

Portland Labor Press

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THE SCHOOL ELECTION.

There's a lot of fuss being raised just now over a certain school election that is to be held in Portland some time next June. We are not sufficiently on the inside to know what all the row is about, but to a man up a tree it looks like it was a case of the Oregonian, the Employers' Association and the peanut politicians trying the "come-back" game.

This combination controlled school affairs in this district for many years. You know the school board handles a lot of money; they buy considerable real estate; the building operations which they control runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars each year and altogether it makes a desirable department of public activities for a bunch of political parasites to control.

Several candidates are busy now with petitions that are being circulated in which the signer is pledged to support the party named in the petition.

We wish to warn our readers not to sign these petitions just yet. There's plenty of time, so let's wait and see who the candidates are going to be.

The working people furnish the children for the public schools. They should be and are interested in the personnel of the board that directs the affairs of the schools. It is extremely probable that should Dr. Sommer become a candidate for re-election he will receive the active support of organized labor.

The working people, organized and unorganized, never had a better friend in any public office than Dr. Sommer.

He has given us a square deal and that's all we ever ask of any man.

NO BONDS FOR SCENIC HIGHWAYS.

Organized labor is not opposed to the building of good roads for commercial purposes, but we are opposed to the building of scenic highways, at least until we have plenty of good roads for the purpose of lessening the cost of bringing farm produce to the cities.

The Columbia Highway is a scenic road, built for pleasure seeking autoists, with the money of the men and women who are too poor to own an automobile.

If any considerable portion of the proposed \$1,250,000 bond issue is to be used for the purpose of hard-surfacing this highway organized labor is very likely to oppose it.

Furthermore if the work is to be done under the direction of John B. Yeon organized labor is very likely to oppose the bonds. Mr. Yeon has shown by his past activities in handling public money that he is unfit to have control of the work. He is the sort of man who would spend the taxpayers' money to hire the cheapest labor procurable. He boasts of the fact that he believes \$2.50 per day is enough for any man. He cares nothing at all for the standard of living of the workers. He doesn't care whether they can educate their children, or whether they have decent homes, or whether they have sufficient food or clothing; nothing matters so long as he gets his.

The working men and women are going to vote at that bond election.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BILL.

A bill that if enacted into law would do much toward loosening the grip of the moneyed interests of this country on the public, was Senate Bill No. 21, introduced by Senator Butler.

Section 32 of the bill clearly states the purpose of the measure. "It is intended by this act to provide the necessary machinery whereby municipalities and communities may act jointly in effecting public improvements and acquiring and operating works, the effecting and carrying on of which by such cities or communities separately would be impracticable or disadvantageous by reason of the magnitude of such improvements or works, or the cost thereof, or by reason of the fact that said improvements or works are of common benefit to a series of cities or communities."

It was a good bill but it went the route of many another good bill. There is considerable talk of taking up the proposition through the initiative. If this should be done there is little doubt but that it would pass by a large majority. It is a bill that the big interests don't want and that alone is sufficient to commend it to the common herd.

Letters from the People

Answers Mr. Barzee.

Portland, Ore., March 11, 1915.—Editor Labor Press: Mr. C. W. Barzee's letter to the Labor Press dated March 5 relative to Dr. Hinson contains certain statements and implications which are deserving of analysis and examination in order that it may be ascertained whether they are true or not.

First of all, Dr. Hinson was viciously attacked for preaching one of the cardinal doctrines of Christianity, the Resurrection. In spite of the fact that this great truth has been believed for nineteen hundred years by a large and intelligent portion of humanity many of whom have been and are fully the equal intellectually of Mr. Barzee, the latter coarsely refers to the mentality of a cultured Christian scholar who upholds this truth as "monkey intelligence."

One of the surest signs of a cultivated mind is its readiness to concede its own limitations, and to recognize the fact that a thing is not necessarily untrue because that mind cannot understand it. This sign is conspicuous by its absence from Mr. Barzee's letter.

Will he venture to assert that he understands, for example, the recent earthquake in Italy? Certainly not, yet he accepts it as a fact, presumably, for it has been authenticated by trustworthy witnesses.

It is an established principle of law, that when the veracity of a witness has been established, a presumption is at once raised in favor of other statements from the same source. Consequently, when we have the word of the "true and faithful witness," the Lord, Hinson, that the resurrections of the "just and unjust" will occur, the candid mind is led to the conclusion that the word of Him who was the Truth and who "cannot lie," is to be relied upon—and the believing heart says, "Amen: come, Lord Jesus."

Mr. Barzee also, by implication, takes Dr. Hinson to task for preaching social reforms, such as better working conditions, better wages, shorter hours, etc.

No matter how worthy these things may be and are, Dr. Hinson rightly gives them no place in his preaching, save perhaps incidentally, for the reason that he preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is not a propaganda of social reform.

When our Lord walked the earth, human slavery was at its worst. Men rotted and died like rats in the alleys of Rome. Commercial dishonesty and industrial injustice were notorious, and yet He organized no societies to reform these evils. Why? Because these and every other form of social and industrial evil were and are the print of sin in the human heart; and therefore rather than waste time and effort in pruning a diseased tree, he laid his ax at the roots. "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God," is His dictum. Individual regeneration, and not social reform, is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Barzee apparently makes the common mistake of thinking that happiness is secured by outward circumstances. Were this argument sound, we should expect to find perfect happiness and universal content in the upper classes of society, whereas the most casual observer has noticed that such is far from being the case. Divorces, crime, scandals, immorality, etc., with their attendant misery, are common occurrences. On the other hand, some of the happiest people on earth are the poor (I do not say the wretched).

In perfect accord with these well-known facts are the Scriptural statements, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth," and "Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he"; and everyone who has experienced the regenerating power of the Gospel will recognize the truth of them.

No, the propaganda of social reform is not a part of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is purely an economic and political issue, and as such will receive the support of men and women in the same ratio that they abhor injustice and the iniquitous system which exploits the worker for private gain.

Dr. Hinson, as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ, preaches only the things which the Lord commanded; and when Mr. Barzee applies such choice words as "monkey intelligence" and "that old dope" to a fundamental doctrine of Christianity, he is really impeaching the word of Jesus Christ Himself.

The issue being thus drawn between Mr. Barzee and "He who speaks as never man spake," it will not take the thinking man long to decide which to believe.

MUSICIAN.

N. Y. CARPENTERS OUT ON STRIKE

About 2000 workers, most of them carpenters, were called on strike from the Brooklyn subway construction jobs by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America last week. The only demand of the men is that the prevailing rate of wages be paid them.

Almost at every section of the subway the strike caused a complete tie-up. Altogether there are only between 4000 and 5000 men employed on the operations, which are being carried on by members of the General Contractors' Association, whom organized labor of New York is now fighting to have them enforce the anti-labor law. The contracts aggregate in value \$100,000,000.

Daniel Hancock, business agent of the District Council of the Brotherhood, said that even the non-union men had walked out, with the unionists. In a few days, he predicted, unless a settlement is effected, every worker who has ceased work on the subway jobs. The carpenters were getting \$3 a day, Hancock said. The union rate is \$4.50 a day. As the union men outnumber the non-union workers two to one in the craft, Hancock stated, the prevailing rate would naturally be based on the wages received by the organized workers. Thus, Hancock charged, the contractors violated the law by paying only \$3 a day.

The main section affected by the strike is the stretch of construction work between Thirty-sixth street and Seventy-second street on Fourth Avenue.

ASK COURT TO DECIDE.

The Ohio State Supreme Court has been asked to decide whether the state workmen's compensation law applies to workers disabled through occupational diseases. The State Industrial Commission, in charge of the fund, holds that it does not.

Well, there's something appropriate about a Shipping Bill being all at sea.

THE JOYOUS JITNEY

(The following "poem" is taken from the Fresno Labor News. In an apology for publishing it the editor said he knew the thing was no good from a literary standpoint, but just the same it contained some good horse sense.)

What's the fuss—
What's the fuss—
All about a jitney bus;
Just a fleeting, profit-eating,
Reckless, trackless, but competing—
Jitney bus.

A vandalizing, scandalizing,
"We-never-make-'em-stand"-izing
Jitney bus.
What makes the transit company cuss
Jitney bus.

And go to moralizing thus—
"Dear people, look into the facts.
We cannot pay your town a tax,
With all these jitneys taking cracks
At our profits—making loss
Of what once was gain."
(The company's getting peeved and
cross.

Since cars have quit a pay-in',
So the service's growing wuss,
As each nimble jitney bus
Takes its turn at hauling us;
And we hear this sad refrain:
Tinkle, tinkle, little car,
Now we know not where you are,
Once your clanging, saucy bell,
Said, "Step quick, or go to hell."
But you're much politer now,
And more fine you will allow;
For the Jitney's changed our tune—
And your number too—
Cars do not come as soon
As they used to do.

Now they come so far apart
That the nimble Jitneys dart
In ahead, and catch their prey—
Whisk their victims quick away.
And the hesitating,
Aggravating, undulating car
Never gets its victims,
Merely sees them from afar
As they ride
Side by side.

When the little Jitneys glide
Up and down, through the town,
And they will not be denied,
What will happen? We should worry
If they take us in a hurry.
We'll not join with either faction—
Jitney bus or city traction.
But remember—
If a Jitney
Bus should hit me
As it's coming up to git me
I can't sue it.

If I do
Means almost nothing to it.
For the bus is shy on wealth,
If perchance it spoils my health—
I'm the goat. No one will pay me
Even though the bus should maim
me.

So I moralize thus—
If I ride in a bus—
I take my own chances,
I can't raise 'o fuses.

AT THE ORPHEUM

It looks like John W. Considine knew exactly what he was doing when he grabbed the big theatre at Broadway and Stark streets, turned it into vaudeville and unionized the place. He did a tremendous business last week with Blanche King, and will have to hire a few able bodied men to cart the coin away after today when the people learn what a bully and all-around good show opened there Sunday.

Four stars are featured and the balance of the show is good enough to be



placed in the same class, with one exception, and that act is much better than the ordinary.

John Hyams and Lelia McIntyre established themselves as vaudeville favorites as easily as they did when they were playing with the big road shows, and the people liked them. Same remarks for Bonta, the big beauty, and her partner, diminutive Lew Hearn. It would take off the edge of things to tell what they do, or how they do it, but you can bet your last nickel that it is entertaining.

It is the kind of a show that makes a man good-natured, gives a woman a cheerful view of life and starts the kids turning somersaults on the lawn.

A new and commendable feature was started at the Orpheum last week, when the management began serving tea to matinee patrons on Wednesday. It is a thoughtful courtesy. The tea is served on the mezzanine floor after the matinee and is proving extremely popular. No charge is made for the refreshment.

MACHINISTS STRIKE SETTLED.

The strike in the Palmer shops at Worcester, Mass., has been settled with a complete victory for the machinists, who have been granted recognition of their union. As a result, scores of machinists are now joining the organization.

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Take a very small chew—less than one-quarter the old size. It will be more satisfying than a mouthful of ordinary tobacco. Just nibble on it until you find the strength chew that suits you. Tuck it away. Then let it rest. See how easily and evenly the real tobacco taste comes, how it satisfies without grinding, how much less you have to spit, how few chews you take to be tobacco satisfied. That's why it is the Real Tobacco Chew. That's why it costs less in the end.

It is a ready chew, out fine and short shred so that you won't have to grind on it with your teeth. Grinding on ordinary candied tobacco makes you spit too much.

The taste of pure, rich tobacco does not need to be covered up with molasses and licorice. Notice how the salt brings out the rich tobacco taste in "Right-Cut."

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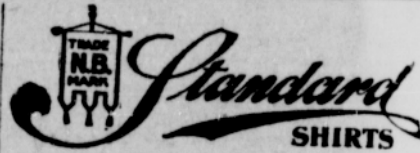
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