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ANOTHER ANTI-BOYCOTT DE CISION.

In St. Paul, Minn., a few days ago, the U. S. Court of Appeals decided that the boycott against the Fox Bros. Manufacturing Company, of St. Louis, is illegal, by confirming the decision of the U. S. Court for the eastern district of Missouri.

The boycott was instituted by the Carpenters because the Fox Bros. refused to unionize their shop, and so effective has the boycott been that not a carpenter will work on buildings where the finished product of the Fox Bros. Manufacturing Company is used.

The court held that it is proper to enjoin an organization from boycotting a firm by forcing contractors to refrain from purchasing its product or go without men to do their work.

It seems a question of prejudice that a labor union should be made to suffer for doing what other organizations may do with impunity. For instance: A temperance organization may boycott in any manner the product of the brewery or the distillery, and no court would claim the right to enjoin it from doing so. The temperance advocate is daily urging his hearers to boycott intoxicants on the grounds that the use of the thing is injurious to human society and is the enemy of moral rectitude. When the church or the reform movement advises its followers to shun the grocery store where the product of the distillery is sold is that not boycotting by forcing the dealer to go without customers?

The Carpenters forced the contractors to go without laborers as long as they persisted in handling the product of a firm whose policy towards union men is, in their philosophy, injurious to human society and is the enemy of moral advancement. And insofar as the merits of the philosophies of those organizations are concerned, no tribunal of justice has as yet decided.

But it appears the powers that dread the growth and influence of labor organizations, fearing that through their efforts these mighty ones may be torn from pomp and pleasure. It seems to be the determination of many judges in free America to prevent the development of the rule of the people, suspecting, one would surmise, that the power of the people would not conduce to their permanence in office.

There have been some glaring judicial decisions handed down from the courts of our country and probably will be more. Rulings in official departments have as often awakened the suspicions of the close observer.

A case in point is that of the recent ruling of the Department of Commerce and Labor, wherein Chinese crews are permitted to be employed by the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, in the coastwise trade, though a former ruling by the same department, in the case of the steamer Lyra, is to the effect that a vessel manned by Chinese cannot enter the coastwise trade. But the Pacific Mail Steamship Company is a powerful and rich concern—all the difference in the world.

SARCASM NOT APPLICABLE.

The fool agitation for the change of names of Bull Run and Portland will never be taken up by the initiative as suggested in the withering sarcasm of the editor of the Sunday Oregonian, for the simple

DIRECT LEGISLATION RIDICULED.

Man in his hours of ease and jollity is, verily, a peculiar piece of creation. In those gatherings called social events we see this creature Man resort to every manner of frivolity to awaken mirth and laughter; he will assume any character on the inspiration of the moment to buoy up the spirit of the occasion and to play his part as one of the entertainers.

A striking example of this characteristic in man was exhibited on last Tuesday night by a happy "bunch" of celebrities at the first monthly winter dinner of the Commercial Club of Portland. More than one of the merry-makers allowed this spirit of fun to carry them so far on the way to ridicule as to assume the role of opponent to the magnificent State laws—the initiative and referendum and the direct primary laws!

Now, fun is fun, but when a body of at-other-times sedate and orderly gentlemen—citizens of this splendid town—can so far forget their dignity as to permit of burlesque on so sacred a matter as the laws by which the people of Oregon have succeeded in ousting from contaminating power the most blackened set of political rascals ever cursing by their evil ways the free soil of America, it is high time for the citizen—of moderation and temperance in all things to cry out in stentorian tones against such shocking profanity.

It is reported that Mr. Harry Scott, editor of the Morning Oregonian, became so enthused by his own rapturous eloquence that he forgot, for the moment, the farcical nature of the whole proceedings and became sincere and in earnest in his attack upon the American principle—"Government by the people." It is even said that the reputable editor used language on that occasion unbecoming a man at the head of a great paper pretending to stand for the sublime principle of "Government with the consent of the governed." The gentleman is reported to have said, in words of the same purport, that the people of Oregon—the plain, honest, unsophisticated people—are not fit, morally and intellectually, to choose the men whom they desire to represent them in the law-making bodies and in the public places of city, State and county! Ye gods! What think you of such audacity? "In my opinion," said Mr. Scott, "we shall not, as a rule, obtain a very good class of nominations under the primary law. Men fittest to hold the most important offices will not offer their names, or subject themselves to the cost and annoyance of the necessary canvass or enter into competition with those whose business is largely or mainly to seek and hold office." Was there ever such contravention of fact? Is it not patent to all who have watched the political workings in this State under the old system of convention that jobbery and machine domination put forth the meanest class of office seekers for public place the country has ever been pestered with? And, why should the people not be able, through the direct primary law, to secure the nominations of the very best candidates for public office?

Shall the people repose in the supposed wisdom and patriotism of the so-called "better class" the duty of selecting their representatives and hope for equality in the result? Experience dictates a different course, and the will of the majority expressed through the primary law will inevitably predominate in the politics of this State, the ambitions of the Commercial Club to the contrary, notwithstanding.

reason that the initiative has been and can be called into requisition only on the petitioning of a large percentage of the voters of this state.

It's a pity the Oregonian newspaper should, by such tactics, endeavor to discredit the initiative law. It bespeaks the sly opponent where open warfare would not be discreet.

In concluding a sarcastic article in the last Sunday Oregonian on the craze mentioned above, the editor referred to says: "The problem of changing names should be taken up by the initiative and a comprehensive bill prepared which will, at one fell stroke, relieve this state of the burden under which it groans," insinuating that schemes of lunatics have been espoused by the friends of the law and that they stand ready at all times to apply the modern and ideal principle to the enactment of ridiculous legislation. History does not warrant such an insinuation; and we interpret such language as insult to the intelligence of the electorate of Oregon.

The initiative principle in American legislation is too strongly engrafted in the minds of the voters, as their best means of protection and defence against the autocratic ambitions of the mighty rich, to ever be discredited successfully by the subservient press of the times.

THE LABOR EDITOR.

(By the Rev. Charles Stelzle.)

There is a peculiar twist in the human mind which leads it to believe that a thing is so because it is in print. The fact that a newspaper has said thus and so is to most folks sufficient evidence that it is true. We need not stop to analyze this curious psychological delusion.

To some editors this fact is a source of congratulation. But the true "moulder of public opinion" seeks to arouse the thinking machine of his constituency. He is really an educator. He is one of the most important factors in the development of the human race. But he is not infallible. He will be the first to admit it. He is tempted in all points like as we are, and he is not without sin.

My observation of the labor editors of this country has led me to have for them the greatest respect. Many of them are engaged in a most difficult task. Often the support which is given them is insufficient to permit them to do their best work in behalf of labor. They should receive the most cordial cooperation of the rank and file, as well as that of the leaders.

They are really very human. They are glad to receive helpful suggestions. They expect the "knocks"

and they are not disappointed. But there are other ways of boosting the labor press. The editor appreciates it when he is told that he has said or done a good thing through his paper. Tell him about it.

As a rule, he needs the money. He eats the same kind of food that the rest of us eat—when he can get it. Some of us have apparently concluded that he lives on ink. But even ink costs money. And the market price is advancing. He wears the same kind of clothes. He lives in the same kind of a house and he deals with the same kind of a landlord.

Just for the fun of it—let's give him a boost—in just the way that you know best.

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES ON THE OPEN SHOP.

That persistent effort hath its measure of reward, whether directed in channels of good or evil, must be admitted. No better illustration of this statement might be presented than the launched propaganda of H. G. Otis and his cohorts through their infamous sheet, the Los Angeles Times, in their advocacy of the so-called "open shop."

The "open shop," as defined by the Times, is a shop or factory open solely to unorganized labor—men who have neither the manhood to assert their independence nor the courage to demand their due.

Note if you will the construction put upon the character of labor organization, the answer to the Times' own diatribe of abuse, and also the implied threat of boycott toward mill or factory exercising the prerogative of hiring organized men:

"When the trouble is over, there are two requisites which should be observed. It will be a foolish thing and an unjust one, if the right course is not followed, and to follow the wrong course will be to lose all fruits of victory.

"First, the ringleaders who stirred up this trouble, when put down, should be kept down. Every man of them who has been prominent in creating trouble should be pushed to the wall and then his back kept there for all time to come. No quarter should be shown to these rogues, even as they have shown no quarter when they have had a non-union man in their power. Their claim is that no man should get work but their followers and dupes. Give them a big, bitter draught of their own medicine. Not a man of them should be taken back to work. Every 'leader,' every offensive person among the lot, should be denied a job. They should all be black listed and their names posted in every place of employment as dangerous men who are not to be tolerated in any shop, mill or factory."

Not satisfied with this anarchistic statement, this same sheet that day after day pours its villification and abuse of organized labor upon the



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public, offers this measure to subdue the spirit of liberty in those who seek to better their conditions:

"If labor unions do not reform themselves, learn what the eternal laws of justice and the fundamental laws of political economy are, then society will take the matter up and the controversy between it and walking delegates will not be long, nor the result in doubt for a day. Society will take the agitator to represent labor unionism as a whole, and it will have to get out of the way and out of the world.

"The method will be so simple, so effective, so prompt! The labor union leader' says: 'No man shall work unless he wears the totem badge. No goods shall be bought or sold which are not stamped with the same mark of slavery. Those who own an industrial plant shall hire such men as we supply, and discharge no man without our consent. Nor shall these men have any word to say about wages, hours or other conditions in their mills and shops. We will dictate how much shall be paid for all work, what time the bell shall ring to call the men to work, and when they shall quit.' The answer of society will be: 'Your program is both unjust and impossible. We will hire hereafter no man who is a member of any union. We will exact a pledge and enforce it by a penalty that our employes shall never join any union, that they will submit all complaints to us in person, and as individuals. We will use nothing henceforth and forever that comes from any factory or mill employing union labor of any kind.'"

Fine food this upon which to feed its large and somewhat receptive clientele. Chief advocate of peonage and slavery, a foe to those measures of justice and liberty—the referendum and recall; supporter of lax immigration laws; an ally of corporation greed and an avowed enemy to the man who toils—the Los Angeles Times should be shown the error of its way in no uncertain terms.

A PERMANENT FACTOR.

Experience demonstrates that organized labor is able to secure consideration for its membership, improve conditions under which they work, safeguard their rights, enlarge their privileges, prevent injustice, command for them better wages—which is only saying that it obtains a more just share of the wealth which they help to create—and by doing all this, organized labor enables the masses to participate in the prosperity of our times and the increased blessings of our age and civilization. Shall we deny that such results are good? Shall we say that such achievements are not desirable? I will not. I believe in organized labor. It is here as a permanent factor in our modern industrial life, a force that must be reckoned with.—Hon. B. H. Roberts.

PRAYER OF "OLD PARTY" WORKINGMAN.

The politician is my shepherd, I shall not want for anything during this campaign. He leadeth me into the saloon for my vote's sake. He filleth my pocket with good cigars; my cup of beer runneth over. He inquireth concerning my family, even unto the fourth generation. Yea, though I walk through the mud and rain to vote for him, and shout myself hoarse when he is elected, straightway he forgetteth me. Although I meet him at his own house he knoweth me not. Surely the wool has been pulled over my eyes all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of a chump forever.—Exchange.

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