

Socialist Columns

For Mayor—Dr. A. W. Vincent.
For Councilman at Large—G. L. Perrine.
For Councilman First Ward—R. C. Stokes.
For Councilman Second Ward—N. A. Gee.

We hear that the present state laws properly enforced are sufficient to control the public utilities in St. Johns. Well, it is never too late to begin a thing like that, but we wonder why it was not thought of before. Could we socialists do it? Have we the nerve?

Dear voters, we are not promising the impossible. There are many things which might be done in St. Johns, and which might have been done in the past. But the control of the public utilities is a question that has never been solved and is not to be solved by one or two officers of a little town, even so good a town as St. Johns. It is a question as broad as the land and as old as the oldest corporation. And all this time we have waited for a Moses or a David or (a Davis) or some other miracle worker to control them. Isn't it about time for the people to try to do something for themselves? Say, for instance, to furnish themselves with water, as they do in Portland, and with light, power, communication and transportation as they ought to do everywhere?

No! we socialists are not going to repudiate franchises and other actions of previous administrations. We have a wholesome regard for the capitalist courts. Some of our people have been "up against them."

And now the great light and power companies of Portland have formed a merger, and the sons of that city are amazed. It was their "understanding" that when they granted a franchise that nothing of that kind was ever to happen. Doesn't that sound just like our own city dads, who had an "understanding" that the railroad company would build a spur to the city dock?

It is the understanding of every one who has studied the principle of economic determinism, (which being interpreted means every socialist) that industrial corporations will merge, that they must merge, and that it is just as wrong and absurd to say that they shall not do so as to say that two tribes shall not unite to fight a common enemy, that they shall not form great nations, or that nations shall not form alliances nor agree to arbitrate difference.

These two corporations have signed a treaty of peace and you would compel them to continue in war so that others might have an opportunity to grab some of the spoils. How long, Oh Lord! will such as this be counted wisdom?

INVESTIGATE UNEMPLOYED

Some kind hearted capitalists and old party politicians in Chicago have decided to investigate the problem of the unemployed in that city. A commission headed by Charles Crane, son of the late well known ironmaster, is nobly trying to find out how the other half exists. The terrible old fashioned winter has produced conditions for thousands out of work that are pitiful in the extreme. This commission will investigate the conditions of the victims of the cold winter, and the still colder capitalist system. Understand, however, that merely the results—not the cause of unemployment with its suffering will be probed. To investigate the causes of enforced idleness might miss up the placidity of "our best people," and as the head of the commission states, there will be nothing sensational in the work of the commission. We will work calmly and sensibly and gather all of the statistics necessary.

No sensation!
What brutal candor. The estimates of the commission show that approximately 300,000 men are out of work, in New York city; 125,000 in Chicago; 20,000 in Los Angeles (under Good Government Rule) and at least 10 per cent. in all other large industrial centers.

Statistics! Did you ever try to stave off the biting cursed winter air that was freezing the life out of your little children—by the use of statistics, Mr. Unemployed Workingman?

Did you ever try to appease their hunger—with statistics?
Did you ever try to get medicine for your sick wife—with statistics?
What do these well fed members of Mayor Harrison's commission suppose the workingman is going to do—but starve—while the statistics are being gathered? And if he is alive after they are gathered—what good will this array of mathematics do, after it is turned over to the tender mercies of a charity organization?
Verily the unemployed asks for bread and ye give him—statistics.

Teddy is in favor of referendum and recall—to be exercised only by the legislature. Who's going to recall the legislature?
Paul Adair

HAVE CLEAR-CUT METHODS

It is the conviction, or should be, of every socialist, that no man has the moral right to believe in or advocate or use violence to change conditions or laws when he has a remedy in the vote which can be made effective.

The laws at present in effect were made by men elected to office by the working class. The great bulk of working men belong to the old parties, vote their tickets and are responsible for results.

Rebellious bitterness over conditions existing because of ignorance, has no place in a political party devoted to the education of the ignorant, and the permanent relief of the conditions.

Our coming National Convention when confronted with the proposition that will be presented, should put such emphasis on its rejection of the doctrine of violence as a weapon that it will not be heard from again.

The socialist occupies a legitimate field, its position is impregnable, its membership is growing with wonderful rapidity and it is imperatively necessary for ultimate success in the shortest time that it keep in the straight and narrow path.

Its weapons are education and the ballot. When a sufficiency of the first brings enough of the second to bear on the capitalist system it will crumble.

I, for one, don't want a placard hanging from my neck: "I will use any weapon to win the fight against capitalism. I do not hesitate to break the present laws for which I have no respect."

So far as I am concerned none of that is true and never will be as long as we have the genuine ballot.

If our party is to continue to exist and retain equal rights that sign had better not be put up.

If there were a design to destroy the socialist party this year, no better scheme could be devised.

The socialist national convention should itself bring up the question, if not presented as proposed. Right now is the time to bury it so deep that even a gold miner could not find it.

T. C. Rivera.

ANOTHER VERSION

Of that parable of the prodigal son who had been living in a far country on husks and decided to return home.

As he neared the old homestead he perked up his nose, and took some long whiffs. "Um, if my old nose don't tell me lies I smell the fattest calf," he said, hastening forward.

His father saw him a long ways off and ran forward to greet him. He also fell on his neck and kissed him.

After the congratulations were over and nothing was said about eating, the prodigal blurted out: "Father, I have been in a far country living on husks—how about that fattest calf?" "Fattest calf," exclaimed the old man, "with veal 30 cents a pound—nothing doing, my son." So the prodigal sat himself down to a feast of cotton seed butter, chrome alum bread and a choice dish of "Try-a-bunch-of-Shavings"—the family's favorite breakfast food—for the high cost of living had indeed pressed them full sore.

"Gee," murmured the prodigal, as he picked some of the breakfast food out of his teeth, "wish I was back where I could get a good feed of husks or something fit to eat."
Moral: Blame it on the tariff."

FOUND WANTING

George Brewer delivered his Lyceum Course here in Spokane to a full house. During the course of his remarks he said: "Imagine now that we see Benjamin Franklin coming down the aisle, and as he approaches, he says: 'George, why so many bright lights here? My, how brilliant.' I say, 'Yes, those are electric lights. Do you remember the time you tried to call down the lightning with your kite string and key? Well, we use electricity now to telegraph and telephone across the continent. We use electricity now to run motors, elevators and all sorts of machinery. We use it to run automobiles, street cars, and even railroad trains, and we have great improvement in printing and many other machines for manufacturing and producing purposes, etc.' and Ben would say: 'Yes, you have certainly made wonderful progress. It is wonderful progress, it IS wonderful indeed, but I see you are still fiddling along with the same old Constitution, which was made in the infancy of this republic.'"

How about it, Mr. Old Party Voter?
F. D. Wright.

"We must get back to the people," declares Mr. Roosevelt in his latest (? as we go to press) campaign diatribe.

Get back! Theodore—back? Why bless you, what you want to do is to "catch up with the people." You have been lagging behind like the little dog under the wagon. Catch up with the people, or you will soon be lost in the dust of our heels.

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