

FREE TEXT BOOKS QUESTION NOW BEFORE LEGISLATORS

Text books and supplies to be furnished to all students for their use, free of charge, by the school district, is now a political issue before the people of Oregon.

At the coming session of the legislature at least two measures bearing on the subject will be presented.

Organized labor has had a committee at work on the question during the year and will have its measure presented that is if the same is introduced by the convention of the Oregon Federation of Labor, which meets at Salem, January 16.

The proposed measure as it now stands will require that the state school book commission make its selection of books in 1912 instead of 1913, and that all school districts of the state make financial provisions in 1912 and have free text books and supplies for all school children by September 1, 1912. The law applies to public schools only.

Free text books is an old question. Philadelphia furnished text books free of cost to pupils as far back as 1818; Jersey City adopted the plan in 1829; Newark in 1838; Hoboken and Elizabeth, N. J., in 1860; Chester, Pa., in 1864, and Charleston, S. C., in 1866.

In recent years the movement has become extensive. In more than a dozen states it is obligatory upon all or nearly all districts to provide free text books. Among these are Delaware, Maine, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maryland, Utah and Wyoming.

In 14 states it is optional upon vote of the district. These states are District of Columbia, Connecticut, Colorado, Washington, New

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GOOD CHEER FROM SOUTHERN OREGON

Roseburg, Dec. 29.—Editor Labor Press: Enclosed find \$4.64 in payment for subscriptions.

I am preparing a revised list of Teamsters' subscriptions for bulletin, which I will send in a few days.

The unions here are busy signing the town and there is no doubt but union men will hereafter have something to say regarding affairs in Roseburg. And it's about time.

The boys think the Labor Press the best ever.

The Teamsters are sending delegates to the convention of the Oregon State Federation of Labor.

Yours for ours,

JOHN H. FERGUSON,
Recording Secretary Teamsters Union.

OREGON MEDICAL SCHOOLS ARE SAID TO BE WORTHLESS

Are the many students of Oregon's more or less noted and heralded medical schools being hoodwinked?

Is the suffering public in Oregon to be subjected to the medical ministrations of a lot of half-baked quacks who are themselves deceived by the meaningless formalities and degrees of so-called medical institutions that are utterly without standing?

Is the good money lovingly appropriated by fond parents or saved through rigorous economy and self denial by our ambitious young men and women to be used in equipping them for the noblest of callings, being wasted upon a set of unscrupulous exploiters who use the name of two of Oregon's most beloved institutions, the State University and Willamette University, to promote their unholy traffic?

If not, those upon whom this claim is most unmercifully heaped should bestir themselves to refute the charges made and correct a most damaging impression that will otherwise certainly result from authoritative literature that has already been scattered to the four corners of the country.

According to this authority, neither of Oregon's two medical schools, namely, the University of Oregon medical department of

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STATE FEDERATION CONVENES JANUARY 16

One week from next Monday, January 16, the Oregon Federation of Labor, with over 100 delegates from all parts of the state, will convene for a four or five days session. The convention will be called to order at 12 o'clock noon.

The detail arrangements are now in the hands of the federation officials and R. A. Harris of Salem.

A special rate on fares of one and one-third has been arranged for with the railroads of Oregon for all delegates who apply to ticket agents for the special convention blanks.

There is a general interest taken in the coming convention, as it is now known that some big measures are to be taken in hand by the federation—measures which will affect every citizen in the state of Oregon.

Complete announcements will be made in the next issue of the Labor Press.

BOWERMAN-ASYLUM DEAL PUTS SENATOR IN LIMELIGHT

Senator C. A. Barrett of Athena will be the center mark for many serious eyes next Monday at the opening of the legislature.

The charge has been freely made that Senator Barrett has traded his vote for president of the senate to Jay Bowerman for appointing his son-in-law, Dr. Plamondon, superintendent of the proposed Eastern Oregon asylum.

Senator Barrett, before election, was an advocate of reform and opposed to the Bowerman railroad machine, and was regarded as a strong selling supporter for president of the senate. But the fight last week between Mr. Selling and Mr. Bowerman was a warm one. It is alleged that Mr. Bowerman, in order to add strength

to his following, selected Plamondon as the place for the asylum and made Senator Barrett's son-in-law medical superintendent of the institution.

Mr. Bowerman was able to make this appointment, as he is acting governor.

Charges of a deal are freely made. It is pointed out that there is no use for the state to be put to the expense of a doctor at this time before there are any patients to be attended to and even before there are any plans for the asylum building.

Senator Barrett was a people's man before election; we will see what he really is next Monday at the legislature.

A WORD OF WARNING

By R. A. Harris

It is not improbable that organized labor will early face one of the most vital ordeals known to its history in Oregon.

Organized labor has taken an advanced stand for the cause of the great majority of the common people of this state and if sincere it must defend that stand now.

Legislation that has been accomplished through the initiative, including several measures that are in the interests of the laboring and producing classes generally will again be the target in the coming legislature for attack by a special agent of "the interests."

Not one but several bills are being discussed the effect of which will be to restrict the initiative into uselessness, and following these will come efforts to amend to death the liability law and repeal the tax amendment.

The beginning of this program will be the election of Jay Bowerman as president of the senate and Mr. Eaton or Mr. Thompson speaker of the house.

Undeterred by defeat and in all probability rendered deeply retaliative by his reverses, Mr. Bowerman evidently has plans laid, and if any one thinks the people may now sleep on their victories he had better think again.

A bill will be presented requiring the signers of all initiative petitions to certify that they have read and understand the complete provisions of each separate measure presented to them for initiation. This, if valid, would amount almost to a repeal of the initiative, but, in my opinion, it is clearly unconstitutional. Another bill will be presented providing for the creation of a board of lawyers and others whose business it shall be to draft all initiative laws. That this measure would be unconstitutional upon the same ground that would probably invalidate the former bill, seems evident, but in absence of expert opinion we are left to conjecture.

It is unnecessary to present arguments against any such legislation.

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WILL PRESENT TEXT BOOK LAW

The free school text book law is receiving the attention of several prominent legislators. During the past week there has been a uniting of forces to have the



RALPH C. CLYDE, Representative from Multnomah County.

proposed labor law presented to the legislature in proper form.

Ralph Clyde, who has given the subject careful study, will present the bill in the house during the second week of the legislative session.

OPPOSITION TO CAUCUS BOWERMAN CAN'T WIN

The situation in the organization of the senate and house is the same as it was last week, and will remain the same, as far as the reform forces are concerned.

Ben Selling will be president of the senate and John P. Rusk speaker of the house.

The big interests back of Jay Bowerman have been much weakened during the week. Mr. Bowerman is now endeavoring to throw his support to some "dark horse" in order to defeat Selling. The "dark horse" is stated to be either Seader, Sinnott or Marley.

The Bowerman forces have been frightened at the growing strength of Mr. Rusk for speaker, and owing to opposition to Mr. Eaton are trying to land W. Lair Thompson or a Multnomah county man in the speaker's chair. W. Lair Thompson was Mr. Bowerman's secretary in a recent campaign.

One of the moves of the Bowerman people is to hold a caucus of Republican members and fix all appointments before the meeting of the legislature, but this move is proving costly to them. Representative men in both the senate and house have refused to take part in a caucus and insist that all business be done in the open at the regular meetings of the senate and house.

The sentiment of the reform forces is expressed in a letter sent out by F. M. Gill of Dufur, a prominent granger, in which he said:

"I am circulating a non-caucus agreement among Republican members of the house. I write to invoke your assistance in our common fight with the hosts of the plunderband. It is best to fight the caucus upon the pure cusseidness of the thing."

Other members have pointed out that the big interests want a caucus in order to make trades of committees and thus control, so their favored laws will be placed in trades on appropriation measures.

The university appropriation, the asylum deal and insurance laws already figure prominently in the proposed trades, much to the satisfaction of friends of the agricultural college, the Eastern Oregon people and the labor-grange and manufacturing people.

Texas citizens have solved the strap problem. There are no "standing profits" for streetcar companies in Texas. The law is no seat three cents; with seats five cents. The way those companies hustle for that extra two cents is a caution. San Francisco is about to make the companies come through with more cars the same way. In Portland the P. R. L. and P. Co. can "come through" with plenty of seats and frequent cars if the people support the no seat measure that is before them by initiative petition. The people can get what they pay for if they vote for what they want.

BRICKLAYERS ELECT OFFICERS

At the regular meeting of the Bricklayers Union (No. 1, Oregon) held at their hall 295 1/2 First street, on the evening of December 29, 1910, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing six months:

President, Jacob Schuman, Jr.; vice president, Jas. Rodgers; treasurer, W. J. Welch; sec. sec., Doug Patterson; fin. sec., Edward McBride; cor. sec., Joe Clark; board of directors, Eugene Owen, W. E. Thayer, J. Anos, J. Dignman, Thomas Quirk; board of arbitration, W. J. Welch, Robt. O'Brien, J. H. Rogers; deputy, Arthur Stevens; alternate A. L. Wallace; inner guard, James Donery, Jr.

MEDFORD CENTRAL COUNCIL

The Central Labor Council of Medford gave a social and bread breaking at three o'clock last Sunday, at which a new charter from the A. F. of L. was read and displayed with great pride. The A. F. of L. will never be ashamed of its latest baby in Oregon. The officers of this body are C. W. Sherwood, president; John Kearney, vice-president; E. W. Ralston, secretary; C. W. Harrington, treasurer.

This Central Labor Council meets every Tuesday evening. It is bound to be an important factor in the upbuilding and development of that part of Oregon. Well paid labor builds up a town. Self respecting workmen in organized ranks make good citizens. Medford is to be congratulated.

SUSTAINS THE INITIATIVE

The last grandstand play of the opponents of the Broadway bridge was an appeal for a rehearing by the state supreme court. The main ground of the appeal was an attack on the initiative and

cial laws on the subject." If they could.

The opinion written in the last official act of Judge Will R. King, who retired from the bench last Tuesday. Judge King retires from this position with credit to himself and the profession. He has always been on the side of the people, and made no mistakes in doing so. The essential parts of his last decision are as follows:

"Our holding is that the state may, by constitutional provisions, directly delegate to municipalities any powers which it, through the legislature, could formerly have granted indirectly.

"All the prerogatives attempted to be exercised by Portland in the construction of the Broadway bridge could formerly have been granted by the legislature, and the power to provide therefore having been delegated to the city by amendment of our organic laws, is valid and the right to exercise such powers will continue until such time as changed by general enactments of the law-making department of our state, provision for which may be made by the legislature, by general laws, applying alike to all municipalities of that class, or by the people through the initiative, by the enactment of either general or spe-



WILL R. KING.

ELECTRICAL WORKERS' BALL

The illuminations were the most beautiful ever displayed in a public gathering in Portland. Dificent electrical color effects were given for each dance.

The music was a grand success.

The crowd enjoyed itself without disorder.

The grand march was lead by Paul H. Shroat, who represented Oswald West, governor-elect.

The moon was full, and winked continuously. The electric sign of the sythe cutting out 1910 and (touching 1911) was admired most of all.

The bow and arrow shooting into the warm red heart was another magnificent display.

The electric emblem of the Brotherhood and the words "Happy New Year" seemed alive.

As a patriotic success the rippling American flag was especially noticeable.

The colored and shifting lights thrown out over the whirling crowd made the spectacle more enchanting.

Yes, the Electrical Workers did themselves proud. It will take a long scorable all this year to beat it.

FARMERS, ATTENTION

Farm Journal, of Philadelphia, sends us some advanced sheets and literature pertaining to subscription combinations.

It is published by the union fighting firm of Wilmer Atkinson Company, which is said to be favorably disposed to hiring girls when possible at low wages—immoral wages—and passing out its products to farmers.

Such papers have no business in the homes of any of the Oregon farmers. Not only are they filled with matter pertaining to eastern methods and conditions, and therefore utterly unfit for Oregon, but they are a curse to the self respecting organized labor in the places where they are published.

There are good agricultural papers published in Oregon with labor workmen, who buy the

farm products of Oregon, and who, because of fair wages paid are able to live as human beings should. If the farmer wants an eastern farm paper he can get them printed by union workmen, such as "Farm Home," Springfield, Ill., "Farm Press," Chicago, "Farm, Stock and Home," Minneapolis, and many others.

To the hundreds of farmers of Oregon who are readers of the Oregon Press, we say: Demand the union label and help your own neighbors in your towns and cities to be American citizens. Demand it all along the line, and you will profit thereby.

The illuminated ball of the Electrical Workers was the real thing.

Indeed it was.

There are 1,000 couples who can testify to that.

A TRUE JUDGE

Judge Henry E. McGinn demonstrated his worth and manhood Tuesday when his first act was to parole a young fellow who pleaded guilty of burglary.

The man will be a better citizen and more useful to society out of prison than in it.

He will have to report to Judge McGinn at regular intervals, and if he proves his good intentions by good actions his year of sentence will be spent in freedom instead of in ignominious servitude.

It does society no good to be revenged on this young man. It does society great good to have him a useful and law-abiding citizen.

Judge McGinn also paroled another young man, and allowed a woman who works for a living to remain with her family pending trial for a rash act done in hysterical desperation.

Perhaps this judge elected by the people because of his lack of judicial temperament will harden with the exercise of power, but those who know him best believe that he will always temper justice with mercy, and God knows in this day and age the overburdened workers of the world need such consideration from the bench.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Any man who says "I have nothing to regret" has lived in vain. The man who never makes any mistakes has made nothing else. Regret is the result of fuller wisdom and proves that your failure has not been in vain. But merely to "regret" will not help you. Your stumbling blocks may become stepping stones to future success. Regrets should show you new possibilities. You can not change the past. Even God can not do that; but he and you may blot it out. Your future is in your own hands. You have often said: "If only I could live my life over again." You may. Every day is a new life—the beginning of a great new chance. A man's only plea for a chance to live life over again is that he has gained wisdom and experience. Then let him close the books on his old life—with past sins forgiven, with old mistakes forgotten, with new purposes in view.

At each new year most of us make new resolutions, but in the true life of the individual each day is the beginning of a new year if we would only make it so. A mere date on the calendar of eternity is no divider of time. The past is beyond recall; the future is not yet here. You have today only.

So let's begin each day to live for the day, thus filling out a life of days which shall have their completion in a day that shall be an eternity.



REV. CHARLES STELZLE

I. B. E. W. OFFICERS

The following list of officers for the Electrical Workers, Local 317, have been elected for the ensuing term: Fred C. Wheeler, president; H. P. McCoy, vice president; Eugene L. Parker, recording secretary; E. E. Smith, financial secretary and business manager; George H. Farrar, treasurer; Oscar Stoddman, statistical secretary; L. L. Locke, John Hogg, inspectors; George Orrell, foreman; E. E. Smith, Carl Cauffield, delegates to Central Labor Council; E. E. Smith, George H. Ferrar, Fred L. Bourne, delegates to Building Trades Council; E. E. Smith, Carl E. Cauffield, Fred L. Bourne, delegates to State Federation of Labor.

No organization of industrial workers has any better fraternal spirit and wholesome strength than this body of electrical workers. Laboring under great handicaps, and signalled out for victims by the opponents of fair play and fair pay, these men have paid out more money than would have been thought possible a few years ago to have been donated by any organized body of workers to defend and maintain union principles and union conditions.

"TAXPAYERS" MEETING RATHER INTERESTING

That annual farce the "Taxpayers Meeting of School District No. 1" was held in Lincoln High school building Wednesday evening, December 28.

There were about 400 people present a great many of whom were not taxpayers and for that reason were not entitled to participate in the meeting.

The actual time consumed in the meeting was about 40 minutes, most of which was taken up with the reading of the officers reports. In this short space of time the school board, the majority of which was elected at elections where there were not enough ballots cast to wad an old fashioned muzzle loading shotgun and some of whom stand morally

indicted by the grand jury for appropriating public money to private use, was given authority to spend \$2,132,100 and to issue \$150,000, in bonds and their official acts for the past year were approved.

A motion to adopt the report and approve the recommendations was quickly made and put to vote. The chairman called for a rising vote, the clerk made a bluff at counting those voting and the motion was declared carried, after an ineffectual attempt upon the part of Herman Wittenberg to have the motion divided in order that there might be some dissent.

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THE TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION

Multnomah Typographical Union No. 58, meets on Sunday, January 8, instead of January 1. The meeting will be an important one.

On January 9, the social gathering to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the founding of the union will be held. Manipulators of an anonymous process to make this a record breaker. Members will be present with their wives and families, and the program will be a varied and extensive one.

with three departments appealing as many different corporal divisions of men. First department, intellectual. Second department, gastronomic. Third department, terpsichorean.

The regular monthly meeting will be held at the usual place, W. O. W. hall, 11th between Washington and Alder. The "feast of reason and flow of soul," which some of the types refer to as the "blewout," will be at Women of Woodcraft hall, Tenth and Taylor.

FRATERNAL BROTHERHOOD IN BAD WITH LABOR

The following resolutions are self-explanatory and were unanimously adopted by the Central Labor Council of Los Angeles and the secretary instructed to forward to all affiliated locals and central bodies:

"Whereas, it has become known that the supreme lodge, Fraternal Brotherhood, a fraternal insurance society, headquarters of which are in Los Angeles, is a member of the Merchants and Manufacturers Association; and

"Whereas, the Merchants and Manufacturers Association has for its object the open shop policy and the disruption of union labor organizations; and

"Whereas, the Fraternal Brotherhood derives its greatest benefit from those who toil, its members being composed of the laboring rather than the capitalistic class; and

"Whereas, under union labor organization the worker is more able, owing to better wage scale, and conditions in the various crafts, to avail himself of the privilege of fraternal insurance, such as is offered by the Fraternal Brotherhood; and

"Whereas, the organization of work at these 'top wages' in tyrannically raised 'open shops' and see their children and mothers and sisters working for \$2 or \$3 a week alongside of them. The heroic sacrifices of these ignorant foreigners should make the American citizen ashamed.

The surest way to shatter an idol is to marry it.

MIGHT TRY IT

A dispatch assures us that the starving garment workers of Chicago could secure employment at "top wages" by turning soke breakers; and the smart reporter goes on to assure us that they are mostly foreigners and don't know much about the trouble. It is a pity that some of these \$12-a-week reporters could not