

# MILITARISM AND LESE MAJESTE IN MONTANA

## Donahue Militia Bill Russianizes the State. Vicious Legislation Aimed at Organized Labor. Militia Officers Empowered to Arrest Without a Warrant.

### NEW STRIKE BREAKING LAW

#### Corporate Interests in Montana Assembly Ride Rough Shod Over the People.

In the last session of the Montana Legislature a bill known as House Bill No. 229 was introduced by Dr. Donahue of Dawson County, a democrat. Its object was to reorganize the state militia of Montana.

Perhaps not in the history of Anglo-Saxon civilization, since the days of Charles Stuart, has so drastic a measure been introduced in the Legislative halls of any English speaking country. But it was passed by the Legislature of Montana without any opposition except the few members belonging to organized labor.

After the bill was approved by the Governor, it immediately became the military code of Montana. The people of Montana are perhaps not aware of the fact that under House Bill No. 229 the State has been thoroughly Russianized, and that every able-bodied man between the age of 18 and 45 is a militiaman. Nobody is exempt from service under this law except civil and military officers of the United States, State and County civil officers, members of the police and fire departments of cities or towns, and idiots, lunatics or persons convicted of some infamous crime. Practically speaking the only people who are exempt are the professional politicians. Everybody else becomes a tin-soldier, a slave, a serf, a peon, subject to the bugle call of Organized Greed, and ready at a moment's notice to go forth and assassinate his fellowmen.

Men of the law, men of the pulpit, men of the medical profession, men in every walk of life, including tooth-carpenters and lumber-jacks, are now militiamen in Montana. Millions of men from Germany and Scandinavia have left their native lands just because such a military code, as is prescribed by House Bill No. 229, was the prevailing law of their respective countries. It is a fair presumption to make that when young men back East will hear of the Russianization of Montana that they will assert their spirit of independence and refuse to come into the state.

Section b of the bill provides that every assessor in the State of Montana shall become a recruiting agent for the militia. There was a time when the assessor was looked upon as a man of high degree, a man of large and generous impulses, one imbued with the spirit of justice. But alas! How the mighty has fallen! Now he is to become a hireling of oppression, seek-

ing whom he may devour, and ready to slip "the King's shilling" into the hand of his mother's son in order to make a counterfeit Apache out of him.

After "Doc" Donahue had secured the passage of this bill, one can easily imagine the broad smile on the countenance of the Amalgamated Copper Company. Oh what a carnival of revelry there was at 26 Broadway about that fatal hour when Gov. Norris signed away the liberties of the farmer, the artisan, and the workmen of the State of Montana. The signing of that Bill as a law was the most dastardly, the most cowardly and the most treacherous act ever committed by a governor in any civilized land.

The conversion of a free land into a petty military despotism could only be equalled in infamy to the copper-collared gang who fathered the principles of House Bill No. 229.

Section 82 of the Bill provides for a pension for all disabled militiamen. Already a large appropriation has been made to carry out the provisions of "the code." On top of all this extravagance comes the pension fund.

Under our present inadequate plan of taxation the poor man pays more than his share of the burden, and the rich by hook and by crook evade as much of the responsibilities as possible. Of course the Amalgamated Copper Company will pay a few cents more to support the Donahue and Donlon system, but it will save said Company large sums in the way of property protection, because from now on the tin-soldiers of the State will have to perform that function.

Section 103 provides that every active militiaman shall be uniformed, armed and equipped the same as those of the regular army of the U. S. This is smooth work. The African in the cordwood is almost perceptible. The militia (every able-bodied man between 18 and 45) will gradually be schooled into the belief that in order to be real warriors they must assume the same discipline as the "regulars." What does that mean? **THE LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE**, the most important thing of all to Organized Greed. The aim for years of organized capital has been to deprive the workman of his right to vote. Happy idea, wasn't it! The easiest way is to make "a swattle" out of him, and give him a dollar and a half per day as provided for in Section 72.

Section 107, 108 and 109 of House Bill 229 are the sections, that present the real purport of the bill. Here is where the pig comes out of the bag. Here is where the cloven foot of the Amalgamated is exposed. Here is where the Northern Pacific Railway through a Dawson County dentist strikes the State with a solar plexus. It is the old story—the fight against Organized Labor.

Heretofore it was the general policy of the unions to refuse members of the national guard admittance to their councils. The policy was founded upon the presumption that militia men were spies. It was a good policy, and was the means of complete harmony in the ranks of organized labor. But the above mentioned sections clearly indicate that the object of the Bill was to force spies into the unions. Dr. Donahue a democrat and Edward Donlon are republican, the sponsors of the measure, knew that when they pushed this act of treachery through the Twelfth Legislature.

Read section 108 and see if it is not a bludgeon in the hands of tyrants to force spies into the unions.

It was the unions that made workmen free in America, and it is today the greatest bulwark of Liberty in our nation. As long as unionism lives thieves cannot run this government. The death of unionism would mean victory for the industrial robbers. Force spies into the union, and the bloody deed is done.

If you stand upon the curb and say, "there goes a counterfeit soldier and a union spy," you will be placed under arrest not by civil process but by martial law. Your civil rights—rights for which the Anglo-Saxon race has struggled since the dawn of history—are made subservient to some military bunk.

Every union in Montana should read these sections, and calmly discuss them, and then circulate a protest against this abortive military code. Submit it to the people by referendum. Let the people of Montana say whether they can become slaves or freemen.

The greatest battles of the ages have been fought by freemen and not by serfs, slaves or peons. The people of Montana will never vote to sell their liberties to an organized gang of public looters. If the occasion should ever come to fight for our country it wouldn't require a military code to inspire us. The same spirit that inspired the Greeks at Salamis, the barons at Runnymede, and the Americans in 1776 and 1861, would lead us to victory; for the right will always prevail.

All the military poseurs in the world cannot compare with a free people.

This House Bill No. 229 with its 53 articles and 126 sections should be wiped from the law books of a free people. It is all right for adoption on both sides of the Ural mountains, but it has no place in the statutes of constitutional government.

Let us arise in our might and by the ballot of our daddies, vote into oblivion this poisonous anaconda.

#### A FEW BAD FEATURES.

Section 107. Any person who, either by himself or with another, wilfully deprives a member of the national guard of his employment, or prevents his being employed by himself or another, or obstructs or annoys said member of the national guard or his employer in respect to his trade, business, or employment, because said member of said national guard is such member, or dissuades any person from enlistment in the said national guard by threat of injury to him in case he shall so enlist, in respect to his employment, trade or business, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not less than ten days nor more than six months in the county jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 108. No association or corporation, constituted or organized for the purpose of promoting the success of the trade, employment or business of the members thereof, shall by any constitution, rule, by-law, resolution, discriminate against any member of the national guard because of such membership, in respect to the eligibility of such member of the national guard to membership in such association or corporation, or in respect to his right to retain said last mentioned membership; and any person who aids in enforcing any such provision against a member of the said national guard with intent to discriminate against him because of such membership, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than ten days nor more than six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 109. If any person interrupts, molests or insults, by abusive words or behavior, or obstructs any officer or soldier while on duty or at any parade, drill or meeting for military improvement, he must immediately be put under arrest and kept at the discretion of the commanding officer until the duty, drill or parade or meeting is concluded; and he may commit such person to any police officer, constable or sheriff of the county, wherein such duty, drill or meeting is held, who shall detain him in custody for examination or trial before a court having jurisdiction of the place; and any person found guilty of any of the offenses enumerated in this section or of obstructing or interfering with the United States forces or troops or any part of the national guard shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

### BIG FIGHT IN MILWAUKEE.

#### Old Parties Trying to Fix Up Combination in an Attempt to Beat Socialists on Election Day.

The bitterest fight ever waged against the Socialists by the democratic-republican combination in the Milwaukee City Council took place last Monday. The battle lasted six hours. The Anti-Socialists made a savage onslaught, marked with calumny and slander. The Socialists replied with dignity and spirit and on the ground of class-conscious Socialist principle.

When the Socialists assumed control in Milwaukee, the other side was at first rather good-natured. Our opponents had the notion that ours would be a weak administration, and that the Socialists would not take much ground in any direction. But now they see that the Socialists mean business, that they are really doing things, and that this will cut out the profits of the grafters. Consequently, they are growing very bitter. What angers them most is the proposal of the Socialist administration to do away with the contractors and their profits, and to have the city perform its own street work and other work directly.

This seem to them a terrible blow. Up to the time when the Socialists took control, the contractors had their own way in Milwaukee. Under the former administrations, they flourished and grew fat.

Now in their wrath against the Socialists, the contractors and their friends are holding so-called "taxpayers meetings" and forming so-called "taxpayers clubs." They are filling with their complaints the daily papers, which are only too glad to print their side of the story, and entirely suppress our side of it.

This proposition that the city shall do its work directly without the intervention of contractors was one of subjects hotly debated at the last Milwaukee city council meeting.

Another was the Milwaukee River Park project. The establishment of this park carries with it the plan for model workmen's homes. Hence it was bitterly fought by the Anti-Socialists. One corpulent representative of capitalistic interests, who would like to see the river lined with smoky factories pouring their sewage into the river, said that "a city commercial is better than a city beautiful." Victor Berger retorted that better than either is a "city beautiful."

The measure was finally passed, and Milwaukee will have its great park system. The republican-democratic combination insists that there

was a legal flaw in the procedure. Even if this was the case, the flaw can be mended, and the working class will not be cheated out of this great benefit.

Now a curious part of this story is that next day the daily papers of Milwaukee had full reports of what the Anti-Socialists said in the council, but scarcely a word of all the good things in the speeches of Victor Berger and the other Socialists. The Milwaukee daily papers are becoming worse and worse in their attitude towards the Socialists. It appears that the only way in which the Socialists can get the truth before the people will be to get a Socialist daily in Milwaukee, just as soon as they can procure the funds to start it.

The enemies of Socialism have taken another means to block it in Milwaukee, as they hope. They are trying to push through the Wisconsin legislature a bill for non-partisan elections in all city elections. This bill has already passed the Wisconsin state senate. They intend by means of this bill to defeat the Socialists in the next municipal election, and thus recover Milwaukee for the forces of capitalism. But they are reckoning without their host. While this bill, if finally passed, will no doubt make it harder for the Socialists to keep Milwaukee in 1912—why, then they will just work so much the harder, and show the enemy that all their desperate efforts against Socialism were simply hate's labor lost.

This fierce fight against the Socialists is only solidifying the working class. The Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee held a glorious meeting last night. They appointed a special campaign committee of speakers to visit all the unions and address them on the issues of the present campaign, appointed another committee to sell bonds for the Milwaukee Socialist daily, voted to withdraw their label-advertising from the capitalist daily which has most opposed the Socialists, and adopted ringing resolutions endorsing the Socialist administration and defending it against the attacks of the capitalist press. Thus the labor unions are taking up the Socialist fight as their own.

The struggle in Milwaukee gets more and more interesting. It is the conflict between the working class and the capitalistic interests. The lines are drawn more closely every day. But the issue of the fight cannot be doubted.

E. H. Thomas,  
State Secretary.