

Portland Labor Press

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One of the most faithful—and well paid—literary servants of the trusts is Allen Ripley Foote, a shrewd and able writer and speaker. His task is to make the worse appear the better reason, and he is actively opposing the initiative and referendum in the East.

The recent seamen's strike has demonstrated that Great Britain is never further than six weeks from absolute famine. The shipping and transportation industries can secure any reasonable demand by the simple formula but difficult job of hanging together.

Senator Bourne wants the violations of the law in the recent election investigated by Attorney-General Crawford. There were some lavish expenditures by the plutocrats for Simon. It is to be hoped Bourne will perform a public service in digging some of the corruption up.

With collective share ownership must come collective bargaining. The manufacturing firm that seeks to keep the workers unorganized is itself an organized body. Wherever the individual has to fight his own battle with organized employers he has about as much show as an unarmed man in a wilderness against a brigade of trained soldiers entirely surrounding him. He may make a sneak but he can't make a fight.

Whenever the walking delegates of the Employers' Association make a confidence talk to a prospective "sucker" they say the association is against boycotts and strikes, but wherever it gets a foothold it proceeds to boycott and to strike. It is doing some efficient boycotting in Portland, and it always establishes the blacklist and strikes a job away from a union man, to the extent of its abilities.

There is an idea that only a millionaire can represent this country in England. It is simply bosh. There is no need of an ambassador, and no need of him apeing snobocracy if there is one. It is dollars to doughnuts that such men as Henry George, Samuel Gompers or Clarence Darrow could represent this country to Great Britain and attract more attention and respect from all classes than any of the looters we have sent over there since 1868.

Some employers of labor are not insuring their men and they think that in case of an injury or death damages could not be collected from them even if a judgment was secured, because their liabilities already exceed their assets. Others simply take the chances of being wiped out by such suits and verdicts. One employer in Yamhill County recently declared that he could not afford to protect his men, and that the wages he paid them left him no profit.

The "Hell-fare" scheme of operation of ships by the Steel Trust on the Great Lakes has taken a new turn. It is to hire seabs at high wages and refuse to pay them after they have worked as long as they can stand it. This is a fine idea, and it is surely helping out dividends. It is a great deal of trouble to pay men for their work, and when a trust owns the courts it isn't necessary. Perhaps our "open shop" Employers' Association would like to introduce the methods of the Shipping and Steel Trusts in Portland.

The Postmaster-General has fessed up that the railroads are annually robbing the mails of more dollars than the gun-fighting mail train robbers get cents. This news is so sudden! It is like the information the young lady gives a bashful suitor of fifteen years' standing when she falls in his arms. The Appeal to Reason, and eleven other papers, gave the dates, figures, time, manner and particulars of all this twenty years ago. Come off, Hitch., you are too slow.

There is danger in the people's demand for a commission form of government. The Big Business interests are realizing that they can put several things over on the working class with a commission form. There is a great deal depends upon the form of the commission form of government. Some of them are decidedly plutocratic. We should go slow in gulping down whatever a bunch of corporation attorneys and beneficiaries of public privileges and grafts term a commission form of government.

Down to \$1.15 a square yard the price of pavement has tumbled in Seattle. There will be no money lost at that. The millions swindled out of the people of Portland under the Simon rule cannot be recovered. The millions now being schemed for can be handled. Every cent above that sum should be withheld now, no matter what the contract was, on the ground of fraud, collusion and conspiracy. The property-owners, a great many of them hard-pressed homeowners, should get together and hold back payments until every contractor comes down to Seattle figures.

TO OHIO—MAKE GOOD.

If THE LABOR PRESS could send a message to the people of Ohio now entering into a campaign to elect candidates to a constitutional convention it would say:

Drop every question but that of the initiative and referendum.

In Oregon we have had attempts to repeal or paralyze the initiative, but the people from factory and from farm have always rallied to defeat their enemies, and they will again.

To our brothers and sisters everywhere we declare that the initiative and referendum are here to stay, and that no statement made by the hired presses of Big Business should receive consideration that casts any reflections upon the operation of the Oregon system.

You will be told that the people of Oregon have made mistakes; that they have been fooled; that they have attacked property rights; that they have been misled; that they do not understand the questions put before them.

Being human, they may have been misled, but they have not been bought. They cannot be bought. They can repeat any mistakes if, and when, made. They have proved to be conservative, reliable, able. To all who earn their bread we say, trust not the man who fears to trust the people.

There will be corporation attorneys from Oregon sent to you pretending to speak for the people of Oregon; doubt them. There will be various attempts on the part of local candidates to law-making and constitution-making bodies to dodge, equivocate and sidestep the issue; snow all such under.

Make any sacrifice, go to any lawful lengths, lock arms with any interest or combination, that will help you secure this power of making laws for yourselves.

Much depends upon you, collectively and individually. Make no compromises; allow none. Turn on friend and support your political foes to secure this weapon beyond value to any free man or woman. Men and women have died for less important forms of liberty. Men should not let ties of party, blood or pecuniary interest take away their allegiance to liberty. The referendum and initiative mean what all the forefathers and patriots of all the ages down have so striven for, died for—freedom. Once more duty calls you. Make good.

MEANEST GRAFT OF ALL.

In a city like New York, with an irresponsible government and the people only allowed to choose between two sets of masters, both of whom are masters in division of the spoils, the graft and corruption are stupendous.

The transportation graft is one of the largest. Every public utility service but that of water is in the hands of corporations.

The meanest graft of all, although small by comparison with many others, is that of charging for water by the glass in the poorer districts of the city. It is an especial side graft of the water commissioners and is only applied among the tenement districts. A cent for a third of a pint of water during the hottest period of the day!

The keeper of a desert well in Arizona, who draws the water from a 600-foot well on a hand windlass, would be lynched for charging a woman and her little ones a cent for a glass of water. He would be too mean to live.

ALWAYS RIGHT.

The Duluth Labor World declares that the San Francisco Star is always right. Nit. The editor of the Star is a common man, made of the same mud as other men; and he is not always right.

In his makeup, however, there is a "wrong font" every once in a while that makes him always trying to be right, honest and just.

James H. Barry once started in to prove that the single tax was wrong, and he has never finished that argument he so bravely started in the editorial columns of the Star.

While not right all the time, there is one thing James H. Barry has never been, and that is a grafter.

No man ever bought a line in, nor a line out of "Barry's Star." They never will until Jim is planted good and deep; and even then, he will rise from his grave and protest unless they hold him down with a ten-ton monument.

BRANDING MEN AND "OPEN SHOP."

The shipowners of Great Britain formed a close organization in 1897 and proceeded to break up all forms of unions among the men.

Now it is found that the men are more closely united than ever, and the results of the "open shop" ships brought it about.

Lower wages, longer hours, harder conditions, blacklists, and at last branding, was the result of the employers' association.

The branding was with ink, but would soon have reached the point of burning if the workers had not combined and paralyzed the entire shipping of the empire.

Employers assured one another that until they had their men branded there was not a perfect "open shop." That is what the workers in Portland would see if the Employers' Association had its own way.

NEGLECT THEIR OPPORTUNITIES.

For years the Socialists of Oregon have had the initiative. It is a splendid educational medium. Why it has never been used by this closely organized body of educators is past understanding. It has great opportunities. The first political body to advocate the initiative seems to be the last to make any use of it. There are plenty of things to which the principles of Socialism could be applied. The telephone monopoly, for instance.

Local People and Incidents

The Barber Asphalt Company in Portland has a lot of men who should be organized. The new City Council will not graft it so heavily but what it can afford to pay union wages for a union day.

A report that the representatives of the Central Labor Council last Friday had prevailed upon a resort on East Morrison street to recognize organization showed the Central body one source of its strength.

At the Labor Council last week the announcement that the Typographical Union, without a strike, had obtained the increase in the scale recommended by the arbitration committee, was received with cheers.

The picnic and excursion to Latourelle Falls last Sunday by the Letter Carriers was a great success. Ninety-eight people crowded the boat to its lawful capacity. The boys in grey can enjoy themselves and entertain guests in fine shape.

Milt Henderson, the hustling business agent of the Waiters, is getting there on the job, but the work of the union is progressing very well. Quite a number of applicants have been received in the last two weeks.

The prospect of Hearst starting a new paper in Portland continues to be a subject of interest among the printers. The latest story is to the effect that the basement and a portion of the first floor of the Yeon building have been secured for the purpose, and that the publication would start in September.

It is asserted that T. B. Wilcox still has hopes of being elected United States senator. If this seab-lover comes out in the open he will receive a solid delegation of votes against him from every skinned farmer and self-respecting workingman in Oregon; and they are quite numerous, Tommy.

NEW PENNY PAPER STARTS.

With prominently displayed commendations from La Follette, William J. Bryan, Governor Johnson and other leaders of political thought, the Los Angeles Tribune, the first one-cent morning daily in Southern California, made its initial appearance on July Fourth.

The new paper was established by Edwin T. Earl, the millionaire owner of the Evening Express, following reports that the Morning Herald was to be transformed into an afternoon paper.

The Herald now announces that it will remain in the morning field. The appearance of the Tribune, therefore, gives Los Angeles four morning papers. In a signed salutation, Earl says:

"We have no political ambitions to gratify. Our only aim is to serve humanity. Human rights have too long been neglected in this land. The golden calf has been exalted and property rights have been made more sacred than human rights. The Tribune will strive to correct these evils. We expect to be abused; we expect to be misunderstood, but we will ever continue our fight for righteousness and justice."

IF THEY TOLD HOW MUCH.

For weeks the machine elements in Portland spent from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a day in an endeavor to fool the people into electing Simon. What the Citizens' Alliance and Employers' Association spent is not known. It may have been that many thousands more. There was plenty of it.

What the Workingmen's Club spent was a few hundreds contributed by unions and individuals, every cent of which is a matter of record.

It would be interesting if a body of detectives were to drag up the Employers' Association, and the Simon boosters associated with them, and have evidence enough to scare them into telling the truth.

No fear, gentlemen. This experience has never been yours, and if you pray hard it never will be.

IT WON'T GO DOWN.

The Simon charter board is in favor of paralyzing the initiative. If it could succeed in doing the trick it would have accomplished its object in life. There is not a working man on the board.

To provide that only by going to the city hall and signing an initiative measure under oath could that right be exercised is to provide for no initiative whatever. The Simon bunch know that very well. So do a few thousand workingmen.

In New York children and women starve, but charitable organizations pay the rent in many cases. The rents of New York City for the ground alone would provide abundantly for all. A few millionaires splurge on it, children and women starve, and men go crazy looking for work. One-half of the ground of New York City is held idle for speculation, or is covered with shacks that would be classed as rubbish if the ground was sold and improved to a point sufficient to pay interest on the money invested.

Congressman Victor Berger has been investigating the commission form of government in Washington city. He says: "I found conditions within a stone's throw of the capitol that cannot be found in any other city in the country. I think the people should know that the laws are made within sight of the rottenest hovels imaginable, where mothers are striving to bring up children in places not fit for pigs."

Pacific Coast Shows Progress

A special session of the Montana Legislature is likely to be called to enact the Oregon Direct Primary law.

Tacoma Teamsters to the number of 100 participated in the parade on the Fourth, riding their animals horseback.

Jesse Ferney, associate editor of the Garden City Monitor, the organ of the Trades Council at Walla Walla, is the Socialist candidate for mayor of that city.

The second number of the bulletin issued by the Vancouver Joint Executive Committee shows the situation as changed but little and the strikers firm and united as ever.

Secretary Clayton, of the Tacoma Labor Council, has filed complaint against the street car company of that city for violation of the eight-hour law relating to women.

The Riggers and Stevedores Union at San Francisco, Cal., has a total membership of 2500, which makes it one of the oldest unions as well as one of the largest, in San Francisco.

Work on the great Panama Exposition building are being delayed while real estate sharks squabble over where they shall be located. In case one gang of grafters blocks the other much longer in the Earthquake City, would it not be as well to locate it in Portland?

A union barber shop in the Los Angeles Labor Temple is doing a rushing business.

Hired labor detectives in Los Angeles are having a hard time. A list of them was turned into headquarters recently, and every mother's son of them was yelling for the grand old parties that same night in the unions. They simply can't divide organized labor now.

Clarence Darrow and other prominent men connected with the Los Angeles McNamara fight are not in favor of protest meetings, processions and oratory. What they think is needed is money, and a few dimes from every workingman bearing a union card will supply that.

So great has been the recent increase in the membership of San Francisco (Cal.) Typographical Union that the organization now has the maximum representation in the San Francisco Labor Council.

An active campaign of organization will be inaugurated among the laundry workers of Oakland, Cal., where it is said the Asiatics have secured a firm foothold in the laundry business, to the detriment of the white wage earners.

WORKERS PREACHED AT.

Last Sunday Rev. Joseph E. Garvin, of Seattle, preached at the workmen in the Baker Theater. There was some excellent singing, a small crowd and but few members of organized labor present. His message to the workmen and labor unions was nothing new or startling.

He wanted a higher moral standing for admission to a labor union; reading the Scriptures and a prayer before a union began to attend to worldly affairs would also be a good thing. He thought workmen should read the Bible more, and that the Central Labor Council should hire a preacher.

The reverend gentleman told his audience that Moses and all the prophets of the Old Testament were workmen; that Jesus was a carpenter, and that no great moral uplift ever started from the idle and upper classes.

If an intelligent business agent of a labor union could whoop it up in the papers and get a few preachers together and talk at them the scene would be a much livelier one than Rev. Garvin had at the Baker Theatre.

Here, There and Everywhere

The 41,562 rural mail carriers are to receive an increase of salary amounting to \$30 per year. Their present salary is \$890.

The Governor of Wisconsin has signed a bill authorizing the state to engage in the annuity and life insurance business after next year. Premiums are to be rated according to the American mortality table.

Cheap coolie labor in Japan produces locomotive engines at three and a half times the labor cost of the same product in America. Still the Baldwin locomotive grafters want tariff protection to compete with Jap coolie labor that dollar for dollar cannot compete with American labor.

When a free man wants to quit a job he can do so; but a sailor cannot do so at any time until his term expires. This is why it is said that the difference between a jail and a ship is that the ship floats.

Cleveland, Ohio, employers, fighting the Garment Workers, take it hard that their sluggers and armed guards are not allowed on the sidewalks to beat up women and children. They seem to be really wrought up because young girls cannot be attacked by thugs paid \$5 a day for that purpose.

A judge in Milwaukee has decided the city has a right to hire detectives to hunt down tax dodgers, but has no right to pay them for their work. It is a very handy thing to have judges on call friendly to tax dodgers.

Organized labor is often told by outsiders what it should do; and it often does things that way—to its sorrow.

There is no doubt but what the County Commissioners of Multnomah are keeping back the finishing of the court house. These gentlemen are responsible. If the majority of that board was not so impressed with the necessity of giving the union-fighting contractors all the aid and comfort possible the building would have been finished long ago. It has been two years on the east half.

Teamsters in Manchester put up such a unanimous fight that even the British general government had to take a hand. There is every indication that the workers of England have started in to secure results, and that the aristocrats of money, graft or title must give way.

The German land value tax laws are very involved, cumbersome and wordy. To a limited extent the cities can levy a tax on the sales of land according to rental value. It is proving to be a great revenue producer, in spite of the exemptions, restrictions and the aristocracy.

William Lloyd Garrison said: "The advocates of complete enfranchisement of women base their demands upon the principles underlying all suffrage." If the democratic form of government is right—if a government of, for and by the people is right—then woman's suffrage is right.

In November, 1909, the Oregonian declared that the Republicans of Oregon "will put the knife into each and all who declare for Statement One." The Republicans didn't do it, but that was no fault of the machine. Now it is whetting up a knife to put into the initiative, and some Democrats are helping. Indeed, some Democrats are turning the grindstone and pouring on the water. There have always been Democrats ready to do that.

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