



# THE NORTHWEST WORKER

DEVOTED TO THE INDUSTRIAL, POLITICAL, AND EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE WORKING-CLASS



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No. 242

## People of Everett Vote For Municipal Ownership ALL THREE PROPOSITIONS CARRY

At last the way is cleared for the purchase of the present water plant of Everett from the Stone-Webster octopus, and the securing of an adequate supply of pure mountain water from the Sultan Basin for general use and the development of electrical power.

More than 1,000 of those registered failed to visit the polls, about 5,390 of the 6,758 eligible casting ballots. The result was never in doubt from the time the returns from the first precinct counted were received. Of the 40 precincts in the city, only one—the 29th—returned a majority against all three propositions.

This is not, as reactionaries would allege, "a socialistic experiment," nor a triumph for the Socialists of Everett. It is merely an incident in the evolution of capitalism, albeit a necessary transition step in the progress of society from individualism to collectivism. Municipal and state capitalism must precede, apparently, Socialism, or Industrial Democracy,—ownership and actual control of the machinery of wealth production and social utilities by the working-class. From this point of view, we may say of Tuesday's election, "Amen."

## Wheat, Wages—And You!

(By Carl Ulonaka)

There is a lesson that is being taught by every wheat field—every wheat harvester and binder—a lesson that comes from all those sunlit fields of ripening grain, that lesson is being taught to every working man and woman, that lesson concerns and is of vital importance to YOU!

That lesson which is being burned upon the minds of every worker of wheat is the power of the labor-saving machine in production and distribution, that wonderful gem of making things, which plays so important a part in your every-day life—that dominating factor upon which depends your job!

The power of the machine in production is being illustrated so eloquently in the wheat-raising sections of Washington. In the great yellow grain fields of Eastern Washington the harvesting is being done by means of "combines"—machinery that cut, thresh and sack the grain "on the fly." These "combines" cut swaths varying from 12 to 20 feet wide, sack the grain and leave it in "windrows" on the ground. Today four men are required to operate a combine. These four men thresh an equal amount of grain that by older methods required from five to ten times as many men.

What does this mean?

Simply that with the use of modern machinery that wheat can be produced with less than half as much human labor, less than half the former cost—and this results in less jobs for you and more profits for the owners of labor-saving machinery. Your job and your wages are being lessened by improved harvesters, binders and feeders. Wheat and wages concern you in a vital way.

Right now 200 men are seeking work in the harvest field at Colfax, 300 at Ritzville and a like number at Walla Walla. It signifies that no longer can we of the working class be told to go out West and grow up with the country—to the fertile wheat fields and the fabled Arcadias of fruit. We have gone to the last great West—we have reached the last great frontier and the development of capitalism has followed us.

There is no retreat, no escape, no possible hope of evasion—we of the working class are with our backs to the wall.

What are we to do?

We have got to organize, to think and to fight for ourselves—to understand the forces of capitalism in production and distribution.

## A Suspicious Interest In Socialism

(By Frank MacDonald)

Not long ago any news of the European Socialist movement went onto the floor of certain big newspapers and not into its news columns. Socialists might win victories, increase in party membership, produce notable books, and the fact was ignored with constant regularity. It is changed now in a certain measure, and some news is joyfully and extensively published. For example, it is quite natural that there should be differences of opinion in the German Social Democracy as to war policy. That as the war drags along and suffering is more acute it is inevitable that these differences should be sharper and keener.

So it happens that the two parties to the controversy, the majority and the minority, the conservative and radical wings, have come to be called the "governmental" Socialists and the "revolutionary" Socialists by the capitalist press, and this press, for the time being, is in favor of revolution. In news stories and editorial articles it has pictured a tremendous split in the German movement, with, what seems to be the minority led by Comrades Lebknecht and Bernstein, standing for Socialism and the majority fighting for governmentism and war. The capitalist press is indignant that the majority has not gone with the minority. It is amazed that the United States has not followed the lead of the Social Democracy has not precipitated a revolution within Germany and thereby speedily brought the country to terms and placed it at the mercy of its opponents.

It would seem that for once the capitalist press of America, through the articles it receives by way of London, Berne, Amsterdam, and elsewhere, was firmly in favor of revolutionary Socialism and deplored any tendency that would tend to cause a split in the forces working for Socialism. But a closer reading of the articles brings into sharp relief the fact that these stories are part of the campaign of

hatred against Germany and all things German that has been waged here in this country for some time. There is no regard or solicitude for Socialism. But there are always two objects: one is to discredit in all possible ways the German people, and the other is to widen any breach in the Socialist movement and thereby weaken or destroy its powers.

We know full well that either in victory or defeat, a united Socialist party would have a strong voice in the social readjustment that will take place after the war. This is as present and live a fear as German victory, and it must be guarded against. We in America have not made up our minds as to Germany's position by careful analysis and reasoning, but we have reached certain conclusions and adopted a position largely because we have had certain news placed before us and because we have read the opinions that have been prepared for us by others. As a furnisher of pre-digested convictions the capitalist press is without an equal. We meet it everywhere and we come across its influence at every turn.

So systematic and careful has the campaign been, and so thoroughly it worked out that any expression of difference with asserted opinions is seized upon as being an evidence of "pro-Germanism." It is almost incredible, but it is a fact, that even some Socialists have accepted "pro-German" as an epithet of ridicule and degradation. If you speak for peace, you are "pro-German." If you point to Lloyd George's declaration that battles are won not so much by the men in the field and the trenches as by the men in the workshops of the respective nations, and conclude therefrom that, by shipment of arms and ammunition from this country we thereby enter into an active alliance, you must be "pro-German."

But if we stop calmly to consider this matter we will find that underlying it is something of vast significance for us. Socialist support and good will have suddenly acquired a value, but they must be anti-German to be the real thing. If you hate Germany, you love humanity; if you do not hate Germany (Continued on Page 4)

## Proletaria Bill Comes Back With Some Socialist Fundamentals

Comrade Ole:

Glad to see you back. Glad even if you did not meet the argument. As it is, Bill claims to be handling the subject of Socialism from the Marxian scientific standpoint brought up to date as correctly as we are able to trace it. We have hammered along for more than a half-dozen years striving to make Socialists out of Socialist Party members, and others. Have found it unpopular always; yet we are happy to say that these scientific truths are gaining ground in the Socialist movement. They are displacing the ear-tickling platitudes of lawyers, preachers and other professional jawsmiths who are so apt in that line. Bill was raised on a farm and in a grocery. Has since been a farmer and farm hand in different latitudes; also a wage-slave in several of the other big industries. Practically all of Bill's schooling was acquired in the industries of the country and chasing the job. He was not fitted for a capitalist. Most of us are not; even though the bug was planted in our noddies.

It was Bill's experience to participate directly in every stage of the productive process through which at least two staple commodities (food and a shelter) pass from seedling to consumer and from stump to bungalow; both including transportation, milling and wholesale and retail distribution. Being of an enquiring disposition and ambitious to become a bookkeeper or something, Bill kept both eyes open throughout his various occupational experience. This is how he learned of the big steal that is inherent in the present capitalist system of economics—the wages system. He was never "converted" to Socialism by any propagandist. He was advocating his crude idea of Socialism to his fellow-workers in a rice mill twenty years ago, before he had ever heard of Marx or such a thing as Socialism.

When the science of economics and economic determinism with the explanation of the class struggle was first brought to Bill's attention he was simply delighted to know that his crude ideas were not wholly a lonesome dream. The science of Marx and Engels made clear already acquired facts, their relation and significance.

It did not take Bill long to dump what rubbish he had acquired from capitalist teachings. The rest was easy. Too many are slow in ditching the rubbish.

What I want to show is that there are many, many Bills and Henrys who are passing through these industrial experiences in varying degrees. It is this contact of the workers with the latest evolved industrial process and equipment as a whole, the instability of employment and the resulting formation of ideas in the workers' minds which makes Socialism possible as a social force. Henrys become Bills but Bills do not become Henrys.

The above is merely a primary phase of economic determinism which will effect the workers in their historic mission as a class.

1. Well, Ole, you fell in when you retorted that "the wages system is admittedly a failure, and unionism is nearly as much of a failure, say you, Correct."

Is that your line of argument? I did not say that; could not and will not. It is merely your inference. The wages system is a success and unionism will be more of a success when it arrives at maturity.

The wages system has succeeded in

fulfilling its historic mission as a social-economic system of society. If unionism is the strongest social-economic germ developing within the present system, it will supplant the wages system and become its successor. If it is not, then it will be compelled to germinate through another phase of exploitation (perhaps government ownership) before it becomes triumphant in abolishing the steal of the wages system and substituting industrial democracy as an economic system. Then unionism, growing into an advanced industrial stage, will also have become a success in fulfilling its historic mission. But very, very far more of a success is its utility to the human race. We cannot have class unions free from the control of the capitalist class until the working class learns what it must learn and become class-conscious.

Ole tells us that "unionism reached its height of control in the first, second and third centuries, A.D., and from then on labor has taken the losing side of the class struggle."

Impossible! Unionism could not have possibly reached its height of control in the hand tool stage of industrial development such as had then been reached. What was there to "control" at that time, anyway? A primitive system of production where modern Socialism would be impossible. Chattel slavery and a communism that could not withstand the alps of ignorance and the development of serfdom and the wages system.

I think that I have already made it plain that when I write of unions of productive workers and unionism I am referring to an entity in its entirety from the germ of its inception in society to the fulfillment of its historic mission as a social-economic force, or system.

You appear to confine your thinking and writing to one or two of the birthdays in the childhood of unionism; for such only could the hand tool stage calendar.

Again Ole tells us that "unionism beats nothing and does not and can not free the worker."

On the economic bedrock of industry it must either be union or disunion for the workers. Which are you advocating, Ole?

On the political field the manifestation MUST agree with the industrial status that determines political action and be either union or disunion, for the working class. Where are you at? What is your conception of Socialism or industrial democracy? Disunion?

2. We are informed that land has no exchange value, due to labor, as do other commodities because bankers infest the country and because land cannot be reproduced. Why do you not claim that no commodity has any exchange value, due to labor, because the earth cannot be reproduced? The raw material for ALL commodities is the virgin earth and nobody claims that the earth can be reproduced by human labor.

It is the UTILITY of ANY object for human needs that is produced by labor, even though we were savages knowing no other value than use value for the virgin earth on which we trod while gathering wild fruit. The mere picking of wild fruit is the labor expended by which that particular raw material is utilized and gets a value. We only ask that you follow us from the simple to the complex.

It is the utility of land, canals, dams

and dykes that is produced by labor, directly and indirectly, the same as utility is produced from all other raw material by labor.

To deny that land has value due to labor is to deny a fact and attempt to set up a theory in conflict with the law of value. It must be remembered that even though bankers may be busy, and stock jobbers working for monopoly, the law of value is still working. Monopoly has its limitations and recessions because of the law of value. Land is no exception.

3. To claim that all are exploited who are unable to obtain a full-fledged livelihood by their activity is equivalent to your claim that the individual producing huxter is exploited. The industry of agriculture is the only big industry where there is yet an open season for a myriad of tiny investors. Most of them will fail, of course, just like they did in other industries in times gone by.

Agriculture, while one of the greatest industries in importance, is in the rear. Other industries such as transportation, mining, steel, etc., are far ahead in development and the workers in these industries will therefore set the pace because they are wage workers. We will inform farmer Eddy that he is not exploited. He is free to become a wage worker if he does not like his lot. Why should he kick about something that is not understood when he enjoys the freedom of entering the wage slave market, job or jobless?

4. Ole says Bill missed the point altogether on the taxation question. We are sorry to disagree with you; somebody did miss it both coming and going, but we plead not guilty.

When the other industries were undeveloped the Republican party applied one phase of your method and invoked "protection" to help the half-starved (?) capitalist. We are familiar with taxation; it is an old, old procedure. They do the taxing who have the power. The workers are after this power, but we have better use for it because we can see farther than the grand-dad who invented taxation.

You would start with the farmer, would you, to arrive at industrial democracy? Since the industry of agriculture is in the rear of industrial development and centralization, it looks like a poor place to start. The workers in other industries have already started some time ago. Why not take a cue from the start that has already started?

The workers in the highly-developed industries will be able to hold the key to the situation by reason of the fact that they are already organized in production, thus enabling them to function in the interest of the exploited workers when they get wise. The farmers will trail behind because unorganized in production. Yet it is possible for the farmer to be of great assistance, politically, in the revolution, if he understands. A good many are at. It is our business to put the farmer wise to revolutionary action instead of trying to cook up impractical schemes to prolong his delusion.

The farmers will simply do as they have always done. That is, they will adjust themselves to the prevailing economic system, be it the wages system or industrial democracy.

PROLETARIA BILL.

Patronize YOUR advertisers.

## Day Labor Plan Superior to Contract System

COMRADE SALTER'S REPORT

August 21, 1915.

Honorable City Council of Everett, Gentlemen:—Below please find report showing total cost of labor, material and incidental expense in constructing the sewer in the alley between Highland and State Street, from the center line of 20th to center line of 19th Street, or L.I.D. No. 308:

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Labor                                | \$ 675.98  |
| Team                                 | 6.00       |
| Pipe, fittings, sand, cement         | 123.05     |
| Manhole ring and cover               | 10.00      |
| Brick                                | 8.00       |
| 1 case blasting powder               | 5.25       |
| 1 roll fuse                          | .75        |
| 1 box caps                           | 1.10       |
| Lumber                               | 5.40       |
| Sharpening picks, 65 hrs. at 37 1/2c | 24.27      |
| Rental, wear and tear on tools       | 5.00       |
| Industrial insurance                 | 37.03      |
| Interest on warrants                 | 19.00      |
| Fixed estimate                       | 150.55     |
| Grand total                          | \$1,070.83 |

Included in this total is an amount of \$28.62 covering the cost of standpipes ordered by certain property owners; consequently the amount of the final cost, for the matter of comparison, with the estimated cost of \$928, is \$1,070.83 less \$28.62 or \$1,042.21. In other words the estimated cost per lot was \$29.00 and the actual cost per lot is \$32.57, the cost of standpipes not being included in either case.

Although this job cost \$114.21 more than the engineer's estimate, it still furnishes striking proof of the superiority of the day labor over the contract system of public work construction.

In making comparison it must be borne in mind that, when the job was first submitted to bid, no bids were forthcoming. The second time a regular contractor, Mr. Synder, bid \$1,385, or \$437 more than the estimate. Another bid of \$940 was submitted by a group of men who expected to do the work in co-operation.

This piece of work has been pronounced by some of the oldest sewer men as one of the most difficult ever constructed in Everett. The fact that, 65 hours, or over 8 1/2 days, were required to sharpen picks proves this contention.

Had the job been awarded to Tom Constantino and his associates, they would have received \$1.85 per day for their work.

Every man within the district who applied for work was hired. That with the fact that the city paid from 40c to 60c more per day than regular contractors reflects to the credit of the day labor plan.

The experience and data secured is of great value to the public works department in estimating on other work that may be undertaken by the city.

Respectfully,  
J. M. SALTER,  
Commissioner of Public Works.

## JOHN R. LAWSON

By Katherine Dummer, in The New York Call

Against the far horizon where the sky  
Already shows a new day's dawning light,  
There stands a man. Here in the gloomy night  
Of dark misunderstanding we despair  
A murder. But when the sun is high  
Then shall we see a hero who dared fight  
A tyrant power, who dared claim the right  
To life, and seeking it, yet dared to die.  
The shameful glory that the world will give  
To murderers of war, not that we ask  
He suffers living death that men may live,  
He needs a higher honor. So our task  
Must be to keep his faith and tribute pay  
By willingness to give ourself today.

## DEBS COLLEGE HEAD

Eugene V. Debs has been elected president of the People's College at Fort Scott, Kansas. The college is the one organized effort of the working class to control education through correspondence departments.

## SUCCESSFUL GIRL MAYOR.

An English suffrage paper mentions a small town in Southern France that has a woman mayor, 22 years of age. She was a school teacher and also mayor's secretary, and when the war broke out volunteered as a Red Cross nurse. But the mayor was called to the colors, whereupon the city council, instead of electing one of their members to serve in the position, urged the young teacher to act as chief executive. The girl mayor is said to be handling the position with extraordinary skill and to the complete satisfaction of everybody in the town.

## DEFENSE OF THE HOME.

In the House of Commons, on April 29, Mr. King said that a little girl, Dolly Hammett, aged 9 years, has been taken away from school, and employed at shaving the soldiers at Budbrooke Barracks, Warwickshire.—Woman's Dreadnought.

## OPPOSE LEASE SYSTEM.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The Farmers' Educational Co-operative Union of Alabama convention unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the abolishment of the convict lease system and the placing of these convicts upon the public roads. This question is now being considered by the state legislature.

## LECTURES HELD NEXT WEEK

Carrie W. Allen

Sun. 29, Aberdeen; Mon. 30, Ethel; Tue. 31, Mossy Rock; Wed., Sept. 1, Sandy Bend; Thu. 2, Kelso; Fri. 3, Charter Oak; Sat. 4, Hazel Dell; Sun. 5, Portland.

Carl Ulonaka

Sun. 29, Tacoma; Mon. 30, Richmond Beach; Tue. 31, Pinehurst; Wed., Sep. 1, Granite Falls; Thu. 2, Edgemoor; Fri. and Sat. 3 and 4, Mount Vernon. This completes Carl Ulonaka's tour.

Emil Herman

Mon. 30, Winlock; Tue. 31, Cowlitz Bend; Wed., Sept. 1, Otter Creek; Thu. 2, Chehalis; Fri. 3, Littell; Sat. 4, Centralia.

W. R. Snow

Thu. Fri., Sat., 26, 27, 28, Colville (Stevens County Encampment); Sun. 29, open; Mon. 30, Medical Lake; Tue. 31, Colockum; Wed., Sept. 1, Cashmere; Thu. 2, South Lopez; Fri. 3, open; Sat. 4, open; Sun. 5, Arlington (2 p.m.); Sun. 5, Everett.

Bruce Rogers

Sun. 29, Spokane; Mon. 30, Prosser; Tue. 31, North Yakima.

## THE FIRING LINE

Get the habit. Following are the names of the comrades who get on the Firing Line every once in a while. Following their name is the number of subscribers they have put on our list:

Carl Ulonaka 7, Frans Bostrom 4, Frank Cort 3, F. Craig 3, Mrs. Anderson 3, Proletaria Bill 2, F. G. Crosby 2, Mike Kronholm 2, Adam Hill 2, A. B. Caswell 1, E. H. Fellows 1, Chas. Millward 1, K. H. Hodgins 1, H. Hanson 1, Joe Forsell 1, J. Hendrickson 1, A. Oberg 1.  
Maynard Shipley took 31 subs at Arlington.

## LARKIN TO SPEAK HERE TUESDAY!

James Larkin who is to speak in the People's Theatre, Tuesday evening, Aug. 31, has been a red card member of the Socialist Party for twenty-seven years. He has looked out over the world and seen no lines between him and his brother workers. Color and race he does not recognize in the great class struggle—it is class and class he sees opposed on the firing line of life.

Jim Larkin speaks out from the shoulder. He is an orator, not the kind of orator that tries to cover up the iniquities of the present system, but whose blood boils when he speaks of these things and the words come out of his mouth red hot and stinging, for he sees the poverty and mis-

ery on the one hand and the riches and unearned ease on the other. He is a revivalist, for he makes you want to get up and do something to end this damnable system that breeds liars, thieves, prostitutes, lunacy, legalized murder, child slavery and hypocrisy.

He is a revivalist, for he wakes the sleeping brain of the Henry Dubs and makes of him a fighting unit of the greatest movement the world has ever known. No man or woman can listen to "Jim" without coming to the conclusion that the new system of society that is advocated by the Socialists is workable and desirable. No man or woman can hear him without going away with the words "Collective Ownership of the

means of wealth production" imbedded in their brains unless they be imbeciles.

When Larkin had finished speaking in the San Francisco Dreamland Rink three weeks ago the audience arose in mass and thanked him for his wonderfully inspiring address. You must hear Larkin yourself and you must get others to hear him for knowledge is power, and no opportunity should be missed that will give us and others the knowledge and fighting spirit to get up and do things that will some day place in our hands the keys to the mills, mines and factories of the world.

Tickets on sale at Headquarters or Hill's Book Store.