

# The Commonwealth

FOR SOCIALIST NEWS AND PROPAGANDA.

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## Murderous Plot Foiled

ARMED THUGS LIE IN WAIT WHILE AGENTS OF THE BOSSES, AND POLICE ATTEMPT TO START TROUBLE.

Once more a dastardly attempt to murder defenceless workmen has been checked by the prompt and cool-headed action of officials of the I. W. W.

On Thursday, July 31, the "pick-and-shovel artists" on the streets of Sedro-Woolley went out on strike.

Their initial demand was that they be paid the wage agreed upon when they commenced the work. They had been promised two-fifty per day and the boss wanted to pay them off at two-forty.

Every man on the job quit except five Turks; but as they were getting \$2.75 they refused to quit.

Not being members of any kind of a labor organization, and never having been in a strike before, they were of course somewhat "green," but they had good judgment, however, to come to the I. W. W. for help. The secretary of the Loggers' Local No. 318 gave them all the assistance in his power. Hand bills were gotten out advertising the strike. These were mailed to the secretaries of the I. W. W. locals in all of the large towns of the Northwest, also all incoming trains were picketed and the result was almost a complete tieup.

The secretaries in the various towns must have done their work pretty well for after two days spent in Seattle and Tacoma hunting for scabs the "boss" returned with just four. And only one of these could speak any English. As soon as the new arrivals were made acquainted with the situation they were perfectly willing to "come out" with the bunch. All other methods of breaking the strike having failed, violence was attempted, but as the strikers were perfectly peaceable this was rather a hard matter to stage.

After some days of this kind of thing the secretary noticed that some of the strikers were drinking pretty freely, though they were not supposed to have any money; also noticed that they were fraternizing a lot with certain persons of rather questionable character.

Feeling that something was not right he sent in a hurry-up call for help. In answer to this call the writer hastened to Woolley on the next train. I found the strikers in an ugly mood. They were determined to make the tie-up complete by running the five scabs out of town. They were very enthusiastic over the matter. They told me that "THE WHOLE TOWN WAS BEHIND THEM." They said that any number of "business men" and other "prominent citizens" had promised them help. They even told me that the chief of police had promised not to interfere. These stories were repeated to me so often and with so much vehemence that I was compelled to believe that they were true.

I lost no time in telling them to cut it out. I pointed out to them that the I. W. W. positively would not sanction any such procedure. I showed them that in all probability the whole thing was a "frame-up" for the purpose of getting the strikers into trouble.

## HOW TO READ THE CAPITALIST PAPERS

Skip the front page with its glaring and deceivng headlines, its two-column record of the marriage of the daughter of old Gotrocks, to the empty headed and pocketed Duke of Dinkeyville.

Pass over the daily record of crime, disease and disaster, most of which is caused by the very system the lying sheet upholds.

Glance at the editorial page just to satisfy yourself that its editor is a white slave and a mental prostitute, turn over five or six pages (so as to skip the society slush and the patent ads) and there, away off in an obscure corner you may find a small item of news that is really worth while. Of course you can not always find it, for quite often there is none to find. In either case you have to read more between the lines than there is on them.

Really the best way to read a capitalist sheet is not to read it at all but put your money into the Socialist and labor papers and thus make sure of getting all the real news.

## THIS MEANS YOU

Now what we want to know is, do you really want to better the intolerable conditions under which you live? Do you know why such a vast majority of people submit uncomplainingly to conditions that a savage would revolt against? Well now, read this carefully. The worker of today, like his ancestor, the serf and chattle slave of the past, has been hypnotized. He has been told that he is free, that he is an

uncrowned king, a voting sovereign, the silent partner of his big brother, the capitalist, etc.

Of course you know better, but you will have to submit to the same treatment that your hypnotized brother does until the spell is broken. The question is, how to break the spell.

That is easy. Give him a home remedy. Get him to subscribe for the Commonwealth. We'll transform him from an humble slave into a stand-up, straight revolutionist. Try it; get him to subscribe at once.

By holding them in the hall until after 12 p. m. I got them cooled down so they dispersed peaceably. If the "broadcloth mob" could have kept their stool pigeons and thugs sober this would probably have ended the affair, for there was no proof of any crookedness. But stool pigeons will talk when they are drunk, and acting upon hints gathered in this way an investigation was begun in a quiet way that has brought to light one of the most cold-blooded attempts to commit wholesale murder that I have ever been personally cognizant of. According to the evidence thus secured it appears that at the very time the strikers were being ribbed up to go and start trouble with the scabs an armed mob was laying in ambush for them, ready, presumably, to shoot them down to the last man. While the strikers were being made to believe that the police were not going to interfere, THE WHOLE POLICE FORCE OF SEDRO-WOOLLEY WERE LODGED IN THE SAME BUILDING WHERE THE SCABS WERE HERDED, and according to one authority "they stayed there ALL NIGHT." That there was any plot, or that there was any desire on the part of any one to do more than preserve the peace will of course be denied; but to one in the least familiar with such things it can never appear as anything else than a deliberate attempt to incite the strikers to violence so that they might be murdered with a shadow of legality. It is almost incredible that "Christian gentlemen" in the twentieth century would even harbor a thought of such a proceeding. A reason for this proceeding might possibly be found in the fact that the I. W. W. and Socialists of Sedro-Woolley hold title to some very valuable property, and certain interests are very desirous of getting it away from them.

The Labor Temple property is worth approximately SIX THOUSAND dollars. On this property there is a mortgage of about five hundred dollars, interest and all. For several months there has been a persistent attempt to disrupt the Socialist local, with the evident intent of making it impossible for them to meet their share of the mortgage. I am sorry to say that this attempt has almost succeeded, and WILL SUCCEED if the comrades don't wake up and tend to their knitting. The same tactics have been tried with the I. W. W. but they won't work worth a cent; and we refuse to "disrupt" and now the only hope of getting rid of the I. W. W. is to get them involved in some kind of trouble and get them run out of town, a la Kernel Blather.

Comrades! A bunch of people that would deliberately plot to get peaceable strikers into a riot so they could murder and drive the organization that is backing them out of town, just for the sake of getting possession of a few dollars worth of property, will do anything that the human mind can conceive of in the way of crime.

It is up to you! Will they succeed, or will they not?

JOHN McSLARROW.

## Shipley - Goldman Debate

### Liberty Hall, Sunday, 8:00 p. m.



MISS EMMA GOLDMAN, THE TALENTED AND WORLD RENOWNED EXPONENT OF ANARCHY, WILL DEBATE WITH PROF. MAYNARD SHIPLEY, OF INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION IN SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL FIELDS.

QUESTION—  
RESOLVED, THAT THE BALLOT AND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION ARE NOT NECESSARY TO WORKING CLASS EMANCIPATION.

THIS IS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THE REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO GREAT SOCIAL PHILOSOPHIES. YOU CAN THEN LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANARCHISM AND SOCIALISM AND DECIDE FOR YOURSELF AS TO WHETHER ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION MAY BE HAD BY THE BALLOT OR BY FIGHTING FOR IT.

THESE TWO UNCOMPROMISING DEFENDERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PHILOSOPHIES DEBATED THIS QUESTION IN JEFFERSON SQUARE HALL, SAN FRANCISCO TO A CROWDED HOUSE. EACH FEELS AS THOUGH THE OTHER MET DEFEAT. THIS WILL BE A CHAMPIONSHIP DEBATE. A CHANCE LIKE THIS COMES BUT ONCE IN A LIFETIME IN A CITY THE SIZE OF EVERETT.

Prof. Maynard Shipley was one of two men in the United States who was invited to write a paper on the Indeterminate Sentence, the same to be used as a basis of discussion at the International Prison Congress, held in Washington, D. C., 1910. His articles on criminology, economic and historical jurisprudence have appeared in the foremost legal and scientific magazines of Europe and America.



ADMISSION 25 CENTS.

## Arlington School Controversy

RIDICULOUS, ABSURD AND FLIMSY CHARGES FILED WITH COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT JONES—CHARGES TO BE LAID BEFORE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Howling Dervishes of Arlington, in an effort to secure its revocation of the aid of such political and official stimulants as they can procure, are still rousing themselves to a higher and higher degree of fanatical frenzy. As the time draws nearer for Comrade Sinclair to begin his duties as principal of the Garfield school, their fury is something pitiful to behold.

Bounded on every hand by the state laws of their own making, they are making frantic appeals and exhortations in the hope that a higher power will come to their aid and prevent the object of their venomous wrath from teaching school in their midst.

The Arlington Chronicle is out with one-half front page besides other matter scattered throughout the paper dealing with the school question. It is reported that "evidence is being collected at various points touching upon the activities of J. H. Sinclair, principal of Garfield school at Arlington and secretary of the educational bureau of the Socialist party, formed for the purpose of capturing school boards in this state and installing only teachers of class-conscious Socialism, and this will be presented to the state board of education sometime in the near future in conjunction with an attack upon the certificate of the teach-

## THE FETICH OF FLAG WORSHIP

The following editorial by Victor L. Berger, appearing in the Social-Democratic Herald, strikes home and if our political-business buncombe patriots would read something of this sort they would emerge their heads in a bucket of sealing wax long enough to let the idea take root, we would likely hear less of their wild vapors on the flag and patriotism.

"The proletarians in general are patriotic in the highest sense. They not only build the cities, railways and workshops, but they also protect them against fire and flood. And it is the working class that furnishes the soldiers, or at least the overwhelming majority of them. It is the working class that has to do the fighting, although they have nothing to do with the declaration of war.

"If the railroad managers and the bankers and the capitalists should have to do their own fighting, a war would not last long.

"And it is no more than right that the workingman as a whole should love their country as a whole. They will inherit it as soon as they make

use of their brains for themselves. They have created these cities with their magnificent palaces, museums, libraries, art institutions, schools, etc., and by right these belong to them, and not to the capitalists.

"This brilliant culture of our country—art, education and literature—is by right an inheritance of the white race.

"And a nation that will own its country again will be a nation that will have a real reason to become patriotic again. And I hope that America will be among the first.

"The flag fetich is silly when it is not hypocritical. And it is hypocritical when it is not silly.

"It is a remnant of feudal barbarism, when it represented the feudal allegiance of the vassal to the 'coat of arms' of his lord—usually emblematic of some carnivorous beast or some bird of prey.

"I despise every fetich. The green flag of the prophet Mohamet, or of Ireland is as dear to me as the red flag of the Socialists or the star-spangled banner. A flag is a piece of dry goods that one can buy for 75 cents in any department store.

It is the idea that is behind it that

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Emma Goldman will lecture at Liberty Hall Sunday, 2:30 p. m., subject, "Love and Marriage."

## STRIKING HOP PICKERS BRUTALLY MURDERED

### WHILE PEACEFULLY ASKING FOR BETTER SANITARY CONDITIONS ARE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD.

Seventeen hundred men and six hundred women working in the Durst hop fields near Wheatland, Cal., were provided with six small toilets.

Scattered thickly throughout the fields were low tents made of gunny sacks or primitive shelters of rough lumber thrown together in the shape of an army tent. From the whole grew a stench that would rival Andersonville prison. In the morning from ten to twenty women could be seen waiting in line before each toilet.

Against these intolerable conditions and for an increase of pay a committee representing 2,000 strikers waited upon the owner. The owner asked for time to consider and at the expiration of the time answered the strikers with a sheriff's armed force that killed one and mortally wounded four of the workers.

All but about 200 of the strikers left the Durst fields. Not an I. W. W. was found in the whole camp, although the authorities tried to lay the blame for the whole disturbance on I. W. W. agitators.

## PAPER MILL GIVES PICNIC.

Last Saturday the wage slaves of the paper mill at Lowell were given their second annual free picnic. Two hundred chickens besides an unlimited amount of pop, peanuts, popcorn, candy, chewing gum, etc., were gratuitously distributed among the faithful workers who help the pious John D. to amass still greater wealth. Of course these picnics are given to the worker from the lofty sentiment of brotherly love. The idea of keeping the workers satisfied with their lot and having their minds kept free from the pernicious teaching of the I'll-double-dub-you never enters the head of the boss. We understand that the management of the paper mill was somewhat put out by the way the Commonwealth commented upon the picnic last year. We have tried to tone our comments down a little this time.

The suppressed play, "The Colonel and His Friends," for sale at the Commonwealth and Socialists meetings, 25c per copy. First 50 copies went like wildfire.

Prof. Maynard Shipley's regular Sunday night lecture will be put over one date.

## SOCIALIST ENCAMPMENT ATTENDED BY 10,000

Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 6.—The largest political meeting ever held in southern Oklahoma took place today when Kate Richards O'Hare, American secretary to the International Socialist Bureau, and one of the national organizers of the Socialist party, opened the encampment of the Socialist party of this state at Sulphur Springs. The encampment marks the first in a series of thirty. By a conservative estimate, there were 10,000 persons in the crowd that came to listen to the Socialist speakers. Seven hundred covered wagons, resembling the prairie-schooners of the gold rush days, are in camp here.

## KICKER'S COLUMN.

One of the great advantages of the commission form of city government is the ease with which the tracks from the seat of government to the offices of big business are covered up.

The defenders of this form of government used to bring out as one of their main arguments the point that you could always place your finger on the one who is to blame for any misuse of public funds or mismanagement of affairs. What the Commonwealth would like to know is, whether all this undercurrent of dissatisfaction which breaks out in a fierce denunciation of everything connected with commission government on the part of some of its formerly most enthusiastic defenders has any real foundation or not. Complaint is made that the columns of the daily press are closed to any criticism of the present city administration. The columns of the Commonwealth are not, provided you can back up your complaints with facts. We can place a copy of this publication in every home and office in short order. So now either come through or forever hold your peace.

## THE LITTLE RED BUTTON.

"Two mountains never meet but two men do," and when on the coat lapel of those two men one sees the little red button with the clasped hands of international comradeship and solidarity and notes the eyes grow bright and the kindly smile of those two brother warriors in the great battle for the common good one instinctively feels that after all life is worth the living. Really, comrade, there is nothing better to make you realize that you ARE alive and life IS good than to enlist under the little red banner and get into the fight for social betterment.

## BULLETIN OF THE SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL BUREAU

SOCIALISTS TO MAKE A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE STATE—STEPS BEING OUTLINED TO ESTABLISH STUDY CLUBS.

These bulletins are sent to every Socialist paper in the state that I have any reason to believe in alive. Possibly twenty thousand people read them. It costs the management of these papers real money to print and publish them week in and week out.

During the next twelve months you and I want to make a critical study of the schools. We want to touch on many educational topics that are rapidly forcing themselves upon the proletarian movement. We want discussion, even contradiction. In addition to the regular bulletin sent alike to each paper there will be special articles written by revolutionary teachers for exclusive publication, some in this paper and some in others.

Early in September outlines and suggestions for study club work will begin to run in all our party papers willing to print them. You will not want to miss any of this. This bureau has incurred the bitter hatred of the master class and that in itself is some proof of efficiency and power. Our bulletins are being read by our bitter foes. They do not miss a copy.

Now, here is what I want to say and to which all the above is mere prelude: See that the Socialist press of this state is supported. I want to talk to a hundred thousand people. Go out today and get first the Socialist voters and then the other fellows to subscribe for this paper. I am going to devote my best energies toward making thinking Socialists out of every reader and scores of other comrades will do likewise. The editor starves and ducks collectors every day of his life just because you fail to do your duty to the cause. He has more brains than any capitalist editor and can furnish better copy. You know this. Then help him make good. Cut the capitalist papers if you cannot support the working-class papers. Cut them anyhow. We want a daily out of this weekly. Help me make it a daily. Tell the teachers that we are going to publish educational articles. Get the subscription of every teacher and every school director and every parent. Then get the old maids and the bachelors. I haven't the nerve to keep on asking the editor to print these articles unless you dig in now. I'll write myself blind if you will boost our press. Start now.

J. E. SINCLAIR.

Nearly 1,000 persons gathered at Union Square, New York, to protest against the conditions which led to the recent factory fire at Binghamton, in which thirty-one working girls lost their lives.

## SOCIALIST ACTIVITY.

The following resolution, introduced by Paul Kennaday, former secretary of the American Association for Labor Legislation, was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that this mass meeting assembled in Union Square, Saturday, August 2, 1913, sees in the recent fire at Binghamton and in the conditions that permit in this city, two years after the Triangle fire, renewed proof that to secure the right to work without danger to life and health, the workers must rely upon themselves; and

"That in the failure to appoint a commissioner of labor to enforce the labor law, we see the placing of political advantage and personal patronage above the welfare of the people of this state, for which failure to protect us and to carry out campaign promises, we pledge ourselves to hold our representatives responsible."

W. F. RIES will speak at Liberty Hall Sunday, August 24, at 8:00 p. m.

## LECTURE

W. F. RIES

W. F. Ries will speak at Liberty Hall Sunday, August 24, at 8:00 p. m.