his services to the labor movement for the last 35 years, spent amongst us in Butte, both as a private citizen and as a public servant, and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped in mourning for a period of 30 days and that we stand in silence for one minute and out of respect for the memory of our departed Brother, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be spread on the minutes of this Union, a copy be sent to the family of our deceased Brother, and a copy be given the Montana Labor News for publication.  
Respectfully submitted,  
H. A. WEIDENBACH,  
JAMES COMBO,  
JOHN McMULLEN.

Pupils over 21 years of age will have to pay \$4 a week to attend school at Lakewood, Ohio, according to a ruling of the school board.

### SHORTER WORK WEEK AND WORK DAY NECESSARY, SAYS COUNCIL

**Not More Than 28 Hours Per Week if Millions Are to Have Jobs; Many Now Work 50 and 60 Hours.**

CINCINNATI, OHIO.—With over 120,000,000 people in the United States requiring food, clothing, shelter, education, and the conveniences and comforts of life, there is not more than 28 hours of work per week for our working men and women, including those with and without jobs.

This significant conclusion was reached by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor in its report on "Our Outgrown Work Week" to the Federation's annual convention here.

"In May, 1932, the Labor Department

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### Timely and Untimely Observations

By ADAM COALDIGGER

**Snipe-shots of History.**  
If I were called upon to write the political history of the last decade in as few words as possible, I'd say: Andy Mellon and Calvin Coolidge took Herbert Hoover snipe-hunting and let him hold the bag.

Say, what are we going to do with folks who voted for a change, got the change, and are still without change?

**Pocket History of American Agriculture**  
First quarter: Farm owners rob soil.  
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### HOOVER POLICE ARMY TRIUMPHS OVER CHILDREN OF UNEMPLOYED

**150 Police Battle Woman and Six Children; Hoover Escapes Ordeal of Receiving Petition for Relief.**

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—President Hoover escaped the ordeal of receiving a petition for hunger relief at the hands of a delegation of workers' children, at the White House on Thanksgiving day.

An army, consisting not of tank corps, cavalry and gas-masked infantry, as on July 28 last when his troops burned the B. E. F. encampments, but of 150 bluecoated policemen, saved him.

From early morning this defense army of coppers was on the alert, secreted in the basements and lobbies

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### The Washington Scene

By LAWRENCE TODD

WASHINGTON—(F.P.)—Buried miles deep beneath the heaviest vote of condemnation ever cast by the American electorate, the Hoover administration had no mourners in the national capital on Nov. 9 except the handful of its partisan dependents. There was full-hearted rejoicing among the civil servants whose wages had been cut, among the relatives of war veterans who held bitter memories of the use of gas and sabre and torch against the B. E. F. last July, and among thousands of citizens whose sense of fair dealing had been outraged by the

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