









News Notes from the Field of Labor

TOLD BY CORRESPONDENTS

A BREEZY BUDGET.

Newspaper Gossip From Over the Line By Weston Wrigley.

Organizer A. L. U., Victoria, B. C. This neck of the woods is seldom heard from, but the Journal's readers will probably be interested in the progress being made in this district.

The work of organization in the cities has been fairly well done by the A. F. of L. bodies, but Victoria is "blessed" with about 300 or 400 unemployed, while more men are arriving every month from New Zealand and Australia, where conditions are even worse than they are here.

Fully one-quarter of Victoria's 20,000 population is Chinese and nearly every branch of industry is invaded by them. The idea of "Chinese exclusion is almost exploded, although politicians work it to the full limit at election time.

The Victoria division of the U. B. of R. E. was forced to strike late in February owing to the efforts of the Canadian Pacific railway to disrupt the growing young organization by dismissing its executive officers from their jobs.

An effort was made last fall to organize the smelter workers at Crofton, B. C., but it failed, as the works closed down. They are now being reopened on a small scale.

A strike of the Nanaimo coal miners in February lasted about ten days and was won by the men, owing largely to the able generalship of James Baker, the W. F. of M.'s executive officer in British Columbia.

Strong locals of the Socialist party exist in Victoria, Ladysmith and Nanaimo. Recently an election took place at North Nanaimo and though the first time a socialist ran, Parker Williams, a W. F. of M. coal miner, polled 35 per cent of the vote against a member of the government.

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"labor" politician in the Dominion parliament.

Vancouver is the largest city on the mainland and is the headquarters of the Socialist party of British Columbia. The Western Socialist is published there and it is building up a strong movement.

Father Hagerty will visit this district about March 20 and the workers are looking forward to a great treat from the able representative of the A. L. U.

About 300 delegates met in Victoria last week and organized a Mining Association for B. C. It was fathered by well known labor-haters, and was patterned after a similar institution in California, which killed unionism in the mining districts of that state.

When will the workingmen realize that their class interests are directly opposed to those of the capitalist class? When they do they will refuse to be used as cats' paws by their capitalistic bosses.

Before the Miners' Association convention gathered, Secretary Belyea said that the influence of the "alien labor organization with headquarters at Denver" must be overthrown, and during the convention Vice-President Hobson, formerly of California, spoke as follows: "In California the mine-owners and mine-workers live together as one family, and their interests are identical."

At a meeting of 1,700 business men and miners at the opera house in Cripple Creek, Col., a telegram from T. P. Airheart, who had been in competition signed by sixty-five prominent men was read.

It is stated that the governor had said he was ready to use his best offices towards settling the strike, should he be asked by the parties to the controversy. This was in reply to the agitation started by the business men in the camp and the miners opposed to striking.

Resolutions were passed asking that the governor treat with a commission, consisting of one person from each side of the controversy and a third party, to be agreed upon mutually.

These resolutions will be forwarded to the governor. In response to a petition signed by sixty-five prominent business men of Victor the executive board of the Western Federation of Miners of the Cripple Creek district has agreed not to take any steps in the strike matter for a week.

Liverpool expects a profit of \$350,000 on last year's working of its municipal tramway system.

Thomas Hickey is delivering a series of lectures in Idaho.

The American Smelting and Refining company has made important concessions to its 350 employees at the Chicago plant. Engineers are to receive the same wages for an eight-hour day they had been paid for twelve hours; firemen will receive 10 cents more for the shorter day and other employees are similarly affected.

Two thousand members of the Sheet Metal Workers' union employed throughout Chicago will go on strike tomorrow morning by the Contractors' association signing an agreement recognizing an independent union of metal workers. The

have earned unenviable reputations as strike-breakers. The latter is almost directly responsible for the slaughter of 130 men and boys (I forget how many mules were lost) at Fernie last May. And on the executive committee of the Mining Association these two "gentlemen" work hand in hand with Chris Foley (formerly W. F. of M. executive officer) and several other Miners' Union members.

The Socialist here are having a hard struggle to keep our two Socialist weeklies afloat, but they are all well pleased with the Journal. It is certainly the biggest four bits' worth available for trades unionists in the West.

AN UNFAIR LABEL: Summary of the Lynn Strike by One of the Strikers.

Robert Cass of Local Assembly No. 263, of Lynn, Mass., American Labor Union, furnishes us with the following interesting statement of the conditions which led up to the Lynn shoe strike which has been going on for many weeks.

Editor American Labor Union Journal.—At our last meeting a motion was carried that the following letter be sent to the executive board and also to have it published in the Journal:

Gentlemen—We desire to call your attention to the action of the Boot & Shoe Workers Union, which organization is now engaged in an attempt to compel the Knights of Labor cutters and stitchers to join that union and also the Shoe Workers' Protective Union of Haverhill.

Pending in Spokane there is now a gas makers' strike which has the sympathy of all union men and local members as well. According to the report at the Butte office of the American Labor union, the strike has not yet been declared, but already the business men of Spokane have so far shown their sympathy with the gas makers that they have taken out gas and installed fixtures for electricity.

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The Organized Movement in Butte

Silver Bow Trades and Labor Assembly.

The question of seating (or rather ousting) one of the delegates from the Clerk's Union came up again Sunday night...

1. Willful lying about the assembly. 2. The record book of the assembly was destroyed. 3. Went back on political pledges. 4. Attempting to bribe a judge to injure a union man. 5. Cheating. 6. Peculating funds.

carpenters to confer with a like committee from the Amalgamated Wood Workers were unable to arrive at any agreement.

It was finally decided to defer action until after the report of the national committee of these warring bodies (the A. W. W. and U. B. of C. and J.) which is now settling the jurisdiction question in Indianapolis.

that no foolishness will be tolerated on the part of a few men who, while undoubtedly well-meaning, are doing the very things our enemies would have us do—that is, disrupting the central body.

Named by Labor Unions. D. J. Hamslin of the Miners, R. T. King, of the Clerks' union, and John McMullan, of the Engineers' union, are the three high men named by the labor unions of Butte as candidates for trustees of school district No. 1, at the election to be held next month.

A committee of ten men and ten women was appointed by the chair to act as an executive board during the campaign. The committee is composed of the following: Men—Frank Doyle, F. H. Young, Larry Duggan, J. W. Whiteley, R. C. Scott, Max Hendricks, M. J. Moonen, W. N. Holden, John Wettengel, William Cunningham.

Chairman McNally, of the meeting, was made ex-officio chairman of the campaign committee.

UNION MEN Don't fail to register for the school election.

another head scratcher for the Miner man, which will necessitate another conference and another wiggle. Of one point one can rest assured. The Miner man won't debate real socialism nor will he accept a substitute.

Butte, Mont., March 12, 1903. Mr. A. B. Keith, Managing Editor Butte Miner.

Replying to your "rejoinder" of the 10th instant, the City Central Committee of the Socialist party regret that you have evaded the acceptance of our challenge to meet Mr. Walter Thomas Mills, the Socialist lecturer who is to speak in Butte from the 20th to the 30th instant, in public debate.

If you consider yourself, as your letter would imply, so far above the common people that you will not accept our challenge, you may, perhaps, be able to name some champion of the democratic or republican party who would accept the opportunity for such debate as we courteously tendered you.

The desire of the committee in inviting you to public debate was and is to discuss the principles of socialism as laid down in the national platform, the only official expression of the Socialist party.

Surely if Mr. Mills is so insignificant as your editorial of the 10th instant depicts him, so polished an orator as the committee knows you to be can present the arguments against that platform in such a way as to easily overcome that gentleman.

Man. We are convinced that socialism is founded on the eternal principles of political and economic equality, the freedom of all from the enslavement of the few and the uplifting of the race.

The Labor Mayor. The Labor party of Butte met in convention in the Auditorium last week and nominated Larry Duggan, a member of the Workingmen's union, for mayor, but left the rest of the ticket blank.

Though recognizing your timely assurances of "a most respectful hearing" assurances open to doubt to a constant reader of your literature and your press—I do not feel called upon by any sense of duty to the public or to myself to meet in joint debate men who are seeking to undermine and destroy the splendid civilization we enjoy today and who would effect radical and destructive changes in the best government the sun ever shone upon.

Men who endorse the declarations of the socialist press that property owners are "thieves" and "robbers" and that their holdings should be seized and distributed as a "restitution" to the people, are not entitled to the personal recognition as good citizens and upright men which meet them in personal debate would imply.

Larry Duggan is reported as saying that he'll get the votes of the miners the workmen, the Austrians, the Irish to a man, and two-thirds of the Socialists. In spite of the wildness of this statement, our old friend is not at all crazy; he is just a d--n fool.

The Socialist party stands for the class interests of labor; the republican and democratic parties stand for "graft" pure and simple, and the "labor" party stands for Duggan, and that's a whole lot to stand for.

H. L. Hughes' Dates. New York Biscuit Workers, March 15. New York Firemen, March 15. Cleveland Engineers, March 17. Chicago, Ill., March 19. Omaha, Neb., March 22. Lead, S. D., March 24. Deadwood, March 25.

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FROM OURAY, COLO.

Federal No. 271 Again in Good Shape —The Press Committee Reports. Bro. M. E. White, member of the executive board of this district arrived here Wednesday, March 4, and we proceeded to get around and stir the workers up and called an open meeting for the next evening which resulted in nine initiations and several reinstatements.

PEABODY'S PLATFORM.

Was Against the Rights of Labor, Yet the Masses Supported Him.

The accounts published in the daily and weekly papers of Colorado regarding the difficulties between the Colorado Southern R. W. Co., the smelter and refining companies and their union employees of Colorado Springs, Colorado City, and other places, and the promptness of the governor in calling the militia out for the purpose of creating disturbance as a pretext to shoot down the laboring people of the state, should bring forcibly to the voters of that or any other state the necessity of placing the hands of the working people on the throttle of the government engine, and filling her with such legislation as will carry her along the track of Socialistic education to the depot of co-operative commonwealth.

It's a wise labor party that knows its own step-father.

Butte Stenographers' Union are revising the constitution and bylaws. The messenger companies were given to the 15th, under the terms of the contract, which they signed with the boys.

Alphonse Pelletier to Gaston Duggan: "I will take the nomination, my dear Gaston." "Pardon me, my dear Alphonse, I will take the nomination," and he did.

Receipt of Dues.

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, Wm. Mailly, Natl. Secy. Omaha, Neb., March 12, 1903. The following communication from Comrade John C. Chase is self-explanatory, and is hereby transmitted to the Socialist press for publication. It is an excellent reply to Hearst and his methods, and deserves the widest publicity.

"Dear Comrade: The New York Journal and American of January 24th contained a dispatch from Nerfalk, Va., purporting to be a report of an address delivered there by myself on January 23 to the Building Trades Council. This dispatch quotes me as saying that 'The best friend of labor in this country to day is the New York American; that paper, through its proprietor, W. R. Hearst, has fought the cause of the laboring man with untiring energy, and the title of 'the people's champion' has been well earned by that unselfish American. His fortune has not been made by greed, and he pays his men according to their work.'"

"Fraternal yours, JOHN C. CHASE."

Birmingham, Ala., March 9, 1902.

Los Angeles has a Woman's Socialist Union, a departure which might be copied with profit by other locals. Organize, bring the women and children to your meetings. Get them interested. It means more to them than to ourselves that the just order of things be established. The Socialist who is not trying to boom the membership of his organization and spread the light of truth is a sentinel asleep at his post. Agitate and organize! Our cause is just and MUST prevail. Speed the time.

The workers of Butte at all times should remember Paddy McMahon. This enthusiastic and energetic friend of the toiler, kicked as he has been from post to pillar, on account of his opinions, opened a restaurant and lodging house at the corner of Silver and Main streets. When any of you want a nice, clean room or tasty meal remember Paddy's place, corner Silver and Main streets.—Labor World.

Our propaganda leasers are at work—join the gang.

It is not every manipulator who can make the opposition play for his candidate, but Helme is equal to the occasion. The Amalgamated and Clark papers love Duggan for the enemies they think he has made. Meanwhile Faug is laughing in his sleeve.

The Hallwood Cash Register company (advertisement of which appears on another page of this paper) is a strictly union concern. The registers are of high grade, and have a national reputation for excellence and durability.

The smeltersmen, at their last meeting, declined to reconsider their action in voting \$200 to the campaign fund of the Socialist party. The smeltersmen are among the most progressive of the labor unions of this or any other community; 5 per cent of their receipts go into an educational fund for the purpose of spreading the light of the new trades unionism. All praise to this fearless body of energetic men.

The Socialist local held one of its most interesting meetings on Thursday night at the Trades Assembly rooms, 121 North Main. The hall was packed and the singing was good. A share of stock was purchased in the Chas. Kerr Printing Co., so that the local might avail itself of the low rate on purchases. Comrades Fox and Holden spoke on the lines of the class struggle. Comrades Frankel aroused some discussion by reading a few excerpts from Dr. Thompson's new work. While debate under the rules is limited to five minutes Comrade Maury did not enforce it rigidly, allowing each speaker an opportunity to state his position, yet not permitting any long, elaborate talks. Meeting again Thursday.

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