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BIG BUSINESS FIGHTING TO DISCREDIT PUBLIC OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Keep Children Away From The Alhambra

Some time ago, for reasons that were good and sufficient, the Musicians' Mutual Association and the Moving Picture Operators' Union placed the Alhambra Theatre, at East Forty-ninth and Hawthorne avenue, on the unfair list.

This action was taken only after every effort had been made to adjust the difficulty with the manager, who absolutely refused to deal with them.

The theatre is located in a district that is principally populated by working men and women, and the manager is feeling the effect of the refusal of the people to patronize his theatre. Still there are some people in the neighborhood who evidently do not know the true conditions that exist and in order to reach them the unions are sending out the following notice:

"Working Men and Women: Keep your children away from the Alhambra Theatre, at Forty-ninth and Hawthorne. TEACH THEM WHILE YOUNG TO SPEND THEIR NICKELS AND DIMES WHERE LIVING WAGES ARE SPENT. They will be in the field for work themselves in a few years."

Hatters Vote Not To Pay Judgment

The United Hatters of North America, in convention in New York City, voted Saturday not to raise a fund to satisfy the \$285,000 judgment, affirmed by the United States Supreme Court, to Loewe & Co., hat manufacturers of Danbury, Conn., against members of the Hatter's Union.

The hatters voted, however, to raise a fund for the relief of the individuals whose homes and bank accounts have been attached to satisfy the judgment. This determination was voiced in the following resolution adopted in executive session:

"The United Hatters of North America, deny the statement of D. E. Loewe & Co., and the attorneys for the Anti-Boycott Society that this organization has agreed with anyone to pay the judgment in this case and hereby declares it to be our purpose not to apply any of the funds of the organization or any other members to the payment or satisfaction of this judgment.

"But this organization pledges its assistance to the members affected by said judgment and resolves further that an assessment of one per cent on the dollar of the weekly earnings of the members of this organization, on and after July 1, be levied on the same is hereby assessed and levied to be collected as other assessments are collected and the money realized therefrom shall constitute a fund to be used and employed by the officers of this organization in such manner as they may deem best for the relief and benefit of said mem-

bers affected by said judgment, and resolved, further, that the officers and directors of this organization be and are hereby authorized and directed to appeal to the American Federation of Labor and to labor and other organizations for assistance and contributions to the said funds for the purposes aforesaid."

In preambles to the resolution, the hatters assert that it was not known until the decision of the Supreme Court in this case, whether the Sherman law was intended to apply to labor organizations and the defendants, "though held legally wrong in the opinion of this organization, were guilty of no moral wrong."

The preambles also set forth that it was reasonable and proper that the hatters' organization should relieve insofar as possible the distress of the members affected by the judgment and make comfortable their declining years.

The action taken by the hatters came at the close of the sixth annual convention and was in answer to an open letter signed by D. E. Loewe & Co., published April 22, in newspapers circulating in Danbury and vicinity. In this letter, it was said that foreclosure action against property of the defendants had been delayed in order to give the United Hatters an opportunity to avoid proceedings against individual homes should it so desire. It was added that unless that organization at its approaching convention should make provision to fulfill its alleged written covenant to pay the judgment, foreclosure would follow.

School Books Should Be Printed In State

A. W. Lawrence and L. E. Gottschall, members of Salem Typographical Union, appeared before the Central Labor Council last Friday evening in behalf of a resolution that was recently passed by the Salem union advocating that the text books for the public schools of Oregon be printed in the state.

Following is the complete text of the resolution:

"Whereas, the text-books used in the public schools of Oregon, in the grades from the Primary to the Grammar, inclusive, are published in other states; that in 1914 there were over 300,000 such books sold in this state at a cost to the citizens of \$134,000.00; that a large percentage of this cost is due to the cumbersome and expensive methods of placing these necessary books in the hands of the pupils;

"Whereas, a general policy of economy and efficiency, coupled with the movement to keep Oregon money in Oregon, can best be served by the publication and distribution of these texts by the state through mediums now in existence; that such publication and distribution would stimulate the literary production of these texts, the securing of books suitable for Oregon children to derive knowledge from, and greatly add to the manufacturing growth of the state; there be it

"Resolved, by Capital Typographical Union No. 210, that we endorse such a movement and lend it our encouragement; that we appoint a

special committee to investigate the feasibility of this plan and secure as much support for it as possible; that we ask all unions, granges, civic organizations, commercial bodies, and the citizenship interested in lessening taxes and improving the welfare of the commonwealth in this state to assist us in this work for the general welfare of the citizens and the improvement of conditions in the printing trades and other manufacturing industries resultant from the adoption of such a system."

It is the intention to carry on a campaign of education during the next two years, and to ask the legislature of 1917 to enact laws that will make it possible to put the plan into effect.

"We have paper made in Oregon," said Lawrence, "and can turn out any kind of books wanted. I am sure we have competent writers and teachers in Oregon who can get up books better adapted to our needs than the school book trust." He quoted figures to show that California was supplying school books at less than half the trust prices. The proposed measure was referred to the legislative committee.

It was explained that if these books were printed in the state it would mean that \$350,000 would remain here annually instead of going to some other state, and that it would furnish steady employment to 80 to 100 men.

The matter was referred to the executive committee.

ANDREW FURUETH

A Masterful Tribute by Senator Robert M. La Follette, in La Follette's Magazine.

One morning in December, 1909, there came into my office in the Capitol building, a tall, bony, slightly stooped man, with a face bespeaking superior intelligence and lofty character. It was Andrew Furueth. He wanted to interest me in the cause of the American sailor. He was a sailor himself, he said, and he wanted to "be free." I did not know what he meant. I questioned him. Surely there were no slaves under the American flag. Bondsmen there were—but Lincoln changed all that. And it had been written in the amended Constitution. "Yes," he said, "but not for the sailor. All other men are free. But when the amendments were framed, they passed us by. The sailor was forgotten."

I asked him to tell me about it. Sitting on the edge of the chair, his body thrust forward, a great soul speaking through his face, the set purpose of his life shining in his

eyes, he told me the story of the sailor's wrongs. He said little of himself, excepting as I drew him on to speak of the long, long struggle of which he was the beginning, and is now finally the end. He spoke with a strong Scandinavian accent, but with remarkable facility of expression, force and discrimination.

He knew the maritime law of every country; the social condition, the wage level, the economic life of every sea-faring nation. He was master of his subject. His mind worked with the precision of a Corliss engine. He was logical, rugged, terse, quaint, and fervid with conviction.

Born in Norway, the call of the sea came to him as a lad of sixteen. He stood upon the cliffs and looked out upon the infinite. The life of the sailor, like the ocean, must be wide and free. He felt its mysterious spell. He would be a "free sea-

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"Remember Ludlow"

Thursday evening, May 27, in the large hall of the Public Library there will be held a meeting to voice protest against the conviction of John R. Lawson of murder in connection with the Colorado strike.

The speakers of the evening will be Dr. C. H. Chapman, W. J. Smith, B. Ellis, and Eugene E. Smith.

The conviction of Lawson has caused the laboring men of the country to a realization of what organized capital will do in its effort to crush the unions.

Writing of the trial and conviction of Lawson in the Wyoming Labor Journal, John R. Ramsey says:

"That so-called conviction of John Lawson which was so successfully staged in the Trinidad court house last Monday by Jesse Northcutt and a coterie of disreputable citizens, came as a surprise to every one who watched these proceedings. We know and have reason to know that the downright cold-blooded wickedness in the administration of justice in Animas County has no equal. We hesitated to believe that they would attempt to convict a man, of the well known upright-

ness of character of John Lawson, on the evidence of as scurvy a gang of perjured pimps and macquereaux as ever were allowed to pollute the air of a so-called court of justice.

"It goes without saying that this conviction will never stand. It will be appealed and if necessary carried to the highest courts in the land. One thing it has taught us and that is that the time has come when the situation must be handled without kid gloves. The characters of the men behind the persecution must be thoroughly exposed."

All union men and women, their friends and sympathizers, are urged to attend the meeting Thursday evening.

BARBERS HAVE SHORTER HOURS.

The Barber's Union of Ottawa, Ontario, has secured the passage of a city ordinance closing barber shops at 10 o'clock Saturday nights and nights preceding holidays. The barbers first secured the approval of a majority of their employers. The joint movement puts a stop to midnight labor.



ANDREW FURUETH

The fight against meters and more particularly the attack of the Oregonian on Commissioner Daly has developed into a general campaign against municipal ownership with the big public corporations of the city pulling the strings of their journalistic puppet.

For years the Oregonian and its big business friends have been advocating a flat rate system of waste and extravagance, not so much because of the saving they would make in water bills at the expense of the little consumer as because they desired to swamp the Water Bureau in debt, in order that they might point to another municipal plant "failure."

Insofar as the anti-meter campaign is concerned the Oregonian has not advanced a single argument to combat the array of facts and figures published in other local papers in support of Mr. Daly's assertions. The morning paper has contented itself with recourse to ridicule and abuse and plain lies. It is difficult to see how such tactics can convince anyone—in fact Commissioner Daly has not involved himself in any one-sided discussion with the paper, but has occasionally written letters to call attention to some of the most flagrant misrepresentations.

Under Commissioner Daly the Bureau of Water Works has saved in the past two years, by economical administration, close to \$200,000. Commissioner Daly promises by the curbing of waste with meters to save hundreds of thousands more.

Now the powers behind the Oregonian, namely, the big utility companies in which H. L. Pittock, owner of the Oregonian, and his friends, are heavily interested, see the menacing shadow of a municipal light plant which Mr. Daly has already pronounced feasible and the acquisition of which he has already recommended to the City Council.

Close observers have noted that the Oregonian's hostility toward Mr. Daly became evident immediately following the publication of his first annual report. In this he called attention to water power that might be developed for a municipal light plant, and asked for a small appropriation with which to employ a hydraulic engineer to investigate a number of water power sites in the vicinity of the Bull Run watershed.

Several editorials shortly thereafter warned the city against municipal ownership of lighting plants and within a few weeks the Oregonian was launched forth in full career against Mr. Daly and his policies.

To summarize: Commissioner Daly has in less than two years saved the Bureau of Water Works something like \$200,000 in expenses, and has at the same time reduced water rates 20 per cent, thus benefiting every domestic water user.

He contemplates further economies in administration in order to reduce still further the water rates and he asks for permission to purchase meters in large lots so that better prices may be secured.

Big business is alarmed; it sees in this progressive and economical administration of a municipal water plant an opening wedge for the operation of a municipal light plant. Hence Commissioner Daly must be eliminated at any cost. Wage earners and small home owners don't be deceived as to the big issue behind the meter ordinance—the fight of the multi-millionaire lighting trust to control the fat business wrested by means of exorbitant rates from the little fellow for many years.

Consumers' League Secretary To Speak

Mrs. Florence Kelley, secretary of the National Consumers' League, will speak on Wednesday, May 26, under the auspices of the Consumers' League of Oregon, at the following open meetings: Reed College, 8:40 A. M. Subject, "Third Class Children of the Republic"; Central Library, Room A, 8:15 P. M. Subject, "Courts and Consumer."

Mrs. Kelley is author of "Some Ethical Gains Through Legislation," and "Modern Industry in Relation to the Family, Health, Education, Morality." She is an authority on social and economic subjects and a speaker of national reputation.

The American Magazine says of Mrs. Kelley:

"Mrs. Kelley is a graduate of Cor-

nell. As a young woman she translated Frederick Engel's Conditions of the Working Class in England. In 1892 she became a resident at Hull House, and Miss Addams' history of the early days at this Chicago settlement breathes not a little of the spirit of this fellow resident, who was special agent for the Bureau of Labor statistics of Illinois in an investigation of the needle trades in the tenements in Chicago, in 1892; was agent in charge of the Chicago division of the investigation of the slums of great cities for the Department of Labor at Washington, and Chief inspector of Factories of Illinois from 1893 to 1897.

"These were years in which Mrs.

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