

## Initiative and Referendum.

By RODERICK J. MACDONALD.

Let the I. W. W. membership rule themselves thru and by the initiative and referendum.

It is the only medium by and through which pure democracy can ever be obtained to give permanency to their personal and collective rights.

It gives every member an equal opportunity to deliberate on every measure proposed or initiated in order to render righteous judgment when voting or referring.

It enables every member to vote directly on all measures local, national and international.

It conserves all power inherent within the rank and file, political economic, social and sexual.

It is the reverse of delegates or politicians convened in convention as law makers and law givers, ruling from above.

The initiative and referendum proves conclusively that a representative form of government as now obtains under capitalism, world-wide, is capitalistic in name and nature. It is a medium that has outlived its usefulness; it cannot be used in a revolutionary and an absolute democratic working class organization like the I. W. W. it is an obsolete; its relation to democratic organization is much the same as the horse is to the automobile. Hence conservatives and reactionaries support and advocate it.

The great need of the I. W. W. is more democracy to give birth to new ideals, to broaden our vision, to stimulate thought, to encourage, to give or renew our hopes, aims, desires and ambitions.

The initiative and referendum point out to the delegate or politician, that his service is no longer required and from now on, all officers elected to serve in any and all positions, their duties must be absolutely non-political.

There is no more use for a convention than a deluge. Yes, fellow-workers, the initiative and referendum is the instrument we must use to simplify our work. It creates order, harmony, giving every member his inalienable right to a say or voice as to how the movement is to be managed in all its details, otherwise the I. W. W. will degenerate and finally die, and a more revolutionary movement will be born and take its place to overthrow capitalism, (The Political State) and emancipate the workers of the world from wage slavery.

The politician and the initiative and referendum have nothing in common. The former rules the members from above; in the latter the members govern themselves from below.

In California we have the initiative and referendum, but its present status is a huge joke. It is practically inoperative only through petitions to have certain amendments placed on the ballot. Why? We must petition the politicians, and will continue to do so as long as city and state legislatures are dominated by politicians, thus obstructing the voice of the people through the initiative and referendum. Those governing bodies must go. Politics and policies do not require politicians to juggle over them in legislative halls and, if the people of California want to function with the initiative and referendum with absolute freedom, they must abolish those political legislating bodies.

In 1906 our convention abolished the second clause in our Preamble; it was voiced with emphasis that we abolished the politicians, yet still keep on holding conventions and, mark you, electing delegates or politicians to make and amend, to be law makers and law givers. Also our referendum is a huge joke, as two thirds of the work of the convention is never placed before the membership for their final referendum. Hence the rule from above is final. If that is not political jugglery within the I. W. W. I make my bow and retire gracefully waiting to introduce the new method, viz: The initiative and referendum.

Two thirds of our Constitution is absolutely political, defining the duties of conventions, delegates, proportional representation, a Political General Executive Board, and so on all along political lines, mark you, within a democratic revolutionary organization like the I. W. W. I hold that the I. W. W. is identical with the A. F. of L. as far as its executive is concerned; our constitution was written and shaped to rule from above.

In this writing I am pointing out the truth and the dangers involved in allowing this state of affairs to exist much longer. I suggest we re-construct our constitution, abolish conventions and that all offices be made absolutely non-political, leaving the power solely within the membership, viz: By the initiative and referendum.

## Fine Rifles Cheap.

"General" Chase of Colorado has deported Mother Jones and threatens to manhandle her should she return.

Everywhere "Citizen" League Vigilantes and gunmen are outraging working people and violating the Constitution of the United States. It is up to the working class to maintain the "unalienable rights."

It is reported to The Voice that Sears, Roebuck & Co., of Chicago is selling a fine rifle, the German Army Mauser for only \$6.75.

## Another One, And They Call It Justice.

Some six months ago, the men working on the lighter boats, running on the beautiful and historic Delaware river, around the port of Philadelphia, Pa., having become dissatisfied with existing conditions on the lighter boats, they organized themselves into a branch of Local 8 of the Marine Transport Workers of the I. W. W.

After three months of agitation amongst the lightermen, they succeeded in perfecting their organization. As soon as that was done the members got together to discuss their grievance.

Among the many things said, the principal one was the wages and the long hours of work. The men had been working for 10 to 12 dollars per week, which is insufficient to keep their families from want in the face of the evergrowing cost of living.

A scale of wages was decided upon, and it consisted of 15 dollars a week for the minimum. A committee was elected to draw up their demands and present the same to the bosses.

On presenting these demands, the bosses were very much astonished claiming that their profits would not allow them to make concessions. But on seeing the determination of the men, they all gave in except the Tucker and Oliver lines. On October 11th a strike was declared on the named two lines. The men having the knowledge of solidarity, they walked off the lighters to a man. On October 15th John I. Loux, Arthur Wilmot and organizer J. J. McKelvey were arrested for conspiracy, as the persecuting attorney CLAIMED that the three named individuals were seen together on the corner of Second and Walnut streets.

On November 30th at a regular business meeting of the lightermen branch, it was proven that a thing in the shape of a human, had scabbed it on the Tucker line, so the members voted to have his book and button taken away from him, as they could not associate with a traitor to the cause they represented.

On November 1st, it is claimed (by the persecuting attorney) that J. J. McKelvey said on the corner of Second and Walnut, "We will get Tucker and make him pay the wages." On this very same night the thing that had scabbed on the Tucker line was assaulted. On Tuesday, November 4th, John I. Loux was arrested on Otis wharf, charging him with having put salt in the assaulted scab's battery. The very same day Arthur Wilmot was arrested charged with having put salt in Jorgenson's battery, another scab.

Loux and Wilmot were given a hearing in the Kangaroo court and the bail fixed at \$800 for Loux and \$400 for Wilmot.

There is no use going into details to describe the mockery of the so-called justice as they wanted to connect Wilmot with the first dose of salt given to the first scab, but the evidence was so clear in his favor that even that good judge had to give up the attempt.

Two days after this hearing Wilmot was re-arrested on the same charge that they didn't make stick at the hearing, only that charge in the meantime had become another conspiracy (whatever that meant). Organizer McKelvey learning of Wilmot's arrest went to the police station to see what could be done for Wilmot. While waiting for the trial McKelvey was called aside and put under arrest, later Leoux was rearrested and the three were held under \$1000 bond each.

No use explaining any further as we all know that the bosses are trying their best to break up the organization formed by the lightermen.

The organized fellow-workers have received an increase in wages ranging from \$10 to \$15 a month, and the bosses are looking for revenge.

What kind of revenge do you think they want? The only kind of revenge we know of, is to put the most active members in jail, because they have proven very dangerous to their profits. Let us not forget the fact, that the bosses will not stop at any thing, to keep us in misery, degradation and submissiveness.

What are we going to do about it? We had better wake up to give them a dose of the same medicine, by keeping always in mind our war cry, "An injury to one is an injury to all."

C. L. FILIGNO.

## PEACE AND REVOLUTION.

Peace on earth, good will to man.

We love peace, but not peace at any price.—There is a peace more destructive of the manhood of living man, than war is destructive of his body.—Chains are worse than bayonets.—Jerrald.

Revolutions are like most noxious dunghoops, which brings into life the noblest vegetables.—Napoleon.

## LIFE IS STRIFE.

Life is strife for every man,  
For every son of thunder;  
Then be a lion, not a lamb,  
And don't be trampled under.—Redbeard.

## Voice Maintenance Fund.

### DECEMBER DONATIONS:

Wm. Heafy	\$1.00
L. U. 396, Rosepine, La.	1.20
Denecke, of Vancouver	1.00
John H. Ratgen	1.50
E. J. S.	1.00
W. H. Lewis	1.00
A. L. Emerson	1.00
J. J. F.	1.50
L. U. 7, M. T. W.	1.25
Paul Noetzold	1.00
W. E. Hollingsworth	2.00
Jack Root	1.00
Louis DeSutter	1.50
C. H. Reynolds	1.00
Oscar Bourque	1.00
Jay Smith, Secty. F. L. W.	2.00
Chas. Ashleigh	.25
A. G. Allen	20.00
L. S. Willis	1.00

Total \$41.20

### JANUARY DONATIONS:

R. VanBuskirk	.50
M. Lambright	1.00
F. R. Fulmer	1.00
E. J. S.	1.00

Total \$3.50

NOTE.—THE VOICE thanks you, Fellow Rebels. We will yet save the paper if we all pull together as we have been pulling the last few weeks. The next two months will be hard ones, tho. Any Local or Rebels can send in money now and draw bundles from it later if desired. We would like to see more subs, tho, as the circulation of THE VOICE among the workers is what counts for the building up of the ONE BIG UNION. Ask your partner on the job if he is a subscriber.

YOURS TO WIN,

C. H.

## Sluggo Gilbert Hennigan Rewarded.

The New Orleans papers of December 31st give an account of the "heroic" deeds of one Gilbert Hennigan of Merryville, the same being an ex-B. T. W. and later one of the leaders of the nefarious "Citizens (?) League" that took part in the cowardly, infamous and inhuman assaults that were made on union men, women and children toward the end of the strike on the alleged American Lumber Co. Thug Hennigan had the gall to go to DeQuincy, La., on Sunday, December 21st, it seems, and to attempt to strut before the Lumberjacks and Railroad boys of that rebel burg, but pretty soon, from strutting he went weeping to a blind-tiger deputy for "protection." Here the hero stayed until his train was about due. Then he started for the depot followed by his guardian gunman, when a BOY stepped up to him and knocked him head-over-heels. The hero then grabbed the gunman, crying: "Protect, protect, O protect me, please!" This according to eye witnesses, which is some different from the way the kept press told it, as they had Gilbert and the blind-tiger holding off a "mob" of 75 to 100 men at the point of drawn revolvers until Gilbert backed up onto the train and got started once more into the great EX (?) HOG-RAISER'S hellhole, where we advise him to stay hereafter, as nobody but the scab-herding Santa Fe Railroad wants such cattle on their premises. You will note that when a body of workingmen take some little vengeance for the grossest outrages heaped upon their class that they are always a "mob," but not so are the Gilbert Hennigans, Doctor Knights and their white-livered wrecking gangs. After the hero of Merryville got back to his own kind, Bullmeat Henry sent up and carried Fellow-worker Ed. McMickle down the bullpen in Lake Charles, Ed. being charged with being a "hoodlum," but turned him loose on his own bond to come up for a Calcasieu "trial" later on.

We are getting a little tired of Henry grabbing our men on all sorts of rotten charges made by rotten Burns Detectives and rottener "Citizen Leaguers," and we want it STOPT, especially his hoisty-toity talks to the boys after they are landed in his hotel where he gets 55 cents a day for feeding human beings a loaf of bread and a pound of stenchy bullmeat every 24 hours, which we consider high board, even if the bullmeat is served hair, hide and all on.

## On With the Social General Strike.

VAST ARMY OF MEN FACING STARVATION ON PACIFIC COAST.

There are as many unemployed on the Pacific coast this winter as the entire standing army of the United States.

In California the number approximates 100,000. San Francisco's jobless are estimated at 20,000; those of Los Angeles at 35,000; Portland's 15,000, and Seattle's about 20,000.

And on the heels of this congestion of the destitute

in the larger cities, has followed the biggest crime wave in years.

Harassed by hunger and responsibility for distressed families, thousands of law-abiding men are on the brink of desperate measures.

In Portland they have already begun to "rush" the restaurants, demanding food.

The calling of a special session of the legislature to deal with the acute problem is being urged in California, local relief measures having proven entirely inadequate.

This is a part of the price the west coast is paying for the alluring but lying advertisements of big business to flood the man markets of California, Oregon and Washington—to bring down the price of muscle and sweat—as well as the enticements of big real estate corporations.

Hope of employment with the 1915 exposition has greatly stimulated the influx in San Francisco. Here certain railroad advertisements are blamed.

The futility of this hope is apparent in the announcement of the exposition comptroller that there are already over 22,000 applicants on the waiting list.

Take Los Angeles. Not an industrial city, the demand for labor is never large. BUT THOSE FIGHTING TO PRESERVE THE "OPEN SHOP" IN EVERY WAY TO ENCOURAGE A GLUT OF IDLE LABOR, TENDING TO LOWER WAGES.

Portland, normally the winter stamping ground of thousands of idle timber and construction workers, suspend at this season, has watched the problem grow even more acute this year.

Seattle finds itself in a similar situation, with hordes seeking a hand-to-mouth existence.

"The hardest winter in years"—everywhere this disquieting statement is being made.

The holidays brought out the sharp contrast between joyous opulence and abject distress in blunt fashion, the shoppers running the gauntlet of the army of destitute, existing on street doles.

In growing alarm, municipalities have passed emergency employment and charity measures, but—

NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOR A FUNDAMENTAL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASING EVERY YEAR.

COMMENT.

The above is from "The Seattle Star" of December 27, 1913. The last sentence of the above article, "No steps have been taken for a fundamental solution of the problem of unemployment, increasing every year," strikes us most and constrains us to remark that no such steps will EVER be taken until the unemployed take it for themselves and peaceably or forcibly, as the capitalist insist, overthrow the wage system. No politicians are going to heal this panic and no guns either, "Major General" Harrison Greywolf Otis and Company—nothing will or can stop worldwide starvation now but ONE BIG REVOLUTIONARY UNION OF THE WORKING CLASS. ON WITH THE SOCIAL GENERAL STRIKE!

## THE PREYING PREACHERS.

THE VOICE has received the following letter: "I am now living where I was raised, am 45 years of age and have tried to live up to the "Golden Rule." In 1911 I joined the B. T. W. and have ever since been a rebel in the labor struggle. I was raised near a snaky preacher who I have often kept in case of actual need, and now he is trying to get me to turn down the I. W. W., as he says I am one of the ring-leaders of Local 275. But I want to tell the I. W. W. they can't cram enuf preachers in Prospect church house to jar me loose from the Union, for I am here to WIN.

H. L. WALKER "

COMMENT.

The great mistake made by this fellow-worker and many others was trying to live up to the "Golden Rule" in a system of society that is founded, State, Church and all, on the Rule of Gold. Quit it, you fool workers. Organize, like the preachers, priests, politicians and capitalists do, and GRAB all the good things you can HERE AND NOW, for you will be a long time dead.

## "CHRISTIAN BENEFACTORS," MAKE GOOD!

We are not living in the great primitive age of individual agricultural production. The evolution of Capitalism has drawn from the cultivation of the soil the millions who now congest our industrial centers. The prominent christians, of each great community, the pillars of the church, are the ones who profit by this congestion in that they would be unable to employ sufficient labor in their factories and mills unless there was an army of wage earners ready at hand. They themselves are parasites performing no useful functions in society.

That they are not benefactors will be vividly impressed upon the unemployed during the next few months. Benefactors can only be properly so considered when they make some actual sacrifice. Employing men, women and children to make a profit out of their labor is not benefaction. It is good business.

The test of a benefactor comes when he employs wage earners at a loss. The time is now here in the industrial world when the Christian employer can play such a part.—"Justice."