

Largest Weekly Circulation In The County

The Commonwealth

FOR SOCIALIST NEWS AND PROPAGANDA.

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1914.

No. 158.

5c per copy. \$1.00 per year.

Regular Socialist Party of Seattle Needs Assistance of Membership

AN APPEAL TO OUTSIDE COMRADES.

Comrades:
Seattle, the political arena of the
Yellows and the regular Socialist
party, is again overhauled by an
other political storm.

We, the members, of Socialist party,
hope to establish our supremacy upon
any abuse or vilification upon any
person or political party and without
any ulterior motives whatsoever.

The actions of the Socialist party
are guided by our national and state
constitutions and our object in view
is none other than the enlightenment
and education of the masses in things
pertaining to our Social System and
the method by which it is perpetuated
and governed.

The recent riots wherein the Social-
ists of Seattle had their property, in-
cluding the total amount of literature
destroyed, burned as the sacrifice to
capitalism, left us in a bad way finan-
cially, from which we have not been
able to recuperate sufficiently to meet
the expenses of a campaign such as is
necessary at this time in Seattle.

The members of the Socialist party
of this city have made almost every
effort with the logical exception of
committing party treason, to unite the
members of the opposing factions of
this city, knowing that the rank and
file of the opposing factions once
united, will no more be lead apart
through misunderstanding the prin-
ciples of our movement. We of the So-
cialist party of Seattle have done our
utmost in the way of joint meetings
and of joint committee meetings, to
unite the membership of both fac-
tions, but our every effort has been
thwarted and the word "no quarter"
has passed down the line.

Using the words of one of the com-
mittee of the opposing faction to il-
lustrate the bitter feeling that is be-
ing engendered in this fight, at the last
committee meeting when all prospects
of uniting the opposition was appar-
ently gone, to express their determi-
nation to rule or ruin the member
quoted, "Lay on, McDuff."

Hence there is no other course but
fight, so fight we must until the su-
premaccy of the regular organization is
for all time established and majority
rule is complied with.

We need and must have some funds
and we depend upon you who are read-
ing this to do your share at this criti-
cal period.

Our paper, the Socialist Voice, which
is paid for out of the already well
drained pockets of the local comrades
and distributed free over the city by
the comrades, will need financial aid
in order to get out sufficient copies.

We need over \$300 before January
28, 1914, to file our candidates.

Posters must be distributed.

Many other things essential to this
campaign must be attended to, and,
again, I want to say the word from
the yellow organization is fight. Our
mission is to educate and organize the
workers so as to build an organization
that will be invincible, to settle for all
time to come the question of supre-
macy.

Therefore, we appeal to all class-
conscious workers to do all in your
power to assist us both morally and
financially in this fight as it is your
fight.

Send your contributions, no matter
how large or how small, to J. Tresslar,
treasurer of Socialist campaign com-
mittee, lock box 158, Seattle, Wash.
By order of Campaign Committee.

THAT HARD TIMES BALL WILL BE A HUMMER.

Don't you believe it?
Well, we're willing to leave it to
those who will be there, Wednesday
evening, January 21.

This will be the last notice you'll
get!

Why? Because—
The next issue of the Common-
wealth goes to press the morning after
the fun and frolic are things of the
delightful past.

We don't need to say "Be There!"
All the dancers in Snohomish and
King counties that know what good
dance music is and a good floor to
dance on will be there.

And admission to this old-clothes
dance, with all the fun incident to
the rag-a-day rag-a-day tunes, will
be but fifty cents for gentlemen and
the ladies—well, of course, we
wouldn't charge THEM anything!
We're only too glad to have them as
guests of the evening.

THE PLACE TO BEAT THE CAPITALISTS "AT THEIR OWN GAME" IS THE BAL- LOT BOX—ILLS OF SOCIETY CANNOT BE CURED BY IM- PUNITIVE VIOLENCE OF CAP- ITALISTS.

JOE ETOR SPURS ON STRIKERS IN TACOMA

"We'll Take One of Them Men for
One of Ours," He Tells Labor
Meeting.

Tacoma, Jan. 11.—Plans for the
prosecution of the strike at the Ta-
coma smelter, which has been waged
for the past week and has resulted in
the death of one striker, were dis-
cussed at a meeting held tonight under
the auspices of the Central Labor
Council, the Industrial Workers of the
World and Socialists. Joseph J. Etor,
who was one of the leading figures in
the textile strike at Lawrence, Mass.,
was one of the speakers and appealed
to the strikers to "meet the capitalists
at their own game."

"We'll take one of their good men
for one of ours; one of their women
when they take one of ours," he de-
clared.

WARNING FROM DEBS.

I yield to no one in the vote to
see the party grow and the vote in-
crease, but in my zeal I do not lose
sight of the fact that healthy growth
and a substantial vote depend upon
efficient organization, the self-disci-
pline of the membership, and that
where these are lacking, an inflated
vote secured by compromising meth-
ods, can only be hurtful to the move-
ment.

To my mind the working class char-
acter and the revolutionary integrity
of the Socialist party are of first im-
portance. All the votes of the people
would do us no good if our party
ceased to be a revolutionary party, or
only incidentally so, while yielding
more and more to the pressure to
modify the principles and program of
the party for the sake of swelling the
vote and hastening the day of its tri-
umph.

The votes will come rapidly enough
from now on without seeking them
and we should make it clear that the
Socialist party wants the votes only
of those who want Socialism, and
that, above all, as a revolutionary
party of the working class, it dis-
countenances vote-seeking for the
sake of office. These belong entirely
to capitalist parties with their bosses
and their boodle and have no place in
a party whose sibboleth is emancipa-
tion.

EIGHT-HOUR WORK DAY PE- TITION WILL BE SUBMIT- TED IMMEDIATELY.

All Who Would Sign Petition Must Be
Registered Before End of Month.

COMRADES!
The most important work of the
Socialist party in the field of political
action during the present year will be
the securing of enough signatures to
a petition to place the Kingery eight-
hour bill on the ballot at the coming
general election.

In order to sign this petition it is
necessary that the petitioner be a re-
gistered voter. If you, reader, believe
in political action, and an eight-hour
work day, make it a special order of
business not only to register yourself,
but see to it that all your friends and
neighbors register before the end of
January.

No names placed on the register
later than January will be eligible for
signatures to initiative petitions. Get
busy!

JUST THINK OF IT.

Did it ever occur to you how easy it
would be to get a new subscriber to
the Commonwealth by just remember-
ing to tell your acquaintances that the
one dollar paid for the paper also en-
titles the subscriber to free legal ad-
vice for a whole year?

Are you reading our free legal ad-
vice column each week? It is inval-
uable. It would be an excellent idea
for our readers to make a scrap book
of these questions and answers, for
future references.

I wish men to be free, as much
from mobs as kings,—from my ns
me.—Byron.

LOGGED-OFF LAND PEONAGE

(A New Wrinkle.
By John McSlarrow.)

That "there is nothing new under
the sun" is a saying so old, and so
common that few dare to dispute it, is
conceded. But that an old dodge can
be worked in such a way as to have
the same effect as a perfectly new ar-
rangement, is also true.

The latest plan of the lumber bar-
ons to offset the growing power
of unionism is somewhat of a novelty,
to say the least.

Last June the timber workers, under
the guidance of the I. W. W., went out
on strike.

Their demands were for shorter
hours, better pay, and more sanitary
conditions in the camps.

The bosses would not grant any of
these demands outright; and after
about four weeks the I. W. W. called
the strike off and the men returned to
work. (That is, those who were not
BLACKLISTED.)

So the boys put on their WOODEN
SHOES and went back into the camps.
AND THE BOSS CAME THROUGH.

That is, in nearly all of the camps
the bunk houses have been renovated,
and made comparatively respectable.
Not what we asked for of course, but
a whole lot better than we ever ex-
pected to get.

Wages were not increased; in some
instances they were CUT a trifle; but
the labor necessary to earn those
wages was cut very considerably. Al-
most any kind of a tenderfoot can
now do the job.

Now, almost all of these lumber
companies have immense tracts of
"logged-off land." This land, as every
one familiar with Washington land
knows, is of indifferent productivity.
But it is perhaps about as good as
the average. I have no wish to criti-
cize the land, for all Western Wash-
ington land will produce quite as much
as the land in any other part of the
Union, BUT this land is thickly stud-
ded with stumps, varying in size from
four feet to nine feet in diameter, and
to get this land ready for the plow re-
quires lots of work, and an expendi-
ture of from three hundred to a thou-
sand dollars per acre.

The logging companies have adver-
tised throughout the East the fact that
this land can be bought on easy pay-
ments, and that the purchaser can get
work in the sawmills while paying
for it.

In the sawmills and logging camps
they have posted notice to the effect
that "preference will at all times be
given to such employees as have pur-
chased land from the company."

Every day I have statements to this
effect coming from those who have
lost their jobs because they refuse to
buy a parcel of this STUMP WILDER-
NESS.

Last Tuesday (Oct. 14) a fellow-
worker was fired from the Big Lake
camp to make room for one of these
STUMP SUCKERS.

He was warned some time in ad-
vance that if he wished to hold his
job he would have to buy some of this
logged-off land; refusing to do so, he
was fired PRONTO.

Of course I can say nothing against
those who do buy the land; they are
just IGNORANT TENDERFEET, that
is all; but we all know that there is
no slave quite so submissive as the
fellow that is trying to improve a little
home for himself, and does not dare
call his soul his own, for fear that he
may lose all that he has already ex-
pended.

What I do want, is that every reader
of this will write to his friends back
East and ask them for God's sake
please don't come to Washington for
the purpose of buying any of this
logged-off land, for if they do they
will simply have bought a job without
end and at very small wages.

This BIG LAKE of which I speak is
near Sedro-Wooley, in Skagit county,
Washington, and is the place where a
short time ago they had huge placards
posted stating that the time had come
when the employer and employee must
get together to fight the common
enemy, the I. W. W. NUF SED.

The man who was fired from the
Big Lake camp because he refused to
buy any of their logged-off land is
named C. Sickles. He is a member of
318 of the I. W. W. Card numbered
51,154. He stated that he had worked
for the Big Lake company for several
years, and he is a man in whom I have
the utmost confidence. He says that
his is not a peculiar case, but that
this kind of business is going on at
that camp all the time. I have similar
statements from a great many others,
but will not mention any names be-
cause I do not care to jeopardize any
one's chance of getting a job; and we
all have to have a job if we wish to

ANOTHER LAND FRAUD EX- POSE.

Burke Wn., 12-10, 1913.
Editor Commonwealth:

I see a glowing advertisement in
the Daily Star of the 6th of December
for the purpose of inducing people
with small means to invest in
Quincy land. The whole thing is a
misrepresentation of the land and citi-
zen farmers, from beginning to end.
As I live in the heart of the Quincy
valley, and have lived here almost ten
years, I think that I am in a position
where I can tell my friends the truth
about this neck of the woods. In the
first place, this is no place for a man
with small means to invest his money;
if he expects to live on the land or is
banking on getting any returns from
his investments in the near future
through farming or selling at an ad-
vanced price. Parties looking for
land investments that don't expect
any returns for a number of years will
do well to investigate their propo-
sition. But otherwise they had better
look before they leap. As to the soil
of the valley it is very productive
under water (irrigation). But there is
a very small fraction irrigated, as
the water has to be pumped from deep
wells two to six hundred feet, which
is very expensive; costing anywhere
from three to seven thousand dollars
to water forty acres. Which will con-
vince most any man that is working
for a small salary that it is no poor
man's proposition. Five years ago
there was some one living on most
every quarter section of government
land in this valley. Good school
houses and farm buildings were built,
where today nine-tenths of them are
going to rack and ruin. The people
have to leave. They could not make
a living on a quarter section of Uncle
Sam's fertile domain, and the more
they farmed the worse off they were.

To those who think that way it
might be well to have experiences suf-
ficiently solid to cause them to be
jarred out of their slumbers. If some
of these who are so certain that all is
well by playing into the hands of the
foe, and who would sacrifice the par-
ties' future by securing a large mem-
bership now, regardless of the conse-
quences later, would look into the
mechanism of that institution and the
principal on which it is founded, and
then compare that with the develop-
ments at the recent A. F. of L. con-
vention at Seattle, some faint ray of light
might enter their deluded brain.

The Socialist party stands irrespec-
tably opposed to all forms of oppres-
sion, and institutions which contend
with Socialism for the continuation of
the present system of spoils at the ex-
pense of labor, can certainly not be a
force to close one's eyes to. Sooner
or later the Socialist party, and the
labor movement in particular, will
find itself squarely facing the ques-
tion, for capitalism has chosen its
final bulwark, behind which it will
fight its last battle.

The Socialists of Spokane have an
excellent example of a former member
who made things decidedly (un)pleas-
ant as long as he could, and when he
saw that he could no longer serve his
masters as he was to serve them he
renounced Socialism and returned to
the fold. Few of the members of the
party here in Spokane are aware of
the facts as I have stated them here,
but that makes them none the less
true. I only state this as an example
of the ordinary run of people who,
since their children have been taught
to believe that just such acts as these
are the passport they must carry with
them when passing to that world be-
yond.

However, all ministers of the gospel
are not alike, and the Socialists should
take new heart, for the Methodist min-
isters are seeking a new light, and are
teaching their flock that the essential
thing at present is "The Kingdom of
God" right here on earth. It has been
my pleasure to listen to six lectures
during the past two weeks dealing
with this subject. Let us hope more
will take up the work, and let us help
them when they do.

Before the day ends fill out that
ten-cent coupon and mail it. DO IT
NOW!

WILL YOU DO IT?

We ask you, comrades, to study the
Commonwealth, advertising columns.
Be on the alert for new advertisers
introducing commodities not hith-
erto represented in our paper. Make
this part of the work a study. It does
not cost you a cent, and it helps the
cause wonderfully by making our
propaganda paper valuable as an ad-
vertising medium. There is no work
for the cause more important than the
support of our Socialist press.

You cannot afford to be without
the Commonwealth. We are willing
that it should stand upon its merits.
So send in a month's trial subscrip-
tion. It may make a permanent
reader.

live pending the time when the work-
ing class get sense enough to stand up
straight and let the parasites stand off
their backs.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
We print below the latest report
from the United States treasury. It
shows that the per capita money cir-
culation in this country is now \$35.11.
This is greater than in 1910, but less
than in 1907, when the per capita cir-
culation was \$36.46. In 1893 the aver-
age was but \$24.03.

Are the workers any better off now
than in 1893? No. Increase in quan-
tity of gold, due to decrease in cost of
production, merely makes prices high-
er, without, usually, a corresponding
increase in the average wages paid.

\$3,755,464,096 in Circulation in the
United States.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The general
stock of money in the United States
on January 2, 1914, amounted to \$3,-
775,464,096, which is about \$8,000,000
more than the stock of the same ar-
ticle on December 1, 1913, according to
the treasury's monthly statement out
yesterday.

Of this amount nearly \$2,000,000-
000 was in gold coin, including bullion
in the treasury; about \$757,000,000
was in national bank notes and about
\$565,000,000 in silver dollars.

The treasury estimates the popula-
tion of the continental United States
at 98,181,000 and says the circulation
per capita was \$35.11.

The Commonwealth is being intro-
duced to scores of new readers by
means of the ten-cent trial subscrip-
tion offer. Get busy.

DON'T FORGET

THE

Hard Times Ball

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21

AT LIBERTY HALL

ADMISSION 50c

(Ladies Complimentary)

live pending the time when the work-
ing class get sense enough to stand up
straight and let the parasites stand off
their backs.

REFLECTIONS ON THE AR- LINGTON SCHOOL FIGHT.

(My W. L. Longbehn.)

I have watched with considerable
patience and interest the develop-
ments of the struggle in the Arlington
school fight, and I am wondering how
soon the Socialists of the nation and
of the world will become wide awake
enough to recognize an opposing force,
when it makes an appearance.

For ages past the leaders of men
out of the wilderness of ignorance and
of oppression, into the haven of under-
standing and light, have been met with
the very same forces of darkness as
those in evidence in Arlington during
the past year.

The one thing that surprises most
people who understand and recognize
a common foe, when they see one, is
that the Socialist party, made up as it
is, of men of intelligence, and, as they
should be, of a knowledge of the his-
tory of the past, would sit idly by and
not retaliate in a fight such as that,
by declaring absolutely their opposi-
tion to an institution so well known to
be but the continuation of the an-
cient organization which dreamed of,
and nearly realized, a World Empire.

We continually hear some Socialists
say: "Do not stir up religious strife;
nothing can be gained by separating
men on the question of economics by
infusing religious prejudice; the man
who speaks of these things is an
enemy of the working man and not
his friend."

To those who think that way it
might be well to have experiences suf-
ficiently solid to cause them to be
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Before the day ends fill out that
ten-cent coupon and mail it. DO IT
NOW!

WILL YOU DO IT?

We ask you, comrades, to study the
Commonwealth, advertising columns.
Be on the alert for new advertisers
introducing commodities not hith-
erto represented in our paper. Make
this part of the work a study. It does
not cost you a cent, and it helps the
cause wonderfully by making our
propaganda paper valuable as an ad-
vertising medium. There is no work
for the cause more important than the
support of our Socialist press.

You cannot afford to be without
the Commonwealth. We are willing
that it should stand upon its merits.
So send in a month's trial subscrip-
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LESSONS FROM THE RUSTON SMELTERMEN'S STRIKE.

American Patriots (!) Scab on "Pauper
Labor of Europe"—College Men
Do the Work of Curs.

One of our so-called "Radical" daily
papers that is always telling what a
great "friend" it is to the "poor down-
trodden working man," recently had a
write-up of the Tacoma smelter strike,
under a four-column head.

It will pay every worker to read that
article. Read it and ponder. Read it,
and then try to understand just how
much that paper, and the class which
that paper represents, really knows, or
cares about the welfare of the work-
ing-class.

Listen to this:
"First to take advantage of the
present labor situation were the Gug-
genheims. They cut wages and in-
creased the workday from nine to ten
hours in their big smelter. Only un-
skilled labor is affected so far, but
the company officials say if the pres-
ent situation continues it will affect
the wages of the skilled workers as
well."

"Following this lead, sawmill own-
ers have made a general cut in wages.
One mill cut the pay of its sawyers
\$25 a month. In another, the wages
for common laborers have been re-
duced to \$1.50 a day. * * * They
expect to lower wages still more when
the Panama canal is open and they
can import labor direct from Europe.
* * * For three days the five hun-
dred strikers kept the SKILLED ME-
CHANICS from going to work. Then
the company smuggled them in by
boats. * * * To be ready in case
of trouble, the COMPANY EMP-
LOYED 200 deputy sheriffs to guard
the smelter."

With considerable apparent satisfac-
tion, this paper goes on to relate that
the deputies employed "are not
TOUGHS, or LOW BROWS, but
SPLENDID FELLOWS. * * * Most
of them are clerks and mechanics;
many of them are COLLEGE STU-
DENTS. They know the situation ex-
actly. Said one, a young college man,
wearing glasses, with a deputy shir-
iff's badge pinned on his coat: 'Real-
ly, they have no CAUSE for complaint.
Most of them are Austrians, brought
here by the company. * * * Now,
when the company makes a cut in
wages they walk out, and their places
are taken by Americans. * * * Peaceful
picketing won't get them any-
where, and if they get rough, there
will be a continuous funeral out of
here until every one of them is bur-
ied.' A street car, bearing the strike-
breakers arrived, and the guards
clubbed an opening through the line of
pickets. One (picket) with a gash in
his head, and blood streaming down
his face, became enraged and drew a
gun. He was promptly clubbed into
submission. The young COLLEGE
GUARD helped lead him into the pa-
trol wagon."

"There you have it! The workers
have no cause for complaint," be-
cause "they are ignorant foreigners,"
and "COLLEGE MEN (!) are going to
give them a continuous funeral until
they are all dead."

To hell with the MAN (?) who will
prolong his life by such methods. To
hell with a philosophy that teaches
that such action is EVER necessary,
or desirable.

A man, a REAL MAN, CAN AL-
WAYS DIE.

JOHN McSLARROW.

Over 30,000,000 people have immi-
grated into the United States.

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