
Workers and Soldiers Council Organized in Portland

[events of Jan. 9-13, 1919]

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The following communication addressed to Labor Unions in Portland will give an idea of this new spontaneous mass uprising of the workers of the world — the *Western Socialist* will report the activities of this movement and every comrade in this state should be a constant reader of this new Revolutionary Socialist publication.

Portland, Ore., Jan. 13, 1919.

Dear Brothers:—

The Portland Council of Workers and Soldiers was organized in Arion Hall last Thursday evening [Jan. 9, 1919] and temporary officers elected to act until the permanent officers are duly elected. Every labor organization is entitled to representation on this Council. The delegation is to be proportioned 1 delegate to every 100 members or major fraction thereof in good standing.

The unemployed problem is becoming a serious menace. New conditions demand new tactics on the part of labor. The purpose of the Workers and Soldiers Council is to propagate the idea of solidarity among the entire working class of this section of the country; the soldiers who are discharged from the army are on the *<line missing in source document>* soldiers swell the surplus labor market still more. We must impress upon the soldiers the fact that they too belong to the working class and get them into the labor movement, so that one part of the working class will not work in opposition to the other.

The State Federation of Labor Convention has instructed its executive board to confer with us regarding the principles and aims of the organization. The delegation was heartily in favor of

the organization. The Boilermakers have endorsed it and elected delegates. One of the ship carpenters unions have appointed a committee to attend our next executive meeting and confer with us.

Our next meeting is to be held next Thursday evening [Jan. 23, 1919] at 8:00 o'clock in Arion Hall, 2nd and Oak, and we invite all unions to send delegations. Brothers, this is the most important event in the Portland Labor Movement, and unless we get the returned soldiers into the labor movement and working with us the employers will be able to get them into alleged "patriotic" organizations and endeavor to get them to work against us. At this stage of industrial development the employing class is solidly united against the workers; hence the workers must organize into a solid mass against the employers. The mission *<line missing in source document>* at any time we can get effective action on the part of all the workers. The ruling class now imprisons workers with impunity, knowing we cannot get effective action against them. Had the Councils of Workers and Soldiers been organized, Tom Mooney would not now be in jail. Already the bosses of Portland are trembling before us. Send your delegates to meet with us next Thursday night. If your union meets after that date, drop a card and we will give you information as to our next meeting.

Yours for Labor Victorious,

H.M. Wicks,
Member Local 72, IBBM,
ISB&H of A,
Temporary President.

Joe Thornton,
Street Railway Men's Union,
Temporary Recording Secretary.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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