

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

VOL. 6

BENTON, MO., MAY 11, 1907.

NO. 26

## ARE YOU SATISFIED.

The people of Missouri have had a double-dose of legislation this trip and the only apparent difference between this and former efforts is the additional cost of the extra session. In his original message the governor outlined much needed legislation. Many bills were introduced along the lines of the governor's recommendations—but not one became law in its original form. The best and most needed legislation was killed out-right, while the few measures that passed both houses were so mutilated and "amended" that their authors could not recognize them. And in the face of these facts the old Republic assures us that "the lobby was routed."

The only law passed that is really worth shucks is the 2-cent railroad fare. This law—if it becomes law—will benefit chiefly the merchants, professional men and drummers who do considerable travelling. Railroad men have already announced that this law will not stand the tests of the courts and, as I have said before, when I can step into a depot and buy a ticket at two cents per mile, I will believe that we have such a law.

Capitalist corporations have great confidence in their courts—and why not? An important measure affecting only cities passed both houses. The intention of this law is to give the cities the right to regulate public service corporations—fix rates, etc. This is one of the measures recommended by the governor, but the corporations never permitted it to go through until they got it in a shape that makes it practically worthless.

What the public service corporations wanted above all else was a court review. In other words, they wanted the courts to have the last say. No matter what the people of a city, or their representatives in the city assembly, might want, they cannot get it unless the courts say so. Of this measure the Star-Chronicle says:

"The Public Utilities bill has been passed. It goes to the governor now for his signature. That it will be signed goes without saying. Gov. Folk, always the friend of the people, has fought hard to get a PERFECT bill through. The one passed is weighted down with a court review clause, which, good constitutional lawyers believe, invalidates it. That, however, is for the supreme court to say. In any event, it is a step in the right direction."

So the governor tried to get a "perfect" bill, but could not. He got instead one "weighted down with a court review clause which, good constitutional lawyers believe, invalidates it."

But the Star-Chronicle takes a cheerful view of it and says "it is a step in the right direction."

How much longer will the people be satisfied with a "step" in the right direction. So far back as memory goes we have been taking that "step."

If an irresponsible, worthless loafer, who had never accomplished anything, went into a store, bought a fire shovel and told you he was going to dig the Panama Canal, would you believe him? The buying of the shovel would indicate a "step in the right direction," but in view of the fact that he had never accomplished anything in the past, you would have some doubts about the accomplishment of his latest undertaking, wouldn't you?

And so it is with the two capitalist parties that now disgrace the state capital. When the majority was overwhelmingly Democratic four years ago it leaked out that boodle (\$1,000 bills) floated around promiscuously in our legislative halls. Indignant at this the people revolted and elected a Republican legislature. That legislature gave no relief and the people sent the Democrats back. And now it is the same old story.

Some day the people may get wise enough to understand that no relief need be expected from either of these twin capitalist parties. Four years ago the Republicans were given charge of the legislature because they promised "reform." No sooner had they warmed their seats than a stench went up that stifled all decent citizens. State Chairman Niedringhaus had conducted his "reform" campaign on bribery money and it caused his defeat for United States senator after he had received the caucus nomination.

senate, and the bunch that has so betrayed the people will try to hold their jobs by hanging on to Folk's coat tail—although now they block all his efforts.

## RATHER INDEFINATE.

In his reply to the labor unions that protested against his condemnation of the Western Federation officials as "undesirable citizens" the president says: "The men whom I denounce represent the men who have abandoned the legitimate movement for the uplifting of labor with which I have the most hearty sympathy; they have adopted practices which cut them off from those who lead this legitimate movement."

What a pity it is that the president did not draw the line where Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone stepped over the "legitimate movement for the uplifting of labor!" Nowhere in his very lengthy letter does he point out a single act of these men to condemn. He deals in vague generalities and slush. Not a single illegal or immoral act is cited.

So how are the workers to know when they are within the legitimate bounds prescribed by the president?

Let us guess. No doubt Mitchell and Gompers are his idols as labor leaders. These men have never been indicted and sent to prison. On the contrary the capitalist newspapers print columns of their "opinions" on labor issues. They never print the opinions of Debs, Moyer or Haywood—unless to distort and misrepresent them.

So we must assume that Mitchell and Gompers are within the legitimate bounds. These men forbid any discussion of politics in the unions. One is a Democrat and the other is a Republican. Hence the labor vote is divided and has no effect. Between campaigns labor sends its representatives to legislative bodies to beg for legislation that is never granted. No doubt that is what the president means by the "legitimate movement."

When the workmen will no longer submit to rags and corn-dodger, a strike is voted. Then Mitchell or Gompers, or both, get in front and the capitalist papers tell what wise leaders they are. The strike goes on and, if there is no other way to whip the wages-slaves into submission, an "arbitration commission," to be appointed by the president, is urged and accepted.

The men return to work with the assurance that they will be given a "square deal." The president, who reluctantly (?) accepts the responsibility, is slow to act—waits for the workers to "forget it." Finally he gravely announces his commission—a college professor, a federal judge, a cabinet officer, a labor skate and a big minister—and they "fix it" for labor.

For many years labor has been thus duped. Of late it has begun to "see things" and disintegration set in among the United Mine Workers (Mitchell) and the American Federation of Labor (Gompers).

Up jumps the Western Federation of Miners with the declaration that to get justice for the workers a labor party must be put in power by electing laboring men to office. In that way only could they peacefully overcome the injunction, the militia and the president's "arbitration" gold bricks.

The Western Federation accepted the Socialist party as the party of the working class, and their power has grown until the supremacy of the capitalist parties in the mining states is threatened. That is why their leaders are in jail, and why they are "undesirable citizens."

## SEES ONLY ONE SIDE.

In discussing the general conditions of the country and the situation between capital and labor in particular, a friend said to me not long ago: "Why, dog-gone-it, look at the railway employees; they just took the managers by the throat and made them give a ten per cent increase."

My friend seemed astonished at this power. "That is because of their organization," I replied. "An increase of ten per cent is not so much when it is considered that the cost of living had increased thirty per cent."

"But, say," I went on, "What would you say of a bunch of employees far less numerous than their employers, and whose jobs were sought by many, and yet they were able to increase their wages 33 1/2 per cent?"

"Who—wha—who's done that?" inquired my friend in astonishment. "Your congressmen."

"Oh!"

These "undesirable citizens" are making it mighty hot for Teddy and his rotten government.

## BRYAN AND BLUSTER.

A few years ago I read everything I could get hold of that had Bryan's label on it. I gulped it down eagerly and thought him the Moses that would lead us into the Promised Land. But today—well it's different. I can find no more real stuff in what Bryan says than in what Roosevelt or any other politician says.

Bryan has developed into a deucey duck. In 1896 he was sincere and the epithets commonly applied to him were "socialist and anarchist." He was a "disturber" then—according to the capitalist idea. Today he is a very "conservative" man. He doesn't stand anywhere on any vital issue. He doesn't know what will be in the Democratic platform in 1908, but whatever it is there he will stand for—be that gold, silver, public ownership or what-not. His job is to keep up the Republican side-show, commonly called the Democratic party, in order to keep as many as he can from joining the radical or Socialist party. He has (or pretends to have) a great deal of confidence in the wisdom of the "rank and file" and never overlooks an opportunity to tell the "common people" so. In the last issue of the Commoner he says:

The Commoner has faith in the democratic party—not in its infallibility or in its freedom from mistakes, but in the patriotic purpose of the rank and file of the party and in the prospect of an early victory for that party. The democratic party has made mistakes—what party has not?—but today it stands for positive and progressive democracy and in 1908 its platform, its candidates and its organization will be such as to appeal to the conscience and judgment of the reform element of the country.

There you are! If you can make anything out of that, you can do better than I. We have the "promise of an early victory" of course. It takes that to keep the suckers in line. And we are that the Democratic party TODAY "stands for positive and progressive Democracy." And if you will step over and consult the woman of Taskee, maybe she will be able to tell you what "positive and progressive Democracy" stands for.

But Bryan can't.

## A "TIP" FOR MR. MOZLEY.

Editor Kicker.—In your recent report of the circuit court proceedings there was no mention of the dismissal of the case of the state against Silas W. White, of Sikeston, for violating the dramshop law. Thinking, perhaps, that it was an oversight, I thought it might be well to tell what I know about this matter.

Clarence Curtner and a boy named Whitehead were the prosecuting witnesses. Mrs. Curtner is a good christian woman and she has pleaded with the saloon men of Sikeston not to sell her boy whiskey—he being under age. At the April term, 1906, S. W. White was indicted by the grand jury charged with selling to Curtner and Whitehead—both minors. At the October term Curtner was on hand to testify. I am not acquainted with Whitehead and do not know whether he was present or not, but presume he was. Prosecutor Kelly allowed the case to "go over."

I was at circuit court when the case against Mr. White was called last month. Fearing that my imagination may have been out of gear at the time, I will not say what I thought of the action of the present prosecuting attorney in dismissing the case, but I will give him a cue to evidence on which he can base the charge of spiriting away witnesses if he really desires to enforce the law against Mr. White.

A few nights ago Clarence Curtner stayed all night with me and, in my presence he and my boy were talking about a pair of pants he had on. "Silas White's money paid for these pants," he said. He then went on and, without any solicitation, told that Mr. White had given him and Whitehead \$10 and a pint of whiskey each not to appear at circuit court.

A. A. EVANS.

(On examining the circuit court docket I find that the case referred to by Mr. Evans is No. 309. This case was continued on the affidavit of the defendant, and at HIS cost, last October. Three other cases against Mr. White were dismissed by Mr. Kelly then. The remaining case (No. 309) was dismissed by Mr. Mozley last month.)—Ed.

President Roosevelt is not the only ruler who has "undesirable citizens" to contend with. The Czar of Russia will attest to this.

The Farmers' Union of Pemiscot county will hold a call meeting at Hayti, May 10 and 11.

## PEACE AND BATTLE SHIPS.

To one who "knows beans when the bag's open" these peace conferences are a huge joke. The more the nations spout off about peace, the larger and more numerous are the battleships. It may be classed as the monumental confidence game of the age. In its issue of May 2 the Globe-Democrat says editorially:

"A few months ago the Dreadnaught was the leviathan of the world's navies. Then Japan planned one that is to be larger, and Russia followed the example. England has decided on two that will surpass the Dreadnaught, and the United States has ordered two of the largest class. Now Germany is heard from. It has designed eighteen battleships, each of which is to have sixteen 11-inch guns of a new type, and said to be of greater velocity than the present 12-inch guns, which are the maximum. The two huge battleships ordered by the United States are to have an exceptional broadside power. These vessels will cost about \$10,000,000 each. Even Spain, whose relations with England have become closer, will spend \$60,000,000 on fighting ships and once more claim a share in the world's naval swim."

When it is considered that every two years our congress takes from the people over one hundred million dollars to build war ships, buy ammunition, guns and support the army in the interest of peace, one may realize the size of the joke. Like all capitalist newspapers the G-D encourages the game and goes on:

"The United States government is not impressed with the idea that disarmament is practicable or that it is the best way to promote the peace of the world."

No, "the United States government is not impressed with the idea that disarmament is practicable" any more than a highwayman would think of demanding "your life or your money" without a gun in sight. And yet Roosevelt says that Socialists "habitually appear as guilty of incitement to or apology for bloodshed and murder." Gee, but that's gall!

Nineteen hundred years ago a child was born in Bethlehem and grew up to be what the rulers of that day declared to be a very "undesirable citizen." They crucified him.

Labor took a day off to denounce the president Saturday.

## THE SOUTHEAST.

Henry L. Lueders, who recently moved from Illinois to Cape Girardeau, was killed by a Frisco engine last week. He was 95 years old. For nearly a century this man has escaped the perils of war and the wild beasts of the early days, but the railroad gets the most cautious. Al. Brewer, a section foreman, was also killed by an engine at the Cape last week, while drunk.

On April 25 Robert Black shot Night Marshal Emmett Justus at Elvins. The marshal had arrested Black for drunkenness and disorderly conduct and was taking him to the "cooler" when the prisoner shot him. Black was taken to the Farmington jail.

John Maddox, of Des Arc, an Iron Mountain brakeman, was killed six miles north of Bismark, last Thursday by striking his head against the iron spout of a water tank while riding on a fast moving freight train. Death was instantaneous.

Master Umphrey Lee, "The Boy Orator" of Sikeston, son of Rev. Joseph Lee, editor of the General Baptist, has been assigned a place on the American Boy Day (July 5, 1907) program at the Jameston Exposition for an original oration.

Guy Knight, a 16 year old Malden boy was held for the grand jury on a charge of mistreating smaller children. Knight, it is claimed, kept a 9 year old boy a prisoner all day in a church belfry.

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Mueller, living at Appleton, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage April 30. On May 2 Mr. and Mrs. George Frenzel, of Cape celebrated their golden wedding.

Alfred Lyons, former Iron Mountain depot agent at Charleston, was arrested at St. Louis charged with embezzling \$406 from the company. He admits there is a shortage but says it is not so large.

Bernie Star.—In trying to jump from a moving train, at Arcadia, Ben Keff had both legs cut off, and Thos. Hamlin, who was with him, had one leg cut off.

There is considerable talk of a strike for a 25 cents per day increase in wages by the miners' unions of the Lead Belts.

The case of Capital vs. Labor is supposed to be in progress at Boise Idaho. Both sides seem determined.

## DOINGS IN IDAHO.

On Thursday of this week the trial of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners was to have begun at Boise, Idaho. Whether or not the trial has begun the Kicker has no way of knowing at time of going to press.

Extensive preparations have been made by both sides. Evidently a plot is on foot that will develop by next issue. The conspirators are trying to make it appear that the officers and the attorneys of the prosecution are in great danger of assassination by the friends of the prisoners, and the governor makes a noise like the Czar of Russia—although Boise is reported peaceful and quiet. A press dispatch says:

"Gov. Gooding is spreading stories of hundreds of anonymous letters received threatening him with all manner of violence. He is surrounding himself even thicker than usual with Pinkertons and special police of all kinds and is seeking in every way to give the impression that he is in imminent danger of his life."

Capital balks at nothing to gain the ends sought. It is its established practice in such cases to employ a lot of criminals to commit some dastardly act and have its newspapers charge it up to labor.

We need not be surprised at any sort of news that comes from Idaho. Labor understands the situation and will be more than careful not to give any excuse for violence. But if the thugs are hired to stir up trouble, they will likely do it.

From all over the nation labor representatives and newspaper correspondents are at Boise, and the telegraph company is putting in many extra instruments there to handle the news. Although the capitalist press undertook to keep the facts from the people, yet the labor press gave the case such prominence that no paper now dare ignore it.

A startling disclosure has just come to light. As in the Roosevelt-Harriman "squall," a stenographer did it. Morris Friedman, confidential employe and stenographer of Detective McParland, quit his job and furnished the Wilshire Publishing Co., of New York, the whole story of the operations of the Pinkerton thugs in the west. As in the Roosevelt-Harriman case, the stenographer has the letters and private papers to substantiate his story.

It appears in book form, and as soon as I can get the book, will tell you all about it. You can get the book by sending 25c to the Wilshire Book Co., 200, William St., N. Y.

I just can't help reminding the suckers who went to the polls and voted the Democratic ticket last fall that the "Bryan boom" has subsided—just as I said it would. Just before election column after column appeared in the Republic and its county echoes about "Bryan for 1908." As soon as the suckers had once more swallowed the dope and voted, the "boom" subsided. But it always works—and the suckers seem to enjoy it.

After every other paper in the United States had printed columns about the imprisoned miners, Bryan, the "friend of labor," broke his silence last week and, among other things, said: "Many people have questioned, and many people will question, the propriety of an attack made by the president of the United States upon men who are about to undergo trial for their lives."

President Roosevelt has at least one man who defends him in his stand against the officers of the Western Federation of Miners, Henry Waterson editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal—the man who has written more Democratic platitudes than any other man now living—finds nothing un-Democratic in a president condemning laboring men before trial.

Senator Borah, of Idaho, a rich mine owner and one of the leading attorneys in the prosecution of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, has been indicted by a Federal grand jury, charged with stealing government land. Senator Borah will neither be kidnaped nor imprisoned. Neither will he be found guilty. The rich can do no wrong.

The state of Kansas has turned anarchist and is confiscating the property of the brewers who have been conducting an illegal business in that state. Kansas officials are Republicans and would, no doubt, become horrified at a suggestion to confiscate the property of the illegal oil trust, the coal trust, the railroad trust, or any of that class of criminals.

The Farmers' Union will establish a cotton gin at Campbell.

## TEDDY TAKES A TUMBLE.

For once the Terrible Teddy came down off his high horse with a "dull, sickening thud." Two weeks ago, in answer to the Chicago labor organization, he wrote a very insulting and arrogant letter. New York labor leaders were very much worked up over it and decided to see the president.

They went to Washington and were received like "white folks." They talked with the president for more than an hour. Who ever heard of anything like that before? Evidently labor is getting to be "some punkins."

As a result of this interview, the president issued a letter in which he did not once mention "undesirable citizens." Nor did he make any explanation of his past conduct in the Moyer-Haywood affair, but gave assurance that he would see to it that the imprisoned miners got a "square deal," and said that if he was furnished with evidence that the men were illegally taken out of Colorado into Idaho, he would instruct his attorney-general to intervene and correct the abuses.

All this sounds well, yet if the president really wants the "evidence," why don't he step over to the United States Supreme court building where it is on file?

Let us forget—say! What went with that \$61,500 that slipped through the fingers of young Dyer, the sub-treasurer employe of St. Louis? And that \$175,000 that disappeared from the Chicago sub-treasury? Looks like Teddy had some "undesirable citizens" in the government service, eh?

## HOW THE UNION GROWS.

The farmers' union of Scott County is growing beyond all expectations. It now has over 1,000 members and before the end of the week the 1,100 mark will probably have been passed. The most sparsely organized territory is in the northern part of the county, and Secretary G. A. Vinyard informs the Kicker that demands for organizers are coming from that section every few days.

The regular county meeting of the union was held at Oram this week, and word from there is to the effect that the representation was good, and that a profitable meeting was held. The proceedings will appear next week.

The largest local union, New Harmony, down near Sikeston, has more than 100 members and other applications in Hickory Grove, in this township, has 75 members and eight applicants. Pleasant Valley in Sandywoods township, has a membership of 70.

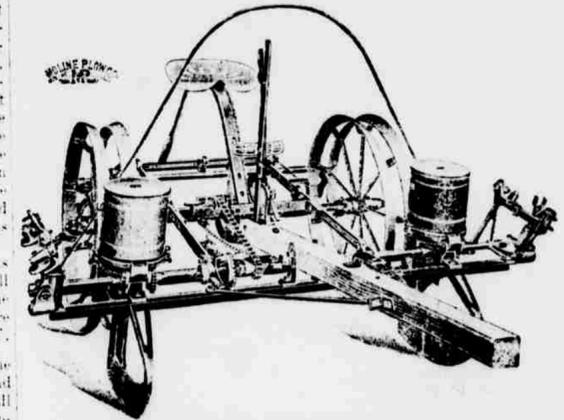
Let 'er sizzle.

Why don't somebody kidnap H. Clay Pierce, president of the Waters-Pierce Oil Co., and deliver him to the Texas authorities who want him to answer to the charge of perjury? Gov. Folk honored the requisition of the governor of Texas but, somehow—oh, shucks, what's the use! The law was not intended to apply to millionaire criminals.

Last week the Mississippi county jail was reported to be empty, for the first time in many moons. And Mississippi county has local option!

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