

Senator Dixon and the Militia.

On May 4 Senator Dixon of Montana introduced in the United States Senate, Senate Bill 1996. "A bill to further increase the efficiency of the organized Militia of the United States, and for other purposes."

The purpose of the above bill is to help entice young men to join the organized State Militia, by paying the privates for their services in the militia, an amount equal to one-fourth the amount privates in the regular army are paid and to allow the officers of the militia an amount equal to 15 per cent of the pay of the officers of the regular army.

At present the national government pays the officers and men of the militia when they attend the national military encampments, which usually takes place every two years.

This bill of Senator Dixon is to give the militiamen a bonus, for the time they put in drilling, and is to be paid them, when they are not receiving regular pay from the state or national government for services at encampments or strike breaking.

It is a hard matter to get young men into the state militia, all self respecting working men will not join a scab herding agency, and therefore to still further induce the young men of the country to join the militia it is the purpose of the military friends to offer them, wages equivalent to one fourth the amount of the regular army. As the privates in the army receive \$15. a month, this will mean that the privates in the militia will receive \$3.50, enough to allow the scab herders to go on a cheap drunk once a month.

The militia men are allowed lots of little privileges and benefits that the average worker don't receive, they don't have to pay the road or poor tax that is deducted out of the wages of the workers, now Senator Dixon comes forward with a bill, to make the national government give these militia men the price of a cheap drunk, while they are learning the art of preparing to break strikes.

In a letter to the Montana News, relating to Senate Bill 1996 Senator Dixon, says that he is opposed to vast expenditures made for the up-keep of armies and navies, and hopes that the time will come when international arbitration will be thoroughly established, and thereby settling all international disputes in an international court of justice.

The foregoing is a very beautiful sentiment which we are thoroughly in accord with, but why does Senator Dixon, act contrary to his sentiments and attempt to still further burden the country by giving the militiamen a bonus to enable them to get on a cheap drunk.

The investigations now being made in the harbor of Havana, on the deck of the battleship Maine, prove the assertions made by the Socialists for the past 13 years, that the Maine was blown up at the instigation of American capitalists, in order to inflame the passions of the people and popularize the demand for war, in order that war might be declared, and the corporations extend their markets.

If war is declared by the United States in the near future, this country will be the aggressor, and at the dictates of the trust magnates. There is a time rapidly approaching when the tyranny of the trust magnates are going to be called to a halt.

The halt to trust rule will either be called by ballot or a strike, or series of strikes, or perhaps by both. The plutocrats see this condition of affairs appearing on the industrial horizon and are preparing to meet it, either by declaring a war of conquest to stimulate manufacturing, or to repel the advance of the working class by the force of arms. This is the reason of all the activity in military circles, it is the surplus value of the product of the toil of the wage workers that the trust magnates want to hang on to.

Senator Dixon in his letter to the Montana News, does not state anything about the militia being used for scab herding purposes.

Every union in Montana, every Socialist Local in Montana, every organization of women in Montana representing the motherhood of the race, every wageworker, every mother and wife in Montana, should send letters to Senators Dixon and Myers of Montana, protesting against them voting in favor of Senate Bill 1996.

Senator Dixon's term expires in 1913 and he will be a candidate for reelection next year, and it is up to the wageworkers of Montana to find out if Senator Dixon favors the building up of a scab herding agency to be used against the workers.

How the Legislature Acted.

A referendum on the militia law should be demanded, if for no other reason than to give a reprimand to the law makers for the contemptuous manner which they treated the measures that were introduced for the benefit of the wage workers.

Not a single measure of any consequence for the benefit of the masses became law.

Below we give a brief sketch of some of the measures that were introduced but were executed by the capitalistic executioners at the State Capitol.

The American Federation of Labor is endeavoring to secure a uniform law in all states covering Employers' Liabilities for injury received by employees, this is a very desirable state of affairs, and House Bill 197 was introduced, identical with the bills presented in other state legislatures this year. The legislature absolutely refused to consider it, and the bill was killed in the committee without even being printed, so that even the members of the Legislature might know its contents. When the bill was introduced the Legislators lifted their hands in holy horror and that was the end of the Employers Liability law for Montana wage slaves.

A bill was introduced limiting the hours of women employed in laundries and factories and stores to 3 hours a day.

It is part of the Montana constitution that men can't be employed in or around mines, mills or smelters, or on public work for more than eight hours a day, and railroad telegraphers cannot be employed for more than 9 hours a day, so an attempt was made to reduce the hours of women.

The Retail Merchants of Montana met in Helena, in convention, just one day, with a banquet at night. At this convention a legislative committee was appointed and every measure opposed by the merchants was killed, and every measure favored by them passed. The Retail Merchants fought the nine hour law for women, and the nine hour day for men was defeated.

It is unlawful to work men on public work for more than eight hours, but it is lawful to work women and girls in laundries an unlimited number of hours.

Another class of labor that are sorely overworked, is nurses in hospitals. The nurses endeavored to secure an eight hour law for nurses in hospitals, but that bill never got to the stage of being printed. Although a large number of deaths in the hospitals in this state are caused by lack of proper nursing, or nurses being overworked, 12 hours a day is too long for any woman to be in a sick ward attending to upwards of 20 patients.

An effort was made to enact workmen's compensation law, but like other measures, this one also went to the scrap pile. However, as a courtesy to labor the legislature had the bill printed for free distribution, so that the wage slave when he is injured could look and admire it.

The workmen's compensation bill that was introduced, was a copy of the British compensation law that went into effect in the British Isles in July 1898, and which passed the House of Lords in the summer of 1897 after a stormy passage. The Lords threatened to kill it, but the late Lord Salisbury, then prime minister in closing one of the most memorial debates in the House of Lords, told the British Peers, that they dare not defeat the measure, for if they did, it would react against the Lords as the people would rise in their might and put the House of Lords out of existence. Yet the Montana Legislature last February did something that the English House of Lords, did not dare do in June 1897, kill the workmen's compensation act. The same measure that the Montana Legislature killed became law in Italy in 1899 and in Japan in 1900.

House Bill 132 was a measure to prevent any corporation from coercing its employees, or victimizing them for being members of organized labor. The bill was a good one and would have been a great relief to workers in this state, and it passed the House by a splendid majority, but met its Waterloo in the Senate.

As the members of organized labor raised such a howl over the defeat of House Bill 132, Senator Edwards of Rosebud county who had voted against the bill, promised to introduce a new bill in the Senate to prevent coercion of union men and he drafted a bill similar in almost every respect to House Bill 132 and this bill of Edwards known as Senate Bill 185 passed the Senate by a large majority and then went to the House where it was strangled. Therefore labor was

beat by a see-saw game.

Senate Bill 185 when it went to the House was turned over to the steering committee with Owen Byrnes as chairman, when a representative of organized labor went to Byrnes asking to have Senate Bill 185 reported, Byrnes told him the bill was lost and could not be found. Later a member of the legislature, at the request of a representative of labor, went to Byrnes asking to have Senate Bill 185 reported and Byrnes told him the law was a vicious measure and was slated to be killed in the committee by not reporting it to the House. Although Byrnes voted for House Bill 132 which was in every respect similar to Senate Bill 185.

Byrnes is a mining man and an employer of labor. He was governed by his economic interests.

The Western Union Telegraph company is waging a war against organized labor and any employee of the Western Union that is a member of organized labor is discharged and victimized, if the corporation officials know that the employee belongs to a union. Lately the head officials of the Western Union visited Helena in a private car. Put up at a first class hotel and remained here a few weeks. During that time the Western Union offices in Helena, which employ a large force of operators, was cleaned out of all union men. The telegraphers were called up to the officials rooms at the hotel and asked if they wanted to remain at work, and if they wanted to work for the Western Union they had to tear up their membership card in the presence of the manager before leaving the hotel.

Certain telegraphers that were good union men and had lots of back bone were brought before the officials, at various times, and told the errors of their ways and given a few days to consider the sermon given by the manager and then called up for another lecture. This method which resembles the third degree methods practised by detectives, was for the purpose of breaking down the spirit of manhood shown by first class operators, and the company must have had a good force of spotters for the officials were well posted on the conduct and character of its employees. These officials remained a month in Helena, fighting the telegraphers union.

Had either House Bill 132 or Senate Bill 185 been enacted, then these officials of the Western Union could not have carried on the disgraceful acts that they practised in Helena a few weeks ago.

A law was enacted creating the office of state fire marshal. The duties of the fire marshal is to investigate all fires, and see that the insurance companies are not being defrauded, and to further decrease the risks of the fire insurance companies. A special tax is levied against the insurance companies to pay the expenses of the office of fire marshal.

In other words the fire marshal is hired by the state to look after the interests of the insurance companies, and the companies pay the costs, but their man has the authority of the law on his side which is a great benefit to the insurance companies.

But the feature of the law is, that it had a rider attached to it, which exempts the fire insurance companies from all other taxes to be paid by them to the state counties or cities. The fire insurance companies don't have to contribute to the taxes of the state, except for the office of fire marshal, and that is for their benefit. If working people want any special benefits in the district they reside in, they have a special tax levied against them, and by no means are exempted from other taxes.

What do you think about it you wage slaves? The insurance companies that take millions out of the state annually don't pay a cent of taxes but you had \$4. poll taxes deducted from your wages last pay day.

To crown the proceedings of the session, the legislature passed the infamous Donohue militia law, which makes it a crime to call a militiaman a scab herder or a tin-soldier. (to have no apologies to make or fines to pay.)

Here are few features of the militia law.

employment, or prevents his being Section 109. If any person interrupts, molests or insults, by abusive words or behaviour, or obstructs any officer or soldier while on duty or at any parade, drill or meeting for military improvement, he must immediately be put under arrest and kept at the discretion of the commanding officer until the duty, drill or parade or meeting is concluded; and he may commit such person to any police of-

ficer, constable or sheriff of the county wherein such duty, drill or meeting is held, who shall detain him in a court having jurisdiction of the place; and any person found guilty of any of the offences enumerated in this section or of obstructing or interfering with the United States forces or troops or any part of the national guard shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

A WOMAN'S PLACE.

By Robert H. Howe.

Chapter II.

We hear the term "Woman's work" used. Why should some work be sacred to women which would be discreditable if performed by one of the opposite sex? Why should certain other vocations be the monopoly of man and into which sphere it is discreditable for woman to enter? There never has been any person or body of persons authorized to designate what labor one sex should perform and what labor the other sex should perform. The truth of the matter is that the work of the world has been divided between the two sexes through many centuries merely by custom and convenience.

The bearing and rearing of children a burden placed upon woman by nature, had very much to do with classifying certain industries as best performed by her, and possibly greater force, which resulted in division of labor between the sexes, and one to which little attention has been given was the discovery and use of fire.

Whatever was the source from which fire was first derived, it is certain that primitive man considered it sacred, and it was preserved with the utmost vigilance. The first attempts at architecture made by man were probably the rude sheds or shelters erected to protect the sacred flame from wind and rain. These later grew into temples and shrines where the fire was kept burning continuously. To have the tribal fire go out was a great calamity. The difficulty of securing a new fire with the crude and clumsy methods of primitive times, if a chance volcanic fissure in the rocks, or a tree in the forest set ablaze by a bolt of lightning were not available, was such that it led to certain members of the tribe being charged with the sole duty of its maintenance.

The tribal fire was a permanent fire, and it was the center around which all gathered. Feasts in celebration of victory, and councils of war or peace were concluded within the circle of its radiance.

This communal fire was the nucleus around which grew up the first functions of the state. The guardians of the fire became the first public servants and as the state developed they absorbed other functions and became priests and magistrates and even kings.

The rude shed evolved into a temple in which the sacred fire burned. This was the origin and development of the Temple of Vesta where the sacred fire of the Romans was kept burning by the Vestal Virgins for, it is said, a thousand years. If by chance, the tribal fire was extinguished, all tribunals and authority, and all public and private business stopped and remained suspended until the fire was relighted. When Augustus usurped the empire of Rome he assumed the charge of the public fire, and when he transported it into his own palace he had to transform it into public property.

As the tribe increased, the same causes that led to the maintenance of the permanent fire, caused each family to have a permanent fire on its hearth. The family as we know it today is not the earliest but one of the latest forms of human association. Around its hearth grew up the primitive industries by means of which the family provided the necessities of life, namely,—food, warmth, clothing and shelter.

Here germinated the first crude ideas of the sanctity of the home. Here was the first departure from the promiscuity that was the common custom of the horde, and the beginning of the monogamous relation of husband and wife.

The family hearth had a recognized right of asylum, a custom that is discernible in the declaration in this late day that "A man's home is his castle" If the fire was extinguished it was considered an adulterous act to bring fire from a neighbour's. A new fire must be made from coals from the sacred altar, or from the friction of twigs. It was the duty of the father, and his alone, as king and high priest in his own household to perform this

act. Beside the family hearth, the second place was taken by the wife and mother, and it was right here that the division of labor between the man and his wife began to be made.

While it was prerogative of the man to start the fire in their new home, it can easily be seen that it devolved on the woman to maintain it and keep it alive. The necessity of procuring food for the family would cause the man to be absent for more or less prolonged periods during which time the fire would need attention or it would die out, and this one of the most important duties of the domestic economy devolved upon the woman, and the allied domestic industries gradually came to be hers.

It must not be supposed that her position was a free and independent one. Far from that. Her status was little, if any, above that of a slave. Her lord and master had absolute control over his household. His property consisted of his wife, slaves, and cattle, and he could inflict death on any one of them at his pleasure.

Woman's social status was low because her value as an economic factor was low. This was a condition forced upon her by the brutal social environment of the past out of which a new social order was slowly evolving. The fierce struggle by primitive man against the forces of nature was characterized by intermittent periods of want and starvation. During the hunting stage of human development, woman was more or less a burden and inconvenience. In the pursuit of game she was never as swift and agile as man, and especially was this true during her periods of pregnancy. The burden placed upon her by nature of preserving the race from extinction placed her at a disadvantage compared with man.

If you are opposed to the State Scab Herding law, sign the demand for a referendum on the same.

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