

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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ASSEMBLY MOCKERY

THE OREGONIAN, voice and soul of assemblyism, is daily devoting its energies to the disparagement of Oregon's popular laws.

Meanwhile Bowerman, created by assembly and boosted by the Oregonian, is sweating blood to show the people how he will protect and defend these same statutes.

Oh, it's a huge farce—this assembly game.

Last Thursday the Oregonian devoted two columns on its tenth page to show how incapable and unprepared were the people for voting on 32 initiative laws.

But the Oregonian does not undertake to show how incapable and unworthy has been the state legislature of dealing with five or six hundred measures. That's different.

True to the instincts of assembly inspiration, the Oregonian would nourish and develop the belief of incompetency, helplessness and mental slavery on the part of the people.

It is the world-old business of the few with stolen privileges and presumed power to help to keep the many in quiet abeyance, while outrage after outrage is heaped upon them in the hypocritical name of superior qualifications.

It is not an insult, willful and conscious misrepresentation to say the average man is not qualified to pass on the laws by which he shall be governed.

It is utterly and contemptibly silly to infer that the people at large are more liable to go wrong on 32 measures than the legislature is on 500.

Many will not read and understand all these initiated laws, it is true; but will enough of each vote wrong on them to defeat the ones that should pass, or pass the ones that should be defeated?

No election boar shows such a result. On the contrary, splendid discrimination has been shown. Does it not stand to reason that the average man will not vote at all on a measure on which he is undecided?

The calm and uninfluenced decision of such a vote is a monumental guarantee of safety and purity as compared to standards long set by convention (or assembly) chosen legislatures.

Finally, is it not time the people be taught to enact their own laws; to give less time to creating wealth for somebody else and more to conserving it for themselves? Let them make mistakes. That's how they learn. The legislature has given them some fine lessons.

This program may be somewhat disturbing to our would-be benefactors and exploiters; it will undoubtedly be hated by the Oregonian as detrimental to our boasted commercial welfare, but it will be mighty satisfying, edifying and strengthening to the people. It will make them better able to protect themselves and thus better American citizens.

Vote 330 X Yes.

REPRESENTING INTERESTS?

THE will of the people was recorded against Bowerman by more than 12,000 votes. That was the strength of the anti-assembly over the assembly ballots.

The pure circumstance of a division of anti-assembly votes gave Bowerman the nomination. Had any one of the three anti-assembly candidates withdrawn, he would have been defeated by none of these votes.

Object of the primary and of progressive laws is to certain, without a doubt, the people's will. That object has been accomplished. Now it is proposed that the clearly expressed will of the people be thrown down in contempt because, by unfortunate circumstance, purely the spirit of the law is defeated by its letter and Bowerman is, technically, the nominee.

And Dan J. Malarkey, a man who loudly proclaimed himself sponsor for the public weal and opponent to the agencies of Bowerman, now proposes to hand us this huge "gold brick."

It is a most disgusting example of party slavery against which the primary law is directly aimed. It is not the object or intent to destroy parties. This is the law itself set out. But it is the purpose to purify party action by enabling the individual voter to rebuke party rottenness.

That rottenness, before the primaries, Malarkey ably exposed; but that rottenness, since the primaries, he characteristically conceals. Similar tricks by politicians in the past, what caused many

this campaign. The doubts are confirmed.

By his act Mr. Malarkey is proving himself nothing more than the political representative of the corporation interests that have controlled conventions, bought senators and legislators in the past in order to continue their unjust law-made property privileges to the detriment of the people. As such Mr. Malarkey merits no vigorous opposition now that he received support last month.

WHO GOT THE INCREASE?

"KEEP out of the unions!" shriek the exploiters of labor. "They maintain well-fed, idling walking delegates to eat up your union dues and do nothing for you but make trouble with your employers."

Sounds nice, don't it?

Let us see: The wage increases secured during the last year for working men has amounted, it is estimated by experts, to be not less than \$100,000,000 a year. Of this not to exceed one-tenth of it has gone to unorganized trades. Indeed, in many unorganized occupations the wages have gone down, in spite of advancing prices.

Where organized labor secured a 31 raise the unorganized secured 10 cents! Maybe got a reduction! If the sawmill men of Oregon were organized, for example, there would be not less than \$25,000 a day paid out more than is paid out now. That would pay for a good many walking delegates, and a good many monthly dues, wouldn't it?

It would pay the timber speculators and the lumber trust to maintain an "open shop" agitation, hire writers, orators and newspaper to praise of "Industrial Liberty" and to denounce as un-American the boycott endorsed by Washington, Jefferson and revolutionary patriots.

The interests opposed to organized labor could afford to lay out \$1000 a day to encourage the Employers' Association and to prostitute the capitalistic press, and then be \$21,000 ahead of the game.

The unorganized help to keep their own wages down and the organized man's as well. But for organized labor, imperfect as it is, wages in the unorganized industries would sink to a dollar a day, right now. Mexican peons, Hindu and Chinese coolies, Jap soldiers and God knows what dregs of humanity would be crowding white men out of Oregon.

Join a union and be a man.

NEED FOR PUBLIC DOCKS

YES, THERE will certainly be some nice fat jobs put over on the city in connection with the purchase of water front. The bond issue could be carried, nevertheless. Portland must have her own waterfront. That no public improvement can be carried on without first clearing away the land monopolist is the great weight carried by nearly all civilized communities. The Portland land monopolist is as ravenous as any other of his species.

We should have had sense enough long ago to have cleared him away from our great public water highway and not allowed his monopoly. We could have easily done this years ago. If we had possessed a real ballot and had a better knowledge of things by simply providing that all landed property should be purchasable for what it was assessed for. A law like that would release at reasonable figures miles of waterfront held for speculation today.

Portland would have made money, even under present laws encouraging land monopoly, by condemning and purchasing all the waterfront in the city limits 10 or 20 years ago. It would now lease for more than what the city will pay for a few blocks. Some day we will be as wise as Vancouver, B. C., where all improvements are exempt from taxation, and speculators in mud flats will be compelled here, as they are there, to let go or utilize because of the increased tax burden. Because of this new tax method Vancouver will have five miles of the finest docks in the world constructed by the Canadian Pacific under regulations of charges by the city to net 4 per cent on the cost, while miles of public and private docks of the finest description are being planned under a comprehensive system.

The purchase of private property by the city for public docks is necessary at this time; and it is made necessary by the folly, greed and treachery of a past generation, some of whom have not yet passed off the stage of life.

COME TO STAY
VAST fortunes have been made out of public lands by running and oil land speculators. Naturally they do not like the conservation of public lands by the

actual users and charged some several fractions nearer their actual value. Oil lands known to be worth thousands an acre have been sold in the past for as low as \$2.50 an acre. Timber land known to be worth from \$50 an acre up has been sequestered from the government for as low as \$1.25.

Naturally the beneficiaries of such wasteful dissipation of the peoples' heritage when assembled in conventions want the tardily made and entirely too small national reserves turned back to the public domain to be gobbled by railroad scrip, of which there are many thousands acres held by inside speculators awaiting such action.

The people want the money from the sale and leases of these reserves to actual users now going to school funds and irrigation projects turned into their speculative and corporation safe deposit vaults. These mining congresses, and other combines of apparently representative industries, are misrepresentative combines. The working miners, the working timber men, the working farmers, are not there. Only the speculators, the corporation lawyers, the railroad attorneys, and a sprinkling of honest men sufficient to hold the organization together and give it some resemblance to what it purports to be.

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SHALL WE STAND FOR THIS?

MAYOR SIMON objected to the auditorium amendment because the issuance of an unlimited amount of bonds was provided for. Is he in favor of the free mains for the same reason?

Will the people stand for the water board and the city council having power to issue any amount of bonds, limited only by the level limit to all bonds issued, to give added values for nothing to great tracts of speculative holdings?

Would they stand for hundreds of miles of sidewalks to be given away at the cost of the home owners? Would they stand for a special tax on the use of sewers into cow pastures free? The extension of mains to vacant land

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