

# The Co-operative News

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

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## THE SOCIAL EVIL

By Maj. Gen. William C. Gorgas,  
Surgeon-General of American  
Armies

When there is an outbreak of measles or of pneumonia or of spinal meningitis the entire country becomes worried about it.

But there is a constant and more deadly drain on the vitality of our army, and no one becomes excited about it.

The newspapers do not mention it. People do not discuss it. By common consent, nothing is said about it, and it is kept a secret.

I refer to the plague of sexual diseases. To speak in plain English, I refer to syphilis and gonorrhoea.

Other diseases take their hundreds. These venereal ailments take their thousands. It is estimated that since the war began the total equivalent of 60 divisions of one of the armies of the world were temporarily withdrawn from the fighting because of these ailments.

During the first 18 months of the war one of the great powers had more men incapacitated for service by venereal diseases contracted in the mobilization camps than in all the fighting at the front. And there is the difference between those stricken with these diseases. The wounded man transmits no terrible heritage to his children. The poison of syphilis goes on and on for generations.

Look at our own army. In the 12-week period ending Dec. 7 last there were reported, from the 31 cantonments, 21,742 new cases of venereal diseases.

In other words, we had almost an entire division of our army on the sick list.

This involves not only loss of time, but the cost of their hospital confinement, the medicines, and the time of the doctors.

That is not all. In many instances the disease will relapse after the men have been transported to France and presumably put in condition for service against the enemy. This training and transportation costs the government about \$1500 per man. If he is unfit long before he has faced the Germans the money is sheer waste.

We used to put the soft pedal on all talk about tuberculosis. People who had it used to talk of having "bad colds or racking coughs." Finally, medical men got the public aroused to the dangers of tuberculosis. The result was that laws were passed forbidding public drinking cups and spitting in public places. This with other preventive measures, has brought down the death rate from the white plague.

The black plague, which has come down the ages, is still taking its terrible toll. With Anglo-Saxon mock modesty we have refused to speak of it.

But the war has opened many eyes. In English newspapers and magazines you see advertisements calling for contributions to societies which are fighting the spread of syphilis. The name of the disease and its terrible nature are openly discussed, and the names of bishops of the es-

tablished church are signed to these advertisements.

If we wish to accomplish anything over here, not only for our army, but for our citizens in private life, we will have to empty a large dose of truth and plain-speaking.

The young and ignorant must be taught. Laws of quarantine must be originated.

We shut up an adult or child with measles for a period of three weeks, so he may not spread it among his neighbors. We allow the syphilitic to go his way undisturbed. He drinks out of cups that may not be well scalded and that may be passed along to us laden with the most deadly germs. We do not allow a leper to go about unrestricted. We do not allow him to marry. But we place no restrictions whatever upon the syphilitic. That is why I say it is a matter of educating the public and of getting them used to plain speaking.

Only by talking straight and telling the truth will you be able to arouse the American people so they will fight the danger to the race.

But there is more than that. There is a sheer waste, not only of the money spent to make him a soldier, not only to the man himself, but of generations yet unborn. To show how serious this condition is, let me cite some figures for the 12-week period ended December 7.

In the regular army, figured on the basis of an annual rate for purposes on comparison, 8.8 per cent per year of the men had venereal diseases, as compared with 1.34 per cent who had other communicable diseases—that is, pneumonia, dysentery, typhoid, para-typhoid, malaria, meningitis and scarlet fever, but not including measles.

In the Federalized National Guard 11.52 per cent per year had venereal diseases, as against 3.89 who had other communicable diseases.

In the national army 16.24 per cent per year had venereal diseases as against 2.38 who had other ailments.

I am not discussing this matter from the ethical or moral standpoint, but from a health standpoint. When a man is serving his country in the army his health is the country's business. And when he is back home, if he is a danger to his community, to his wife when he marries, and to his children and his grandchildren, then his ailments become very much the community's business.

## THE ART LEAGUE

At the last business meeting of the Everett Art League, of which Comrade Peter Husby is President, Mrs. O. C. Gaston was elected organizer. The members of the league feel certain that a wise choice has been made and anticipate the highest measure of success for this worthy enterprise under this new leadership.

It will be remembered that the league was organized in The Forum several months ago, and held its sessions there for some time. At present however, the class is being conducted in the Public Library. These sessions are held for eight days out of each month and are free to the public.

## Kirkpatrick Is Appreciated

Reports from Bellingham state that the Kirkpatrick meeting of Monday night was a pronounced success.—this is in spite of the fact that the comrades had but a short time in which to prepare for it. Every available

inch of the Labor Temple was taken, and the audience received Comrade Kirkpatrick's message with the most appreciative enthusiasm. The comrades have eagerly proposed a return date if it can be arranged for.



GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK  
Sunday, March 31st., at 2 p. m.

who will speak in The Forum  
Admission Free.

Come and invite your friends to hear his great lecture  
"The Hypnotism of the Working Class"  
There will be music

## THERE IS DANGER OF A UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING

NEW YORK—It is pointed out that while the president and secretary of war are on record against this last and boldest scheme of the out-and-out militarists, the organized wealth of the country is for the measure and that to succeed in a fight with organized wealth, even so powerful an official as the President will need the support of an aroused citizenry.

Universal Military Training was not introduced as a win-the-war measure. It was put forward as an after-the-war measure. But when the militarists found that they could not at once force Senate Bill No. 1, upon Congress, they had recourse to an old trick. They provided for universal military training ostensibly as a war measure, and as part of a war measure, but in reality as an after-the-war measure as they had originally intended. For this camouflage, they selected Senate Joint Resolution 124, which had for its purpose the extension of the selective draft act to cover those persons who have become 21 years old since the act went into effect. But they now seek

to amend it so that, if passed, it will provide for the registration and the training of all boys when they reach the age of 19, these not being subject to active service, however, until they reach the age of twenty-one.

"The amendment" says Mr. McBride, "if adopted would provide a system of universal military training. The regular bill is still in the committee on military affairs of the Senate. Progress upon it has been slow. The militarists are becoming impatient of the delay and are pushing the joint resolution which is designed to have the same effect. Even if they are defeated in this, they will try again and again.

"It will require constant vigilance upon the part of the liberty loving people of this country to prevent the infliction of universal military training. A mighty protest must be made at once to Senators and representatives against the passage of any bill which has for its purpose universal military training.

## SUB HUSTLERS

P. J. Hartnett, Lewiston, Ida... 4  
R. D. Tracy, Bend, Ore..... 3  
E. A. Cimmetry, R1, Edmonds... 2  
J. S. Schoren, R1, Everett..... 1  
R. H. Parks, Shelton, Wash..... 1

## MUCH BLOATED WEALTH

(From Kirkpatrick's "Think—  
Or Surrender.")

Capitalism grows more and more monstrous every day. To illustrate, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Sr., owns more wealth than he could have earned if he had gone to work the morning Jesus Christ was born, and had worked every year since, three hundred days in the year, and had received over \$1,700.00 PER DAY. His two children will receive, by inheritance the equivalent of more than 550 TONS OF GOLD—a heavy load for 300 horses.

Remember that one-half of one per cent of the total population of the United States own 65 per cent of all the wealth of the entire nation.

Now please do not blame Mr. Rockefeller or the other men of great wealth—no matter how monstrous and ridiculous the situation becomes. The cause of the monstrous situation is not in the personal character of Mr. Rockefeller or in the personal character of the capitalist class—just as the cause of the monstrousness of chattel slavery was not in the personal character of the slave holder. Indeed many of the chattel slave holders were excellent men, very fine, philanthropic, Christian gentlemen—personally. However, when the chattel slave system was outgrown it had to go; just as the wage-and-profit system is now outgrown and must go.

More and more Socialism is becoming the hope of the world. You will realize this more clearly as time goes by. And now if you are not yet with us in this splendid struggle for industrial freedom, let me remind you:

At present we of the Socialist Party are doing the very best we can without your encouragement, without your small monthly dues, without your sympathetic counsel, without your constant co-operation. We need the stimulus, the power and the courage of a large membership, the inspiring, conquering membership of which we should like to have you become a part.

Are you with us?  
It would make us glad indeed TO SEE YOU HELPING in the great struggle for the freedom of yourself, and your children, and your class.  
Play fair. Play fair. Come on in and help—now.

## INTOLERANCE

The sorest test of all has been our refusal to surrender the heart of our message to the present nationalistic madness which is sweeping the world. For the last refuge of sectarianism is "patriotism," and there is no sectarianism which is at once so intense and so intolerant. It is the most mischievous and the most menacing idolatry of our day.—The Los Gatos Idea.

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