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Merchants, like all others, must be judged by their actions. If a merchant advertises in every paper but those patronized by the toilers, it would seem to indicate that he is not very friendly with this class or over-anxious to have their trade. Along this line, it is a foregone conclusion that those merchants who do advertise in the columns of the papers devoted to labor, feel friendly toward this class, and desire their trade. It will, therefore, pay you to read the advertisements in this paper, and by doing so ascertain who the merchants are who feel friendly toward you and appreciate your patronage.

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**WHY I JOINED THE SOCIALIST PARTY**

By H. S. Bigelow

The war has wrought in me, as in many others, a new purpose, a purpose which finds more sympathy, at the present time, in the Socialist party than in any other.

Personal and trivial aims seem base now. One's heart goes with those mighty armies. One feels the mystic power of the cross around which surge the regiments of death.

The old battle cries no longer rouse us. The old issues no longer suffice. One is ashamed to play the old game of political expediency and party advantage.

Henceforth I want my life to count to the utmost in the great task that lies before us, the task of destroying the seeds of war and building a new social order.

A handful of people own the bulk of the nation's wealth. The great majority live in poverty or on the verge of it.

In the populous wards of every big city there are teeming thousands who pant for breath on summer nights in quarters that would gag and turn the stomach of a man used to decent surroundings.

Here is one Cincinnati picture: A woman standing over a cook stove. She has an infant in her arms and a child crying at her feet. It is 100 in the shade. In the same room with the stove is a bed an dtable set for supper. This is the only room they have. There are but two windows. They face the west. The walls of the building simmer with the heat. The afternoon sun beats in relentlessly. The father has just come home from work in a nearby slaughter house. The air is full of the stench of blood and offal, mingled with the nauseating odors of cloths and bedding redolent with the fumes of victuals.

What of the sanctities of marriage? What of the sacredness of home? What of the holiness of motherhood? What of the rights of children? How can these flowers take root in such a soil?

This young mother has been caught in the trap of cruel circumstance. Look at her and then remember that another woman in Cincinnati paid \$240,000 for a picture to hang on her wall.

The poverty of one woman and the poulence of the other flow from the same cause. It is robbery in the name of law. It is injustice avoidable, inexcusable, damnable. While such injustice lasts there will be hate and social strife and war.

The present order has come to judgment. This war is a witness against it. In the course of human events the hour has come for a new declaration of independence. Our fathers, traitors to the government which claimed their obedience, boldly asserted, and defended with their lives, the principle of political equality. We now assert the principle of social democracy.

We are bound to admit that all persons are equally entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We are bound to acknowledge that the present social order distributes these blessings grudgingly and with grave inequalities. It is therefore our right to alter or abolish this social order, and to institute in its place, laying its foundations on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to us shall seem most likely to effect the safety and happiness of all.

SCHENECTADY.—"Millions of Socialist votes on November 6 will make peace without annexations or punitive indemnities seem reasonable and honorable at the capital of the nation," said Herbert M. Merrill, Socialist candidate for mayor, in a recent statement to the public on his candidacy.

The Montana State Industrial Accident Board reports that during the last two years there were 443 fatal accidents in Montana, 13 were totally disabled and 273 partially disabled. The grand total of all sorts of accidents on this industrial battlefield was 15,227.

This is just to remind you that in addition to its customary profits, the Armour Packing company made \$15,353,868 of war profits in 1916.

**WASH. NOTES**

By Emil Herman, State Secretary, Box 737, Everett, Wash.

Comrade L. E. Katterfeld will begin his tour of the state at Seattle on Saturday, December 1st. We now have forty-two applications for lectures by him, we want about a dozen more—it is now a case of first come first served, if you do not wish to get left you had better hurry in your application.

Three locals were organized last week. Gig Harbor with six members, Reardon with 11 members and Schrag with nine members—and 8 members at large were admitted.

Local Elma: I believe we can go out among the workers here and easily raise \$100.00 for the Eight-Hour Day Campaign. We pledge \$10.00 and may be able to subscribe more when the time comes, we will do all we can.—Irvin Urquhart, secretary.

Local Wenatchee: In regards to having Comrade L. E. Katterfeld lecture here in December I think it will be alright, at least we will make it alright though I haven't seen any of the local members. I will see that a hall is provided. My wife and I sent \$10.00 away last evening to get our Comrades out of prison, for free speech and to help the Milwaukee Leader in their fight for life.—G. H. McNiel.

National Office: A few days ago we sent out an appeal for a contribution of ten dollars from each local and branch for the Liberty Defense Fund. The money on that fund has been coming in very slow, perhaps because so many appeals were recently sent out. This matter is of the greatest importance because it would be impossible to keep our Comrades out of jail unless we get the means to do it with.—Adolph Germer, Executive Secretary.

(Note)—We urge all Locals to make a special effort to comply with the request of Comrade Germer. Those who are being persecuted for their ideals must be defended. Always keep in mind that you may be the next victim, so the more you contribute NOW the more you safeguard your own liberty.

Local Stevenson: The local was organized October 16th with a membership of 12. Two new members at our last meeting. We have some fine workers. Prospect of more members at our next meeting.—Dollie Richards, Secretary.

Since last report fourteen additional locals have boosted themselves into the EXTRA good standing column by paying up on their Party Building, Anti-Militarism Assessment Stamps. We will be pleased to list YOUR local in the same group if it is not already there—better pay up and step along with the live ones.

A WELCOME GUEST  
Nodd: "Are you sure your wife knows I'm going home to dinner with you?"  
Todd—"Knows! Well, rather. Why, my dear fellow, I argued with her about it this morning for nearly half an hour."—Life.

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**TULSA, OKLA. ON THE MAP**

TULSA, Okla.—A crowd of masked men in black robes, calling themselves "Knights of Liberty," took 17 members of the I. W. W. from policemen early today, lashed them with cat-o-nine-tails and then daubed their bleeding backs with tar and feathers.

The I. W. W. had been convicted in police court of vagrancy and fined \$100 each. The trial lasted until nearly midnight. The prisoners were being removed from the jail in three automobiles when the black robed men held them up and compelled the police to turn over the men they were guarding.

It is evident that men must learn by experience, and that the average business man is incapable of profiting by the experience of others. If the Commercial club of Tulsa, Okla., had learned from the experiences of the business men of Everett they would not have committed the outrage reported. But the whole incident goes to prove that business and businessmen are the same all over the country, in fact, all over the world.

The Tulsa "Knights of Liberty" set out to crush the I. W. W. in the same manner that was tried in Everett. Presumably the same results will follow. At the time of the Everett affair the Wobblies were comparatively insignificant. Since that time they have gained five hundred per cent in membership in the Northwest, and 500 to 1 in Everett, which was out of all proportion to their previous rate of increase. They have organized unions in many new sections. And they have become strong enough in the Northwest to have established the eight-hour day on the job in some twenty-four camps.

Business men forget that the method by which most men learn, particularly those who have not had much education, is by imitation. Violence breeds violence. It can be expected that the I. W. W. will adopt the methods that are demonstrated to them; they are but human. Not, however, that they would be likely to ape the vigilantes too literally. That is, when they set out to get revenge, they will not work in conjunction with the police department, the sheriff's office, or the courts. The business men acquired the right, or power, to use the police, deputy sheriffs, and courts through political action, and the Wobblies are religiously opposed to using that kind of a weapon. Hence they use what they call "sabotage," so as to avoid detection.

We are not writing a brief for the I. W. W., but to show the folly of the methods of business men in dealing with them.

**LIONS LED BY ASSES**

The widespread strike of the coal miners of Indiana and Illinois without the sanction of the officials of their union, or rather in spite of the vehement protest of their officials, furnishes an interesting object lesson to the student of labor unionism in war times.

At a conference of representatives of the government and the high officials of the miners' union held in Washington some weeks ago a conditional increase of wages was granted to the miners, the condition being, on the part of the operators who were also a party to the conference, that the increase should be added to the already exorbitant price of coal.

The miners waited long and patiently for some definite word as to when the increase was to take effect, and finally in sheer desperation, being allowed to work only half time and unable to meet the high cost of everything, they went out on strike. Frantically, the officials of their union, from the highest to the lowest, shrieked that the strike was "irregular" and that the miners must go back to work at the old wages. In vain did they protest that they could not buy food for their families nor send their children to school for the want of clothes. All such appeals to their officials fell upon deaf ears. They must submit at this time, even if their families were on the verge of starvation. The operators and their own union officials were all in combination against them—and all stowing away three big fat meals a day.

Meanwhile the thieving operators were charging robber rates for coal, literally sandbagging the helpless consumers to come across at their rate.

The strike of these brave miners on their own initiative with everything against them, including their own high-salaried officials, is a clear case of lions led by asses.—Gene Debs in Social Revolution.

**A NUTTY QUESTION**

"Pa?"  
"Well, my son?"  
"After an army shells the enemy do they eat the colonels?"

**Leather Goods, Trunks and Repairing at Everett Trunk Factory, 2815 Rockefeller.**

**FROM "MEMOIRS OF A REVOLUTIONIST"**

(By Peter Kropotkin)

In every town of Russia, in every quarter of St. Petersburg, small groups were formed for self-improvement and self-education; the works of the philosophers, the writings of the economists, the researches of the young Russian historical school, were carefully read in these circles, and the reading was followed by endless discussions. The aim of all that reading and discussion was to solve the great question which rose before them—in what way could they be useful to the masses? Gradually they came to the idea that the only way was to settle among the people and to live the people's life. Young men went into the villages as doctors, doctors' assistants, teachers, village scribes, even as agricultural laborers, blacksmiths, woodcutters, and so on, and tried to live there in closest contact with the peasants. Girls passed teachers' examinations, learned midwifery or nursing, and went by the hundreds into the villages, devoting themselves entirely to the poorest part of the population.

Here and there, small groups of propagandists had settled in towns and villages in various capacities. Blacksmiths' shops and small farms had been started, and young men of the wealthier classes worked in the shops or on the farms, to be in daily contact with the toiling masses. At Moscow, a number of young girls, of rich families, who had studied at the Zurich university and had started a separate organization, went even so far as to enter cotton factories, where they worked from fourteen to sixteen hours a day, and lived in the factory barracks the miserable life of the Russian factory girls. It was a grand movement, in which, at the lowest estimate, from two to three thousand persons took an active part, while twice or thrice as many sympathizers and supporters helped the active vanguard in various ways. With a good half of that army our St. Petersburg circle was in regular correspondence—always, of course, in cipher.

The literature which could be published in Russia under a rigorous censorship—the faintest hint of Socialism being prohibited—was soon found insufficient, and we started a printing office of our own abroad. Pamphlets for the workers and the peasants had to be written, and our small "literary committee," of which I was a member, had its hands full of work. Serghei wrote a couple of such pamphlets—one in the Lamenais style, and another containing an exposition of Socialism in a fairy tale—and both had a wide circulation. The books and pamphlets which were printed abroad were smuggled into Russia by thousands, stored at certain spots, and sent out to the local circles, which distributed them among the peasants and the workers.

"The most important and persistent obstacle to progress is the conservative stupidity and stolidity of human nature."—Ex.

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