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ORGANIZATION NEWS

MOST DIFFICULT PLACE FOR SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA

By Emil Herman

As a Socialist Party speaker, upon arriving at your destination for the day, if you be so fortunate as to be met at the depot, you will, seven times out of ten, as soon as greetings have been exchanged, be casually informed by your new found comrade somewhat in this manner:

"You have struck a hard proposition here, comrade; this is the worst place in the country to do Socialist work in. It is impossible to get people out to a Socialist lecture here."

If you are not met at the depot you feel your way until you land the Socialist who is supposed to have the meeting in charge when you are likewise informed as quoted above.

For a time you wonder how many worst places there be in the country to do Socialist work in, but finally you get wise and you anticipate that each place is the worst place and you beat your comrade to it by asking: "Well, I suppose, like most other places I have been to recently, this is the worst place in the country to do Socialist propaganda in?"

Upon inquiring into how well the meeting is advertised, you learn that some—in about half the places all—of the posters have been put up.

You then ask: "Have any tickets been sold?"

"No, we didn't try; it would be no use as people here will not pay ten cents to hear a Socialist lecture."

"Have all the people with telephones in their homes been invited to attend the lecture?"

"No, most of those who have telephones would not come anyway."

"Did you have some one announce the lecture at church last Sunday?"

"No, there was no use in doing that, people who go to church are too bigoted to listen to a Socialist speaker."

"You say you had a grange (or a union meeting) last week. No doubt it was announced there?"

"Am sorry to say it wasn't, comrade, we selected no one to attend to that at our last meeting of the local and I am a poor hand to attend to such matters myself."

"Did you prepare a little 'write up' and present it to your local paper as a news item?"

"No, we have not been accustomed to doing that and therefore forgot all about it."

"Has the lecture been announced at the school house and the children requested to invite their parents to attend?"

"No, we haven't any Socialist in the community who felt competent to do that."

"Seeing that you failed to sell tickets (and thereby compel the non-socialists to pay for their own education) I take it for granted that you have arranged for ushers to take up the collection and assist in the sale of literature?"

"No, but we can easily find a few comrades at the meeting who will volunteer to act in that capacity."

"Have you decided on who is to act as chairman?"

"No, we never select the chairman until just before the lecture begins."

And so on and so forth until you are convinced that nothing has been done except to put up a few window cards and pass out a few hand bills.

You of course realize that this is very inadequate and that the meeting will be a failure unless some hurry up advertising is done. Perhaps it is one of the occasions when you have had to walk from five to twenty miles to meet the engagement; it is late in the day, you are fatigued, you need some rest, so in order to do justice to your lecture you let things slide and take a chance. The result is a small audience; you are peeved by the apathy, indifference, lack of judgment and inefficiency manifested by Socialists generally and the comrades present aggravate the situation further by remarking, "Just as I expected; you can't do anything for Socialism in this community. There is no use trying."

If you arrive in time you look up a few willing comrades and with their help advertise as best you can in so short a time and inasmuch as people are really anxious to ascertain what the Socialist Party has to offer them, succeed in getting out a good-sized audience. Then the Socialists present express themselves as agreeably surprised and inform you that they really did not expect the people to turn out so well.

GREEK SOCIALISTS AND LABORITES UNITE

The Greek Labor party and the Socialist Federation have amalgamated. Two newspapers are controlled by the combined organization and both are increasing their circulations at a rapid rate. The election of two Socialists to parliament has had a very inspiring effect on both the political and industrial movements of the workers.

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT

By Frans Bostrom

A circular letter of 16 pages is being sent out by Carl D. Thompson of the Information Department of the National office and John Engdahl, editor of the American Socialist, severely criticizing Walter Lanfersiek, the National Secretary, for inefficiency and mismanagement. The letter, which is signed also (partly) by Ralph Korngold, director of the Literature Department, is addressed to the National Committee and demands the immediate recall of the national secretary. It is claimed that at least $4,000 have been wasted through his incompetency.

This is probably true; but what of it? The infamous meeting of the National Committee of 1913, which declined to probe the raping of the national referendum by the executive committee, concerning the recall of J. Mahlon Barnes as campaign manager, fired Work and elected Lanfersiek. Work, although not a strong man, had nevertheless too much manhood to be acceptable. He was apt to expose any attempt to govern the party without the consent of the governed.

No one had any right to expect big things from Lanfersiek, and he has disappointed no one. His occupation was that of lawyer and for eight years he had been state secretary of Kentucky, an organization of about eight hundred members. In the Washington controversy he certainly proved himself a loyal servant of the bunch that had set its mind upon the destruction of the Washington party. But there was a limit to his pliability. In the course of time he began to understand the dignity of his high office and undertook to assert it. Then the trouble also began. He objected to the violation of the constitution by the executive committee when it sent one of its members, George Goebel, on a speaking tour through the South at an expense of $200. George, by the way, delights in expensive trips and has more than once been the cause of rumpus because of his luxurious predilections. Comrade Lanfersiek later on found that his department chiefs, thanks to their close connection with Berger, forgot to render him the homage due him, and resented his superintendence. Everything would probably have come off o.k. if the finances of the Party had not begun to cause anxiety. Comrade Lanfersiek was compelled to admit failure and to point out causes and remedies. There is not a city in the land, with commission form of government, where the commissioners do not have some such fun when it comes to trimming down the budget and the National office might have learnt a lesson from practical politicians. They should do their fighting among themselves and not let us mutts know anything about it.

Suppose he has wasted $4,000. The Information Department has cost more than $5,000 per year for nearly three years and every cent of it was wasted. The Literature Department has always been managed at a loss. Chas. H. Kerr, a private corporation, has always managed to come out all right in the same business. But Kerr is printing books worth reading, which is seldom the case with the Literature Department. Kerr can sell books at a price that makes it possible for state secretaries, locals and book stores to do business with him, but the National office does not attempt to do it.

Now, the idea seems to be to get rid of Lanfersiek before the election in November. If the executive committee has the chance to appoint his successor before the election, they know very well that their appointee could not be defeated for the office. There would be no use in nominating an opponent even. It is understood that their choice would be Germer and it would be impossible to make a worse selection. He is a cheap demagogue. Engdahl, the editor of the American Socialist, who, as editor of the Chicago daily, probably more than any one else contributed to the death of that colorless misfit publication, may be considered. It is to be hoped that the National committee has decency enough to pay no attention to this belated criticism but will permit the term of Lanfersiek to expire in its natural way and thus let the membership decide who is to be his successor.

"SOCIALIST CROP"

We received the following for the benefit of the paper last week:

Chas. Donahue, Arlington, one sack of corn, crate of onions, crate of cabbage and a crate of cucumbers.

Gymnasium suits and shoes, football and athletic goods at Arthur Baily Sporting Goods and Hardware Store.

SOCIALIST PARTY DIRECTORY

Cards will be inserted in this column for the sum of fifty cents a month.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY. — Walter Lanfersiek, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

STATE SECRETARY OF WASHINGTON.—L. E. Katterfield, Box 491, Everett, Wash. Office 314 Commerce Bldg., Everett.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY SECRETARY.—Carl Ulonska, Room 3, The Forum, 1612 California Street, Everett, Wash.

LOCAL EVERETT No. 1 meets every Friday evening at 8 in The Forum, 1612 California St., Everett. Frank Cort, fin.-sec.; Hanna Crosby, rec.-sec.; F. G. Crosby, organizer.

LOCAL EDMONDS meets every Sunday evening at 8, in Engels' hall, Edmonds. C. E. Briggs, Edmonds, recording sec.; B. H. Davis, Edmonds, financial sec.

LOCAL MONROE meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month at 8 p. m. in the St. James hotel. R. W. Thompson, Monroe, sec.; W. S. Keller, Monroe, organizer.

LOCAL CEDAR VALLEY meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in the month at 8 p. m. in the Cedar Valley church. Richard Pape, R. F. D. Edmonds, sec.; J. M. Hoover, R. F. D. Edmonds, organizer.

LOCAL LAKEWOOD meets every Thursday in the month at 8:30 p.m., in Lakewood hall. Chas. Roth, R. 1 Arlington, fin.-sec.; John Overvold, R. 1 Arlington, organizer.

LOCAL RICHMOND meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month at 3 p. m. in the homes of members. F. D. Hoffer, R. 1 Edmonds, fin.-sec.; Bonner Bartlett, Edmonds, rec. sec.

LOCAL GOLD BAR meets every 3rd Sunday in the month at 2 p. m. in the homes of members. Rufus Wren, Gold Bar, organizer; Gustus Fleeder, fin. sec.

LOCAL SILVANA meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month at 2 p. m. in the Silvana Trading Union hall. Arvid N. Berg, Silvana, fin. and rec. sec.; Ole Larson, Silvana, Organizer.

LOCAL BRYANT meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month at 2 p. m. in the homes of members. Mike Kronholm, Bryant, fin.-sec.; Oscar Carlson, R.F.D. 4, Arlington, organizer.

LOCAL HOME ACRES meets first Sunday afternoon of each month at comrade Chas. Solie's residence. W. J. Fortson, rec. sec.; Chas. Solie, fin. sec.; Chas. Jurgus, organizer.

LOCAL MARXIAN, Seattle, meets every Thursday at 8 p. m., at 1433 Lakeside Ave. Lalla Rogers, 1433 Lakeside Ave., fin.-sec.

LOCAL ARLINGTON meets every Monday evening at 8 p. m. in the Labor Temple. Homer Caswell, rec. sec. Wilford Dougherty, Fin. sec.

WHY THERE IS WAR

By Bonner Bartlett

Edmonds, Wn., 9-16-15.

Northwest Worker.

Dear Comrades.—There has been so much said about Socialism not being able to prevent wars that I thought I would write a few lines on this subject.

It is pointed out by many that the European Socialists did not prevent war and that Socialism is no cure for wars.

Socialism was not in power in Europe; if it had been there would have been no army or navy and without these there couldn't be any wars. To be sure there were a good many Socialists in Europe, but there were not enough of them to turn the powerful tide of militarism and so it carried everything with it.

As some always resisted a military program, they resisted it to the utmost, but were carried on in the whirlpool in spite of this. As some were used to protesting they merely protested. As some were used to compromising, they compromised

The fact is there is more power of resistance in some people than there is in others. Thus Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg resisted to the utmost the hand of militarism. While others of a more servile state of mind merely protested or fell in line.

Many say the International failed. Of course it did. You cannot have a peace program for capitalist governments. They want peace only as long as they are benefitting by it. As long as there are capitalist governments you cannot successfully prevent wars.

The public mind in Europe was educated to believe in nationalism and of course all of them were fighting in self-defense. That's what all the wars of the future will be—"self-defense." Right now the press of this country is trying to educate the people into military "preparedness," so that they will fight in "defensive wars."

Yours for Socialism,
BONNER BARTLETT.

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