

Portland New Age

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Our Candidate for President
JOSEPH BENSON FORAKER
Of Ohio

EDITORIAL

WRETCHED SERVICE.

Complaints multiply about the service of the street railway in Portland, and the people generally are pretty well disgusted with it. Not only are there not cars enough but frequently there is not power enough and people have to wait an indefinite time on the motionless cars or get out and walk. It is the same lack of power, we suppose that causes the arc lights and sometimes other lights to go out frequently. The city pays a big price for lights, and sometimes gets them and sometimes doesn't. The other evening when a man was murdered on the Ford street bridge, the lights were out a long time and thugs had things their own way. It would not be surprising if the heirs-at-law of the murdered man could recover damages from the light company or the city. The people are not to blame if the company can't or won't get power to run their cars and light up the city. The company holds itself out as able to accommodate the public and takes their money for pretending to do so, and then pleads that its power is short. This is an old excuse and has become too thin. The company has had plenty of time to get more power, but perhaps it doesn't want to spend any money in that direction, acting on the same policy that causes it to pay its carmen starvation wages, that no good, responsible man fit for such a position can afford to work for. While the New Age saw that the late abortive attempt of the men to strike was engineered by a few busybodies and mischief makers and was doomed from the start to failure, it believes there ought to be a real, united strike, if it could be made to succeed, that would stop every car in the city and keep it from moving until the men were paid decent, living wages, and a full complement of capable men were employed. As it is, the company has discharged a lot of its men for venturing to intimate that they would like to get money enough out of their long hours of hard work to live on, and so is short of men, or has put on some incompetent or careless men, and in fact if one gets a chance to ride anywhere near the time he wants to it is scarcely safe to do so.

The service is so regularly irregular that in many cases no dependence what ever can be placed on it. If a man goes to a corner where a car he wants is due in one minute he is likely to have to wait five, ten or fifteen minutes, and this is pretty sure to happen if he is in a hurry or the rain is pouring down. The noise of the apparatus used is enough to wreck a strong man's nerves, and while the car may go jerking along like a frog jumping, it may take a spurt and run a ways at about 40 miles an hour, regardless of anybody that wants to get aboard or anybody that may be in the way on the street. And of course, the pretended or alleged fenders, if a person is run down, are of no use whatever, rather renders the person's death doubly certain.

What can be done by the authorities, if anything, to compel the company to establish and maintain a decent, proper and sufficient service we do not know, but if anything it should be done. Meanwhile all the people who are not absolutely obliged to ride would better walk. It is safer, pleasanter, and in a great many cases quicker.

THE ATLANTA "RIOT."

An investigating committee of the business men of Atlanta has been at work to discover, if possible, the real

facts about the alleged race riot in that city some months ago. At least this was their ostensible object, but we may be sure that while some of these men were intent on ascertaining the exact and full truth, the colored people involved in that affair did not get any the best of it in the findings. At the time of the occurrence, it will be remembered, it was said that wicked, wanton, wretched and criminal negroes were solely or principally to blame or that the attacks upon them were justifiable or excusable because of several alleged crimes that had been perpetrated, or attempted to be perpetrated, by unknown parties, therefore, presumably negroes. One, we believe, had looked through a window into a room in which was a young white woman, a bad act, very likely, but hardly sufficient to help set a mob of supposedly civilized white men to the work of indiscriminate murder and arson, the victims being wholly innocent people.

The result of this inquiry, however, is a report from these white business men of Atlanta stating that the rioting and killing were due to the acts of the "tough element" among the whites, for in the south, as well as in the north, there are hoodlums and malicious, depraved fellows among the whites as well as among the blacks, and it is almost invariably the whites who, to avenge some single crime, or reported crime, of a negro, start the trouble and do most of the mischief. The Atlanta investigation revealed the fact also that the twelve negroes who were killed and the 70 or more who were wounded were without exception honest, industrious, decent people and good members of society. There was not a single vagrant, hoodlum, drunkard or desperado in the whole lot. They were humble, useful, industrious, peaceable citizens, minding their own business and doing no wrong in that community. The men or other adults supporting the families, paying their debts and taxes, believing in the same God as the whites and theoretically protected in equal rights by the same great government. Yet a dozen of these inoffensive, peaceable citizens were murdered by a mob, some 70 others were wounded, some of their homes and belongings were burned, and they and others like them were obliged or felt impelled to move away from that city and seek some other place where the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness would perhaps not be so awfully outraged.

What would have happened if the case had been reversed—if a mob of hundreds or thousands of negroes had thus murdered, wounded and driven from their homes a lot of inoffensive white people? What a terrific howl would have gone up for not only justice but vengeance throughout the south. But because these dead, wounded and homeless people were only "niggers," the affair was passed over with but brief comments, the matter was hushed up as much as possible, nobody was punished, and the brave and puissant president, who could discharge whole companies of colored troops for not answering to suit him said not a word and did not do a thing to uphold the constitution and laws and the rights of these citizens.

The recent affair in Mississippi was of a good deal the same character, as mentioned last week, and so are others characterized as "race riots" engendered by negroes. The fact is that advantage is taken on frequent opportunities of some crime or misdemeanor of a black man to organize among white hoodlums, miscreants, hobos, thieves and various kinds of rascals, aided and abetted by more respectable negro-phobists, a mob bent upon wholesale slaughter and widespread intimidation of perfectly innocent and harmless colored people. And this fact must be taken into consideration before anyone can impartially and intelligently discuss "the race problem" in the south. If the colored people were accorded their simple, plain rights under the law, and in the matter of punishment of crime were given the same treatment as a white man—proven guilty before being punished and then punished legally—there would be no race war in the south.

There are bad colored people there, of course, but in nearly all these affrays the fault, the violence, and the crime

are nearly all on the other side.

NOT PROVEN.

That there was riotous conduct on the part of some men in Brownsville, Texas, on a certain occasion is not denied. One man was killed, another was wounded, houses were fired into, and a portion of the town was "shot up." A report was sent in that this was done by soldiers of the 25th infantry, all colored men. Various witnesses substantiated this report and the president and his investigating subordinates accepted this testimony as true and conclusive, and because none of the colored soldiers would confess to the crime or implicate others he discharged the whole battalion from the service "without honor." The soldiers and their friends deny that they are the guilty parties but say that persons who wanted to rid Brownsville of the colored troops, and who hated negroes in any capacity, secured some of the soldiers' castoff uniforms and committed the crimes with intent to have the very result that it did. This may or may not be so. The president says the evidence was sufficient against the troops, but he may be mistaken. Any number of men down south could be procured to swear anything against a negro, whom they regard as of no more consequence and having no more rights than a lower animal. Evidence could have been manufactured, and of course would have been, if the alleged plot was formed.

Senator Foraker bases his chief argument in behalf of the troops on the ground that the president exceeded his authority in discharging these men, but he also denies that there was evidence enough to convict them, and other senators and prominent men agree with him in this. Besides, if these men were guilty of several crimes, including murder, what were the authorities of Brownsville and the county doing? Why did they not arrest the rioters, or make strenuous efforts to capture them? This it seems was not done, and the inference is that the authorities had attained their object in the discharge of the soldiers. As Senator Foraker says, they were charged with crimes that entitled them to trial. In this country men even in military circles are not punished on mere accusations or expert evidence, and without a chance to defend themselves.

It also appears clear from the arguments advanced by Senator Foraker and others that the president exceeded his constitutional authority, especially in time of peace. He discharged these men "without honor" as individuals, and without trial, and everyone of them, though but few if any had any part in the crime, is branded as being a participant in it or an accessory to it. It is no wonder that colored citizens generally—for they are citizens—and very many prominent white people too, regard this arbitrary act of the president as a great injustice to these soldiers and to the race.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

The legislature will meet Monday, and a session of more importance, perhaps, than any one for many years, will begin. A great deal of important legislation will be proposed, nearly all of which will be necessarily very large. The one most important matter will be laws regulating railroads, or in some manner seeking to control them so that they will not be able to treat the people with impudent insolence and oppress them in whatever way they please, and these measures will be fought by the railroads in every way that they can possibly devise and when they go after a legislature they generally get it, and whatever they want out of it.

Fortunately whatever laws are proposed or passed will only affect, except in a slight degree, the Harriman lines, for there is not much of other lines in the state and it is the Harriman roads and not any other's that the people are after. They have no grievance, rather the friendliest sort of feeling for the Hill lines in or near Oregon, and they have nothing in particular against the A. & C. or C. & E. but, they have a big account against Harriman, who has been bleeding the state these many years out of millions of dollars and refusing to do anything to develop it, and charging excessive

and extortionate rates not only on watered stock but to help fill up his Wall street coffers besides.

The people demand that this legislature shall take some position and drastic action to bring the Harriman lines within this state under control, and to protect the people from a continuation of this outrageous treatment. As stated, the railroad attorneys, agents and lobbyists will use every artifice possible to prevent such legislation or to spoil it in the making, and it is possible that they may succeed, for there are always some "weak sisters" in a legislature and some who are praying that they may be tempted to their profit. The public is so awakened on this subject, however, and the demand for radical railroad legislation is so strong, insistent and universal, that the member who goes over to the railroad will be a hardy scoundrel, requiring more nerve than most of the members possess.

It is a high duty of this legislature, besides attending to other business, to limit the power, check the insatiable greed and regulate the railroads within Oregon of this Wall street gourmand, who has bottled up this state for his own use and robbed its people quite long enough.

PROGRESSIVE MAYOR RODGERS.

At the recent city election at Salem Mr. Rodgers, a very popular and affable gentleman was elected mayor. Mr. Rodgers had previously at the election been chosen as a member of the state legislature and will serve in the dual capacity this winter—both as mayor and representative. It is seldom that it falls to the lot of any individual to be thus honored, and Mr. Rodgers can well feel proud of the high testimonial of his worth, ability and character given him by his fellow citizens.

Salem is taking on new life and the need of a wideawake, progressive and intelligent man to lead in this work is apparent. Mr. Rodgers as mayor, is the right man in the right place and we predict for him a highly successful administration. In his initial message he recommends many measures and improvements, chief among which are the following: The creation of a charter board to revise the city charter and submit it to the vote of the people at an early date; lowering the tax limit from 10 mills, as at present, to 3½ mills, and the road tax from 1½ to about 6-10 mills, to equalize the rate of levy under the new system of full rate of assessment; economy in the construction of city bridges and for street improvement; creation of a sinking fund; harmony and efficiency in the police department; making the office of chief of police appointive, instead of elective, and leaving the choice of that officer's assistants to himself; uniformed police force and a better system of accounting for the offices of recorder and treasurer.

DAVEY SHOULD WIN.

Mr. Frank Davey seems pretty sure to win the speakership in spite of his disappearance from view of the politicians for a few days, and the unreasonable rumors created over it. He ought to win, partly because a lot of lukewarm friends or more or less secret enemies tried to throw him down the hubbub and rest up for two or three days. Mr. Davey is in all respects well qualified for this position, in fact he is exceptionally well qualified, and he is a man in whom the people have confidence that he will give them a square deal. He has made a clean, open manly fight for the position, and the New Age hopes and believes he will win it next Monday.

A sample of the reports sent out from Brownsville and El Reno was the dispatch that there was a plot among the discharged soldiers of the 25th infantry to kill all the white officers. There was no basis for the report, but it was originated to fit in with the "testimony" against the soldiers and to create prejudice against them throughout the country. Probably "Teddy" believed it, however, and perhaps regretted that he had not hanged or shot the 300 soldiers.

The many friends of W. G. McPherson were overjoyed to learn that he arrived safe and sound at Mazatlan, Sere Madra. Mr. McPherson is one of

Portland's most prominent business men and is universally esteemed by its citizens.

Of course the courts decided against Harriman. He never had any case against Hill, but he couldn't resist the temptation to be as mean as possible.

What a candidate for speaker or president of the senate needs is more chairmanships of important committees to promise to his supporters.

In goes a democratic governor for four years more. But this was what a great many republicans wanted.

If there is anybody who is satisfied with the street car service in this town he hasn't mentioned it.

Nobody has been killed yet this week by a street car, but there will be other victims before long.

Attorney General Crawford can always be relied upon for a sound, safe opinion.

It looks as if the larger the police force the greater the number of crimes.

Apparently no republican who would like to be mayor wants to speak up first.

Certainly a committee to consider the senatorship problem will be in order.

There are no signs of those worse than worthless fenders being changed.

Looks like a man running for speaker would be a good deal out of pocket.

Moore will be treasurer no more, and nobody will steal from Steel.

The mayor appears to use no discrimination in his vetoes.

Now the old state printing plant will be Dunway with.

The new state officers will get busy next week.

Evidently Mr. Davey should keep in sight.

Next week they go at it.

BUSINESS LOCALS

A good place to get your soft or stiff hats renovated is 249½ Alder street, between Second and Third.

M. J. Gill Co., wholesale and retail meat dealers, 512 Mississippi avenue, Portland, Oregon. Phone East 665.

J. Wallgreen, dealer in staple and fancy groceries, 634 Thurman street. Telephone Pacific 911.

Always ask for the famous General Arthur cigar. Eberg-Gunst Cigar Co., general agents, Portland, Or.

Albina Club (George Ross), choice wines, liquors and cigars, 134 Russell street, Portland, Ore. Phone East 4386.

The Anheuser, Henry M. Williams, proprietor, 234 Morrison street, corner Second, Portland, Ore. Telephone Main 3517.

Ryan & John, dealers in choice groceries, meat, fish and poultry, phone Main 622, 61 North Park street, corner Davis.

Everett Market, (E. L. Peck, Prop.), Choice Meats and Poultry, 413 Everett Street, corner Tenth, Portland, Ore. Phone Main 1540.

Try the Pacific Laundry Co. for good work and prompt service. Main office First and Arthur streets, Portland, Ore. Telephone 649.

John Schald, dealer in hardware, tinware, sheet iron work, guttering, spouting and roofing. General jobbing a specialty. 149 Russell street.

North 16th Street Market, A. Wurtenberger, proprietor, choice poultry, fresh and salt meats, phone Main 1395, 230 North Sixteenth street, Portland, Ore.

Royal Market, Bair & Werth proprietors, fresh and cured meats, fish, poultry and game. 439 Union avenue north, corner Tillamook. Phone East 187.

L. N. Nees, boot and shoemaker. Fine repairing a specialty. Give him a call when you need anything in this line, 322½ Williams av., Portland, Oregon.

The Oak Cafe. Choice line of wines, liquors and cigars. P. W. Pick, proprietor. Oregon Phone Pacific 2118, corner Fourth and Oak streets, Portland, Ore.

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