

WORKING PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TAFT PRESIDENT

Andrew Furuseth, Labor Organizer, Talks Earnestly to an Interested Crowd at the Armory--Why Republican Candidate Should Not Be Raised to Chief Executive Chair

Furuseth on Taft.

"We working people don't want Mr. Taft. We believe in human freedom.

"In doing what we can to send William Jennings Bryan to the White House, to give Mr. Taft a vacation, and to elect a congress that will protect human liberty, we are not partisans of any party, but partisans of fundamental principles. We stand for the kind of government that Lincoln had in mind when he made his Gettysburg speech. If that be partisanship, make the most of it.

"I want to tell you to your teeth that a vote for Debs is a vote for Taft."

"Judge Taft does not believe in government by the people and for the people; he believes in government by the judges."

So did Andrew Furuseth, leading labor organizer of the Pacific coast, and a man high in the councils of the American Federation of Labor, voice the protest of the men who toil with their hands against the election to the presidency of a man who not only promises them nothing, but indicates that he will help to take away from them what they already have.

It was a big crowd that gathered in the Armory, despite the falling rain, to listen to Furuseth—a crowd of laboring men, of voters, representatives of the class in whose hands lies largely the ultimate decision as to who shall sit in the White House and hold the reins of government. It was not a curious crowd, come to hear what they might hear. It was an earnest crowd.

And the meeting was a protest, the voicing of a grievance. According to their spokesman, the laboring men have been badly treated by William H. Taft, and there is no prospect that if he is elected to the highest office in the gift of the people he will do any more to aid the working man in the future than he has in the past.

Points to the Records.

There was nothing incendiary about Furuseth's address. He did not heap anathema upon Mr. Taft, or anybody else. He contented himself with pointing to the Republican candidate's past record, comparing it with that of the Democratic candidate, holding up the

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a judge because he is a judge; that when he ascends the bench he comes to become a human being. I say this is not so. It all depends upon the justice which is in his mind. No morning with a bad taste in his mouth, God help the man that gets before him! Justice which is not a judge's own opinion, but the opinion of the people. No, the ermine he wears is not a man and becomes absolutely fair. The fact is that he can no more strip himself of his humanity than he can of his ermine than the king can by putting on his crown. Despotism is not a man's own opinion, but the opinion of the people. You create a lot of small kings sitting around in different parts of the country saying where we shall buy and what our laws shall be. No such revolutionary doctrine was ever brought into this country as the doctrine of the Injunction.

"It is a question of human freedom. If the workingman is to be freed from the shackles which are put upon him under which he is accused must prove his innocence—and the wealthy man under the Saxon law and is tried by a jury of his peers, or great classes. There are some men in Portland who will vote for Mr. Taft for judge that reason. We believe in human freedom.

Labor Denied Relief.

"We asked for an anti-injunction law but we couldn't get it. One injunction followed another. Gompers called a convention two years ago and they drafted a bill of grievances. We submitted it to Mr. Cannon and he gave us a lecture and told us we didn't amount to much. We went to the White House and he told us we were not as president but as head of the Republican party. He gave us a lecture and sent our business. And no relief came and injunction followed injunction.

"The case came to the Supreme Court on habeas corpus. Mr. Loewe of Connecticut, a hat manufacturer, wanted to work children; he wanted to work longer hours and pay less. The latter he had done in an unfair employer and appealed to the American Federation of Labor to fight the facts through the country. And Mr. Loewe's business dwindled and he went to the courts and sued for damages for interfering with his business and diminishing his income from his business. The case was taken into the Supreme Court of the United States and Mr. Loewe's lawyers pleaded under the Sherman anti-trust law. The lawyers of the other side pleaded that the Sherman anti-trust law was not applicable to labor unions. And the Supreme Court of the United States concluded that the organization of labor was a combination and that the Sherman anti-trust law was applicable, and that Mr. Loewe could collect damages. If he could find anybody to collect from.

Robbed of Rights.

"So with one sweep the right of contract was taken away from us and we were subject to being sent to jail and to having our property swept away from us.

"Another meeting of the American Federation of Labor was held at Washington and another bill of grievances was drafted and presented in power. We said, 'We ask you to protect us in these matters. Their names were 'No' and 'Sunny' Jim Sherman got up in the house of representatives and said they were perfectly aware of what they were doing and were willing to bear the responsibility.'"

"We went to the Chicago convention and asked for redress of our grievances and were refused. Mr. Cleveland said, 'Let them go to Denver.'

"The American Federation went to the Republican convention in 1904 because it met first. The Democrats had met first we would have gone to them first. The Republicans said that all these injunctions were the beginning of a new and advanced system of society. And they put it into the hands of a man better fitted to wield it than any other man in this country—Mr. Taft.

Recognized at Denver.

"And we went to Denver and asked for protection—and we got it. In now doing what we can to send William Jennings Bryan to the White House; to give Mr. Cannon a vacation, and to elect a congress that will protect human liberty, we are not partisans of any party but partisans of fundamental principles. We stand for the kind of government that Lincoln had in mind when he made his Gettysburg speech. If that be partisanship, make the most of it.

"Now for a few words about Mr. Taft, and I assure you that I shall not abuse him.

"Mr. Taft is an exceptionally able man. He is a big man physically and mentally. He has a big brain. He has an entirely different conception of government from what is right. Mr. Taft is a federalist from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He does not believe in government for the people or by the people. He believes in government by the judges."

Reviewing some of Taft's decisions as superior judge of Cincinnati, the speaker said that Mr. Taft invented something he called secondary boycott. "And Mr. Taft said that was against the law. But he took mighty good care not to tell where the law could be found. It couldn't be found.

No Longer a Free Man.

"If the judge is to determine whether I can quit work or not, I am no longer a free man. I am no longer an American citizen. In 1893 the railroad men were on strike and by virtue of their own personal freedom decided that they would not continue to work. And Mr. Taft issued an injunction and prohibited them from exercising their right. He reduced them to so much in which the railroad had a vested right.

"Now, having looked at the two platforms, the Republican with Mr. Taft with his hand on the whip, and the Democrat with its promises, it is for you to judge. Here is one picture. It is Taft and Mr. Cleveland. And here is another; it is Bryan and Gompers. It is for you to choose.

"There were a considerable number of Socialists in the audience who from time to time interrupted the speaker. One man declared that the way to get relief would be to elect Debs and a socialist congress. Furuseth denied that this would work, and referred to a conversation he had had with Pete Curran, an English Socialist and head of one of the big English labor unions. 'Mr. Curran told me,' he said, 'that if he were in the United States, he would vote for William Jennings Bryan because the question now is the right of combination, and if this right is denied, the theories of the Socialists become so much water and can't be carried out.'

No Vote for Debs.

"What about the solid south?" yelled a man in the audience.

"Don't know anything about the solid south," replied Furuseth, "except to thank God for it if there is a chance for it to free me from my shackles."

"If you want to take a lesson out of Mr. Taft's book, give him a secondary vote in return for a secondary boycott."

"And I want to tell you to your teeth that a vote for Debs is a vote for Taft. Debs has no chance of putting any laws on the statute books."

"Now, take your choice as free men. This is when the American Federation meets."

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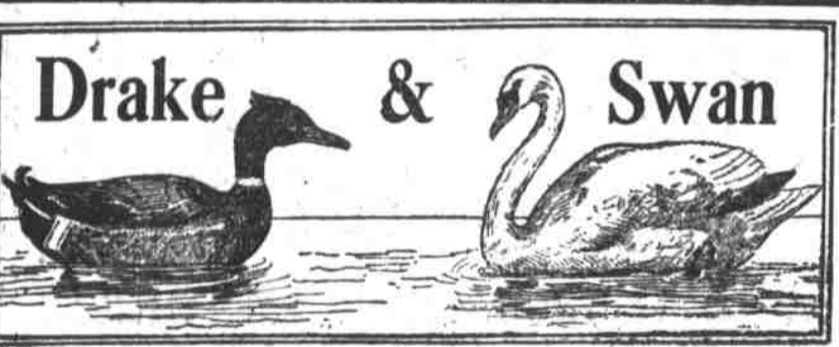
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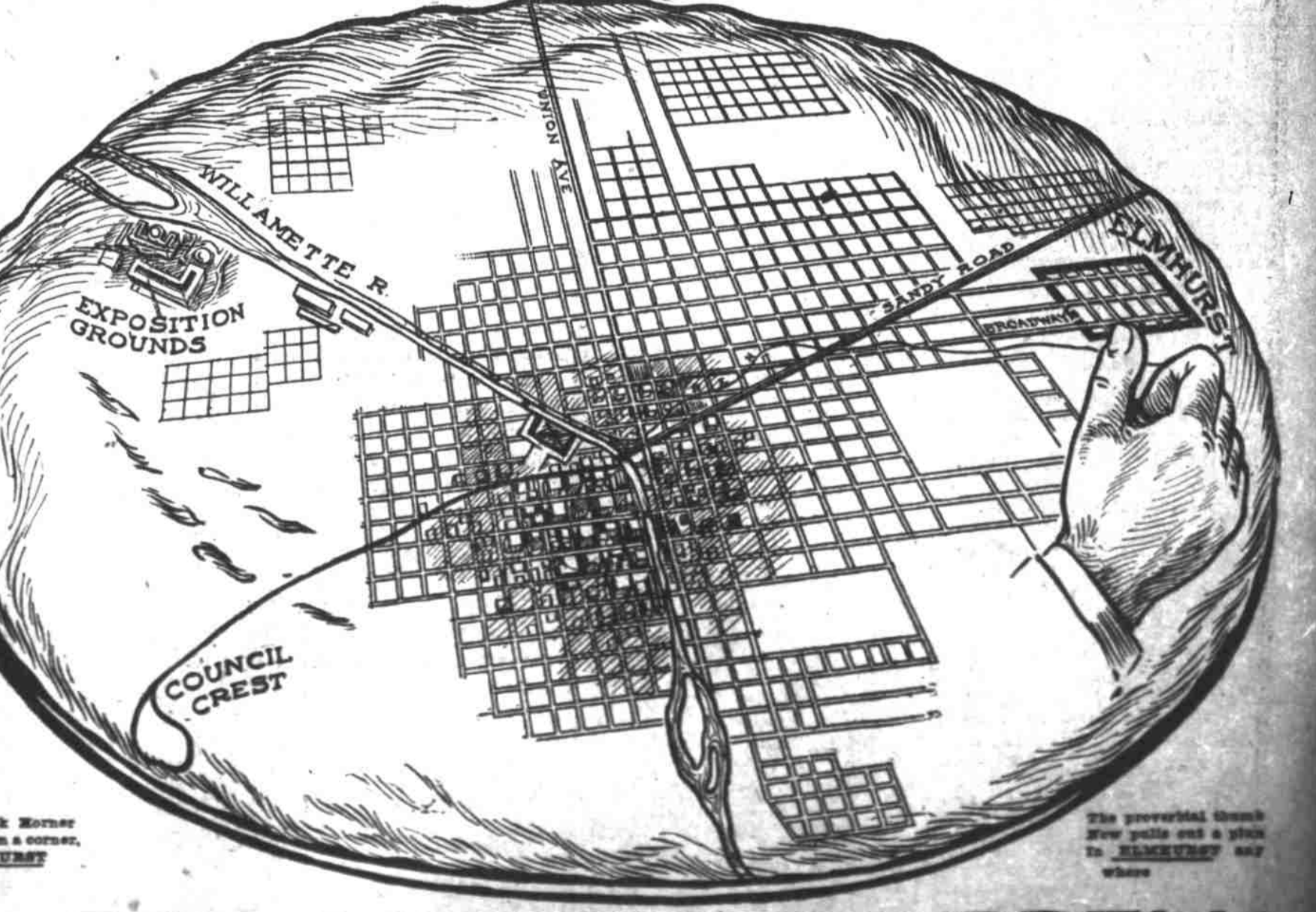
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