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The Co-operative News

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

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OSTERBERG IS TURNED LOOSE

Wednesday morning, Nils Osterberg was called out from the cell tank, given his effects and told that the door was open. No further explanation was given and Comrade Osterberg did not tarry to ask any more questions.

He was arrested on April 16th for an alleged violation of the Espionage law, and was bound over to the Federal grand jury by U. S. Commissioner Mansfield under bond fixed at \$20,000. On Wednesday last the case was brought before the Grand Jury and they failed to find sufficient evidence to hold him for trial. He was therefore turned loose.

It does not require very much evidence for the Grand Jury to hold a man for trial, particularly on such charges, in these times. And yet our Comrade was thrown into jail under such an outrageously high bond that we had not been able to raise it in two weeks time.

Emil Herman's case was also presented to the Grand Jury but not completed, so that it will not be decided until the jury meets again next Monday.

ONE PROFITEER TO BE CHECKED

Landlords in the city of Washington are gathering in a heavy crop of war profits, exempted from the excess profits tax. One of them has for a tenant Major-General Black, Chief of the Army Engineers, who has accompanied Secretary of War Baker to France. General Black paid \$100 a month rent. After his departure his family received a notice from the landlord that the rent would thereafter be \$250 a month. The case was not an unusual one, but the prominence of the tenant made Congressman Ben Johnson, Chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia, sit up and take notice. He promptly introduced a bill for commandeering of the house by the Government and renting of it to General Black for \$100 a month until one year after the war. The landlord moreover, is to be required to pay all repairs.

The bill, if it passes, will settle the rent question for General Black. But how about the thousands of other citizens who have suffered from similar extortion? It is clearly unreasonable to expect a special measure to be passed by Congress for the relief of each and everybody. And yet they are entitled to it as much as General Black.

GERMAN MUSIC AND GERMAN AUTOCRACY

The Minneapolis Orchestral Association did itself proud for patriotism last week by changing a Wagner program of the Symphony orchestra to a general program. We understand that this action was taken after conference with the State Public Safety Commission. Since we are at war with Germany we must bar German music from our concerts, is the reasoning of that far-seeing Safety Commission.

Other patriotic purists are advocating and succeeding in barring the study of the German language from the public schools.

These patriots must have been too far back of the President to hear him when he said that we are not fighting the German people but we want to crush the German military autocracy. As a matter of fact, the press, the pulpit, and all the governing bodies from Congress down, are directing everything against the German people and their language and art, rather than against Prussian autocracy. Imitating the Prussian governmental autocracy they bend their energies fighting the German people. The attack on the music created by persons of German birth is characteristic.

The whole affair would be ridiculous were it not for the mass of implications involved. Shall we discard all the contributions made to the world by Germans because we are war with German autocracy? Shall we throw out of our medical schools our knowledge of Tuberculosis because the celebrated German Koch discovered the bacillus tuberculosis? Shall we let our syphilitics die because the German Ehrlich created Salvarsan? Shall we cease to read the works of Goethe, Schiller, and Heine because they were German born? Shall we tear down the monuments erected to Carl Schurz, the statesman?

We must use common sense in this matter as in everything else connected with the war. We know that after this war we will have to accept the German people into the family of nations again. And their scientific and literary and artistic contributions to the world will again be avidly sought after. And what a people create, no prohibitions or suppressions can destroy.

In this matter we find absolute confirmation of our charge that this is not a war against the Kaiser's militarists and to establish real democracy, but is rather a battle for commercial supremacy. The contest is to decide whether British, French and American imperialism is to rule the greater part of the world or whether German imperialism shall have that privilege.—The New Times, Minn.

Use Clausens FAVORITE COFFEE 35c lb., 3 lbs. for \$1.00. None better—M. H. Clausen, 2813 Rockefeller, Phone, Black 581.

THE I. W. W. TRIAL AT CHICAGO

Property Rights Versus Humanity
Is the Issue

CHICAGO—The opening of the fourth week of the great I. W. W. trial in Chicago finds the attorneys for both sides still working to get the jury together. It is expected that this will have been accomplished in a day or two more, and then the real work of the trial will open up. It is reported that the prosecution has already summoned its witnesses to appear in Chicago by Wednesday, April 24th.

The prosecution has used two of its six peremptory challenges and the defense two of its ten. The struggle over the selection of the prospective jurymen has been very keen; the prosecution fighting to retain businessmen and capitalists, and the defense fighting to keep as many open-minded workers as possible. Judging from the questions asked the talesmen by counsel of both sides the issues that will clash in this trial will be those of Capital and Labor—the Old order of things clashing with the New. The I. W. W. has challenged the right of the capitalist system to exist, and the system has accepted the challenge and will attempt to obtain vindication in court.

REFORM AND REFORMERS

Joseph Fels, a prominent Non-Socialist writer, has this to say about two prominent Philadelphians:

"On a certain street in Philadelphia two prominent contributors to charity live within a few doors of each other. Both are millionaires. One is a political boss. He makes the personal welfare of every poor person in his ward his personal business. He sees that none wants for coal in winter nor ice in summer. He protects them against eviction when unable to pay rent. He turns no unfortunate away empty handed. In dispensing charity he makes no distinction of race, color, religion, nationality or politics. He does not quibble about worthiness of applicants. It would be hard to find a living example of one more nearly an ideal philanthropist. But his charity is a curse to the city. It has made him all powerful politically and given him a grip upon the city that cannot easily be shaken off. His power is at the service of monopolistic corporations. He is a most efficient instrument in maintaining the system that enables a few to become rich by impoverishing the many. His charity would be a trifling return to the poor for evil done them were it not a means of tricking them into giving him

continual support. As it is, it is not only no return at all, but an additional injury.

The other man is a reformer, a bitter opponent of his fellow philanthropist, the political boss. He is a man of good intentions and unquestioned sincerity. His charity does not take the form of indiscriminate giving, but he gives liberally to organizations of various kinds. His name on the stationery of a charitable organization is looked upon as a guarantee of its worthiness. But in spite of his good intentions, in spite of his personal probity, he too, is a supporter of predatory interests. His enmity to graft stops with the lesser forms, the forms frowned upon by law. He has waged many a battle against wrong methods of taking money out of the public treasury, but he is a staunch upholder of methods of getting it in, just as morally wrong. The iniquitous protective tariff he is ready to defend, even when this requires the support of a creature of the boss in preference to an honest free trade opponent. Thus, thru mere lack of knowledge, and in spite of good intentions, he too, is a potent factor in keeping the poor in a condition that makes them welcome the gifts of the political boss."

Both of these men are products of the capitalist system of production and distribution. As long as the profit system exists, so long will we have petty-reform millionaires and wealthy politicians who dispense charity in order to keep in political control, which in turn is their means of acquiring wealth. That the latter class is a curse is admitted by all except the poor that take the corrupting charity which is doled out. As to the reformers, it is gratifying to note that even non-socialists now admit the failure of their efforts, if not of their entire philosophy. Reformers have centered their efforts largely upon the elimination of petty graft. They have ignored the fundamental causes of poverty, slums, crime and graft; they have tried to wash away the effects. Many reformers have undoubtedly been sincere; but in the face of the evident failure of "reform" they can no longer be reformers and remain sincere. Yet many will continue to be "reformers" because they will be forced to remain so by bread-and-butter necessity, thereby becoming hypocrites; and many will remain reformers from lack of intelligence and backbone.

Nothing will make conditions better except the removal of the causes of our social ills.

Nothing will remove our social ills except the collective ownership and democratic management of things collectively used and private ownership of things privately used.

RUSTLE A SUB OR TWO FOR
THE NEWS.

EVERETT CO-OP

Holds Quarterly Meeting at Forum—Manager Makes Report

Last Monday evening the Everett Co-operative Society held its quarterly meeting of stockholders. The report submitted by Manager Worswick showed the progress made by the society, and should be a source of encouragement to all. The Share Capital now stands at \$1,474.68. The net worth of the Society is \$2,088.39; the net worth at the commencement of business was only \$320. This is a remarkable growth in eight and one-half months.

Summary:
Total Resources \$3,912.22
Total Liabilities 1,823.83
The Net Worth of Business is represented by:
Share Capital paid in \$1,474.68
Reserve Fund 67.45
Educational Fund 58.20
Building Fund 11.45
Divi. Equalization Fund .. 134.86
Working Capital 123.97
Depreciation Fund 16.50
Balance Disposable 201.28
\$2,088.39

Officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, A. E. Holmberg; Vice President, S. O. Petterson; Trustees, J. T. Svarrer, Marcus Elder and Peter Husby.

During the last quarter 31 new members were admitted, and two withdrew, leaving a total of 110.

Nothing shows the growth and progress of the business of the society better than the average daily sales for the successive months. It is as follows:

August, 1917, \$57.22; September, \$58.09; October, \$65.45; November, \$79.42; December, \$82.10; January, 1918, \$90.82; February, \$106.98; March, \$111.66.

CATHOLIC EDITOR SAYS SOCIALISTS WILL BE CROWNED WITH HONOR AFTER THE WAR.

"It will do not good for some of our short-sighted Catholic editors to accuse them (the Socialists) of cowardice and treason. They are just as brave as any other element of the population, and true lovers of humanity. In fact, their party will be crowned with honor and glory because Europe will wake up after the hideous nightmare of slaughter and compelled to adopt many of the leading tenets of economic Socialism regarding the common ownership of the means of production."—From the Monitor, the official organ of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco

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.