

# The Commonwealth

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## TAXATION AND REPRESENTATION.

"No taxation without representation," is the reason given by Dr. Anna Shaw for refusal to return her personal property for taxation as required by the laws of Pennsylvania. At the same time she urges women throughout the United States who are subject to the income tax to follow a similar policy. However, a study of the principles of political economy will inform any one that a personal property tax or a tax on what the capitalist world regards as an honestly earned income is merely legalized robbery, even when the person taxed happens to be a voter. That shows Dr. Shaw in the position of declaring in substance "no robbery without representation," and urging other women to pledge that they will submit to robbery if their own representatives do the robbing, but will otherwise resist it. Of course Dr. Shaw is within her rights in saying on what conditions she is willing to be robbed herself, but other women may not see the advisability of assuming a position that may be construed as approval of the robbery under certain circumstances.

On the other hand, a woman may not know anything about correct principles of taxation, and consequently believe that the state and federal governments may justly tax any kind of property. How can such a woman consistently follow Dr. Shaw's advice? If it is right that every one contribute to the support of government according to his or her means, then the right to vote does not enter into the matter at all. If the tax assessed on personal property or incomes is honestly due the government then it should not be withheld on any pretext.

Dr. Shaw uses the phrase, "No taxation without representation, as though the right to vote ensured representation of the voter. As a matter of fact it does nothing of the kind. In most of the southern states legal voters who are not members of the Democratic party have no more representation in congress than have the women of New York or Pennsylvania. In every congressional district voters who do not favor the successful candidate are unrepresented. In the state of Colorado a majority of the voters favored other than Democratic candidates, yet the entire state delegation is Democratic. A majority of the voters are consequently disfranchised. Although the Democratic party received but 42 per cent of votes cast at the election it obtained an overwhelming majority of congressmen. Although the Progressive party vote far exceeded the Republican vote, there are only 20 Progressive party men in congress to 124 Republicans. The Socialists cast 6 per cent of the total vote, but have not a single congressman.

The vote does not necessarily imply representation. If Dr. Shaw will adhere strictly to her demand of "no taxation without representation," she will not agree to pay taxes on merely being allowed to vote, but will insist on proportional representation as a condition as well.

## DUE TO GO INSANE.

Not long since it was stated by reliable medical authority that one person out of every sixteen is afflicted with syphilitic taint.

Now comes the startling discovery in New York that the dread mental malady paresis is definitely traceable to syphilitic infection. This cardinal discovery was recently made by Dr. J. W. Moore, of the Central Islip State hospital, working in conjunction with Professor Noguchi, of the Rockefeller institute.

These two, in studying the brains of patients who had died of general paralysis, discovered the germ of syphilis in the tissues, thus establishing definitely the relation of syphilis to the deadly form of insanity known as paresis.

This means that a frightful number of victims of capitalist social conditions are doomed to die of paresis during the next decade. Under Socialism the anti-social evil will disappear, and happy homes take the place of the brothel.

## THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE LABOR PARTY IN ENGLAND.

The ballots in connection with levying of contributions for political purposes have already been taken in the case of most of the principle unions. The British Labor party is almost entirely dependent upon the organizations directly affiliated to same. The trades act of 1913 provides that the funds of trades unions may not be used for political purposes unless over one-half of the members agree to same by ballot; every member may claim exemption from the extra contribution. Ten trades unions in which the ballot has already been taken have a total membership of about 1,500,000. The aggregate result is as follows: For, 450,000; against 310,000; not voting, 380,000. It is an extraordinary fact that no fewer than 200,000 miners voted against, seeing that a third of the Labor party are miners' representatives, elected by themselves, and further that they have achieved more through legislation than any other class of workers the legally regulated working day, the minimum wage, etc. It is to be hoped that the indifference and even hostility which is being displayed in some quarters towards the Labor party will not lead to internal friction or secession. This ballot clearly emphasizes once more the importance and necessity of thoroughly educating the workers in those matters so nearly affecting them and their welfare, and the establishing of a serious and powerful labor press.

## POLITICAL ACTION.

We had strikers deputies. Would make a splendid example of the effectiveness of political action a short time ago in Crawford county, Kansas. There the workers elected the entire Socialist ticket, including the sheriff. The telegraph operators threatened to go on strike and the railroad company wanted protection. They went to Sheriff Turkington and put their demand for protection up to him. He told them that they were entitled to protection and he would see that they got it, that he would make every striker a deputy sheriff. How different from Turfano and Las Animas counties! In Colorado we have our "friends," while in Crawford county, Kansas, we have one of our own men. It didn't cost any more to the workers to elect Turkington than it did to elect Farr and Grisham. In fact, it didn't cost as much. We are paying an awful price for having elected Farr and Grisham and Ammons—our friends. Let us learn by these bitter and costly experiences.—Ex.

## NOTHING SHORT OF TREASON

There is so much history proving the fallacy and wickedness of anti-political-action propaganda, leading inevitably as it does, and always has, not to solidarity on the industrial field, or anywhere else, but to disruption and reaction, that it is nothing short of treason to the working-class for a shallow-brained fanatic to get out and talk against political organization and the ballot. While there can be no doubt that many of these shallow-pated anarchists are sincere in their ignorance and fanaticism, on the other hand, this line of reactionary activity offers a fertile field for the Burns detective and the provoker of violence and lawlessness, and we are justified in looking with suspicion upon any of these mis-leaders of the proletariat. In such cases it is extremely difficult to distinguish the crook from the misguided martyr. And one is about as dangerous as the other.

## BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM.

"Printer's Ink," the recognized authority on advertising says: "After thorough investigation of the subject, a labor paper is a far better advertising medium than an ordinary newspaper in comparison of circulation; a labor paper for instance with a circulation of 1,000 is of more value to the merchant who advertises than an ordinary newspaper with 6,000 circulation."

Boost for the Commonwealth. It's worth it. Not?

## INTERLOCKING DIRECTORS.

Interlocking directorates form a most efficient instrument by which supposedly competing or conflicting interests may work smoothly in concert. They are a great convenience for trusts, but are not only because privilege has made interlocking desirable. In behalf of interlocking is urged the plea that it furnishes the only means by which all corporations may obtain services of men of the highest ability. It is hard to believe that that plea is urged in good faith. No man possesses sufficient ability to efficiently serve two competing interests. But he can serve one interest better if he happens to be in position to control a potential competitor. That is the real purpose of interlocking.

Is the remedy then, prohibition of interlocking as proposed in a bill pending in congress? If so, then one can remedy anything by changing its form and allowing the substance to remain. The proposed measure is childish. At the very most it will only compel interlocking directors to accomplish by subterfuge what they now do openly. John Doe may at present be a director in many different corporations. Under the proposed law he may only be a director in one. The other directorates might easily be filled by his brother, his son, his second cousin, his stenographer or other persons friendly to his interest or subject to his control. Such an arrangement may not work as smoothly or efficiently as the old one, but it can confer no great benefit on any one. The effect of the new arrangement will be the same as the old. One corporation will be prevented from offering some service to the public in order that the business of the other may be artificially increased and prices kept at a higher level than they ought to be. Natural resources will somewhere be withheld from use to maintain an artificial scarcity of commodities. Clearly an act of congress forbidding interlocking can accomplish nothing.

What is the remedy? Collective ownership of all monopolies, the land and the greater industries. Simple enough, is it not? Congress does not want to apply such a remedy, however, and there is no other. So congressmen must pretend to do something, even though it has no effect. Hence the pending bill forbidding interlocking.

## THE FRENCH LABOR MOVEMENT.

Although the trades union movement in France has never been considered very strong, nevertheless there were 5,033 trades union organizations in that country in 1912, with a total membership of 1,027,059, according to the reports just published by the French labor ministry. The employers, on their part, have about the same number of organizations (5,046), with a total membership of 421,566 persons, of whom 10,500 were women. The number of female workers in the Workers' Trade Union was 96,008, whilst in the mixed trades union there were 7,909.

As may be seen from these figures, the employers are today much better organized, numerically, than the workers, in addition to which the fact of their being far above the workers in financial strength and concentration is of very great importance. Until a few years ago quite the opposite was the case, and yet the employers, in a comparatively short time, have reconstituted their organizations on the lines of the German labor-killers. A comparison between the organized in the employers' and in the workers' camp would appear to be still more in favor of the employers, if the number of the workers in the service of the organized employers were given; for the great employers are generally much more inclined to join their organizations than the smaller ones. Of the 1,027,059 organized workers, only a round 400,000 belong to the Free Trades Unions and the French Trades Union Federation (C. G. T.); the remaining organized workers are members of the Yellow, Christian, Catholic, Liberal, Patriotic and such organizations. The organizations which at present constitute the greater danger to the general movement are the Christian and Catholic Trades Unions, since the employers and officials are doing their best to further the same because the former "Yellow" Trades Unions, "Unions of Economic Peace," resulted in a total fiasco. All the clerics, who for the most part hold the reins of the movement are also at the disposal of the employers, together with the great influence which they wield; whilst the Free Trades Union movement is hated and fought against—as is the case in all countries where the workers have taken up an independent position and have become a power in public life.

The railroads of the United States employ 1,699,000 persons and have an annual pay roll amounting to \$1,243,113,172.

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ENCAMPMENT AT PACIFIC PANAMA EXPOSITION.

A Letter to All Socialists—Important! Read! Discuss! Act!

Comrades—Let's meet at the Panama-Pacific exposition in San Francisco in 1915. This fair is international, so are we, and wouldn't it be grand to hold an international encampment at San Francisco during this greatest of world's expositions? Here is our idea: Let the Socialists of all nations establish an international Socialist encampment to be open continually during the Panama-Pacific exposition. To carry out this idea it will be necessary to secure a suitable tract of land easily accessible to the fair grounds. This tract should be equipped in a modern and sanitary manner to accommodate our comrades while attending the exposition.

Everything reasonable should be provided to make this camp inviting, comfortable and congenial. There should be substantial lodging and dining facilities, baths, rest rooms, library, swimming pool, gymnasium and athletic grounds. Enough variety should exist to satisfy different inclinations.

The success of the camp should depend only upon its patronage, and no doubt 99 per cent of all Socialists attending the fair would make the "International Camp" their headquarters. Nor would it be necessarily closed to non-Socialists, but of course the comrades would have preference. To be sure it is probable that this camp would develop into a miniature Socialist city, which would supply her guests with all reasonable comforts.

We should have a Socialist literature department, a lecture hall, and any means of propaganda that would be deemed advisable, also an information bureau to supply correct information about the exposition.

It appears to us that such a Socialist home would be a grand thing, worth almost as much to be a guest at the "International camp" as to visit the exposition.

At this camp, comrades of all countries would meet and become personally acquainted, and the effect would be wonderful in further promoting world-wide Socialist solidarity and strengthening Socialist fraternity all over the world.

This affair would have world-wide advertisement, free of cost, through our own press. Hence small cost of advertising and yet every reading Socialist on the globe would learn about the "International camp."

We feel sure if the rank and file and the press of our party think, talk, discuss and agitate this camp idea, that its establishment and success is

## REAL CAUSE OF CRIME.

"The high-browed specialists, with good salaries and comfortable homes, wonder why men drift into crime. The wonder is how so many resist. Hypocrites! Searching for the causes of crime in the shapes of men's skulls, instead of in their empty stomachs; in their broken lives. Crime is the child of desperation; the trait of despair.—Jack Armstrong, in Comrade Shipley's propaganda play, "The Call of Conscience," to be staged at the People's theater, March 26, 27 and 28.

The average annual wage in Australia is \$425.

Assured. At first thought it may appear that the patronage would be lacking, but we claim that the Socialists of the United States alone who will visit the fair would crowd quite a camp. For instance, suppose there are 2,500,000 adult Socialists in the United States. No doubt, an excess of 4 per cent will attend the fair. Four per cent of 2,500,000 gives 80,000 Socialists in San Francisco during 1915. Further, say perhaps 90 per cent (we predict 99 per cent) of those 80,000 Socialists would be guests at the Socialist camp. Ninety per cent of 80,000 gives 72,000. Divide 72,000 by 12 and we have 6,000 Socialists per month at the camp, considering the United States only.

SURE IT WOULD BE A SUCCESS. If the camp is established, Socialist fair-goers may rest assured of a fraternal Socialist environment to welcome them to San Francisco, and last but not least, there to be supplied with first class accommodations at a minimum cost.

This would be a magnificent example of the practicability of co-operation. And could a non-Socialist guest in this environment escape being won over to Socialism?

Now! All together, and the "International camp" is assured. Such an undertaking takes time to work out the plans to be adopted. This is none too early. NOW IS THE TIME TO AGITATE. GET THINGS MOVING. THINK! TALK! ACT! BUT DO IT NOW!

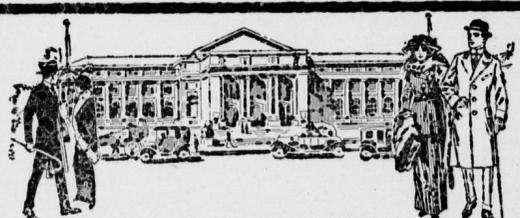
Yours for an international Socialist encampment at San Francisco in 1915.

LOCAL GOODING, Gooding, Idaho.

February 16, 1914.

## HANNAH CROSBY PRACTICAL NURSE

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  - Red Ball brand, 2 dozen for .....25c
  - Red Ball, larger, 2 dozen for .....35c
  - Large Rose brand, per dozen .....30c
- CELERY
  - Small Blonde Celery hearts, 2 for .....5c
  - Large Celery, per bunch 10c
- LETTUCE
  - Small hard Head Lettuce, 3 for .....10c
  - Green House Leaf, 3 for 10c
- APPLES
  - Winesap Apples, 2 dozen for .....25c
  - Spitzenberg Apples, per dozen .....30c
  - Cooking Apples, box, \$1.00
- Choice Spitz Eating Apples, per box .....\$2.00
- A pail of choice Spuds for .....25c Pail Free With It
- Monarch Butter .....65c There's none better
- Fresh Ranch Eggs, 2 dozen for .....45c
- Corn Flakes, 2 for .....15c
- 8 lbs. small White Beans 50c
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- Salt Pork .....15c
- Picnic Hams .....15c
- Oat Meal, 7 lbs. for .....25c
- 6 bars Crystal White Soap for .....25c
- 7 bars Lenox Soap .....25c
- 22 lbs. Sugar for .....\$1.00

This is the store where your dollar buys more.

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COR CALIFORNIA AND LOMBARD J. A. POWERS, Manager. THE STORE WHERE A SMALL AMOUNT OF CASH BUYS A LARGE AMOUNT OF Eatables PHONES 998

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  - Curtain Scrim, Fine Mesh, Neat Borders and Plain Net.....15c
  - Curtain, Swiss, only .....12 1-2c
  - Curtain Rods, from .....5c to 30c
- YOUR NEEDS—SEE US—WE HAVE IT

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The most wonderful finisher of wood yet discovered. You can pound it with a hammer and not injure it in the least. Hot water has no effect on it. A child can apply it. Let us show you.

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# GRAND THEATER

"The House of Features"

Sunday, March 22

# The Great Leap

Four Parts

Horse and sweethearts over a fifty-foot precipice to the river below. The most daring, thrilling and sensational feat ever performed for motion pictures. The climax of a big four-part story of Kentucky feud life produced by the Mutual Film Corporation, and featuring Robert Harron and Mae Marsh. One faction wipes out another and the boy and girl lovers—escaping on horseback—hemmed in on all sides by pursuers—plunge with their horse over a fifty foot precipice to what seems certain death in the waters below. Whatever you do, don't let it get by you. Features like this are few and far between.

Music by the Grand Elite Orchestra, Max Elster, Leader ADMISSION 10c SEE THE GRAND FIRST