

Portland Labor Press



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NOT FORTHCOMING.

We have been waiting patiently to hear a specific charge made against Mr. John B. Coffey as a man and a public servant but signally fail to catch a syllable of justifiably censure against our candidate. Some unmentionable soldiers of political fortune have howled incongruous and baseless charges in wily generalities against the spotless integrity of Mr. Coffey but when asked to particularize, they have slunk away and sought refuge from the stern scrutiny of truthfulness and decency in a low subterfuge, quoting the malicious falsehood of "rumor's idle tongue" without assuming authority for the slander.

If Mr. Coffey has been guilty of sins against the public trust and confidence in any instance why not come forward, you sneaking hirelings, and point out the occasion of such betrayal and recite all the circumstances connected therewith? Try to be men, even at the risk of temporary gain, for in the end the many, upright course is the policy that wins lasting reward.

John B. Coffey is too well known in the state of Oregon and in the city of Portland to be effectually vilified by any set of grafting mountebanks whose utterances by tongue or pen betray the grovelling ignoramus. The best element in Portland's society is supporting Coffey's candidacy; the tricksters and tyrants are opposing him. Some of the political giants in our city would resort even to the prostitution of the rights of the people to effect his defeat, and, sad to acknowledge, some electors in our midst have allowed their insatiable greed for gold to lead them into the dark byways of vile bribery and are lending their wretched assistants to place in power a combination that must necessarily govern to our ultimate destruction.

The Captains of Industry, so called, have taken up arms against Coffey's candidacy because organized labor has given him its support, declaring they would support a Hottentot in preference to an American who would "stoop so low" as to be the associate of contemptible labor. The land sharks and the money grabbers have not been bashful in giving expression to their hatred of unionism, and if the wage earners of Portland fail to vindicate their honor and administer a manly rebuke to the arrogance of plutocracy by casting their ballots for Mr. Coffey on the 4th of May, they should remain "for ever fallen."

LETTER TO VOTERS.

The following able letter has been addressed to about 4,000 electors in this city:

Headquarters Labor Party, Portland, Oregon, April 19, 1907.

Fellow Union Men and Friends:
For the first time in the history of organized labor in this city a systematic effort has been made to cement the elective forces of union labor, and name a ticket.

While it might have given better satisfaction had the Labor Party selected all of its candidates for office from the ranks of labor, it was neither possible nor advisable, for the reason that to have entered this campaign with a ticket of unknown men, be they ever so faithful to the cause of labor, would have proven a fruitless task, a certain failure. Realizing, therefore, that

there must be no further delay in wresting the functions of government from the grip of plutocratic supremacy and domination, the Labor Party was formed, declaration of principles enunciated, and favorable candidates for office considered.

As you are fully aware the names of men active in and favorable to the principles of organized labor were submitted to you by the referendum. You choose by an overwhelming majority John B. Coffey for mayor; J. Silverstone, municipal Judge; Wm. R. McGarry, city attorney; H. J. Sirard, city treasurer; M. J. Allen, M. J. Driscoll and H. G. Parsons, councilmen at large; Robert Henderson, councilman first ward; F. C. King, councilman fourth ward; and H. A. Belding, councilman sixth ward. The character, integrity and fitness of these men have been carefully and exhaustively examined and found worthy of your confidence.

While it was impossible to secure the full quota of candidates for the primary election, the vacancies can be filled after the primaries, for the June election, by either an assembly of one hundred electors, or by petition signed by five per cent of the vote cast at the next preceding election. The former plan will in all probability be chosen.

Friends, the Labor Party has been honest in its purpose and tireless in its labors. It now appeals to you to take at least as much interest in yourselves. It is striving to shake loose the tentacles of a \$300,000 street car corporation, 50 per cent of whose stock values are water, and a gas monopoly, over 50 per cent of whose gas is wind. Every one of us are compelled to contribute to the dividends paid upon these wind and water shares, the identity of which are lost when tax-paying time comes round. In short, we are made unwilling victims to a huge process of extortion, and flinging we are forced to accept. How long shall we thus permit the dollar to burden the man.

Brothers, the primary election will be held on the 4th day of May. There are ten candidates in the field to whom you have pledged your support. There are over 6,000 trades union electors in the city. Less than 3,500 votes will nominate the mayor. Shall he wear the collar of the plutocrat or the open band of a free people? The answer rests with us. It we are true to our country, our families and ourselves, the emblem of political freedom will wave over our beautiful city and our treasured homes on the fourth day of the coming month. If false, don't whine if the lash of your master bruises the flesh. "As thou sowest, so shalt thou reap."

Brothers, there has never before been a time so propitious for the political success of organized labor in this city than now. By your referendum choice of candidates you have pledged the unanimous preference of over 4,000 union men. Remember, it will take less than 3,500 votes to nominate. The ballot box is where you are supreme; it is effective; it is final. There are no witnesses but yourselves and your God. Go there, brothers, and vote like union men.

Yours fraternally,

T. M. LEABO,
Secretary Labor Party.

Endorsed by the Central Committee.

A POIGNANT RESPONSE.

Following is H. G. Parson's response to the demands of the self styled City Central Committee regarding his candidacy for nomination as councilman at large:

Portland, Oregon, April 26, 1907
Mr. J. W. Sherwood, Secretary Multnomah County Republican Central Committee, Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir.—Your kind favor of the 18th inst. to hand and contents noted. In response, I desire to say that in relation to the policy of the party, I am in hearty accord with the principles enunciated regarding "Policy on Utilities," "No Perpetual Franchises" and "Juvenile Court Commended." On the plank,

"Water rates for the public," I wish to call to the notice of your honorable body that, through the medium of the referendum law, this question will be submitted to the people at the general election for their decision, and I fully recognize in the people entitled to vote, the competent right to decide the question. I therefore am not aware of any authority now properly vested in any body of men in the city warranting its formulating a policy in such connection whereby the whole party should be guided in the casting of its ballots.

The question is one of such a nature that unanimity of opinion cannot reasonably be expected in our ranks—some Republican voters favoring it, others opposing it.

In response to your binding obligation demanded of me, in the words, "That I will, if not successful at the Republican primaries on May 4th 1907, give my hearty and undivided support to the successful candidate on the Republican ticket, for the position I may be seeking," I can only state that my understanding of the Nominating Election Law leads me to believe that the matter of nominating candidates is now wholly placed in the hands of electors; that on the platform enunciated in petition by the candidates in 100 or less words, must the candidates stand or fall; that the history of our politics previous to the enactment of the primaries law of 1904 shows a tendency towards "Ring" or "Boss" manipulation in the selection of candidates for public office and that the determination of the honest citizens for fair and equitable procedure in all nominations for political place culminated in the placing upon the statutes the present splendid law.

The especial evil that the present Direct Primary Law is intended to remove from our politics was the system of Central Committee Nominations, and to give the law its full force the duties of both the County and City Central Committees are clearly defined in Section 43 of the Nominating Elections Law of 1904, and especially relative hereto in the sentence "Said Committees shall meet and organize by electing a chairman and secretary WITHIN FIVE DAYS after the candidates of their respective political parties SHALL HAVE BEEN NOMINATED."

At the present time there exists no City Central Committee organized with authority to act in the matter of nominating or pledging candidates, nor will there be such a committee until after the 4th day of May, 1907.

In conclusion let me frankly state that no candidate for public office in our city should be required to pledge himself to support any and all candidates who might be nominated at the coming primaries, for there are issues now before the electorate of most vital importance, one of which, your body has espoused as a plank in the Republican platform, (opposition to perpetual franchises) and should a candidate for the position I seek, who is not a supporter of this plank succeed, by the influence of corporate wealth, in securing the nomination for councilman at large would you, gentlemen, demand of me to work and to vote for the election of such a candidate? I hope no good Republican or justice-loving citizen will expect any honest candidate, who is willing to leave to the voters (the proper tribunal) the right of selecting the candidates on their declared principles, to so injudiciously pledge himself.

Yours very respectfully,
H. G. PARSONS,
Republican candidate for nomination for Councilman at large.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A class of undesirable citizens, Teddy forgot or neglected to mention.

A man who will aid with battle ships the theft of a strip of land from a weaker nation—U. S. vs. Columbia.

A man who defies the law and protects a self confessed criminal—Morton vs. the Rebate law.

A man who says amen to the Supreme court for its decision against ex-Senator Patterson and he, himself, guilty of a similar offense by giving a public expression of Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone.

A man who one day stands for free trade changes his mind for political gain.

A man who loves a nigger (for his vote but does not take him out in society with his wife and daughters nor even returns the call.

A man who would like to flood the country with worse than Indians—the Japs and Chinamen.

A man who would rather arbitrate for foreign countries than to have the laws of his own country enforced.

A man so blood thirsty that he will put in a great deal of valuable time trying to kill an innocent bear instead of staying in Washington and earning the \$50,000 the people pay him—how many railroad men, miners, school teachers and various other wage earners have such vacations on full pay?

A man who for a paltry dollar will put false armor plates in U. S. battle ships—Andrew Carnegie.

A man who will assist in organizing a billion dollar trust then as attorney general of the United States refuse to prosecute them or allow others to.—Root.

A man who wilfully and maliciously attempted to ignore the Monroe Doctrine and grant Great Britain a coaling place in Alaska.—ex-Secretary Hay.

Who continued to keep these men in office? —T. R.

A man who will discharge another for expressing an honest political opinion.—Prof. Jordan of Stanford.

A body of bankers who refuse to ship money through an express company because a vice president expressed an honest opinion and said he would support Bryan. The Bankers Association vs. Valentine.

A man who will recommend a ship subsidy for billion dollar infant industries.

What did the government do toward hunting the kidnapper of Cudahay's kid? What did the government do toward hunting down the Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone kidnappers?

All of these people prominent Republicans now let the laboring class come out in a body and continue to vote for the Republican party and in return eat mud pie.

COM.

Editor Labor Press:—In an article which appeared in your paper of April 22, headed "The Strike Breaker," this sentence occurs: "He is the Hessian of the labor world."

Frederic II, land grave (ruler) of Hesse from 1760 to 1785, hired (sold) to England 22,000 of his subjects to fight against the Americans (1776-84) and was paid therefor 21,276 thalers (German dollars); a very large sum for those days. Much abuse and unjust censure has been heaped upon the heads of these unfortunate men, who were thus compelled by their ruler to fight the battles of England against the Americans, when in fact they did not sell their services for money or any other consideration, but were sold by their ruler to fight the Americans at a time and under conditions when it would have meant death for them to have done otherwise.

However, the comparison of the strike breaker to the mercenary soldier of by gone days is correct and a good one.

THOMAS PAULSEN.

COMMON MAN IS HAPPIEST.

We have always been compelled to believe that the plain plug of a man is the happiest man in the world after all. His pants may bag at the knees and he may not be acquainted with the latest style of chin whiskers; he may not hold down a throne or the presidency of a railroad; he may not know the joy of having a brand of socks named in his honor, but as he totters along through life he gets about as much satisfaction and claim out of it as his more distinguished friend. He knows there is no crank hanging around the corner to shoot a hole through his anatomy or bury a cheese knife up to the hilt in his person. He knows when he sits down to his frugal meal that he can eat his pie with no danger of it having been spiked with rough on rats.

No doubt it is lots of fun to be hailed whenever you step out of your porch and have yourself continually misquoted in the newspapers and to know that as you hang up your crown for the night and crawl into your luxurious couch the police is standing out in your back yard to keep the admiring public from throwing bricks through your window. But notwithstanding all these ardent joys, the common, everyday chap who wears a hickory shirt and a hat that is eight years old gets the most pleasure out of his life in the long run.—Exchange.

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