

# The Co-operative News

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

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## THE EIGHT-HOUR INITIATIVE

The petitions for Initiative Measure No. 30, for the establishment of the eight-hour day, has been sent out by the State Secretary of the Socialist Party. The active cooperation of all Socialists is urged in securing the necessary signatures to put it on the ballot at the general election in November. The signatures of at least 37,760 legal voters is required; and these must be secured and certified by July 1st, 1918. The text of the proposed law is as follows:

### Be It Enacted By the People of State of Washington

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, persons, corporation, company or joint stock association to cause, require or permit any male or female employe in his, her or its employ to work more than eight hours during any day of twenty-four hours, nor more than forty-eight hours during any week of seven days, except that in agricultural labor an additional two hours per day may be allowed for work which is unavoidably and necessarily incidental to farm management.

PROVIDED HOWEVER, That in case of extraordinary emergency, such as danger to life or property, or where such eight hour limit would unavoidably and necessarily prevent other workers in the same mine, mill, factory or other industrial unit from working the full eight hour day the hours for work may be further extended, but in such cases the rate of pay for time employed in excess of eight hours of each calendar day shall be one and one-half the rate of pay allowed for the same amount of time during eight hours service.

Sec. 2. If for any reason any of the provisions of this Act shall be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid it shall not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any other part thereof.

Sec. 3. Any employer, overseer, superintendent or other agent of any such employer, who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined for each offense in a sum not less than ten dollars nor more than one hundred dollars for each day during which such violation continues.

### SIGNERS COME EASY

GIG HARBOR, Wash.—I canvassed Gig Harbor precinct yesterday and today for the eight-hour petition. Out of 80 solicited I got 73 signatures. Will get about 25 more. Four years ago I got three signatures. Some one explain; I can't.

The population is made up of Scandinavian ranchers, Austrian fishermen and American scissor-bills, about equal parts of each. Go to it fellows. It's a cinch.  
J. C. McKEE.

Wages will not command abundant life above the dead-line. The Present is petty with, "We humbly request." The Future will be magnificent with, "We demand."  
—George R. Kirkpatrick.

## HEAR GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK

America's Greatest Orator

Sunday, March 10, at 2 p. m.

In His Great Lecture

"THE RIGHTS OF MAN"

OWING to the fact, that up till now we have not been able to decide definitely upon which hall we will select, we ask the audience to gather at The Forum, 1612 California St., from which place you will be directed to any one of the near-by halls we decide upon.

### EMIL HERMAN

Whereas, Local Everett No. 1, has been in close contact with the work of Emil Herman as State Secretary of the Socialist Party for the past two years, and is in a position to observe his work,

Therefore Be It Resolved By Local Everett No. 1, That we commend him for his marked efficiency, his courtesy, his enthusiasm in carrying on the work of the state office and his zeal for the cause of Socialism.

A. E. HOLMBERG, Chairman.

## WEAKNESS

NEW YORK—Weakness is a crime, says Bernard Macfadden in Physical Culture.

It is a crime against yourself. It is a crime against all with whom you come in contact. And weakness in one sex is just as culpable as it is in the other.

If weakness is a crime it is one for which society is responsible to a greater degree than the individual. Henry George has said: "Poverty is a crime. I do not mean that it is a crime to be poor. Murder is a crime; but it is not a crime to be murdered; and a man who is in poverty I look upon not as a criminal himself so much as the victim of a crime for which others, as well, perhaps, as himself, are responsible."

Physical weakness is always a close attendant upon poverty. Poverty is inevitably bred by slums and congested industrial conditions, where capitalistic exploitation has reached its most "efficient" development. And Capitalism cannot develop any further without creating a greater degree of poverty, and, incidentally, a greater degree of physical weakness. It is insane to say that a person is himself or herself responsible because individuals can rise above their environment. It may be possible for a few exceptional individuals to "rise above their environment" but for the masses of humanity there is absolutely no escape from material conditions—excepting by and through concerted mass action.

We should strive to remove physical weakness, as Macfadden advocates. Yes—by removing the cause. By doing away with poverty—exploitation—the capitalist system of production and distribution.

The working-class must refuse to be any longer cheated with cheap imitations of life. The working-class must invite themselves upstairs to life, to life abundant.  
—George R. Kirkpatrick.

## LABOR NEWS

### WOMEN SLAVES

MOBILE, Ala.—The Commissioners of Escanaba County are leasing women prisoners to contractors for the small sum of 15 cents per day. The contractors furnish board and accommodations for them. Ill treatment is notoriously the lot of the women who are farmed out to these contractors.

### DECEIVING LABOR

SAN FRANCISCO—"Four-Minute men" speaking at the various theaters are urging men to go to work in the ship-yards, claiming that there is great need of them.

As a matter of fact there are hundreds of men standing in line at the ship-yard employment offices, without any opportunity. Some workers have even offered big sums for a chance to go to work.

It would seem that the crowds of unemployed are not big enough to suit the capitalists. Most likely they are trying to beat down wages.

### ORGANIZERS JAILED

SEATTLE—Joe Carpenter, 21, Robert Dayton, 19, and Elwell Addington, were arrested yesterday at the Snoqualmie Lumber Company, near Snoqualmie Falls by a deputy sheriff in the employ of the company. He turned the "criminals" over to North Bend authorities from whence they were taken to Seattle. They were organizing the logging crew in the I. W. W., and as this is a disreputable act, according to the lumber trust, they will probably be held in jail until released at the whim of their masters. All are American citizens, and they have been turned over to the federal authorities.

We do not deserve any more than we are willing to help get for the whole working class.  
—George R. Kirkpatrick.

### THIS IS IMPORTANT Kirkpatrick Meeting

Comrades and friends in Arlington, Snohomish, Edmonds, Monroe, Marysville, Langley, Freeland and other towns near by: Will you help to organize automobile or boat parties from your part of the county? And if so, WILL YOU BEGIN AT ONCE?

Then within a week, will you drop a line on a post card to the Co-operative News and tell us about how many we may expect from your town?

Don't forget the date, Sunday, March 10th, 2 p. m.

## PREDICTS REPUBLIC FOR SPAIN

NEW YORK—Will Irwin, who has just returned from Europe, predicts that there will be a republic in Spain soon, as the result of a revolution and that King Alfonso will be the first president.

We would hail with delight a new republic in Spain, provided Alfonso is NOT made President. That there is a republic brewing is very probable; but it is rather improbable that the republicans will take the old king for their new head. The statement should be taken with salt.

In this connection it should be remembered that Louis Napoleon was elected President of France in 1849 and that in a short time he executed his famous coup d'etat and re-established the Empire, which he held together until the establishment of the Paris Commune in 1871. Aristocrats are not to be trusted with governing power in a republic.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CONCORD, N. H.—New Hampshire's superintendent of public instruction, Ernest L. Butterfield, has refused to line up the public school system of the state in the big Red Cross membership drive that is planned all over the country, on the ground that the public schools should be kept free from collections and membership drives in organizations that are not governmental and that are outside school control.

Throughout the balance of the nation, however, the schools are used for collection purposes and to recruit members for organizations that are not governmental. It does not seem to make any difference that the schools exist for a totally different purpose—in theory—namely, to prepare children for the struggle of life. Nevertheless, in practice, the schools are used by the ruling classes for any and every purpose that will bolster up their position in society as exploiters and parasites.

## WEALTH IS CONCENTRATING

WASHINGTON, D. C.—In 1914 there were just 7,509 persons in the United States with incomes of \$50,000, but in 1916 there were 17,085 or, in round figures, two and a third times as many. While the number of ordinary millionaires doubled, the number of these multi-millionaires more than trebled, increasing from 174 in 1914 to 582 in 1916.

"These figures," says Basil Manly, "show where the increased cost of living is going."

What are you doing about it?

### CO-OP PROGRESSING

GOLD BAR, Wash.—The Co-operative Union at Gold Bar is doing a fair amount of business. Mr. Geo. Schapper is a splendid business manager, which speaks success for the Union.

Next week will be Seed-order week. Some members have already placed their seed orders with the manager.

## PAY-TREE-OTS AND OTHERS

The lumber trust has deliberately delayed the production of spruce and other lumber production necessary for war purposes, and has raised its prices for lumber products in many cases to nearly ten times what they were before the war, and in order to cover its foul footsteps it raises the cry of "sedition" against the I. W. W.

The copper trust has made a profit of more than thirty millions of dollars since the United States entered the war, and has held out for a price of 23½ cents a pound for copper which their own cost sheets show to have been produced at an expenditure of from 9 to 11 cents, and the government inquiry commission of President Wilson shows that the copper magnates have seriously interfered with the workings of the draft law and have hindered the production of copper needed for war purposes, yet the kept press of the copper and lumber trusts in Seattle and elsewhere has damned the I. W. W. for the very things of which the employing class is guilty.

On top of this, these "patriots" have deliberately created the impression that the federal indictment against workers necessarily means that the accused are guilty without the production of a particle of evidence, and that these workers should thereupon be denied every civil right guaranteed to other members of society.

The men who are in jail awaiting trial are undergoing treatment worse than that given to Russia's condemned prisoners in the darkest days of Czardom. One member has been driven insane in Cook County jail in Chicago. Men and women are on the verge of insanity in our local jails and detention stations according to letters smuggled to friends on the outside—smuggled in free America—smuggled in a land where the constitution guarantees a speedy trial by jury—smuggled by persons arrested without warrant, charged with no specific offense and to be deemed innocent under the law because not yet tried by any jury nor given any semblance of a legal hearing.

In the face of these facts we doubt the patriotism of the lumber and copper trusts; doubt the patriotism of the capitalist press; we doubt the patriotism of the paid servitors of the industrial plunderbund. We doubt also the pretensions of law and order coming from those who violate every law and who have encouraged and still are secretly and openly encouraging such lawless mobs as the one which recently wrecked the Pigott printing plant.—Industrial Workers.

Poverty has always been ugly—and it is ugly now. Poverty has always been cruel—and it is cruel now. Poverty has always been deadly—and it is deadly now.

Poverty has always been a disaster—and it is a disaster now.  
—George R. Kirkpatrick.

Our boys should not leave home without sitting for a photo at MEYER'S STUDIO.