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Stalberg Grocery  
Sinclair Grocery  
Rucker Avenue Grocery  
Superior Grocery

# Free-for-all Column

## Discuss It Here.

(As short as you please but not longer than four hundred words. Policies and principles but no personalities. Sign your articles.)

### Direct Action.

Editor Commonwealth:  
Will you allow me space in the columns of your paper for a protest against getting the socialist party filled with men who believe in so-called "direct action"—which is individualism in the extreme and not any part of socialism? I am finding more and more that the advocates of "direct action" instead of political action, are taking out red cards and influencing the action and plans of the locals. It seems to me that we are in danger of turning the progress of socialism backward if we do not guard against this tendency.

If the workers permit themselves to be led astray after this false method of solving their class struggle, the time is not far distant when after a reign of terror, some blood-drunk twentieth century Napoleon will give the masses a "whiff of grape" and the freedom of the working class will be delayed for centuries.

The work of the last quarter of a century in education, propaganda and the use of the ballot, is in danger of being lost by an appeal to the ignorance and passions of men.

If we are forced to fight, let it be by enemies of a legal majority at the polls, and not by the blinded folly of men of the McNamara way of winning labor's battles.

"Direct action" is a tool of the capitalists who are almost invariably of an anarchistic mold of mind, and in no sense is or ever can be a part of socialism.

The greatest danger to socialism today is that our party may become filled with men of the anarchistic mode of thought, who do not understand socialism, but who join the party simply because of discontent with the world as it is.

Education, then more education, is the need of the hour.

Yours for a POLITICAL revolution,  
W. R. PARR,  
Granite Falls, Wash.

### OUR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Editor Commonwealth:  
Have the socialists of this state any definite constructive policy for the betterment of our schools? Isn't the fundamental principle of our school system the development of intelligent citizenship?

Are our schools at the present time fulfilling their mission in this respect? Did the study of algebra and Latin ever yet develop an intelligent voting king?

Isn't it a fact that our high school graduates show less intelligence on all industrial, economic and political questions than boys from the work shops?

I tell you that under socialism our glorious and time-honored school system will get a mighty jolting up as sure as there's a God in heaven.

J. C. MCKEE,  
Rosedale, Wash.

## Charity

(Continued from Page One.)

You have voted for an army to defend that law—may you have even fought in such an army.

You have voted to have that little daughter of your class destroy her lungs during long hours in the lint-laden air of the textile mills.

You have voted through the hands of the owner of your job, the wealth you have produced, into the treasury of the A. I. C. P., freely translated into Asses, Idiots, Cutthroats and Philanthropists. There, you have the whole family, and we drop the usual descriptive word as being too hopelessly tame. But if you want to repudiate your blood relationship with them, stop voting for them.

Rub from your eyes the gloom of the mine. Straighten your back from the pick. Clear from your brain the din of the mill. Think.

The primal curse of labor remember no more. That wonderful machine of your making has lifted the curse.

Remains now the private ownership of the land and the machine to blight the lives of the sons of Adam.

Vote for the social ownership of that machine. Be one with your class. We have the men—we lack but the common mind. We have the power—we lack but the purpose. Give us the light and we will get the law.

In some humble hall or in several of them, in every considerable city of the country, assemble once weekly in their socialist locals, the awakened workers.

They carry in their pockets the red certificates of their membership in the working class army.

Through their hearts pulses the red blood of the common life, typified by the color of their party card and the color of their party flag.

Disagreeing in many things, they are a unit in their demand for the social ownership and democratic control of the means of life.

Their spirits stir to a world-wide impulse for working class political unity, for working class control of the law and all that is administered thereunder.

Old and young are there, quick to the

call of courage from Germany, from China, from Mexico—from the ends of the earth, wherever the battle for free opportunity to get bread is waged.

They are not despoilers of men. They stand in no favored relation to despoilers of men. They therefore have not five dollars with which to buy a ticket to a charity ball—but they have twenty-five cents each month to pay into the treasury of a socialist local. A little from each, in time, in money, that is all that the workers command to give.

They are organized to establish industrial justice. When their task has been accomplished, there will be no need for charity.

Worker, you need that socialist organization and it needs you. Get into the game!

### GERMAN SOCIALIST REPUBLIC IN 1913.

"A story is being circulated in our periodicals how William I. of Germany, before he became emperor, visited an aged Norwegian on his ninetieth birthday. The aged man was supposed to be gifted in "mystical lore," and William asked him if he would ever be emperor of Germany. He was told that he would. "When?" asked the ambitious prince. "Putting down the date of the revolution of Prussia, 1849, he added the numbers 1, 8, 4, 9, and reached the date 1871. This came true at the close of the Franco-Prussian war. Next the prince asked how long he should live. Commencing with the date 1871, the seer added 1, 8, 7, 1, and had 1888, the year that William I. died. Unsatisfied with this, William asked how long the empire would last. Using 1888 as the beginning date, he added 1, 8, 8, 8, and reached 1913. We await the date."

In the light of the recent election returns in the German empire the above prophecy becomes interesting. Of course, the socialists throughout the world knew that the German comrades would make a tremendous leap ahead. They gained 21 seats in the reichstag.—M. H.

### NOW FOR THE X-RAYS.

Science is trying to demonstrate that the brain, in order to produce ideas, must receive impressions from the outside.

The brain of the average capitalist editor seems to corroborate this theory. His brain is encased in an impregnable vault made of stubborn prejudice, hardened conservatism and the most fanatical bigotry.

Custom and tradition have literally caused the joints in the vault to grow together, and for anything resembling a live impression to penetrate into this cavern of gloom is so inconceivable that we may discard the idea as chimerical.

And, even if an impression, through some wonderful miracle, should find its way into that dismal wilderness, the chances are that it would die of loneliness before it could reach a state of development that would entitle it to be classified as an idea, even of the most primitive kind.

Had all the missiles and shells hurled into Port Arthur by the Japanese been as many pointed facts, and had they all been directed against the troglodyte editor's head, they would not have caused even a slight temporary jar.

The capture of this Gibraltar of mental obtuseness would therefore seem to be a task well calculated to stagger the timid and cause even the strongest to stand aghast.

I would suggest that we obtain a battery of X-rays and with it make a careful examination of the troglodyte editor's brain. If it is at all likely that this stagnant mass would respond to any impression from the outside, we should procure a supply of diamond drills and go to work. We should work night and day, Sundays included, running three eight-hour shifts. As the physical part of the work will be extremely exhausting, it may be well to change crews frequently.

Whatever else we neglect, let us introduce some method into this branch of propaganda work. Let us cease this indiscriminate waste of time, energy and material.

EDWARD H. ERICKSON,

Sherman said war is hell. It is Wall street's rueful opinion that the Sherman Law and the Sherman definition of war are not very far apart.—New York Evening Post.

## Special Prices



—On—  
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OUR HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY.  
By Carl Ulonska.  
One of the strangest things which happens in our high school library is the mysterious disappearance of all socialist literature.  
The International Socialist Review and several copies of the Socialist Lyceum course were left in the library last week. The Lyceum course pamphlet stayed for several days and was read no doubt by many of the students, and the Review which was left in the library last Wednesday night mysteriously disappeared Friday night.  
Strange to say "The Outlook" (Roosevelt's pet magazine) and all other magazines and papers remained—yes, all but the socialist magazines and periodicals, and these took flight in some strange manner.  
Whether or not the students of the high school crave socialist literature and become so much absorbed in our magazines that they take them home, I do not know.  
Why don't they take "The Outlook" home? I wonder why?  
Mr. Carnegie says he would like to have built a reporter. If he had he would not be out \$225,000,000 in philanthropies.—Detroit News.  
The card "Boy Wanted," had been swinging from the window of a publishing house only a few minutes when a red-headed little tad climbed to the publisher's office with the sign under his arm.  
"Say, mister," he demanded of the publisher, "did youse hang out this here 'Boy Wanted' sign?"  
"I did," replied the publisher sternly.  
"Why did you tear it down?"  
"Back of the freckles the youngster was gazing in wonder at the man's stupidity.  
"Hully gee!" he blurted, "Why, I'm the boy!"  
And he was.  
The pension trouble is easily understood when you consider that there are 25,687 enrolled pension-attorneys.—Houston Post.  
Only a fool knows he is always right.  
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