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### THE ONE-EYED IS KING.

By Bruce Rogers.  
In the rich folk-lore of Andalusia there is a quaint saying that "in the Land of the Blind the One-eyed is king." It is to say that he who understands the least is best fitted. The socialist's comprehension of public affairs is his armor and shield. He despises rain-bows of promise and the delusions of hope. He knows the public press is a journalistic bawd whose abominations

would shame the apocalyptic whore of Babylon. He holds at naught the miserable moralities of the pious-peddler and is not concerned about "a happy land far away."

He interprets disturbances in the social order most accurately, because, back of his philosophy is the profound learning and logic of all the exact sciences.

He analyzes the doings of men in the light of the doctrine that we follow that thing which we conceive to promise us most substantial good.

Under a principle which he has discovered in the capitalist system of production, known in the socialist books as the law of surplus value, he can tell you why ever so often the wheels of industry must stop, the factories shut down when men do want for the very means of comfort and life, and why when the bosom of bounteous mother earth is swollen and taut with plenty, yet must the little bellies of children be pinched and shrunk, and of wildfowl hunger stalk the abject and smite with wretchedness the laughing eyes of the innocents who dwell in the places of the evil smells.

His notion of the struggle for existence is a true accounting for the fact that the beautiful daughters of toiling sires must be fed like the maid Andromeda into the insatiate maw of the world's chief monster, and the scarlet door mark the beginning of their joyless journey adown a tortuous and mis-anemic path to the porter's field.

The socialist is an incessant reader of books.

Open at least One Eye!

"Boy, take these flowers to Miss Bertie Bohoo, Room 12."

"My, sir, you're the fourth gentleman wot's sent her flowers today."

"What's that? What the deuce? W-who sent the others?"

"Oh, they didn't send any names. They all said, 'She'll know where they come from.'"

"Well, here, take my card, and tell her these are from the same one who sent the other three boxes."—TIT-BITS.

If the devil should lose part of his tail where would he go to get it repaired? To the tailor. Why? There is where they retail spirits.

### I AM THE PRINTING PRESS.

I am the printing press, born of the mother earth. My heart is of steel, my limbs are of iron, and my fingers are of brass.

I sing the songs of the world, the oratorios of history, the symphonies of all time.

I am the voice of today, the herald of tomorrow. I weave into the warp of the past the woof of the future. I tell the stories of peace and war alike.

I inspire the human heart beat with passion or tenderness. I stir the pulse of nations, and make brave men do braver deeds and soldiers die.

I inspire the midnight toiler, weary at his loom, to lift his head again and gaze, with fearlessness, into the vast beyond, seeking the consolation of a hope eternal.

When I speak, a myriad of people listen to my voice. The Anglo-Saxon, the Celt, the Hun, the Slav, the Hindu, all comprehend me.

I am the tireless clarion of the news. I cry our joys and sorrows every hour. I fill the dullard's mind with thoughts uplifting. I am light, knowledge and power. I epitomize the conquests of mind over matter.

I am the record of all things mankind has achieved. My offspring comes to you in the candle's glow, amid the dim lamps of poverty, the splendor of riches; at sunrise, at high noon, and in the waning evening.

I am the laughter and tears of the world, and I shall never die until all things return to the immutable dust.

I am the printing press.—Machinists' Journal.

### IS THIS AMERICAN?

How the Catholic potentates love the public schools. Attending them may send the little one to eternal punishment (according to a bishop). The archbishop of Cincinnati in a letter to clergy and church members says:

"As the obligation of sending children to the Catholic schools is very important, it follows that failing to comply with it, being a mortal sin, is matter for confession. Parents therefore who deliberately omit to accuse themselves of this sin do not make an entire confession, and not consequently receive the sacrament of penance sacrilegiously.

The foregoing regulations hold good also in the case of guardians. Children who, by importuning their parents, go to non-Catholic schools, should not be absolved nor allowed to receive holy communion unless they promise to ask their parents to allow them to return to the Catholic school."

How interesting relics of mediaeval times are, yet they sometimes are in the way! They are all right in a museum, but not in a busy American home where the open mind and search for knowledge is not oppressed by the threat of an old man living and thinking as they did in the long ago.—Hope.

How sweet is charity! How we all long to be objects of charity! How nice it would be to have the church society send around a Christmas dinner to keep one from starving. If we had been kept alive by charity how we should boast of it to our children and our grand children. "Come, gather 'round my knee," grandmother would say, "and I'll tell of the time when we were on the telly, long ago, when grandma's hair was flaxen and grandma's check was waxen."

Along about January the melon crop will be ripe. Not the fruit, juicy melons of the field, but the nice green by capitalism. While millions are in want, or in fear of poverty, a few men will divide up millions of money, fleeced from labor. The pitiful part of it is that these extra dividends, known as melons, will do very little good to those who receive them. Yet thousands of work- ingmen are poor simply because they have been robbed in the pay envelope, getting only a small part of what they produced. The Laekawanna railroad al- ready this fall has divided among stock- holders an extra dividend of 35 per cent.—Otto McFeeley in Hope.

"And so many men believe it that but few will dare deny, That the women is man's creature, to caress or crucify; That her altar is the cradle and the kitchen is her throne, That in fact her highest virtue is to there remain—unknown. It is not much to his credit that a man should choose as mate, And as mother of his children one un- worthy his estate; Yet this is his confession when he dares deny his wife, The rights he deems essential to his liberty and life."

A business man said one day after borrowing his office boy's knife: "How is it, Tommy, that you alone, out of all my large office staff, always have your knife with you?" "I guess," the boy replied, "it's be- cause my wages are so low I can't af- ford more than one pair of pants."—Coming Nation.

What is the difference between a school master and an engineer? One minds the train and the other trains the mind.

### FALSE MILWAUKEE TATTLINGS.

By Carl Sandburg.

Little Willie Bolenweke, city hall re- porter for the Milwaukee Sentinel, has written the Los Angeles Times five col- umns of words about Milwaukee social- ists.

Out of these five columns, about four columns are guff and the rest everybody knows.

Willie has spilled the ink in a most careless way. He says the socialists promised free text books in their plat- form, also one free meal a day to needy school children, also a municipal stone quarry, also abolition of the contract system on public work. And says Willie, none of these things have been done.

Now, the small, shriveled size of Wil- lie's bump of veracity becomes apparent as the real facts about these measures are brought out.

1. A bill providing for free text books was introduced and supported by the so- cialists in the Wisconsin legislature. But it was suffocated by republicans and buried by democrats.

2. The county board of outdoor re- lief consists of five men, one appointed each year. The socialist minority on this board voted to appropriate \$5,000 for the feeding of underfed school chil- dren. The measure was blocked by the "individualist" majority. The matter has been given no consideration by the city's school board, which is anti-social- ist.

3. The common council committee having the matter in charge has reduced all the proposed quarry sites to three. Stone as to the quality and quantity of tests are nearing conclusion, and the purchase and establishment of a municipal quarry will become an accomplished fact this winter, \$10,000 having been set aside in the 1911 budget for pre- liminary payment.

4. In March, 1911, Commissioner Briggs of the public works department, presented to the common council a re- port made to him by C. A. Mullen, su- perintendent of street construction. This report set forth a plan by which the city should do its own paving. The first necessary step was the purchase of an asphalt plant requiring \$42,000. To get this money, a three-fourths vote of the council was needed. The minority aldermen explained that the plan looked good to them, but they were afraid of its legality. It is true that some of the things demanded in the socialist platform have not been attained, it is also true that every step possible toward the attainment of those demands has been taken. We have kept the plat- form promises should have meaning.

Little Willie-with-the-Highbrow, how- ever, will keep on sending out guff and false tattlings about Milwaukee. That is his job, and he thinks he has to live by that kind of a job.

### THE MIDDLEMAN.

The necessities of life are high. The housewife has the best evidence of this fact given her every day when she goes to the retail grocer to buy foods for the table. What has caused the increased cost of a lot of these food articles, such as coffee, dried fruits, nuts, dried beans and salmon? Those who are well posted know it is not the increased cost of pro- duction or the increased consumption.

In comparing a few of the daily necessities of food products, the expert is tak- ing as a basis the cost about ten or twelve years ago. All coffee is sold or graded from a standard of what is known as Rio No. 7. About ten years ago this standard Rio No. 7 was selling at about 6 cents a pound. Today the wholesale grocer is paying 16 cents a pound green and this same coffee roasted would mean a cost of 22 cents a pound. The production of coffee has just about kept up with the consumption.

This natural condition governing the price of coffee is due to the manipula- tion of the Brazilian government and moneyed interests. How long it will last no one can say, as the supply and demand must govern prices of coffee, as it does everything, and there is sure to be a "shump" in coffee values, but it may not come until the valorization scheme of the Brazilian government ends, which is the year 1919.

"Middleman" Is Blamed.  
California nuts of all grades were worth from 33 1-3 per cent to 50 per cent less ten years ago; dried fruits about 50 per cent less; dried beans about 25 per cent less; canned fish, salmon, in 1896 was worth 75 cents a dozen, today \$1.50 a dozen, showing an in- crease on this one article of 100 per cent.

The producer of these actual neces- sities has not received the benefit of these abnormal advances in prices. The whole- sale grocer is compelled in assembling these goods to pay the advance and to sell them as heretofore on the well- known close margin of his profit.

Then who gets these unnatural profits and who is responsible for these unnat- ural conditions? We say, without fear of the "middle- man," an association of men who con- duct a "peculiar" business mostly in the state of California. These "middlemen" employ little or no capital in the plan they operate under. Money is furnished

by banks on contracts for the purchase of goods signed by wholesale grocers, all goods being shipped to the wholesale grocer with sight draft and must be paid for on delivery.

These "middlemen" have organized the nut grocers, the dried fruit producers and the salmon packers into associations. They then go to the wholesale grocer and say: "I will sell you so many bags of nuts or so many cans of prunes or raisins or so many thousands cases of salmon, subject to the opening price on each article as made by the association governing that particular article."

These food products are sold in this manner many months before grown, and the wholesale grocer, owing to the close combination existing in California, has been forced to buy them under this plan. If the wholesale grocer refuses to fall in line and buy those goods six months be- fore grown, that wholesale grocer, to his sorrow, finds that he often is short on these goods and can not supply the re- tail grocer, and thereby loses the sale not only of these articles, but of many others.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

Away back east, where socialists are thick as fleas, there is an editor who is strongly anti-socialist simply because some of the ranker, fanatical socialists have jumped on him with demands that are senseless and unreasonable. This editor for many years was a practicing little print-shop, and is doing his dar- est to squelch the socialist party in his section—right at the heart of the Ap- eal's stronghold, in Crawford county, Kansas. I received a copy of his paper, The Arcadia (Kansas) Sunlight, and in it he scored an editorial appearing in my paper, The Weekly Searchlight. In reply, I sent him a letter, in which I stated a few of the things in which we socialists believe, without using any of the rough, unpolished language customarily addressed to him.

My letter was a long one, but he gave it space in his paper, using practically all of the first page for it and his reply. He agreed with the doctrines of social- ism in his editorial utterances, but re- fuses to be bulldozed into joining him- self with the Haywood clan, because he can see no reason for direct, militant action. That, in detail, is really his only objection to the socialist party. I am glad to agree with a copy of his paper, "Socialism Made Plain," which he has promised to read impartially.

I do not wish to knock, but I am firmly convinced that the only methods that may profitably be employed with a great mass of intelligent people to gain their support is a peacable, common-sense thing savoring of industrial worker- ism—is as a red rag to a bull. It mad- dens them, and gains no respect.

As Charles Edward Russell says, "Every normal man is a socialist," and it needs only to be a socialist, to be right in order to get a hearing.

Comrades, I am making an appeal to you to mix a little sense in with your tirades against the system. Post your- selves thoroughly on the plans and prin- ciples of the party, then you may go ahead with your work of propagation without fear of being stamped or of re- ceiving a figurative black eye.

To broach the subject of socialism to a man, to get him interested, and then be unable to answer his questions is worse than to leave him alone.

Try it on the next man you wish to convert, and see if a little application of the law of kindness will not make him a socialist quicker than a stick of dynamite with the fuse lighted would make him an angel. Try it! That's all. GUY RUSSELL BAY.

All members of the Commonwealth Purchasers' League are requested to turn in their January cards. Delnah Her- bert, Secy.

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