

The Co-operative News

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

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THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

The survival of the fittest is as much a law of the industrial world as it is of the natural world. For a time an unfit system may be maintained by force of arms, or through the influence of some religious or political fanaticism. But soon or late, a supreme test will come, and then whatsoever is essentially weak must fail.

For four hundred years Feudalism dominated Europe. It was a weak system. It yielded poor results, industrially, politically and socially; but it was powerfully entrenched and seemed invincible. Then came the great crusades, which drained Europe of her fighting men and of her financial resources. Those long wars against the Mohammedans so weakened the feudal lords that capitalism got a foot-hold in many parts of Europe, and being a stronger system, overthrew feudalism.

Socialism is a stronger system than capitalism. In a direct struggle between the two systems, on either the industrial or the commercial field, there could be no doubt of the result. But capitalism owns the means of production and distribution—the basis of life. It control the great political, social and religious organizations of the world. In short, capitalism monopolizes human opportunity and is as powerfully entrenched as feudalism was at the time of the Crusades. But now this great-world war has laid bare the weaknesses of the capitalist system, and the greater efficiency of organized co-operation has been clearly shown. Here and there, strongholds of capitalism have surrendered because they could no longer maintain themselves in this great emergency. The old irresponsible, destructive methods, and organized, constructive methods are being brought into direct comparison.

Will history repeat itself in this crisis? Will the weak system perish and the strong one survive? That depends on whether or not we are ready for the stronger system.

It is obvious that for a more highly organized system of society, a broader basis of human intelligence is required.

Feudalism succeeds only where the masses are ignorant and where there is no middle class. Hence feudalism flourished in the decay of civilization and of human intelligence that followed the down-fall of Rome.

Capitalism requires a more intelligent upper class and a reasonably intelligent middle class. It is true that the development of capitalism tends to crush out the Bourgeoisie; but it is also true that as the middle class disappears, capitalism will become a narrow aristocracy that will degenerate into feudalism again. The real strength of capitalism lies in the maintenance of a reasonably intelligent and fairly prosperous Bourgeoisie.

Socialism can be successful only when resting upon the foundation of a broadly intelligent and

BIG MEETING

The most responsive and enthusiastic audience that ever gathered in Everett, was without question, the one which greeted George R. Kirkpatrick last Sunday afternoon to hear his lecture "The Rights of Man." For nearly two hours Comrade Kirkpatrick held his audience spell bound without so much as the slightest movement save for an occasional spontaneous outburst of applause. Judging from the comments heard on every side, it was the general consensus of opinion that "The Rights of Man" is Comrade Kirkpatrick's masterpiece. But—we recall distinctly hearing this same remark on other occasions. This only proves our contention that Comrade Kirkpatrick stands alone, not only as an orator, but what is far more important to the Socialist movement, as a teacher.

Although thousands of his book, "Think or Surrender" have been sold in Everett at previous gatherings, two hundred copies were disposed of Sunday.

A vigorous applause went up from the audience when it was announced that an effort was being made to secure Comrade Kirkpatrick for a return date.

THAT INFORMATION BUREAU

At the S. P. State Convention held last week in Seattle, a constitutional amendment was proposed but voted down, which had for its object the establishment of a sort of Information Bureau within the State Executive Committee. While such a proposition has merit, it would in fact be a duplication of the work done by organizations of a national scope. Statistics, to be of any use in an international movement, must embrace at least a whole nation, if not a whole continent.

In this morning's mail we received a circular from The Rand School of Social Science, New York, announcing the publication of THE AMERICAN LABOR YEAR BOOK for 1917-1918. It was compiled by Alexander Trachtenberg, director of the Department of Labor Research of the Rand School. He says in regard to it: "The book is brought out primarily for the speakers, writers and propagandists in the Socialist and labor movement."

The book may be had for 60c, paper bound; \$1.25, cloth bound, plus 10c for mailing. Address: The Rand Book Store, 7 East 15th Street, New York.

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

If you have not yet read Kirkpatrick's latest book, Think or Surrender, send 15 cents to the Co-operative News, and one will be mailed you.

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

efficiently educated Proletariat. Otherwise, Socialism is weak and will lose in the struggle for survival.—Peoples' College News.

LABOR NEWS

MORE WORKERS THAN JOBS
SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Feb. 14.—The state free employment bureau reports that during the first half of January 502 persons made application for work and 264 secured employment.

AIDING HIS EDUCATION
SEATTLE—Mrs. Gust W. Johnson, writing from Sandy, Utah, gives the information that her husband was arrested on the charge of being a draft evader. She encloses the following clipping from a Salt Lake paper: "On the charge of being a draft evader, Gust William Johnson was arrested at Sandy yesterday by Deputy Sheriff R. H. McDonald and taken to the county jail, where he is held pending action of the federal authorities. According to the officers Johnson is an I. W. W. and has been open in his denouncement of the draft." Evidently the charge against Fellow Worker Johnson was groundless, as Mrs. Johnson adds: "I got him out today and he was told to try to get that I. W. W. out of his head, but I think he will be worse."

CO-OPERATION IN RUSSIA

Count Ilya Tolstoy, son of the great Russian, Leo Tolstoy, called on the Co-operator the other day. He was on his way from Russia to New York. This is his second visit to us this year.

Ilya Tolstoy, who is the Vice President of the Moscow Consumers' Co-operative Union, tells us that the over-turn of autocracy in Russia was only made possible by the growth during the last ten years of co-operation.

There are over 47,000 co-operative societies in Russia with 30,000,000 or more members. For several years they have been quietly building up "a society within a society." When the crash came, and right up to the present time, the only organized life in the community was the Federated Co-operative Societies.

The government depends almost entirely upon the co-operative movement to keep the economic life of Russia together. We learn little of this, however, from the press. The astonishing thing about Russian co-operation is the fact that nearly all of its vast growth has taken place within the last ten years.—Pacific Co-operator.

S. P. CONVENTION

On March 9, 10, and 11th, the Socialist Party of Washington held a convention of delegates at the Finnish Hall in Seattle. The locals of the state were represented by their most active and energetic members so there were no dull moments or lack of interest. The delegates were generally sitting on the front edge of their seats, taking in everything and ready to take the floor to give their views on the questions before the house. There was no letting George do it when it came to voting; measures were not carried by a few votes with the rest sitting mum, as frequently happens in local meetings; when a vote was called for it was generally answered by a roar—some times of Ayes, some times of Noes; when a rising vote was called for everybody jumped up to register a vote, pro or con, as the case may be.

Several timely and important Resolutions were past by the convention. But the chief work done was on the Platform and the Constitution. The delegates were divided on the Platform and two of them will be submitted to the membership on Referendum. The radicals proposed a platform, which some of the delegates referred to as merely a Preamble since no "immediate demands" were included, although it is vigorous and complete. The other faction urged that we must set forth our various "demands" in our platform in order to compete with the Non-partisan, the National, and the other parties.

Many changes were made in the Constitution, some of them being of importance, some being merely necessary technical changes. These constitutional changes, however, will go to the membership for final decision. Watch for the next issue of the Party Builder, which will give you complete information.

It was the pleasure of the delegates to hear speeches from Lena Morrow Lewis, Kate Sadler, and Hulet M. Wells on the convention floor; and also to hear Kirkpatrick at the Hippodrome, where the delegates attended in a body.

SUB HUSTLERS

Geo. Lesich, Roslyn, Wn. 4
Lee Squires, Vancouver, Wn. 2
Bert Goddard, Plummer, Ida. 2

Read THINK OR SURRENDER. The author says that it is as hot as he could make it without burning the paper. We have read it and we know this to be the truth.

CO-OPERATIVE IS SUCCESSFUL

Roslyn Industrial Co-operative Issues Its First Quarterly Statement — Good Business for a New Concern.

ROSLYN, WASH.—Stating that their purpose in making public their first quarterly statement is to show the working class the benefits to be derived from co-operatives owned by the workers, the auditing committee of the Cascade Industrial Co-operative Association of Roslyn have just declared a 10 per cent dividend for the first quarter. The dividend will not be disbursed as yet, but will be retained in the treasury as a reserve fund. The dividend is declared upon the total amount of purchases made at the store. Careful account is kept of each stockholder's purchases and each quarter's dividends will be paid on this total.

Ownership of stock is limited to 20 shares, or \$100, and no stockholder may own less than five shares. H. B. Joyner, formerly of Wilkeson, has been manager of the store since its establishment. Following their quarterly report, the auditors, William Morgan, recommended that a dividend of 10 per cent on all purchases be paid to customers; that a sum equal to 5 per cent per annum be set aside for payment of interest on capital stock, and the remainder of undivided profits be placed in a reserve fund. The financial report for the first quarter follows:

Resources	
Merchandise inventory	\$ 7,828.82
Furniture and fixtures	2,891.00
Accounts receivable	594.26
Cash on hand by manager	2,195.57
Cash on hand by secretary	40.50
Cash in bank	2,059.54
Cash in construction fund	272.79
Unearned rent	7.10
Total	\$15,971.69
Liabilities	
Capital stock	\$ 9,270.00
Membership fees	184.00
Notes payable	2,023.15
Account payable	1,600.36
Salaries unpaid	99.05
Interest accrued on capital stock	125.00
Telephone rent, unpaid	5.00
Light and water unpaid	5.50
Outstanding coupons unpaid	20.15
Undivided profits	2,635.48
Total	\$15,971.69

THE RADICAL

(By Bert Goddard)

Economic necessity is the parent of all revolutions in society. It is the function of every revolutionary radical, whether industrial or political to educate and organize the useful members of society so the change can take place from the old to the new without civilization being engulfed in the black abyss of anarchy and chaos. This is what is meant by the statement, "We are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old." The radical who today is persecuted and annihilated on the gibbet erected by the master class, is the beacon light shining on the rock-bound coast of a troubled world, pointing the way to a safe refuge for humanity. The stone rejected by the builders shall become the keystone of the arch.

Kirkpatrick Will Return

The committee that had charge of the Kirkpatrick meeting is glad to be able to announce just as this issue is going to press, that there now remains but little doubt as to the possibility of securing Comrade Kirkpatrick for a return date, near the end of this month. His lecture will be, "THE HYPNOTISM OF THE WORKING CLASS." The exact date will be announced in next week's issue. Watch for it. Tell your friends.

Admission will be free.

Watch for the Date