

PORTLAND LABOR PRESS

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- CARL STOLL, President, Union Label Trades Council. R. O. RECTOR, Representing Building Trades Council. A. W. LAWRENCE, Secretary, Representing Printing Trades Council. WM. MCKENZIE, Representing Metal Trades Council. O. D. FORTIE, Representing Brewery Trades Council. C. M. RYNERSON, Managing Editor.

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KILLED THE GRAFT

IT APPEARS from letters received from the county clerk of different counties that the practice of collecting poll taxes was universal throughout Oregon up to the time that the people put a stop to it. That was last November. The Oregonian pretends that poll taxes were repealed by the legislature in 1907, but it knows better. It tells that sort of stuff to justify its opposition to the amendment that the people adopted. The Labor Press recently went to some trouble to write to officials in different parts of the state, and finds that in every instance the poll tax was collected so far as replies have been sent.

In some cities it was collected also. Salem, Pendleton, Baker, Tillamook, Oregon City and Medford poll tax. Probably other cities did, also. The pretense that the poll tax clause of the tax amendment was a trick and that there was no poll tax was gotten up to fool the people with by the Oregonian after it found that for the "tenth time the people had paid no attention to its warnings and had legislated for themselves. In Clatsop county the game of collecting poll taxes from the workers in mill and forest was a regular and highly remunerative graft. Men were compelled to pay poll tax every time they took a new job or moved camp from one district to another. The probabilities are that in many a case the poll tax never saw the public treasury.

The tax amendment did three things. It provided that no more poll tax graft should find a home in Oregon. It put a stop to the legislature framing up any laws on taxation without the consent of the people. It placed the manner and method of raising public revenues for counties with the people of the counties.

The only positive change made was the strangling of the poll tax graft. The other grafts in taxation were left, but the people have the power to do away with them in the future. This should see that they remain this power, and to do so must vote down the amendments submitted by the legislature.

THE HILL OF VANTAGE

WHEN the Japs were trying to capture Fort Arthur, they did not do it at once. They captured one outpost and fortification after another. They dragged guns up heights and stormed entrenched foes on one hill after another. At last they got the hill that enabled them to pour shots into the heart of the city and fortress. Then they marched down to receive the surrender of the enemy.

In Oregon we have secured the initiative and referendum. It is a weapon of countless value. We have secured the recall. It helps some, and may help mightily in the future. We have begun to storm special privilege, and we are seeking that three hundred meter bill that the Japs sought. Perhaps the taxation of land values is the height we are after. Perhaps it is something further along, but the man who would see the last citadel of privilege reduced by the forces of liberty and justice must see the necessity of taking the outposts. From time to time they will be made visible to us through the mists and smoke of the ever-raging battle.

It is for us to attack privilege wherever we find it, with whatever weapons and resource that will be effective. The ballot through the initiative is the most powerful known. Land privilege is the basis of all privilege. It is the commanding hill that shelters the hordes of privilege. It is the commanding hill that shelters hordes of privilege. We need that hill in our business. If we storm its heights and we then need to storm others, well and good. It can not retard us any further.

NOT A PERFECT PLAN

THE recent city election in Spokane demonstrated that the principle of permitting preferential votes is a good one. The sort of preferential system there is not as good as could have been devised, but it gives the minority a chance, puts a crimp in any machine and stops the crazy idea of running a man for a local position on national party lines. It allows a voter his first, second and third choice votes. He must vote for five first choice and five second, and he can vote for as many third choice as he pleases. This makes a cumbersome ballot that is entirely unnecessary. All that is needed is for each voter to vote for ONE candidate for first choice, one for second choice and one for third choice. Any candidate receiving 20 per cent of the

THREE LIVE MEASURES

THE recently adjourned legislature of Washington did three things of interest to workmen and women. It adopted the initiative and referendum in a practical form in spite of every effort of the representatives of the Big Interests to cripple it with amendments. It differs from the Oregon form in providing that the initiative can be used by 6 per cent, and on any initiative measure 30 per cent of the total vote of the state must be cast for it. The referendum can be exercised on a petition of 10 per cent.

A law limiting the labor of women to eight hours, with certain extensive exceptions as to canneries, was passed after great struggles. A workmen's compensation law is far in advance of that previously digested the statutes, but not anywhere near what it should be. These measures are the three that organized labor concentrated upon, and it required all its efforts to pull them through in any kind of shape. The people will be in charge after November, 1912. That is better than all the rest.

The depths of depravity and tyranny have never revealed a worse monster in political power than Diaz. To his support and relief comes the American nation, once the hope and home of liberty. Mexico has been reduced to a condition of slavery that has American African slavery beaten on the road to hell a thousand miles, and a Republican president and party is protecting the established government of Mexico against revolutionists that would restore to some extent the liberties trampled under foot by the hired murderers of Diaz. Wall Street is the capital of Mexico and the United States.

It is dawning on the intelligentsia of the politicians in high places that the election of U. S. senators by direct vote of the people is almost in sight. Just half a dozen less of the trust owned senators and we would be there. Meanwhile the vanguard of the people have set up an outpost away over the hill. It is called "What in Thunder is the Use of a Senate, Anyhow?"

United States Senator Owen performed good service in talking until New Mexico was shut out, Arizona and New Mexico is nothing was what he demanded. He got nothing, but the Big Business beast that is fighting the rule of the people realized that it had been in a scrap. It will need all its Baileys, Lorimers and such, in the next session to keep Arizona out.

Those who regard the occupation of the governor's office by Oswald West as a personal affront and calamity of the machine are the only ones trying to start a howl because of his votes. Governor Os may have made some mistakes, but the mistakes were in not vetoing some more.

WHY THE DIF

THE Portland Electric Juice Clack charges 3 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity when used for cooking purposes only. Now this excited our young man's curiosity as to what made the difference between the current per kilowatt hour—whatever that is—switched from a cooker to a light, for which the charge seems to be 15 cents.

After asking several electricians he discovered that the difference lay in the fact that the combine could get it, and that is about the right answer. At 15 cents we are fools enough to light up, but we won't cook. If we cut out the lighting until the combine came down to three cents it would only be making about 300 per cent on its actual outlay and wear and tear then.

DREAD THE PEOPLE

A DIRECT primary for the nomination of a U. S. senator in Iowa was defeated by two votes. The queer part of it is that 28 Democrats did not vote. Any three of them would have carried the measure. There is a plutocratic element in the Democratic party that dreads the coming rule of the people as much as the same element does in the Republican party. They play politics together nearly every time. That is why workingmen should not continue to be bound or blinded by party names. Let us do the way the special privileged party does, divide to capture and unite to retain, according to the opportunities and regardless of party names.

WE WANT MEN

THERE is no reason on earth why a mayor of a city should be either a Democrat or a Republican. What we want in Portland is efficient service from our city officials, and national party names should not apply in the case. No business corporation cares what the politics of the president, secretary or board of directors may be. Not only are the lines being drawn on national issues and little or no difference being found between the principles and prac-

IS REVOLUTION BEGUN?

Frederick Townsend Martin, a society leader of New York, in a recent magazine article had the following to say on the serious situation that confronts the people of our boasted republic: "I do not mean to say that all the dividends and interests are gathered by the idle rich. Such conditions that can exist only once in the history of a nation. It came about in Rome, and it led to the fall. It came about in France and it led to the terror. Here in America it has gone far, to be sure. For thirty years we have been piling up wealth in the hands of men who do not work. It has gone so far that today, in every city of the union, the class of idle rich has reached proportions that, to a thoughtful student, are alarming. Machinery, instead of emancipating the people, has welded chains of industrial slavery about their necks. The fruit of invention is plucked by the hands of a few.

"The wealth producing machinery of the world has the capacity to give to all men the opportunity of enjoying leisure. Knowledge and culture are the birthright of humanity today. The obstacle against this is the idle rich. The once powerful middle class, which is the safety of every nation, is weak and every day declining. When the nineteenth century closed America worshipped wealth. It sanctified its possessors, it defiled the multi-millionaires. In five years' time America has learned to hate great wealth. Plutocracy is disorganizing; but public opinion is relentless. With trumpet and drum and red banners flying came the army of muckrakers. And their revelations made the nation heartsick.

"At first we rich laughed at it; then we preached little sermons about it; then we began to talk about it among ourselves. Finally we recognized that instead of being a passing phase this change of popular sentiment was the beginning of a revolution. We can no longer blind ourselves with the worn-out boast that the American workingman is the highest paid artisan in the world. We know these lying figures too well. We are learning that what we give our workers in wages we take back from them in higher cost of necessities, in food, in clothing, in medicine, in insurance, in a hundred different ways, all with one tendency to keep the living margin down.

"Today we of the class that rules, that draws the unearned profits from the toil of other men, know full well that the time is almost here when there must be a true accounting."

CALL OUT THE ARMY

It has been proposed, says the Bandon Recorder, that the authority of the city of Coos be given to a bond issue to harness the force of two rivers in that county to electrical plants and furnish the power to everybody at a reasonable profit.

The proposal sets forth that there is "millions in it" for the people. It has been rumored for years that a lot of Socialists were being rustled together to down property and establish a commonwealth in Coos county, and this is one of the signs. The idea of robbing some capitalist combination from Wall street, perhaps not yet formed, of these millions of dollars? It is an outrage on our government and calls for suppression with part of Taft's standing army. It is a desecration of the grand old flag that waves over the Philippines, the North Pole and Panama. Never shall Coos county be allowed to so trample upon the liberties won by the forefathers of Bunker Hill and Valley Forge. Never!

Some poor and needy Wall street trust needs those falls on Middle Fork and North Fork, and any other old fork that may be known or hereafter developed. Thousands of poor widows need those magnificent gifts of nature that so thundering down the canyons and some of the wild-eyed Coos county Socialists would rob the widows and orphans yet unborn of a chance to buy watered bonds and stock of the Coos County Electric Trust (unlimited in capacity to grab and to charge extortionate rates). Such a thing as the operation of this cheap electric power plants at a reasonable cost and pay the taxes of the county with the profits would be a crime against the entire union of states. Wall street should pay attention to this scheme and see that it is Guggenheimized and taken out of the "30th power of the Coos" county Socialists to wreck all Oregon with schemes of electric cure at half a cent instead of 15 cents per kilowatt hour.

HOW PRISON AFFECTS THEM

San Francisco Star. A wage-worker sent to prison loses his earnings, a business man is ruined, but a landlord continues to collect his rent or the "unearned increment." Griffith J. Griffith, for instance, went to prison for two years for the pleasant pastime of shooting out one of his wife's eyes. When he regained his freedom he was a richer man by a million dollars. There had been a "boom" in Los Angeles real estate during his enforced absence.

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TAFT VS. UCHIDA

BY C. T. FOUCH

The showing made by President Taft and Secretary Knox against the Japanese diplomat, Baron Uchida, shows conclusively that Japan has to use an expression of the street) got our executive "buffaloed." To say the president would have sent such a criminally weak document as the late treaty between this country and Japan to the United States senate for their ratification unless he feared Japan would look impossible to a casual observer, but to a person living on the Pacific coast the whole business smacks not only of fear, but incompetence.

The last issue of the Coast Seaman's Journal, in a very able article, sums the case up with much skill and foresight as follows: "The whole trend of the negotiations between the United States and Japan during the past few years has made complications rather than settlement," and such is surely the case, as the present treaty does it no way exclude the coolie. All we have along the lines of exclusion is the word of the Japanese minister or ambassador, and no assurance he spoke with authority of his government, as his statement was not included in the text of the document.

While it is true that Ambassador Uchida states in his note he spoke with authority, he speaks in riddles, as his note will show. It reads as follows: "In proceeding this day to the signature of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation Between Japan and the United States," the undersigned, Japanese ambassador in Washington, duly authorized by his government, has the honor to declare that the imperial Japanese government is fully prepared to maintain with equal effectiveness the limitation and control which they have for the past three years exercised in the regulation of the emigration of laborers to the United States. Y. UCHIDA.

Truly the language of diplomacy, surely the Jap learned a lesson in diplomacy from Count Witte and profited by their experience when the treaty of Portsmouth was made. The above note of the Japanese ambassador means Japan holds the reins, and we can protest without avail; also, as Editor McArthur has truly said, this question is more complicated than ever.

To prove this it is only necessary to point out the fact that just as soon as the increase of Japanese immigration (and it certainly will increase at once) substances, and in all probability, riots will follow, the result of which sooner or later will cause a clash between the two nations. All of which could have easily been avoided had our executive and senate shown a little more of the stuff that made Andrew Jackson famous.

Hobson declares "Japan will surely attack us before the completion of the Panama canal." If there is anything in this prophecy, surely the coming to our shores of a horde of Japanese coolies will aggravate the case. The easy road the treaty had through the senate on its "ratification excursion" shows the power of the chief executive over that aggregation of corporation lackeys, and augurs ill for our future as a world power. Our prestige will slip from us and the nations of Europe will lose their respect for us, whether they weigh us in the scales of war or diplomacy.

This is a vital problem and must sooner or later be solved once and for all, and it should be with considerable satisfaction that organized labor can note they are not alone alive to this issue, as only a short time ago Scout Young Camp No. 2, Spanish War Veterans, passed the following resolutions: "Resolved, By the members of Scout Young Camp No. 2, S. W. V. of Portland, Oregon, that we hereby protest against the dastardly action of the congress of the United States in entering into a treaty with Japan by the terms of which the Pacific coast will eventually be populated by persons of an alien race, which is unassimilable and who are a menace to the moral, religious, industrial and social conditions of our land, and we hereby denounce the said treaty as being in the interest of the capitalistic and not the common class of the people of our beloved country."

Surely the above protest is worthy of more than passing notice, as the men that framed it have shown their patriotism by bearing arms in defense of the land they love, and surely cannot be listed in the column of calamity howlers or professional agitators. When the time of solving the problem of Oriental immigration does come, it will surely come between suns, and we will wake up some morning and find the "yellow peril" knocking at our front door. Will we be ready to repulse this unwelcome visitor? The use of a little firmness on the part of our executive could have prevented all this, and the weakness that has been shown will only serve to make the problem harder to solve, as the Jap will become more aggressive over his diplomatic victory. In the interim labor, organized and unorganized, will be forced to compete with the coolie labor of the Orient and later defend the flag against their attack. Truly a sad picture of a black future, and it is to be hoped will never be realized; but the signs of the times makes it only too true that the struggle will be an uphill fight on our part goes without saying, as are not all our trans-Pacific ships already manned exclusively by Chinese crews?

JUDGES AND LAWS

In the legislature of Washington J. E. Campbell introduced a bill to take away the power of a state judge to declare a law unconstitutional. There were so many lawyers in evidence that it was regarded as freak legislation. However, he got a chance to make a speech on it, and his arraignment of the bench and judges was a hot one that deserves to be reproduced in other papers besides the Everett Labor Journal. Some extracts are as follows: "The unbridled powers now assumed by the various courts, wherein they assume to be responsible to no authority whatsoever, assuming superiority over the people themselves, the sole source of all authority, has grown to such an extent as to threaten the very foundations of the state. The power of impeachment and the removal of supreme court judges, placed by the people in the hands of the legislature, is unsatisfactory and, in practice, practically impossible.

"Is there any wonder the people of Washington are disgusted with the courts and the judges sitting in them? "No civilized country in the world, save the United States, allows its courts to arbitrarily set aside the acts of the people as expressed by the legislature. In England, from which country we have received a majority of our law, from the foundation of the courts themselves they have never presumed to exercise or possess authority to set aside an act of the people, passed by parliament.

"The other continental European countries, the same state of law exists, and the people of European countries set an example of respect for the law that we in America can well afford to pattern after. "The people have lost confidence in the courts, not only of this state, but all over the country, and the courts themselves are to blame for it. Decisions and actions outraging law and decency, itself, rendered by the courts, have aroused a long-suffering people to action. The people of New York state impeached and drove from the supreme bench thirty years ago two corrupt judges whose actions had branded them as merely servants of a celebrated stock speculator and manipulator.

"The tenderness of the courts in leading after interests favorable to them are notorious. Witness the New York courts opening the doors of Sing Sing prison on technicalities to henchmen of this dominant power, the Missouri supreme court releasing every one of the hoodlums convicted by Folk; the California supreme court setting the convicted San Francisco grafters free—in one case doing so in the face of the defendant's plea of guilty.

"The practical nullifying of acts of the legislature by the courts' insistence on farcical and ridiculous technical interpretations has become national wide. It has gone to such a length that the president of the United States himself has said that the administration of the criminal law in his country was a national disgrace. Not the law itself, mind you, but the administration of it. The Bar Association of New York recently reported that the defense of insanity in murder cases has become a scandal on the name of justice.

"Those who have ever attended a court trial can not fail to remember the bulldozing and blackguarding of witnesses permitted by the judges and indulged. "The Hon. Frank B. Kellogg, special assistant to the attorney general of the United States, in a recently published article on "The Law's Delay" says: "Within the past few years there has been a widespread agitation and general discussion of the subject of the law's delay. No such discussion or agitation comes without cause. They are not the product of the demagogue or the muckraker agitator. Such men do not make deep impressions on the people. No; the discussion of today is evidence of real wrongs. Let us not believe that our laws or systems of legal administration is perfect."

THE METER

Jackson Wentworth, after an absence of 30 years, returned to the home of his youth. Jackson had a slight affection of the skin which made his nose very red. Hence, when he called at the parsonage the old minister remarked: "Jackson, Jackson, my man, I'm afraid you've become a hard drinker." "Don't J go by appearances, Dr. Steenthly," said Wentworth. "I hardly consume two glasses of beer a week." "Well, then," said the minister, in a soothing voice, "I guess your face, Jackson, is like my gas meter. It registers more than it consumes."

We should amend the city charter to provide for real representation. Public charity means legal fraud somewhere.

State Trades Union Directory

Table listing various trade unions across different cities including Astoria, Hood River, Marshfield, Salem, The Dalles, Vancouver Wash., LA Grande, Baker City, Roseburg, and Klamath Falls. Each entry includes the union name, address, and contact information.

A SANITARY BAKERY. Is the place where you should buy your bread. The Log Cabin Baking Co. Have moved in their new quarters on Vancouver Avenue and Fremont Street. With their modern ovens and their blending, sifting and proofing system, they are able to bake the best loaf of bread that can be made. They have the lightest and best ventilated bakery on the Pacific coast, and they employ nothing but union labor. Their place is open for inspection at any time.

BEER, ALE OR PORTER. This Label should be pasted on every package containing this beverage. As the only guarantee that said package contains beverages produced by union labor.

PROTECT YOUR WIVES, YOUR CHILDREN AND YOURSELVES AGAINST Sickness and Accident. MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION. We pay all DOCTOR BILLS and Medicines and furnish only high-grade MEDICAL and SURGICAL ATTENDANCE. Also complete Hospital Services in addition to \$100 BURIAL BENEFIT in the event of death. PHONE OR WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS. Phone: Main 2286, 3386. NATIONAL HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION. 417-18-19 Hoback Building, PORTLAND, OREGON.

TRANSFER COMPANIES. Who have proved themselves Friends to Organized Labor by signing up with the Teamsters' Union. If You Have Any Work Give It to Them. OLSEN-ROE TRANSFER CO. Main 547-A-2247, 209 Oak St. O. F. HUSBEY TRANSFER CO. Main 2178, 270 Alder St. C. M. OLSEN TRANSFER CO. Marshall 811, A-5600, 230 Pine St. HELLWELL TRANSFER CO. Marshall 1700, 166 Seventh St. N. RATHJAN TRANSFER CO. Main 6301, 7-1-2 First St. SHORTY'S EXPRESS CO. Marshall 1416, 265 Burnside St. W. E. DONOVAN East 5960. TEAMSTERS LOCAL NO. 162. FOR RENT. Hall for lodge and society meetings. Reasonable rates. Apply 1314 1/2 Second street, third floor. DAN KELLAHER & CO. GROCERIES, FISH, POULTRY, WINES & LIQUORS. Grand Avenue and East Morrison Street. Job Printing of All Kinds. A Union Office Conducted by UNION MEN. 1000 1/2 Front St. Phone: Main 1418, A 1418.