

The Butte Daily Bulletin

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TUESDAY, JULY 29, 1919.

PRESIDENT DE VALERA IS RIGHT

In his address to the workers of the city last night, President Eamonn De Valera of the republic of Ireland took occasion to administer a merited rebuke to the supposed loyal newspapers of Butte and elsewhere, who are for the Irish republic "with reservations." The president roundly scored the newspapers who use quotation marks in connection with the terms "president" of the "Irish republic," or "provisional president," etc.

And President De Valera was absolutely right. At an election participated in by more than 80 per cent of the population of Ireland, the principles of the republic of Ireland were endorsed and President De Valera was selected as the provisional head of the Irish government.

As president of the Irish republic Mr. De Valera came to the United States to plead the cause of his people. But, in Butte, as well as in other cities where the corporation-controlled press operates, qualification has been made.

The kept press, loyal as always to capital, hesitates to grant to President De Valera the recognition that is his due. Instead of unqualifiedly terming him president of the republic of Ireland, a title, by the way, to which he is undoubtedly entitled, the smirking serfs on the editorial staffs of the kept papers, such as the Butte Miner and the Anaconda Standard, fearing to recognize Mr. De Valera for what he really is, feel constrained to qualify their descriptions of him by placing the title, president, in quotation marks. In other words, they pass the buck to someone else and seek, by the use of the quotation marks, to say that while Mr. De Valera may claim to be president of the Irish republic, they are not sure of it. They would seek to convey the impression that while Mr. De Valera says he is president of Ireland, they have only his word for it.

Now, so far as the Bulletin is concerned, we unqualifiedly recognize that the republic of Ireland is an existing fact. We recognize as an established fact that Eamonn De Valera is the duly elected president of that republic and we need no quotation marks to qualify our statements.

Whether the republic of Ireland secures official recognition from our supposedly democratic government or not, the Bulletin is convinced that the great mass of the common people of the United States do recognize the republic. Whether the Anaconda Copper Mining company, which in the last analysis, is a part of the invisible government within the government, recognizes the Irish republic or not, we are sure that the men and the women, whose daily bread depends on the pittance they are permitted to draw from the Anaconda company's coffers have already granted recognition, both to President Eamonn De Valera and the republic he represents.

And the Bulletin ventures to say, now that the time for camouflage has passed, that the people of the United States—the common people, the real people—demand that our servants at the capital officially go on record as endorsing and recognizing both President De Valera and the Irish republic. We would also venture to state that our belief is that the senator or representative in congress who fails to vote for full recognition of President De Valera and the republic of Ireland, is a dead one in so far as political futures are concerned.

As to the use of quotation marks for the purpose of qualification, it seems to us that the most appropriate place for them is in connection with the term "editor," as applied to the journalistic prostitutes who "edit" copy on the papers of the kept press.

OTHER PROFITEERS

And while we are on the subject of profiteering, the Bulletin would suggest—not to the state trade and efficiency commission, for everyone knows nothing will come of that body's investigations—to the people generally that all the profiteers in Butte are not members of the food trust. Far be it from us to limit such charges to Mr. Looey and his gang, when there are such other exponents of the grab-it-all gang in Butte, such as our esteemed friend, the "admiral," skipper of the local water trust; the gas trust, the electric power trust, and our esteemed railway company.

The local kept press recently has contained notices, signed by "Admiral" Carroll of Dirty Water harbor, to the effect that beginning Aug. 1, no persons other than those whose service is checked by a meter can use water for sprinkling. The need for conservation of water is the reason ascribed.

Now, listen! Carroll tells us that his water supply is running low. But he fails to mention that while the Big Hole river is running right along with a good and inexhaustible supply of water, the "admiral's" company has a battery of pumps on the river bank that is idle. He speaks of the necessity of conservation of water. But you never hear him advocating conservation of water where the water passes through a meter.

You hear him tell that after Aug. 1, the common people of the city—the workers, who are the ones whose water supply is charged for on a flat rate—will not be allowed to sprinkle their lawns unless they pack the water in a sprinkling can. But you do not hear Mr. Carroll mentioning anything about giving the flat rate consumers a rebate for the water they are entitled to under their contracts with the company and which, according to Mr. Carroll's announcement, they will not receive.

Some of us would call that profiteering. Then we have Mr. Wharton and Senator Clark's railway company about to place a 7-cent fare into effect. Of course, the extra penny, in individual cases, does not amount to much, but in the aggregate the pennies taken in by Mr. Clark's company in fares in one month represents many good silver dollars. The fact that in Seattle and in other cities throughout the country the railway companies are satisfied with and pay dividends on a 5-cent fare cuts no figure with the plunderbund, of which Mr. Wharton and his master's railway company are shining examples.

But let's not overlook the Montana Power company, since, it is probable, that company also soon will apply to the state commission for an increase in rates. In Butte we are required to pay 10 cents a kilowatt hour, with \$1 as the minimum charge. In Seattle, according to figures secured by the Bulletin, the consumers are charged 5 1/2 cents a kilowatt hour up to 45 kilowatts and for more than that amount are charged 2 cents per kilowatt hour. And what is more the power company in Seattle is not going broke—not by a long shot.

Then we have our local gas plant with charges of \$1.65 per thousand and also a dollar minimum. In Seattle the rate is \$1.25 per thousand cubic feet and a reduction of 5 cents per thousand on each additional thousand cubic feet. The Seattle minimum also furnishes a contrast with our local prices in that it is only 60 cents, as compared with the Butte minimum charge of \$1.

Also by way of comparison, we quote Seattle prices on water at 50 cents for the first 500 cubic feet and 6 cents per hundred above that amount.

Some months ago it was considered seditious in Butte to term such practices by our beneficent corporations profiteering. The Bulletin then charged that profiteering was practiced in Butte and we again reiterate that charge. In fact, we go even further and declare that such a thing as an honest price for any commodity is unknown in Butte.

THE PACKERS—AN EXAMPLE OF SOLIDARITY

While the packers are buying acres of newspaper space and conducting an active campaign in an attempt to prove that they are the only simon-pure philanthropists in the nation, the great bulk of American people are apathetic.

Apparently there is little realization of the tremendous power that is wielded by the packing trust, the "Big Five," over the lives of the inhabitants of the United States.

The control of the food supply by a ruthless group of profit-mad plunderers places the populace at the mercy of interests that know no mercy.

In an editorial entitled "The Packers' Empire," the New York Call points out the grave danger that confronts us and also outlines the remedy.

We quote:

The expansion of government autocracies has its counterpart in the expansion of industrial corporations over the business and the life of the nations. What is known as the "Big Five" in the packing business is the ripe fruitage of capitalist evolution of industry. These powerful allies have acquired a sovereignty over the production of food-stuffs that alarms the Federal Trade Commission, which, in a report to the president, says:

An approaching packer domination of all important foods in this country and an international control of meat products with foreign companies, unless fundamental action is taken to prevent it, * * * The history of the packers' growth is interwoven with illegal combinations, rebates and with undisclosed control of corporations.

Like a huge magnet attracting steel filings, the "Big Five" have been gathering in related businesses in the same field. The packers, originally starting in the meat business, now deal in such commodities as butter, rice, potatoes, beans, coffee, eggs, fertilizers, salt, tomatoes, peasin, oil, leather, banjo strings, curled hair and many other articles. The "Big Five" is an empire of holdings, with hundreds of thousands of faithful subjects. Its holdings are reported in the following passage from the commission's report:

The Big Five packers jointly or separately wield controlling interest in 574 companies, a minority interest in 95 others, and undetermined interests in 93—a total of 762 companies—and produce or deal in some 775 commodities, largely food products.

Here is a conquest that requires no army or navy. For example, in 1917 Armour & Co. for the first time undertook the handling of rice, and sold 16,000,000,000 pounds that year, becoming at a single stroke the greatest rice dealer in the world. The "Big Five" has a vast distributing system through their control of private cars, cold storage and branch houses, and is a prominent factor in the International Corporation, with its shipping and ship-building interests. Its import and export companies, there are holding companies in South America and allied businesses in Paraguay. Distributing companies have been organized in England, France, Italy, Holland and other European countries. They are in control, or associated with, 17 holding companies in South America. They have investments in public utility corporations in quite a number of American cities and have directorships in numerous banks and trust companies.

Here is an interrelated combine of capitalist power stretching over the households of the nation, with its tentacles reaching to South America and Europe, and associated with other corporate and financial groups in this country. This giant power is just as influential, and probably more so, over the lives of the workers of the country as the government itself. Yet it does not stand alone in its class. The Rockefeller interests centering around Standard Oil and the interests centering around the United States Steel corporation constitute similar interrelated combines of immense scope.

These are industrial empires that forecast the socialist democracy that is to replace them. With them rests the real sovereignty of government. The government at Washington and the state governments are mere shadows compared to them. They vest more power in the hands of a few dominating figures than the Caesars and Napoleons ever had. They constitute the empire of capitalism that is organizing industry so that it can be taken over by society to be operated for the good of all. It is the empire of capital, the kingdom of pork, finance and merchandise. This monstrous thing must be deprived of its evil aspects by socializing it and making of it an industrial democracy.

A return to competition is impossible; the reformers who prate of the dissolution of trusts and advocate a return to the old days of competition are oblivious of the trend of historical development.

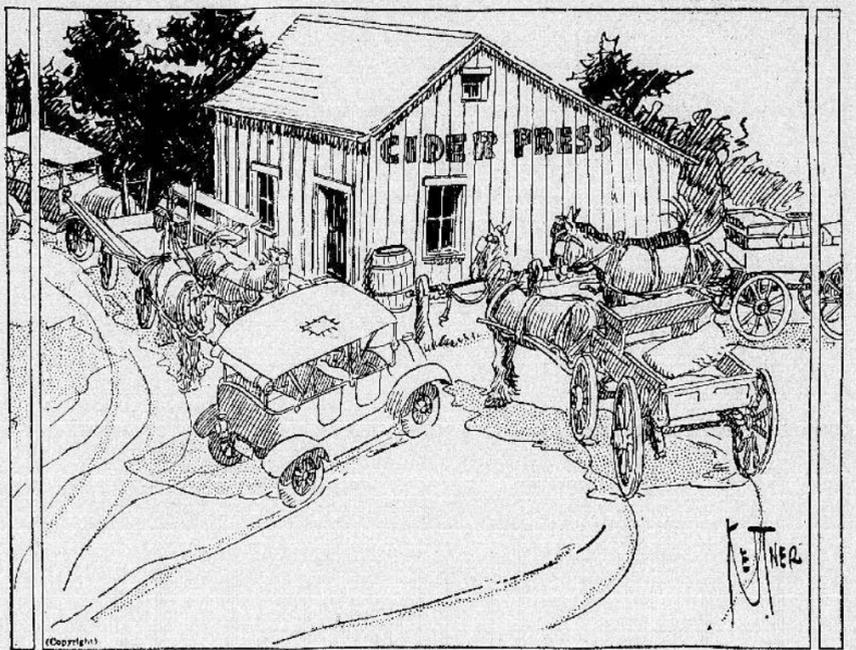
Co-operation is the only remedy, yet we find the working class—the chief sufferers from absolute control of wages and prices—opposing with the tin sword of craft unionism the Toledo Blade of a solidly united capitalist class.

Before the control of industry and government can be taken from the hands of its present owners, the workers will have to develop organizations that realize the necessity of solidarity as well as the packers do.

WALSH ON IRELAND

Irishmen of Montana should be highly gratified at the fact that Senator Walsh at last has come out from behind his camouflage and has revealed himself as an out and out anglo-maniac and imperialist. The senator's speech in the senate yesterday in defense of the league of nations, especially his references to the notorious article 10, shows convincingly that he is a foe of Ireland's aspirations to freedom. His frank denial of the Irish revolutionary movement, too, bears out the contention of the Bulletin that the senator is now and has always since he has been in the senate been no friend of the Irish.

Popular Corners



A. C. M. Behind Move to Thwart Primary Law

MILES ROMNEY IN THE WESTERN NEWS

"Save the primary." This is the appeal that greets one nowadays in every county in this great state.

When I first heard this appeal upon my return from the army a few weeks ago, I did not take it very seriously; it seemed an unnecessary alarm. The idea that the voters of Montana would deliberately vote to repeal a law they themselves had enacted by direct vote—vote to surrender the right to nominate judicial, state and congressional candidates by direct vote and delegate this function to a hand-picked few—so back to the old gang means, corporation-controlled convention system seemed preposterous, particularly now since old-world autocracies have crumbled and democracy is rising triumphant all over the world.

I soon discovered, however, that there is very great danger that this may happen, that the primary may be repealed. The trap was well set. The interests that prevailed upon the legislature to submit this question of repealing the primary law, for that is what it amounts to carefully figured that they had a good chance to put it over. They are relying upon old general apathy. Very cunningly they decided to submit the question at a special election on September 2, at a season when the farmer would be very busy, and probably not vote. Very cleverly they are conducting a campaign in every controlled newspaper and by means of a multitude of clamors in every county in the state for a substitute or gold brick primary. I am delighted to observe that this well laid plan is being thwarted, due chiefly to the efforts of the "Watch dogs" of the Nonpartisan league.

The alarm has been sounded and the workers are being awakened to the menace of this latest assault on popular government.

The enemies of the primary expect to rally, in addition to the old time political ringsters the business element whom they would frighten with the "bolshhevik" bugaboo, together with a section of misguided but honest conservatives. Then with unlimited money, and a smooth working organization at their command, they expect to buy and steal whatever votes may be lacking. A sample of their adeptness in this line was given during the recent election in Butte.

Do you know who is behind this attempt to steal the primary? Well, I will tell you, in the language of an old friend of mine from Missouri, "the first three letters of his name" are the Rockefeller, copper, electric power, timber, banking combine, masquerading under various corporate names, and operating through the same old bi-partisan machine lobby that has infested the Montana legislature and state conventions, both political, lodge, church and booster organizations for many years. This combine, of course, does not include all the mining and other business interests in the state, but it exceeds by far the 51 per cent necessary to dominate any situation.

This autocracy, which I shall designate the Anaconda, is a great corporate conscienceless thing, reaching out from New York, that is not only absorbing the cream of Montana resources, mining, water power, timber, coal, etc., but is corrupting and debasing the manhood of the state, through its controlled press, to gain its ends, political crooks are excited, and free men who would merely express their honest convictions and assert their rights as American citizens, are denounced and traduced. Many are cowed into silence.

This is being done, not by pioneer developers such as Clark, Daly, Heinze, Broadwater and Hauser, red-blooded human beings who actually labored in the development of Montana resources incidentally grabbing the biggest paystreaks in sight, but by a bunch of absentee stock-gambling millionaires centered in New York city. This outfit has controlled Montana through its state capital for more than a decade, operating through agents in every county, yes, every voting precinct in the state, and aided immeasurably by a kept press that has succeeded in blinding the people. It has proven irresistible in many campaigns.

Under the primary system, the need of more revenue to maintain its educational and other institutions. This revenue must come chiefly from the farmers and other business people if the mining, timber and power combine is to continue to be practically exempted from taxation. Under the primary system, the interests feel that they are "slipping." They are particularly apprehensive, since the spectre of the Nonpartisan league, an organization that is awakening the farmers, has appeared on the political horizon, voicing a demand for a tonnage tax on copper—a matter of several million dollars a year to the Anaconda Copper Mining company, for example.

In a recent address, Mr. Con Kelly, president of the Anaconda Copper Mining company, by way of illustration, characterized the Butte copper mines as a "big cheese" which was being rapidly exhausted. He said that as each ton of ore was hoisted from the mine that much of the property was gone forever. It would seem that the Nonpartisans are awakening to the fact that if the state of Montana is to enjoy a slice of the Anaconda cheese, it must get busy before the cheese has melted away by that bunch of New York financiers.

You old timers know of the conditions that prevailed under the old convention system, and the simple story of those conditions, and the long hard fight for the primary should carry a convincing appeal to the women and younger men who have acquired the franchise since 1912. In the old days of caucuses and conventions when Daly, Clark and Heinze were the principal candidates, politics in Montana were largely a conglomerate of booze, boodle and bulldozing. In the industrial centers the caucuses were usually controlled through corrupt means, being cheaper than booze or boodle.

If the elector did not "vote right" he lost his job if the mine or smelter. Delegates to county and state conventions were carefully hand-picked and sorted. Interested millionaires and corporations supplied the booze to buy booze, pay railway fares, hotel bills, etc. And finally it was a simple matter to control a state convention, especially after the big conflicting interests were amalgamated. In this new day, since the women have secured the ballot, if we should go back to the old convention system, I can't help but wonder how they would adjust the ladies, who will certainly demand representation, to an awkward situation so prolific in "gabbers" and "wirepulling."

Given as a nucleus the big delegations from Silver Bow, Deer Lodge and Missoula, say, it was an easy matter to negotiate a few trades, and then with the stage set and bands playing, nominate a "safe ticket" from top to bottom. The chief of Anaconda's political department, on several occasions, has been known to supervise the selection of the state tickets of both the republican and democratic parties within a few weeks. When he had finished, it was always a case of "heads, the company wins; tails, it can't lose."

Just the fatalistic partisans of the "vote for a yellow dog" type fought the sham battle to a finish—the company agents looking on with dignified amusement! But always the cry throughout Montana for cleaner politics. For years both the republican and democratic parties in their platitudes have pledged the direct primary. And finally in 1915 the legislature grudgingly enacted a "safely guarded" local option measure, providing that the people in any given county might adopt a primary that would enable them to select candidates to county office and legislature by direct vote. Seven counties adopted this plan, and a number of unruly members broke into the state senate. Whereupon the legislature at the very next session repealed this law and Montana went back to the old convention system. This half-way and highly-diluted primary, however, did not satisfy anybody. Then came the Walsh campaign and that gentleman, manifestly the choice of his party, was openly cheated out of the elec-

tion by Anaconda. This outrage was followed in the Eleventh assembly by the enactment of the notorious house bill No. 160, the essence of all New Jersey corporation laws, which domesticated the Amalgamated Anaconda Copper Mining company in Montana and legalized monopoly. This consummation was followed by organization of the Montana Power company, and capitalization of ten million dollars worth of power dams, etc., at one hundred million dollars. This hydro-electric outfit new supplies everybody in the cities and towns of Montana with power and light, incidentally multiplying them of rates sufficient to pay dividends on nearly one hundred millions of watered stock. For voting against this measure, eight senators, including myself, and 15 representatives were intimidated with political extinction and business ruin. Such manipulation of conventions and bulldozing of legislators became intolerable. I, for one, realized how impregnably the gigantic, greedy combine was entrenched; and how foreboding the hope of ever securing remedial legislation from such bodies.

Freedom In Patterson

By National Civic Liberties Bureau. About 30,000 of the inhabitants of Patterson, N. J., are employed in the textile industry. About 90 per cent of these workers are unorganized. Their conditions are not good. The Amalgamated Textile Workers of America, the same union which recently won the 48-hour week without reduction in pay for the textile workers of New England, has been conducting a campaign to organize a branch in Patterson. Its efforts have been stubbornly opposed not by the workers but by the city authorities. For over a month the union has been unable to hold a meeting—even of its own membership.

After much difficulty it succeeded in leasing a hall for the evening of July 10. It was announced that a business meeting of its membership would be held. The public was not invited.

The meeting came to order and proceeded to transact business. It was proposed to appoint a committee to distribute union literature. A motion was made and seconded. The police arrived. "What's this a meeting?" asked the sergeant. "The Amalgamated Textile Workers," he replied. "The meeting is adjourned," said the police officer. "The meeting will proceed," said one of the union organizers, "unless we are under arrest." "You are under arrest," replied the police.

And four of them were taken to jail. There was doubt at first as to the charge against them. Then someone thought of the New Jersey sedition law of 1918, and a complaint was sworn out charging them with attempting "by speech, writing and printing to incite and provoke hostility or opposition to the government of the United States and of the state of New Jersey," by advocating a soviet form of government.

The danger to democracy in such a proceeding is only too plain. At the ordinary business of a labor organization is going to be construed as incitement to opposition to the government, where are we? Incidentally, there is a lesson for congress in all this. Senator Kintz has introduced a sedition law for peace time (S. 1686) which, among other things, makes criminal "any language intended to incite, provoke or encourage resistance to the United States." Patterson shows how such language may be construed. Our congressmen and senators may well ponder over it. The wrath of organized labor is not lightly to be incurred.

FAMOUS WOMEN

Mary Anderson.

Mary Anderson (Mrs. Antonio F. de Navarro), the actress, was born in Sacramento, Calif., on July 28, 1859. The following spring her parents moved to Louisville, Ky., and her father joined the Confederate army. He died at Mobile, Ala., in 1863, at the age of 29, when Mary was only 4 years old. The mother later married a physician of Louisville, Ky. He was a Shakespearean student, and fostering her natural ambition, at the age of 10 Mary began to read Shakespeare. Miss Anderson's first public appearance was as Juliet in November, 1875. In 1889 she abandoned the stage.