

Portland Labor Press

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WHO'S THE MAN BEHIND?

Some time last winter a man by the name of Chapman, who has been connected with a good fat job in these parts for some time past, conceived the idea that the people of the State of Oregon needed to be educated, particularly along the lines of the kind of legislation that they should or should not enact.

Evidently he found some other people who thought the same as he did and they started a weekly paper known as the Oregon Voter. The editor has at various and opportune times made statements as to the high and lofty aims of the aforesaid Oregon Voter and for a time some of us were fooled into the belief that he was really going to run a paper of the kind and quality that his statements indicated.

But some of us who know something of the cost of producing newspapers and are familiar with the fact that Chapman isn't in the habit of doing very much for the dear public unless there is a piece of "kale" in sight, are beginning to see the faint glimmer of a light in the distance.

We have not noticed that he has devoted any space to boosting any laws that would in any way interfere with the rights of the public service corporations or of any monied interests.

He has devoted considerable space to a condemnation of laws that would, if enacted, destroy the death grip of the pilfering plutes who fatten off the toil of laboring men.

His attitude toward organized labor is in accordance with the views of the average member of the Employers Association, namely, "Unions are all right if they are run right." The latest issue of this newborn disseminator of mis-information contains an attack on the Sailors' Union for its activity in securing the passage of a law that made them free men instead of slaves.

In this violent attack on laws that are passed in the interest of humanity, and which is appropriately headed, "Ashes of Victory," Mr. Chapman says:

"Our restrictive legislation has hampered industry, discouraged investment, reduced employment and throttled prosperity. Wages, as represented by purchasing power, are no higher; the cost of living is greatly increased, and living conditions have improved only as progress has been made by private enterprise in spite of legislative handicaps."

There you have it. Evidently the Oregon Voter is in the field to prevent the passage of any more progressive laws in Oregon and if possible to break down those already enacted.

No doubt those who are interested in the success of this program will see to it that the paper is kept alive—as long as it can be useful to them. Incidentally "Chap" will get his as the game goes on.

Wonder who is "interested" with him?

MADE IN OREGON TEXT BOOKS

One and forever inseparable have seemed the text book and its attendant petty graft. Shifting, sliding, changing, text books come, go, and are replaced by others of different authority or publication. An entire American generation recalls the ruination of its penmanship by the abrupt and despotic order for a change from the "spencerian" to the "vertical" system, at a formative period in school. The main idea seems to be that the presses of the school book trust should never slacken—more speed to them!

The state of California prints its own text books. It prints them for a naverage of 22 cents apiece. The state of Oregon buys its text books from the trust. They cost the parents or pupils an average of 43 cents apiece. How do you like it?

The saving of one system over the other, in Oregon, would amount to \$50,000.00 annually, with a like amount paid at home FOR HOME LABOR.

This home printing plan is fostered by prominent educators and supported by the Typographical Union. It is not only feasible, it is an assured success. Ask California. Certain citizens of our state, always to the fore with the "MADE IN OREGON" slogan, will prove themselves and their sincerity by the quality of the support given this excellent proposal.—Gold Hill News.

The man who keeps telling what he is going to do generally loses his audience before he does his work.

OREGON'S SPLENDID SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT

As an example of what can happen under the Oregon system, a Portland weekly, The Oregon Voter, in its issue of July 10 reproduces in full the People's Land and Loan Measure proposed by the Central Labor Council of Portland. A study of the measure shows that under the Oregon system it is possible to make something more substantial than a figure of speech out of a guarantee to all of equal rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is possible to establish conditions under which every man wanting an opportunity to earn a living can have it. It is possible to assure every citizen possession of his own home. It is possible to banish poverty and all of its resulting evils from the state. That being the case, one wonders why The Oregon Voter should present that possibility as though it were something to be dreaded rather than welcomed; why, it should speak of it as "a type of proposed legislation which some day may come perilously near passing." If the measure imperils anything other than some existing forms of legalized robbery it is not apparent after a close study. The fact that such legislation is possible under the Oregon system is reason enough for adoption of the system elsewhere. Oregon is to be congratulated on the splendid possibilities of its system of government.—G. D. in The Public, July 23.

And up to the present the people have thought the legislature was doing all that should be done along this line. But along comes the Medford Mail Tribune with a neat proposition to bond the state for \$50,000,000 for 50 years.

Bonds and Bunk

(Continued from page 1)

ing craze is getting in its vicious work.

States are bonded for public works. Counties are bonded for roads.

Cities are bonded for water-systems and pavements.

And a load of interest is being piled up that is beginning to sag the shoulders of the American working man, who must pay for it all.

Let me repeat what I said a few weeks ago—

* * * * *
* The man who works pays all *
* taxes. *
* * * * *

No one else pays a cent.

And it is the working man, and his children, and theirs, that must pay, pay, pay, for the things false leaders are persuading him he must have right now.

Portland is bonded frightfully. Not in comparison with other cities whose people have been more foolish, of course, but in relation to the general truth that it is a bad thing to be in debt, to have a millston around your neck which you can't get off for 10 or 20 or 50 or 100 years, and all the time you must pay, pay, pay in interest to keep it from getting heavier and heavier and dragging you to the ground.

Multnomah county is bonded, as a result of the late "good roads" election.

Bonded for \$1,500,000 to build roads so that automobilists may save their tires, and Oh! and Ah! about our scenery in greater comfort.

Bonded to build roads so that the real estate speculator may further inflate the price of land.

* * * * *
* And make it harder for a poor *
* man to get a home. *
* * * * *

The big dailies, and many of the big men of the city, men whom labor had learned to trust, got out and hollered for the bonds.

Colonel Wood and Judge McGinn joined in the hue and cry for bonds.

It would make work, was the main argument.

It would relieve the unemployed situation.

Here we were, a great, rich county, with wealth for all her citizens, if they only had a chance to create it by their labor, voting ourselves into debt to make jobs.

Mortgaging the years of the future to feed ourselves for a few months.

It was argued that a good system of roads in Multnomah county would make our unused lands more accessible, accelerate the back-to-the-land movement, increase the number of happy homes and decrease the high cost of living.

It's a cruel falsehood.

* * * * *
* The increased value given the *
* land by good roads will be more *
* than reflected in its price. *
* * * * *

And land will be harder to get than ever.

There will be just as great, or greater, concentration of poverty and misery in the city, just as many demands on the Associated Charities, as there were before the good roads were built.

Eighty per cent of the land of Multnomah county is in brush, it was said during the road bonds campaign.

Good roads will not help put it in onions or alfalfa.

Already the assurance of good roads has made the real estate speculator surer of his prey.

Of course, we might give men a chance to get the land.

After that, they'd build their own roads, and issue no bonds to do it, either.

But that, wouldn't leave any profit for the real estate grafter, the bank or the bonding house.

* * * * *
* Or the people might go into *
* the bonding and banking busi- *
* ness themselves, issue bonds *
* for good roads or whatever else *
* they needed, and pay the inter- *
* est to themselves in their own *
* bank. *
* * * * *

This would be rather uncanonical, but it has its good points.

The people would get the needed improvement—if they did need it, and with no profit in it for anyone, there would be no one to fool them into believing they needed it if they didn't—at actual cost, without supporting a horde of parasites in the process.

So far as I know, the state of Oregon is yet unbonded.

* * * * *
* Our efficient little legislature *
* can be depended on to spend all *
* the money in sight every two *
* years. *
* * * * *

And up to the present the people have thought the legislature was doing all that should be done along this line.

But along comes the Medford Mail Tribune with a neat proposition to bond the state for \$50,000,000 for 50 years.

This money, says the Mail Trib-

une, could be used to lend to Oregon farmers at 6 per cent.

Four per cent of the interest would go to the banks and bond-buyers, who are not making a decent living as it is, scarcely.

The other two per cent, according to the Mail Tribune's nifty scheme, would go to the state school fund.

Exactly. Four per cent to Mammon. Two per cent to the school children.

With its plan for a pillow the Mail Tribune dreams on and on and on.

"Stagnation would be replaced by activity," it mumbles.

"The bankers wouldn't be hurt," it snores, doubtless correctly.

"Interest would be lowered to six per cent in nearly every part of the state," it wheezes.

Why the "nearly?" Why spoil the lovely vision by any intruding doubt?

The Mail Tribune concludes its rhapsody, which might be entitled, "Beating the Game, or Lifting Yourself by Your Bootstraps," with this modest line:

"This practical plan is offered for consideration."

And in considering it, it may be well to consider that Medford, guided largely by the editorial trumpet of the Mail Tribune, is bonded to the eyebrows and gasping for breath; Jackson county, of which Medford is the proud metropolis, is likewise bonded for a good road that parallels the only good road they had in the first place—the railroad—and the people of Medford are now gravely considering whether or no they shall re-bond to pay the interest on what they already owe to the bonding companies.

They have a bright idea, to-wit:

* * * * *
* "We'll borrow some money and *
* pay up our debts." *
* * * * *

That is, part of them.

By all means this "practical" plan should be given "practical" consideration.

And a financial statement of the city of Medford might not come amiss in this connection.

It could be printed as "Exhibit A" on the ballot when the plan comes to a vote.

OF COURSE, THERE IS A WAY FOR THE PEOPLE TO HAVE GOOD ROADS AND OTHER PUBLIC WORKS WITHOUT BONDING.

And a way to have money to loan to farmers without paying some apple-pie old Shylock in Wall Street four per cent for it.

The answer is found in "The People's Land and Loan Measure," proposed by the Central Labor Council of Portland, which purposes, and provides means for carrying out the proposition, to—

* * * * *
* Secure every man in the use *
* of as much land as he needs, *
* without paying any man for *
* leave to live and labor on the *
* land. *
* * * * *

The measure proposes, also, to take 90 per cent of the annual rental value of land for public uses.

Which will produce a fund sufficient for good roads, free text books, or any other good thing needed by the people.

A land-value tax, that will tap the enormous values piled up in cities like Portland, where land is made valuable and rents high by the presence and labor of the people of the city and all its tributary country, is the key to economic freedom.

Bonds are just what the very word says they are—chains and slavery.

* * * * *
* BONDS ARE ONE MEANS *
* BY WHICH THE FEW FAT- *
* TEN ON THE MANY. *
* * * * *

Bond-holders are buzzards that feast on the bodies, living and dead, of men and women who work.

But if you like being a slave yourself, and feel that it is your duty to raise your boy to be a bondman—

And if you think this gentle little sermon is bunk—

Vote for bonds at every opportunity.

A Turkish Fable

As a woman was walking, a man looked at and followed her.

"Why," said she, "do you follow me?"

"Because," he replied, "I have fallen in love with you."

"Why so? My sister, who is coming after me, is much handsomer than I am. Go and make love to her."

The man turned back and saw a woman with an ugly face, and being greatly displeased, returned and said: "Why should you tell me a falsehood?"

The woman answered: "Neither did you tell me the truth; for, if you were in love with me, why did you look back for another woman?"

A neutral ship does not enjoy any-thing like the advantages of an inter-ested ship.

He Took No Chances

In a public ward of a hospital two fellows were recovering from operations for appendicitis. A third patient was brought in from the table and placed on a cot between the nearly well boys. Coming out of the ether and recognizing earth again, he turned to the one on his left and said:

"How are you getting on, pal?" "Fine, till yesterday; but the doctor left a spool of cotton in me, and they opened me up again."

The new patient sighed, then turned to the sick one on the right. "Well, how are you, old man?"

"Pretty good, until yesterday; but the doctor left his scissors in me, and they opened me up again."

Just then the door opened, and the doctor came in, exclaiming, "Anybody around here seen my hat?" The new patient jumped out of the window.

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.25	FOUR Per cent	\$ 73.	\$162.	\$403.	\$1,294.
.50	per annum Com-	146.	324.	806.	2,588.
1.00	pounded twice a	293.	650.	1614.	5,177.
2.00	year, January 1	585.	1301.	3228.	10,358.
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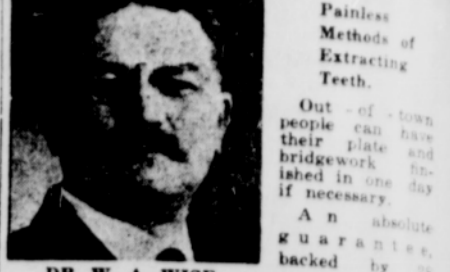
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