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A TOPICAL THEME

WRITTEN BY

JOSEPH H. JONES, FOR THE PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

San Francisco fired the political gun that was heard across the continent. Distrust for the older parties, and indignation at their methods and intrigues, developed the spark, and the charge was touched off which awakened the dormant political thoughts of every wage-worker in the land.

We salute the dawn of the workingman's day, and as the mists of his political oblivion are being vaporized in the sunlight of this magnificent victory, we can see a vision of a new power. The power of concentrated effort.

The precious students of graftology whose business it is to work many divisions in the ranks of labor so as to make their pathway clear to this or that office, know by this time what it is to run up against an earthquake, especially when said tremor was caused by the vibration of the workingman's ballot—a fitting answer to the howl for cheap labor; a well-deserved rebuke to the leaders and office-holders of both parties, who, in the dignity of their official security seemed to forget that in a great measure they owed their success to the vote of the workingman.

In the many years of alternating supremacy of the older parties, what has been done to assist the cause of labor? Nothing. The mighty throng of wage-workers simply fill the galleries while the stage is trod by the Booths and Barretts of the political drama. How the galleries applaud when the hero stalks forth, and in stentorian voice yells, "Let's turn the rascals out," and himself king rascal! The absurdity of it.

How can any man who lives and supports a family by his daily wage hope to better his and their condition by affiliating with either party when the control of each party is vested in the very men upon whom he depends for his sustenance. Like standing behind a mule, requesting him to make room for you, and when he did, he would let fly both heels and kick you into a comedy of eternity.

Is it to be supposed the men who make a business of profiting by the votes of the workingman are going to allow the party over which they exercise control to work any wonders in their system of progression? Hardly, my friend. Get wise. They won't.

Organized labor stands today the peer of any organization in existence. No organization is founded on purer principles of philanthropy. The mind shrinks from a contemplation of the "slum" where his Satanic Majesty sits on his throne and smiles in his gratification at the human wrecks founded in this hell-gate of so-called civilization. Organized labor seeks not only to aid in the battle with the slum but also to bring about certain conditions whereby the number of victims of a cruel industrial system would be reduced to a minimum. If those who travel along the glittering heights would drop down into this vale of sadness and despair, if only for a glimpse, they might wonder that in a land overflowing with plenty, why so many struggle for bread. With a public school system the finest ever devised, they might wonder why seventeen hundred thousand little children are stunting their growth, dwarfing their intellect and abusing their health instead of filling their youthful heads with the knowledge so necessary in the making of American citizens. Child labor has grown to enormous proportions and must be eradicated. No man should be permitted to interfere in the education of the American child, for he is coining into dollars the future intelligence of these helpless infants and thereby robbing them and the nation.

Through organized labor we expect to completely break up that infernal system of "sweating." No per could describe the horrors of this terrible curse. If attempted with the living picture before the eye, the pen would fall from the palsied hand.

God! when men in their reckless rush for the gilded path of success do not hesitate in their craze to trample on the weak and helpless, stamping the footprints of poverty and hopelessness into their pain-wrecked faces we may well pause and contemplate the terrible price they pay to reach the top! What a terrible price to pay to be called a successful man! Will there be a day of atonement? What will the atonement be?

How many libraries, how many gifts, how many endowments, how many bequests does it take to balance the scales of justice? Or is there set apart in the Divine Scheme of the Universe a place where these poor mortals may be compensated for the tortures endured in this merciless industrial system of slavery?

The entire industrial system is in need of reform and this can most effectively be brought about by the workingman withdrawing entirely from the the other parties and concentrating their voting power along the lines of reformation.

The reform, if it ever comes, must come through them. They can never, in the light of past performances, expect any assistance from either of the dominant parties. Their success has always depended on the division of the labor interests and it is the aim of both parties to make the division wider and more distinct, so as to preclude the possibility of any concerted action on political lines. There is one sad feature in that, should the laboring men ever string their ballots, the unfortunate political grafter would be "left to the mercy of a rude stream that would forever hide him." Sink the wedge of labor into the rotten old political log and split it asunder forever.

The state organization of the California Building Trades Council will meet in San Jose on January 8. During the past year the state organization has made substantial gains in membership. The San Francisco Building Trades Council has gained 6000 members. Alameda comes second with an increased membership of 1475. Los Angeles made a gain of 1110; Santa Clara 310; San Joaquin 190; Sacramento 140; and Petaluma 40 members.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been duly appointed by the Hon. County Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County, administratrix of the estate of Lawrence E. Wise, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to me properly verified, as by law required, at my residence, 401 East Lincoln street, Portland, Oregon, within six months from the date hereof.

Dated this 5th day of December, A. D. 1905.
MRS. MARY A. WISE,
Administratrix of the Estate of Lawrence E. Wise, deceased.
THOS. F. RYAN, Oregon City, Ore., Attorney for Administratrix.

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Leaves Albany 12:45 P.M.
Leaves Corvallis 1:45 P.M.
Arrives Yaquina 5:45 P.M.
No. 1 Returning—
Leaves Yaquina 7:15 A.M.
Leaves Corvallis 11:30 A.M.
Arrives Albany 12:15 P.M.
No. 3 for Albany-Detroit—
Leaves Albany for Detroit 7:30 A.M.
Arrives Detroit 12:30 P.M.
No. 4 from Detroit—
Leaves Detroit 1:30 P.M.
Arrives Albany 6:30 P.M.
No. 5 for Albany—
Leaves Corvallis 6:30 A.M.
Arrives Albany 7:10 A.M.
No. 8 for Corvallis—
Leaves Albany 2:40 P.M.
Arrives Corvallis 3:20 P.M.
No. 7 for Albany—
Leaves Corvallis 6:00 P.M.
Arrives Albany 6:40 P.M.
No. 6 for Corvallis—
Leaves Albany 9:15 P.M.
Arrives Corvallis 9:55 P.M.
Train No. 1 arrives in Albany in

time to connect with the S. P. south-bound train.

Train No. 2 connects with the S. P. trains at Corvallis and Albany, giving direct service to Newport and adjacent beaches.

Train No. 3 leaves Albany for Detroit at 7:30 A. M., arriving there in ample time to reach the Breitenbush hot springs the same day.

Train No. 4 between Albany and Detroit connects with the Eugene local at Albany, also with local from Corvallis.

Train No. 5 leaves Corvallis at 6:30 A. M., arrives at Albany 7:10 A. M., in time to catch Eugene local to Portland and train to Detroit.

Train No. 8 leaves Albany for Corvallis at 2:40 P. M., after the arrival of S. P. northbound overland.

Train No. 7 leaves Corvallis at 6:00 P. M., arrives in Albany at 6:40 P. M., in time to connect with the local for Eugene and way points.

Train No. 6 leaves Albany for Corvallis at 9:15 P. M., after the arrival of the S. P. local from Portland.

For further information apply to
J. C. MAYO, Gen. Pass. Agt.
T. COCKRELL, Agent, Albany.
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