

Socialist Columns

For the monopoly of political power in the hands of kings, czars, etc., the only effective remedy ever applied is the public ownership and democratic control of political power. Then for the monopoly of industrial power, why should we not apply the same remedy—the public ownership and democratic management of industries? If you believe in one and oppose the other, you must have in mind some essential, fundamental difference which renders it necessary that the business of physical production of life be done co-operatively, and the business of production and distribution of the necessities to sustain life must be done competitively.

What is that fundamental difference? We will furnish space for any one who will reply directly and specifically. The question has never been answered to our satisfaction. It has never been answered at all. It has been ignored.

Everything in the life of today impresses us with the idea that physical defense is a public business and production a private business, therefore it seems very radical to talk of making production also a public matter. But there was a time when defense was a private matter and to talk of making it a public matter was just as radical.

That change has been accomplished, however, and we have the history of it all before us. Can we not see the trend of events better than our savage forebears? Are there not the same forces at work compelling larger and larger combinations in production? And is not the abuse of industrial power in the hands of a few just the same as the abuse of political power in the hands of a few?

Industrial democracy is all there is of socialism. We advocate some temporary expedients in the interest of those who work with hand and brain, and then there are many things we speak of which we expect to come as a result of industrial democracy. If you differ with us as to what the results will be, help us to try it once and see. A great majority of the people believe in public ownership of many things but have not figured out the results of public management of all industries. We do not expect to accomplish this all at once, but, by gradually assuming first those things which are already monopolized. And you who believe in the public ownership of public utilities and "conservation" of natural resources owe more to the socialist movement than to all the progressives on earth.

We often hear it said: "I have quit voting for party men; all I want to know is that he is a good man." I should like to ask—If a good man runs on a platform that would perpetuate the same old system and then goes back on it and helps to establish the kingdom of God among men, is he still a good man? I will answer as it appears to me. Yes—from those who are trying to overthrow the present order (the socialists.) No—from those who would forever perpetuate the present system of exploitation by bayonets, etc.—G. L. P.

Socialists do not claim to be better men than others. We claim better methods to control and remove temptation from all men. And in our party management we give no man a power which cannot be taken from him by the members in case it is abused. There is absolutely no boss rule, and no machine politics in the socialist party. It is pure democracy.

What does it mean? The clubbing by policemen of women and children in peaceful procession carrying the American flag. Arresting fathers, mothers and children, forcibly separating them and throwing them into jail for trying to get their children to a place where they might be fed and sheltered; beating them over the head with pick handles, etc.

Why do not the civilized nations ostracize Russia if they don't exhibit a more civilized disposition, more of a christian character? Oh no! kind reader, it is not in Russia, but Lawrence, Massachusetts, U. S. A., in the year of our Lord, 1912. It is more brutal, more savage than ever was done in Russia, because we make such loud pretensions of being more civilized, more democratic. We don't believe in the divine right of kings, we don't, but in the divine right of dollars, the bayonet and club. I had supposed that the "breaking up of the home" remained for the socialists to do as some assert. Then why is it being done under Taft? When they cry for bread they give them a stone. But their cry is being heard by the workers of the world and soon we will end this reign of terror.—G. L. P.

Socialists are required to register in order to vote in the general election, but they are not permitted to vote in the primary elections. In the late primary there were 119 votes cast and there are 487 registered voters, a difference of 359 votes. I wonder if these are all socialists, or "inoculated with the virus of socialism?" "God knows."—G. L. P.

NOTICE TO SOCIALISTS

All members of the Local and those willing to become such will please take notice that the next meeting of the Local will be held at the home of Comrade Vincent, 207 W. Leavitt street, on Monday evening, March 10. Nominations for city offices and other important business on hand.

NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held on Monday, the first day of April, 1912, in the city of St. Johns, Oregon, for the purpose of electing the following named officers for the city of St. Johns for the ensuing year, namely:

- One Mayor.
- One City Recorder.
- One City Treasurer.
- One City Attorney.
- Two Councilmen First Ward.
- Two Councilmen Second Ward.
- Three Councilmen at Large.

In the manner provided by law and the charter.

The following have been designated as the polling places for said election: The L. O. O. F. building, 202 South Jersey street, at the corner of Leavitt, for the First Ward, and at the City Hall for the Second Ward.

The polls will be open at 9 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and shall remain open until 7 o'clock in the afternoon of said day.

F. A. RICE,
City Recorder.
Published in the St. Johns Review on March 8, 15, 22, 29, 1912.

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