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IN HIS FOOTSTEPS.

ABOUT the most illuminating political literature now being purveyed is the series of articles which the Chicago Tribune is printing from a correspondent who is following President Taft.

Instead of traveling with the Presidential party this correspondent is trailing the party. Two or three days behind he drops into a town that has received, cheered, and listened to the President, and then had time to think it over. He talks to all conditions and kinds of people about how it seemed to them. Was the town enthusiastic? Do people believe in Taft? Will those who voted for him three years ago do it again a year hence? If not, why not?

All along the line is the same report, that the masses of people are dissatisfied. They believe the President, after promising that he would oppose Cannonism and Aldrichism, allied himself with them; that after promising downward revision he joined these men in betraying the pledge; that he assumed his full share of responsibility for that betrayal by the Winona and other speeches.

If this correspondent is correctly diagnosing sentiment the reciprocity incident is not getting much attention, now that Canada has ended that discussion for the time being. Interest harks back to the tariff, the failure to revise it ab initio, and vetoes of the schedule bills that passed this summer. The people clearly are not prepared to approve the President's course in the extra session just ended. Seemingly, too, his tariff commission excuse for vetoes and delays is not sinking very deep into the minds of people to whom the high cost of living is a grave, ever-present affair.

Important business men, merchants, bankers, and manufacturers are represented as generally loyal to Taft, convinced of his sincerity and safety. But these appear as the decided minority.

McGUIRE

PORTLAND has at least found one councilman who will not stand for vice graft or indolence. That man is James McGuire, elected to his present office last June.

Mr. McGuire is also a shining light in labor circles, being president of the steamfitters' union at present. Although only "new at the game" this man has come forth openly declaring war on vice and all its elements.

But he does not stop here. He goes even further into the matter, giving the public the cause for and the origination of the "great disease" and then gently suggests a remedy.

Portland needs more such men as McGuire. With the combined efforts of three or four councilmen the existing disgusting and demoralizing conditions could easily be remedied.

Ralph C. Clyde and Wm. Daly, both new councilmen and also strong labor unionists, have come forward at different times arraigned on the right side, but in the present crusade against vice have been very silent. With their aid and Mayor Rushlight's official

backing McGuire would doubtless come near making "Portland the Rose City," "Portland the Clean City."

NEEDS RECALLING.

THERE is a Federal Judge named Hanford in Seattle, who is unintentionally helping along the movement in favor of the recall of the judiciary.

Last spring 25 per cent of the voters of Seattle signed a demand for the recall of the Mayor. Judge Hanford came to the rescue of that official by issuing an injunction forbidding the election. It may seem strange that any cause whatever could be found to justify interference by the Federal Government with a city election, but it is a poor judge who can not find some excuse for interfering with anything that is not his personal liking. However, the Circuit Court voided the injunction. Now Hanford has distinguished himself again. This time he has interfered in behalf of the Street Railway Company, which is collecting higher fares than the terms of the franchise allow. The state courts, including the highest court in the state, have all decided against the company and the city authorities were about to force the company to abide by the terms of its charter when Judge Hanford issued an injunction forbidding them. A street railway franchise is supposed to be a matter that concerns only the community granting it and the corporation receiving it. There being no question of inter-state commerce involved, it required some fine hair splitting to find some reason for Federal interference, but Hanford appears to be quite expert at splitting hairs.

However, the worst is still to come. The people of Seattle were naturally indignant and passed resolutions in a mass meeting requesting Congress to impeach Judge Hanford. This turns out to have been less majestic. Warrants for the arrest of the speakers at the mass meeting have been issued on the technical charge of "conspiring to obstruct the administration of justice." The editors of the Seattle Star, which upholds the demand for Hanford's impeachment, have also been arrested on the same charge.

COLLEGE ATHLETES

A RECENT Oregonian editorial very nicely illustrates how the university athlete manages to "pull through" the year in spite of his devotion or neglect of studies. It is not generally understood how a young man or woman can spend hours that were set apart for "book study" in the investigation of the art of chosing a stuffed pigskin. Yet information along those lines will eventually leak out. Athletics have their places. No doubt the existence of a successful team in baseball, football, or basket ball have a whole lot to do with encouraging school pride and spirit, and offer fine mental recreation to the student who attends the game simply as an observer. Such recreation requires only a limited time and neglect of studies. No one can hardly believe that the intellectual

effort put forth by these people should not count for as much or more than that of the student who spends half of his time in the field and half of the remaining time thinking about what happened when he was in the field or would happen when next he appeared on the field, which all goes to prove that college athletics is encouraged for two purposes; first as a species of advertising publicity, and second as a means of diverting the attention of the students from the deficiencies of the faculty.

THE FOOD PROBLEM.

PRESS dispatches are telling of riots in France and Belgium over the high cost of food and of dissatisfaction and unrest in Germany, due to the same cause. Land monopoly and unjust taxation have the same results everywhere.

All of the countries named have high protective tariffs. No doubt the voters are told that these tariffs are necessary to protect the well paid laborers of each of these countries against the competition of the pauper labor of England, the United States and other countries. Still, if the press dispatches are to be believed, the "discontented" ones are demanding the reduction or abolition of import duties and other taxes on food.

Now while tariff duties have much to do with raising the price of food they do not constitute the greatest evil. Even with a prohibitive tariff there would be no lack of enough food in any country if a large part of the population were not denied the right to the use of the earth. In France and Belgium much of the land is held by small owners or peasant proprietors who are worse rack renters than are the owners of big estates, so that the lot of the landless man in either place is not even as good as that of a man similarly situated in England or Germany.

Some persons imagine that because Belgium is the most thickly populated country in Europe all of the land there is already in use. Such is far from being the case. Population in Belgium is not nearly as dense as in the State of Rhode Island and even in Rhode Island there is plenty of unused land.

What all of these countries need most is not the abolition of tariffs and other oppressive taxes, important as such reform undoubtedly is. Without the abolition of land monopoly no reform, no matter how badly needed, can do more than bring temporary relief.

REPORTORIALS

The ordinary voter must be remarkably astute or extraordinarily prejudiced to know which political party he belongs to at the present moment.

The farmers must now contemplate the difficult task to vote against Taft for favoring reciprocity, and against the Democrats for passing it.

Mr. J. J. Hill says the only thing that will drive people back to the land is an empty stomach. Aviators say an empty petrol-tank amounts to the same thing.

Dr. Wiley's vindication cannot be regarded otherwise than as a most emphatic ant-vindication for Attorney-General Wickersham.

A morning paper likens Taft's western trip to the late jaunt of Halley's comet, but omits to tell how many years it will be before he will come back.

The men who undertake to write party platforms next year may expect to face more searching criticism than document of that kind usually invite.

Champ Clark says that the difference between a speech and a lecture is that he gets paid for a lecture. Still, doesn't Mrs. Clark

give him a lecture free of charge occasionally?

If John L. Sullivan should go to congress, some of the amateur pugilists in that body might become less befleose.

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