

The Washington Socialist

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE! YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS. YOU HAVE A WORLD TO WIN

5c per copy, \$1.00 per year.

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER, 31, 1914.

No. 208.

AN ENCOURAGING REPORT Paper Placed On Sound Financial Footings Despite Hard Times

Washington Socialist Now Has
Income Equal to Expendi-
tures—No Debts.

It is with a great deal of pleasure that, as business manager, I am able to announce to the readers of The Washington Socialist that the paper begins the new year practically free of debt, the few dollars still owing to the editor being covered by collectible advertising for December.

Since going through bankruptcy, in April, it has been one ambition of the office force to begin the year 1915 with a clean slate; and we have, to all practical purposes, accomplished our aim. We had hoped to collect all outstanding bills for December before making this report; but, after all, it is immaterial, since they will all be collected within a few weeks.

At the beginning of May we were behind the game to the extent of about \$160.00. The summer months were dull, and we have since passed through two vigorous political campaigns. In the meantime, we have been passing through a period of financial depression which has been felt keenly by the working class everywhere. Yet, in the face of all this, we have slowly but surely increased our subscription list, and, on the whole, have not only paid current ex-

penses, but have been gradually wiping out the above mentioned small indebtedness.

From now on the way seems clear. It is to be doubted if many Socialist papers can enter the new year so hopefully.

It has been said that an announcement showing our freedom from financial embarrassment would tend to decrease active efforts in behalf of the paper. But this view seems, upon second thought, to be unreasonable. Who would not prefer to work energetically for the paper, knowing that each month's expenses were being paid by the monthly receipts, than to know that he was constantly working to pay up old debts?

Our success in tiding the paper over the hard times of the closing year should, we think, encourage everyone interested in the upbuilding of The Washington Socialist to redouble his or her efforts. We are every day receiving letters of appreciation and congratulation from all over the state, which leads us to believe that our sub. list will continue to grow throughout the year 1915 even faster than during the twelve months that came to an end with this New Year's issue.

Yours for a strong Socialist press in the state of Washington,
KATHERINE H. HODGINS,
Business Manager.



"No, the Capitalist does not give us work; it's because of the Capitalist that we can't get work."—Jack Armstrong, in Shiple's "The Call of Conscience."

A STRONG FACTOR FOR PARTY PROGRESS

PURCHASING POWER.

Chas. W. Erwin.

The paper on which these words are printed was made by the workers. The type used to form the words was fashioned by the workers. That modern mechanical marvel—the printing press—from whose embrace these sheets fell with almost lightning speed, was born of the brain and fashioned by the skill and brawn of the workers.

But the paper lord; the type lord; the printer lord and all the other lords of industry who own the machinery that the workers have to use to produce all of these things and to transport them from the place of production have to be reckoned with by those who produce and sell this printed sheet to you. In other words, we are PRODUCING IT IN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM AND MUST PAY TOLL AT EVERY STAGE OF ITS PRODUCTION.

While we are compelled to pay a profit to those who control the machinery of production and distribution we are not primarily publishing this paper for profit. Seems like a hopeless kind of a job on first thought, doesn't it? Looks as if the only way to do it is to ask the readers to pass over the coin to pay the deficit between income and outgo that must increase with each issue of the paper. But this isn't the way at all.

The capitalist press is up against the same proposition as we are and they would never think of appealing to their readers for financial aid. They wouldn't get it if they did, and if they did get it they wouldn't get

any profits and that is what they are primarily after. The capitalist press as a whole makes money and many of their papers make much money. The workers' press as a whole loses money and many of their papers lose much money. Why?

The capitalist press cashes in on the only asset any newspaper has—THE PURCHASING POWER OF ITS READERS. That's the reason capitalist publishers spend thousands, hundreds of thousands, and in some cases millions, to secure a large circulation. The larger the circulation the higher the price they can get for space from advertisers and that spells profit.

The press devoted to the interests of the workers has never cashed in on the only asset they have with which they can hope to balance their liability—THE PURCHASING POWER OF THEIR READERS. Without the spending of a single extra copper from the pockets not too well supplied in the misnamed "best of times," the workers could support a powerful press if they used their PURCHASING POWER to support their own press in place of putting millions of dollars in the war chest of their enemies.

Next week the writer is going to show you how one group of people put a powerful national daily in the field and kept it there without a deficit, solely by the use of their PURCHASING POWER and this group is as nothing when compared with the toilers of this country. If they could do this thing—and they have—then if we don't do it we had better get off the firing line and give place to those more fit to do the job.

THE SOCIALIST PRESS

By EUGENE V. DEBS.

In the present advanced state of the Socialist movement it is hard to understand why the press which has been such an important factor in the party's progress, should be so indifferently treated and so scantily supported by Socialists themselves. The importance of the press in the class struggle, in political campaigning and in the educational propaganda is conceded by all, and yet practically every Socialist paper in the United States is having a desperate struggle to maintain its existence.

Whether Socialist papers are privately owned or party owned, whether they are narrow and dogmatic or liberal and opportunist, they encounter the same difficulties and with scarcely an exception they are compelled to waste their means and energies in keeping going from day to day.

A Socialist paper, no matter by whom started or how honestly and ably conducted, is in for trouble from the very beginning.

Socialist publishers and editors have uniformly had the same experience and struggle along in the hope that relief may come and that the paper whose critical career has so endeared

it to them may at last be placed upon a secure foundation.

The average Socialist editor works harder, longer and more conscientiously than any other person in the movement, and he does it under circumstances that would break the spirit and drive out in despair and disgust any one not literally harnessed to the movement by chains of steel.

Yet, in spite of all these handicaps and hardships, the Socialist papers have done and are doing a vital work in the upbuilding of the party and the development of the movement, the value and importance of which could be by no extravagance of words be overstated.

With all their weaknesses they are the strength of the party, the bulwark of the movement, and without them disintegration and disaster would speedily follow.

The capitalist class recognize the value of their press and feed it fat and plenty to keep it strong and active. Socialists might well profit by their example. The snarling wolf is ever at the door, and under such circumstances no paper and no set of men can do the best there is in them. They can not fight the battles of Socialism and the battle for their own existence at the same time.

Proof That A Socialist Is Not "Just Like The Old-Party Officials When Elected"

A STORY OF FIDELITY TO CLASS

Achievements of a Socialist
Commissioner.

During the recent municipal election, which resulted in the placing of one of the two Socialist candidates in the city council, comrade J. M. Salter, the successful candidate for commissioner of public works, stood squarely on the principles of International Socialism. From platform, press and curbstone, and in conversation, comrade Salter made it known that he was the candidate of the working class. He stated candidly that if he were elected he would act, whenever possible, primarily in the interest of the working class.

As this is the last issue of the Washington Socialist for the year 1914, a brief survey of Commissioner Salter's work during the four and one-half months he has been in office will doubtless prove of interest to our readers.

Even the most bitter opponents of Socialism, political enemies of Mr. Salter, have been forced to admit that, as a public official, he has given an efficient and entirely honest administration of his department. Though increases in wages have been made in many instances, and an eight-hour day established, the extra expense has been compensated for by the elimination of needless expenditures in other ways. Organized labor, to a man, admit that Salter has voiced the interests of that body on all occasions, insisting always upon union wages and conditions. Union labor has been insisted upon in every instance where possible.

It goes without saying that the Socialists of Everett are more than pleased with the results of their many years of patient effort to gain partial or complete control of the city hall.

Even the opposition press editorially, perhaps unwittingly, paid comrade Salter a tribute in commenting on the fact that Salter was living up to the platform upon which he was elected. By which it was admitted that Salter was taking orders from the Socialist organization, instead of from the banks and Big Business in general.

Function of Socialist Official as Legislator.

In a legislative capacity, the Socialist official can best serve the working class by exposing vicious legislation, in preventing the passage of measures that would prove detrimental to labor, rather than by attempting to have

working class measures put through a hostile legislative body.

While each commissioner is an executive head of his respective department, acting as a council the three commissioners become the legislative body of the city.

One of the duties devolving on a councilman is voting on measures that involve antagonistic property interests only, and have no bearing on working class interests whatsoever.

Cases of this nature the Socialist commissioner has voted on as his judgment dictated, endeavoring always to serve the best interests of the people as a whole. An old party commissioner might be "influenced" to serve the pecuniary interests of some particular business element, more often than with the greatest amount of "influence."

As to Efficiency.

From the moment of taking the oath of office the new Socialist commissioner made it plain that he intended to fill the place to which the workers had elected him in an efficient way. His first act was to dispense with the services of street commissioner—a fat political plum worth \$1,800 per year,—and assume the duties of that office himself. This amount was therefore left available for increasing the wages of useful city employees.

The positions of street foreman, barn boss, deputy electrician, building inspector, plumbing inspector, and employment agent, were then filled with men skilled and proficient in the duties involved in their particular lines of work.

The hold-over deputy electrician drew a salary of \$75 per month; was not even an electrician, and never showed up at the city hall except on pay day. The present appointee is a skilled mechanic, and is always on the job; and although his salary is now \$100 per month, the fees collected from contractors is more than enough to offset the increase in his salary.

Electric wiring was done in a hazardous, slipshod, dangerous manner, with absolutely no regard for the ordinance covering that work, thereby subjecting life and property to needless loss by fire from defective wiring, besides raising insurance rates to property owners. All that is now a thing of the past.

Graft Jobs Abolished.

From 41st and Colby to the golf links, perhaps a mile in distance, a man was kept with rake and shovel to remove the least roughness or pebbles from the highway for the

benefit of pleasure-seeking autoists. Needless to state that no such expenditure of public funds for the benefit of a favored few is now being made.

Plank 3 of the Socialist municipal platform states: "We demand the abolition of the contract system on all public work."

We know the contractors make a profit on the workers. With the contractors eliminated, the workers can share in this profit by receiving a higher wage, on a shorter work-day, and the city still save money on public work.

The truth of the above was verified recently by a piece of sewer constructed on the day-labor plan, under the direction of the commissioner of public works. The engineer's estimate was \$330; and that was about the amount that would be charged by a contractor for the job, they at that figure paying \$2.25 per day. The city paid \$2.55 per day and dropped nearly \$40 below the estimate.

The Bridge Incident.

As eight-hours constitutes a day's work in all the departments of public works and finance, Commissioner Salter introduced an ordinance, which was passed by the council, providing for three eight-hour shifts instead of two 12-hour shifts on the Everett avenue bridge.

Later the other two non-Socialist members of the council repealed the ordinance and let the caring of the bridge by contract to two men for \$89 per month.

The former tenders were receiving \$80 each per month, working on eight-hour shifts.

Since the new men took their jobs, one month ago, bills amounting to \$80 have been presented to the city for damages due to tug boats being held up by the bridge not being opened in time.

Helped Abolish Unjust Tax.

The officials of the Bartenders Union waited on the council soon after the last election and asked for the repeal of an ordinance requiring bartenders to give bond and take out a license before being allowed to pursue their calling. This entailed a yearly tax of \$15 on a bartender, and must have been secured before he was allowed to go to work. Through the firm stand against this unjust discrimination taken by Commissioner Salter, the council repealed the ordinance.

The most vital problem relating to the interests of the working class was Commissioner Salter's work on behalf of the unemployed, in bringing to the attention of the public the imperative

RESULTS IN CALIFORNIA

By A. E. BRIGGS.
SACRAMENTO, Cal., Dec. 20th.—Slowly the election returns come in. In this county the lowest returns for any state Socialist candidate are within 29 votes of the highest at the last state election in 1910.

It looks as though the highest in the state this year will be more than double the highest in 1910.

Socialist sentiment never was so widespread as at present. In order to defeat its expression at the polls the capitalists worked the game of the "very good man." They took Fredricks as the devil incarnate for the "very bad man" and Johnson, who has thrown out a few crumbs for the "very good man." For fear of a reign of terror many voted for Johnson to defeat the "bogymen" Fredricks.

Yet, though the capitalists played out all these big cards we still have the biggest vote in the history of the party.

It now looks as though the lowest vote in the state will equal the highest in 1910—48,000 votes—and the highest set a new mark above 100,000.

Anti-Socialists are welcome to what comfort they can get out of these facts and figures.

If my soldiers should think carefully, not one of them would remain in the ranks.—Frederick II.

At least the English have nerve. They have even dared to seize a Standard Oil steamer.—Cleveland Leader.

need of doing something for those of our citizens who had been brought to acute distress through lack of work; and then when the public was convinced that something must be done, Salter put up a vigorous fight against a proposed reduction in wages to additional workers in his department.

When funds were provided, and work found for some of the unemployed in the city park, Salter insisted that the men given work be placed through the free employment office, maintained by the city. The two non-Socialist commissioners, and the park board, overruled him and all applicants for work are obliged to seek employment through the office of the Associated Charities. The wisdom of Salter's contention has been amply demonstrated by many cases of putting men at work who were not entitled to it. The women in charge of the charity association have since admitted that the employment bureau was best equipped to place men "deserving of work."

RUSSIAN SOCIALISTS ARE

ANTI-PATRIOTIC

Since the war started, Russia has been a sealed chamber. Only vague rumors of what our Socialist comrades are doing—many of them either inventions or distortions—have reached us.

News from Socialist officials that has just come to hand states that the Social Democratic party and the Socialist Revolutionary party have stood solidly together as opposed to the war.

Since the Russian firesides have been threatened by the German invasion into Poland, the Henry Dubbs have been offering themselves in droves as food for powder. But not so with the Socialists. Although their papers have been suppressed, anti-war leaflets and manifestos are being printed by the million in "dens and caves of the earth" and scattered broadcast throughout the land.

Although Socialists by the dozens are being sent as exiles to Siberia and others placed under arrest, this secret propaganda still goes on and many thousands of workers are joining their ranks and their policy—to a man—is to fight the institution that breeds war and not the damned fools that do the fighting and this is causing the military authorities the greatest apprehension. Although four members of the Duma with eleven other Socialists have been arrested and charged with attempting to call a national conference to protest against war the spirit of the party still remains sound and although the leader of the party in the Duma received a letter from Emile Vanderveide, the Belgian Socialist (? asking the Russian Socialists "not to work against the Russian government, which is helping the victory of the democratic (? ideals in Europe," their answer was blunt and to the point. It was to the effect that the request was impossible. They were going to fight the government as they had done before, because war or no war the policy of reaction was the same and "in fighting against Russian Czarism, they better help the democratic cause in Europe."

Long live Russian Socialism.

SAY!

You are going to Local Everett No. 1, S. P. of E. That big benefit concert and minstrel show, Saturday evening, January 2, 1915. Adults, 15c; children, 10c. Everybody to the wheel.

Announcement Extraordinary!

BIG SOCIALIST BENEFIT CONCERT AT SOCIALIST HALL,
SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, AT 8 P. M.

A big time is scheduled for Saturday evening at Socialist Headquarters, when the curtain rises on what will be the starting of a weekly entertainment under the direction of comrade Heller, from Seattle.

This week's program will be a hummer from all reports. A big minstrel first part will open the program, and the second half will be a vaudeville bill of exceptional merit. Retta, the little child performer, will be a strong feature on the program, and we can all look forward to a ripping good time.

These concerts and entertainments will be run as benefits for Local Everett No. 1, and will bring the members together for a jollification each week on Saturday night.

Comrade Heller will form a dramatic society while here and will produce plays touching on Socialist questions. He intends to put in an up-to-date set of folding scenery, so that the dramatic club will be at no loss for settings.

The admission price will be 15 cents for adults and 10 cents for children. So every one get in and boost. The prevailing hard times make it imperative that Local Everett No. 1 increase its revenues at once, in order to carry out its already planned organization and propaganda work.

A Real Gosh Darn Fair is on the Tapis, to be given shortly, and we will once more have a chance at the shell game, to see Basco, the wild man; the Blue Boy of Barnum Fame, the Snake Eater, Coney Island red hots, candy wheels, fortune tellers, etc. So keep your eye on the Socialist hall for the next few Saturday evenings. The present is no time for lying down in the harness. Capitalism, with all its degrading and murderous institutions, is tottering to its final collapse. Let's all help give it the coup de grace. REMEMBER, the first show is this coming Saturday evening!