
\$50 and 20 Days for Pamphlet: Portland Judge Puts Heavy Sentence on Socialist for Mild War Literature.

Unsigned article in *The Evening Call* [New York], v. 10, no. 343 (Dec. 10, 1917), pg. 4.

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 10 [1917].— J.M. Beck, well-known Socialist of Stockton, Cal., was arrested by the police here for violating of a city ordinance prohibiting the distribution of literature without a license.

The police demanded a \$20 bond for his appearance for trial, and upon appearing before Municipal Judge Rossman, he was fined \$50 and sentenced to serve 20 days in the city jail. He asked for an opportunity to consult an attorney, and was told that he had already been convicted, and must make an appeal if he desires to have a trial and to be represented by council.

The pamphlet that he was distributing was by John M. Work and entitled *The Cause and Cure of War*, a very tame pamphlet and quite as conservative as the author thereof. The very fact that it mentioned war in a critical manner was sufficient to arouse the judge, however, and bring down upon Beck the limit in the way of a fine and sentence. Other offenders get off on the same charge with a fine of a dollar and costs.

Beck was here on business, travelling by automobile, and will be detained 20 days unless appeal can be made at once, and the sentence changed. Appeal will be demanded but the officials insist upon having bonds signed by property owners, and will not accept a cash bond.

†- The Socialist Party's *New York Call* changed its name to *The Evening Call* on Dec. 3, 1917, in an effort to do an end run around post office censorship when the "Morning Call" lost its mailing privileges. Volume numbers were retained under the new name and the paper's format was unchanged. The revised publication seems to have been geared towards newsstands for delivery.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.

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