

WHO SHOULD OWN THE RAILROADS?

In Question Discussed at Regular Meeting of People's Forum Last Night.

REV. HIRAM VROOMAN IS PRINCIPAL SPEAKER

Declares That Government Must Own Railroads, as Only Alternative Is Railroad Ownership of Government.

"Which shall we have—government ownership of railroads, or railroad ownership of government? These are the two alternatives between which the people of the United States are compelled to choose." This is the way the government ownership question was stated by Rev. Hiram Vrooman at the People's Forum last night. He continued: "To determine this point, we need only to strike directly at the heart of the problem by ascertaining under which regime, government or private ownership, would bribery have greatest opportunity and greatest power. "The railroad question, so far as patriotism and the public good are concerned, resolves itself almost entirely to the question of bribery.

Grant of Legislation. "In the state legislature of Wisconsin one of the members who most effectively opposed railroad reform was discovered to have been receiving \$30,000 a year from railroads in rebates, and thereby given that tremendous advantage over his business competitors. That man probably would have knocked a lobbyist down who should offer him a few hundred dollars for his vote. "Our railroads give employment directly and indirectly to about five times as many persons as does the United States government, including the army and navy. Their income is about three times that of Uncle Sam. When we look upon a power of such colossal stature, which is supported by the majority of all the other trusts, and note the simple fact that self-preservation literally forces this brute Colossus to undermine American politics with the pollution of bribery, to buy and influence judges and lawmakers at any cost, even to the dividing of their kingdom and to build party machines and quillify democratic action—when we look at this sight, I say, what is our impression?

Causes of Corruption. "Does it not cause the conviction to settle upon us all that private ownership of the railroads is the real cause of nine tenths of all political corruption in our country? "Public ownership is now in vogue in many countries, and in every country having public ownership these appalling powers of bribery have been thoroughly undermined and almost entirely obliterated. Germany, Italy, Belgium and Switzerland own the railways of their respective countries, and while public ownership under a monarchy is different from the same condition of affairs under a republican government, it has been demonstrated that public ownership is much better than ownership by moneyed magnates.

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POVERTY NOT CAUSED BY DRINK, SAYS CHAPMAN

Well Known Writer and Lecturer Tells Laborers Why They Are Poor.

Dr. C. H. Chapman declared in an address at Allisky hall last night before Branch 5 of the Socialist party that the habit of drink is not one of the prime causes of the poverty of the working classes. Dr. Chapman's address was on "Why Is He Poor?" and to prove his assertion in regard to the drink habit relative to the workingman, cited statistics from those compiled by the department of commerce and labor, which, he said, showed that the average expenditure for liquor is 25 cents a week for each family. Dr. Chapman handled the capitalists without gloves, but at the same time did not pass lightly over the weakness of the laboring man in continuing to vote as he does for corporate interests. Another argument which the speaker advanced to account for the poverty of the laborer was that every workman works two thirds of the day for nothing. Another reason, that he works to support the capitalist. In explaining these statements Dr. Chapman said that three hours' work out of 10 balanced the wage and product of the work, while the other seven hours were given to the employer. "You are free citizens," he said, "but you go on voting along certain lines just because your fathers or grandfathers did. You go on working two thirds of the day for the rich man when you could vote for your own rights and have them the next day, and only do what you are paid for. You go on hanging onto straws in the cars when you could own the systems and maintain a decent service instead of paying the velvet to the corporations."

FRATERNAL BODIES HONOR LATE FRANK BAKER

Deceased Belonged to Numerous Orders and Lodge Services Are Held at His Funeral.

The funeral of Frank C. Baker was held yesterday afternoon and was attended by a large number of friends and members of fraternal orders to which he belonged. The services were conducted at the family residence by the Rev. J. E. Kettroge of the First Presbyterian church. Buried beneath a mass of flowers, the casket was removed to the Elks' Temple, where services were conducted by Portland lodge, No. 142. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity by Elks, Masons and other friends of Mr. Baker. At the conclusion of the services, Portland lodge, No. 55, A. F. & A. M., took charge of the remains and held services at the grave. Interment was in Riverview cemetery. The Masonic burial service was read by E. L. Pittcock, worshipful master of Portland lodge, and the prayer ritual by J. P. Moffatt, past master of the lodge. Mr. Baker was a thirty-second degree Mason, and was a member of the various Scottish Rite bodies. The pallbearers were: J. E. Werlein and E. G. Jones, representing the Masons; Charles E. McDonnell and W. W. Robinson, representing the Elks; Governor George E. Chamberlain, John Minto, John Burgard, John Fox and S. C. Beach.

Do you know how to cook ten and coffee?—Schilling's Best.

BROUGHER SCORES CITY COUNCIL

Portland Minister Prays to Lord to Keep Him From Despising His Members.

ARE UNPRINCIPLED JACKASSES, HE SAYS

Declares Councilmen Are Owned Hide, Hoof, Hair and All by Indecent Element of City and That People Will Pull Them Down.

"If I know anything about the voters of the city of Portland, the majority of the members of our present council will have their down when we get a chance at them again. They may be up now with their gang, but the decent people of this city will not submit to be ruled by a lot of unprincipled jackasses who are owned—hide, hoof, hair and all—by the lawless and indecent element of the city. If there was ever a time when we need to pray the prayer of Lyman Beecher, it is now: 'Lord, keep us from despising our rulers, and help them stop despising us so we cannot help despising them.' "Portland's city council was dealt with in these words last night by Dr. J. Whitcomb Brougher in a sermon delivered from his pulpit in the White Temple. To prove his complete sympathy with Beecher's prayer, the local minister dropped to his knees and repeated the words: "Lord, keep us from despising our rulers, and help them stop despising us so we cannot help despising them."

Subject of Sermon. "The Ups and Downs of Life" was the subject of the sermon. Dr. Brougher referred to life as a spiral, upon which the extremes of existence are constantly forcing themselves. If the tendency of a man's life is downward, there is within him the call to a higher plane if he will but heed, while if the tendency is always upwards then there remain the temptations to drag him down to ruin if he yields to them. "There are social ups and downs," he said. "Men and women up in society today, down and out in ignominy and disgrace tomorrow. There are financial ups and downs. When a man has money in the bank and money in his pocket and friends who will lend him more, he is up. When he has no money in the bank, no money in his pocket, and no one who will lend him any, he is down. Between these two extremes most men live."

From Physical View. "There are physical ups and downs. People who enjoy good health today may be down on their backs suffering with pain tomorrow. There are mental ups and downs, there are spiritual ups and downs. We vacillate between faith and doubt, joy and sorrow, love and hate, victory and defeat. Now, the man or woman who is going to meet these ups and downs must be prepared for any emergency that may come."

Dr. Brougher said the reason why so many people go down in despair is because they are unprepared to meet emergencies, lacking the character to stand the test of prosperity or adversity. Minds weakened by indecision, they have a flabby conscience and a nerveless backbone. He concluded: "God intended that man should be master of himself and of all external circumstances. If a person's contentment depends upon anything outside of his character, then he can never have it completely in his world. It is probably true that as many people are ruined by prosperity as by adversity. Believe in God, and be sure that he will make all things work together for good to them that love him. Study the wheels of the clock. Some are large, some are small, some are moving in one direction and some are moving in another, but they are all working together in harmony with the everlasting stars to make a true record of time. All the experiences of life have their mission. They all work together for the production of a Christ-like character."

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LESSONS FROM SOLOMON

Rev. E. L. House Takes Wise Man as Subject of Sermon.

What lessons there are in the life of Solomon and how they apply to the man of the present day were well brought out in his sermon on "A Brilliant Failure" at the First Congregational church yesterday by Rev. E. L. House, D. D.

"Solomon's genius was a strong element in bringing about his overthrow, for splendid endowments are not mere playthings," said Dr. House.

"The influence exerted by much worldly prosperity was without doubt a potent factor in the fall of Solomon. Humane nature is too weak to hold an elevated position without becoming marred, dazzled, and blinded by the splendor of rank and honor, of power and wealth, man reels and falls from the dizzy height. Look into your own heart. If this statement surprises you. Let but one title be added to your name, let only one green wreath of honor be placed upon your brow, let a few thousand dollars swell your purse, and your bearing is affected. It is better to remain in poverty and oblivion than to have prosperity and a name without Christ."

The comfort of the surroundings of Solomon had much to do with his downfall. As long as he had trials, and obstacles to overcome, he was safe. Suffering, trial and hard work are the best of schoolmasters."

ANNIVERSARY SERMON

Preached by Rev. E. S. Muckley at First Christian Church.

The work of three years was briefly reviewed by Dr. E. S. Muckley, pastor of the First Christian church, in the course of an anniversary sermon yesterday morning. The subject of the sermon was "A Backward and Forward Look." Dr. Muckley told of his arrival in Portland on the first Sunday of 1904. Before leaving Honolulu he wondered what his new pastorate would be like. There was some doubt in his mind, for he had read that the church had contributed only \$10.42 to the foreign missions in 1903. He did not know then that the church was encumbered with a debt of \$9,000. Since his arrival there has been splendid progress in all departments of the church. The Endeavor society, the Sunday school, the Ladies Aid society and the Christian Women's Board of Missions have increased in numbers and zeal. Of the work of the church proper Dr. Muckley said: "Four record at the beginning of my ministry here showed 80 members, but after striking off the names of those who had moved away and could not be found, and cutting off all dead branches and subtracting 75 to 80 who went into the organization of the Central church, I found that you had a local membership of about 380 members. During 1904, 75 were added to the church; 1905, 129, and this last year from all sources 167 were added, making a total membership of

about 570. But the most phenomenal growth you have had has been in your giving capacity. In 1904 you gave a little more than \$4,000 for all purposes; in 1905 over \$5,000, and in 1906, \$10,320.49. This has been due to two things: First, the financial system you adopted, which seeks to equitably apportion among the membership the financial burden of the church, and second, and most important, because of the hearty response you have given to all appeals for missions.

"In 1903 the church gave \$74.52 for missions; in 1904 you gave \$1,171.11, or 15.2-3 times as much as in 1903. For all missions and benevolence this year the church and its various departments have given \$1,991.15, as against \$175 given in 1903. You gave \$10.43 in 1903 to foreign relations, and in 1905 you became a "fitting link," raising \$600 to support your own foreign missionary. This has been a most remarkable growth. A church that gives so much abroad, cannot help but support local work magnificently.

"In looking into the future it is bright with promise. We have our problems to solve, but a church is made for the solving of problems, and I am sure with united effort on our part we will solve them."

SOCIETY FORMED OF TWO CLASSES

So Says W. I. Fisher, in Speech Delivered Before Members of Socialist Party.

"Socialism is the result of the evolution of industry and society and comes as a result of a formation of our present industrial system in that the means of production have ceased to be individual and are socialized," said W. I. Fisher at the regular weekly meeting of the Socialists last night.

Continuing, the speaker said that as a result of this condition there are two classes formed in society having divergent interests. Mr. Fisher said that it is inevitable that classes shall have an expression of their class interests in both their economic and political fields. Speaking further along this line of thought, Mr. Fisher said: "Socialism is the expression of the interest of the working class in economics and politics. In the growth through the modern system, the working class is forced into contention with the capitalist class and becomes the overwhelming mass of society."

"Socialism is a movement of the immense majority in the interest of the immense majority. Consequently, the working class, being the overwhelming majority, will not permit plutocracy to always rule in industry and politics, but as they see their open, shameless and naked exploitation by the capitalist class, will seize the power of government and of industry from those now, their masters and administer it in the interest of the working class, thus doing away with all class exploitation, class oppression and class rule, abolishing all classes in society."

J. M. Cameron was chairman of the meeting and supplemented the address of Mr. Fisher with a further exposition of Socialist principles.

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