

Portland Labor Press



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A TECHNICAL CONSTRUCTION.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States nullifying the bakers' ten-hour law in the state of New York, and reversing the decision of the superior court of the state, upon the grounds that it violates the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, is detrimental to trades unions only in so far as it is applicable to the weaker crafts, who are the most in need of government protection. The stronger unions, such as the Typographical, Bricklayers, and a number of other industrial craft, are enabled to establish a minimum wage scale and a maximum work day without invoking the aid of city, state or federal government. Such organizations as these are in need of no law to aid them in their onward march, for they are a law unto themselves, more absolute than the courts may provide. The real depression caused by the decision is that it removes any form of protection in the way of shorter hours in states more magnanimously inclined to the very ones that need it and are too feeble to help themselves. From a legal point of view, strictly and coldly drawn, the "privileges or immunities" of citizens may be abridged, which the Constitution specifically contends against, in laws of this kind, but the people are at a decided disadvantage to determine when such legal giants as Judges Holmes and Harlan, and two others of the Supreme Court, unite in a dissenting opinion. To us the arguments of the latter gentlemen seem most sound, for the reason that the case pertains to a local condition which would seem too far removed from the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to make it applicable to the whole. In other words, the conditions in the state of New York might warrant the ten-hour law in the baking industry, wherein, in another locality, twelve hours might not menace the life and liberty of the operator, while yet in another eight hours would.

Take the under-ground mining and milling industry, in Montana, where the eight-hour law has been enacted for the protection of the operators in that line of industry. It is a well-known fact that mill-men working in the metalliferous ores permeated with poisonous gases are short lived, and the miner lasts but little longer. According to the decision of the Supreme Court just rendered these men can be deprived of a protection that the people of the state have admitted they need, just because the eminent jurists discovered that the great Constitution of the United States has been menaced, in a technical way. We say technical, for otherwise Judges Harlan and Holmes and two other judges out of the nine have so admitted in their dissenting opinion.

If the opinion of the Supreme Court is sound, what protection have we against general and indiscriminate employment of child labor? Under the law the parent is the legal guardian of the child. If the bakers' ten-hour law is an abridgment of the "privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States," why is not the rights of the parent abridged when he or she is deprived by a state law of entering into a contract with a man-

ufacturer to employ her babies in the cotton factory?

While it may be law, strictly law, it would seem that the Supreme Court should be more than a technical law school. The law of creation and the law of humanity were in operation long before the Constitution of the United States was framed, and the judges were seated to construe it. We predict that within the next ten years the opinion just handed down by the majority of the greatest court in our land will be reversed by the same institution.

On another page of this issue appears a number of letters favoring the automatic system of telephones and endorsing the company that has been trying to get a franchise in Portland to establish a plant. The company is unquestionably reliable and the system they propose to install is superior in every way to the one now operated in the city by the telephone trust. The opponents of the new service protest against it upon the grounds that it would double the telephone tax to the patrons, and ultimately it would be consolidated with the one now here. This kind of argument is silly, for the reason that competition would reduce the price of each service so that it would not exceed the cost of the present inferior one, as is the case in other cities where there are competitive companies in the field. And suppose a consolidation should be effected, is not the service better by the installation of the new system, and is the city not benefited by the amount of money expended in establishing the system? Such arguments as these are not tenable. There must be more proof, gentlemen. Perhaps the proof, however, might cause the people to stand aghast.

In these days of political activity and helter-skelter the question is asked by the anxious candidate and his friends, "Where is the labor vote going to fall?" The laborer has finally been discovered as a man of considerable importance, and then forgotten, until another season of political solicitude rolls around. In the tumult and furor of campaign they are looking for the man that carries the labor vote in his vest pocket. They may find him, he who says he has, but who is he? Echo answers who?

A POLITICAL MIX-UP.

A few minor changes in the local political pot pourri during the last few days, while not materially changing the tangled condition of affairs, has helped to awaken considerable public interest. The withdrawal of Willis Fisher in favor of Judge Williams, and the final announcement of George Howell that he would not be a candidate, has narrowed down somewhat the number of probable mayoralty candidates. There are still enough left in the race, however, to make the situation most interesting, and the question now being asked is who will be the next one to sacrifice personal ambition and follow the lead of Fisher and Howell?

That the present campaign will be a record-breaker for the number of diversified interests seeking dominance in local affairs is apparent. Nearly every class has its pet candidate for mayor, and those not already in the field are very likely to be heard from after the primary election. At the present writing we have the "open-town" candidate, the "closed-town" candidate, the "business man" candidate, etc., etc., and the Lord only knows where it is going to end.

Mr. Merrill, who is seeking the nomination on a "regulated" open-town platform, is making an energetic campaign for the nomination at the primary election. Fred has a considerable following among the more radical open-towners and there's no telling where he'll land on nomination day. The "closed town" candidate, E. R. Albee, who is being brought forth by the reformers and a certain church element, is making a supreme effort to draw all the conflicting units of the variegated reform movement closer together for the very laudable purpose of defeating Judge Williams at the primaries and landing himself at the head of the ticket. Mr. Albee has the hardest row to hoe of all the other gentlemen who are aspiring to be mayor. His great, and it can be said, only strength, is among the church people, and experience teaches that the church people are at times as fickle as ordinary mortals. In this connection it might be said that,

should Mr. Albee succeed in being the Republican nominee, he would still have to face the prospect of dividing the reform vote with the Democratic nominee.

Then, again, there is the "businessmen's" candidate. Mr. W. B. Glafke comes forth with that magic hyphenated word boldly engraved on his banner. He claims to be the only genuine pure and simple twenty cent champion of the large "business interests" of this bailiwick, and from all indications he has a considerable number of believers in his claim. Large 2x4 cards, bearing a good likeness of Mr. Glafke's handsome face, adorn the windows of nearly every commission merchant on Front street, and why shouldn't they; hasn't he promised to lead them out of the wilderness?

The Rowe and Cooper booms are an unknown quantity and so far are not taken very seriously in Republican circles. Likewise the quiet struggle which is going on between George H. Thomas and Dr. Harry Lane for the Democratic nomination. Because of the overwhelming Republican majority in this city and the great interest centered in the scramble for the Republican nomination for mayor, the interest in the Democratic side of the house is not manifest at this time. The Democrats, however, are not saying much and may have a cold deck in reserve for future use.

Sitting placidly in his office at the City Hall, unmindful of all the turbulence and commotion that daily and nightly take place in various halls and offices around town, Judge Williams, Portland's Grand Old Man, smiles and shows outwardly an absolute indifference to all the schemes and combinations that are being framed up for his undoing. He has no "Williams Club" or any organized movement of any sort to boost for him, leaving it to the people to say at the primaries whether or not they want him. And who will say that the distinguished old war horse is not right? Honored by his countrymen, broad-minded and tolerant, generous and high-minded, Judge Williams awaits in dignified repose the wish of the people at the primaries, May 6. In contrast to the acrimony, the ambitions and schemes going on all around him, he awaits the verdict. It is indeed a spectacle to contemplate.

Among the new political announcements is that of John P. Sharkey, who is out for the Republican nomination for councilman-at-large. Mr. Sharkey's action in the present telephone question would alone entitle him to the support of all classes. There are a few councilmen who are trying to be renominated that will get a quiet turn-down Sharkey is not one of 'em. Lawrence A. McNary is another one of the lucky ones; so far very little opposition to his renomination for city attorney has shown itself.

SPLENDID PROGRESS.

Los Angeles Typographical Union is Steadily Gaining.

Los Angeles, Cal., April 19.—(Special Correspondence)—Notwithstanding the most stubborn fight ever waged against a local labor organization, Los Angeles Typographical Union today is stronger than ever before in its history. Instead of "putting the union out of business," the notorious Los Angeles Times seems to have stimulated the printers to a remarkable degree. Since January 1, 1902, Los Angeles Typographical Union has increased its membership 55 per cent.; has increased the scale of job printers \$2 a week and the scale of evening newspapers \$3 a week, besides getting an increase of from 25 to 50 cents a day for all its members working on morning papers. Never before have there been so many union printers steadily employed in Los Angeles as today, and never before has the wage scale been so satisfactory. This is the reply of the typos to the assaults of the unfair Times, which is resorting to every means within its power to "down" organized labor. As a union-smasher, Otis is a dismal failure.

The following advertisers persist in patronizing the unfair Los Angeles Times:

"Carter Little Liver Pills," Breat, Goode & Co., 57 Murray St., New York, N. Y.

"Dr. Williams' Pink Pills," Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

"Duffy's Malt Whiskey," Duffy's Malt Whiskey Co., Rochester, N. Y.

"Appolinaris," The United Agency Co., 503 Fifth Ave., New York, N. Y.

"Coca Cola Co.," Atlanta, Ga.

"Hostetter Bitters," Water and First streets, Pittsburg, Pa.

Will the Federated Trades Council appoint a committee to wait upon the dealers in Portland and request that they discontinue handling the articles advertised. Remember, the Los Angeles Times is on the "unfair list" of the American Federation of Labor.

Liabie for Debt.

Commencing May 18 the act of the last Legislature regarding the exemption of wages from execution will go into effect. This act amends the law by making one-half the earnings of the debtor subject to execution proceedings if the debt be for family expenses.

Prior to 1903 all the earnings of a debtor for 30 days next preceding the service of an attachment, execution or garnishment were exempt if the earnings were needed for the support of a family. Under that law men with considerable monthly incomes would escape the payment of their debts. The legislature of 1903 amended the law by limiting the amount of earnings exempt to \$75, but leaving the law otherwise the same. As there are comparatively few men working for wages who receive over \$75 a month, this law still enabled men to avoid debts which they should be compelled to pay, and the legislature of 1905 amended the section still further by adding this clause: "Except when the debt is incurred for family expenses furnished within six months of the date of the service of such attachment, execution or garnishment, 50 per cent of such earnings shall be subject to such attachment, execution or garnishment."

As construed by the courts, the term "family expenses" includes such items as provisions, fuel, rent, furniture, wearing apparel, pianos, organs, jewelry, medical attendance, etc.

The Central Labor Council at Oakland has bought a restaurant from members of the Citizens' Alliance who were sick of it. C. E. Schmidt of the Butcher Workmen was put in charge and receipts ran up to \$630 to \$950 per week.

For anything you may need in the way of an EASTER SUIT, TOP COAT, FANCY VEST, GLOVES, TIES, HATS, SHOES, Etc. Come here. We have the best things at Fair Prices

FUNK BROS. THE O. M. CO.
145 SEVENTH STREET, BETWEEN ALDER AND MORRISON

CUT OUT THIS ADVERTISEMENT

And bring it to the O. M. Co's Store and receive a free entry to the "Piano Contest." By doing so you may secure a \$350 Piano without spending one cent.

Don't neglect this as it means a lot to this paper, to the store and to you.

Advertisements will only be received on Saturday and Monday, April 22nd and 24th, and one only from each person. On new high-class Dry Goods, Suits will surprise you by being so low. Hundreds of special values to show Saturday and Monday—Visit the Peoples' Fair Store.

MUSIC EVERY AFTERNOON

Our Special Prices

Ladies' \$15.00 Suits \$8.89

MR. WORKINGMAN

THINK THIS OVER

ARE YOU PAYING RENT FOR THE USE OF THE OTHER FELLOW'S HOUSE? IF YOU ARE, WHY NOT STOP NOW THROWING AWAY SO MUCH MONEY AND BEGIN A LITTLE FINANCEERING ON YOUR OWN ACCOUNT? THAT SAME MONEY YOU ARE NOW WASTING FOR RENT WOULD PAY FOR YOUR OWN HOME IN A FEW SHORT YEARS

EVELYN

THE BEAUTIFUL RESIDENCE LOCATION IN THE HEART OF THE MT. SCOTT DISTRICT, HAS SOLVED THE RENT PROBLEM FOR OTHERS, WHY NOT FOR YOU TOO? LOTS ARE GOING FOR \$3.00 A MONTH, TAKE THE CAR AT FIRST AND ALDER STREETS AND SEE FOR YOURSELF, AGENT ON GROUNDS

GEO. W. BROWN, 203 Failing Bldg