

SUPPLEMENT TO THE INDEPENDENT



VOL. 1.

VANCOUVER, B. C., TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1900.

NO. 109

A GREAT MEETING

The Independent Labor Candidates Well Received by the People.

Messrs. Cowan, Dixon, Williams, Woodman and Ralph Smith Were the Speakers--The Latter Gentleman Was Given an Ovation.

The meeting held Monday night in the interests of the Independent Labor Party in the Market Hall was crowded to the doors.

When the meeting started there were present on the platform Messrs. H. Cowan, Ralph Smith, Joseph Dixon, F. Williams, J. H. Watson, John Peary, W. Lawson, C. Grant, J. Rumble, C. Davis, George Bartley, W. Bruce, D. C. Harrison, Vick and others.

Mr. Harry Cowan, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:20 p. m. by explaining the stand taken by the Labor Party in putting two candidates in the field. It was not done in the interests of trade unionism or for any selfish motive, but in the interests of trade and workingmen as a whole. (Cheers.) Trades unionism, maintained the speaker, had done more for labor as a whole, unorganized as well as organized, than any other body. Mr. Cowan then read the Labor Platform, commenting briefly upon its various planks, after which he called upon Mr. Joseph Dixon, who was received with loud applause.

JOS. DIXON.

Mr. Dixon stated in opening that he was running in opposition to no particular party, but in the direct interests of labor only. Taking up the Independent Labor platform he then dealt with it clause by clause. The need of adequate protection for employees to free them from ordinary risks against accidents, etc., was the first matter taken up. The risks run by conductors on the open street-railway cars, longshoremen working on the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's vessels, at the slings, and men on freight elevators, were instanced, and a few illustrations given, showing the need for the enforcement of a reasonable Employers' Liability Act.

THE UNION LABEL

was spoken on and it was pointed out that if the Union Label was enforced it would mean that a far larger proportion of the goods used and consumed here, would be manufactured in Vancouver itself. This would result because the Union Label would tell where the article was made. In the tailoring trade alone it would mean that 100 to 150 more workers would be employed here. In the cigar trade, 50 to 75 more cigar makers would be engaged in the City, giving an additional pay-roll of some \$25,000 per annum. This would result, owing to the large portion of the residents preferring to assist and encourage home industries which they could do if Union Label goods were patronized, as it would show where they were manufactured. The Eight-Hour Law and the need of shorter hours for clerks, male and female, were touched upon, also the minimum wage question. Why had Mr. Dunsmluir now offered to discharge all his Chinese labor if he could secure 500 white men? asked the speaker. Was it a great bluff or

WAS IT REAL?

If it was the latter, it had come about only because he foresaw that the way the people was dealing with the whole question, he would ultimately be compelled to replace his Chinese employees by white men. Why had Mr. McInnes resigned his seat in the Dominion House of Commons? Probably it was because he was so disgusted with the way the whole Oriental question was being handled and thought the case hopeless there.

The action of the working-men of Vancouver, some years ago, in taking the law into their own hands, and turning the Chinese out, and its result, was briefly touched upon, after which the speaker went on to point out the hold the Chinese and Japanese had on the country to-day. They ran stores, worked in every department of labor and on railway sections, in opposition to white labor, and merchants. In

conclusion Mr. Dixon said that should he be sent down to Victoria he could assure them that he would use all his endeavors towards securing fair and honest legislation for the workingmen.

MR. WOODMAN.

Mr. Woodman, of Nanaimo, was next called upon. "Up to the present time the Government had been by capitalists and for capitalists, and wherever good progressive legislation had been secured it had been only by the introduction of an Independent Party." This was Mr. Woodman's argument for the workingmen running an Independent Labor Party, which would, he claimed, secure justice and right for every section of the people. In the recent tour of the Interior, which he had just taken, Mr. Woodman stated that, he had found the vast masses of the people, the men who handle the pick and shovel, ready and desirous of having independent representation at Victoria and they would vote solidly in this direction. The spirit of ignorance, that had cursed the world in the past, had been swept away and enlightenment had come in, and with it discontent. "If you want to keep people content you must keep them ignorant," was an old saying and a true one. Men grew discontented when they awoke to the realization of the unequal distribution of the world's wealth and the unfair distribution of the proceeds of labor and capital.

Referring to a report of the New Zealand Government, the speaker stated that in that country the workingmen were protected by a

MINIMUM WAGE CLAUSE

which was the real solution of the Oriental labor question. It would be a solution of this question and would also protect the common laborer.

While pointing out the faults of a government justice demanded that its good acts should also be mentioned and the speaker referred to the introduction of a clause compelling a fair wage to all men employed in Dominion Government works; also to the attempt of a member for Vancouver, an attempt he appreciated highly, to introduce a law of compulsory arbitration.

FRANCIS WILLIAMS.

Mr. F. Williams then took the platform. He looked forward to the time when the women of the country would have equal voice with the men in its legislation. Continuing, he referred, sarcastically, to objections that various people and parties had advanced against the nomination of workingmen candidates, drawing repeated loud and long applause. Taking up the fundamental principles upon which the campaign was being run, Mr. Williams repudiated the charge that the Trades and Labor Council had acted selfishly in putting forth candidates. The Trades Council was directly interested in, and had and did work and act in the interest of both

ORGANIZED AND UNORGANIZED LABOR.

To demonstrate this he pointed out the benefits that had resulted to the City laborers through the action of the Trades Council which had resulted in shorter hours and a Saturday half-holiday. The Letter-Carriers and Sorters of the City had, as was well-known, greatly benefited by the interference on their behalf, of the Trades and Labor Council.

After citing other cases the speaker went on to deal with the Oriental labor question. It was now no longer the Chinese but the Japanese question. To-day no man's position was secure, as Mr. Dixon had pointed out, and something must be done. No half measures would do; the matter had to be settled and settled definitely. With deep sarcasm, Mr. Williams referred to the zeal of Health Inspector Marston to regulate the homes and districts inhabited by the Orientals. It was a good thing to work to prevent an epidemic and the speaker's sarcasm was not vented against the Health In-

spector but against those who instigated his work, because, if an epidemic came, it might destroy valuable lives—with stress laid upon the "valuable." The chief epidemic which threatened to swamp the Province was inundation by Chinese and Japanese. This epidemic threatened to render the Province absolutely lost to the white population.

THE ONLY REMEDY

was the absolute exclusion of the Orientals from the country. They must first exhaust every legitimate means at their disposal and try every constitutional act. If these failed, as a last resource they must then do as they had done in Australia and elsewhere—go down to the boats and say: "You can't land a single passenger, whether white or colored, till those Orientals are taken back to their own country." (Cheers.)

Free education was then dealt with, the speaker maintaining that free education was not yet complete and would not be till all books and school utensils were supplied to the children of the poor free. Books could be obtained now, by charity, but they should be supplied by right and not by charity. The Government should recognize all children as equal.

The private ownership of land was also taken up and the speaker maintained that it was the

WORST KIND OF MONOPOLY

that had to be faced. To illustrate his statement the speaker pointed out that to-day a man was securing \$100 per month ground rent for a lot on Cordova Street that he had purchased years ago for \$150, and upon which he had never done a day's work. The people who paid that rent and the taxes on the place were those who purchased it. They paid the taxes while the man who derived the revenue did nothing at all but live on the proceeds of labor. The evil of the ground-rent system was gone into in detail. The way to deal with this question was to put a tax on land values and not upon land which would destroy the selling value of land which would then revert to the people to whom the land really belonged. (Applause.)

MR. RALPH SMITH

was cheered heartily when he came forward. He, too, began with a happy reference to the ladies, and advanced the proposition, with the assistance, as he declared of Mr. Tisdall, that no man could with more propriety express his pleasure at the presence of the ladies. He happened to be the fortunate man who had brought in a Bill in the House, to hand over to these fair creatures rights similar to those enjoyed by the male members of the community. He was a real ladies' man, after that, he declared, amidst an outburst of applause. Then he was very serious in the statement that according to his observations the position taken by men in their reasons against the rights of women, were always based on sentiment rather than reason. He had never met a man who had given a valid reason against their rights, yet there were hundreds of men who were afraid to hand over to the ladies the same rights as they had themselves. (Laughter.) He went on to say that there were various political matters that he would discuss more fully on the 6th of June, when all the Party leaders had been invited to be present at a meeting to be held in the City Hall here, and which would be a regular rough-and-tumble time. They would try everything right out and bring the strongest man on top. His one desire was that the man who was strongest in the power of fairness and reason, should take hold of the reins of government, the man whose disposition was to seek the rights of the people and who had the strongest reasons for holding

THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE.

He did not think he should lose an opportunity of discussing the political questions, but he wanted to tell them that there was nothing in the political elements, nor in the forms of the various leaders themselves, that would make him afraid to take the stand or to speak as he thought fit. Having referred to some general criticisms of his own position he read a clipping from the Vancouver "World," which stated practically that Mr. Smith considered that he had effectually annihilated the Premier. He remarked that if that paper was characterized for its veracity as it would soon be for its change of front, no one would ever take it seriously. (Laughter.) He wanted to say that there was not a word of truth in it. He was not out with the object of killing the Premier, but of promoting the direct interest of the intelligent labor men of the Province. (Applause.) If that killed the Premier, then let the Premier be killed. (Cheers.) If the rightful claims of the working-men of the Province were put forward; if they interfered with the foundation of any politician, then

the former was not the one to suffer. He thought that newspapermen should be intelligent enough to be able to discriminate between a man out as promoter of a cause which might affect a certain factor, and going directly against that factor. He had been told very seriously that there was a probability of having such a

REPRESENTATION OF LABOR MEN

in the House as would disturb permanently the commercial condition of the country. He answered, this is possible all the time. He did not mean by labor men, only those who wielded a pick or handled a shovel; they should get away from that narrow view of the case. A man who was not a workman was the small exception. He was sure that there were a larger number of workmen than they usually gave credit for. That party was composed of all classes. There were the extreme Socialists, who believed that the Government should do all our business for us. Then there were the Single Taxers, to whom the realization of that principle would be the millennium, and to have this one principle brought about would solve every difficulty. He admitted that it would in many instances, and that the Single Taxers often had many philosophic reasons for saying so. Then there were the Anarchists. They did not want any rifle or shotgun in this country, for he believed that the strongest weapon that could possibly be used was an intelligent argument, that would tell every time. Now, his answer to the people who were afraid of the preponderance of the labor element in the Legislature, was that it was quite possible for the labor vote to control any legislative assembly, or even

THE BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS:

In fact, it could take possession of every law-making institution. He wanted them to know that, if they liked, they had the power, and this class of representation should be encouraged for the sake of the public and the community. (Applause.) He would be sorry if what was called the Labor element formed the sole representation at Victoria. He did not want that. He would complain as much if capital were not represented, but the trouble had always been that capital was over-represented, and labor under-represented. (Applause.) This was no reason, however, why capital should be replaced by an unreasonable representation of labor men. There was not a man present who would not be agreeable to a fair and intelligent representation of the labor men. A man who claimed that capital had no rights, was not a friend of the labor men. The time was coming when, if the power of capital did unite itself against that fair feeling, there would be such a revision in this Province as would startle the people of the Dominion. No labor man wanted that. With the exception of a few office-seekers, there were few persons who would object to a fair labor representation. (Applause.) Mr. Smith said that he was sorry that the Premier and the Hon. Mr. Brown had made imputations against him, and that Hon. Mr. Smith Curtis had stated that he was a paid agent of the New Vancouver Coal Company. All he had to say in denying it was that any man making such a statement had a weak cause, and it would fail. (Applause.) But he had more respect for Hon. Mr. Curtis than to believe that he ever said it. But he had every reason to believe that Hon. Mr. Brown had said so, and Hon. Mr. Martin had been angry at the action of the labor people. The whole

POSITION WAS UNFAIR,

and would be taken as evidence of weakness in their cause. (Applause.) Another thing that was charged against him was that he had suddenly changed from being a member of the late Party in the House to the Leader of the Independent Labor Party. In the House, however, he was sure that every member would admit that he had always taken a good deal of an independent stand, and on more than one occasion he had expressed his opinions against those of the leaders of his party. These, too, were matters of concern. But the late Government stood for the interests of the people, head and shoulders above any government that had preceded it. (Applause.) The Semlin Government in two years attempted more for the people of this Province than was attempted during the whole 18 years of the regime of the old Government. (Cheers.) He mentioned this to show the disposition of things. He knew that when a man joined himself to a party, he could not always be for the people. What he meant was this, that while there must be a party, the man who goes to stand for the party, in spite of what it may do and under all circumstances, cannot act always for the good of the people. The tendency of the party, like the individual, was to get the swelled head. (Laughter.) There was no immacu-

late and holy divinity of association because they are members of a government. (Applause.) And this is especially true of the present Government. (Renewed laughter.) There was sometimes a tendency to interfere with

THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE, so it was a good thing to have three or four members who, as Independent Labor members, were free to use their influence, to see that the rights of the people were protected. (Applause.)

Rights had time and again been interfered with by a preponderating majority. What was wanted was a fair majority, guided by men who would look at the great issues, not merely from a party view-point, and who would represent more closely the feelings of the communities. It was said by Mr. Brown that his only objection to Mr. Martin was based on personal reasons, but in that Mr. Brown was entirely mistaken. His reasons were not personal, but were based upon a political experience, and an experience which, in his (Mr. Smith's) opinion, was sufficient to condemn any man. He had not once degraded the name of Mr. Martin as a man, but he opposed him on an experience which Mr. Martin could never explain in a way that would give him the sympathetic support of the electors of the Province.

Mr. Smith then referred to the events of the late Legislature. He had at the caucuses last Summer, supported Mr. Martin, because he did not believe that the reasons for his dismissal were good. Considering the strength of the Government, and the issues at stake, he did not think at that time that Mr. Martin should have been put out of the Cabinet, except for the most extraordinary reasons. He stood up in the caucus and said so. How did he explain his present position? His answer was because Mr. Martin did not confine his opposition to the Government to the reasons which properly constituted his grievances against it. If Mr. Martin had confined himself to

THESE GRIEVANCES,

then he (Mr. Smith) would have fought for him to the end, but when he associated himself with influences opposed to good legislation in the interests of the people, then he, the speaker, did not agree with him, and thought it was his duty to oppose him. They would want to know his reasons. Mr. Martin had in his recent card given two reasons why Messrs. Carter-Cotton and Semlin had used their influence to get him out. One was that there was then an existing legal question in connection with the Crow's Nest Pass land grant, and the other was that the Dominion Government had disallowed the Labor Act and others with prohibitive clauses against Oriental labor. In his letter to the people issued recently, Mr. Martin stated that because Mr. Carter-Cotton wanted to prevent him from opposing the granting of the patents for these coal lands, he had raised a conspiracy and put him out. These were Mr. Martin's modern reasons. (Laughter.) There was a great tendency to state half the truth, and that was sometimes as dangerous as the lie. (Laughter.) This Crow's Nest question had all the legal complications of a law office about it. It was not a matter for every man to settle. There was a very

SERIOUS DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

about it among lawyers. Mr. Martin had said that the lands should revert to the Province. Mr. Henderson had said there was nothing in this claim; Mr. Bodwell had said there was nothing in it, and other lawyers had said the same, but at any rate it was a preposterous proposition for any man in the audience to say that it should be this or that, and settle it for himself in that way. It was entirely a legal question. Now, Mr. Carter-Cotton had to do something with the matter. The owners of the property had spent thousands of dollars there, and were entitled to know about their title. The lawyers decided that the thing was right. Suppose for a moment they had not; then the mines would have been closed down, and a large number of men would have been thrown out of work. But the speaker was in full sympathy with the statement that the greatest steal that stood to-day was a blot on the Turner Administration, was the grant to that British Columbia Southern. But in spite of the legal answers that were received, that the land must go to the Company—and this was where he complained of Mr. Martin—Mr. Carter-Cotton made full provision in the letters patent, that if, at any future period, the claim was found not to be a legal one, the whole thing had to revert back to the Province. (Cheers.) But Mr. Martin never said this. He had either to prove that this provision was not worth the paper it was written on, or he must admit that he had not administered his arguments to the people of the Province in a fair and reasonable way. (Cheers.)

Now REGARDING THE DISALLOWANCES.

He wanted to say, first of all, that it was a very great question whether it

could be officially proven that Mr. Martin proposed that the House should be brought together for the re-enactment of these bills. Why, asked Mr. Smith, did not Mr. Martin, when the other members of the Cabinet had refused to do that—why did he not come to the people, and explain the whole stand? That would have been appreciated by the private members; when as a matter of fact, the House knew nothing about it. They would all agree, that when a majority of the Ministers refused to act, it was his business to bring this before the people, and before the members of the House, which he never did. Mr. Smith added that he would support Mr. Martin in any re-enactment of these statutes. But there were two ways of doing things. They should deal with the Dominion and Imperial Governments as gentlemen, for he had no sympathy with the boasting audacity of the method of saying to the Dominion Government: "If you don't give us these things we will take you by the throat." But they should say that we people of the West know more about it than anyone else and the authorities might at length be told that it

MUST BE HANDLED BY US, with all the authority that the Province possesses in the matter. Mr. Martin's charges differed now from those at the time when he was put out of the Government. He said at first that Mr. Carter-Cotton and Mr. Semlin had entertained the idea of throwing out the Liberals, and forming a Conservative Government. He did not say anything about Liberals and Conservatives now. If the party-lines charge was right in 1899, it must still hold good in 1900. If that was not the reason, as he thought, then, Mr. Martin should have told the people so, and not tried to make a catch of several different charges. (Applause.) Disruption began and Mr. Martin left the Cabinet. Then, to gain his own ends, Mr. Martin had tried to defeat legislation of the greatest possible importance to the Province. He did not think that anyone could ever find a good reason for doing a wrong thing. When the Government brought in measures for the good of the community, any man who could not sink his personal feelings was not a statesman, and was never born to lead. (Applause.)

There were two things in particular that were interfered with. There was the Coal Mines Regulation Act, which he would refer to more fully later, and the Redistribution Bill. Mr. Martin had said that he would support the Government on

ANY KIND OF REDISTRIBUTION Bill. He entered into an agreement with Mr. Kelle and so on. But the speaker had to say that whatever kind of a bill it was, Mr. Martin as a man had promised to support the bill up to the Committee stage. What did he do? He did nothing of the kind. He voted against the Government. (Cheers.) A man should keep his contract. The question was not interfered with by intermediate affairs. Mr. Martin charged an unholy alliance with the Turner people, Mr. Eberts and others. As a matter of fact, the alliance was thrown up by the Government when it was first mentioned by the Turner people. Several men proffered to come into the Government, but there was not any compromise of a single principle. Mr. Kelle recently told the speaker that the real reason why Mr. Martin voted against the Redistribution Bill was given in a statement of the latter to Mr. Kelle: "Mr. Smith went for me on the floor of the House and I want to defeat him." The man who was capable of doing things like this should not be at the head of affairs. Mr. Martin got the power by the misuse of a holy prerogative, by the exercise of an influence that would have to be accounted for at the hands of the people of the Province. Anyway he got the power.

A Voice—"He's a traitor."
Mr. Smith—"I want to know what kind of

AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE he made. Would you believe it? He asked the very men who he had said were going into the unholy combination with the Government. He asked them into his parlor."

A voice—"He's no good." (Laughter.)
Mr. Smith: "He went to Mr. Dunsmuir and talked of the defeat of the Government. 'We made a contract,' he said, 'and, of course, we must keep it.' How careful he was to keep the contract," continued Mr. Smith. Within 24 hours after he had been railing at the Government on the unholy alliance question, he was inviting those very men to go into the Government. Not only was there an unfair use in calling upon Mr. Martin to form a Government, but it was kept up and men were taken into the Government, who never were, and never could be the representatives of the people of this Province, and men who had since to leave their places in the Cabinet. Mr. Ryder would have been put out earlier if any other man could have been procured. And yet Mr. Martin wrote him a letter expressing great regret that he had seen fit to send in his resignation. Mr. John Brown said that he, Mr. Smith, approved of Mr. Martin's platform. That was one of the great faults of some public men—they meant ten and said ten thousand. "I never," said Mr. Smith, "approved of that platform. I may agree with certain things there, but there are things which I do not believe can ever be carried out."

Mr. Smith then related that he had learned

A PECULIAR THING

since he had come to Vancouver. It was in connection with Mr. Martin's fourth plank. He was told in good authority that Mr. Martin stated to a meeting of his Liberal friends that the abolishing of the \$200 deposit plank was something that he did not believe in, but he put it there because the principle had been endorsed by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council. If Mr. Martin did not believe in this, he should never have put it in his platform. He should have said that it was from the Trades and Labor Council he was taking it. He should not have forgotten their initials. If Mr. Martin carried out the good things that he promised honestly, he would receive his honest support. That was more than Mr. Martin was capable of giving to any man. Mr. Martin's plan was if he wanted to spite the man to kill the principle. That was why they should have a few good labor men in the House to see that the politicians stood up to their principles. Men were wanted who would make the others in the House to the mark and carry out their promises. (Applause.) Mr. Smith praised the work of Mr. R. Macpherson in the House and said many good things for him as a colleague.

He also spoke in high praise of Mr. Tisdall, as a man who worked day in and day out in the interests of those he represented. Vancouver should again return two such men.

The Labor Leader concluded his able speech by asking those present to consider the question of allowing the Labor candidates a fair proportion of Vancouver's representation. "Give them a chance and you will find that honest men will do

HONEST BUSINESS."

The applause which greeted Mr. Ralph Smith at the conclusion of his speech having subsided, Mr. Williams came forward to answer a question that had been addressed him through the Chairman, viz., did he object to the clause in the Tailors' Union rules, allowing Chinese workers, and further had he not moved that Japanese be allowed to join the Union? Mr. Williams stated that some two years and a half ago there were Japanese tailors in several of the shops. Foreseeing that this would be used against the union in the event of trouble arising he had advocated that they be taken into the union. By so doing he had simply forestalled, in that one union, what the Labor Platform now proposed to introduce for in all, a minimum rate of wages. (Cheers.) If employers were compelled to pay the minimum rate of wages, the cheap Chinese and Japanese workmen would soon be displaced by white men. He had put this clause into effect in the Tailors' Union to protect the tailors themselves, exactly as the fishermen had recently done. If this was adopted by all the unions, they had no fear of either Japanese or Chinese. He advocated, however, their entire exclusion from the Province; pending this, however, they should admit them to the unions to protect themselves.

After Mr. J. Peary had moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Smith and the Chairman, the meeting broke up with cheers for the Chairman, Mr. Ralph Smith and the Independent Labor candidates.

VANCOUVER LABOR PLATFORM.

On looking over this platform there will be found two planks containing principles so profound that one is led to think that these were inserted by men who are fit to rank with statesmen. There is a definite idea about planks 4 and 5 which merits close attention on the part of those who make their living by the sweat of their faces. Compare these with the ambiguous generalities which are usually hashed up at every election—such as "the land for the settler," etc. During every campaign we see candidates who tumble over each other in order to do something for the "working man," as if the working man needed coddling any more than other man.

Let us take a good look at these two planks. Plank No. 4 says: "That no public land be alienated by deed or crown grant to corporations or individuals, but that it be leased in perpetuity, subject only to a fair rental value."

Plank No. 5 says: "That all taxes on industry and the products of industry be gradually abolished, and the revenues of municipal and provincial government be derived from a tax on land values."

It will be seen that, under this system, no new taxes are to be invented or imposed. All that needs to be done is to abolish all existing taxes except this one. It has been amply demonstrated by the noted statistician, Thos. G. Shearman, in his "Natural Taxation," that all taxes together would not absorb half the rent of the land; and no attempt has ever been made to refute the statistics given.

Some explanation of the terms used is necessary. "Ground rent" and the "value of land" are in reality the same thing. Rent is the price which the owner of land either does or can obtain for the privilege of using land; and what is usually called the "value of land," or the "price of land," is nothing but the capitalized value of its rent; or, to use simpler terms, it is the present market value of the land-

lord's power of collecting rent in future.

Let us see what would be the effect of a tax on land values. The theory embodied in the two planks under discussion proposes to lay all taxation upon the value of the privilege of using land for any and all purposes, including not merely nor mainly the use of land for farms, but, to a vastly greater extent, the use of land for building purposes in villages, towns and cities; the use of land for mines and quarries; for railroads, telegraphs, telephones, gas pipes, water-pipes, electric wires, and any and every other conceivable use to which land can be put. It demands the abolition of all taxes upon earnings, food, furniture, clothing, merchandise, money and buildings; the rails, rolling-stock and depots of railroad companies; the wires and poles and other articles used for telegraphs—in short, upon anything whatever produced by man. In the case of farms, it would abolish all taxation upon planted trees, drains, fences and structures of any kind, and would not even tax that increased value which is given to land by plowing, sowing or otherwise improving it.

This is the taxation of land values. It may be summed up in three sentences: Tax nothing made by man. Tax everything not made by man. Collect all revenue out of, and in exact proportion to, the revenue which some men collect from other men, for permission to use that which no man made.

The question may arise as to the justice of this method of taxation. That a tax of some amount on ground rent, or the value of land, is just and right, is conceded by everyone. Universal theory and practice alike agree in recommending such a tax. As no one has ever disputed this, no argument need now be made in support of it. Is there any other tax of which the same thing can be said? If not, then we certainly have a tremendous presumption in favor of making the only just tax an exclusive tax. Here is a tax which can be easily assessed, without asking any questions of the taxpayers, because the value of the thing is known to everybody. Here is an income which is not earned in any degree by the labor, skill or effort of the person receiving it. The landlord does not make land or make rent. The moment that we attempt to collect taxes from any other source we find ourselves taking from men a portion of that which they have made by their own labor and skill, by methods which impose heavy burdens upon honesty, and put a premium upon fraud, evasion and falsehood.

If every candidate for the Legislature has not declared himself in favor of the principle contained in these two planks, it is the duty of the voters in each district to see that he has a chance to do so, if anyone declines to endorse it, vote so that he will have an opportunity to stay at home.—Nanaimo Herald.

FRIENDS OF LABOR.

Organized labor of the Nelson Riding of West Kootenay showed on Friday night, in no uncertain voice, where they stood when the delegates from the different labor organizations of Nelson affiliated with the Nelson Trades and Labor Council met in Fraternity Hall. Mr. R. Robinson was elected to the chair, and after the political situation in the riding had been discussed, the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved: That we, the representatives of the several trades and labor organizations here assembled, hereby place on record our appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the cause of organized labor by John Houston, and, in further acknowledgment of the same, do hereby endorse the candidature of John Houston as the representative of the Nelson Riding in the next Legislature, and pledge to him our undivided and hearty support."

The organizations represented were the Miners' Union, No. 96; Carpenters' Union, No. 524; Watchmakers and Jewellers, Brotherhood of Trahmen, No. 553; Plumbers, Gas and Steamfitters' Union; Barbers' Union, No. 340; Bricklayers and Masons' International Union, No. 3; Laborers' Protective Union, No. 8,121; Painters' Union.

There were 27 delegates present, and they represented a membership of 800, and they were undivided in their opinions.

Referring to the above unequivocal support of the policy of the Provincial Party, the "Tribune" of Nelson says:

"The action of the local trades and labor organizations last evening, in unanimously endorsing the candidature of John Houston, is the best possible reply to the statement of the Nelson 'Miner' that candidate Hall is receiving the support of the labor organizations. At the convention last evening there were ten local unions represented, and their delegates spoke unanimously for a body of some 800 wage earners. It is not difficult to arrive at the reasons which prompted the local unions to endorse the candidature of John Houston. The resolution, which was introduced and carried unanimously, speaks for itself. It sets out that John Houston has been the friend of organized labor for several years, and that the wage earners of Nelson do not propose to turn down a man who has proven his friendship

in the past for one who only professes friendship upon the eve of an election. Candidate Houston is now the nominee of the Labor Party of Nelson, as well as of the Provincial Party. He is the candidate whom the friends of the Eight-Hour Law have selected as the safest man to support in the Nelson Riding, and they will support him, because his defeat would be a severe blow at organized labor."

THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

A meeting of the Socialist Labor Party will be held on Mount Pleasant this evening, when Mr. W. McClain, the candidate, and several others will speak.

PROVINCIAL PARTY MEETING.

A meeting of the Provincial Party supporters will be held in the Old School House on Mount Pleasant this evening, at which Mr. Carter-Cotton and Colonel Falk Warren will speak.

VICTORY IN SIGHT.

Every day the chances for the Independent Labor Party carrying its ticket brightens and the central committee rooms resemble a hive of busy bees. It is indeed a scene of great activity, and every member of the committee is regularly on hand, something, we imagine, that none of the other parties can say. From every direction come assurances of support, and in at least three wards, it is safe to gamble, that Messrs. Dixon and Williams will head the poll. In the others they will carry a fair vote, and if the political sky does not change before the 9th of June, the prognostications now made that they will hold seats in the next house are sure to be fulfilled. We would, however, urge their followers to leave no stone unturned to secure their complete triumph, and this means constant, intermittent work from now on, night and day. The other parties are not allowing the grass to grow beneath their feet and their example in this regard should be followed. Every voter favorable to the candidature of Messrs. Dixon and Williams should constitute himself a missionary in the good cause and endeavor to win over those who are lukewarm or are not acquainted with the urgent necessity for leaving the old parties and joining the new. With the country flooded with Chinamen and the Japanese coming in by the steamer load, the workingman may well consult his conscience and ask himself if he is going to see the white race brought down to the level of coolies and eventually driven out of employment. A grave responsibility rests upon every toiler who has a vote at this time. What is going to be done about it? We have supported candidates right along who made specious promises to restrict the influx of Asiatics and to bring in other legislation calculated to remedy the evils under which the working classes suffer. And what have they accomplished? The statute books of the Province tell of opportunities neglected—and of gross negligence—their pages are blank so far as relief for the masses is concerned. Their duty then is to elect men from their own ranks, in whom they have confidence, who will not be swayed by monopolists and capitalists, and who will take a firm stand, never wavering until they have succeeded in accomplishing the objects they seek. Messrs. Dixon and Williams are such

men, and in voting for them results may be expected to be achieved of a highly satisfactory character. The workingman has been fooled long enough, it is time for him to recognize the situation and act accordingly. When he goes to the ballot box he will be consulting his own interests and those of his wife and family, to say nothing of the general prosperity and enlarged advancement of the country, by exercising his franchise in support of the candidates of the Independent Labor Party.

DIXON AND WILLIAMS.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S MEETING.
Notwithstanding the counter-attraction in the Market Hall, where the Hon. J. C. Brown and the Government candidates held forth, the meeting in the Central Committee Rooms of the Independent Labor party on Saturday night last was a pronounced success. The place was filled with enthusiastic advocates of the good cause, and it was a pleasure to note that organized and unorganized labor stood on the same platform, determined to carry the standard-bearers of the united party on to certain victory. The speeches were all couched in excellent taste, and exhibited that feeling of assurance which goes a long way to

accomplish triumphs. General Roberts announced to a day the date of occupation of Mafeking, and so filled his troops with hope and confidence and enabled the gallant besieged to withstand trials that fall to the fate of few men. The speakers at the meeting of the Independent Labor party, on the occasion referred to, in a similar manner, and in no uncertain tones, made it clear that on the ninth day of June the Labor candidates, Messrs. Dixon and Williams, would occupy seats in the Legislative Assembly of this Province, the free gift of the workmen of the city. The standard-bearers spoke earnestly and forcibly, not indulging in idle rhodomontade, but enunciating the principles which dominate Unionism and labor generally. They both made a fine impression and received the well earned plaudits of their hearers. The other gentlemen who spoke did so in a similar vein, confident that the step taken, after mature deliberation, to place candidates of the workingmen in the field, was devised by wise heads whose sole aim is to elevate the condition of those who are of themselves and to forward the best interests of the country. It only remains for the supporters of the two doughty champions to work untiringly until the close of polling day to bring about such a reform in our political methods as will be heard in the ranks of labor throughout Canada and over the American continent, with rejoicing and gratitude.

Vote for

Williams

and

Dixon

Independent

Labor

Candidates