



# THE Washington Socialist

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



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EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1915

No. 29.

## WHY YOU SHOULD HELP TO BUILD YOUR OWN PRESS

Every effort left unmade to build up your own working-class press, is a gift to the capitalist class and their press. The victims of capitalism far outnumber their beneficiaries. It is the high function of the Socialist press to expose the inherent brutality and viciousness of capitalist-class rule, to exhibit its essentially predatory nature and vulgar, degrading aims. Capitalism needs the dark mantle of ignorance to insure its further existence. We must turn on our ugly bourgeois civilization the white light of Socialist logic, Socialist thought, Socialist criticism, exposing all the inward rottenness of what they are pleased to call Christian civilization. As soon as capitalism is fully exposed it will fall, since it has no strength nor stability of its own based on merit and natural fitness for survival. Our parasitical bourgeois civilization derives all its strength and power for evil by consent of the misgoverned. That consent is given through ignorance, through inability of the profligate workers to see the inward viciousness of the thing they uphold by their votes and their (mostly) unpaid labor.

Will you, reader, help to turn on the light?

Will you do all in your power to help in the upbuilding of the Washington Socialist, so that it may become a powerful factor in the class struggle in Washington? A strong Socialist paper in a community is of far more avail in the class struggle than even a whole city council composed of Socialists administering capitalist-class laws. Let us use all our power, all our forces, and of these the Socialist press stands easily among the very first and most important.

"Come then, let us cast off fooling, and put by ease and rest, For the CAUSE alone is worthy till the good days bring the best. Come, join in the only battle wherein no man can fail, Where whose falldeth and dieth, yet his deed shall still prevail."

## OREGON LOCAL SUGGESTS ESTABLISHMENT OF PACIFIC N. W. PAPER

To the State Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, State of Oregon: Dear Comrades: As it is well known to every member of the party in this state, about a year ago it was decided by the membership to start a weekly Socialist paper in Oregon. However, this decision has not been carried out. Why this was not done, is also known to every member in this state. The locals that voted in favor of the proposition have not, with few exceptions, done anything else but voted.

The state executive committee has been criticized for not having carried out the decision and started the paper. This criticism should have been directed to the membership, for it is impossible to establish even a weekly paper without the undivided support of every local and individual member of the Socialist party in this state. The present time is, as well as the immediate past has been, inopportune for such a task as most of those who are out of work. All these facts should be taken into consideration. The future does not look much brighter for the proposition than the past has been. But regardless of that we must not give up the idea of establishing a Socialist paper and making the enterprise a success.

The need for such a paper is growing and is as urgent now as it ever has been. Every state in the Pacific Northwest is in the same plight. Every city is full of idle workers, who are eager to know the basic cause for their misery. We must spread socialistic knowledge now and for that purpose the paper is invaluable.

Not one of these states is able to start a Socialist paper at the present time alone, although every state feels its need. Therefore, why not try to concentrate all the financial and other resources of all these states, as we would without any doubt be jointly well able to launch not only a Socialist weekly, but a Socialist daily, which is so urgently needed in the Pacific Northwest at the present time.

We suggest to the state executive committee of Oregon to take this matter up immediately with the executive committee of other states, as we are sure that such a feature would be welcomed and feasible.

Yours for a Socialist Daily in the Pacific Northwest.

Finnish Local, Astoria.  
AUG. NIKULA,  
E. MALINEN,  
WM. N. REIVO,  
Committee.

## LIVING COST IN STATE GOES UP, FIGURES SHOW

OLYMPIA, MAY 17.—The direct effect of the European war on the price of food stuffs and the necessities of life in this country is shown in a table compiled by E. W. Olson, state labor commissioner, and chairman of the public welfare commission, which shows that there has been an increase in the average cost of supplies for a family of five in the city of Seattle for a period of one year: Cost of necessities for family of five April, 1914, \$418.46; same cost April, 1915, \$443.72.

The table gathered from varied sources of information throughout the state by Commissioner Olson is regarded as the most authentic report on the cost of living to be obtained in the Northwest. It is secured by interviewing and securing the current prices from as many as a dozen merchants in each city or section covered in the report.

For the report of Tacoma the report shows there has been an increase corresponding to that in Seattle, the figures show the cost of living in Tacoma for 1915 being \$434.22, while for 1914 a family could live on \$431.57. In Spokane the cost has increased in the following manner: 1915, \$444.92; 1914, \$424.03.

Aside from covering these three main cities of the state, the report gives the average prices from the southwestern, northwestern and eastern sections of the state, showing that it is most economical for families to live in the northwestern section. The different sections compare as follows: Southwestern, 1915, \$424.89; 1914, \$405.93; northwestern section, 1915, \$418.19; 1914, \$416.82; eastern, 1915 \$442.06; 1914, \$428.94.

The report covers the cost of about sixty of the main articles of food and fuel, giving their prices in sufficient bulk to last what is considered an average family, or a family of five, for twelve months. Commissioner Olson's report shows there has been the largest increase in flour and sugar prices. For these articles the report shows the cost to be as follows: 1914 260 pounds of granulated cane sugar, \$13; 1915, same quality, 16.90; 1914, fourteen sacks flour, \$19.00; 1915, same quality, \$25.90. One of the features of the report is the showing in butter, this commodity having been reduced from \$25 per eighty pounds (creamery butter), in 1914 to \$23.52 for the same amount in 1915.

## PORTLAND COMRADES COMMEND WASHINGTON SOCIALIST

Portland, May 19, 1915. Washington Socialists,

Dear Comrades:— Please send me bill for the Washington Socialists up to and including May 22nd, and I will forward cash to you. The comrades here are very much pleased with the paper, and I really believe that it is destined to be the paper of the Northwest. We are considering increasing our bundle order to one hundred (100) per week.

The organization in Portland is in somewhat the same fix that Seattle is in. There is an unaccountable apathy here and it seems to be universal with the international gone to the dogs and some of our most prominent leaders declare themselves avowed nationalists, and with the large following they have it practically divides the movement into two conflicting elements, those who follow Hillquit, Berger, etc., one with the proposition that the workers have a nation before they have a class, and the other of a citizen army who can be patriotic enough to go out and slaughter other workers so our dear masters at home can skin us a little more. In this crisis of the movement what we need more than anything else is a live scientific revolutionary paper with no taint or compromise; THE WASHINGTON SOCIALIST HAS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE GOOD IF THE COMRADES WILL ONLY GET BACK OF IT, PUSH IT, AND HUSTLE SUBS AND DO AS THE COMRADES HERE IN PORTLAND DO, ORDER THEM BY THE BUNDLE.

With best wishes, I am yours for international working-class supremacy.  
S. V. SADLER,  
Box 967, Foot Crampton St.,  
Portland, Ore.

AS TO A DAILY.

In regard to a daily for the three states, this should be a matter of growth, of development; first a weekly of four pages; then a bi-weekly, and afterwards a tri-weekly. When this evolution of our press has been attained, the DAILY would have been all duly prepared for, and virtually established. Let's BUILD our way onward and upward, LEARNING HOW as we go.

## Industrial Organization Prerequisite to Social Revolution Says Proletaria Bill

### PROLETARIA BILL ANSWERS BOSTROM

In commenting on the answers, to the four queries, given by Comrade Bostrom in the May 20th issue of the Washington Socialist, I can fully agree with it entirely satisfactory in that we can utilize governmental protection just as well and far better than the capitalists. If administered class-consciously by our own economic class we can be free to develop OUR organization in industry for the future handling of our labor power which we own, whether employed or not, and without which the wheels will not turn, just as the capitalists were free to develop the industrial organisms they now own as free owners.

I cannot conceive of socialism wherein the workers are not organized to handle themselves where they work. Anything else would be nothing short of bureaucracy.

Any organized function must continue to develop and be used or it will waste away, become dead or useless. Therefore the organized function of the workers, as owners of labor power, will have to develop through use if it can ever function in any democratic sense under socialism.

Concerning the answers to the three remaining questions, I am still in doubt, to speak mildly. In effect, the three replies sum themselves into one reply which is that "a union on the industrial field is a truce between enemies, for all workers are competitors (i. e. enemies) for jobs which all cannot get, and therefore such organization is not revolutionary."

We are told then, in short, that the workers' organized effort to control their labor power is not revolutionary because the workers are in competition with each other for jobs that all cannot get. That means that we should organize to vote, be revolutionary about once every year or two and never mind about organizing to handle ourselves for every-day purposes after

we have voted sufficiently. We have then, a denial of the law of economic determinism (please do not confuse with immediate material interests); also a view of competition that is obscured by political fanaticism which is just as dangerous to equilibrium as is industrial fanaticism.

Natural laws and social laws (not man-made laws) have the faculty of smiting us if we do not reach an understanding of how they work and do our work in harmony with them.

Must Organize in Industry—Foundation of Future Society. For the workers to be revolutionary, is to develop the organism that will be necessary when capitalism is overthrown; just as the early capitalists, struggling with feudalism, were revolutionary when they were developing the industrial organism that was necessary for capitalism and which reached far greater development after political domination was attained by the capitalist class. How was political domination reached by the capitalist class? Was it because the industrial basis for the formation of such an economic class had not ALREADY formed? What produced that political revolution anyway? Some evolutionary process must have been taking place on the industrial field among the sprouting capitalists or such a political revolution could not have been determined.

We cannot omit the evolutionary part of revolution because evolution does not work that way. Evolution furnishes the growth which culminates in the final stage of revolution.

Now as to the law of economic determinism: If the industrial development which brought forth and maintained the capitalist class in power has determined the history, politics, institutions and EDUCATION of capitalism, are we to suppose for a moment that the law of economic determinism will cease to operate when the working class goes ahead with its industrial development (the organized control of its labor power in industry) which will also determine the history, politics, institutions and EDUCATION of socialism?

A four-page paper of the present size of the Washington Socialist can carry all the important matter required by any or all of these states, especially if some of the advertising matter is omitted, and this would naturally follow.

During a local election campaign, an extra amount of space could be given the comrade making the fight, LOCAL Everett advertising matter being omitted and reading matter put in the place for the outside subscribers.

By leaving the publication of such a paper in Everett, under its present management, NO RISKS WOULD BE INCURRED. All that would be required to effect the desired change would be the Oregon and Idaho news notes, etc., and the new subscribers.

If the Washington Socialist were officially endorsed by the Oregon and Idaho state executive committees, each local whose membership sub-

scribed to the paper would automatically become a partner in the ownership and management of the paper.

Our Snohomish comrades would undoubtedly sanction some such arrangement. The Snohomish county comrades, who now own and control the paper, have no other object in view than the advancement of the Socialist movement as a whole. Special campaign work here could be done by special editions of the paper, just as they could also be published, on occasion, for any county, or counties, of Idaho or Oregon. A special eight-page edition, with four pages of special local campaign matter, could be utilized when necessary. ALL THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH SATISFACTION TO ALL CONCERNED, AND WITH GREAT ECONOMY. THERE WOULD BE NO BURDEN ON ANY OF US.

When thinking of slaves we should bear in mind that word "education."

Because the wind may blow a falling rain-drop south one day and north the next, does the law of gravity cease to work? or, does the rain-drop conform to the law of gravity in either case?

A Pertinent Question. Since the capitalists, with an industrial organism, have had cut-throat competition with each other for profits all cannot get, AFTER they had attained political supremacy as a class, are the workers, without an industrial organism not also in danger of continuing their competition with each other AFTER the workers, as a class, have attained political supremacy? Are the workers superior to the capitalists in that sense?

This competition of the capitalists, since arriving, extends to war itself. If the workers rid themselves of the hell of competition it seems they will have to thoroughly develop their every-day industrial organism without delay or political supremacy cannot allow it for us any more than it could promptly allow it for the capitalists. The capitalists are not all going to disappear overnight just because the workers vote themselves into the state.

Power is a great thing that must develop and grow for the workers, as no hocus-pocus business will answer to dispose of capitalism.

Something must be done before we get too hungry or we perish because unfit to survive, as a class, through collective and organized intelligence applied to the modern tools of production.

Whatever economic system grows over the ruins of capitalism after it falls will be the matured stage of the most virile germ (Industrial organism) that has developed within the capitalist system of industry and exploitation.

PROLETARIA BILL.

## A TRI-STATE PAPER SUGGESTED

The suggestions printed in this issue of the W. S. relative to the publication of a first-class Socialist paper under the joint ownership of the Socialists of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, are well worth our most serious consideration. None of these states will alone pay for the publication of even a weekly paper, if those who do the work receive a living wage for their services. ALL of them need a paper in which matters of special interest to their own state and locality can be discussed with the assurance that the paper would be read by the people the articles or news is intended to reach. This cannot be accomplished by any paper now published, at least UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. The comrades of these three states MUST DECIDE ON SOME ONE PAPER as their official organ, so that their news and views will be found by any subscriber to that paper.

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## Delightful Excursion!

Basket Picnic will be held at  
**Beautiful Holmes' Harbor**  
**Sunday, June 13, '15**

Don't miss this jolly-time excursion up the Sound. Only 100 tickets to be sold; first come, first served.

### ALL KINDS OF SPORTS

The regular round trip fare to the Harbor is 75 cents. We give the trip and sports for  
**40 CENTS**

Steamer Alverine leaves city dock at 9:30; leaves Holmes' Harbor at 5 p. m. Tickets on sale at office of Washington Socialist, 1612 California Street.

## MEANING OF 1915 NAT. COM. MEETING

L. E. KATTERFELD.

The official report of the national committee from Washington regarding the national committee meeting held in Chicago May 9-14, is being published in the current issue of the Party Builder. The minutes of the meetings can be found in detail in the June 15 to 22 numbers of the American Socialist. I urge every party member to read this report and these minutes carefully in order to pass an intelligent judgment upon the actions taken.

My article next week will contain a more detailed study of the meeting, the meaning of the committee's actions and the underlying reasons therefore. This week I shall content myself with a statement of what appears to me to be the one great, preeminent fact regarding this convention.

This convention means a COMPLETE REVERSAL of the policies that have dominated the party for the past three years. All the important actions taken are diametrically opposed to the actions of the last national convention and the national committee meetings of 1913 and 1914.

Those who were in the majority in the convention of 1912 inaugurated a policy of centralization. They took the election of party officials out of the hands of the membership and placed it in the hands of the national committee. They deprived the membership of the power to initiate referendums and placed that power with state executive committees and national committees. Last year when a referendum of the membership had again restored this power to the rank and file, the national committee violated the spirit, if not the letter, of the national constitution and passed an amendment putting the percentage required to initiate referendums so high as to make it practically impossible for the membership to function that way.

In the meantime also the national committee had been deprived of the power to take affirmative action between sessions, so that the only body in our entire organization with power to function was the national executive committee, of FIVE members—centralization run riot.

The national committee at its meeting this year adopted constitutional changes, which, if approved by the membership, mean an absolute reversal of this autocratic policy and a return to democracy in the party's control. Provision was made for the election of national officials by referendum. The clause prohibiting affirmative actions on the part of the national committee was stricken out, so that the membership in the states may have a voice through its committees in directing the national affairs and the executive committee may no longer "reign supreme." Another clause was inserted specifically prohibiting national officials from interfering in any state controversies. The power to initiate referendums was restored to the party membership.

So strong was the tendency against the old policy that even some of its leading exponents, some of those primarily responsible for it—changed front completely and hastened to climb upon the band wagon with an alacrity that was amusing even if not edifying.

The sentiment of the committee became apparent on the very first day, when those who have heretofore always been the minority in our national conventions elected a majority of the different subcommittees. It became so plain that even the blind could see it when the position of the national officials and of the national executive committee in regard to the controversies in Texas and Michigan was reversed and the radical delegates who had been opposed by the national administration were seated by a vote of over two to one.

The climax came during the report of the committee on constitution, which recommended that Sec. 3, Art. X, dealing with fusion and party treason be made stronger and more binding. This recommendation was made as a "backfire" against the propaganda which has been conducted from Milwaukee for some time in favor of striking out the party treason clause and authorizing the party to endorse and vote for non-Socialist candidates. In spite of very eloquent appeals from ex-Mayor Lumm of Schenectady, ex-Mayor Wilson of Berkeley, ex-Mayor Duncan of Butte and ex-Congressman Berger himself, the constitution committee won the day and its recommendations were endorsed on roll call by an overwhelming vote of 43 to 9.

There can be only one meaning to this. The pendulum has begun to swing back. Although thousands of radicals have been forced out of the party during the last three years. The party today contains more clear-cut revolutionists than ever before. The names of the "mighty" are losing

## COMRADE WELCH HITS NAIL ON HEAD

WANTS A TRI-STATE DAILY

In a communication to a member of the W. S. staff of volunteer workers, Comrade G. W. Welch of Lakeview, Oregon, said a number of good things, from among which we take the liberty to quote the following:

"It seems terribly strange that the Henry Dubbs will not get their eyes open, sometime. If their working class would only spend as much money on their own press as they do on the capitalist press, we could have a strong press of our own, but they seem determined not to do so. I see no relief so long as they remain indifferent. Oppression and persecution must become much greater before they will learn anything."

"I am of the same opinion as you regarding a state-owned paper. There is nothing but failure for such an undertaking. And that is not the worst of it. When a paper fails it's like throwing cold water on the movement. The Socialists become discouraged and lose their faith in the movement and their fighting spirit, also. They say, and well say, 'if we cannot keep our paper alive, what's the use of trying to do anything and spending our money for something the people won't have?' The party is better off without a paper than to start one and fail. I believe that if the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho could get together and start a paper in conjunction, it might succeed. Of course it would be absolutely necessary for all to work in harmony and it should be a 'RED' paper. This coast is certainly a good field for such a paper and the time seems ripe for such an undertaking. These three states ought to be able to support a good daily. I believe the executive or state committees of each state ought to hold joint meetings and see what could be done along this line. They might formulate some kind of plans and ask the membership for contributions or pledged amounts and see how much could be raised before entering upon the project. I would not be in favor of starting a publication until enough had been raised to insure its success. Let each state committee canvass their respective states and then a decision could be reached. I believe a good daily would succeed better than a weekly. A weekly paper does not get the social message to the people often enough to hypnotize them like the daily capitalist papers do. The message must be hammered into the Dubbs every day in order that they do not forget. The daily paper ought to give the general news, besides. The public will not support a paper now-days unless they get the general news. A paper that does not give general news is too much like eating 'pork and beans' three times a day and three hundred and sixty-five days in the year. The public, and even the party members will not support a paper long unless they get all the news."

The W. S. would be glad to publish expressions of opinion from other Oregon comrades. Also let us hear from Idaho.

### REAL SOURCE OF RICHES.

Success (by law of competition) signifies always so much victory over your neighbor as to obtain the direction of his work and take the profits of it. This is the real source of all great riches.—Ruskin.

### HELP US BUILD A NOBLER CIVILIZATION

Comrades and Workers of the World: A new page of human history lies open before us. Upon it must be written the full message and meaning of Socialism—democracy, internationalism and peace. No greater, nobler task has ever appeared to man.

With firm, unflinching faith in the future of our cause and the ultimate triumph of these principles, we call upon all who love justice and peace and human progress to join with us in this, our effort to build a higher and nobler civilization.—National Committee Socialist Party, Chicago, May 15, 1915.

their power. Only in the election of officials did they still prevail. There is hope that "working-class" supremacy in a speedy revolution will soon become a fact. The party is sound at the core. "No compromise, no political trading," is still its slogan.

Spreads of glad tidings among the thousands of comrades that have become disheartened and discouraged under the policy that the party adopted at the national convention three years ago. Back to the firing line, every one, and take up with renewed courage the struggle to make this party of ours in fact and truth as well as in name the political expression of a class conscious working class, so that it may prove equal to the glorious opportunities of tomorrow and TODAY.