

The Co-operative News

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

5c per copy; 50c per year.

EVERETT, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1918

Number 379.

EMIL HERMAN IS INDICTED

On Tuesday last the Federal grand jury sitting in Seattle, Wash., brought in a True Bill of Indictment against Emil Herman, the present State Secretary of the Socialist Party of Washington, charging him with violation of the Espionage Act on seven counts, all of which were based on the Jack London "sticker." The different "counts" charged that the defendant "made and conveyed false reports to hinder the naval and military operation of the United States—to promote the success of the enemies of the U. S.," "wilfully and feloniously attempted to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny and refusal of duty in the military and naval forces of the U. S.," "wilfully obstructed the recruiting and enlistment service of the U. S.," etc.

On Wednesday the defendant was arraigned before Judge Neterer in Seattle and pleaded not guilty. Since the authorities demanded that a new bond be executed, an attempt was made to do so. The same sureties were produced, as were on the preliminary bond, before one of the assistant district attorneys who grilled the sureties as to their property on the minutest details. As to H. P. Husby the inquisitor found what he considered a flaw in the title. If it is a flaw at all it is one that could be cured by an affidavit, which is the usual thing in such cases, but when an affidavit was offered the examiner would not accept any. An effort is now being made to get a new surety. Comrades Thomas Jensen and Max Eitzenberger, both of Arlington, were accepted, but could not qualify for enough to complete the bond.

These sureties that were acceptable, however, were not permitted to sign the bond, because His Highness ruled that sufficient sureties to complete the bond would have to be secured before any of them could be permitted to sign. This means that Comrades Eitzenberger, Jensen and Mrs. Jensen will have to make another trip.

Herman's case was set for trial on May 22nd; and it will be before Judge Neterer in Seattle. Additional counsel has been secured and a vigorous fight will be put up.

JUSTICE IS BLIND ON ONE EYE

Six months' efforts by the National Civil Liberties Bureau to secure the arrest of members of the "Knights of Liberty" mob that took 17 I. W. W. prisoners from the police, and whipped and tarred them at Tulsa, Oklahoma, November 9, 1917, have failed. Repeated appeals to Oklahoma officials have secured no action to punish the law-breakers who camouflaged criminal violence to crush labor under the guise of patriotism. No evidence has been produced to show that the I. W. W. members were guilty either of violence or disloyalty.

That the outrage, committed "in the name of the women and children of Belgium," was in fact an attack on organized labor by profiteering oil-interests, is conclusively set forth in a pamphlet entitled, "The 'Knights of Liberty' Mob and the I. W. W. Prisoners at Tulsa," now being distributed free by the National Civil Liberties Bureau, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

Evidence that the press anticipated and encouraged violence is shown by an editorial headed "Get Out the Hemp" which appeared in the Tulsa Daily World the afternoon before the outrage while the 17 I. W. W. members were in jail awaiting trial. The editorial in part reads:

"In the meantime, if the I. W. W. or its twin brother, the Oil Workers Union, gets busy in your neighborhood, kindly take occasion to decrease the supply of hemp. A knowledge of how to tie a knot that will stick might come in handy in a few days. It is no time to dally with the enemies of the country. Kill them, just as you would kill any other kind of a snake. . . . It is no time to waste money on trials and continuances and things like that."

Glenn Conlin, editor of the "World" who wrote this witnessed the whipping. Afterwards he was sent to Europe by Gov. R. L. Williams to represent the state of Oklahoma on a mission, not yet clearly defined.

On November 7, also while the men were in jail, the same paper editorially said: "The efforts of certain agitators to stir up trouble between the oil-field workers and their employers is distinctly disloyal. The one remedy for the vicious agitator is to ride him on a rail. He might be used for decoration for a telephone pole.

The mob was pre-arranged with the knowledge of local officials. The secretary of the Chamber of Commerce refused to join, but the chief of police aided in the whipping, and other police officers were identified among the "Knights." An officer of the United States is quoted as follows by a former investigator

NOTICE OF MASS CONVENTION

There will be a mass meeting of the Socialists of Snohomish county on Sunday, May 19th, 1 p. m., at the Forum, Everett, Wash. The purpose of the meeting is to nominate candidates for the political ticket this fall, and to draw up a platform. All members in the County that are paid up and in good standing are entitled to a seat in the Convention. They must bring their red cards with them.

for the United States Industrial Relations Commission, sent to Tulsa after the outrage to make a report on the affair:

"John Moran, Deputy U. S. Marshal in charge of the Tulsa office said, 'I am opposed to that kind of business, and I tried to get them not to do it.' He also said, 'You would be surprised at the prominent men in town who were in this mob.' He also said, 'I have in my possession two large packages of the I. W. W. literature and correspondence, and there is not one word of disloyalty in it.'"

Violence was not resorted to because of any failure of the law. The 17 men were in custody and had been tried and convicted for vagrancy, a charge made to cover membership in the I. W. W. when the robed and hooded mob took them from the police in the public streets. No evidence was produced at this trial of a single seditious utterance or of any act of disloyalty.

The prisoners believed their crime was simply belonging to the I. W. W. organization, and that the purpose of the employing interests, and some officials, was made clear in the black-lettered placard, pasted all over the city the day after the outrage. It read:

"Mr. I. W. W., Don't Let the Sun Shine on You in Tulsa. (Signed) Vigilance Committee."

SNOHOMISH COUNTY SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIALS ELECTED

A tally of County Ref. "A" 1918, recently closed, shows that the entire constitution was carried as submitted. The following county officers were elected for the ensuing year: Secretary-Treasurer, Peter Husby; Executive Committee, A. E. Holmberg, Everett; C. P. Morrison, Everett; Arthur H. Hansen, E. Stanwood; Vida Compton, Pinehurst; Cord Denker, Byrant. Board of Trustees—Chris Solie, Everett; Thomas Jensen, Arlington; Jacob Setre, E. Stanwood.

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GOOD AND EVIL OF TRUSTS

(By Morris Hillquit)

Business is conducted for profits. The larger the prices of the commodity or the higher the rate of service, the greater is ordinarily the profit of the capitalist. Hence the everlasting quarrels between the seller and buyer, the landlord and tenant, the carrier and passenger: the aggressive and inexorable "producer" and the pitiable "ultimate consumer."

The individualistic and competitive system of industry is a system of general social warfare, an ugly, brutal fight of all against all. It is a mad, embittered race for wealth or bread without plan or system, without pity or mercy. It has produced the abnormal type of the multimillionaire with a hoard of material wealth enough to last thousands of families for countless generations to come, and the children of the slums succumbing for lack of the barest necessities of life. It operates through periods of feverish activity during which men, women and even children of tender age are worked to exhaustion, and periods of inactivity and depression during which millions of willing workers are forced into idleness and starvation.

The system of competition has not been without merit. It organized industry, stimulated invention and increased human productivity a hundred-fold. It has created vast wealth and evolved higher stands of life. It has broken down the barriers between countries and united all modern nations into one world-wide family of almost identical culture and civilization. It has played a most important and useful part in the history of human growth.

But, sharing the fate of all other industrial systems, competition finally reaches a stage where its mission is accomplished, and its usefulness is outlived. Competition, which in its youth and vigor is "the life of trade," becomes in old age a plague and a nuisance. In the long run it demoralizes the industrial life of the nation and exhausts and ruins the competitors themselves. At that point competition begins to yield, gradually but surely, to a new industrial form—combination. Then arise the modern business corporations, followed by trade agreements and pools, and finally by trusts and monopolies.

The trusts are not the invention of ingenious financial manipulators, nor are they accidental and preventable evils. They are the inevitable culmination of the process of capitalist development, the mature fruit of industrial individualism. They represent a superior and more efficient method of industrial management than competition, just as the modern machine is a superior and more

efficient medium of industrial operation than the antiquated hand tool.

The trusts are a powerful factor in the industrial life of the nation, and they modify the social conditions of the country both for the better and the worse. As large consolidations of capital operating in unison over the area of an entire industry or a considerable part of it, they tend to eliminate much of the chaos and anarchy of the competitive system. They have the power to regulate the supply of commodities in accord with the demand, to curb waste and overproduction and to diminish the evil of periodical industrial depression and financial crises.

But the beneficial features of the trusts are more than balanced by the new evils which they breed. The trusts, like all other modern industrial institutions, are primarily conducted for the profits of their individual owners and promoters. They are therefore afflicted with all the vices of private capitalist ownership and management, and their tremendous powers intensify the evils. The trusts have developed the art of overcapitalization to a most audacious and alarming extent. Billions of dollars of their watered "securities" are afloat in this country, and the workers pay an annual tribute of hundreds of millions to the holders of this paper in the shape of interest and dividends. It is practically a blanket mortgage which the trusts thus hold on the people of the United States and upon the products of the toil of generations of Americans yet unborn.—From Socialism Summed Up.

RENT HOGS

SEATTLE, Wash.—The Seattle Metal Trades Council, representing 22,000 shipyard workers, threaten a rent strike to check landlord profiteering. The unionists acknowledge that ejections may result, "but we have a vision," they say, "of anything from 5,000 to 10,000 ejection proceedings going throughout courts at one time.

"The workers in Seattle are willing to co-operate in providing the necessary labor for this emergency, but we will not be a party to bringing thousands of people here to be exploited by parasitic real estate sharks, who in some cases raise the rents of the tenants and notify the owners after such increase has gone into effect.

"We have evidence of rents being raised in some cases 66 2-3 per cent during the past four months, and, in one case, rent has been raised 66 2-3 per cent and party already notified that further increase will be asked. We are investigating reports that promise to prove that rents have been raised as high as 100 per cent in many cases during the last six months.