

The Commonwealth

FOR SOCIALIST NEWS AND PROPAGANDA.

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THE NEXT NUMBER OF THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE A SPECIAL EDITION DEALING WITH SOCIALISTS, SOCIALISM AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

RECENT ELECTION BROUGHT OUT BIG SOCIALIST VOTE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

If the returns from recent state elections are any measure of general Socialist progress throughout the United States, we Reds have nothing to complain of, from the historical point of view. It is true that some enthusiasts are not satisfied with the advances made. But there is really no sound basis for pessimism. On the contrary, we have every reason to be cheered and encouraged in a high degree. In many cities and states our vote has increased from 100 to 300 per cent over the vote cast for former candidates. In Paterson, N. J., there was a gain of 700 per cent in the Socialist vote. In no case is there any reason for discouragement.

At this rate of increase in our vote, we should be able to muster five million votes for the Socialist candidates in the presidential election of 1916. This would be of immense propaganda value, as well as of practical advantage, and would lay a sure foundation for the triumph of the Socialist party in 1920.

If you don't think this would be soon enough for us, get in and get subs for the Commonwealth and we'll win in Washington in 1916!

SOCIALIST VOTE INCREASES IN SCHENECTADY.

Five Aldermen Elected.
Schenectady, N. Y.—Dr. George R. Lunn lost the election to his fusion opponent who had the combined boodle interests behind him, but the Socialists elected five aldermen and five supervisors. Last year the Socialists had eight aldermen. There are thirteen on the board in all. Aside from this they elected Louis A. Welsh sheriff and came within 68 votes of sending Herbert M. Merrill to the assembly for a second term. "We claim that the vote proves a magnificent victory for Socialism," said Dr. Lunn. "We are fighting for a principle, so that such a tremendous gain over two years ago inspires us to begin our next campaign more united than ever. The plurality of the fusion candidate, J. Teller Schoolcraft, is 2,099. Lunn's vote when he was elected in 1911 was 6,535. His plurality at the time was 2,052. His closest opponent, the Democratic candidate, got 4,057 votes. On other than municipal offices the complete vote was: The complete returns of Schenectady county show that Merrill received 6,843; Squire, Democrat and Progressive, 6,911; McNab, Republican, 4,114. The vote for justice of the court of appeals was Slobodin, Socialist, 7,270; Bartlett, Democrat, 5,870; Werner, Republican, 4,907; Wilcox, Socialist candidate for associate judge, received 7,422. The vote for Russell, Socialist candidate for governor in 1912, was 4,343.

WARM DEBATES AT LAST SUNDAY'S OPEN FORUM

An enthusiastic bunch took part in the propaganda meeting held in the Socialist party headquarters last Sunday evening. The discussions were warm and points were hotly contested, and even adjournment couldn't stop the flow of eloquence. The meeting voted to discuss at its next Sunday night meeting the subject of scientific and utopian socialism. Come and take part in the discussion.

SOCIALIST VICTORIES IN RECENT ELECTIONS.

The following election returns appear in a recent number of the Appeal to Reason:

Martin's Ferry, Ohio—The Socialist mayor re-elected.
Shelburn, Ind.—Socialist vote increased from 116 to 198.

Boston, Mass.—Socialists elected one member of the legislature.

Altoona, Pa.—Frank E. Rooney, Socialist, was elected city councilman.

McKeesport, Pa.—Singleton Neisser, Socialist, was elected to the council.

Allentown, Pa.—Robert J. Wheeler, Socialist, was elected to the city council.

Erie, Pa.—Socialists here cast 3,000 votes last Tuesday against 1,800 last fall.

Warsaw, Ohio.—W. B. McClure, Socialist, was elected mayor by a majority of two.

Shelby, Ohio.—Daniel Howe, Socialist, was elected mayor over fusion candidate with more than 100 majority.

Coshocton, Ohio.—L. N. Staats, Socialist, was elected mayor. The Socialist vote in general was greatly increased.

Hymera, Ind.—Socialists elected Thomas W. Bridwell marshal in a four-cornered race in which the Mooers were fourth.

Bicknell, Ind.—Socialists elected their entire ticket except councilman from Third ward, against a citizens' combination and free booze for all who would accept it.

New York City.—Hyman Lurio was elected to the board of aldermen, the first Socialist to be elected in New York city. The vote in Greater New York was 32,209.

Hamilton, Ohio.—Socialists carried everything. A short time before the election an anti-Socialist was imported to lie about Socialism. The Appeal offered \$500 to him if he would prove his assertions, and had distributed in the city 5,000 copies of an extra containing the offer.

Schenectady, N. Y.—While Socialist Mayor Lunn was defeated by a combination of all other parties against him, the Socialist vote was increased by more than 2,000 over two years ago, and a member of the state legislature, a sheriff and five members of the city council were elected by Socialists.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Socialists of this city cast 3,500 votes against 955 last year. Ft. Wayne cast 1,288 votes, leading the Republicans. Socialist candidate for mayor of Marion ran second, receiving 1,256 votes, and three members of the council were elected, giving control. Veversburg, with the local only two months old, cast 25 per cent of the total vote. In Evansville the Socialists cast 2,304 votes, exceeding the progressive vote. Socialists still hold Staunton, there being none but Socialists nominated for office.

Paterson, N. J.—The brutality of the capitalist administration during the recent strike of the silk workers was fittingly answered by the toilers of this city by casting 4,495 votes for L. Gordon Demarest, the Socialist candidate for mayor. Demarest received about 1,000 more votes than Mayor McBride, the lickspittle of the silk barons, who sought re-election. The fusion candidate for mayor was elected. The Socialist vote is also a tremendous victory for the cause of Paterson, Alexander Scott and William Bruckmann, who are being persecuted by the capitalist courts for their participation in the recent strike.

MORE HALEDON, N. J., OFFICERS CAPTURED BY THE SOCIALISTS.

Haledon, N. J.—When the counting of the ballots was completed it was shown that besides the Socialist sweep of this borough, which put in office two Socialist councilmen and two Socialist justices of the peace, the Socialist party had things very much its own way in North Haledon, a suburb. There a strenuous campaign had been waged, and as a result two councilmen and one justice of the peace, all Socialists, were elected. The Socialist jump in the vote in this section has amazed the newspapers and the old party politicians in this county. Mayor William Bruckmann, now in office, was elected on the Socialist ticket last year.

SOCIALISTS TO THE FORE.

The election of John H. Walker as president of the Illinois State Federation of Labor was rather an unpleasant surprise to the capitalistic wire-pullers in the labor movement. Jas. H. Maurer, Socialist, at the head of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor; John H. Walker, Socialist, at the head of the Illinois Federation; William Wood, Socialist, at the head of the Missouri Federation; William Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists, and the recent convention of the California Federation of Labor elected five Socialists as vice-presidents and members of the executive board.

The Utah State Federation of Labor endorsed Socialism and asked Gompers to quit the Civic Federation. The Utah convention also donated \$125 to the Inter-Mountain Worker, a Socialist paper published in Salt Lake.

In Memphis we have McDonald, Hoepfner, Pardue, Dahlstrom and Terlisner, Socialist Trades Unionists, who are always on the firing line for organized labor, and they have the respect and esteem of all, regardless of politics.

The day is rapidly passing when the workers can be frightened by the word Socialism.—The Memphis Social Democrat.

SOCIALISTS OF EVERETT HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

If not, do so at once, so that you may vote for school board directors. And remember that the candidates of your class are Alfred Roeder and Theodore Boer. Two socialists on the school board of Everett school district could do worlds of good both for the children of the working class and for the movement as a whole. Look what other districts have done. Birmingham and Arlington, for instance. You can do the same. Come out and register. Stay out and vote.

HARRY ORCHARD PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.

McManigal Has Sailed for Europe. Los Angeles, Nov. 14.—That Ortie McManigal, confessed dynamiter and informer, is in Canada en route to Europe was reported here today on good authority. McManigal is said to have left Detroit for Montreal late yesterday accompanied by a Burns detective. William J. Burns personally escorted him from Chicago to Detroit. He will be given a bodyguard until he reaches Europe. He does not expect to return to America.

District Attorney Fredericks, who ordered McManigal's release here, refused to deny or confirm the reports.

HAYWOOD GOES FREE.

The supreme court of New Jersey has decided that the mere fact that a person walking along the public streets in a quiet and peaceable manner is followed by a crowd is not sufficient to justify his conviction of being a disorderly person on the ground that he obstructed and interfered with other persons lawfully on the streets. This decision sets aside the verdict of the lower court in the case of Wm. D. Haywood and two other members of the I. W. W., who were convicted of disorderly conduct in the recent silk workers' strike at Paterson.

Reading makes a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man.—Bacon.

HEAD OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR HEARD BY PEOPLE OF EVERETT.

Long Hours and Low Wages Invariably Go Hand in Hand, Declares Samuel Gompers.

President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor told an audience that filled the Everett theatre to overflowing, what had been accomplished by organized labor and made a plea for stronger unions.

President Gompers was introduced by E. P. Marsh as "The Grand Old Man of Labor" and spoke in part as follows:

"I can't understand why the workers in the industries that predominate here fail to ally themselves with their fellow workers. I mean the timber workers who work from one to two hours longer than any other trade. Perhaps they want to be independent; perhaps they wish to express their dignity, or show their individual liberty and work longer hours for less pay to do it.

Long Hours and Low Wages.

"It is the universal rule that those who work the longest hours are always the workers who receive the lowest pay. If you doubt my statement, take your place with those who enter their places of labor earliest in the morning and leave latest at night and you will see that they are the ones who receive the lowest wages.

"Do the number of hours of labor automatically reduce themselves? This is brought about through the efforts of the men of toil. In primitive times men worked from sunup to sundown and in the summer they worked long hours. At other times of the year their hours were shorter for their day's work was done when the sun went down.

"In the latter part of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries a light dawned after centuries of darkness. Machinery and tools began to be discovered and applied, but the working day still ended when darkness came for the oil in the urn or the tallow candle was not sufficient for the successful operation of machinery.

Held Machines Responsible.

"A century ago the mining, transportation and making of coal into gas became an industry. With this artificial light the hours of labor lengthened. People were compelled to work as long as they could stand, until they became desolate, weakened and nearly destroyed. Many persons held the machine responsible for this condition and endeavored to destroy them.

"Labor evolved a better method than the destruction of the machine. We decided by concentrated effort to reduce the hours of labor. It is advocated by some that if a man works shorter hours he will spend his spare time in the saloons and become debauched. There are two classes of people who can't find work and don't work, and those who work such long hours that they are crushed in spirit and revert to other spirits to enliven them, constitute the first class. The second are the men who have so much money that they have nothing to do but get drunk. The man who works doesn't require artificial stimulants, and you will find less intoxication among the middle class who work eight hours a day than you will among the multi-millionaires.

Wages Determined by Cost of Living.

"It is a fundamental law that a man will get in wages just enough to buy the necessities of life. The man who works eight hours has a decent home with a piano and pictures on the walls. But will you find these things in the homes of the long hour workers? What use has this kind of a man for a parlor or a piano? He is not home long enough to enjoy them. He must work, work, all the time and he works harder than a prisoner works for crime. Music interferes with his sleep and must be eliminated. If a man is satisfied with living on crackers and cheese and red herrings his wages will soon descend to just enough to buy these things.

"We have the genius to harness the powers of the world and to live for a better, brighter day; to give our children educational advantages and keep them away from the mills, the mines and the factories. But these things do not come for the mere asking.

TO EVERETT SOCIALISTS.

The Woman's committee has decided to postpone the housewarming one week, making the date Sunday evening, December 7. It had previously been announced that it would be held Sunday, November 30, but owing to the fact that many comrades wish to spend a few days out of town Thanksgiving week, and would therefore not be able to take an active part in the preparations, it was deemed advisable to make the date a week later. Refreshments will be served, and several unique features of entertainment are being planned by those in charge. A collection will be taken for the Woman's committee. If you wish to contribute, do so, if not, you are just as welcome, but be sure and come. Everybody is invited. Bring your friends, relatives and enemies. We are certain that a pleasant social evening will be enjoyed by all, and we will take pleasure in having our friends see our new headquarters.

Those willing to contribute or assist with refreshments please call up Comrade Tillie Roeder, Ind. 2532. Let us all unite in making this a social success.

Wellington, N. Z., Nov. 14.—The strike situation became serious here today. Practically all lines of industry were tied up and there was much suffering. What the police considered incendiary circulars were being distributed. As a result it was said many arrests would be made.

NEW ZEALAND STRIKE SERIOUS.

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Revolutions are not made, they come. A revolution is as natural a growth as an oak. It comes out of the past. Its foundations are laid far back.—Wendell Phillips.

Skepticism has never founded empires, established principles, or changed the world's heart.

The great doers in history have always been men of faith.—Chapin.

The Present a Day of Organization.

"This is the day and time of the organization. Everything is organized; the city government, the boards of trade, the trusts and even the professions. Perhaps you never heard of a minister of the gospel going on a strike, but have you heard of him receiving a call higher up? The medical profession is organized into a county association and fixes its minimum wage which it calls its fee.

"And then the lawyers who are always attacking us. They are very eloquent, but their consistency is another thing. They have their organization, called the Bar association. They serve their apprenticeship which they call student days; they carry their working cards which they call diplomas. The law is the closest corporation ever known in the history of man.

Persistent Effort Only Will Avail.

"It is not the spasmodic eruption of protest that counts, but day after day and year after year lagging zeal, pressing home our rights. It is only by formation through unions that we can attain our end, but we cannot permit the union to advance faster than the people.

"Some say that the American Federation of Labor is conservative and that the 'Grand Old Man of Labor' is conservative. We want to be of some benefit to our fellows now and not engage in ghost dancing and cloud chasing. Our first duty is to realize the union must be the determining point, the ethics of the men and women who toil. The labor movement does not predicate claims upon poverty and misery. It has outgrown that age. The men of our time stand erect and look the whole world in the face, demanding a square deal on the ground that they are producers of wealth.

"At the Labor Temple in Seattle I saw a blackboard containing a list of the laws passed by your last legislature. The laws passed in this state look good and are good. But they are not all that you want, and I hope the time will never come when you are entirely satisfied. When China threw her emperor and throne into the scrap heap and elected a president, she expressed dissatisfaction and civilized people everywhere congratulated her for this dissatisfaction. The laws enacted in this state for the working man are but the stepping stones to something better."

A CHAPTER FROM THE DARK AGES.

The issue of solidarity, of November 1, contains a story of horror, not equalled since the days of the Spanish Inquisition.

While the story is too long to repeat here, I shall try to give a short outline of the cruelties perpetrated on one of our comrades, by the "civilized" minions of the law in the Christian commonwealth of California.

The victim—Comrade Henry D. Suhr—was arrested in connection with the troubles lately occurring at Durst Brothers' slave compound at Wheatland, Cal.

All that he has ever been accused of is that he was working on that particular ranch at the time that a couple of state assassins were paid in their own coin by a half-starved and desperate Porto Rican slave.

In an effort to make him confess to a crime of which he really knew nothing, he was subjected to treatment that, if it was perpetrated upon a dumb animal, in many parts of the Union, it would be quickly followed by a lynching of the perpetrators. But listen to the story.

"From the first of his arrest he was not allowed to sleep. * * * In his cell there was placed a boy, who talked to him all night, keeping him awake. * * * He was removed to San Francisco and lodged in the Sutter hotel, where an officer stood over him all night with a gun and prevented him from sleeping. * * * He was taken across San Francisco bay and lodged in the Alameda county jail in Oakland. Here his martyrdom reached its height.

"Then Suhr was placed in a little cell THREE FEET WIDE so that keepers, working in three eight-hour shifts could keep him awake. They pulled his blankets and punched him with sticks through the lattice. Suhr left the bed, and tried to sleep on the floor. They rolled long 'spills' of paper and tickled him constantly, until he was driven wild. All this time they kept saying, 'You must not sleep, we want you to talk.'

"Suhr then tried to sleep standing up. He had been going through this torture for nearly two weeks. When his tired eyelids drooped the fiends (Continued on Page 4, Column 5.)

A GREAT BOOK AVAILABLE AT A CRITICAL MOMENT.

What could be more appropriate for a Christmas gift than a copy of "War, What For?" They can be purchased at Socialist party headquarters for 75c a copy, or three copies for \$1.50. The publishers' price for these books is \$1.15, but we wish to put them out at cost for their propaganda value. The critical Mexican situation makes it imperative that this great book be read by thousands of workers.

WORKERS WAKING UP IN NEW ZEALAND.

Won't Combat the Strikers.

Christchurch, N. Z.—The mayor called on the volunteers, as the militia here are called, to suppress strike rioting, in which many people have been hurt and much property destroyed. A large proportion of the soldiers refused duty, sympathizing with the strikers.

COMRADE JENSEN REVEALS TRUE NATURE OF BULL MOOSE PATRIOTISM.

To the Editor:

I see that Mr. Lancaster tries to use my name in attacking Mr. Sinclair by quoting or pretending to quote me in condemning what Sinclair wrote in the Commonwealth. It is not my desire to get into print, but since Lancaster and Ford have drawn me into the vortex of their cyclone I find it my duty to make plain my position in regard to what I really said and felt concerning Mr. Sinclair.

Lancaster can well remember that at the time that I first discussed the Sinclair matter there appeared an article in the Times in which it was made known that about forty "prominent" citizens had petitioned the board to drop Sinclair. I objected to the term "prominent," on the ground that the word implied there were certain other citizens that were inferior. Had the petitioners been workers this distinction would not have been made.

I objected to what Mr. Sinclair said because he did not make clear what he meant and because I was apprehensive of injury to the cause that might come from such unguarded remarks, made without full explanation. I knew that what he said would be misconstrued, but my "prophetic vision" mentioned by Lancaster was not clear enough to see that this same Lancaster would himself misconstrue it.

I was the originator of the proposition to have Sinclair come to Arlington and speak to the people face to face. I mentioned this to Lancaster and he objected on the ground that it might cause trouble. I replied that it would not be from the Socialist side, and I felt positive that even the other side would not be guilty of violence. I knew the people of Arlington well enough to be sure of this. We may differ but we are not likely to be guilty of rough-housing it because we differ. Again my "prophetic vision" was true. I felt that Lancaster was simply seeing red on his own hook.

At the conclusion of that mass meeting I spoke to Lancaster on the floor of the auditorium and said, "It was a good meeting and the differences have been discussed orderly." Lancaster replied and said that there was danger of a clash, this in spite of the presence of Mr. Faussett, who was there apparently to enforce the law.

Why Sinclair Should Be Allowed to Teach.

The next time that I discussed this matter was when I went to the Chronicle office to stop the paper because its foolishness got on my nerves and Lancaster came there as usual. Lancaster asked me if I had not said that I disapproved of Sinclair's language. I said that I had said that I disapproved of it and that I still disapproved of it, because he did not safeguard himself and thus enabled his enemies to make capital out of what he said and because it was possible of misconstruction which has surely happened to it. Lancaster further wanted to know if I thought Sinclair should be allowed to teach. I asked him if Sinclair made a good teacher. He said that he did. I considered this (Continued on Page 3, Column 3.)

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