

VOTE AGAINST

Referendum Measure No. 6.

THE ANTI-PICKETING BILL

If this measure becomes a law by your vote, it will be an instrument in the hands of the powerful few for the enslavement of labor and the attempted annihilation of organized labor.

"Trades Unions are the bulwarks of modern democracies."—William E. Gladstone. Would you aid in destroying these bulwarks?



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

In a speech at Hartford, March 5, 1860, Abraham Lincoln said:

"THANK GOD THAT WE HAVE A SYSTEM WHERE THERE CAN BE A STRIKE. WHATEVER THE PRESSURE, THERE IS A POINT WHERE THE WORKMAN MAY STOP."

Speech at Washington, March 21, 1864: "The strongest bond of human sympathy outside of the family relation should be one uniting all working people of all nations and tongues and kindred."

From Message to Congress, 1861: "Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is but the fruit of labor and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much the higher consideration."

But of what avail is the Right to Strike, unless Labor also has the Right to Picket, the Right to Speak, the Right to Publish—to inform the Public and other Working People WHY it is on Strike?

THE ANTI-PICKETING BILL

(By HARLEY L. HUGHES, Legislative Agent, Washington State Federation of Labor.)

The so-called "Anti-Picketing" law, passed by the 1915 session of the legislature, held up and referred to the people for their approval or rejection by Referendum Petition No. 6, is far more than the name implies.

It not only prohibits (in the narrow sense) "picketing" by laboring people, in cases of strikes, lock-outs or other labor disputes, but it also strikes at the Constitutional guarantee of FREE SPEECH and A FREE PRESS.

The fifth clause of the "Bill of Rights" (those dearly bought and sacred rights and liberties which no free people will surrender) of the Constitution of the State of Washington, declares:

"FREEDOM OF SPEECH"

"Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right."

It is regrettable that the average member of the legislature permitted himself to be hood-winked and

controlled by the few political bosses who were responsible for the drafting and enactment of this bill. I cannot believe that the members of the legislature, generally speaking, intended to disregard Constitutional rights or to pass laws that would injure the common people of the state; they were rather under the spell of these "higher-ups," in control of the organization, who did not care a rap about the Constitution. These political bosses were bitter against every organization and movement that stands against Special Privilege, that sinister influence which was politically responsible for the men in control of the 1915 session of the legislature, and their attitude towards the Constitution was not unlike that of General Sherman Bell, of Colorado, who, in language more forceful than refined, said: "To hell with the Constitution," when its provisions threatened to stand in the way of his efforts to crush the unions of that state. These men were determined to crush every effort of the common people of the state to have a voice in its political affairs, and this "anti-picketing" bill was enacted in the same spirit, and with the same general purpose in view, that they had in their efforts to kill the Initiative, Referendum and Recall provisions of the Constitution by the enactment of "facilitating" statutes that would render these provisions well-nigh impossible of use.

READ THE BILL CAREFULLY

Here is the full text of this bill, and I ask you to read it carefully:

(S. B. 367.)

AN ACT defining picketing, prohibiting the same, and providing the penalty for violation thereof.

Be enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

Section 1. Whoever shall, for the purpose of carrying on, calling attention to, or advertising, directly or indirectly, any controversy, disagreement or dispute between any labor union or organization, or member or members thereof and any person engaged in any lawful business, or his employe, or for the purpose of hindering or preventing such person from conducting his business in any lawful way, or employing or retaining in his employ any person who may lawfully engage in such business.

(1) Stand or continuously move back and forth, on the sidewalk, street, public place or private property, in front of or within five hundred feet of, any place in which any lawful business is conducted by such other person, or home or place of abode of such other person or his employe, or

(2) Openly maintain, carry or transport on any sidewalk, street, public place or private property, any banner, sign, transparency, writing or printing, or

(3) Cause any person to do any of the foregoing acts for any of the foregoing purposes

Shall be guilty of picketing.

Sec. 2. Any person who shall engage in picketing shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 3. The singular number when used in this Act shall include the plural, and the word "person" shall include individuals, firms, partnerships, associations and corporations.

Sec. 4. An adjudication of invalidity of any part of this Act shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any part thereof.

Now read clauses one, two and three again:

(1) Stand or continuously move back and forth, on the sidewalk, street, public place or private property, in front of or within five hundred feet of any place in which any lawful business is conducted by such other person, or home or place of abode of such other person or his employe, or * * *

This clause prohibits "picketing" within FIVE HUNDRED FEET of any establishment where labor troubles exist, and relates to the actual fact of "picketing." But note closely the ground covered by clauses two and three of the act:

(2) Openly maintain, carry or transport on any sidewalk, street, public place or private property, any banner, sign, transparency, writing or printing; or (3) Cause any person to do any of the foregoing acts for any of the foregoing purposes.

This clearly means ANY sidewalk, ANY street,

ANY public place, ANY private property, ANY banner, ANY transparency, ANY sign, ANY writing, ANY printing, ANYWHERE within the entire State of Washington.

This law would bar any and all kinds of publicity regarding any strike, lock-out, or labor dispute of any kind or character anywhere within the confines of the state. You cannot speak and you cannot write, publish in a newspaper, handbill or in any manner whatever. Neither can anyone else do it for you. You cannot tell it publicly or privately.

Now, this is a fine spirit to embody into a statute in a state whose Constitution guarantees as one of the fundamental rights of the people that "Every person may freely speak, write and publish on ALL SUBJECTS, being responsible for the abuse of that right."

Will you, reader, assist in this outrage upon one of our dearest rights under the Constitution by voting for this vicious measure? I think not.

UNJUST AND DANGEROUS

In any way you may view it, this bill is unfair, unjust and dangerous.

If in the process of "picketing," speaking or publishing in relation to labor troubles, working men commit violence, there is ample remedy at law for such acts. But to enact a statute which denies to them rights which ordinary judgment dictates to be proper and necessary, amounts to an outrage that might easily become a very real danger to the industrial peace of the country. To deny men their natural rights, promotes violence: not peace and quietude. It is a physical impossibility to clamp down a lid upon a community seething under oppression without causing an explosion. The tighter the lid the more certain and disastrous the explosion.

Is it not true that people denied the privilege of contending for their rights by an appeal to the public for influence, comfort and support, are going to feel that they are being discriminated against? And is it not equally true that the man who feels that he is being discriminated against is apt to incline to the conclusion that he must be whipped and beaten into servile acceptance of oppression unless he takes matters into his own hands and fights his way to victory by any means at his command? As a result of the enforcement of an act of this drastic nature, will there not be a growing tendency towards lawlessness and a distrust of the courts and law-making powers? Can such a drastic, vicious and unfair law promote anything but industrial disorder?

LABOR IS FOR PEACE

The best efforts of the labor movement of this country have been directed for years towards securing industrial peace through arbitration and conciliation of labor disputes. The conciliation of these matters means that the employer and the workman must collectively deal one with the other in arriving at agreements. This bill means that all of this good constructive work must go for naught, so far as the State of Washington is concerned; and that the unions may not even appeal to the public for the adjustment of their grievances. It means that special privilege is determined to crush the unions. Well, suppose they crush the unions, what then? Why, then there will be no longer any responsible organization of the great industrial army to carry on organ-

ized, orderly and capable management of labor disputes, restraining and holding in check the hot-headed and impulsive spirits who chafe under oppression. Under a condition of that kind labor disputes would all tend towards mob violence, and the situation, instead of being bettered, would be rendered a thousandfold more dangerous.

CONGRESS APPROVES PICKETING

The United States Congress made a study of this problem for several years. Various commissions and committees were appointed, before whom appeared many of the large labor employers, officials and members of labor unions, scientists, publicists and students of social and industrial problems. After learning all they could on this subject, Congress concluded that to give labor the right to "picket" was right and proper, and that it would have a tendency to promote industrial peace, rather than to promote disturbance. On the 24th day of September, 1914, the Clayton Anti-Trust Act was passed. Section 20 of that act defined labor's right to "picket." This national law thus gives labor the right to do the very thing that the Washington "Anti-Picketing" bill would prohibit. The concluding clause of this section of the Clayton bill is herewith given. Read it and compare it to the Washington referred measure:

* * * And no such restraining order or injunction shall prohibit any person or persons, whether single or in concert, from terminating any relation of employment, or from ceasing to perform any work or labor, or from recommending, advising or persuading others by peaceful means so to do; or from attending at any place where any such persons may lawfully be, for the purpose of peacefully obtaining or communicating information, or from peacefully persuading any person to work or to abstain from working; or from ceasing to patronize or to employ any party to such dispute, or from recommending, advising, or persuading others by peaceful and lawful means so to do; or from paying or giving to, or withholding from, any person engaged in such dispute, any strike benefits or other moneys or things of value; or from peacefully assembling in a lawful manner, and for lawful purposes; or from doing any acts or thing which might lawfully be done in the absence of such dispute by any party thereto; nor shall any of the acts specified in this paragraph be considered or held to be violations of the law of the United States.

President Wilson was so well pleased with the Clayton Act, that in signing the bill he took occasion to declare:

"Incidentally justice has been done the laborer. His labor is no longer to be treated as if it were merely an inanimate object of commerce disassociated from the fortunes and the happiness of a living human being to be dealt with as an object of sale and barter. But that, great as it is, is hardly more than the natural and inevitable corollary of a law whose object is individual freedom and initiative as against any kind of private dominion."

RAILROADED THROUGH LEGISLATURE

How different were the methods of Congress and those of the Washington State Legislature in passing upon this important matter. Congress gave it years of study and investigation—then declared labor's right to "picket." The Washington legislature did not investigate or consider this legislation. The bill was hurriedly introduced and referred to a hostile committee. No member of the labor movement was permitted to be heard upon its merits. It was rushed through the legislative mill with unseemly haste and in a hostile spirit. It is the weapon of the tyrant, adopted by the methods of a tyrant, and it is intended that it shall be used in the same way, if the people of the state can be induced, by gross misstatement of facts and on appeal to prejudice, to vote the bill into a law of the state. I do not believe

that the fair-minded, justice-loving people of this state will ever sanction this law, except that they be misled by false statements.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW

The business of the employers of labor is supported by the buying public, and the buying public has a right to know whether or not the employer is treating labor right, and to give or withhold its support accordingly. Labor, on strike or locked out, as the case may be, must have a just grievance or it will not get this public support. But how is the public to know if labor's complaint is just or unjust unless the worker can tell his grievance?

Remember, if labor uses violence in "picketing," the employer has ample remedy at law for that injury, and he does not need this "anti-picketing" law for protection from that.

This law would make the contest between an employer and his workman most one-sided. While the worker might not "picket," the employer always has the complete and undisturbed power to "blacklist" the worker.

Possibly the worker might injure the business of the employer by "picketing," but the employer can wholly destroy the business of the worker by "blacklisting" him.

Now I leave it to any fair-minded person to say whether or not there is any fairness or equity in such an arrangement.

PICKETING ONLY HOPE

In all big strikes, or lock-outs, where large bodies of men are employed by large and powerful employers, "picketing" becomes the only hope of the workingman for success. For in such instances the powerful employer goes to distant points and by misrepresentation induces other workmen to take the jobs, generally securing them by representing that there is no strike or other trouble, but a scarcity of men to meet his requirements. These men are placed aboard trains and rushed to the plants in dispute, herded into stockades under guard, and kept there until the strike is broken. Now, few workmen are willing to take the places of other workmen out on strike for a just cause, and if the strikers can only reach them with the correct information, they can persuade the men not to take their places.

This is the real purpose of "picketing"; and certainly men who have a grievance so just that they will make the sacrifice of placing their jobs, their very means of living, in jeopardy by going out on strike, have a very just and evident right to give out information as to why they are on strike. And other workmen who are urged to take their places have a right to know why there is a strike, or lock-out, that they may exercise their own good judgment upon such information as to whether they want to take the employment under such circumstances.

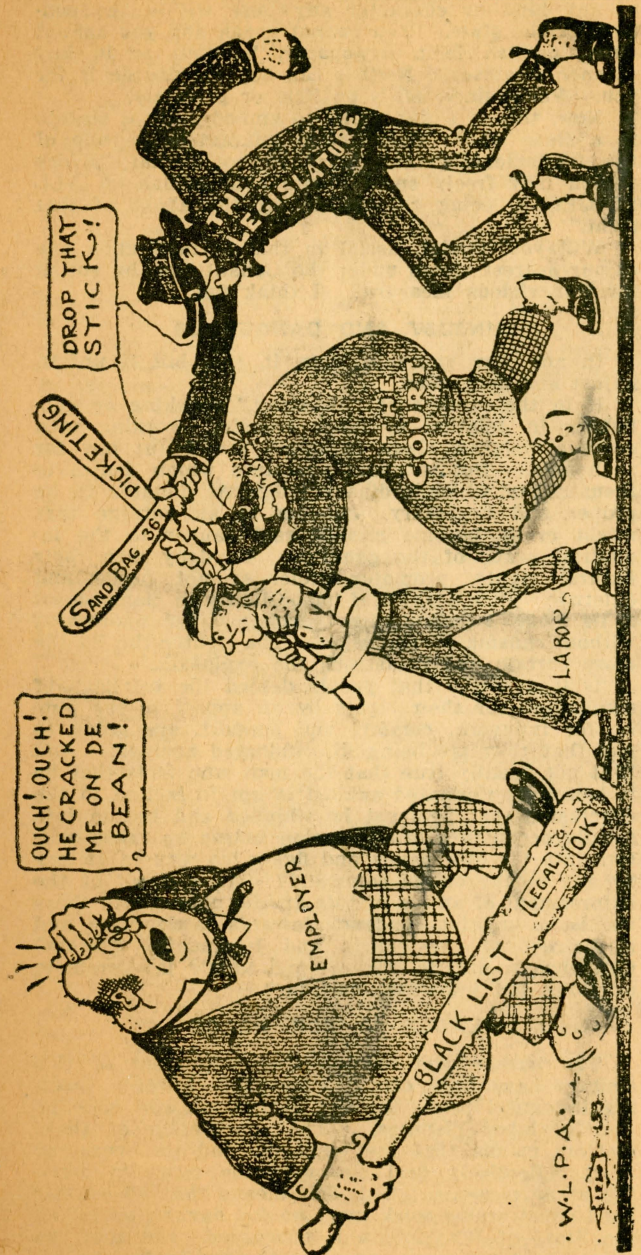
AGENCIES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The people's organizations are our agencies for securing social justice. This "anti-picketing" bill was aimed by its authors at the annihilation of one of these great agencies, and in this they hope to injure and weaken all others.

Destroy the Labor Unions, the Grange and the Farmers' Union, and what have you left in the way of effective organizations to defend your rights and work for the betterment of the common people?

Do not allow this dangerous and vicious measure to become the law of this state.

Vote NO on this and each of the other seven Referred Measures. They all strike at your rights and liberties.



Additional copies of this folder may be had by addressing: CHARLES PERRY TAYLOR, Secretary-Treasurer-P. O. Box 1285, Tacoma, Wash.