

# The COOS GUARDIAN

Vox Populi, Vox Dei.

VOL. I No. 5

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1934

PRICE THREE CENTS

## PLATFORM OF THE BERLIN LABOR PARTY

It is our belief that the ends of good government in the City of Berlin would be more readily achieved, that the burden of the depression would be more justly distributed, and that the public would be better served if certain changes were made in the administration of our City. The Berlin Labor Party and its candidates therefore stand pledged to the following platform:

1. All deliberations, debates, and discussions of the City Council to take place publicly in the Councilroom, City Hall, and not in the back room in secret or executive sessions.
2. A full itemized statement of all salaries and wages paid by the City of Berlin to be published in the annual report and indicated fully on all the books.
3. A two-platoon system to be installed in the Berlin Fire Department.
4. All business of the City to be conducted without favoritism, fear, or favor on a strictly business basis.
5. Strict economy to be practiced in all City expenditures in view of reducing taxes to within the real estate values and revenue.
6. All necessary payroll economies to be practiced on the higher paid employees and not inflicted on the rank and file of the departments.
7. To strive for adequate and substantial relief from the State.
8. All regular and career employees of the City not to be disturbed because of political change in administration.
9. All efforts to be made to collect John A. Labrie's deficit as the collector for the year 1931. *A non political basis*
10. All purchases by the City whether at wholesale or retail to be effected from the lowest bidder in good faith.
11. Full cooperation to be extended to the Brown Company in negotiating necessary State loans but with a wage saving provision providing for an adequate minimum wage for all labor involved in or to result from such loans.

We have already dwelled on some of these planks and these can be readily dismissed in this issue. That nothing but good can come from open business transactions of the City Council seems too obvious to be commented upon. Save in rare instances there is absolutely no need for the Council to take its decisions behind closed doors oftentimes with citizens waiting in the councilroom.

We find also no objections to the making of all the payrolls of the City public. Why anybody's salary should be kept secret by burying it in group appropriations or otherwise and not made public specifically in the annual report, we do not know. It is, however, being done so much that a member of the Council itself admitted recently that he did not know the salary of the City's chief engineer. Another Councilman knew because he happened to be on the finance committee. The money paid out by the City to its office holders is a matter of grave public interest and should not be concealed in any way or to any extent.

The two-platoon system we understand is desired by the men in the Fire Department to eliminate the

(Continued on Page 3)

## Charge of the Shovel Brigade

By WORKER

"Oh! What a gallant charge they made  
Those young men and slender striplings  
Of the snow-shovelling Brigade,  
Foremen to the right of them,  
Foremen to the left of them.  
As they roled through the Valley of snow  
They faced maiming and crippling,  
That brave shovel brigade."

We offer our deepest and most sincere apologies to the manes of Alfred Tennyson, for this parody of his immortal "Charge of the Light Brigade." Our only redeeming quality lies in the advent of the Poet Laureate's Ghost being present at the assault made on the Public Works headquarters, last Thursday, by some 500 of our unemployed. What words and expressions his fertile mind could have evolved to depict the fury and the strength evinced by the participants in that gallant charge! It will remain an epic in the history of the Berlin Public Works Department; not an epic of glory or heroism, but one of a "hit or miss" administration.

Following the heavy snowfall of last Tuesday, four or five hundred young men and boys filled to overflowing the Mechanic Street depot of the Berlin P. W. D. One and all pushed and jostled hopefully toward that narrow passage where the shovels are handed out to remove the snow from our city streets. The minute hand of the clock crept slowly around with more and more pressure toward that coveted door being exerted by the anxious crowd as the magical hour of seven drew near.

Suddenly from the rear came a stentorian cry: "All shovels to be given outside." The Public Works Department had double-crossed the early risers. The pressure grew less, relaxed, died, as one and all made a concerted rush toward the Public Works garage. There, a regular city employee unable to cope with the crowding aspirants to a shoveling post, decided upon the expedient of throwing the shovels out to the crowd. The coveted tool would come sailing over the heads of the crowd, be grabbed by five or six hands, and a dogfight on a large scale would ensue. The courtyard was soon the scene of wrangling and snarling with a few of the boys gathering blows in the melee. One young lad was hit on the forehead by a sailing shovel and cut quite deeply, others suffered bumps that certainly evinced no brotherly jostle.

When the smoke of battle had cleared away and the snow crews were sent on their way, it was noticed that some high school boys,

(Continued on Page 4)

## Workers Club Has Taken Up Wage Increase

At its regular meeting Tuesday night the Club turned its attention to the matter of increasing wages. When President Roosevelt signed the Paper Code he stated that he believed that the minimum wage of 38 cents per hour was not sufficient; he signed the Code nevertheless but made provision for a rehearing on the minimum wage clause within 90 days from date of signing which was Nov. 17, 1933.

On February 13, 1934, a new hearing was held in the Carlton Hotel, Washington, D. C., and the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite, and Paper Mill Workers presented a demand for a 45-cent an hour minimum wage in this zone. John P. Burke presented the case for the Union. He pointed out very clearly how the paper mill workers in the country had been deceived by the permanent Code. The President's Re-employment Agreement or blanket code which first shortened hours provided against any decrease in the weekly pay. Mr. Burke stated "We knew that the President had in mind that when hours were reduced from forty-eight to forty or to thirty-six the hourly rate should be advanced so that the weekly earnings of the workers would not be lessened. The President's Re-employment Agreement contained such a stipulation. The minimums that were finally written into the Codes and the in-

(Continued on Page 4)

Political Advertising

### NOTICE

## Labor Rallies and Mass Meetings

The Berlin Labor Party will hold open public meetings at the following places on the following dates.

Saturday, 8:00 p. m., March 3  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM

Thursday, 8:00 p. m., March 8  
BERLIN MILLS FIRE STATION

Saturday, 8:00 p. m., March 10  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM

Sunday, 8:00 p. m., March 11  
KING SCHOOL

Monday, 8:00 p. m., March 12  
STATE ARMORY

The Coos Guardian wishes to express the deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Edmund Sullivan and its gratitude for the favors bestowed on the Guardian since its inception.

EDITOR.

### Close-ups of The News By BIJOIE

#### "LINDY"

Our suspicions, of last week, that Lindbergh had more than a hero's interest in the Air Lines were substantiated when the papers announced the percentage he received for his "tours," "good will" and "popularity" on which the companies capitalized again at the expense of the public who bought stock.

In the Pathfinder, Feb. 17, 1934, we find the following question and answer in the Question Box.

"What is the annual consumption of electricity in the United States? "Consumption of electricity for the year 1932 reached a total of 11,790,140,000 kilowatt hours for domestic use only. New York state consumers used the most, their total being over 1,500,000,000 kilowatt hours. New Hampshire customers

(Continued on Page 4)





# The COOS GUARDIAN

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"Application for entry as second class matter is pending"

## LABOR AGAINST LABOR

During the last few weeks, the Labor Party has been the center of much stormy discussion; the talk is widespread about town and many arguments are advanced for or against the organization of the laboring class into a political body of its own and to assert their rights as permitted under our Constitution and Laws. Much opposition has developed against this union of Labor; some of this opposition has come from within the ranks of Labor itself.

It might be well at the present time to analyze this talk, and to show just who is spreading it around. First: the Coos County Workers' Club has been accused, in no uncertain terms, of making a mistake by entering politics. It has been said that this policy will eventually ruin the Club; that it should remain independent; that it's too bad; etc. . . . On close examination it will be found that this talk is being spread about by individuals more or less closely affiliated with the "bunch" that is at present "running" the city. Logically enough they realize that if the workers of Berlin "stick" together, they will overthrow the present administration and install one of their own; in the long run it will be too bad for these political henchmen and heelers; they are the ones who stand to lose the most in the event of the Labor party gaining the upper hand and naturally they are striving to disrupt the organization of the Workers before it gets under way. It is to be noted that very little of this talk has come from fair-minded citizens.

The answer to such nonsense is as clear and easy as the accusation is false and baseless! **NOBODY BUT LABOR CAN DEFEAT LABOR AT THE POLLS.** If the Labor candidates lose, no one but Labor will be to blame; the others can do their worst, **LABOR HAS THE VOTES,** Labor can cast the votes for Labor or against Labor. All other classes or parties would be helpless if confronted by a **UNITED Labor vote.**

Second: The opposition realizes this latter fact, and they try to get Labor to discriminate against itself by saying that the laboring classes have never been known to stick together; that they will not do it this time; that they cannot do it; that most of them are old party members; and that, on election day, they will vote old party tickets regardless of the chance that is given them to band together under one head and to gain control of their own government.

In other words, the politicians are telling the working people that they, the working people, do not know enough to organize; that they do not know enough to stick together; and furthermore, that this time as heretofore, they will again be fooled into voting a ticket that has never done them any good. In short, they are telling the working people, to their own face, that they are "dumb" and that they are "suckers."

Our answer to that is: let the working people themselves go to the polls on March 13th and show these politicians just who are the "suckers" and just who are "dumb." The present administration has, since the start of the depression, developed a decided anti-Labor attitude; it is up to you, members of the laboring class, to go to the polls and elect an administration of your own. "Stick together," **VOTE THE STRAIGHT LABOR TICKET,** and you will show them that you are not "suckers."

Third: The opposition either through ignorant or selfish reasons claim that Labor should not enter politics as a general principle. May we demand from these gentlemen just what "general principle" that is? Has not Labor always been in politics? When the man with the dinner pail comes out of the mill on his way home, stops at the polls to vote, he enters politics. It is his duty to do so because he is a good citizen and it is the duty of the good citizen to vote. You working men are in politics and have been

every time you voted. When the opposition tells you not to enter politics it simply tells you not to enter politics in an organized fashion. The politicians want you to vote, but to vote for them. They want organization but they want it for themselves. They are nice to you a week before election; they treat you to a few "parties," possibly some drinks, a taxi ride, etc., but after that "the hell with you." They know that you will forget, and the next election they will resume their cajoling tactics once more. In the meantime they tell you to work for nothing or starve; they practice economy by cutting the pay of the lowest paid worker and raising that of some of the "upper-up." On March 13 they will be at your mercy; vote your own ticket.

Fourth: Another argument advanced is that Labor has not got men capable of handling the "job." They do not dare to come out openly on this for fear of offending the worker by telling him that he is too "dumb" to swing such an undertaking but they have it in mind. If they mean that Labor has not got the ability to graft, to run the city in debt, to cut already underpaid workers, to raise and give bonuses to a few politicians in office, to spread ashes instead of sand on sidewalks, to force men into the woods at starvation wages, to keep a poor watch on city wood and relief groceries, to deny the fire department a decent system, to sacrifice taxpayers money to save the "neck" of one of the "bunch," and other things, well, yes, Labor has not got that ability.

They cannot claim much for their own ability. Just take a look at the country today. Starvation in a land of unbounded plenty. We would rather have some old-fashioned "horse sense" and homespun fair-mindedness in there than what we are having now. As a matter of fact there is a trained force working in the offices now that really do the work of "running" the City while political figureheads draw the pay and reap the so-called honor.

It seems that Labor has suffered enough, and that with more suffering in the offing with the 32-hour week, that now is the time to lay the foundation of a real party. If not for the sake of the men themselves, they should think of their wives and children who are growing up.

You may be Republican or you may be a life-long Democrat but you have never been either any longer than you have been a down-trodden laboring man. No matter what you have been politically in the past, you always had to work for a living and you will continue to have to work although you are not getting the living that you are entitled to. Moreover stop and think and ask yourself just what the difference is especially in City affairs between the old parties. We can assure you that your Labor Party will be different if elected. It is entirely up to the working people themselves to "cut their own throats" at the polls on March 13, 1934, nobody else can do it. If they do not they will be laying the foundation of a party that is bound to spread and furnish Labor with representatives in Concord who will sponsor pro-labor legislation and less anti-labor taxation.

That is what is at stake. We all know that it would be a good thing for the Labor ticket to win. We mean a good thing for Labor. Even the opposition admits that: but they tell it around and openly that the workingmen never have known enough to stick together, that they do not know what is good for them, that they have to be led and "kidded" along, that you can only do something with them by driving them, etc. Well, will the workingmen of Berlin and their families be "driven" on March 13, 1934? You men alone can answer that.

## Political Notice

All members of the Workers' Club who have automobiles now registered, or that will be registered on March 13, 1934, are requested to communicate with the Club's Political Committee by phoning 577, or calling in person at the Guaranty Trust Building.

It is the Club's purpose to secure the use of as many automobiles as possible for Election Day to transport women and other voters who cannot attend to their duty of voting unless transported. We trust everyone will do what they possibly can to assure the victory of the Labor Ticket.

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**PLATFORM OF THE BERLIN LABOR PARTY**  
 (Continued from Page 1)

24-hour duty. There are hardly no employments left in this day and age requiring a man to be 24 hours on the job during his working day. Save for meal hours, we understand that our firemen in Berlin are on 24-hour duty when on the job. Two shifts could be put in without a tremendous increase in expense. The money necessary to accomplish this could be saved in other quarters less useful to the community.

That the business of the City should be handled as private businesses are handled is not disputed. Most platforms carry such a promise, but we never have seen it fulfilled yet. The tendency is "to soak" the City and many office holders have been known to cooperate in the "soaking." The usual procedure in almost any city is the same. Before one attempts a business deal with a city, he first pulls "strings," approaches the "right" party at the "right" time, and it is seen that he is "taken care" of. That costs the taxpayers money every time.

The depression has brought forth a new kind of "economy." We mean that when employment is to be curtailed and wages reduced, they begin at the foot of the ladder. The man who is getting only enough to buy the necessities of life is slashed; those at the top overlooked or cut slightly. The heavy salary drawers could be cut without actual suffering but the workingman cannot as he is getting too little to begin with. Rather than deprive the "higher-ups" of a luxury or two they take it out of the fellow getting 40 cents an hour or less. We believe that economy at the top is in order as being more just and also more of a saving.

That the Labor Party abhors the "Spoils System" need not be mentioned. The work of all political appointees is always done by an office force or staff that does the real work while the "Boss" draws the salary. Those who do the work are responsible for the department's efficiency, and really know and understand the work of the office or department should not be disturbed but given all credit due them.

We also believe that the City should not drop the matter of collecting from the Bonding Company the deficit caused by the closing of the Guaranty Trust Company; on the contrary it should go after that money and the costs of that procedure should not be anywhere near what they would have us believe.

That the City must practice economy in this depression is no news any more than the fact that real estate under our taxation system is overburdened. Taxes must be lowered and the sooner the better for Berlin real estate is not an over-paying investment at the present time. Just how much the taxes could be reduced is really impossible to say without going over the City's books, expenditures, etc., and making a budget based on sound business principles. That is what is proposed to be done.

There remains the matter of the Brown Company. No one living in Berlin regardless of his status would gain anything by hindering our local industry from getting financial support from the State. We all understand that should the local mills

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change hands even, let alone closing, that we would all be the losers. The City Government should cooperate in weathering the present difficulties as much as possible. Undoubtedly we shall be accused of favoring policies hostile to such a conception of the local state of affairs. Any such accusations or insinuations would be without any foundation whatsoever. We also do believe that wages have gone as low as can be and yet permit a working man's family to live. This is especially true in view of the rising cost of living under the workings of the codes and with further rises expected from the devaluation of the dollar. Hence labor should be protected from any further deflation of wages.

Such is the platform that we offer to the voters of this City with a special appeal to the working people to band together behind it "put it over." You have the numerical strength and do not worry about the "ability." Your candidates once elected can have the services of all the lawyers, accountants, engineers, etc., necessary.

Vote the Straight Labor Ticket.

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
**GUARDIANSHIP**  
 Notice is hereby given that the subscriber has been appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Coos, Guardian of the person and estate of Dora Larrivee, et al, of Berlin, in said County, minors, under fourteen years of age.  
 All persons having claims against said minors are requested to exhibit them for adjustment, and all indebted to make payment.  
 January 31st, A. D. 1934.  
 ALEXINA LARRIVEE, Guardian.  
 By her attorney, Arthur J. Bergeron.

**EXECUTOR'S NOTICE**  
 The subscriber has been duly appointed by the Judge of Probate for the County of Coos, executor of the last will and testament of Henriette Theriault, late of Berlin, in said County, deceased, testate.  
 All persons having claims against the estate of said deceased are requested to exhibit them for adjustment, and all indebted to make payment.  
 January 24th, A. D. 1934.  
 THOMAS FRENETT, Executor.

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**The Veteran**

By J. E. MARTINEAU

Publicity Chairman, White Mt. Post, 2520

Senators Brown and Keyes and Congressmen Tobey and Rogers of this state and virtually every other senator and congressman at Washington will be the recipients of thousands of letters demanding veteran relief as a result of the nationwide campaign being conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

The fact that the "Hatfield Amendment which sought to repeal all sections of the Economy Act affecting veterans" was defeated last week does not admit defeat for the V. F. W. program. It is true that our Senators Brown and Keyes did help to defeat it with their nay votes, but it must be remembered that the Hatfield Amendment was not sponsored by the V. F. W. program, however, there is one point of the V. F. W. program which obtained the necessary 145 signatures to obtain discussion of the bill on the floor of the House on March 12, if at that time the House and Senate pass the bonus bill it will be only because of congressmen and senators who do not wish to defy the will of their constituents.

Veterans should mail their demands in the form of telegrams or letters addressed to Senator Brown, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D. C., and Congressman Tobey, House Office Bldg., Washington,

D. C. The veteran, regardless of whether he is a member of either major veteran organization or not, will have no right to kick if he does not do his duty by demanding that his representative in Washington support the bonus bill when it gets before them for consideration. Write in your own way and in a few words demand the support of your congressmen and senators, and if the bill is defeated, all you can do is to remember how your senator and congressman voted.

To the Editor:

Ever since the Coos Guardian's first publication, veterans representing White Mountain Post No. 2520, V. F. W., have received space in its columns and the communications they have presented have been published as presented. I, as publicity chairman of the local unit of the V. F. W., will continue to accept all favors received from the editor of the Coos Guardian as a proof that the Guardian is truly representative of labor and their just rights. The Coos Guardian certainly merits the support of all war veterans of both major veterans organizations.

J. E. MARTINEAU,  
Publicity Chairman,  
Post 2520, V. F. W.

How to win a war? There is only one way. Stay out of it.—Birmingham News.

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**Guaranty Trust Co. Announces Dividends**

According to information from Willard D. Rand, Bank Commissioner, State of New Hampshire, the Guaranty Trust Co. will pay a 32½% dividend to its savings depositors. A 10% dividend will also be declared on the commercial accounts.

Checks amounting to \$120,874.55 will be mailed to the savings depositors, and of \$17,413.05 to holders of commercial accounts on the evening of March 1, 1934. Therefore it will be unnecessary to call at the office for the checks.

**CHARGE OF THE SHOVEL BRIGADE**

(Continued from Page 1)

playing "hookey" from school, were working and thereby taking the place of some man who needed the money more than they.

The Guardian does feel that these conditions existing in the Public Works Department of a city of the size of Berlin have no reason whatsoever to be; that it is peculiar, to say the least, that a department having at its head an engineer drawing a large salary should not take proper steps to prevent scrambles of the nature of those which happen in their own backyard at each snowstorm. We would suggest that the City Engineer see to it that persons qualified for the work be given slips and thereby remove all chance of the recurrence of actions so unworthy in a city of this size and population.

**CLOSE-UPS OF THE NEWS**

(Continued from Page 1)

paid the most, their rate being 7.3 cents per kilowatt hour, and the Washington state consumers paid the least, their rate being only 2.7 cents. The average for the country is 5.5 cents a kilowatt hour."

New Hampshire has no public-owned utilities while Washington, we understand, has several.

**"RAILROADING"**

The railroads have proposed a 15% reduction in wages but President Roosevelt came quickly to the defence of the workers. In a public letter he made it clear that the welfare of the country demands that they postpone their wage cut decision another six weeks.

Any wage cut means loss of purchasing power in the nation's class that has lost the most and hence runs counter to the whole purpose of the N. R. A. Roosevelt realizes that the N. R. A. must "work" or else he will suffer the fate of Hoover in 1936.

**"32 BILLION"**

According to a recent announcement of the Department of Commerce, the U. S. income in 1932 was 32 billions less than in 1929. More than that the Department admits that the lower your income in 1929 the steeper the nosedive it took afterwards. In other words the low-salaried and low-income man kept a smaller percentage of his little pittance than the higher bracket incomes.

As one paper put it "This is

doubly interesting in view of the fact that the Kept Press is hollering day and night to "broaden the tax base" by bringing in thousands of little fellows who thus far have been taxed but little because they had but little to tax.

And still we hear of workingmen who think that labor should not enter politics in an organized manner.

**WORKERS' CLUB HAS TAKEN UP WAGE INCREASE**

(Continued from Page 1)

creases that have been given the workers receiving above the minimum have resulted in reducing the weekly earnings of the workers in our union mills."

It is now clear to the men that the Code brought an "increase" that cut their pay check. The argument made by Mr. Burke at the second hearing is exactly the same as that made by the representatives of the Coos County Workers' Club in Washington at the original hearing on the Paper Code. That the Code would lower the standard of living of the regularly employed men to help some of the unemployed was clear from the start. The Code was planned and devised as a measure to make labor take care of labor although it is least capable of doing it.

In addition to discussing wages the meeting extended to the following topics: Voted to advance \$50.00 for an amplifier to be used at open air meetings; accepted registrations of complaints as to wage-rates and weekly earnings; voted to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee that the 1929 wage scale be demanded; and the matter of delayed C. W. A. pay at Stark and the allegedly careless use of dynamite on the Park job.

The next meeting will be held at the Club Joliette rooms Tuesday, March 6, at 8:00 p. m.

Vote the Straight Labor Ticket.

**Along the Main Stem**

With Dr. B. U. L. Connor

(With apologies to O. O. MacIntyre)

All has been quiet on the Political Front so far this spring. The next two weeks promise concerted action by the heavy artillery with the Labor Party Rifles firing the first salvos at the City Hall, Saturday, March 3rd.

Mrs. William Deroscher, better half of our genial representative from the Riverside, is recovering from a long illness, and will leave the St. Louis Hospital Friday.

That Berlin High has finally developed into a strong quintet was evidenced last Saturday night when our Mountaineers annihilated the highly-touted Montpelier Seminary cage-artists.

More power to Mr. Garrett for rounding out a real basketball team. out of the slender material at hand at the start of the season. The Mountaineers started slowly but gathered momentum as the season progressed, and their whirlwind finish augurs well for the honor of Berlin in the coming tournament.