

The Gold Hill News

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Ben H. Lampman

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Free Speech: A Precious Right

By Robert M. LaFollette

IT HAS become a constitutional principle in this country, that every citizen may freely speak, write, and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right, and that no law can rightfully be passed to restrain or abridge the freedom of press, says Mr. Chancellor Kent. This declaration is quoted with approval by Mr. Justice Story in his work on the Constitution.

But some of the good people who regard the Constitution as the rock of safety for the everlasting protection of property rights are rejoicing in a new construction of the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and press in New Jersey. The municipal authorities of Paterson, and the courts as well, have denied a large body of citizens the right to peaceably assemble and discuss matters which deeply concern them.

Some four months ago, twenty thousand men and women, employed in the silk mills of Paterson, N. J., believing themselves wronged by their employers, quit work. That was the beginning of a remarkable contest. Under circumstances tending and intended to provoke them to acts of violence, those weavers respected the property rights of their employers throughout many trying weeks. The few meetings which they were permitted to hold were marked by a calm and temperate discussion of their grievances which have won them the respect and protection of the law officers of the city and state government.

But the employers were very bitter. The time was most inopportune for any action on the part of the "highly paid, happy and contented workman" in this protected industry. Tariff revision was at hand. A strike on the part of these wage earners to "better conditions" under which they worked aroused the deepest resentment on the part of their employers. A strike always disturbs business, curtails the purchasing power of those involved, and exasperates merchants and tradesmen.

The corporations owning the silk factories of Paterson constitute a powerful combination. This organization could easily secure the co-operation of the interested merchants to influence the municipal authorities "to put an end to the strike."

But there was clear thinking and wise counsel back of this strike and directing its every movement. Month after month they held a course that was strictly within their rights. They observed the law. They kept the peace. They walked the streets in an orderly manner. They gathered together to advise with and encourage one another.

This course appeared to be offensive to those who were anxious to enforce the working men to surrender to their employers. If pursued, it might extend the strike indefinitely. They were not exhausting their energies and their resources in excitement and violence. They were conserving the strength, and winning respect and sympathy from people in other communities and states where their grievances and their course of proceeding to

redress them were becoming known.

That sort of thing would never do. Apparently orders went forth to "run them in." They were arrested in large numbers. On what appears to be the most reliable information I am led to believe that these working people were the victims of an abuse of power on the part of the law officers of Paterson which was in plain violation of the rights guaranteed to every citizen of the United States.

If the representations made to me are true, and they are made on such authority that I am bound to accept them as absolutely true, the Mayor, commissioners of police, and police magistrates have taken the most drastic action to prevent these working men and women from peacefully gathering to discuss the wrongs which they have suffered; and have unlawfully denied them access to meeting halls, and places of public assemblage.

It appears that more than a thousand arrests of orderly, self-respecting, law-abiding wage earners have been made by the Paterson police, and more than two hundred and fifty of these working people have been fined or imprisoned for no other offense than protesting to exercise their constitutional right of free speech and peaceful assemblage.

Would the authorities of Paterson, at the behest of the railroad companies, have dared to raid peaceable meetings of merchants, or farmers, called together to discuss excessive railway rates?

Are wage earners to be denied the equal protection of the law? Are they to be taught that the Constitution is sacred when it is the shield of property, but a mockery when working men invoke its principles?

It is high time for the liberty-loving and peace-loving citizenship of the country to raise its voice in protest. The right of free speech and peaceable assemblage is a precious right, vital to the life of free government. It must not be denied or abridged.

BRIEF NEWS OF OREGON

For the first time in their history the Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers, an organization eight years old, will have an active part in the next annual reunion, in June, 1914, of the pioneers.

William Haney, 60 years old, was struck by an automobile at Sutherlin and instantly killed, his head almost severed from his body. The automobile, which is said to have been going at high speed, contained four young men returning from a celebration at Oakland and was in charge of Charles Parks of Roseburg.

B. R. Baumgardt, of Los Angeles, an astronomer and lecturer, who has traveled in most of the scenic places of the world and who was at Hood River the first of the week to view Mount Hood from the north side, declared that Hood River scenery is unsurpassed in any part of the world.

Oregon City business men and 400 Clackamas county farmers, its principal stockholders, are behind the Clackamas Southern railway, which will soon make formal application to the commission council for a franchise to bring electric interurban cars into Portland.

In the federal court at Portland Judge Wolverton ordered in a final decree that 2,300,000 acres of Oregon land, valued at \$50,000,000, be forfeited by the Southern Pacific and that title thereto revert to the government. The defendant company will carry the case to the circuit court of appeals at San Francisco.

Donald Helms, aged 20, driver of a racing car going at a 50-mile an hour clip, was instantly killed and Newton H. Mark, mechanic, was seriously injured when the 50 horsepower American car Helms was driving turned over twice at a turn in the Fourth of July automobile races at the Medford track.

What is believed to be the skeleton of an Indian princess has been unearthed by workmen grading in front of property at Salem. The bones were in an upright position, and around them were quantities of beads and other rare Indian ornaments. Near the bones was a stone foot which is believed to have been the totem of the last of the tribe.

As an aid to tourists and those wishing to gain information regarding the many places of interest throughout the country, the department of the interior has issued circulars giving general information regarding the national parks of the United States. Of especial interest to Oregon is the pamphlet regarding the Crater Lake national park.

Teachers of Hood River county have each received a topographical map of the district west of Mount Hood. It is one of the latest publications of the United States topographical survey and is called one of the Atlas sheets of the Mount Hood quadrangle. It shows in detail the topographical features of the region around Lost Lake and over which the dispute as to the Bull Run road has arisen between Hood River citizens and the Portland water board.

Forty thousand copies of the state game and fish laws have been received at the office of State Game warden Finley, and will be distributed to officials throughout the state. They present several radical departures from the law.

... or last year, and it is expected that it will be some time before they are generally understood. The "Joan Gun law" makes it necessary for an alien to secure a gun license before he can procure a hunter's permit. Several changes in the open and closed seasons have been made in some of the more remote sections of the state.

Senator Chamberlain has been notified by the department of justice that a parole has been granted David Westman, and his release from the penitentiary at McNeil's Island has been ordered. Westman was the first man convicted in Oregon under the white slave act, his offense being the purchase of tickets from Portland to Stevenson, Wash., for three women alleged to have been immoral. In his behalf, it was shown the department, that an account of a severe accident when 15 years old, he was not mentally responsible, and a parole was granted so that he might be cared for by his parents.

That the Day bill, providing for a special election in November for the reference of bills, will be tested as to its constitutionality was assured when Dr. Marie Equi and Mrs. J. R. Oatman, of Portland, asked Secretary of State Olcott to file petitions for the initiative of an eight-hour law for women. Mr. Olcott refused to file the petitions, Attorney-General Crawford having advised him that measures cannot be initiated at the special election, and the women immediately announced that they would institute mandamus proceedings to compel him to do so. The petitioners have more than 15,000 names.

SUMMER GREETINGS

Think of that recreation trip you have been planning, and when making up the bill-of-fare, JUST TAKE THIS TIP

Fancy Tillamook Cheese, per lb.	.25	Vienna Sausage in glass	.15
Boneless Herring in jars	.25	Veal Loaf in flat can	.15
Sweet Pickles per quart	.25	Peanut Butter, large glass	.15
Ripe Olives in cans	.25	Corn Beef, in tin cans	.25
Fancy red Salmon, per can	.15 and .25	Van Camp's Pork and Beans	.10 and .25
Chip Beef in glass	.20	Grape Juice, per bottle	.25

TAKE THIS ALONG WITH YOU

Camp on the mossy banks of a crystal stream, way back in the mountains, where Nature has prepared everything for your enjoyment; kill three, which is the limit, sack the "jerky", return to Gold Hill and call and see us

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

Department of Interior, U. S. Land
Office at Roseburg, Or., June 5th, 1913.

Notice is hereby given that George R. Briggs, of Gold Hill, Oregon, who, on June 1, 1910, made Homestead Entry Serial, No. 06301, for S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 20, Township 35 S., Range 3 W. Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Three year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before G. A. Gardner, County Clerk Jackson county, Oregon, at Jacksonville, Oregon, on the 25 day of July 1913.

Claimant names as witnesses: Ike Coy, of Gold Hill, Or., F. M. Powers, of Gold Hill, Or., T. W. Ray, of Gold Hill, Or., G. W. Garrison, Gold Hill, Oregon.

—B. F. JONES

6-11 Register.

FOR SALE—New Alfalfa Hay

Of the best quality. \$9. per ton in the field, or \$10. delivered in Gold Hill.

—Sleepy Hollow Farm
O. I. Gregg, Mgr.

The American people drank more whiskey and beer, smoked more cigars and cigarettes and chewed more tobacco during the fiscal year 1913 than in any other yearly period of the nation's history, according to estimates based on the record-breaking internal revenue receipts of the federal government for the 12 months ended June 30.

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