

TO BRING ABOUT  
THE CO-OPERATIVE  
COMMONWEALTH

# The Co-operative News

CO-OPERATION—  
EACH FOR ALL, AND  
ALL FOR EACH

In Things Essential, UNITY—In Things Doubtful, LIBERTY—In All Things, FRATERNITY

5c per copy; 50c per year.

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JAN. 10, 1918

Number 363.

## EXPOSE OF SUGAR TRUST'S POWER BARES METHODS OF THE FOOD ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON—The sworn statements of Claus Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, testifying before the Senate committee to investigate the "sugar situation" is likely to destroy what little confidence the people may have had in the United States Food Administration as a cost-of-living reducer or as a protector of the workers against the notorious exactions of the food profiteers.

In common with the organized enemies of the people known as the United States Chamber of Commerce, Hoover believed that with the entrance of the United States into the war the government would be compelled to make broad excursions into the field of price fixing.

Plans to Forestall Disaster  
Familiar with the activities in this direction of the Labor Governments of various Australian States, shortly after the general declaration of war in August, 1914, where a bona fide price fixing policy in the interest of the consumers and administered by the representatives of the consumers dispossessed capitalists, organized or unorganized, of their power to plunder the people and reduce the purchasing power of wages by rocketing prices—familiar with the activities of these governments and the loud protests of the plunder-buffers over the labor invasion of their traditional rights, Hoover determined to forestall any such disaster in the United States.

Price fixing, a tragedy in itself to the interests of the capitalists, if delegated to the real representatives of the consumers, but nevertheless necessary to the successful prosecution of the war, would become a lever for price boosting under the guise of price stabilizing, provided the price fixers were the capitalists whose commodities were to be fixed.

At the outset, therefore, Hoover's policy and the policy of the labor exploiters and profit exactors composing big business, was to staff the various departments of the United States Food Administration with the representatives of business instead of the representatives of the consumers and the working people so sorely hit by war time excess profit prices.

Forthwith, if prices were to be fixed, who were better equipped with the information requisite to determine "fair and reasonable profits" than the gentry who had been engaged in plundering the workers on the one hand with low wages and the consumers on the other hand with soaring prices ever since the ruling classes in Europe threw the workers at each others throats in 1914?

Dickers With Profiteers  
Malodorous as was the reputation of the so-called Sugar Trust, known in Wall Street as the American Sugar Refining Company, tried and convicted in the courts many times for violations of the anti-trust laws, with the Department of Justice even then engaged in prosecuting it for such violations and seeking to dissolve it into its constituent parts; in spite of these well known facts, Food Administrator Herbert Hoover selected the leading officials of the Sugar Trust, from its president right down the line to its lesser officials, to administer the sugar department of the Food Administration and protect the people against high sugar prices.

In this protection policy Food Administrator Hoover selected Earl Pabst, president of the Sugar Trust, to head the sugar committee of the food administration. Among the functions of the sugar committee was that of reaching an agreement with the owners of the sugar plantations in Cuba, most of whom are American corporations, including the American Sugar Refining Company, for the price which the American refiners should pay for the 1917-1918 crop now being harvested. The other members of the sugar committee were likewise sugar refiners, the consumers not being represented. Planning the High Price Campaign  
Mr. Spreckels charged that the sugar committee of the food administration is a mere adjunct of the sugar trust; that the sugar committee is staffed with officials and employees of the Sugar Trust; that the Sugar Trustified Sugar committee of the food administration has used its power to force competing refiners like Mr. Spreckels Federal Sugar Refining Company into accepting the price fixing dictates of the food administration adjunct of the Sugar Trust, heavily interested thru stock ownership in many Cuban sugar plantations, fixed an inordinately high price for Cuban sugar; that the same sugar trust, thru its stock ownership

## ENGLISH CO-OPERATORS ELECT SOCIALIST TO PARLIAMENT

LONDON—It was a significant sign of the times that Mr. Ben Tillett, writing in the "Daily Chronicle" just after his election, attributed his success, among other things, to the big co-operative membership in North Salford. "The members of the co-operative stores," he said, "understand the values of goods, and it is claimed that the co-operative stores had been practically the only check upon extravagant prices and exactions, and the members held the opinion that the wholesaler had fought the co-operative stores because of the check upon the middleman and the speculator." And the reason why this co-operative sentiment, backed by large co-operative membership, told as a factor in his success, was that he had made the ruthless elimination of the profiteer one of the main planks in his platform. Our only comment on this is that if co-operative membership can thus be a cause of an independent candidate winning an election against the united forces of the Liberal and Conservative Parties under a Coalition agreement, there is no reason why, in the future, co-operative membership should not be successful in returning candidates of their own.

## COAL NEXT

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The government must now take over the operation of the country's coal mines.

This was recommended today by George Foster Peabody, director of the Federal Reserve bank. Famous as a banker and as an economist, Peabody's suggestion is significant, especially in view of the fact that as former chairman of the democratic national committee, he is close to the administration. Peabody made his statement in an exclusive interview obtained by Basil M. Manly.—The Seattle Star.

The reports that we get of fuel shortage in the East have not been exaggerated, they have toned down. The administration will take control of the coal business because it will be compelled to, not because it wants to, or thinks it is good policy. This policy will be learned later. This clinches the statement often made by Socialists that Socialism will come whether the people want it or not, in order words that it is the next step in industrial progress.

## THE OLD CZAR AND KAISER PLOTTED SOME

PETROGRAD—The czar's government was in communication with German autocracy, seeking the formation of an international convention which would lay plans for a world-wide fight against Socialism. This was revealed in documents unearthed at the foreign office and made public by the Bolshevik government.

The archives show poor parlours had actually been begun at the time with this purpose in view.

It has been many times alleged by diverse Socialists that it was their opinion that one of the causes of the war was the desire of autocratic rulers to crush the growing Socialist movement, that is, to sweep back the rising tide of Socialism (which is an evolutionary development.) It now appears that their deduction was correct. Trotsky, the Russian foreign minister, has given to the world conclusive proof. When the workers of England come into control of their government, we can expect to find evidence also of negotiations between the Kaiser and the English King for the same purpose.

## HOLLAND WOMEN GET VOTE

THE HAGUE—Queen Wilhelmina has endorsed the constitutional revision bill which was finally adopted by the state general. The bill provides for universal suffrage and proportional representation.

## CO-OP WHOLESALE ORGANIZED IN PENNSYLVANIA

Tri-State Co-operative Association Begins Buying for Twenty-four Stores

PITTSBURGH—A Co-operative Wholesale is fast taking shape in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania district. At a meeting in Pittsburgh, attended by delegates from the different stores interested, final arrangements were made for beginning collective buying and the establishment of a wholesale, under the name of the "Tri-State Co-operative Association." A State Charter has been applied for and stock will be issued at ten dollars per share. Local associations will be affiliated upon the payment of a ten cent application fee for each member and a subscription for whatever amount of stock is desired up to 500 shares.

The entire control of the "Tri-State" will be in the hands of the delegates from the local stores. Between delegate meetings the business will be managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of the officers and one member from each local association.

The 24 stores co-operating at the present time, although they have not all completed their affiliation, are doing over a million dollar business a year, averaging from about \$1,500 to \$15,000 a month.

## SOCIALIST CONGRESS IN NORWAY

CHRISTIANIA, Norway—The struggle within the Norwegian Socialist camp has been clearly revealed during the national Socialist congress, which assembled during the last week in October. The events on the European battlefields and likewise the strategy in Russia cast their shadows over the proceedings, and the Syndicalists (the Norwegian I. W. W.) were considerably less aggressive than previously, while the old Socialist leaders carried their proposals.

## SEATTLE GOES INTO FISH BUSINESS

SEATTLE GOES INTO—SEATTLE—The City of Seattle will go into the fish business within the next ten days and retail salmon at 7 cents a pound. At the present time salmon is retailing in Seattle at from 22 to 30 cents a pound.

Health Commissioner McBride, acting under the instructions of Mayor Gill has selected a site for the city's stall in the Pike Place public market.

## FORM LOCAL IN CANTONMENT

BALTIMORE—One of the privates at Camp Meade, Md., is Karl Hartig, former Socialist State Secretary in Maryland.

There are very many Socialists at this cantonment and they have succeeded in organizing a local of the party.

## CAROLINE LOWE ADMITTED TO FEDERAL PRACTICE

Miss Caroline Lowe, who is well known in Everett and Seattle as a lecturer, and as associate counsel for the defense in the Tracy trial, has been admitted to federal practice in Chicago to assist in the defense of the I. W. W. conspiracy causes. Miss Lowe has also been admitted to the bar in Kansas and California.

## VAGRANCY LAW A NEW WEAPON AGAINST STRIKES

"The most ingeniously contrived and far-reaching piece of strike-breaking machinery has now been patented. This is the characterization given by organized labor in West Virginia to the vagrancy law just enacted in that state under its provisions able-bodied men, between the ages of 16 and 60, must be employed in some lawful, useful and recognized business or occupation whereby they may earn a sufficient income to support themselves and those legally dependent upon them.

A number of strikers already have been arrested under this new law. The restlessness of organized labor in West Virginia is conceded to be the impelling force that necessitated an extra-ordinary session of the Legislature to pass this law.

"Under the guise of attacking the loafer," says a West Virginia labor official, "the state Legislature created the most effective instrument for the breaking of strikes.

"The sinister aspect of the law is to be seen in the fact that no penalty is provided for the man who withholds work from others eager for the opportunity to earn. Lock-outs are legal, while strikes are criminal."

## WATTOGRAMS

Three and a half million members of British Co-operatives have rebelled against the government and will nominate their own candidates to represent them in parliament at the next election.

Profiteering patriots are "doing their bit" by selling shoddy uniforms to the government at woolen prices.

The railroads will sure cut a nice juicy lunon now that the government has promised them such a handsome price.

The Seattle street car company is practising sabotage on the traveling public in order to force the government to take over the lines.

Lloyd George has got right down on his knees to labor. Now the question is, will labor keep him and his gang there?

The activities of the Russian Socialist are making our capitalist-kept press editors act like a bunch of idiots these days. Lay on McDuff!

They tell us that Don McRae is losing his mind. Hartley, Gibson & Co., must have ousted him out of their club.

A social given by the Everett Co-operative Society will be held in The Forum next Sunday evening. Everything free.

The German Socialist minority is gaining the upper hand. Kaiser Bill will soon be hitting the ties with his friends, Nick and George.

In the "fight for Democracy" may we be given to understand that millionaires and paupers will be abolished after the war. There are over 22,000 millionaires and 22 million paupers.

Some of the poor in New York cannot buy bread by the loaf so the food administration has allowed them to buy it by the slice. That's handing out "democracy" by the slice.

Lloyd George says that England will not repudiate its war debts. No Siree, not so long as there are more millions wanted to carry on the war.

Judges, lawyers, bankers, old party politicians and a whole lot of useless parasites are hiring out as laborers in Russia. They will now skin their hands instead of skinning workers.

The Puget Sound Wholesale Co-operative Society will hold its monthly meeting in The Forum, Sunday afternoon, 2 p. m.

Get a good Socialist classic and study the burning question. Look up the list of books published in this paper.

The U. S. Government has agreed to pay 23½ cents for copper that costs less than 14 cents to produce. What a wise people we are.

Great Britain is about to furnish all medical attendance, hospital and nursing service and medicine to the people at cost.

Bargreen's Golden Drip Coffee. Imperial Tea Co., 1407 Hewitt Avenue.

## PATRIOTS MAKE DRIVE ON SEATTLE CALL, BUT WRECK THE WRONG PLANT

Armed Thugs Using Sailors in Uniform Smash Up Pigott Printing Office Causing Loss of \$15,000.

SEATTLE, Jan. 6.—Last night shortly after nine o'clock sailors invaded the printing office of the Pigott Printing Co., and guided by two armed men in civilian clothes who held up the linotype operators, pressmen and jobbers, compelling the men of the typographical department to lie on the floor at the rear of the office the men in uniform proceeded to demolish everything in sight. Forms, machinery, galleys of type cases and job stock, printed matter and office furniture being included in the general wreck. The job was completed in fifteen minutes and several thousand dollars worth of costly work, expensive machinery and valuable linotype machines were practically destroyed.

A battery of late model linotype machines were the first to receive attention but everything suffered complete ruin.

Respected Nothing  
These uniformed sailors, egged on by the two civilians who without question were the authors of the whole dastardly outrage, respected nothing. Important and valuable printed matter for the Red Cross, reports of Church conferences, furniture catalogs just completed, tickets for Ole Hanson forwarding his candidacy for mayor, all were treated to the same process of destruction. For a touch of frightfulness it can hold its own with anything pulled off in the war zone.

Humor in Tragedy  
An election card of Ole Hanson, decrying seditious and violence was among one of the "jobs" that received marked attention from the sailors who made the attack. He it was who was, if elected to the position of mayor was to close up the halls of certain labor organizations and to extinguish the lights of literature shining in radical papers. Frequent and profuse sympathy was expressed for the picture of Ole Hanson as visitors to the plant picked the card trodden under foot, from the floor.

Firm Printed Call  
The fact that this company printed the Call for the stockholders of the Call company and that the Daily Call was growing in strength, circulation and influence—that it was regarded with extreme hostility by capitalist interests which it subjected to criticism—that these had long ago made up their minds to carry out with violence such a scheme to destroy the paper whose mission was to carry the truth to the people—these things all combined account for the demolition of the printing office.

Call Here to Stay  
The Daily Call, however, is here to stay and will not be affected by this outrageous violence. Not only that but the supporters have rallied to the paper in a wonderful manner and hundreds of visitors to the office and more phone calls and wires from all over the country testify to the solid foundations upon which the paper is built.

## SEVENTH BIRTHDAY OF PAPER TO BE CELEBRATED NEXT MONTH

Here's a chance for all Co-operators to "do their bit."

The seventh birthday of The Co-operative News will be celebrated by a big social in Everett February 10th.

The past year has been a strenuous one for the paper and we want to take advantage of the birthday to give the paper another big boost.

Last year we received all kinds of vegetables, fruits, fancy work and useful articles which were sold by auction at the Social.

This year we want to pull off the same kind of an affair so we are going to ask our many friends to "do their bit" to help sustain the paper for another year.

Country Readers Can Help  
All you readers who live outside of Everett can help by sending to this office some of the above named articles. The residents of Everett will purchase them from us at the sale.

We want to make this year's affair the biggest in the history of the paper and so we ask our readers to donate as generously as possible. The cost of producing the paper is greater today than ever before therefore we need your help more at this time than at any previous time.

Just send something that can be readily sold. If you have nothing to send us in the line mentioned then we are always ready to take the cold cash. All donation will be acknowledged in the columns of this paper.

Don't delay. The time is short and the need is great.

"Do your bit" this year for The Co-operative News and help up to strengthen our arm for the greatest of all conflicts—the overthrow of the private ownership of the machinery of wealth production and for the collective ownership of the machinery necessary for the production of wealth. DO YOUR BIT NOW.

## SEATTLE STRIKING BUTCHERS BEATEN UP NEAR PACKING PLANT

SEATTLE—This morning, three union members of the Butcher Workers, were passing in the vicinity of the packing plants in the south end of the city. They had just reached between the Henry and Frye plants when they were accosted by a man who apparently was making an attempt to get in. After a few words the sleuth hit the union butcher and knocked him down while other men attacked the other striker; both the others were badly beaten up. The third union man was some distance away when he heard the others call for help and he turned towards them.

They made for a machine upon which they had been riding, but it had to be cranked up, and in the meantime as the third union man turned back, scores of men appeared in all directions, armed with clubs or knives. One man with a sticker knife made directly for the strikers and he was joined in the chase against the unionist by another scab. In the meantime the machine had been started up, and the union men got away. The fact that the men were in hiding in the vicinity of the packing plants and had concealed themselves behind wagons, etc., while the union men were being spoken to, is sufficient to convince the butchers on strike that the whole thing was a put up job.

Men Were Seriously Injured.  
The attack made upon the unionists, resulted in two of those men being beaten up in bad shape.

## JUDGE UPHOLDS RIGHT TO AGITATE

PHILADELPHIA—Three prominent Socialists here, were declared not guilty by the jury which has been trying them on the charge of having distributed circulars obstructing and defaming the draft. Two others were found guilty.

Judge Thompson in his charge to the jury, established an important point which, if followed in American law courts as a precedent hereafter, ought to save many a public-spirited citizen from the illegal lynchings that have been so current.

In an eminently fair charge, Judge Thompson distinctly enunciated his belief that it is very American's right to agitate and ask for the repeal of the conscription laws, even at this time. Judge Thompson overruled the objection of the prosecuting attorney on this point, and went so far as to declare that requests might be legally made even to soldiers and sailors to sign petitions asking for the repeal of the draft laws.

**Social and Entertainment**  
Will Be Held Under the Auspices of the  
**EVERETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY  
AT THE FORUM**  
1612 CALIFORNIA STREET  
Sunday Evening, January 13th, at 8 P. M.  
There will be Music and Recitations, Short Speeches  
and Refreshments  
EVERYBODY IS CORDIALLY INVITED

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