

SOCIALIST PARTY DIRECTORY

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

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LOCAL EVERETT, No. 1 meets every Friday evening at 8 in the Forum, 1612 California St., Everett. K. H. Hodgins, fin. sec.; Peter Husby, rec. sec.; C. P. Morrison, organizer.

LOCAL EDMONDS meets every Sunday evening at 8 in Eagles' hall, Edmonds. Walter Reece, 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 INDEX meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday at 8 p. m. at the home of H. C. Whitehouse, Clara Whitehouse, secretary; Olonzo Wren, 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 Overbold, R. 1 Arlington, organizer.

LOCAL RICHMOND meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday in the month at 3 p. m. in the homes of members. G. H. Bartlett, fin. sec.; Edmonds; Bonner Bartlett, rec. sec., Edmonds.

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 3rd Sunday afternoon in the month at 2 p. m. in the Silvana Trading Union hall. Gunda Husby, Standwood, Rec. Sec.; Andrew Fierlie, Standwood, Fin. Sec.; John Ness, Silvana, organizer.

LOCAL BRYANT meets every first Sunday in the month at District 47. Loyal Heights School House, and every third Sunday in the month at the Bryant School House, at 2 p. m. Ellen A. Denker, fin. sec., Route 4, Box 65, Arlington, Wash.; Erick Drooping, literature agent, Route 4, Arlington; Mike Kronholm, organizer, Bryant, Wash.

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. A. H. Fowler, rec. sec.; E. R. Manly, fin. sec.; Wm. De Witt, organizer.

LOCAL TRATTON meets every first Sunday of each month at 11 a. m., and third Sunday at 2 p. m. Mrs. Lida Clapsaddle, rec. sec.; Mrs. Anna Macy, fin. sec.; Chas. Donahue, organizer.

LOCAL SOLIDARITY meets every Monday evening at 8 p. m., room 2 of the Labor Temple, Everett, Wash. Financial secretary, O. F. Welfering, 5015 Broadway. Recording secretary, Chas. Yngve, Labor Temple.

LOCAL NORTH YAKIMA meets the 1st Thursday in every month at 8 p. m. at the Labor Temple. Edw. Maurer, P. O. Box 1126, North Yakima, Wash.

LOCAL DARRINGTON meets at the call of the secretary, Nils Osterberg, Box 146, Darrington, Wash.

LOCAL BIRMINGHAM—J. H. Gilmore, secretary.

LOCAL GRANITE FALLS—Julia Herman, sec'y, Route No. 1, Hartford.

LOCAL PLEASANT HILL—W. E. Cady, sec'y, Route No. 1, Everett.

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIALIST CLUB of Everett meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. in the Forum. C. Sundstrom, fin. sec.; Carl Sundland, rec. sec.

LOCAL ROBE meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 8 p. m., in school house, School District 76, Peter Kleis, sec'y; Howard Tissue, Robe, organizer.

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OPEN FORUM

BILL AND HIS BARRICADE SCIENCE

In a previous letter I asked Proletaria Bill to tell me plainly why he thinks the class struggle is not a political struggle. Bill answers: "That dogma on the class struggle has been exploded through the acquisition of a broader social knowledge of history and economics on the part of a considerable number of proletarian thinkers developed in that struggle and through it."

That is no answer at all. It is evasive, has a double meaning, and can be used in denying almost any proposition. Bill repudiates the political struggle in words similar to what a capitalist editor uses when denying the class struggle. "There is no class struggle," says the editor, "as that dogma has been exploded through the requirement of a broader social knowledge."

It is not my purpose at this time to correct the errors of "a considerable number of proletarian thinkers." They may think what they please. I know "a considerable number of thinkers," a much greater number than Bill has in mind, who believe that all our struggles will be adjusted when the ancient prophets are resurrected and take charge of the world's governments. These thinkers firmly believe what they think. Bill also believes what they think. But mere belief, while satisfying to Bill and the other thinkers, is not convincing to me nor anyone else seeking to know.

Surely Bill should see the weakness of his reply to my statement that "every class struggle is a political struggle," a statement sustained by every Socialist author from Marx to Simons. Therefore, I maintain, with emphasis: Any person who repudiates the political struggle also repudiates the class struggle.

At various times, in published letters, Proletaria Bill has repudiated working class political action; therefore he repudiates the class struggle, possibly without suspecting that he is doing so. He is in earnest, so when he fully understands his own mind, he will no longer dabble in the affairs of the Socialist party or any labor organization. There has been something amiss in Bill's early training. Actual experience in a big union is what he needs, as his early capitalist environment has so strongly individualized him as to make him too balky for social action of any sort.

Since you ask me, Bill, I inform you that the Paris Communards did not seize political power from the French bourgeoisie, but attempted to set up a dual organization, which failed, of course, as did that of Titus, others after on.

Bill's opinion of labor power is utopian. He thinks it is something the workers should defend. Like a streak of dry goods or a pile of lumber, labor power is a commodity, sold in the market. Defend a commodity? Not I. Things have no rights; men and women have rights—also might, when wisely used. Chiefly I am concerned in the complete elimination of the commodity character now attached to labor power, so the laborers may use that power in producing only for themselves and for exchange with other producers. That can be done only by supplementing economic action with political action.

After Proletaria Bill has examined the demands of the railway workers he may find they are not very revolutionary. Thirty years ago the Typographical Union was something for Bill to look upon and pronounce very good, as the printers then were striking half their time, making demands more sweeping than those made recently by the railway unions. Printers got their demands then, with more in later years, but strikes with them are mostly memories of long ago. If Bill had known me in the old days he would have called me revolutionary, but really I was only a radical then and sentimental. Now that I urge the necessity of political action as well as economic action, thus becoming in fact revolutionary, he thinks I am growing conservative. As my friend Benny Cohen would say, "it makes me disgust."

W. H. WAYNICK.

THAT VICIOUS POLITICAL CIRCLE AND WHAT IT LEADS TO

BILL, in March 22, Worker: "The working class should try to get all the political power it can make use of in organizing to control its labor power."

EDITOR, in April 5, Worker: "We have stated bluntly the action the Socialist Party ought to take in dealing with farmers and unionists but Proletaria Bill has dodged around the question."

BILL, in April 5, Worker: "We are not going to revert to our childhood to meet twisted facts and hollow sophistry." EDITOR, in April 5, Worker: "Sophistry, indeed!" BILL, right now: On March 22, the editor stated, with reference to the measures voted on and defeated last fall, that "almost every paper in the state was FOR the measures. Almost every candidate of the old parties were FOR the measures. All the publicity AGAINST the measures

was made by the Socialist Party, the trade unions and the granges."

We hereby briefly and emphatically challenge the truth of that entire bouquet of editorial "facts" and then some. If that line of literature had any foundation the eight hour day referendum should have carried in the fall of 1914.

Those thrills of yankus jerked over by an editor that makes no scientific distinction between what phenomena is industrial and what is political and that insists upon abusing tangled facts and pickled sophistry will yet land him in that class of artful confusionists that have not yet learned that political society is built upon an industrial foundation. Or, more recently, that the first employment of the first wage worker was not, scientifically, a political act—Pope Kautsky to the contrary n-w-s.

Why should the editor complain that some of his readers have taken him for a supporter of non-partisanism? We are now ready to hear that the operation of industrial unionism is "political action." Yes, what IS the matter with the S. P.?

PROLETARIA BILL, April 6, 1917.

(Proletaria Bill reminds me of the man who shuts his eyes during a fist fight. We asked Bill to come across with his "facts" but instead he asks us for ours. We believe that every reader of this paper—outside of Bill—read the attitude of the capitalist press on these measures and it is useless to take up space proving it. As for the eight hour day referendum, we concluded that it was defeated because the worker was of the opinion—and he had good grounds for it—that he would receive smaller pay. Until the worker becomes fully conscious of his power to regulate hours and wages he will be bound to look upon such a measure with misgiving.

We contend that industrial action means getting better wages and conditions from the owners of the machinery of wealth production. Political action means the capturing of the state (which O. K.'s the ownership) by any means at hand. The economic power of the capitalists is maintained by the organized power of the state, and is expressed in their titles of ownership in land, factories and railroads, etc. If the workers are to break the rule of capital they must by some means destroy the titles of ownership which are now vested in the capitalists. As the state is the means whereby such ownership is affirmed and the owner protected in his property rights, it stands to reason that here lies the point to be attacked by the workers if they would affect the desired change.

The same class that has seized the state mans the industries as well, the working class, so once the state is seized the economic power of the workers will be used to carry on industry by and for the workers.—Editor.)

WE MUST BECOME A LIVE MILITANT FACTOR

I am modest enough to claim that we Socialists in this neck of the woods have done some good for our cause. We never accomplished anything by starting our argument with the Nebular Hypothesis and ending with Darwin's theory of evolution. Start in with a discussion of scientific theories and abstractions sandwiched with a bunch of poll-parrot propaganda phrases and our intended converts will leave us as quickly as they would a person afflicted with the smallpox.

Our good has been accomplished by discussing practical measures of immediate benefit, such as government ownership of railroads; government monopoly of banking; sick benefits, accident insurance, old age pensions, etc.

The workers understand these things and most of them desire them with their whole heart, but never having seen them in actual operation, as government measures, they don't believe or know how they can be put in successful operation.

We try to show how easily these things can be accomplished, point out all the countries where these laws are in force, and how beneficial they are to the workers. We show them there is only one political party in this country that stands by those measures and supports them—and that is the Socialist Party. And we do this without losing sight for a single moment of the class struggle or the great purpose and ultimate goal we are striving for.

We discuss unemployment, poverty, prostitution in plain languages, backed by statistics.

Education is a fundamental necessity. I only object to the method we use. A great many of us are trying to put the roof on our house before laying the foundation. No one can give the working class a classical or scientific education after the fundamentals have been derived them in youth. If any one is trying to educate the working class to a point where they will understand Marxian or scientific Socialism, then I am afraid the professor and his class will all be dead before they finish the first lesson. The better part and more intelligent element among the useful members of society, know what they want immediately. It is our duty to show them how they can get what they want by class solidarity at the polls and as the editor has aptly put it: "the deeper and better understanding will come with opportunity later

on." I feel kind of sorry for the Socialist who subscribes to the doctrine of political action, yet turns around and says he does not give a tinker's damn for votes. I feel sorry for him because I was that kind of Socialist once myself. If the Socialist Party is a university or academy of sciences then all we need is a bunch of students and a corps of well educated and competent school masters and professors. If the Socialist Party is a political organization, and I always take it to be one nowadays, then what we need is that kind of practical action in the industrial field that will bring us votes—votes enough to give us the legislative, executive and judicial powers of this government.

Under a democracy, leaving out revolutions, we can get power only by the votes of citizens. Power is what we are after, power to write our own laws and the police power to enforce them after they become laws. This is what I understand by political action. This is the reason I go out every election day and try to get all the votes I can for our candidates. It is immaterial to me, on that day, whether the voter knows anything about Socialism or not. I know the man I induce him to vote for is a CLASS CONSCIOUS SOCIALIST, and that's all I care about. And if my candidate gets into office he has the power that goes with that office to do practical work for the betterment of the working class and I am foolish (?) enough to believe my ignorant voter will support my man just as faithfully as he has been supporting the other crowd which has been kicking him in the face all his life.

Another vital error in our tactics is the complete lamb-like indifference with which we enter into our political campaigns—especially our local and state campaigns. We hardly stir up a ripple on the political pond. We will continue to agitate, educate and organize as of yore, but we must do one thing more and this one thing more is the most essential thing of all—introduce militant action into our program. We must awake from our Rip Van Winkle slumber with its beautiful dreams of economic justice, take off our coats and work and fight to the end of the last trench, to make our dreams come true. In-ammation has been the cancer that has been slowly but surely eating the vitals out of the Socialist movement. We must get away from the idea, that in the great world struggle now going on the Socialist is to function only as a reuniting agent, disciplinarian or drill master. He has got to be a fighter too and the sooner we learn we must fight to the bitter end for every inch of ground we gain, the sooner will the army of the revolution become an effective organization. The Socialist party must become a live, militant factor in the political and industrial development of the working class, or be relegated to the political graveyard or scrape pile of those who have started in the right direction, worked to a certain point, and then failed utterly to live up to their wider and greater opportunities.

BERT GODDARD, Plummer, Ida.

THE DOLLAR ALARM CLOCK

By John Healy

How dear to my heart are those chimes in the morning, That yank me from bed with melodious thrill;

How sweet is the sound of the regulated warning That yells that it's time I hike to the mill.

Without it I'd sleep till the sun had arisen, Be late to the job that my boss lets me use,

Get canned, perhaps steal, maybe land in a prison, If the chimes didn't hustle me out of my snooze.

Chorus. The faithful alarm clock; The rattling alarm clock; The Dollar alarm clock That rests on my shelf.

What a blessing it was when the thing was invented, It beats the slave-driver who came with his stick;

It rests on the shelf in the shack that I rented It never gets hungry; it never gets sick,

If overly weary I take a tin bucket And place the alarm clock down into the thing, When it chimes in the morning it doubles the racket;

It would wake up the dead when the two of them ring.

Some times the good woman gets worn and weary, And say we are hauling too much of a load,

I tell her the journey would look still more dreary If the dollar alarm clock should fail to explode, Then here's to my booster that only needs winding;

And here's to the victim that just keeps alive. The boss gets the money and I do all the grinding; The clock starts the circus at quarter past five.

Northwest Worker, 3 months, 25c.

LOCAL NO. YAKIMA SENDS WORD TO WAR MONGERS

North Yakima holds the laurels again for being high number in the recruiting spasm that has been causing the business men so much concern. Although North Yakima holds the record they were only able to secure a trifle more than one-third as many "rookies" as desired. Only 180 were wanted, and with all the big boosting by business men who had such a yellow streak they would not enlist themselves, they were met by a silence that shows that the seed we have sown has begun to fructify, and people are beginning to believe that it is England sinking the boats to draw the United States into the war to save her goat, and Morgan & Co. wants us to butt in to save those precious blood-soaked bonds.

TO THE CAPITALIST CLASS

We wish to call attention to the fact that the effort to hurl us into war has not received the sanction of the people.

As we have often pointed out that it would be overwhelmingly repudiated if put to the test, we point out now that it has been tested and our contention is proven absolutely sound.

The sporadic outburst of enthusiasm at the patriotic meetings can not be cited as a criterion by which to judge the sentiment of the people, owing to the fact that they so signally failed of their intended purpose. As proof, we call attention to the response to the call for recruits. We call attention especially to the fact that the business men themselves have completely repudiated it also, since not one of them here has signed up for cannon fodder.

The sincerity of men is determined not by the amount of noise they make, but by the manner in which they back up their pretenses. These thousands who hold the meetings should have furnished some material, but we observe as usual that the material is not coming from the element that makes the noise. It is always so.

It is beyond all bounds of reason to expect the laboring men who create the wealth but own nothing, to go and fight for those who create nothing, but own everything, when they themselves will not go and protect the system that makes it impossible for them to become rich from the contemptible traffic in war munitions; and incidentally, we would be doing the fighting for those who detest us in times of so called peace, beat down our wages, club us from town to town and shoot us down for asking for more of the product of our own toil. We do not need to look across the ocean to see our enemies, and we refuse to go there seeking them.

When we are denied our constitutional rights of free speech on the streets, and when the constitution is regarded as a "mere scrap of paper" by Commercial Clubs, who use pick handles for law, can you marvel that the public which witnesses those lawless deeds and outrages, are not going to uphold a regime that has to be maintained by violence?

We call attention to the fact that there were thousands of "patriots" assembled at various meetings to create a psychological noise to hypnotize young inexperienced boys—but we haven't seen nor heard of one of those noisy "patriots" getting imbued with enough real genuine sincerity to enlist and offer himself to subservise the interests of Morgan & Co.

We do not believe this mania has the remotest bearing on the question of defending America, nor is it a question of OUR RIGHTS being at stake, for labor has no rights in any country that the ruling class of that land feels imperatively bound to respect.

To America, and the basic and fundamental rights of the human race, we are more loyal than those who seek to drive this nation on to a blind insatiable and inexcusable war at the behest of an avaricious and lustful mercenary plunderbund.

We are an awakened, alert and class conscious proletariat, and we see within our own borders an enemy more dangerous and sinister than any foreign foe. It is that enemy of which Lincoln warned the nation, "The powerful aggregations of wealth that will ultimately destroy the republic." We see the very foundations of our guarantees being destroyed by those who ask us to fight. We see a gradual retrogression to despotism. We see a society decadent and hypocritical, whose beneficiaries plead with its victims to do their fighting for them.

No nation has ever died in the hands of the laboring class, but all nations that have gone down to oblivion have done so in the hands of the master class, who hide behind a flag while urging the slaves on to fight the battles.

If the aristocracy of idlers will not fight to protect their privileges, then why should we fight to maintain our slavery and our economic chains. We shall decide for ourselves who our enemies are, when we should fight, whom we shall fight, and what we shall fight for. The apathy manifested is due to

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