

The Commonwealth

FOR SOCIALIST NEWS AND PROPAGANDA.

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The Socialist Movement—The organization of the working class, politically and industrially, for the purpose of capturing the powers of government and instituting the working class as the ruling class.

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Socialists and Many Other Free Speech Fighters Excoriate Erratic Judge

SNAPSHOTS AT THE TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

Editor Commonwealth:
At the county teachers' institute held at Snohomish last week, generally speaking, it was quite democratic. Firms from "down east" were represented to exhibit their goods; literature advertising many articles from Beecham's pills to encyclopedias or automobiles, circulated freely among the teachers in attendance; home industries were not overlooked, as from print as well as from the rostrum a local church received its share of advertising.
On Thursday morning prior to the time of opening the session a young man, apparently of refinement and taste, entered the auditorium with a bundle of papers and at once began to pass them out to such as would accept the same. Probably no more than a score had been distributed before County Superintendent Jones was hot on his trail. Then it was that this certain young man received a good thrashing—tongue-thrashing.
The young man strictly obeyed the mandates of his superior and distributed no more papers, even at the earnest request of the writer. Not one would be given out at the institute but copies were promised by mail.
Supt. Jones gathered up a few copies of the papers thus distributed or such as had not been pocketed and as a hawk tears a chicken, tore them into scraps.
All this transpired in much less time than it takes to put it in cold type. Your correspondent never saw the young man before and did not even know his name. He was neatly attired, well groomed, was an intelligent face and having recently read, or rather re-read, "The Sky Pilot," the first impression was that he was endeavoring to distribute literature as a forerunner to the work of teaching his particular "ism" to the people of this neck of the woods and in sizing him up, our mind hurriedly scanned the culms from Holy Rollers to the established church. A fellow collaborator sitting near by volunteered the information, "That young man is Buchanan." "Tis said that sometimes lightning comes from the clear sky, and in such a case it is a surprise. The information thus rendered was a surprise. In a dog fight, our sympathies generally are with the under one and our curiosity being aroused, sought other information in regard to the case but in the desire for further information there soon came the mandate, "Nit," for as soon as the session opened, Supt. Jones declared from the rostrum that the institute was her institute and requested all not to read the papers which had been distributed until away from her institute. Being desirous of obeying those in authority, there was nothing else to do the remainder of the period but to sit and listen to a lady from California comment upon the administrative and resourceful qualities of women as compared with men.
After a long, very long time, intermission came and with it a chance to read a copy of the paper that had been so spitefully torn into scraps. But Buchanan refused to break his superior's orders, that is, of distributing further copies. A pretty schoolma'am, one of the prettiest in the county, kindly loaned a copy which had escaped the ravages of time, and going out on God's green carpet of grass, she hated, the troublesome article was perused.
After returning to the duties after intermission the paramount thought that rose was, why would not Supt. Jones give the under dog a chance?
A REPUBLICAN.

MINIMUM WAGE SCALE IS ADOPTED.

Portland, Ore.—Accepting without change the recommendations of a conference committee which investigated hours, wages, conditions of work, and cost of living of women employees of mercantile establishments the state industrial welfare commission has adopted the following ruling, which will become law in October:
Fixes a minimum wage of \$9.25 a week for adult women clerks who are not apprentices.
Defines 8 hours and 20 minutes as the maximum for a day's work and 50 hours as the maximum for a week.
Makes 6 p. m. the latest hour at which any woman may be employed on any day of the year.

In Fertile Yakima

YAKIMA HOMES BROKEN UP BY CAPITALISM.
Seattle, Wash., Sept. 29, 1913.
Dear Comrade Shipley:

The last issue of the Commonwealth contained an article on the "Joys of Horticulture in North Yakima." Allow me to endorse every word of it. To my own personal knowledge one "Jack Leg Lawyer" in North Yakima started foreclosure proceedings last spring on seventy-eight orchard tracts; and as in every town there are plenty of lawyers to multiply the seventy-eight, it has been stated that over two-thirds of these little fruit bananzas have been lost by the original owners. It is not fair to scoff at ignorance, yet it always tempts one to "chortle" at these vain attempts to beat the capitalist system.
In the Everett Herald of September 25, in the editorial section—a veritable African jungle of mental enslavement—occurs this sentence:
"The kind of settlers Washington wants is men who will create wealth, who will buy land, raise crops."
It does not penetrate the flint-encased brain box of an editor whose sheet has for years carried advertisements of the Yakima land hoop that the important end of the crop business is the selling end.
Let the merry game go on! Let thousands of "Heralds" obtain the money on the "sucker class" on false pretenses, and the day of reckoning will finally come.
In the meantime, comrade editor, you do well to expose the fake to the working class.
J. T. HAZARD.

PEONAGE AND THE PALOUSE.

(Joseph T. Heasard)
The broad hills and fertile valleys of Southeastern Washington, are spread with the rich soil of countless ages. Touched by the hand of man they team with a wealth of growing grain. The potential wealth of Dame Nature lures the poor homesteader to years of pining poverty.
Finally he secures a man made deed to the wealth stored up through the countless years of soil formation. Here trouble begins. It is necessary to "struggle fallow" eighty acres each year, leaving only eighty acres for a crop. Besides this the debts of the years of homesteading begin to press for payment. The homestead is lost, and a capitalist buys up surrounding homesteads until his broad acres bring easy wealth.
The original homesteader, the pioneer who suffered untold hardship and lonely waiting can work for him or move on.
But there enters the element that gives the Palouse wheat grower a richer graft than obtains in mad Mexico where the peon starves and slaves 365 days of the year or dies on one of them. Wheat raising requires little labor except at harvest time.
The Palouse farmer spends most of the year in Los Angeles or some other equally pleasant pasture for the good citizen taxpayer, while a wage-slave or richer the peon starves and slaves 365 days of the year or dies on one of them. Wheat raising requires little labor except at harvest time.
Harvest time comes and with it the owner. He collects college graduates and other bums (his name for them) to reap when he did not sow. He kicks eternally at his taxes and high wages.
And to think that the "Hombre" who owns the land in Mexico must support the peon year around, while the Palouse farmer can turn his over to other labor markets, until another year rolls around to the time of "Bringing in the Sheaves."
How unpatriotic of the Socialist to agitate for the collective ownership of the "Bonanza Farm."

MORE JUSTICE.

Five striking laundry girls were arrested in Cincinnati for carrying a banner that read: "Can a girl live on \$5 a week?"
The judge continued the case for a month and promised a dismissal if the girls refrained from further agitation.
Department stores are especially affected by this ruling as the 6 p. m. provision automatically eliminates shopping Saturday nights and the nights preceding Christmas holidays.

A GOOD IDEA.

If you should be one of the many readers of the COMMONWEALTH who feel that the paper is worthy of support, right now would be the very best time to buy a share of COMMONWEALTH stock, at \$5. We need the money badly, and the cause needs the paper. So why not get behind it with a little more substantial assistance?
Chicago—The cost of rearing children has advanced 40 per cent within the last ten years according to the annual report of the Chicago Nursery and half-orphan asylum. The statement shows \$191 would maintain a child for a year during the period of 1894 to 1903. From 1904 to the present this cost increased to \$140. From 1874 to 1883 the institution kept children at an annual cost of \$80.

WILL FIGHT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

Judge Oversteps Authority

Overstep Plan. To Make A Farce of His Authority.
In a scathing resolution full of sarcasm and open defiance of usurped judicial authority, the Socialists of Seattle, aided and abetted by earnest men and women of other political faiths, have boldly denied the right or power of the erratic Judge Humphries to prevent them from exercising their constitutional prerogatives of free speech.
The defiant resolution adopted last week at Dreamland pavilion warned Judge Humphries that they will "make a farce of his authority by a wholesale violation of his unlawful orders" if he should carry out his intention to sentence Kate Sadler and Millard Price, Socialists, for contempt of court for speaking at the Open Forum meeting recently in City Hall park.
The resolutions were signed by the Socialists of the various locals in Seattle, and were mailed to Judge Humphries.
At a meeting of the King county committee held last Sunday a motion was made and carried that the state executive committee be asked to take charge of the free-speech fight in Seattle, and to solicit funds and volunteers for same.
BRYAN CASE SHIFTED FROM JUDGE HUMPHRIES.
Damage Suit Against Blethen for \$50,000 To Be Taken to Another Court.
The \$50,000 damage case initiated by Congressman J. W. Bryan against Alden J. Blethen and the Times Printing company, was shifted from the court of Judge John E. Humphries to a judge yet to be assigned to it, through the filing of an affidavit of prejudice by the congressman.
The congressman charges that Judge Humphries is prejudiced against him, and that he cannot receive a fair and impartial trial in that department.
Bryan has filed three damage suits against the same defendants, aggregating \$250,000.
HOME BROKEN UP.
An Incident of the Free-Speech Struggle in Seattle.
Because they had dared to sign the resolution adopted at Dreamland pavilion condemning judicial tyranny, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Spencer, of 961 Thomas St., Seattle, were compelled by officers of the law to abandon to their fates four helpless little children, the oldest of whom is but nine years of age, while the youngest is just 17 months old.
An officer called at the Spencer residence at 7 p. m., and mother and father were taken to jail. A bachelor neighbor volunteered to take care of the children as best he could until their parents should be restored to their babies.
Owing to the furore created by this wholly unnecessary and unwarranted cruelty, the chief of police offered next day to allow the mother to return to her terror-stricken children on her husband's bail. This offer the heroic mother refused to accept, and before night again rolled around public sentiment had been so aroused that it was deemed good policy to release both parents.
Mr. and Mrs. Spencer are well-known pioneers of Mason county, and neither of them is affiliated with the Socialist party. But they believe in free speech and the right of public assembly, and are willing to fight for these fundamental rights.
Judge Humphries is making Socialists fast.
A GOOD IDEA.

GREAT CROWD AT DREAMLAND PAVILION PASSES RESOLUTIONS DENOUNCING JUDICIAL TYRANNY.

Whereas, Judge John E. Humphries has by his latest judicial action exceeded his previous limits of malevolent freakishness and puerile spite, which has up to the present time been a more or less amusing feature of his peculiar dementia, and has cited Kate Sadler and Millard Price, members of this organization, to appear before him to show cause why they should not be punished for contempt; and
Whereas, their alleged offense consists in nothing but the proper expression of their opinions in a public square, selected by the city council as a public forum;
Therefore, we believe that this spectacle of judicial braggadocio is beginning to pall on the public taste, and these maudlin antics having served their humorous purpose, we are not inclined to tolerate their extension to the hurt of our members.
Consequently we warn this judge that if he does not discontinue the unlawful persecution evinced by these contempt proceedings, we will declare him in CONTEMPT OF THE PEOPLE, and CONTEMPT OF THE PEOPLE, and will appeal for the support of our state officers, and will issue a subpoena nisi for volunteers to come to Seattle and aid the large number of those in this city, who have only tolerated this court's autocratic injunctions up to the present time, because of their limited scope. We are in favor of having recourse to the forms of law, when these forms are made at all responsive to the popular will, which is the only authority we recognize. When, however, judges seize powers never granted to them, and defy the power of the people to remove them, and there is no machinery provided for their recall, we will resort to the methods used by free-spirited people of all times to maintain the guarantees of our fundamental law.

HOW WE ARE RULED.

There are about 120 federal judges in the United States. With scarcely an exception they were corporation lawyers when they were put upon the bench.
Every one of these judges was placed where he is by the corporation influences which control this country. Every one of them holds office for life, and every one of them has the power to place the citizens of the republic in jail without a trial. All he has to do is to issue an injunction against them, order them to appear for contempt and cite them to jail. From his decision in such a proceeding there is no appeal.
We are today ruled by the federal judiciary and the federal judiciary is owned by the ruling class.
Would it not be perfectly foolish to expect these judges who owe their jobs to the plutocrats to decide important issues between the plutocrats and the people in the interest of the people?
Gentle reader, Thomas Jefferson knew what he was talking about when he denounced the federal judiciary as a corps of sappers and miners who would undermine the liberties of the people and destroy the republic—Appeal to Reason.

HIGH COST OF CHILDREN SHOWN BY STATISTICS.

Chicago—The cost of rearing children has advanced 40 per cent within the last ten years according to the annual report of the Chicago Nursery and half-orphan asylum. The statement shows \$191 would maintain a child for a year during the period of 1894 to 1903. From 1904 to the present this cost increased to \$140. From 1874 to 1883 the institution kept children at an annual cost of \$80.

MIDNIGHT MARCH TO JAIL.

Solemnly and orderly 500 Socialists and sympathizers marched from the Socialist party headquarters on Westlake avenue in Seattle last Friday night after 11 o'clock, escorting a band of comrades to the county jail who had surrendered themselves to deputy sheriffs at the mass meeting that preceded the parade.
Slowly the weary pageant of working men and women wound through the half-sleeping city. Windows all along the way slipped up and citizens in night attire peered inquiring heads out to see what was the matter.
And what is the matter? Capitalist long mad with the lust of gold is turning imbecile. Judge John E. Humphries, the blatant mouthpiece of the Blethen outfit, has convinced the world that judicial tyranny is not confined to Russia; but that right here, although the majority of the workers and capitalists oppose him, a judge is a king and may remain a king even when insane.
One hundred men and women signed a protest against the usurpations of the crazy judge. They cited him for contempt in the eyes of all men. But he issued warrants for all and the jail is full. One hundred men and women in jail for freedom and more coming.
At the mass meeting which was practically unadvertized the hall was packed and the wildest of enthusiasm prevailed. The four deputies who were sent to catch the signers of the document against Humphries were given seats on the platform and were plainly in sympathy with the crowd, although doing the duty work of capitalism. The Sadders, Millard Price, H. G. Wells and others gave eloquent short speeches. Then the chairman asked all who were ready to go to jail to come forward.
There was no hesitation. Men and women stepped up to the waiting deputies. Their jobs, their little pieces of property, their peace of mind for weary months faded away when they went to jail. They laughed and chatted but here and there lips trembled for the touch of child hands at home.
You masters of the world, beware! This working class hilarity is dangerous. This working of your mandates bodes ill for you. Your gods are revealing their clay. The public laughter and the private tears of these men and women will some of these days become too much for you. For ages they have bowed at your altars and in your courts. They no longer bow, they sneer. Your judge has, with hundreds of other judges taught them to sneer effectively. Your power is being sneered away. You cannot even control your judges. With all our contempt for John E. Humphries we hold you, his creators, in greater contempt.
When the procession reached the jail the comrades who had signed the document against the judge were locked up. The others, crowding the courthouse steps and the lawn, sang the Marseillaise and cheered for the revolutionists inside.
Comrades, here is a chance to break the power of a judge. Here is a chance to make "contempt of court" contemptible. Go to Seattle and fill the jail and maintain the few rights that they say you have.
J. E. SINCLAIR

HERBERT SPENCER ON TRUTH.

"Whoso hesitates to utter that which he thinks the highest truth, lest it should be too much in advance of the time, may reassure himself by looking at his acts from an impersonal point of view. Let him duly realize the fact that opinion is the agency through which character adapts external arrangements to itself—that his opinion, rightly forms part of this agency, is a unit of force, constituting, with other such units, the general power which works out social changes—and he will perceive that he may properly give full utterance to his inmost conviction, leaving it to produce what effect it may.—Herbert Spencer.

ABOUT THAT SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE AT LIBERTY HALL.

Every comrade or sympathizer who has any dance in him or her should make it a special point at this time to patronize the Saturday evening dance at Liberty hall.
The competition dance elsewhere is being boosted and advertised to the limit by many persons who would like to see the Socialists loose control of Liberty hall. And there is no way to

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The charge so often made against us that we do not seem to know what we want, that there are 57 different varieties of Socialism, and that every Socialist seems to have some notion of his own that no other Socialist believes in, etc., is unfortunately partly true.
It is of course a fact that we all want the co-operative commonwealth. Regardless of all other differences, that is settled. Theoretically we also all of us subscribe to the belief in the existence of the class struggle. But only theoretically. Few of us are consistent enough to apply the theory in our daily life. Most of us have embraced the philosophy of the materialistic conception of history and believe that in any nation, the form of government, the religious beliefs the morals, manners and usages are a reflection of the prevailing way in which the people of that nation earn their living. But we only believe, we seldom remember that conditions and not men are to blame for what we do not like. We are afraid of hurting the feelings of our religious and sentimental sympathizers by the denial of the importance of individual will power, which is implied in this philosophy. We silently acquiesce in the Marxian theory of value, but do not care to make much noise about it for fear that we will drive away our middle-class friends, who will never concede that all the robbery of the workers is perpetrated "in the shop." In other words, we dare not preach the truth for fear of losing in numbers. We are hypocrites. And then we are only creatures of our environment, for this is the era of hypocrisy and insincerity. In fact, we have not enough audacity (for fear of being considered "cranks") to completely emancipate ourselves from the common cranks. The difference between the teachings of one Socialist and another is therefore merely the extent to which one has thrown away capitalist superstitions and absorbed Socialist truths more than the other. In other words, we are all Socialists, but one more so than the other.
We all agree about the co-operative commonwealth. We disagree vigorously in regard to tactics. If we could only forget everything else and only strive for the ultimate goal, but we can't. It is too far away yet—a mere ideal in fact. We are confronted with every-day affairs and have to make up our minds daily as to our proper attitude as against these affairs. What shall we do then? Obviously there is only one way and that is to frequently meet and discuss the problems, and having decided, to obey the decision rendered by the majority. It is for that purpose that the local exists for local decisions, the state organization for decisions of national-wide importance and the national party for the solution of the national problems. The recluse, who herds with himself, with his books and his papers, and imagines that he knows it all, and refuses to participate in "the party quarrels," is utterly useless and is moreover not a Socialist, no matter how well he knows his Marx, since the first principle of Socialism is co-operation. United action can come only from absolute submission to majority rule. Majority rule will be the rule of ignorance and stupidity unless we educate ourselves through exchange of ideas, in debates and "quarrels," until we have rubbed off the sharpest corners of our "individualities" and have learned to act as collectivists. Perfect unity can come only through perfect truth. We can all agree that two and two makes four. No chance for a quarrel there. Until we arrive at such a unanimity in regards to sociological problems, we shall be compelled to accept majority rule as the next best thing. Let

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us differ and debate, argue and quarrel as much as we please, it is inevitable. But after the majority has spoken, let no one commit sabotage on its will and remain in the party. We want no knoekers. Individualism has no place in the organization. The majority may be foolish and in fact generally is, but it is not so foolish as the wise guy who despises it and refuses to submit to it because its action does not correspond with his notion of what should be done. As a party we can advance no faster than the bulk of the membership advances, just as we as a nation cannot get Socialism before the majority of the people want it. If the minority is intelligent, let it educate the majority. But in order to do so it must be in the local. There are in this state a good many persons, who have been members of the party off and on. When in the party they have not participated in the discussions with an open mind, ready to learn. They hold fossilized convictions which they have attempted to foist upon the majority with dogmatic assertions or false proofs. Mistaken in their judgment of the strength of the sentiment in the party, or getting impatient because of their insignificant progress, they have bothered and dragged some misguided followers with them and attempted to go it by themselves. Not being able to agree with a tolerant and charitable majority in the party it is but natural that they cannot agree with each other. The upshot has been that they have gradually crept in by the back door to the party, only to again begin the same game over again. They are incurable individualists and can never become Socialists, regardless of how well posted they are in Marxist economics. No permanent growth can be made with them in the party. Minorities must exist in the organization, since we cannot not all see things alike. But the minority in the party must be composed of Socialists and not of individualists. The questions at issue must be new ones and not such as have been settled long ago. It should not be necessary to have to defend Socialism in a Socialist local against the onslaught of individualists in Socialist disguise. We have never found it difficult to convince the average American about the correctness of our theories, but he says "it won't work." And even after he has been made to believe that it will work, you can only get about one in twenty of him to join the organization, for that is about the percentage if you deduct the forgers from the roster. Why? Because the average American is an inveterate individualist to whom the loose tactics of the anarchist appeals much stronger than the restraining discipline of the Socialist. Pandering to this failing Tom Hickey originated the so-called Texas program and has built up an organization under the name of the "Socialist party of Texas," the principal tenet of which is "decentralization." Every local has complete autonomy. Any and all tactics are permissible or at least uncondemned and therefore unpunishable. This organization (?) prospered quite a bit last year, but has dropped more than any other state this year. It carries within itself the seed of self-destruction. The bolting faction in this state has adopted the Texas program and will break up all the sooner for it. The Socialist idea of freedom is founded upon economic security and not upon sentimental "do as you please" notions. As a means to hasten its dissolution we should favor decentralization in the capitalist state. For the same reason we should oppose it in the party. In the co-operative commonwealth alone it would be possible to utilize decentralization without detriment of efficiency. Until then it is on a par with the co-operative colony scheme. Dreams are at a discount in this century. Common sense methods only have any chance. And if Socialism is not synonymous with common sense, what is it?

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hold the meetings except through propaganda hall for our regular propaganda meetings except through the income derived from the Saturday evening dances. If you can dance, reader, make it a point to come out Saturday night and help to keep things moving!
Don't let our political opponents gloat over a closed Socialist dance hall. LET'S KEEP IT OPEN.