HORSES UNFED; DRIVERS STRIKE

Seattle – November 11, 1910



Teamsters strike in defense of horse colleagues!



Employers Cut Off Noon Meal to Prevent Indigestion; Cruel, Say Teamsters.

SEATTLE, Nov. 11.—In a "sympathetic" strike that is said to be almost without precedent in the annals of labor, 11 drivers of the Seattle Transfer company quit work yesterday because the company, as an experiment decided to eliminate the noonday meal heretofore given to its horses. The experiment is said to be in line with suggestions of a number of prominent veterinaries of the East, but the men, believing that the horses would suffer, refused to go to work.

Interspecies Exploitation

Interspecies Solidarity

The Seattle Star

SEATTLE, WASH., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1910.

HERE'S A REAL SYMPATHETIC STRIKE!

...amsters of Seattle Transfer Company Walk Out, Demanding Three Meals a Day for the Horses They Drive—Company Stands by Two-Meal Plan.

...ather than see the horses they ...ve, but which are owned by the ...attle Transfer Co., go without ...s noonday feed, 35 teamsters ...s morning inaugurated the first ...ike of its kind in the history of ...e United States when they walk...d out in a body and announced ...r determination to remain away ... officials of the transfer com...y rescinded its order.

Company's Side of It.

...oth the teamsters and officials ...f the company maintain that their ...use is the one of humanity. Rich...d J. Meekle, general manager of ...e transfer company, had this to ...

"In the east the experience has been that horses work better and enjoy better health when fed but twice a day. This is merely an experiment out here. For the next 30 days we will try out our new plan. If it does not succeed, of course we will fall back on the old plan."

The teamsters, actuated solely by humane motives, entered strenuous objections this morning when it was announced that the noonday meal would be eliminated.

The teamsters said it was inhumane and unjust, and refused to go to work unless the order was instantly rescinded. Their demands were refused and 35 men, comprising the entire freight delivery crew, walked out.

"It is a foolish move," said one of the teamsters today. "Put yourself in the horse's place for a moment and see. Suppose you breakfasted at 5 or 6 o'clock and along about 10 o'clock merely took a drink of water by way of food. To make the horse's condition worse out here, you want to remember that Seattle is filled with hills, thus making the pull harder. We refused to work hungry horses. That's our stand and we propose to appeal to the Humane society of King county to back us up."

The freight delivery teamsters say they will be joined by the baggage delivery drivers tomorrow morning unless General Manager Meekie's order is withdrawn.

"Teamsters of *Seattle Transfer Company* Walk Out, Demanding Three Meals a Day for the Horses They Drive – Company Stands by Two-Meal Plan"

Company claims it will prevent indigestion.



***Seattle Transfer Company*, between 1893 and 1906**

The Seattle Daily Times

SEATTLE WASHINGTON FRIDAY EVENING, NOV 11, 1910.

DRIVERS STRIKE BECAUSE HORSES MISS NOON MEAL

Eleven Employes of Seattle Transfer Company, Thinking Animals Abused, Refuse Longer to Work.

MOST UNIQUE CASE OF ITS KIND UPON RECORD

Manager Reekie, Prominent in Humane Society, Says New Plan Indorsed by Veterinarians to Keep Nags Well.

IN a "sympathetic" strike that is said to be almost without precedent in the annals of labor, eleven drivers of the Seattle Transfer Company quit work yesterday, because the company, as an experiment, decided to eliminate the noonday meal heretofore given to its horses. The experiment is said to be in line with suggestions of a number of prominent veterinarians of the East, but the men, believing that the horses would suffer, refused to go to work.

Some of the strikers are union men, but others do not belong to any organization. The local teamsters' union in no way is involved, nor is any question of hours or wages at stake. The drivers still will continue to get their hour off for dinner at noon. Affection and sympathy for the animals alone caused the eleven to walk out.

Protest Most Unique.

The matter was laid before Justice R. R. George, president of the King County Humane Society, by a committee of four appointed by the strikers this morning. They declared that the horses are accustomed to the noonday meal and that to deprive them of it now would be inhuman and cause them needless suffering. The protest made by the committee is declared by Miss Mae Krueger, secretary of the humane organization, to be one of the first of the kind, if not the first, in the history of humane society work in this country.

An unusual phase is lent to the protest by the fact that Richard J. Reekie, manager of the Seattle Transfer Company, is prominent in the humane society, of whose executive committee he is a member. To a reporter today he made a statement that would seem to indicate both sides in the strike are animated by a desire to do what is best for the horse. The midday meal, he stated, is responsible for much indigestion among the horses of the company and it is to overcome this that the company decided to try the experiment.

"We have adopted the new system of feeding our horses as an 'experiment that will be discontinued promptly if we see that they suffer by it," he said. "Instead of three meals the horses will receive two, one in the morning and the other in the evening. The food that they would have received at noon will be divided between the morning and evening meals, so that they will receive exactly the same amount of food each day that heretofore was given them.

Of Benefit to Horse.

"The experiment is in accordance with the ideas of big Eastern veterinarians and others who have the interest of the horse at heart. It was brought forward in an article in a recent number of the Team Owners' Review of the United States, stating that the system of two meals had been tried elsewhere and found successful. These men declare that it has proved a benefit to the horse.

"Many veterinarians and stablemen oppose the midday meal, as it causes indigestion among the horses, and indigestion is one of the worst troubles from which horses suffer in the Northwest. Two of our animals are in the stables now suffering from acute indigestion. One of them cannot recover. Their agony is greater than it would be in the case of a human being. We can always find some way to relieve our torture, but the horse must suffer in its own dumb way.

"We decided that we would give the plan a fair test, and fourteen of the men quit; but three went back to their wagons when matters were explained to them. The other eleven, mostly drivers of heavy trucks, refused to go to work, thus tying up about a fifth of our wagons. The three who returned were perfectly satisfied with our explanation.

Will Treat Stock Well.

"We are just as much interested in the welfare of our horses as any one. Moreover, it is to our financial benefit to keep them in the best of condition, and the public can rest assured that we are going to do nothing that in any way would impair the strength of our stock. To do so would only result in financial loss to us.

"It is a new idea and hence meets with opposition. The horses were fed from nosebags at noon and consequently much of their food was wasted. By the new system they will get all the food that constitutes their daily ration. Moreover they will have more time for eating it.

"The horses received the noonday meal while standing in the street and it was necessary to remove their bridles. This resulted in several bad runaways. We have two horses in the stable now suffering from injuries received in runaways. The new system will eliminate the possibility of such accidents.

"We probably will conduct the experiment for thirty days but in the meantime, if we see that the animals are beginning to lose flesh, we will return to the old plan of three meals a day.

"There is no trouble between us and the men. Our drivers still continue to get their hour for dinner at noon."

Irrespective of the merits of the strike, Miss Krueger lauded the motive that impelled the men to quit their jobs.

Doubts Indigestion Theory.

"It is one of the most remarkable things of which I ever heard," she stated, "that these men should be willing to forfeit their jobs and probably endure hardship because of their sympathy and affection for the horses. There is nothing to equal it in the records of our humane work. The statement that the midday meal is a cause of indigestion among horses does not seem to be borne out by the appearance of the superb stock that we see on our streets. They don't look as if they were troubled with indigestion."

"This is something that does not affect the Teamsters' Union," said C. W. Green. "So far as I know, it is the first time in the history of this country that there has been such a strike. There is no ill-feeling, but I have been told by some of the men who quit that they believed the company should have taken the matter up with the Humane Society before cutting the horses to two meals a day."

Seattle Transfer Company General Manager Richard Reekie An Executive of the King County Humane Society!

THE SEATTLE TRANSFER COMPANY

623 FIRST AVE.—Phone MAIN 41 IND 41

2d AVE. S. & WELLER ST.
Phone MAIN 46; IND. 46.

Baggage and Freight Transferred
Carriages Omnibus Line

Four months before the strike, the *King County Humane Society* elected *Seattle Transfer Company* General Manager *Richard J. Reekie* to be Vice President of the organization.

HUMANE SOCIETY ELECTS OFFICERS

Judge R. R. George was reelected president of the King County Humane Society at a meeting held last evening in the offices of Judge R. R. George. R. J. Reekie and Charles M. Farrer were elected vice-presidents, C. E. Bogardus, trustee; May Krueger, secretary, and Mrs. Harry S. Stuff, treasurer.



Seattle Transfer Company General Manager Richard Reekie 25 years later in 1935.

***Reekie* and the *Seattle Transfer Company* helped sponsor the *King County Humane Society's* July 4th 1910 parade of working horses.**

The *King County Humane Society* put on the parade in order to elevate public compassion and care for horses.

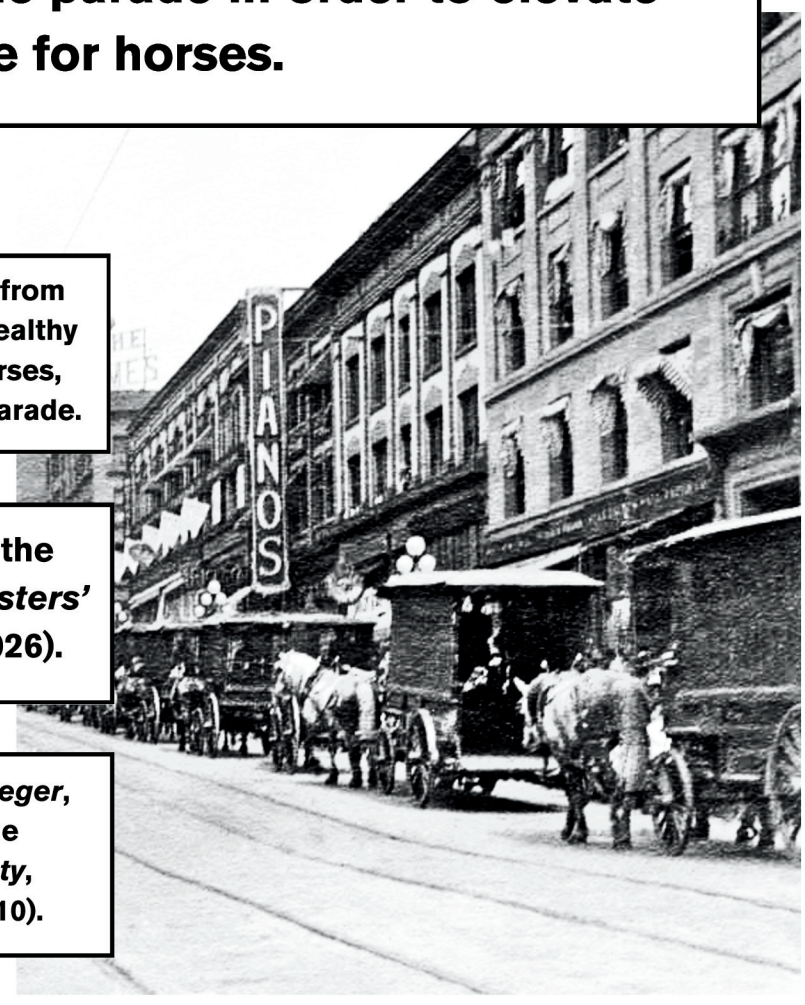
Money Pledged.

The following pledges were immediately offered at the conclusion of the addresses: Seattle Electric Company, $100; Seattle Brewing & Malting Co., $100; Frederick & Nelson, $75; Augustine & Kyer, $50; Clausen Brewing Association, $50; Harry Whitney Treat, $25; D. E. Frederick, $25; E. F. Blaine, $25; John P. Hartman, $25; Hotel Washington, $25; J. S. Graham, $25; Frank Waterhouse, $25; Bolcom Mills, $25; M. Robert Guggenheim, $25; C. T. Conover, $25; Teamsters' Union, $25; Judge Thomas Burke, $25; Miss Bernice Baker, Tacoma, $25; L. H. Gray, $25; John L. Wilson, $25; James M. Ashton, Tacoma, $25; R. J. Reekie, $25; Judge R. R. George, $15; C. B. Lamont, $10; Dr. Niven Pontius, $10; J. H. Stevens, $10; Miss May Kruger, $10; Seattle Veterinary Hospital, $10; A. B. Calder, $10; H. Gooding Fields, $10; H. S. Upper, $10; W. E. Humphrey, $10; E. M. Gordon & Co., $10; I. A. Nadeau, $10; Col. Marshall K. Snell, $10; Dr. Walter Kelton, $5.

In order to prevent the parade from becoming simply a means of wealthy residents showing off their horses, there was no entry fee for the parade.

***Reekie* contributed $25; the same amount as the *Teamsters' Union* (approx. $850 in 2026).**

***Judge R. R. George* & *May Krueger*, President & Secretary of the *King County Humane Society*, contributed as well ($15 & $10).**



The Seattle Star

SEATTLE, WASH., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1910.

Day 2:
18 More Teamsters Strike!

***King County Humane Society* Takes Up Case!**



Judge R. R. George



STRIKE GROWS TODAY

Eighteen More Teamsters Quit at Seattle Transfer —Veterinary Condemns Two-Feeds Practice.

"It is cruel, inhumane and positively mean," said W. H. Hayes, one of the most prominent veterinarians in the city, when asked concerning the decision of the Seattle Transfer Co. to deprive their horses of the noon meal.

Justice R. R. George, head of the County Humane Society, said yesterday afternoon that he would bring the matter before the State Humane Society at its meeting in Tacoma today. He also promised a committee of teamsters that he would investigate locally.

Miss May Krueger, agent of the society, is also busy on the case.

"Justice *R. R. George*, head of the *[King] County Humane Society*, said yesterday afternoon that he would bring the matter before the *State Humane Society* at its meeting in Tacoma today. He also promised a committee of teamsters that he would investigate personally.

Miss *May Krueger*, agent of the society, is also on the case."

The Seattle Star

SEATTLE, WASH., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1910.

Day 2:
Striking Workers Fired!
Replaced With Scabs!

The trouble today reached the lockout stage. Some of the men who quit yesterday sent word that they would leave the whole matter to the Humane Society and go back to work pending the society's decision as to whether it was good for the horses or not.

The curt word came back that it was too late—that other men had been hired and that they had lost their jobs for good, as a result of their sympathy for the horses.

Reckie, general manager of the company, is also a trustee of the County Humane Society.

The Seattle Sunday Times

SEVENTY-FOUR PAGES SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, NOV. 13, 1910 FIVE CENTS

The *King County Humane Society* officers discussed the Teamsters' strike at the *Washington State Humane Society's* Saturday Nov 12 meeting.

The state society declined to act for now.

STATE HUMANE SOCIETY HOLDS TACOMA MEETING



Judge R. R. George

Elects New Officers and Considers Strike of Seattle Transfer Company, But Takes No Action.

At a monster meeting of the Washington State Humane Society held in Tacoma last night, the election of officers for the coming year was held. Walter J. Thompson was elected president and Judge R. R. George and Herbert Griggs vice-president and secretary, respectively.

Miss May Krueger, secretary of the King County Humane Society, was made state organizer. She will begin work this week when she will make a visit to Walla Walla for the purpose of organizing a society there.

The meeting was attended by a large delegation from Seattle and enthusiasm ran high. Several attempts were made to bring up the subject of the strike now in progress among the teamsters of the Seattle Transfer Company, but no action was taken in the matter. Should the strike take on a more serious aspect within the next few days, the state organization and the local society may take official action. The police were appealed to last night and three men sent down to the Transfer Company's barns.



***May Krueger* named Washington state organizer. She would go on to establish multiple new *Humane Society* chapters in Washington state, as well as *Bands of Mercy* to promote humane principles to children.**

The *King County Humane Society* got police officers deployed to the *Seattle Transfer Company's* Seattle barns.

The Seattle Star

SEATTLE, WASH., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1910.

"It is cruel, inhumane and positively mean," said W. H. Hayes, one of the most prominent veterinarians in the city, when asked concerning the decision of the Seattle Transfer Co. to deprive their horses of the noon meal.

"There is absolutely no justification for the theory that the horses will be more healthy. That has

"Cruel, inhumane, and positively mean," said *W. H. Hayes*, one of the most prominent veterinarians in the city.

one of those fads that spring up every so often and of course the horse is defenseless. But it is positively wrong nevertheless."

Monday, Nov 14, Day 4: Strike Over

Teamsters Agree To Return Under A 30 Day Experiment

15 Out Of 53 Strikers Remain Fired!

King County Humane Society says it will prosecute *Seattle Transfer Company* officers if horses' lunches still withheld on 12+ hour work days

The Seattle Star

SEATTLE, WASH., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1910.

TEAMSTERS STRIKE OVER

All but 15 of the 53 teamsters at the Seattle Transfer Co., who went on a strike Friday, when the company cut the horses down to two feeds a day, went back to work this morning.

The 15 were refused permission to return by the company for different reasons.

General Manager Riekie of the transfer company insists that his plan is a humane one and that if it does not work out satisfactorily at the end of 30 days he will go back to the three feed plan. The teamsters went back under this understanding.

The matter was put up to the state convention of human societies at Tacoma Saturday and discussed, but no action was taken on it.

The Seattle Daily Times

20 PAGES. SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, MONDAY EVENING, NOV. 14, 1910. Price 1c. News Stands, Trains, 5c.

HUMANE SOCIETY WILL BACK UP TRANSFER MEN

If Drivers Swear Out Warrants for Officials of Company, Organization Will Prosecute for Cruelty to Horses.

TWO-MEAL-A-DAY PLAN CONSIDERED HARDSHIP

Conditions Here Differ, Say Local Experts, From Those in East, Where One Meal Has Been Dropped.

If the Seattle Transfer Company drivers who quit their jobs because the company decided to feed its horses twice instead of three times a day, will swear to a complaint and testify along the lines of their statements to the King County Humane Society, the latter will prosecute the transfer concern for cruelty to animals. Announcement to this effect was made by officers of the society today.

In the meantime, however, the strike has come to an end, leaving, according to the men, ten of their number without jobs. The others went back to work this morning after informing the company that if it had been explained to them that the two-meal a day system for the horses was an experiment and endorsed by veterinaries in the East, they would not have walked out. The places of the ten now out of jobs were filled Saturday and Sunday.

Hard Work and Long Hours.

The humane society's readiness to prosecute if the men will swear to the complaint is based on expert opinions it has obtained from local veterinaries and team owners. According to the drivers, the Seattle Transfer Company horses receive their first meal at 5 o'clock in the morning and do not return to the stables in many instances until 7 o'clock in the evening. The horses are engaged in heavy work in the meantime, the numerous steep grades of the city adding to the strain, and in these circumstances, declare the experts interviewed by the society, the two-meal-a-day plan would constitute cruelty to animals. Judge R. R. George, president, and Miss May Krueger, secretary of the society, interviewed the experts yesterday and this morning. All declared that if the horses work the long hours reported by the drivers, the omission of the midday meal would cause suffering.

Dr. D. W. Harrington, president of the Seattle Veterinaries' Association, stated that horses working eleven and twelve hours a day should be given a light meal at noon, about two quarts of grain to the horse. He pointed out that a horse has a small stomach and needs food every four hours or so. Harrington said that if the drivers were correct in their statements, they were to be commended for their walk-out.

Society Willing to Prosecute.

According to the information obtained by the humane society, the Eastern companies which have adopted the two-meal a day plan, work their horses only eight hours a day. Manager R. J. Reekie, of the Seattle Transfer Company, is quoted as having informed the society that the company would work its horses not more than ten hours a day.

In discussing the attitude of the humane society, Miss Krueger said:

"Our course depends on the drivers themselves. If they can prove that the horses work twelve hours and more a day, the elimination of the midday meal will come under the head of cruelty to animals and if they are ready to testify to that effect and will swear to the necessary complaint, the society will prosecute. The experts whom we consulted held also that if the horses were fed only twice a day, they would be likely to bolt the evening meal and this would cause indigestion."

Friday, Nov 18: Seattle teamster writes in support of horses & teamsters

KIND TREATMENT FOR THE HORSE.

THE TIMES has received views on the general relationship of the horse to the community from two people.

The first comes from T. C. Chisler, a teamster, who also has "ridden the range," and who on that account writes with complete understanding and gentle sympathy for horses, which have been his companions all his life.

For the benefit of persons who may not appreciate conditions, he recites that horses are fed very early; are harnessed and on the street at 7 o'clock sharp. He adds:

"I have used horses all my life, and there was only one place where I never gave my horse his lunch. That was while riding the range. There it was impossible. We had seven or eight head, and used a horse only one day in the week; whereas the Seattle Transfer uses its horses seven days per week, some of them.

"There never was an old range rider who would ride a hungry horse. If he had only 25 cents he would feed his horse and go without. I can speak from experience.

"Now, I hope that the King County Humane Society will stand by the teamsters and notify said manager to feed his horses their noonday meal; or ask said manager to cut out his own lunch and get out as early as the horse does and stay out as late."

***T.C. Chisler*, a teamster, said: "I hope that the *King County Humane Society* will stand by the teamsters and notify said manager to feed his horses their noonday meal; or ask said manager to cut his own lunch and get out as early as the horse does and stay out as late."**

During an unsuccessful ten month 1913 - 1914 Seattle Teamsters' strike, company representatives claimed that striking teamsters mutilated their horses to disrupt business.

Teamsters' Union **representatives responded by denying the accusation and referencing their 1910 strike on behalf of the horses' lunches.**

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teamsters, decided, in the interests

firm has been bitterly denounced. It was an attempt backed by the manufacturers' association to force a reduction of wages at a time when business was slack. Had this

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ARE TEAMSTERS CRUEL?

Last week the assertion was made by a representative of the Employers' Association that Union Teamsters had slashed a horse belonging to one of the members of that organization. The Union Record, naturally, immediately took issue with the "gentleman" and pointed out the obvious fact that teamsters, and especially Union Teamsters, are lovers of horseflesh and that to injure a horse would be the last thing in the world to which a teamster would stoop.

Some two or more years ago, several of the firms who are now most prominent in the fight against the teamsters, decided, in the interests of economy, to stop the noonday feeding of their horses, declaring that two meals a day was sufficient. There was immediiately a protest on the part of the Union Teamsters that this was cruelty to their charges, but they endured the situation for two or three days, when they saw their brute friends actually suffering for the food which was denied them and they struck—NOT FOR BETTER CONDITIONS FOR THEMSELVES BUT FOR THREE MEALS A DAY FOR THEIR HORSES.

And they won the fight. Which shows how cruel a teamster, especially a Union Teamster, may be—to his boss.

Seattle Union Record
Sat, Jan 31, 1914

The March 1914 *International Brotherhood of Teamsters'* official magazine reprinted the 1914 Seattle Teamsters' defense of their care for their horses.

reaching out for more dividends at the expense of your fellow toilers.

CHAS. R. ATHERTON,
General Sec'y-Treas.

ARE TEAMSTERS CRUEL?

Last week the assertion was made by a representative of the

president, R. E. Donaldson; recording secretary, J. L. Considine; secretary-treasurer, J. E. Toone; trustees, H. Schad, F. Amrein and A. L. Sampson; conductor, J. F. Ege; warden, T. C. Hill; business agent, J. E. Toone; delegates to C. L. U., A. L. Kirkpatrick, J. E. Toone, A. L. Sampson, T. C. Fox and J. L. Considine; delegates to Maryland State and District of Columbia F. of L., J. T. German, J. E. Toone and J. L. Considine.

The balloting was spirited, and

Visit my website for more info about:

- **Founding & Early History of the *Seattle Transfer Company***
  - **The role of Montana cattle/horse breeding in founding and growing the *Seattle Transfer Company***
  - **The role of the *Northern Pacific Railroad* in growing the *Seattle Transfer Company***
  - **The role of US ethnic cleansing/genocide in establishing & enriching the above capitalists.**

- ***Seattle Transfer Company* President *Richard J. Reekie* & General Manager *Edward C. Neufelder***

- **Ties between the *Peoples' Bank/Seattle Transfer Company* to today (*US Bank Co.* ownership, the 2008 Great Financial Crisis, & hereditary real estate/private equity in Seattle**

- **1903: Teamsters' strike against *Seattle Transfer Company* seven years before the 1910 horse solidarity strike**

- **June 1909: *Edward C. Neufelder & Richard J. Reekie's Seattle Transfer Company & Peoples' Savings Bank* try to bribe *Seattle City Council*-Member in ploy to sell dilapidated stable to city at exorbitant rate.**

- **Summer 1910: *May Krueger* of the *King County Humane Society* organized a July 4th parade of working horses in coordination with the teamsters' union**

- **1913: Teamsters strike' for Higher Wages, Overtime Pay, & Ten-Hour Work Day**

- **More about *May Krueger* of the *King County (and Washington state) Humane Society***

samuel-baca-henry.com

Capital exploits:

People

Animals

Ecosystems



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