

ISSUED WEEKLY.

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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During the last few weeks many letters have been received at the News office, containing words of encouragement and appreciation of the work that the News is doing in forcing the militia law to a referendum, and the other work that is being carried on by the News in the battle of the workers against exploitation.

It is very pleasing to know that the efforts being made in this office is so widely appreciated. The task of maintaining a Socialist paper is very difficult, the obstacles to be overcome are many, great is the opposition to be met from the habitual knocker, who is moved by petty jealousy and spite, and from those who benefit by the present order of things.

Condition in Montana politics are rotten, a great many exposures can be made and should be made, but the Montana News is not in a position to make the necessary investigations, not in financial circumstances to do the work, although we hope to be soon where we can work to advantage.

One of the difficulties to be met with at present is, a mortgage on the machinery of the News, which we are trying to lift. We need to raise \$1,200 in order to wipe out the mortgage. We have not long to raise this amount in, and to those who believe that the News is doing good work, who have faith in the News that it will be as fearless in the future as in the past, dealing with the problems that affect the workers, we will ask some assistance, not in the form of donations, but a little effort, a little time to solicit subscriptions for the News. If we can add 2,500 new subscribers in the next sixty days, we will be safe, and the mortgage will be wiped out.

A little work on the part of its friends can put the News on its feet. Nearly all of you can send in one sub each week, some of you can send in six subs a week, but every subscription counts and we sincerely hope that an effort will be made by the friends and supporters of the News to assist us at this time.

A Socialist paper is required in Montana, one that can deliver the goods, and the Montana News has delivered the goods, can deliver the goods, and will deliver the goods.

The fight we have made against the militia law has aroused the wage slaves of Montana in revolt, and has done more than any other in years to direct the working class of Montana towards the Socialist movement.

The great mass of railroad men in Montana who have been indifferent to the Socialist propaganda are being aroused by the expose of the militia law and the railroad men hold the key to the social revolution, and to socialist political victory in this state.

With the reappointment of legislative representation in Montana, present indications are that, exclusive of Silver Bow county, there will be from 10 to 12 Socialists in the next legislature, including one or three state senators.

Such is the present outlook, but there is work to be done, what advantages we now hold must be added to, and the success that present conditions indicate can only be achieved by the Socialists of this state, provided they use good judgement, and take advantage of present opportunities.

To carry on the work a Socialist paper must be sustained, there is room for other Socialist papers in the state, but, the Montana News has a speciality of its own, and is in possession of data on local conditions that very few Socialist editors are fortunate enough to have.

The News if taken out of the financial tightness that surrounds it, a steady attack will be kept up on political corruption, graft in high places, and the steals of natural resources that is now taking place from the people, we can keep this up till the election of November 1912 and help to elect Socialists to the legislature.

But what the Montana News publishes is of little value unless the paper has a large circulation, therefore, we ask you to call on your neighbours and get their sub to the News. Ask your fellow workers in shop, mine, mill, factory and railroad to subscribe for the News.

Help all you can, every little counts. We need your help and the Socialist movement in Montana needs its "Dreadnought" the Montana News.

## Prospectus Of History of the Supreme Court of U. S.

By GUSTAVUS MYERS.

No established institution in the United States is more powerful than the National Supreme Court, nor is there any, the actual story of which is less known or more wrapped in exalted mystery.

Irrespective of what legislatures or Congress or lower courts may do, the nine men composing this court have the power of nullifying or setting aside any law as unconstitutional. Of these men a majority of five can and do dictate what our laws and government and conditions are to be, thus becoming a dictatorial and irresponsible body, swaying the welfare of ninety five millions of people.

The ruling class is willing to allow every other institution political or social to be criticised, but it has ever demanded that the Supreme Court of the United States be held above reproach and above criticism. The reason is obvious. This tribunal has been the most powerful instrument of the ruling class, the studied and persistent policy of which has been, to proclaim its sacred character and to inculcate popular reverence for it.

It is urgently necessary to narrate the facts concerning the Supreme Court as it has been from the start and as it is today. This, up to the present has never been done; nothing but eulogistic and flowery accounts have been written.

To get the accurate facts Gustavus Myers has had to spend a protracted period in difficult research. The facts however are now obtained. They are not mere nominal facts or those of a superficial character. They are the authentic underlying facts, all taken from court and other public records, and for the first time will present the actual story of the United States Supreme Court. These facts will show overwhelmingly and indisputably the following:

That the majority of the men who drafted the Constitution of the United States, drew it up expressly to safeguard the ruling class and to allow the accomplishment of vast schemes of plunder under color of organic law.

That the greater number of those men themselves already deep in schemes of personal plunder, and that immediately after the government was

organized, put through still greater schemes of pillage. An abundance of facts hitherto never brought out will be presented.

That the Supreme Court of the United States was designed to be the arch protector of the inviolate rights of personal and corporate property; that it was designed to be the authoritative mandate of the ruling class and has consistently remained so.

That from its inception, the Supreme court Justices have been men carefully selected because of their wealth, their powerful connections, their interests, or their proved subversivity and bias. For the first time, Comrade Myers will present the detailed and hitherto unknown facts from the time of John Jay, the first Chief Justice, to Edward D. White the present incumbent of that office. The facts connected with a great number of the Associate Justices will also be brought out.

That some of the most important decisions of the Supreme Court decisions which have been cited as precedents in thousands of cases and which are the literal law to-day have sprung in many instances from the personal interests of the judges making them or of their associates. The real startling history of these will be fully described. The facts are certain to make a great sensation.

That the successive Chief Justices have represented the special interests of the particular dominant section of the capitalist class of their day. This will be demonstrated in detail and beyond question.

That just as the Supreme Court Judges of early days were interested in great landed estates or schemes to obtain great tracts of land (the landed interests) so to-day the majority of men of the Supreme Court bench have been attorneys for railroads, banks, and other corporations. Here also the continuous specific details will be given.

This work is certain to be of the greatest propaganda value. It will not be mere statement. It will be nothing but the verified facts, with the references from the records for every fact given.

## Control of the Public Schools.

By MAY WOOD-SIMONS

One institution is already in the hands of public management, that is the public school. But while the present conditions exist we cannot forget that the government, being controlled by a ruling class, the schools are managed by them.

They, through the legislatures and boards of taxation, fix the rates of taxation and the appropriation of funds that shall be used for school purposes. They secure the election and appointment of school boards that decide on courses of study for the children of the people and administer the school affairs.

They select and determine the qualification of the teachers. The funds for the support of schools, one great essential, are theirs to withhold. This they do both in the country and city schools, displaying poorly equipped schools, poorly paid teachers, and dilapidated buildings.

In the state of Kansas the tax for school purposes in cities of the second class has been put by the legislature at not more than nine mills. This is proving a pitifully inadequate amount and is cutting off the possibility for improvements or well paid teachers.

It is not alone that the public schools on the material side can have their usefulness crushed out by lack of sufficient financial support, the opposing class also controls the educational program.

Experts in education are not often elected to school boards but through political manipulation "business men" are put in control. These know little or nothing of the problem of education. One point they do often understand, that the children of workers are to be handled in the schools after the factory method at the lowest cost per capita.

Always in history there has existed class education. The masses have been educated only so far as the ruling class has deemed it necessary to make the toilers a useful subject class. This was true in the Middle Ages, it is true today.

Not long ago a member of the department of Education in one of our large universities said to me, "I some-

times wonder how long the people will submit to having the children mentally destroyed and maimed as they are in the public schools today."

And this man was a staunch defender of the public school.

"Quantity" not "quality" education rules in the schools today and even the quantity the workers' child receives is all too small. One day we will be surprised at the mummery we have called education.

The public school is the one institution that the Socialist Party must at all times support but we cannot remain blind to its terrible defects that have resulted from class rule.

In Girard, Kansas, the schools have been for years in a most dilapidated condition. The children were housed in buildings that would have disgraced a good farm if used for a stable. The heavy taxpayers, represented by their school board, made no move to secure anything better. The children had not even the simplest equipment such as maps and dictionaries. Finally the buildings began to crack about the heads of the children. They were dangerous. Still nothing was done.

At last the Socialists, believing they had sufficient strength to force the matter to an issue, began an investigation. They carefully went over every building, noted the dangerous cracks and sinking walls and sagging floors and the prominent lack of equipment. They investigated the use of the funds and the rate of taxation. Then they prepared a series of leaflets setting forth the facts and put them in the hands of every voter, man and woman, for women have the municipal suffrage, in the Girard school district.

They called a mass meeting at the county building and men and women who had never neared a Socialist meeting came to see what was to be done.

A petition was circulated calling for a special election to raise bonds to build new buildings. The petition was presented to the school board which, was surprised at the arousal of the people, finally voted to ask the mayor to call the election. But Girard had a republican mayor and city com-

missioners.— It is under the commission form of government,— and the election was not called.

Then a municipal election of officers was held a month later and the workers, conscious of their class interests, at last elected a Socialist mayor. Now the call for the election of the school board has been posted by the Socialist mayor.

What has happened in this case can happen in a hundred more. When Comrade Beals went in as mayor of Lindsay, Ontario, less than a year ago the first thing he did was to have a bond for several thousand dollars voted to build schools for the children of the people. He said to me recently while I was in Canada, "For years the common schools have received no attention from this city. The children were housed in positively dirty barracks. A pitiful few of the workers' children ever get beyond the first few forms and the money was all expended on the higher collegiate institutions where the child of the well to do alone could go."

In many places Socialists are serving on school boards. There will be hundreds more in these positions before another five years, and it is of the first importance that there should be definite ideas of necessary changes in the schools.

There are not only questions of administration but questions of pedagogy that must be handled by these Socialist officials.

No more important thing exists than the forming of future citizens. This work is partly at least in the hands of the school. Its function should be to make boys and girls into the best possible social agents, to fit them for useful work, and enable them to spend their leisure in a way that will add strength and growth to their powers.

The Socialists will find that there is much that they must reconstruct in the public school. At least there are certain things that must be aimed at by every Socialist elected to a position on a school board.

1. Sufficient well equipped buildings with out door schools for the weak children and careful medical inspection.

2. An increase in the number of children in the hands of each and assuring greater individual attention.

3. Play grounds and gardens attached to all schools and manual training equipment provided. Vocational training furnished by public schools.

4. Special attention to sub-normal and exceptionally bright children.

5. An investigation of the methods used. A child's individuality and power to act independently can be crushed easily through wrong methods.

6. The best teachers at the best wages that can be secured.

7. An advisory council of the teachers that shall assist in making out courses of study and advising on the general management of the schools.

8. Greater use of the school buildings as social centers, and greater co-operation between the schools and the parents.

9. The largest appropriations that can be secured for the support of the schools.

10. An investigation of the school books used and the selection of the best that can be secured.

11. The feeding of children, and baths to assure cleanliness.

12. Continuation schools in connection with the public schools system but it should be arranged that the persons under eighteen years work in the continuation school should be carried on in the day and not in night schools.

13. Well equipped laboratories for scientific courses in the high schools.

### THE REFERENDUM.

The signatures for the referendum on the militia law are climbing up and if the good work keeps on the referendum will be secured.

The boys at Basin have filed a large list of names during the past week with the Clerk and Recorder of Jefferson county and there have been 100 names more than the required 15 per cent been filed with the Clerk and Recorder of Deer Lodge county.

Other places report activity and it is hoped that during the coming week a few more counties will file petitions with the required 15 per cent of the voters' names attached.

Every person having petitions should get active and see that every signature possible is secured and the petitions filed at an early date in order that we may know what counties to concentrate our efforts on, at the finish to assure the required total number of names being received.

Remember this is the first time that a demand has been made for a referendum in Montana and we must be successful. There must be no such

thing as failure, that Donohue militia law is more outrageous than most people imagine. Therefore put on an extra spurt and get the referendum petitions filed at once.

### WAR—WHAT FOR?

DO YOU KNOW that in one single campaign of Napoleon's over 150,000 boys under 20 years of age were destroyed?

DO YOU KNOW why there were no officers on board the battleship Maine when she was blown up?

DO YOU KNOW that a modern Gatling gun can be fired from 800 to 1,800 times per minute—and, by an electrical attachment, even 3,000 per minute? That artillery is now over 125 times more effective than it was even in the hideous battles of the Franco-Prussian War in 1870?

DO YOU KNOW that in the Russian-Japanese war, regiments of men and boys were forced to charge ten times up a hillside swept by batteries of Gatling guns and that the men and boys fell down in heaps and mounds four and five deep, some of the poor fellows receiving seventy bullet wounds—almost torn to shreds?

DO YOU KNOW why well-known American Army officers have bitterly cursed this book, WAR—WHAT FOR? (They have been heard doing so.)

DO YOU KNOW that a first class modern rifle will force a bullet through 60 one inch pine boards; that the Danish "Rexer" rifle can be fired 300 times per minute; and that a modern gatling gun will tear a board fence to pieces a mile away in six minutes?

DO YOU KNOW that the red-stained god of war Mars, in the civilized wars of one hundred and ten years following 1789, drank, night and day, two gallons of human blood every 20 minutes? That blood ran down the hill in streams away from the heaps of dead and wounded at Port Arthur?

DO YOU KNOW that one "Dreadnought" battleship costs as much as the officially estimated total value of all the books in all the libraries of 454 leading colleges and universities in the United States?

DO YOU KNOW that the American Soldier's ration is officially estimated to cost six and two thirds cents each? And that the Government has hunted the runaway boys, in the last three years, as if they were wild beasts, offering \$50. a head for their capture? and that suicide in the American army was 36 times greater in 1909 than in 1907? (Official evidence in WAR—What For?)

DO YOU KNOW that soldier life so surprises and sickens the soldier boys that over half of all the several thousand annual desertions are by boys in the first year of their service and that many more than half of these first-year desertions are by boys in the first six months of their service? (Official evidence in WAR—WHAT FOR?)

DO YOU KNOW that President Taft, when Secretary of War, sneeringly said in his official report that "the life of the soldier as at present constituted, is not one to attract the best and most desirable class of enlisted men." And that it was proposed, in the same report, to make the life attractive by improving the fare of the soldiers and that it was urged (quoting from his report): "Butter,

milk and molasses, or syrup, at least, should be added to the garrison ration. These articles are almost necessary in the preparation of desert". Do you know what kind of a man the present Commander-in-Chief expected to tease into the service with skimmed milk and molasses or cheap syrup? Could his son be tricked with milk and molasses or syrup? (Full discussion in WAR—WHAT FOR?)

WAR—WHAT FOR? Is a handsome, gold-stamped, high-grade cloth-bound, double-backed book, printed in easy, open type on high quality paper, 8x5 inches in size. The book contains 352 pages; 12 chapters; 13 intensely interesting full-page pictures (three powerful half-tones); several literary photographs of hell; trenchant discussion of every phase of war, militarism, and social struggle; more than a dozen strong passages for school and entertainment declamations; over 300 citations and quotations from authorities; bibliography; numerous suggestions for promoting the propaganda against war and capitalism; an abundance of material for lectures on war, militarism, the class struggle, capitalism, socialism, and the history of the working class. A book of this size, stock, binding, and richness of illustration is usually sold at \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Can be had from the Montana News for \$1.20 postpaid.

After committing some ordinary piece of thievery, it is a customary thing for a capitalist to have a law passed making that outrageous act legal.

Be sure and read the next issue of the Montana News. Order a bundle and get your neighbour to read it.

Have you signed the petition for the referendum on the Donohue Militia law?

All classes of labor as well as business and commercial institutions are organized into associations to advance their welfare. The farmers are the class that is not organized for mutual protection. Even the beasts of the field as well as the human that preys on the farmer is organized self protection. It is time that the farmers were organized into unions to secure the benefits and protection that can only be got by force of numbers.

Organize a farmers union in your district. Further particulars can be had by sending a letter of inquiry to Union Farmer, Box 908 Helena

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