East Oregonian.

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As we progress we ought to make our surroundings satisfactory to the senses. And you here who live out in the great plains and in sight of the mountains and of the rapid rivers, around whom nature is so beautiful, it behooves you especially to see that the handiwork of man adds to and does not mar the work of nature. I congratulate you upon this tree-bowered city of yours and upon the pleasure and, therefore, the good that must come with pleasure, given to all who come within your limits and see it.—President Roosevelt at Boise City.

THE LABOR SITUATION HERE.

The East Oregonian has refrained from agitating the local labor trouble for the reason that the matter, at first, was insignificant, and promised to be speedily adjusted.

To advertise that Pendleton is in the midst of a labor disturbance is to turn capital, business, homeseekers, enterprise and needy workingmen away from the city, and to check all improvements in progress.

Already the Puri Bowman building, that would have ment an expenditure of $35,000 among Pendleton enterprises, Pendleton workingmen and Pendleton contractors, is indefinitely postponed, and this action on Mr. Bowman's part will deter others who were intending to build. And why must the city suffer the loss of this enterprise and the workingmen suffer this threatened scarcity of work?

Since the matter has been brought before the council and made part of the proceedings of that body, a brief review of the situation seems in place.

On Thursday, May 21, the union carpenters, working on the Ferguson-Maloney building, refused to handle the structural iron furnished by the Rigby-Clove foundry of this city and work on the building was stopped.

The reason of the carpenters' refusal to handle the iron was that the employes at the foundry were not members of a union, at the same time every man in the foundry, with two exceptions, possibly, was heartily in favor of unions and union labor, and would have joined upon proper solicitation, free from coercion.

The reason they had not joined was due to a lack of discussion of the subject, rather than anything else.

A committee from the Carpenters' Union waited upon Messrs. Rigby and Clove immediately, and informed them that the iron would not be used until all the men in the foundry were either unionized or discharged. The Rigby-Clove people laid the matter before their employes and frankly informed them of the situation, and told them to join the unions if they wished—the choice was left entirely to the employes. At the same time the committee from the Carpenters' Union was informed that the foundry employes would not be coerced into joining the union against their will.

In the conferences that were held during the strike, the committee from the Carpenters 'Union informed Mr. Rigby that the employes of the foundry could become members of the firm by buying stock in the concern, and that this action would at once be equal to unionizing, the boycott would be withdrawn and the matter would be finally settled, but that either this action or unionizing would be necessary to a settlement.

The Rigby-Clove employes were at once given the choice of joining the union or buying a small amount of stock and becoming members of the firm. All parties connected with the affair were anxious for a settlement. The carpenters were idle when they could have been working every hour. The employees of the foundry were anxious to see it settled, as they were being made the storm center, and this offer from the Carpenters' Union was gladly accepted as a solution of the problem.

When a vote at the foundry was taken, it was found that the employes had almost unanimously elected to become members of the concern by buying stock, and acting upon the information of the carpenters' committee, stock was sold to them and the boycott was supposed to have been at an end.

Upon being informed of the action of the foundry employes, what did the Carpenters' Union do?

It's wish had been complied with by the Rigby-Clove people. Its remedy for the trouble had been accepted. In all fairness, let it be said the boycott should have been declared off.

But instead of declaring the boycott off, the Rigby-Clove people were publicly declared unfair, an arrangement was made whereby the foundry took back the iron it has cast as an accommodation for the contractors, in order that the carpenters might return to work, and the tide of improvement roll on.

This boycott is still on. The men in the Rigby-Clove foundry would not now join a union under any circumstances, owing to the attempted coercion of them by members of the unions and the council is now asked to refuse to buy Pendleton iron with which to improve Pendleton.

The East Oregonian has refused to publish at least a half dozen letters from men who claimed to be members of the carpenters' union, deploring in the most emphatic terms the action of the union. The tenor of these communications were that the matter was too hastily disposed of. That the action was a direct injury to the carpenters as well as the city and that it would finally result in the failure of the unions to secure any recognition in the city.

The unions and the Rigby-Clove people are both Pendleton institutions. They are both supported by the business transacted in the city and the enterprise of the prosperous county. Neither should suffer a check in their well-deserved progress toward final success.

INACTIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Is it possible that one-third of the citizens of the First congressional district of Oregon have so far lost interest in citizenship, that they no longer vote?

Has it come to a time at which the voter who bears the burdens of government takes no interest in its welfare?

Not only was this striking example of inactive citizenship shown in the congressional election last Monday, but the same spirit prevails all over the state. At the sewer bond election in Pendleton last winter and at the school bond election this spring, only a fraction of those interested went to the polls.

At Lewiston, Idaho, last week, 26 votes were cast in a school bond election, where 400 were expected. Reports from every section of the West show the same apathy.

This stay-at-home citizenship will ruin the country. It will allow the reins of government to slip from the hands of the people into the hands of wily politicians who are on the alert for such opportunities.

It is better to vote wrong through mistaken judgment, than not to vote at all.

It is better to go to the polls and waste your vote by supporting a losing cause than to stay at home and swell the tide of slothfulness. Citizenship is the emblem of individual activity. It is the distinguishing mark of the free man and if not exercised, and used to the glory of the government and the state, it might as well be removed.

The vote in the First congressional district last Monday did not represent two-thirds of the voting strength of the district. True, there was but one office to fill and no strictly local issues to lend ginger to the campaign, yet it was an election in which a representative of the state in the national councils was to be chosen, and that is sufficient to invite every citizen to exercise the franchise.

Drifting is the curse of the times. Too many people drift. They follow the tide out or in, up or down, no matter which way it goes. The self-propelling, self-animating force of citizenship is losing its capacity just in proportion to the number of stay-at-home votes.

TOM JOHNSON'S WAY.

Last year eight democratic members of the Ohio legislature violated the platforms on which they were elected by voting for what is known as the "curative act," designed to confirm a corrupt grant of franchises to the Cincinnati Traction Company. Mayor Johnson at the time told these eight black sheep that if any of them ever came up for office he would go to their districts and endeavor to defeat them.

* * *

Last week Johnson spent three days campaigning in his red automobile in Richland county, where one of the black sheep named Earhart, supported by the local bosses, was seeking a renomination at the party primary.

In his speech at Shelby, Mr. Johnson said:

"The democratic party will remain the minority party in the state as long as a handful of boodlers are permitted to parcel out second terms to such men as Earhart. * * * The difficulty with the democratic party in Richland county is that it is rotten at the top. The foundation seems to be all right, but the head ought to be cut off, then the party will get back to the good old majority of from 1200 to 1500."

The result of the primary on Saturday afternoon was the defeat of Earhart by 2?? majority. In commenting on the result Johnson said:

"The defeat of Earhart means the utter annihilation of the eight 'black sheep.' Gear is absolutely out of the running in Wyandot county, and the other six have not dared to show their faces. * * * The result will have a most salutary effect over the entire state. It will give the democratic party a chance now on to move forward and accomplish results."—San Francisco Star.

SUCCESS.

And these succeeded? Who shall say, indeed.
Of some, they fail; of others, they succeed?
Perhaps their aim was loftier than those
Whom Victory's chaplet crowned at battle close.

Failure, indeed, is God's mark of the Truth—
His honors are for those who take in youth
The cross of some despised work, and move
Pierced with our arrows, to His endless Love.

How shall we judge him—he who nobly fails
At task before which weaker spirit quails;
Fights and succumbs for Truth's sake—who shall guess
The splendid measure of his ill success?

—Joseph Dana Miller.

JOHN MITCHELL WAS RIGHT.

The president of the Western Federation of Miners, in his address before the convention of that organization, held at Denver this week, denounced John Mitchell for his action in consenting to submit to arbitration the differences between the anthracite coal workers and the operators. What else could Mr. Mitchell, sensibly and justly, have done?

Should he have bull-headedly prolonged a strike he knew was causing hardship and suffering to the men he represented, as well as to the general public, or, by arbitration—the weapon of civilization—endeavor to end the strife? Mitchell did the right thing—the only thing in fact, he could have done, without disrupting his organization. Public sympathy was with him, is with him now, and will continue to be with him while he pursues the same level-headed course he has in the past.—San Francisco Star.