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DIRECT PRIMARY LAW.

Senator Croisan, of Marion County, has introduced a bill for a direct primary nominating system that ought to become a law. In substance it carries out the recommendation made in his message by Governor Geer upon his retirement from office, in which he says:

"For many years there has been a general demand for reformation in the manner of making nominations for public offices. The discussion of the question has taken a wide range, but the sentiment in its favor is practically unanimous. The instances where a county or state convention trample under foot the demands of the people have been too numerous and flagrant to require any argument in support of their proof. The convention system is a superfluous agency for doing that which the people may themselves as well do directly.

"The people of the entire state, of every party, meet before the opening of every campaign in what are called primary meetings. This is done to select men to represent them in county conventions for the purpose of choosing their candidates for county offices and other men to represent them in the different state conventions. While assembled in their primary meetings the people had as well express themselves directly as to their preference for county and state candidates as to choose representatives to do the same thing, or, as is often the case, not to do it.

"The direct primary nominating system has every argument in its favor. When the people are assembled in their primary meetings they can select their candidates instead of their representatives to choose candidates for them. The system will require two elections, one to choose officers, and under it the opportunity for designing men to manipulate conventions and thwart the public demand will be entirely removed. Under our present system for decades past instances have been frequent where the popular will has been turned into the gaseous vortex of unrelenting bossism, to be recognized or heard of again nevermore. If you adjourn without giving the people the relief they demand, and have been long demanding in this direction, you will have failed to perform your duty in a most important matter."

An amended petition has been filed in the Superior Court of Solano County, Cal., by the present employees of Kullman, Salt & Co., tanners of Benicia, asking for a perpetual injunction against the members of the local union of the Amalgamated Leather Workers of America, restraining them from molesting the petitioners. The petition comes as a part of the labor troubles that culminated a few weeks ago in a riot in the streets of Benicia. At that time a number of Greeks imported by Kullman, Salt & Co. to take the place of the men who were out on strike, took possession of the town, killed one of the citizens, not a striker, beat others and broke down doors in their effort to catch the women and children who fled in terror from them. A mass meeting of the citizens was held and Kullman & Salt were warned to restrain their men, which was done by locking them up in the tannery and keeping them there. This was in pursuance of the action of the townspeople, not the union men, although in the petition the union men are charged with being responsible for the detention and the intimidation.

At the conferences between President Burt and the strikers in New York, the railroad officials stated that the majority of the strikers really preferred piece work, and that a vote would show this to be true. The vote was taken January 16, at the strikers' headquarters in Omaha. There was no mistake in the sentiment of the strikers. Every vote cast was for no piece work. After the decision was announced the men decided never again to discuss the question with the railroad, but to continue the strike indefinitely. Mr. Burt has been given until January 29 for another conference, and unless it is forthcoming all the men on the Harriman system will be called off. Two new strikes were added to the big consolidated Union Pacific strikes January 19, all in protest against piece work. The new ones are steamfitters, 35 strong, and the woodworkers, 90 strong. There now remains in the shops at Omaha only one set of union men—the car repairers—all others employed being nonunion.

It has been developed that railroad influence is behind the pending bill at Washington providing for the repeal of the timber and stone, desert land and commutation homestead laws, in order to create a demand for railroad lands. If Congress can be persuaded to repeal the timber and stone act, it will practically cut off the entire Government timber supply and force millmen to buy the railroad lands in order to get timber. If entries under the desert act can be shut off it will, open a loophole through which the railroads may unload their vast areas of desert land, which are today almost worthless to them. By repealing the commutation clause of the homestead law it would further induce the purchase of the lands in railroad grants that are valuable for agricultural purposes. It is a fact that less than 40 per cent of the railroad lands has been sold, so it is readily seen that in legislation that will assist them in selling the remaining 60 per cent.

The New York Central Federated Union, in view of the suffering of the poorer classes because of the scarcity of coal, asks the state authorities to proceed in accordance with the laws of the state to dissolve the coal trust, and also requests President Roosevelt to instruct United States Attorney-General Knox to proceed at once against the coal trust under the law and have this unlawful combination dissolved in the interests of the whole people of the United States. It also unqualifiedly and unequivocally declares in favor of the ownership of coal mines to be operated for and by the people, and requests President Gompers and the executive council of the American Federation of Labor to have all central bodies under their jurisdiction call mass meetings and agitate to this end, so that a repetition of the present intolerable state of affairs will be impossible.

The labor unions of California are very much in evidence at the meeting of the State Legislature at Sacramento. A bill providing that in establishments where girls or women are employed the number of seats shall be at least one for every three such employees will be reported favorably by the committee on labor and capital; several child labor measures have been introduced, but a bill will be passed; another measure making it a misdemeanor for an employment agent to collect fees in advance of the actual giving of employment has also been introduced, and will be favorably recommended by the committee. The American Federation of Labor's anti-injunction bill will be taken up at a session to be held Thursday evening. Andrew Furuseth, of the Seamen's Union, will at that time address the committee in support of the bill.

A settlement has been reached in the tanners' troubles in California, and the strike which was inaugurated on August 1 last was ended January 10. The strikers gained a 9 1/2-hour workday. They asked for a nine-hour day. The settlement is regarded as a victory for the strikers. They stood out steadfastly for a reduction of hours, and were opposed by the employers, who held that conditions would not permit a change from the 10-hour basis. The settlement applies to all the tanneries of San Francisco, and the Frank Tanning Company's concern at Redwood City. The strikers have had the support of all the labor organizations of the state, whose contributions helped the strikers to maintain the contest. The fight at Benicia is still on.

The Naval committee of the House, at Washington, pursuing its policy of last year, has taken up the subject of the construction of some of the recent authorized battleships and cruisers in Government shipyards. The committee will order that all of the recommended ships be built in Government yards, if it can be shown that there is a combine of the private corporations on the matter of the bidding on the naval contracts. One of the naval committee, Representative Tate, of Georgia, thinks that a combination could be proved. In recent bidding it is said the figures were very close in comparison, thus indicating a probable community of interest in the bids. It is very likely that in any event some of the ships will be built in Government yards.

On January 16, at Walla Walla, Whitman College defeated the University of Oregon on a spirited debate upon the question: "Resolved, That tribunals should be established with power to settle all conflicts between capital and labor affecting public interests." Whitman took the negative. The affirmative was unable to meet the objection of the negative that the court of arbitration, to be effective, must have the power to enforce their decisions; that this meant slavery to labor and confiscation to capital. Also the affirmative was unable to prove that compulsory arbitration has worked successfully. And this is the same identical position taken by the American Federation of Labor.

J. F. Bashor, the new Mayor of Grant's Pass, elected on the Labor Union ticket, has taken his oath of office and entered upon his duties. The three new Councilmen have also been seated. The new Mayor is experiencing much trouble in getting his appointees confirmed by the Council. Of the six appointments he has made, only one has been confirmed by the Council. This is due to the fact that a majority of the Council are nonunion men, and are determined to hold the Mayor down to their wishes as to who shall fill the offices. Most of the appointees named were supporters of the labor union.

The Colorado State Senate has adopted a joint resolution binding the United States Senator to be elected at this session of this Legislature to favor the election of Senators by direct vote of the people. While the Colorado Legislature is not setting an enviable example in its matters of procedure, yet in this instance has done what it would be well for other states to emulate. If the Senatorial question could be directly referred to the people, as it should be, as much could be accomplished in half the time that it takes now, and fewer vicious laws would find a place in the statutes as the result of gerrymandering.

The removal of the duty on coal will relieve the distress throughout the East, but it will never bring back to life the poor who perished from cold. The responsibility of the coal shortage has been investigated by the authorities and fixed upon the coal companies. This is equivalent to charging the coal officials with manslaughter, but they will never appear before a court upon the charge. If a tramp had derailed a relief train of coal and dumped it into a river he would undoubtedly have been pursued and, if caught, hung to the nearest telegraph pole. And it would have served him right.

William Randolph Hearst has purchased 1000 tons of coal, and is selling it in New York to the poor at cost price of 9 cents per pile of 35 pounds each. The dealers have been selling coal at 15 cents and over per pile. Mr. Hearst's consignment amounted to 30,000 pilefuls. This is only the initial movement of Mr. Hearst's plan to furnish coal to the poor at cost. He will not stop with this consignment. Others will follow rapidly, and in time it is hoped coal will be distributed to the poor in all parts of the city at cost price.

An effort is being made by the Federated Trades Council to get the next meeting of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor held in Portland. Letters have been received in this city from members of the Council, stating that it was agreed at the New Orleans convention that the Council should meet next year at some point on the Pacific Coast, but as yet the place has not been selected. By a united effort of the labor unions of this city the members can probably be persuaded to cast their votes for Portland.

It is said that an applicant for an office in one of the Southern states recently made the following remark to President Roosevelt: "Mr. President, I do not know that my appointment would bring you a single delegate within my district or state." The President is said to have responded: "And I do not care whether it would or not. If my administration is not successful enough to get me delegates, I do not want to win them in any other way."

A serious state of affairs exists in Great Britain on account of the forced idleness of thousands of workmen, while Canadian farmers organize expeditions to search the old country for much-needed labor and offer good wages for efficient men without satisfactory response. Official statistics show that the British emigrant does not generally elect to make his home in the British colonies. Of 205,910 emigrants from this country last year, 108,501 went to the United States.

George H. Howell, president of the Typographical Union, has been selected by Mayor Williams as a member of the Executive Board. Mr. Howell has been a resident of Portland for many years, and has been an active Republican and union man. It is reported that Mayor Williams will further recognize organized labor in making up other commissions.

A true bill has been returned against 45 Chicago coal operators and retailers, charging conspiracy to do an illegal act injurious to public trade. The indictments are against both corporations and individuals doing business in Illinois and Indiana. Bail was fixed at \$1500.

Senator Mulkey, of Polk County, believes in the necessity of restrictive legislation to control trusts, and last Monday he introduced in the Senate a joint memorial asking Congress to carry out President Roosevelt's idea on the question. The memorial was adopted.

There seems to be no well-defined opposition to the labor bills in evidence at Salem as yet, and prospects are quite favorable for their passage. There are two or three, however, that may cause the corporation lawyer to crawl out of his hole.

The "fellow-servant" bill introduced in the Senate last week was not the same that the railroad boys had been led to expect. The boys have asked that the bill be withdrawn. It is reported that a corporation lawyer was responsible for the change.

The barbers' amended license bill has been introduced, and there is a likelihood that it will receive little opposition in passing. The committee to which it was referred is friendly to the measure.

As a result of negotiations between the grievance committee of the L. & N. engineers and General Manager Evans, an agreement has been reached whereby the engineers will receive an increase in wages in proportion to their additional duties which have fallen on the various runs of the system.

RIGHT SHALL RULE.

By J. A. Edgerton.

Short is the triumph of evil;
Long is the reign of right;
The men who win by the aid of sin,
The nation that rules by might,
The party that lives by corruption,
The trickster, the knave, the thief,
May thrive for a time on the fruits of crime,
But their seeming success is brief.

Sneer, if you will, at honor;
Make virtue a theme for jest;
Reflect on the man who strives as he can
To seek and to do the best;
Make goodness a butt for slander,
And offer excuse for vice;
Proclaim the old lie, the corruptionist's cry,
That every man has his price.

Yet know that the truth shall triumph,
That evil shall find its doom;
That the Cause of Right, though subdued by Might,
Shall break from the strongest tomb;
That Wrong, though it seems to triumph,
Lasts only for a day,
While the Cause of Truth has eternal youth
And shall rule o'er the world for aye.

RUSSELL & CO.

It is one of the broad, underlying principles of unionism to foster concerns which are friendly to our cause and we will be but acting in accordance with our belief in giving Russell & Co., located at Nos. 320-330 Belmont street, our indorsement.

This concern has shown a most friendly attitude toward labor and the labor movement and the workmen of this city should do all in their power to make this worthy concern an even greater success.

Our readers will make no mistake in giving this house their patronage.

STANDARD BOX FACTORY.

In the rapid strides that many of our business houses have made there is none more worthy of particular mention than the Standard Box Company, located at foot of East Washington.

It is a well-known fact that organized labor is not slow in recognizing its friends. Owing to its public-spirited and fearless manner of dealing, this concern has built up for itself an enormous patronage and is exceedingly popular.

NEW YORK HAT CO.

A thoroughly reliable concern is the New York Hat Company, located at 305 Alder street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. This concern has always exhibited a most friendly attitude towards the cause of labor, and labor in return should in every way possible aid toward making this deserving firm a greater success even than it is.

The honest methods of business pursued by this firm and the considerate manner in which it treats its employees has been the source of its growing popularity.

OREGON PAPER BOX FACTORY.

Such a firm as the Oregon Paper Box Factory, 68 1/2 First street, which employs a number of people, should receive the enthusiastic support of all who wish to see the growth of the city and have the prosperity and welfare of Portland in mind.

It is reasonable and fair in its dealings with its employees and has always been fair to the cause of labor and has been and will be a staunch friend of the laboring man.

The honest methods of business pursued by this firm and considerate attitude towards labor is a guarantee that it may be depended upon to substantially aid the cause.

CITY & SUBURBAN RY. CO.

In this edition we wish to call special attention to the City & Suburban Railway Company, whose office is located at 263 Yamhill street.

This company is a well-established one, and is well-known throughout the country for its manifestly fair and considerate manner with which it treats its employees, and it has an excellent reputation among the workmen of this city and state.

We congratulate this company upon its success and hope the business will continue to prosper.

SCHILLER'S CIGAR FACTORY.

In this edition we wish to call the special attention of the workmen of Portland to a firm which is highly deserving of their support and encouragement, the Schiller Cigar Factory, importers and manufacturers of high-grade cigars.

This concern has upon numerous occasions shown itself to be thoroughly in sympathy with the labor movement and always co-operated cheerfully to further the cause.

At their place is kept a large stock of cigars and tobaccos. Union men should always remember that it is in their interest to trade with a concern which is ready to use its influence in their behalf and which is in every way reliable and honorable.

We are pleased to place this name on the honorary list of the prominent concerns which are friends of labor.

Official notice has come to the San Francisco Labor Council of a lockout in the building trades at San Diego. Building trades craftsmen are requested to remain away from that city until the lockout is ended.

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