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WILL NOT BE STAMPEDED

FARMERS AND UNIONS ARE STILL IN ACCORD WITH INITIATIVE PROGRAM—TRI-COUNTY CONVENTION CONSISTS OF WEALTHY FARMERS.

(By E. P. Marsh.)

Some time ago the tri-county organizations of farmers, unions' comprising the counties of Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield, appointed a special committee to examine the initiative measures known as the "Seven Sisters" and report back to the tri-county organization its findings. That committee rendered its report at the convention held in Waitsburg last week and it recommended that all of the measures be repudiated by the farmers. This report was adopted by the convention. When one recalls that five of the seven are farmers' measures, proposed and drawn by them, that they were suggested as long ago as last September, that one of them is the identical bill they themselves fought for and lost in the last legislature, one wonders just what these particular farmers use to think with.

The argument used by the committee against each bill is in substance so like the argument sent out by our friend Frank Dallam of the Stop-Look-and-Listen league, even to phraseology, that one has his suspicions that the committee report is only a "his master's voice" affair, as it were.

The committee report supposes to have been the result of careful study and analysis of the proposed measures. If Ed Sims and Frank Dallam didn't write the text of the report they certainly practiced auto-suggestion on the members of the committee. The committee first opposes bill No. 6—the "Blue Sky" law. The farmers were for that identical measure in the last legislature and made it one of their campaign pledges during the preceding campaign.

Measure No. 7 they oppose because it offers "no relief worth mentioning, from the cost of maintaining the little army of examining boards and inspectors of various kinds now running up and down the state." The cutting off at one swoop, as this bill proposes, of twenty-one men at eight dollars per diem and traveling expenses, I had imagined would thin the army of state employes to an appreciable degree.

The oppose the Employment Office bill, the one bill of the seven which up to date not one daily paper in the state has dared attack. Indeed, the Seattle P-I openly praised this measure editorially, because of the state-wide chain of evils that have grown out of the employment agency system.

First Aid comes in for attack and the argument used shows conclusively that the committee never got beyond the "c-a-t spells cat" class in the study of workman's compensation.

They oppose the Road Bill because the jute mill will be closed and the state will lose its \$300,000 investment, forgetting that with the opening of the Panama canal the shipment of sacked grain will cease practically in this state and the jute mill become worthless. I suppose the committee would have the prisoners make overalls in competition with the girls in the Black Manufacturing Co.'s factory at Seattle. That would be fine.

The Fish Code is no good either, and Frank Dallam's figures prove that "the fishing industry is going to be throttled." Somehow they make no mention of the fact that in ten years it has cost the state \$353,395 more to propagate the fish and oysters and collect the revenue due the state than the state has received in revenue from the industry.

The committee thinks that the "initiative" is wrong. That we should only use the initiative when the legislature refuses to pass needed measures. That is just what we are doing, brothers. First Aid, Blue Sky Law, Abolition of Paid Employment Offices, Revision of the Fish Code, all these measures were before the legislature and it is for the very reason that a stand-pat legislature refused to pass them, that we are invoking the initiative.

The representatives of the farmers stationed at Olympia had to go up against a brace game just the same as our representatives did and I imagine it was because a lot of farmers, just the same as a lot of trade unionists, showed a peculiar denseness in the region of their thinking apparatus when they chose legislators. It is rather amusing and rather disgusting

ONE OF THE "SEVEN SISTERS"



Initiative Measure No. 6 entitled "An act relating to corporations, co-partnerships, associations and persons engaged in the business of dealing in lands, stocks, bonds and other securities, to prevent fraud and imposition in the sale of the same, and transferring to the public service commission all authority vested in the secretary of state in respect to corporations."

to have some of the farmers at this stage of the game, repudiate at this late date, their own previous action, and line up with the very elements in government which have stifled progressive legislation in the interest of both farmers' and trade unionists. I understand that the farmers represented at the convention comprise probably the wealthiest element in our farming class and that their training, inclination and environment put them in the banker-manufacturer-business man-big politician class rather than in the class of wage-earners. I believe, too, that they represent but a small fraction of the total number of farmers in this state. I do not hold the state organization to account, not at all. The state officers are in accord with our joint legislative program. But the harm lies in this, i.e., that every stand-pat newspaper that wants to see this legislative program defeated, scareheads as being indicative of the feeling of farmers generally. They want to see us split up the back. They want to see the progressive element in the labor unions retaliate by saying, "well, if you farmers are going to act this way, you can go to thunder with your five bills; we'll get out and rustle for our own." And every fish magnate, every scheming politician who sees a menace to control of the machinery of legislature in our joint program, would whoop with joy. They tried at Olympia to split our combination by every conceivable method. Kegley, Chamberlain, McCurtain, of the farmers' organizations, were the butt during the entire session of ridicule and abuse from the forces of standpattism. Surely they and members of the State Farmers' Union make strange bedfellows.

Neither organized labor nor the farmers in general are going to be stampered into repudiating any part of this joint program because of the action of a minority of farmers, even though that minority did as its crowning piece of infamy at Waitsburg declare that "while we have no quarrel with labor as an organization, it is not a part of our duty to help the laboring men form a union that would be a detriment to our own interests and might even go so far as to reverse the relative positions of employer and servant."

The trick is too palpable to fool anybody except those who want to be fooled and I imagine that the participants in the Waitsburg convention will have some accounting to do to its state body. This joint program was agreed upon by representatives of all organizations comprising the Joint

Legislative League, the first of last October. Seven and a half months later, after the program has struck its stride and a state campaign is on, a minority says its representatives were not representing them at all and they won't play, so there! Well, if you're bound to lie down in the wheel tracks, the car of progress will have to run over you, that's all.

SYSTEM KNOCKERS REFUSE TO WORK FOR INITIATIVE PETITIONS

OPPOSITION OF BIG INTERESTS AND KEPT PRESS SHOULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PETITION CIRCULATORS—WALLA WALLA COMMERCIAL CLUB FAVORS HOME LABOR.

The responsibility of the Rockefeller interests for the Colorado horrors has been so clearly fixed that the strongest terms of condemnation are justified. The part that the authorities of Colorado played in the mine war calls for severe criticism as does the passivity with which a large part of Colorado's citizens have accepted the dominance of Big Business in the industrial life of the state. There is another element which should be condemned unsparingly and that element is that portion of the daily press of this country which has steadfastly thrown all blame upon the strikers and has attempted to excuse the lawlessness, rapacity and brutality of those sworn to "uphold the constitution and protect the citizen in the exercise of his constitutional rights." It has been proven conclusively that not until the mine guards and soldierly committed acts of brutality, not until it was demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt that these armed forces were being used for no other purpose but to beat the strikers into submission, did they (the strikers) resort to armed rebellion. When the state militia were first sent into the mining region, it was met by the strikers with outstretched arms, bands playing, flags flying. Was that the attitude of desperadoes? And that neutral attitude displayed by the federal authorities meets with the approval of the miners, is borne out by statements of their officers. To read, then, some of the slurring comments made by a portion of our daily press is humiliating and unworthy of a "free press" which boasts of being the "palladium of American liberty." It is rapidly being borne in upon our consciousness that one of the most dangerous, insidious foes to industrial justice, and consequently dangerous to American ideas of liberty, is the capitalist-owned, capitalist-controlled liekspittle tool of the Rockefeller and kindred interests.

A portion of the daily press in our own state is throwing a fit over the proposed-eight hour initiative law. To read its frenzied rantings, one would be led to believe that the passage of that measure would put out the fires in every factory, send every manufacturer into bankruptcy, kill every form of business, turn back the clock of progress in our fair young state, make every workman a pauper. The sun would cease to shine and the stars to glimmer; rivers would turn backward in their course, the ripening grain would shrivel and die, stock be stricken in the fields, while men and women became gibbering, raving, moaning derelicts upon a barren earth cursed by the reformers and agitators. In the light of fact it is rather amusing to read these direful prophecies of these Jeremiahs of the press. They forget that the greatest employer of them all, Uncle Sam, operates on a strictly eight-hour basis; that the municipal car line in San Francisco put into operation a little over one year ago, immediately began paying the street car men three dollars a day of eight hours in direct competition with the privately owned railway, paying a handsome profit on investment; that the great Ford factory, king of all automobile factories, reports that with the inauguration of the eight-hour day the efficiency of the men has increased 44 per cent; that not an

(Continued on Page Two.)

STRIKE TRUTHS HALF TOLD

WOMEN CLAIM ATTACK ON THE TENT COLONY WAS PLANNED—MANY OF THE HUNTED WOMEN ABOUT TO BECOME MOTHERS.

Denver, Colo., May 21.—Bitter denunciation of the militia and charges that the Ludlow atrocities were not half told featured a report of a committee appointed by the Colorado Woman's Peace organization to investigate the killing of two women, eleven children, and eight men. The report was submitted to Governor Ammons, and demands that the state executive order an investigation of all happenings connected with the militia in the strike district and the outrages committed by the imported Hessians; that the extra session of the legislature make no provision to pay the indebtedness incurred by the militia, "unless the military rolls are purged of Rockefeller gunmen and thugs; that the governor withdraw his request for a state constabulary; that he exercise his police power to take over the mines for operation by the state, and that a constitutional amendment be submitted permitting the state to develop its own natural resources.

"There is no question in our minds that the militia's attack on the tent colony was planned with care and executed in cold blood," said the report. "Three machine guns were planted in a position prior to Sunday morning. We have been unable to discover that a single gun was fired prior to the explosion of three bombs, which Maj. Hamrock admitted to be his own signal for the battle to begin. Many women and children were still in bed.

"We also found that Maj. Hamrock tested the range of his machine guns by firing into the first line of tents and that later in the engagement, soldiers soaked papers in oil and used these as torches to spread the conflagration. Wholesale looting followed the massacre and one of the pictures painted for us by homeless women was that of soldiers carrying trunks to the station, dancing with stolen blankets about their heads to the music of a stolen accordion and grabbing here and there in the tents for valuables.

"Fifty of the hunted women were about to become mothers, and one unfortunate actually gave birth to her baby while trying to escape the hail of bullets from Hamrock's machine guns. "No doubt remains in our minds that Tikas and Fyler, the two leaders of the tent colony, were murdered while in the custody of soldiers, and that the Greek (Tikas) was deliberately clubbed by Lieut. Linderfelt while standing helpless and unarmed. "The elder Snyder declared to us his son Frankie had been shot down by soldiers while cradling his little sister in his arms."

TO UNITE MILL WORKERS.

Milwaukee, May 21.—Because of unsatisfactory conditions, mill men, shop carpenters, machine hands and woodworkers in this city are holding organization meetings. One of these workers is quoted as saying: "Here our men work ten hours at 25c an hour and in Chicago the woodworkers observe a nine hour day and receive 41 cents per hour. It is the aim of the Carpenters' district council to bring about better organizations among the local woodworkers and obtain better results both in scale and hours."

TWO PLATOONS FOR FIREMEN.

Boston, May 21.—On a roll call vote the state legislature passed the two-platoon firemen's bill after a long debate. The bill provides that in cities of 50,000 or more the firemen shall work in two shifts of twelve hours each, and that after a fireman works four days during the day he shall then work four days during the night.

* Label League women are cir- *
* culating the "Seven Sisters" *
* petitions while some men stand *
* around and yelp at the System. *
* If no one has called upon you *
* to sign these petitions, come *
* to the Labor Temple and sign *
* at once. Only a few days left. *
