

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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NEWS OF SPOKANE FREE SPEECH FIGHT

(Special Correspondence.) Let me say that the fight in Spokane has not commenced, that the I. W. W. is not downed, has not surrendered and will fight until the last drop of blood in their veins has been shed, and until the world will no longer countenance such barbaric treatment and methods as are used in that city.—Vincent St. John, M.J., Mont., Dec. 29.

The Single Weavers' convention, a body affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, placed itself on Jan. 4th, staunchly on record as opposed to the suppression of free speech in the state of Washington and backed up their support by a contribution of one hundred dollars to the defense fund. A speech of over an hour was delivered to them at Marysville by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, which assisted the sturdy socialists on the floor of the convention in their fight to withdraw from the A. F. of L. and affiliate with the I. W. W. The vote resulted in a solid one-third in favor of this immediate action.

On Jan. 5 free speech protest meeting was held in Everett, Wash., which netted \$25.00 further for the defense of the boys in jail, and this was followed up on the next evening by a meeting in Seattle, Wash., which resulted in a collection of over seventy-three dollars.

While the facts of the fight were being placed before the public and the endorsement of the public was being converted into silver dollars, Mayor N. S. Pratt of Spokane was visited by a literary muse, and a two column and a half spasm in answer to Leonard D. Abbott, editor of Current Literature, was the result. He characterized Mr. Abbott who is interested in the free speech movement of the controversy, as being a partisan of the cause advocated by the I. W. W. organization, and his criticism as impudent. In the course of his reply he makes the following statement: "It may surprise you to be informed that Miss Flynn was never confined in the Spokane city jail, that inasmuch as the charge preferred against her was conspiracy under the State laws, she was confined in the Spokane county jail, over which this city and its authorities have no jurisdiction. However, those having charge of that jail, on admitting that Miss Flynn was confined therein, deny most decisively the wild and hysterical inferences and conclusions drawn by Miss Flynn."

Miss Flynn charged Bigelow, one of the jailers in the county jail, with a too-familiar touching of her face. A man's reputation is dear to him and if based on a mere incident to a hysterical and unbecoming conspirator. Why who know him will know that his character is so high and his daily conduct so well ordered that Miss Flynn's charge against this man refutes itself and discloses the prejudice and hysterical character of her letter.

Mayor Pratt received on the publication of this letter a reply from the I. W. W. agitator's question, asking that he withdraw that portion of his letter which had made inadvertent mention as to the condition of her mind and intelligence for same, or else that some one connected with the official body of the city file a complaint for criminal libel. It is certainly extremely amusing to all of the I. W. W. members who know Miss Flynn to hear her characterized as hysterical. Mayor Pratt would have a difficult time to establish the proof of her hysterical nature, but readers of the Industrial Worker will notice that even though the paper was suppressed in Spokane on the strength of the letter in question; even though Chief Sullivan announced that he would proceed at once under the criminal libel law, a period of practically a month has elapsed and absolutely no action has been taken whatsoever. Chief of Police Sullivan himself is quoted in the Review as saying: "I have been on the force twenty years and I have never heard a complain from any female prisoner against her treatment here under the charges of Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. I think them of the same brand of lies as the other charges against the police department." Why doesn't Sullivan bring action for criminal libel against the woman who lies about the police department? Sheriff F. K. Pugh is quoted as saying: "The only complain ever registered by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, the I. W. W. leader, who made charges against the jailers that were false and were made out of the whole cloth." Why doesn't Sheriff Pugh or some of these poor abused jailers bring legal action to defend their "good name"?

On Jan. 7 Fellow-Worker Spaulding was released from jail after being held for six days without a trial. His crime consisted of handing a letter to the men on the rock pile, but darkest recesses in it with Spokane, where they are tried in a court of law and held in jail without a trial, perhaps to be re-arrested and sent to the same dose of law and order the next day. The city authorities have arrived at a period of the most intense mutual admiration. The San Tim trouble has blown over since their suppression of free speech took the center of the stage and Mayor Pratt, among his various duties of collecting stolen money from employment agencies, for a handful of workmen, of settling into debates with Jim Hill and writing literary productions for New York magazines, took upon himself the writing of a letter of thanks to Prosecuting Attorney Pugh (something like the Chinese fashion of shaking hands with a friend). He compliments the thundering prosecuting attorney of Spokane on his



"The Calm Before the Storm."

able, energetic and willingly-given assistance during the recent I. W. W. demonstrations against the laws of this city, contributed to a great degree to the victory of conspiracy to defeat the enforcement of law in this community. We suggest to Pratt that he who laughs last laughs best; that perhaps he may learn a lesson from American revolutionary history, which includes the dramatic tale of how George Washington and his ragged, starving force of soldiers crossed the Delaware amidst the cakes of floating ice and took the Hessians unawares while they were dancing and feasting over their recent "victory."

"The I. W. W. demonstration" is no more over than was the revolutionary war during the long winter at Valley Forge. History repeats itself first as tragedy, then as farce, and in the long run it is the great mass of the people, the floating working men of the Northwest, that will derive a vast source of amusement from the antics of a lot of political puppets whose wires are jerked by the lumber trusts, the Washington Water Power Company and the large employment agencies.

The men charged with conspiracy who have been confined in the county jail for over a month without a trial became impatient, needless to say, and demanded trial at once from the authorities. The men began to feel that they might as well be serving their time as waiting a trial that they knew guaranteed nothing but injustice to them. Joe Duddy, found guilty before Judge Stocker on Jan. 7th and sentenced to sixty days; C. M. Connors, chairman of the executive committee, was sentenced on the 9th to serve four months. The court, out of "sympathy" for his family, promised him a suspension of sentence if he would be "good."

Fellow-Worker John Panzer, serving a six months' sentence, made a dramatic escape while snowing last Saturday morning. He certainly made good time, for he was nine miles outside of the city before he captured him. However, he might as well have locked the door of his cell and thrown the key away in face of the justice that will now be meted out to him.

Moyer's duty to stand by the workers of Spokane as it was theirs to stand by him. Free speech, free press and free assembly mean as much to the members of the W. F. of M. as they mean to the members of the I. W. W. If the I. W. W. is to go down in defeat, if it is to be annihilated because of its undaunted stand, then the Butte Miners' Union or any other miners' union might well be proud to go down with it. I suppose in the days when the W. F. of M. had the over of its membership in the bullpen of Colorado, when the struggling miners were being characterized as hobos, agitators and tramps, there were a few and some labor leaders like Moyer; ones to be, who characterized the organization as an absolute failure. As long as an organization can fight they know no failure.

The agitation carried on by the I. W. W. as to the conditions inside the city and county jail has moved the club women of the community to demand the appointment of a matron with regular hours in both jails. The city council is to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 11th, for the purpose of considering the advisability of such action. Sheriff Pugh and Mayor Pratt perhaps realizing the political capital possible in such a stand, have endorsed the idea. But Chief of Police Sullivan and the various captains and inspectors under him do not take to it very kindly. They claim that the women held in the jail are women of a low type who do not need a matron. Captain Billy Weir is quoted as saying: "Those women back there do not want a woman to care for them." Since when has democracy been so rampant inside of jails that the wishes of prisoners are to decide the necessity of an action? When they put the I. W. W. on bread and water did they ask them if they wanted bread and water? If the police authorities are so anxious to do what the women want done why don't they ask them if they don't want to leave the place entirely? Sheriff F. H. Pugh is quoted as follows: "The appointment of a matron for the county jail was recommended by the grand jury during its session last July, but nothing was ever done by the county commissioners." No danger of them ever being so lax about enforcing laws that take away the God-given and inalienable right to free speech.

The Turner Society met on January 3rd and considered the renting of their hall to the I. W. W. The caretaker had been informed by the police that the Turner Society would have to discuss the matter among themselves they declined to be intimidated by the authorities of Spokane, and they voted to rent a hall to the I. W. W. whenever the latter bodies desired it and it was otherwise unoccupied. The Turner Society consists of a class of men that the authorities will probably characterize as "ignorant foreigners," but they have proven their ability to defend the right in face of the strong publicity and prejudice against us, in face of the fact that other hall keepers, theatre managers and church boards of trustees dared not take a stand, and they deserve enthusiastic public commendation for their courage. A splendid meeting was held Sunday evening, January 9th, with a packed house and a collection of twenty-eight dollars and fifty-seven cents.

The I. W. W. prisoners on the city rock pile have received numerous offers to quit. Not the street speaking, but the staying in jail. Several of the men have been put on bread and water because they refused to leave and demanded the right to serve out their sentence. The authorities seem to be very anxious to get rid of the I. W. W. at all costs. That is exactly the reason why we stick to the fight. We have everything to gain. Whatever we had to lose has been taken from us. A gentle hint to correspondents of the Industrial Worker may be appropriate in conclusion. This fight is not yet over, it has scarcely begun. Organization and discipline are necessary that we may learn from the mistakes of the first round. One day last week the receipts of the editorial room consisted of a half a dozen poems unaccompanied by either subs or donations. Poetry is all right in its place, but it is very much like a revolution of sympathy; it won't pay the printer and it won't circulate the paper. Unfortunately also, the editorial waste basket is small and has had to work overtime of late. For the sake of your organization, boys, quit writing poetry and long articles, and get out with a sub book or a list for the defense fund. Fred W. Hesle-

wood is still at Coeur d'Alene City, Idaho. His box number is 895. Send him a substantial communication to show that you are on the firing line.

NECESSARY EVILS. How often do we hear people speak of "necessary evils." We are often told that there is no such thing as a necessary evil, that is as far as most people go when expressing themselves on the subject. They do not give the matter any consideration in the light of existing conditions, as the direct result of the system under which we live out a miserable existence (enough said). The evils which are with us and form part of our lives are absolutely necessary to present day society. Inasmuch as they are the agencies which go to keep alive the superstition that privately owned property is essential, riches and poverty, master and slave, are the only means by which society will ever be able to exist.

It is necessary to paint a picture of a place more to be desired than a comfortable home, with a wife and family well fed, well clothed and well educated, and call the picture Heaven. And then send grafters and hypocrites amidst us to tell us that the only way to figure in the beautiful picture is to be meek and mild, be content with present conditions, and "Praise the Lord."

It is necessary to come before the able-bodied young men with an opportunity for education, travel and advancement, and a chance to see the world. And wear Uncle Sam's uniform. (How beautiful.) Uncle Sam Rockefeller's and Uncle Sam Morgan's uniform. Paid for by the unpaid labor of their brothers. Make them believe they have a country, and illustrate to them the advisability of killing those who do not think so, in the interest of their country. They call the Army and Navy. Then they recruit from the ranks of those who have a superfluity of brute instinct in the place of human nature what are known as police, detectives, thugs, professional scabs and spies.

Having pointed out at some length the necessity of the three greatest evils, viz. Superstition, Religion and Patriotism, to the present system, it is necessary to point out that neither the system of wage-slavery, the ownership of the means of life by a privileged few nor its satellite evils are in any way essential to an ideal society. Two blacks don't make a white. By the same rule, two wrongs don't make a right.

Mankind needs food, shelter and recreation. The slave, being physically the same as his master, needs as much and as good food, shelter and recreation as his master. He gets it. What he lacks in edible food the church supplies in spiritual food, a form of life insurance; no reward on earth, you get the reward in Heaven. When he lacks home shelter, he gets it in jail. What's the difference? He gets it. The slave gets as much recreation as his master; sometimes more physically.

You realize the presence of the powers working for evil in society. You say they can't be removed, because you can't personally do away with the present system. Did it ever occur to you, Mr. Willing Slave, that if you were to line up with your fellow-workmen, regardless of racial prejudices, forget about "color lines," join the union known as the Industrial Workers of the World, and form one grand union of all the workers, you could run things for the benefit of your class?

Educate the workers to the necessity of reaping the reward of their toil here on earth. Then the imagination of a reward in the unknown hereafter will consequently lose hold of those who need it far more here on earth. Take the full product of your labor and the parasites will be without the wherewithal to support forces of subjection. Exit the uniformed scum of society. When the people collectively own the means of life, they will realize that it was never necessary for the few to hold them. WILLIAM H. METCALFE.

Of course, no one hates a capitalist. Jerry Simpson said that he did not hate a bedbug, but that he did detest the bug's way of making a living.—Referred.

GENERAL STRIKE IN SWEDEN

By JOHN SANDGREN. Due to the deplorable lack of an international labor press bureau there has been practically no news about the Swedish labor situation since it lost some of its most sensational features. In a way, it may be said that the struggle has been won. The issue about which this magnificent battle of Labor is being fought is, as is now well known, the life or death of organized labor in Sweden; in fact, in all northern Europe. So far the struggle has been a signal victory of Labor. On the one side the employers' association has become so weakened that its officers are in some cases repudiating the obligations entered into with the members and have sent out circulars to the membership asking for leniency in fulfilling these obligations. On the other hand the Swedish national organization has come out of the battle with 40,000 new members. True, they nominally lost about 30,000 in the battle, but these men have for a large part surrendered their membership upon the advice of the national organization, and against their own will. It was a tactical move on the part of the national organization to ease its burdens and to insure victory along the main lines of battle. Still, even so, there is an increase of 10,000 men.

It is nothing but natural that in a contest of this magnitude Labor should have to sacrifice some of its troops on certain weak points. Taking it as a whole the Swedish workers have won a glorious victory. Still the struggle is by no means over. According to the latest news received by mail from Stockholm there are still 2,000 men in the fight of the original 350,000. But besides there are now between 13,000 and 14,000 men who are "discharged," which is only another word for "blacklisted." These men have actually no chance of ever securing employment in Sweden or any other country where their language is spoken, as the employers are quite solidly organized throughout Scandinavia. With or against will they have practically no choice but to emigrate. At present they are with their families, being supported by the national organization, but realizing what a burden they are on their brothers and realizing the bleak prospects before them, they are now scattering all over the world, facing an unknown destiny.

The president of the Swedish national organization of workers writes that support is still urgently needed and that any and all help would be exceedingly welcome. Those that hoped that this gigantic struggle would crush the spirit of the Swedish workers and be "the beginning of the end" of Labor's efforts in Northern Europe are sorely disappointed.

The national organization met in convention the 22d of November. The convention lasted nine days, was visited by 500 delegates, and a large number of representatives of labor from foreign countries, who paid a glowing tribute of admiration to their Swedish brothers. The spirit prevailing in the convention, in the midst of the great battle, was one of exemplary self-control and moderation, and the convention stands as one of the most creditable pages in Labor's history.

Among the innumerable important subjects up for discussion there are two that are especially worthy of international attention, namely, the question of a complete reorganization, and the question of the relations between the economic organization and the Social-Democratic party of Sweden.

The debate on the question of reorganization lasted for two days and 180 delegates spoke on the question, showing the seriousness of the matter. As a result of this discussion a committee was elected to draft a plan of reorganization to be submitted to all subordinate organizations six months before the convention of 1911, and, significantly enough, upon the motion of the president, Herman Lindquist, the committee was instructed by the convention to bring in a report based upon a gradual transformation from craft unions to industrial unions.

In regard to the question of the relations between the economic organization and the Social-Democratic party of Sweden there was a clause in the preamble prescribing that the economic organization exert its efforts to have the unions join the local organizations of the Social-Democratic party of Sweden. In motion of the iron and metal workers, supported by other organizations, these words were stricken from the preamble by a vote of 232 to 224.

This action of the convention is very interesting in view of the fact that the Social-Democratic party in the next election is very likely to become the dominant political party, due

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

After November 1st the General Headquarters will be removed to Rooms 518-19 Cambridge building, 56 Fifth Avenue, Chicago. The need for a larger office, more centrally located, makes the change necessary. Address all mail after November 1st to the new address, Rooms 518-19 Cambridge building, 56 Fifth Avenue.

Important Notice

Until further notice The Industrial Worker will be published at Seattle, Wash. :: Address all communications to The Industrial Worker, P. O. Box 1443. :: ::

MESSAGE FROM GOD

By RED ROBIN.

Walking along the streets of Spokane one morning bright and early, admiring the winter air and the crisp smell of blue sky at the corner bakery, when I saw a... I asked, "why are you clad in..."

used to work for him, perhaps he would grant... I guess you had better look him up and try him."

The New Ten Commandments.

- I. Thou shalt have no other Gods before me, except the Almighty Dollar. II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...

INDUSTRIAL PRESS BUREAU NEWS

EVENTS OF THE OLD YEAR.

Looking back over the year that has just passed the revolutionary unionist, indeed, sees many things that have tended to teach the workers the class struggle in all its intensity...

TO SUPPRESS STRIKES.

General Edward S. Bragg, an old army man in Wisconsin, says that "the government has not done its share in suppressing strikes, which have arisen all over the United States."

ORANGE BLOSSOM RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, the wealth-serving authorities of Spokane, Wash., have by an iniquitous and unconstitutional ordinance forbidden the exercise of the right of free speech on the streets of that city...

GENERAL STRIKE IN SWEDEN

(Continued from Page One.)

to the "universal suffrage" that has recently been forced on the Swedish workers. At the same time the convention, to avoid misinterpretation, adopted a resolution by a considerable majority...

TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE Industrial Union Advocate

The paper advocating industrial unionism, founded on the 1st and 15th of each month by the I. W. U. locals of New York City and vicinity...

"SOLIDARITY"

A weekly revolutionary working class paper, published by the Local Unions of New Castle, Pa.

"SOLIDARITY"

In sending in for change of address, always state the old address as well as the new.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Owing to the fact that persecution is being carried on in a high-handed manner by those who hide under the disguise of law and order, the Executive Committee of the I. W. U. in Spokane has moved the Defense Fund headquarters to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho...

"SOLIDARITY"

These New Commandments ought to please the servants of God very well, or the ex-servants—like Beelzebub and Satan. If any reader will hand a marked copy to either of them, I am sure he will confer a great favor on God's messenger...

SPECIAL NOTICE

No man who is a prominent and active worker in the I. W. U. is safe from arrest under the trumped-up charge of "Criminal Conspiracy"; all the old offenders and editors are at present in jail in Spokane...

THE NEW YEAR'S OUTLOOK.

Never was the spirit of revolt and discontent so broadcast as at the present time. Unrest of an extreme character manifests itself throughout Europe. Nor are the issues discussed of the reformist type...

THE GIRL STRIKERS.

In the strike of the waist workers of New York and Philadelphia we see a remarkable revolutionary spirit of solidarity craving for manifestation. Were it not for the labor plugs and capitalist lackeys who stepped in and dissipated the revolutionary energy of the girls...

LEGISLATION AND UNIONS.

The Cherry, Ill., mine explosion has again brought up the question of labor legislation and the unions. The question which is being discussed to a large extent among the rank and file of the United Mine Workers is that of responsibility for such accidents...

A MODERN OCTUPUS.

Gary, Ind., destined to become the Pittsburgh of the West, not only has the best mill equipment in the world under construction, but its system of grinding labor and paying low wages has reached a perfection of which the United States Steel Corporation is alone capable...

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

For a brave resistance to encroachments upon the rights of free speech and free assembly, our fellow-workers in Spokane, Wash., have endured and are unflinchingly enduring hideous cruelties and inhuman tortures...

THE CAPITALIST IDEAL.

I confess that I am not charmed with the ideal of life held out by those who think that the animal state of human beings is that of struggling to get on; that the trampling, crushing, elbowing and treading on each other's heels, which form the existing type of social life, are the most desirable lot of human kind...

Seattle Advertisements

REPAIRING A SPECIALTY J. F. CURRIER DEALER IN SHOES Jumbo Loggers Made to Your Measure in One Day.

Socialist Books We buy, sell and exchange books of all kinds, and take subscription for magazines and papers at club rates, etc. Raymer's Old Book Store

The Workingmen's Store WILL DRESS YOU FROM HEAD TO FOOT Keep in mind that this store always sells only reliable goods; has one price for everybody; gives everybody a square deal.

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