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Are You On?

On the authority of Robert Hunter, well known writer on politico-economical subjects, who tried and was unsuccessful in locating a copy of the senate committee's report on conditions of labor in Charles M. Schwab's principality of Bethlehem, Pa., the document was evidently suppressed on orders from higher up.

About the only people who don't believe that there is a fine job between Schwab and responsible government officials are Mr. Schwab and those officials. They won't admit it because it isn't desirable to terminate it just yet.

And there are good thinkers in this great country of ours who wonder why confidence in the trustworthiness of officials is failing. The government was created for the people by the people, and everything that transpires in governmental business is the property of the people.

But the people are not taken into the confidence of the government, through fear that they might get to thinking and demand action of a kind that would extirpate the evils on which men higher up fatten their purses.

The men "higher up" by whose orders the Bethlehem report was suppressed are the same men in Washington who want to see Eberhart the next governor of Minnesota. They know he is pliable and men of the pliable kind are the ones that Taft and his "standpat" crew want to see in office.

* * *

The senate committee charged with the investigation of the election of Senator Lorimer of Illinois has at last decided to go to work. It will probably make a report some time next winter.

The congressional committee appointed to investigate the conduct of Secretary Ballinger closed its hearings some months ago, but the "regular" Republican members, who form the majority of the committee, refuse to make public their findings until after the elections.

The special congressional committee appointed to investigate the McMurray Indian land contracts in Oklahoma and Senator Gore's charges of bribery, after a partial inquiry, has also postponed further sessions until after the elections.

The congressional committee which was to investigate the friarlands scandals in the Philippines and the sale of large estates to agents of the Sugar trust has done nothing. Its report will not be made, if ever, until after the elections.

All of these committees, which are controlled by the Republican members, are engaged upon a common policy—to prevent, if possible, the airing of the various scandals they were directed to investigate until after the November elections.

Congressman Clarence B. Miller was a member of the congressional committee to investigate the McMurray Indian land contracts in Oklahoma. He too, is pliable and so got his appointment at the hands of Czar Cannon. Taft and his "standpat" crew want to see Miller returned to Washington about as bad as they want to see Eberhart made a real governor.

Can you imagine anything worse for the chances of the common people getting the legislation that is coming to them—either state or national—than to have such tools of the "big interests" elected.

The railroad-brewery combine and all other leeching corporations are already tapping kegs to ensure the election of men to do their bidding. Are you on?

FIGURES DON'T LIE ON HIGH TARIFF'S RECORD

Figures are stubborn things. They are frequently used to prove both sides of a case, but there are times when they cannot be disputed.

The twenty-second annual report of the Rhode Island bureau of industrial statistics shows these facts:

"Wages of operatives in woolen and worsted mills are from $7 to $9 a wek; 80 per cent of operatives are foreign born.

"Wages in silk mills, $7 to $8 a week; 80 per cent of operatives foreign born.

"Wages in cotton mills, $7 to $8 a week; 80 per cent of operatives foreign born.

"Wages in rubber factories, $8 to $9 a week; 70 per cent of operatives foreign born."

And yet with all this evidence, duplicated many times, we hear and read that American labor must be protected from competition with the "pauper millions of Europe," and that the wages of the "free born" must be kept up!

President Taft, when he signed the tariff bill, admitted that the rate on woolen goods was too high.

Pennsylvania illustrates the fallacy of the doctrine that a high tariff "protects." Her coal and steel trusts are known of all men. Massachusetts cotton mills are a further example of low wages, cheap and child labor, and the general exploitation of all that is supposed to apply to American labor.

A high tariff is monopoly's right bower. It is the first aid to scientific robbery of the citizens. Until the time comes when the people decree there shall be no more trusts, and that the tariff shall not be used to swell private fortunes, we shall have to protest as best we can, and make that protest count.

ORGANIZED WORKERS!

Whom will you choose for governor of Minnesota? An "errand boy of the big interests" or a plain man out of the ranks of the common people?

The choice will soon be up to you. Post yourselves.

PRICE OF CLEANLINESS SOARS WITH LIVING COST

Soap bubbles skyward rise and prices heavenward soar.

Cost of living has been aviating of late, and now comes the announcement that the price of cleanliness is to go up kiting. Cleanliness may be next to godliness, but it is a whole lot more costly.

It is heralded that the price of soap is to join the climbing contest of the necessities of life. The price of soap, plain, decorated and scented, is to be increased.

What a blow to the Saturday night clean-up institution!

The big soap manufacturers are practically unanimous in their demand for more money for soap. It is generally agreed that the price of a 5-cent cake of plain, proletarian scrubbing soap may be doubled within the next few weeks.

Colgate & Co. were the first to notify the grocers of the increase in price. They advanced the price of their laundry soap from 50 to 60 cents a box.

Kirkman & Sons followed with the announcement of an increase to 60 cents a box, and it is understood that Babbitts intend to follow suit.

The reasons given for the increase in the cost of the instrument of cleanliness is the advance in the price of raw materials used in the making of proletarian yellow and tar soap and bourgeois tinted and scented soap.

GRIM REAPER'S HAND IS FELT BY WHOLE FAMILY

The person injured or killed in an industrial accident is always a worker, an income producer. No helpless children, no feeble old men, no idle women perish in these disasters. So nearly every work accident leaves a problem of poverty behind. Of the 526 men killed in the year's accidents in Pittsburg, 258, or almost one-half, were married men regularly supporting their families (more than 470 children under 16 were left fatherless by the fatalities of the year); of the single men and boys killed, only 38 per cent were quite without dependents.

Among the families of married men killed, one-half got from the employer either no compensation whatever, or merely funeral expenses. Only one-fourth of these families got more than $500. Among the families of single men with dependents, 65 per cent stood the whole loss, and only 17 per cent got more than $500.

The following figures give some idea of what a work fatality means in the home: Among 132 families where a husband and father had been killed, fifty-three of the widows went to work, twenty-two children were taken out of school and put to work, and nineteen families moved to poorer quarters—all this within a year after the accident.

Organized labor through trades unions will ultimately control economic conditions. It is therefore our duty not only to ourselves but to coming generations that we build wisely and well. The satisfaction and beauty of the trade union plan is that we are able to help ourselves, to better our present conditions as we build for the future.

The price of all food products has gone up. We even get a smaller hole in the doughnut now.

When you get so old you can take things easy, there is nothing left to take.

Eberhart's "Progressiveness" Huge Joke of the Campaign

Governor Eberhart is now calling himself a "Progressive." He has forgotten his interview in Washington last spring in which he assured President Taft that the people of Minnesota were beginning to like the Payne-Aldrich tariff; he has forgotten that during that same visit he took particular pains to get Secretary Ballinger to address his Conservation meeting of March last. He has forgotten that he then gave assurances that there was "no insurgency in Minnesota." He has so completely forgotten that he went down to Beverly to invite Mr. Taft to speak at his September Conservation meeting, that he couldn't remember his name in his keynote speech. He has forgotten that during the primary election he did everything possible in the First, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Eighth districts to nominate "Standpat" candidates to congress and to embarrass and defeat Progressives. In fact he is playing that old, old game of "running with the hare and hunting with the hounds."

To show how Mr. Eberhart's tactics are regarded outside the state, we reproduce the article from Senator La Follette's publication, together with the information that it received editorial endorsement from the senator:

"The Conservation Congress to be held in St. Paul beginning Sept. 5 has suddenly become charged with large meanings. Originally designed to consider the somewhat limited problem of the public land policies of the nation, it now promises to be the forum for a titanic struggle between the supporters of the people's rights on the one hand—the Progressives or Insurgents—and the defenders of special interests—the Standpatters—on the other hand. With most of the notable political leaders of the country in attendance, the Congress cannot fail to have a profound political significance.

"No sooner had the Congress been announced for St. Paul than the Interests began to move upon it—either to destroy it utterly or to dominate it. As customary in such cases, a local board of management was appointed to make the necessary local arrangements, including the choice of an auditorium and the raising of money for the immediate expenses. In no case formerly has a local board ever had anything to do with the arrangement of the program, the appointment of speakers or officers, or with matters of publicity. But no sooner had this particular board been appointed, with Governor Eberhart of Minnesota at its head, than it began to move secretly but with determination toward the control of the Congress itself.

"In order to understand the reasons for this particular action, certain underlying causes must be made plain. For years the Republican party machine in Minnesota has been the creature of the Great Northern Railroad Company. For a time its reign was threatened and it has had to accept a man like Senator Clapp in the United States Senate, but its hand upon the state government in Minnesota ever since Governor Johnson's death has been very heavy indeed. The real governor of Minnesota is not Eberhart, but Louis W. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad. Eberhart, now nominated to succeed himself as the Standpat candidate for governor, is really nothing more than a railroad errand boy.

Interests Against Conservation.

"Now, the railroad interests of the Northwest, and Louis W. Hill in particular, are against conservation, against people's government, against the Progressive group of leaders. So Eberhart's committee began to interfere at once with the plans of the Conservation Congress. They objected to certain speakers, notably Louis D. Brandeis of Boston, and they interfered so actively that Mr. Pinchot and his associates threatened to remove the Congress to Kansas City. This the Interests did not want; they wanted it in St. Paul where they had greater powers of control than they would have in Missouri. So they quieted down, but they did not for a moment stop their underground work.

"As soon as the presence of the Congress in St. Paul was assured, they began again to work for a change of the program. It was found that the governor was in constant communication with President Hill, and that every effort was being made to change the Congress from a conservation meeting into an anti-conservation meeting. By pressure exerted in high places they succeeded in getting the names of Senators Cummins and Clapp removed from the program, and of adding the names of a number of Western governors known to be hostile to the national conservation of our resources. They have refused to give reduced railroad fares to delegates, knowing that this will tend to cut down the attendance of delegates from the East.

"Exercising, also, his great influence upon politics in the Far West, where his railroad runs, President Hill has been most active in his efforts. A conference of Western governors called together at Salt Lake City will plan a definite campaign and appear in the Congress with a full quota of delegates. The policy which will probably be adopted will be the demand, not national, but state control of public lands—which would utterly defeat the conservation movement. The old selfish theory of states' rights is to be injected into this question as it was injected into the political discussions previous to the Civil war for the defense of the privileged class of slaveholders.

"As it now stands the program of the congress is divided into two parts. The anti-conservationists will be given the first chance: the Western governors will speak. After that the national conservationists will appear: Roosevelt, Pinchot, Garfield, several insurgent senators and many others."

POTSHOTS INTO THE POLITICAL FLOCK

Throughout his tour of the range this week Labor Commissioner McEwen took especial pains to point out to the working people, of whom his audiences were in the main part composed, the record established by Governor Eberhart and his advisors Senators Smith and Dunn as "friends of the working man." The vacillating and jellyfish attitude of the governor during the recent strike of railroad switchmen was not allowed to pass unnoticed and promises were made for James Gray, Democratic nominee, that under his hand the interests of the working classes would have first call. An humble worker himself, Mr. Gray's sympathies are at all times with the men who produce, the men who are so brutally and so gluttonously exploited by the interests who are now ready to spend huge sums to maintain their lackey in the capitol building at St. Paul.

* * *

The trimming Clarence B. Miller got at the hands of his Republican opponent, Alex McKnight, during the primary campaign was but a flea bite compared to the gruelling which is being meted out to him daily in his addresses by Judge Jaques. During the past week the eloquent and fearless Duluth lawyer has figuratively put Miller's hide on the fence stretched forty ways for Sunday. And in this limelight campaign he has no better ally than the congressional record. It's all there in black and white, how Miller bit the hand that handed out the plum. And the congressional record, while it may abbreviate or on the order of congress may leave out undesirable passages altogether, has not yet been placed in the Ananias class.

* * *

It looks as if Harry Cheadle, in entering the race for representative of the 51st district had with his usual luck, landed right side uppermost. "He has a 'pudding'" said a Republican yesterday, "and," with a deep sigh, "it looks as if I would have to vote for him myself." It certainly does look as if the party, in allowing Representative Laybourne to again make the race, had committed a considerable amount of political suicide.

* * *

How notable events do crowd each other, to be sure.

Following hard on the heels of Governor Eberhart's "keynote" speech in that fair city, Mankato reports the birth of a two-headed pig.

If that pig follows the footsteps of some illustrious representatives of the porker family and becomes an "educated pig," he will need both his heads and then some to grasp the full significance of that Republican platform which Mr. Eberhart says he stands on.—Minneapolis Daily News.

These death-bed repentances are all right, if the patient dies, but suppose he recovers? As a case in point, there is Julius Schmahl, candidate for secretary of state on the Republican ticket. We all remember how Julius broke into print just after the passage of the Payne-Aldrich bill and informed the people of the Northwest that Minnesota had at least one congressman who would not be apologizing for his vote two years hence, and he regretted that there was only one. Again, when Mr. Taft came to Winona and "boosted" for Tawney, Mr Schmahl swelled up and said, "I told you so." Then Mr. Roosevelt came to Minnesota and took a shot at the man who, according to Julius, had no apology to make on his tariff vote, and Julius said: "Oh, Roosevelt is hot because Tawney wouldn't let him squander all the money in the treasury on battleships." Then came the New York convention, at which the "Old Guard" was scattered like chaff, Julius made up his mind he was in wrong, and he shouted: "Hurrah for Teddy; didn't we put it to them," and ever since he has been a vociferous Progressive, as has "Me-Too-Eberhart." But the people have memories.

Mr. Ballinger is truly a consistent "conservationist." He doesn't overlook anything, even to the beer business. On Thursday last he revoked the order of the Indian department, by which all saloons in the Indian country were to be closed on Oct. 15, and the brewers are naturally jubilant over their victory. Governor Eberhart and Secretary Ballinger are again together in perfect harmony in the great conservation chorus. Verily, he who puts two saloons where one flourished is a benefactor of the brewers.

Governor Eberhart says that the Democrats have "painted the pump to purify the well." But, my dear governor, you purified the waters of the Democratic well, so far as the liquor crowd is concerned. You have lifted the whole liquor bunch bodily out of the Democratic party, and enrolled them under your banner. It is "business" with them, governor, and we don't know that we blame them for the switch, but what did you promise them—under the rose?

The Minneapolis bartenders have organized in behalf of Governor Eberhart. Their organization is known as the Aegis Circle. What is the matter with calling it by its right name? Is the governor ashamed of his new-found support, or do the promoters fear to indicate the character of their occupation in their official title? The governor seems to be "taking the schools out of politics," but putting the bartenders in.

Of course it is possible that all those Democratic brewers and saloon keepers are supporting Governor Eberhart because they believe he will enforce all laws—including liquor laws—more rigorously than would Gray. Do you believe it?

The man who can be used to get through petty grafting can be depended on for big steals. You remember, perhaps, how Governor Eberhart was used in the Seabury graft?

ME AND ANDY AND JOHN.

Me and Andy and John
Are givin' a lot away
To colleges here and libraries there—
We're helpin' 'em every day.
There's John—he's smilin' a happy smile
And writin' the checks against his pile;
And Andy—biddin' the world have peace
And wishin' the wars would somehow cease;
And me—I'm doin' my hours o' toil
To pay the bills for the steel and oil.
John and Andy and me—
We're certainly helpin' some
With money for this and money for that
As fast as petishuns come.
There's Andy makin' 'em carve his name
Upon the libraries for his fame;
And John—he's teachin' the young to save
An' givin' advice he always gave.
And me? I'm helpin 'em meet both ends
By chippin' in on the dividends.
Andy and John and me
Hold wealth as a preshus trust;
We're helpin' 'em here an' helpin' 'em there
By shovelin' out our dust.
There's Andy—busy as he can be
Considerin' plans for a library;
And John a-whackin' a boundin' ball
And lettin' his words o' wisdom fall;
And me! I'm payin' my small account
To help 'em both to a bank account.
Me and Andy and John.
Are givin' our money free;
The colleges here and libraries there
Are gettin' it from us three.
There's John—he's happiest when he gives,
And he'll be doin' that while he lives;
And Andy—makin' 'em raise their part
To build the houses for books and art,
And me? By ginger! How fine I feel—
A-payin' the bills for oil and steel!