

Oregon Labor Press

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HOME PHONE COMPANY ON THE ROCKS.

The Home Telephone Company has defaulted in the payment of interest on \$3,000,000 of 5 per cent first lien bonds, due October 15.

The president of the company, Samuel Hill has issued a statement in which he says that "the general business depression and persistent efforts of the Bell monopoly to prevent competition in Portland" are the two chief causes of the predicament in which the company finds itself.

Those of us who have kept in close touch with the matter know that there is another reason for the failure of the institution.

When this company first came to the city the City Council refused to grant them a franchise and the company appealed to the people with the result that they secured the franchise.

In the campaign which preceded the election at which the franchise was granted the promoters were extremely liberal with their promises to labor. Arrangements were made to operate the plant under the same labor conditions as were in force with the competing company's plant and for a time all was well.

The forces that are so interested in the welfare of the workers that they want them to work for the wage and under the conditions imposed by the boss, the Employers' Association, got in its work and to make a long story short the institution was placed on the unfair list of organized labor of this state.

As a direct result of this company's attitude toward organized labor thousands of phones were discontinued and the company is still losing patrons daily.

This is the main reason the company finds itself unable to pay dividends to its stockholders.

President Hill in his statement makes an eloquent appeal to the people to support the company saying that "Continued lack of support to the company can have no result but a return to the deplorable telephone conditions which prevailed when this company was chartered, and which every resident of Portland who experienced the same has never forgotten. This is the last stand of independent telephony on the Pacific Coast, and it is for the people of Portland to decide whether they wish it continued or not."

The working people of Portland prefer to suffer the threatened inconvenience of poor service from the competing company, if they must, rather than sacrifice the principle of the right to organize.

The Home Telephone Company is unfair to organized labor and will not be supported by organized labor or its friends until such time as the company sees fit to change its policy toward the workers.

PAY-ENVELOPE ECONOMY.

And now Commissioner Bigelow proposes to abolish the head of the Purchasing Bureau in the name of economy. Is it because he has at last recognized what the general public has believed all along that the bureau was a frost?

If so, why don't he abolish the whole thing? And he proposes to do the work himself.

Is it because he has so little to do, or is the job of really no importance?

It does seem strange that the only way economy can be effected is by the discharge of employees. And stranger still that a man drawing \$5000 a year should admit that he has spare time sufficient to take care of an additional \$1800 job without pay.

Perhaps, in the name of economy, it might be well to forget for a time the awful waste in wages and consider the waste in salaries for a moment.

Why an Auditor and a Commissioner of Finance both?

Why a Purchasing Bureau anyway?

One thousand five hundred cords of wood and 500 gallons of gasoline more or less would pay some of the increases promised.

So would that money wasted patting the returned soldier boys on the back to make them forget the promised jobs that had been lost in the shuffle.

Is there no way of economizing without taking it out of the pay envelope?

W. S. U'REN.

There is probably not a man in Oregon who has been so thoroughly lambasted by the representatives of special interests and special privileges as has W. S. U'Ren. This fact alone makes some of us think the more of him.

Mr. U'Ren has given the best part of his life to the task of restoring to the people the rights filched from them by those who think they are ordained by the Almighty to rule the earth.

Crooked and corrupt politicians and political machines have fallen before his attacks and with the help of other progressive men and women he has been instrumental in placing upon the statute books of Oregon more

progressive laws than are to be found in any other state in the Union.

He is the special object of attack just now because he is supporting the People's Land and Loan law.

Under the feature heading of "Prominent Men of Portland" the Evening Telegram has this to say of him: W. S. U'Ren, of Portland, lawyer and prophet prophesies abolition of poverty in Oregon. Every man is to have honorable and profitable employment all the time. A thousand dollars a year will be common earnings for a laborer. Every woman will have a home. All the children will have good clothes, plenty to eat, go to school every day and be taught the habit of useful work as well as books. This will come with the abolition of land speculation and landlordism as provided by the People's Land and Loan law initiated by organized labor. He prophesies that the people will reorganize the state and local government of Oregon in such form that there will be no unnecessary public officers or employees; that the public servants will render to Oregon as loyal and devoted service as Colonel Goethals and his co-laborers gave the United States at Panama, and far better than any private person or corporation can get from hired men; in that day the taxpayer will get a full hundred cents of value in public service for every dollar of taxes. Then the courts will administer more justice and less law than now, completely and without delay, and at much less cost. These good things in government are to come when the people adopt the short ballot with proportional method of election for legislative and other group officers, and the first, second and "other choices" method of electing the governor and other executive officers, so that we shall have actual majority rule in the state.

From the ordinary fortune teller this is too good to be true and no one would pay much attention to it. But U'Ren foretold the abolition of political bosses and party machines in Oregon, the coming of the Australian ballot law, the initiative and referendum, direct election of United States Senators and some other good things.

Mr. Lafferty Answers McArthur Statements

A. W. Lafferty, Progressive Independent candidate for Congress, against the present incumbent, C. N. (Pat) McArthur, is making a hard fight for the place.

That McArthur fully realizes that Lafferty is gaining strength every day is proven by the fact that Pat is using every artifice known to politicians of his calibre to hold his supporters in line.

As a "friend of labor" Pat is one of these "I'm-with-you-when-you're-right" boys and he is the judge of when we are right. When it came to a vote on the Adamson Eight-Hour bill he did just as he has always done when it came to a real test on labor matters and voted against labor.

Referring to some of the things McArthur has been saying about him, Mr. Lafferty has issued the following statement:

C. N. McArthur is quoted as having said, in a recent address, that I was absent from 46 per cent of the roll calls during my two terms in Congress. He also said I was absent in Europe nearly all the Summer of 1913, while my two colleagues from Oregon were working in Washington.

Both of the foregoing statements are absolutely false. During my two terms in Congress I did not miss over 10 per cent of the roll calls, and I answered more roll calls than 90 per cent of the membership of the House. Sinnott of this state is in his seat almost incessantly, and during my last session I answered one more roll call than did Sinnott. Collier's Weekly recently published the record showing this.

Continuous Sessions Held.

Congress was in session almost continuously during the four years I was there. Two long extra sessions were held, making six sessions in four years, whereas four sessions are ordinarily held in four years. McArthur got a vacation of over eight months immediately following his induction into office, March 4, 1915, which was a much longer vacation than I had during my entire four year's service. I was in Europe but four weeks. That was in the Summer of 1913, after the House had passed the currency bill, and while same was in the Senate. The House was not working at the time, but was waiting on the Senate. I was absent from Washington but six weeks, and in Europe but four weeks. I was there for a little vacation and to study rural credits.

Pushed Land Grant.

My only other absence from Washington during the four years was to push the O. & C. land grant case in the Federal courts at Portland and San Francisco. I was the only Oregon lawyer who even appeared in the case in the Supreme Court. I never accepted a penny of fee, but was fulfilling my pre-election promise to do all within my power to open these lands to settlers. I finally won in the Supreme Court, to this extent: That court refused to forfeit the lands to the United States, and held the actual settler clause to constitute an "enforceable covenant." The court directed Congress to pass suitable rules for opening the lands to settlers. But instead of doing that, McArthur procured the passage of a bill through Congress which will, unless it shall be amended following my election two weeks from next Tuesday, forever close the lands to settlers and open them to Weyerhaeuser and the other timber barons.

Men Behind McArthur.

And why is McArthur for giving away Oregon lands to speculators instead of opening them up to bona fide settlers in small tracts with the timber growing thereon just as the original law requires?

The answer is that the timber speculators put McArthur in Congress and they demand of him to deliver the goods. Frederick A. Kribs, timber speculator, contributed \$300 toward McArthur's election. McArthur's own affidavit on file under the corrupt practice act admits this. W. D. Wheelwright,

lumber exporter, put up \$100. R. W. Hoyt's affidavit filed at Salem under the corrupt practice act admits that he raised \$1739.05 and spent same last May for McArthur's renomination.

No man put up a penny for my campaign then or now. If I elected all these lands, with the timber growing thereon, will be opened to settlers within one year, or I will give my life in the attempt.

Secured Largest Appropriation.

During my four years in Congress this district received the largest appropriations in Oregon's history. We received \$1,000,000 for the new post-office building soon to be constructed. We received over \$2,000,000 a year for the Columbia and lower Willamette Rivers. I procured the passage of over 40 private bills granting pensions to Portland soldiers and widows. I put the office of Congressman on a business basis. Not a letter was received at my office in the four years that was not answered the day it came. I sent out over 1,000,000 speeches to Oregon people on the land grant. A large part of my salary went to the government printing office, which charges a congressman cost for printing his speeches.

Progressive-Independent Candidate.

At the late primary I defeated McArthur for the Progressive nomination. I received two and one-half Democratic votes to McArthur's one. An independent petition of over 2000 names has been filed with the Secretary of State in my behalf. The words "Progressive-Independent" will appear on the ballot after my name. I believe I will be elected.

Brewery Workers Are Busy

The brewery workers are busy these days distributing literature in behalf of the amendment permitting the home manufacture of beer in Oregon.

If ever a union needed the undivided support of every trade unionist and friend, the brewery workers need it now. And if ever a union deserved such support because of its unwaivering support of the union movement, as a whole, the brewery workers deserves that support for this very reason.

The Joint Local Executive Board is handling the campaign for the workers and has sent statements to all newspapers in the state, had a page in the Labor Day edition of The Labor Press, has had printed two circulars, 75,000 of each, which the members are distributing from house to house and over the state.

From 15 to 24 men during the past week have been engaged in this work. These men are only working half time, thanks to their friends, the drys, hence have plenty of time to devote to the distribution of their arguments. Carl Hoffman and Chas. Yarnell, members, are in Eastern and Central Oregon distributing literature and arranging for same.

The funds are being supplied through a local assessment on working members and by the international that has been forced to establish a special department for

the purpose of protecting the legal rights of the workers in the brewing industry. This department is financed by a special yearly International assessment on all working members and hence Oregon unions of the organization are entitled to their share and are getting it.

The brewery workers believe they have a moral right to work in their industry and should be protected in a legal way. The next convention of the International will seriously consider probably, the advisability of notifying all brewers that products from dry states where adverse legislation has been enacted against the industry will not be handled by members of the International. These products are hops, barley, etc., as well as cooperage. They believe this action will be justified if the voters in dry states insist on classing beer with the evils of alcohol over which the brewers and brewery workers exercise no complete control.

The brewery workers are affiliated with the Central Labor Council, with the Label Trades Section and the State Federation of Labor. They contribute to strikes of sister unions and are subscribers to and advertisers in The Labor Press. They have the endorsement of the bill they are working for of this Central Council and State Federation of Labor. A pretty good argument or series of same, why unionists should VOTE 314X YES.

THE NEW HOME OF UNION-MADE CLOTHES

Every Union Man

is, or by right, ought to be interested in promoting the sale of such clothes as we sell.

Our Men's Suits,

Overcoats &

Raincoats at

\$20

Are Strong Values

This is your Clothes Shop. We are at your service.

A splendid line of New Hats has just been received. See them.

Our complete line of Men's Furnishings will satisfy your requirements.

The J. H. Rankin Co.

112 SIXTH ST., BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND STARK

Demand Pound of Flesh

THAT the wealth owners will use the power of government, if they can secure control of it, to wrest from the workers the righteous legislative achievements gained in the last four years is revealed in a speech delivered by Candidate Hughes in Milwaukee, September 20, 1916:

"The whole Democratic legislative accomplishment must be wiped off the books for the good of the country," declared Mr. Hughes.—Chicago Daily Tribune, September 21, 1916.

Candidate Hughes Favors Repealing

Income Tax on Wealth

Seamen's Law

Child Labor Law

Clayton Law

Federal Compensation Law

Tax on Munitions

Eight hour law for railroad employes in operating service.

Eight hour law for women and children in the District of Columbia.

Eight hour law for coal miners under Alaska Coal Land Act.

Eight hour law for construction of Alaska railroad.

(and countless other remedial labor laws)

Candidate Hughes Stands For

WAR WITH GERMANY.

Why?

Ask Steel Trust

Ask the Money Changers

Ask Meat Trust



WAR ON MEXICO.

Why?

Ask Munition Makers

Ask Wall Street

Ask Standard Oil Co.



By Their Talk Ye Learn Them

(Paid Advertisement Democratic National Campaign Committee, Chicago, Ill.)