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FREE LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

Answers will appear in the legal column of the Commonwealth as soon as possible after receipt of the inquiry, and no charge will be made the applicant for advice.

Heretofore it has not unfrequently happened that comrades in trouble sought the advice of the editor of this paper. But your editor is not a lawyer, nor has he the time to devote to such matters. So from now on our readers are invited to address all questions involving points of law to comrade Peter Husby, Room 209 Stokes Bldg., 1616 1-2 Hewitt Ave., Everett, Wash.

Q.—The county school superintendent is trying to form a large consolidated district in this vicinity. Many of the people are opposed to it. According to law, can we be forced into this consolidation when almost all of the people in our district are opposed to it? Other districts are opposed to it too. Yet it seems that the county superintendent will try to force us in anyway.—J. E. S.

A.—The law provides: "Upon receipt of a petition signed by five heads of families of two or more adjoining districts in the same county, the county superintendent may organize and establish a consolidated school district," and that "the county superintendent shall give notice to the parties interested by causing notices to be posted at least twenty days prior to the time appointed by him for considering said petition," and "on the day fixed in the notice, he shall proceed to hear said petition, and if he deem it advisable to grant the petition he shall make an order establishing said district.'

Your district can be forced into the consolidation, if the majority of the people in the districts involved desire the consolidation. Also, a county superintendent who has no regard for the wishes of the majority, or for his own reputation, or who is carrying out a political scheme, can force you into it, as the matter is left to his discretion. However, if the majority are against the consolidation and have at least plausible reasons for their opposition, and if they appear at the meeting and enter a vigorous protest against the consolidation, I think the county superintendent will not "deem it advisable" to grant the consolidation. I would advise that petitions against the consolidation be circulated in each of the districts concerned.

DO YOU READ SOCIALIST BOOKS?

If you do. Local Everett No. 1 has a splendid circulating library of some one hundred books. The library contains the works of the world's greatest writers, Marx, Engels, London, Nietzsche, Hugo and many others. Such books as "Value, Price and Profit," "War, What For," "Human, All Too Human," etc., may be rented for a very small sum.

Socialist books and literature will be on sale at all meetings hereafter and all Socialists and others who wish to gain a thorough knowledge of Socialism will do well in renting or purchasing the standard works on Socialism.

There is no class of men so difficult to be managed in a state as those whose intentions are honest, but whose consciences are bewitched.—Napoleon.

In New Zealand every man out of work has the right to demand employment on work of public improvement at the prevailing rate of wages.

Mule Skin Gloves and Mittens, 50c. Hill's Book Store, 2929 Colby.

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Put them to work

THE ONE REAL ATHEISM

By GEORGE D. HERRON

There can be no true understanding of Socialism apart from the recognition that society, by the system of social production for private profit, is divided into two classes, engaged in perpetual war with each other; one a producing and the other an exploiting class. Substantially stated, the present organization of the world is in order that a comparatively few may compel the labor of the many, and appropriate its fruits. Existing political institutions have no other end than this private seizure of social production, over and above the lowest scale of living which labor can be coerced into accepting. That the capitalist works, does not argue against the existence of his class. Or that the ruler works, does not argue against the parasitical nature of his position. The work of the capitalist consists in the exploitation of the real producer; the work of the ruler consists in the defense of the property of the capitalist—without which capitalist the ruler could not be. And between the workers and the class that possesses itself of their product, there can be neither identity of interest nor social peace.

Nor ought there to be. It is an utterly irrational and immoral society, an insanely wasteful industrial arrangement, by which the bulk of the world's population is engaged in producing wealth it is never to enjoy. It is really a world of slaves we are living in; and freedom, either of labor or spirit, is a fiction. Free labor and free men have no existence apart from a community of ownership and interest in production. As the work of the world is now carried on, the production of things proceeds through the destruction of human beings, soul and body. And to close our eyes to this, to consent to a society that divides mankind into owners and workers, masters and servants, rich and poor, governors and governed, is indeed a hopeless infidelity toward life; is the most absolute atheism of which man can be guilty.

GROWTH OF SOCIALISM IS RAPID IN CANADA.

The wave that cast James Simpson, Socialist, into the board of control of this city was the crest of a tidal wave of Socialism that has been rising in the Dominion in the past twelve years. This is shown by a table of the vote since 1903 compiled by W. Watts for the Western Clarion. The table is as follows:

Dates.	Votes Received.
1903	3,507
1907	3,670
1908	8,697
1909	9,688
1910	10,929
1911	15,852
1912	15,857
1913	17.071

Considering the difficulties the movement has encountered, this is a record to be proud of.

The first notable election took place in the Province of British Columbia in 1903. From then on, the elections have been contested stoutly and with excellent results, till in the last election the Socialists managed to pull 15 per cent of the total vote.

The movement has unusual difficulties. Not the least of these is the Labor party, which has in some cases fouled the scent in a considerable degree. Another is the strong influence of the Catholic church in the Dominion and the general state of agricultural prosperity.

That British Columbia is the strongest section of the country is shown by the table given below. Since 1903, when the party elected three officials, it has slowly but surely increased its power. The table follows:

Province.	Year.	Vote.
British Columbia	1903	3,507
British Columbia	1907	3,670
British Columbia	1909	6,195
British Columbia	1912	6,200
Alberta	1909	1,429
Alberta	1913	3,383
Saskatchewan	1908	66
Saskatchewan	1912	58
Manitoba	1910	1,241
Ontario	1911	3,604

One of the hindrances in the Dominion elections is the deposit of $200 which is required to place a candidate in the field. The deposit is lost in all cases where the candidate does not receive at least one-half the total number of votes cast for the winning candidate.

The deposit required in the provincial elections is $100. The only section that does not require any money of the candidates is Ontario.

Whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, neither is, in my opinion, safe.—Burke.

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Will you not send it in right now?

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