

The Oregonian

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Portland, Friday, Sept. 8, 1916.

HUGHES AS A FRIEND OF LABOR.

Mr. Hughes made clear-cut declarations of his policy on labor questions in his speeches at Nashville and Lexington. Those declarations must be read in the light of his acts at the time when he had the opportunity to translate his opinions into deeds.

One of his first acts was to recommend in his first message to Congress the employment of the Department of Labor by consolidating several bureaus, increasing its efficiency and thoroughly equipping it.

In the same message he urged legislation for the protection of children, which was adopted. Employment of children under 16 in dangerous occupations was forbidden and in other occupations it was limited to eight daylight hours.

He procured the passage in 1910 of an act for the regulation of employment agencies, which protects the unemployed from exploitation, and fixes and prohibits misrepresentation.

Mr. Hughes was a pioneer in the movement for workmen's compensation and for extension of employers' liability. He initiated the movement in 1907 with a report in which he announced the old legal principle that the workman should take the risk of accident and said:

The interests of labor are the interests of all the people and the protection of the health by every practicable means is one of the most sacred trusts of society.

He proposed inquiry by commission into workmen's compensation and employers' liability in his message of 1909 and after the commission had reported he made recommendations in his message of 1910 which bore fruit in two laws.

While Mr. Hughes' official acts showed his practical sympathy with the purposes of labor unions, he did not hesitate to disapprove of any proposal by them when he thought such measures unjust or unwise, for he said in a veto message on a highly popular bill:

quality all of the others, have been enacted and signed during Governor Hughes' term of three years and nine months. This record as Governor of New York should be borne in mind when reading this emphatic statement of his position, made in his speech at Nashville.

Now then I stand for two things. First, the principle of fair impartial, thorough, candid arbitration; and, second, for legislation on facts according to necessities of the situation.

That statement was evidently made with reference to recent events. Though he will never yield to dictation nor approve legislation before the Senate, he will always stand for justice to labor, as he has always stood. He will promote labor's best interests, which are the interests of the Nation.

MERE INNUEUDO.

A discreditable development of the Democratic campaign for Mr. Wilson and against Mr. Hughes in Oregon has been the publication of an article making the charge that Mr. Hughes came to Oregon a quarter of a century ago as the attorney for the bondholders of the old Oregon Pacific, a bankrupt railroad.

The charge is true, most true. Mr. Hughes, a lawyer, and the clients, even in those days. These clients were the unfortunate victims of, or sufferers from, the extraordinary financial operations of William Hogg, promoter of the Oregon Pacific.

It does not appear from the record that Mr. Hughes ever succeeded in recovering a dollar for them from the Oregon Pacific wreck. It is remembered also that the laborers employed on the railroad got only a small part of their dues. Mr. Hughes was, of course, not responsible for the failure.

Let those who desire to know about Woodrow Wilson and labor read the inaccurate address of President Wilson at Princeton in 1909. It is a direct attack on trades unions.

The cautious critic of the reservation policies of the United States Government will of course want to know all the facts before he determines the merits of the Crane prairie controversy.

The request has not met with any kind of favorable response. The Washington officials are not in a hurry to get the homesteaders, or any one representing them. They are not anxious to know that the Interior Department or the Agricultural Department, or whatever department is responsible for the confused status of the land.

The recall of the Oregon and other troops from the border, the order that they be mustered out of the Federal Reserve, and the admission that all National Guard troops are shown to be recalled to their respective states and mustered out signalize the failure of the Hay military organization and the farcical nature of the entire Administration plan of preparedness, so far as the border troops are concerned.

When the war is over Canada will use the number of soldiers who contributed to a convincing reason for having a voice hereafter in the government of the British Empire and it will not be denied.

is shown by their new attitude toward their criminals, of whom unhappily a few still remain. In the beginning of the war there was a disposition to send offenders to the front, and frequently they were assigned to tasks of danger. Now public opinion looks upon this course as an "insult to good citizens who are fighting for their country," and as an honor not deserved by violators of the law.

Who prevented a panic? In a recent speech President Wilson said that the Federal Reserve system "saved the country from a ruinous panic when the streets were crowded."

Extracts from the comment of the principal Eastern newspapers on the settlement of the railroad dispute which has been effected by President Wilson and Congress show an almost complete agreement on one point—that Congress was coerced into hasty enactment of the four brotherhoods' demands.

State banks are wary of coming under the Federal Reserve Board's control because its seven members include two men who are frankly politicians—the Secretary of the Treasury and the Controller of the Currency—and only two men experienced in banking.

Protection is extended by the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, recently ratified by the United States Senate, to 1022 species and subspecies of the most valuable and interesting migratory birds of North America.

St. Louis is disturbed by the suggestion recently left behind by an aggressive and advanced thinker that there ought to be established in its schools a course in harmonious clothes. It seems that the suggestion was made in all seriousness, although it cannot be said that it has been received with the approval of the local community.

The repeal of stamp taxes by the new revenue law is in accord with the general feeling of the country. The treaty with the smallest possible number of voters, consistently with the main purpose of getting the money.

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anything or all things else, speculation whether he has done his campaign prospects benefit or harm by his railroad course.

Four hundred thousand men threaten to strike and cripple the country. They will not hear of arbitration, although the other side looks on the strike as Mr. Wilson knifes the principle of arbitration, adopts a course likely to capture the trainmen's votes and find his way forward to play politics with the labor vote, would dare do it.

The real issue will spring up with redoubled force when the investigating committee makes its report. The President and Congress will then have to make a decision on the whole question which will be reopened. Where, then, is the value of Mr. Wilson's settlement?

Congress will be asked next Winter to decree a like raise of wages for the railway unions, the streetcar men, agents, signalmen, sectionmen, bridge hands and perhaps even of railway clerks.

It was bound to come, we suppose, the pitch of insolence on the part of the railway unions. It is a familiar and favorite phrase of labor leaders which the president of the trainmen now uses: "No power on earth can strip us of our right to strike."

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PRESS OPINION ON RAILROAD STRIKE

Brooklyn Eagle, Dem. CONGRESS is in the position of a man confronted by a highwayman whose pointed revolver decisively reinforces his demands. It has to choose between two desperate alternatives. It accepts the one that avoids or postpones a conflict which would possibly be prolonged and which would certainly cost heavily in money lost and inconvenience inflicted.

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How to Keep Well.

Questions pertinent to hygiene, sanitation and prevention of disease, if matters of general interest, will be answered in this column. Where space will not permit or the subject is not suitable, letter will be perfunctorily answered, subject to proper limitations and where diagnosed, addressed questions are enclosed. Dr. Evans will not make diagnoses or prescribe medicine. He will make a fair guess as to the health in childhood and the diet in childhood of his patient.

Teeth and Health. A HORSE DEALER examines the teeth of horses in order to judge of their age. He judges by the shape of the grinding surface and the appearance of the obliterated central canal as it shows on the grinding surface.

Chicago News, Ind. The only question now left for the people to consider in connection with the railroad situation is whether the peace is too high. That some price would have to be paid has been clear for some time. But the President—

Washington Post, Ind. Sooner or later the public will come to realize that the public interest in the transportation field be made compulsory.

Philadelphia Ledger, Rep. When the President said that "the eight-hour day" now undoubtedly has the right of the judgment of get out in its favor" he gave utterance to one of those half-truths which are sometimes so convincing that they are accepted as the basis of public policy.

St. Louis Republic, Dem. How can the President "discredit the political manipulation" by using every means of persuasion to secure formal arbitration and then by essaying informal arbitration when this fails?

Chicago Tribune, Rep. That such a threat should be made shows the quality of the statesman at this moment in Washington. It is an exaggeration to say, what the country should lose no time in realizing, that the political manipulation by the President and his allies of the present war controversy is a peril to the prosperity and peace of the Nation unprecedented for nearly a generation.

New York World, Dem. It is silly to charge Congress with surrendering to the unions. The unions had a right to strike and when the strike was ordered. There is not a line on any statute book which prohibits a man from striking when he chooses.

Boston News Bureau, Rep. Four men, an oligarchy speaking for an aristocracy, continued to make two of the world's greatest deliberative bodies forget all deliberation and secure round like performing mice, while always timidly glancing at the usurped veto power of the four.

Springfield Republican, Dem. Freight rates ought to be increased. It is a significant fact in popular discussion of the railroad crisis one never hears any reference to the merits of the question, so far as the President's action is concerned, but only opinions as to the effect his action will have on the industrial and especially the political situation, and more than

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