

# The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

### RATES.

By mail, per year ..... \$6 00  
 By mail, per month ..... 50  
 By carriers, per month ..... 60

### THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance ..... \$1 00



### THE TYRANNY OF STATE SOCIALISM.

In all discussions of the subject, it must not be forgotten that there are two kinds of socialism, the voluntary and the involuntary.

Towards voluntary socialism there is no hostility, says the Tacoma Ledger. When men tire of cut-throat competition, and living like predatory wolves, when the impulse to live like brothers, and not like enemies, comes to them, and they found colonies in which all live a communistic life, no one places a barrier in the way. Many socialistic colonies have been founded in the past. Others will be founded in the future. Doubtless the time will come in the history of the race when this principle of voluntary socialism will be accepted in some form or other by all, and men will live in a commonwealth where co-operation and not competition shall be the law. The greatest souls of all ages, have dreamed of some ideal state which they have called Utopia, the Golden Age, the City of God, or by some other name that appealed to the highest within them, and we may trust that if there is a divine principle in men, a power that makes for righteousness, the race will some day reach the goal.

But involuntary socialism is another matter. It proposes to do by force what can only be accomplished through sweet reasonableness. It declares that in a short time, through the trustification of industry, all the wealth of the country will be in a few hands, and then the proposal is that the working class shall take possession, without compensation, of all agencies of production and distribution, and administer them through state action in the interest of the working class.

Without considering at the present time the gross immorality involved in taking by force the property that ability has created, let us consider what involuntary state socialism would necessarily involve. There are many things in the world which no man loves, but we are reconciled to them when we consider the alternative. Death is repellant, and yet when one considers that the alternative would be over-population in the course of a few years, forcing upon us an unsolvable problem, it does not seem so unfriendly as before. In the same way the evils of our social system become more tolerable when we consider the alternative of involuntary state socialism.

For state socialism involves a most gigantic tyranny, greater even than the despotism of the past. For if all agencies of production and distribution are placed in the hands of the state, all individual initiative and freedom must cease. The individual will no longer be able to choose his occupation or his manner of living. He will receive his orders from the state like the soldier in the army. If he refuses to obey the penalty will be imprisonment or death. It is true that socialists picture their system as one of economic freedom, but it would in reality be a condition of economic slavery grosser than anything seen in the world today.

Under the present system every man is, in a measure, free. Socialists deny this, but it remains true, nevertheless. Every man is free to choose his occupation and to change it as often as he likes. He may move from one end of the country to the other if he likes. He may rest whenever he likes. If he has secured sufficient means, he may retire from labor altogether.

The majority would rule, socialists tell us. Granted. But let it be remembered at all times that there is no tyranny in the world greater than that of a majority. State socialism would only increase the power of the majority over the individual life. It might well result in the annihilation of the literary man and artist, these men coming to be regarded as idlers and unprofitable persons. Of one thing we may be certain; every prejudice and whim would be put into play, and intelligence could not fail to suffer under such a regime as this. But that is what state socialism involves. State socialism would be the most gigantic tyranny that the ages have ever seen.

### PLANT MORE TREES.

The citizens of Garfield have organized an association having for its object the improvement of city and country by planting shade and ornamental trees and vines, says the Post-Intelligencer. It is proposed to have shade trees along the streets and public highways and on the lawns of private grounds.

To bring about this desired result the people will co-operate in the buying and handling of plants. Regular meetings of the society will be held and all the matters of interest given general discussion. The association is intended as an educational factor in the community.

Tree planting should have more general attention in every city and country district. Many of the finest and rarest native groves are being destroyed every year. The builders of homes are apparently too much interested in the financial returns to look after beautifying their grounds. This applies also to the public school lots and grounds surrounding church buildings. Too much of the natural timber is taken away and nothing planted in its place. In doing this, the native grasses and wild flowers are killed and land that should be attractive is made barren and forbidding fields.

There is much pleasure in the association of trees and plants of nature. Man is a social being and requires some of the society found in nature. Children look about for a spot where nature has displayed trees and flowers to enjoy life. Even the fruits and cultivated flowers grow more abundantly where the natural covering of the earth has not been completely destroyed. A community of flower lovers may be safely reported as composed of good, peaceable citizens. The same is true of men and women who annually engage in planting trees.

The profit in tree planting is an item worthy of consideration by every person interested in building up the locality in which he resides. Trees add to the value of the farm. They are good for wind-breaks for sheltering the sheep and cattle from winter storms. They protect the fruit from late frosts. They are constantly growing into valuable timber. Their leaves and nuts are of value in many ways. If every man owning a farm would plant at least one tree for every one he destroys, the country would grow up in beauty and value to a greater degree, and the sick children and overworked women would not be sighing for the trees of the mountains so far away.

### THE HOPELESS MINORITY.

It is curious and even astonishing to observe how many of those whose interests are all and vitally in maintaining the idea that might is not the basis of right constantly act as if it were. In a hopeless minority, and in a country which has universal suffrage unshakably established, they trample upon the rights of others as if they were themselves an absolutely secure majority, in not the slightest danger of a day of reckoning and retaliation, says the Saturday Evening Post.

We see them organize themselves as capitalistic monopolies and rob the helpless consumer. We see them organize themselves as labor monopolies and forcibly deny the right of the individual to labor. Most preposterous of all, while in the very midst of these oppressions, they, without pausing, shriek against others who are putting into practice the very ideas which they themselves have taught and are teaching by example; and, most dangerous of all, they employ various kinds of intimidation and chicanery to coerce public officials into winking at or assisting in their anarchistic performances.

Let not the rich monopolist think the lawless skilled laborer is the one who will lose most by this short-sighted game of stab and grab. On the other hand, let not the lawless skilled laborer delude himself that the unscrupulous capitalist is the worse offender and will be the greater sufferer. Each has everything to lose—and the size of the "everything" is relatively unimportant.

A New Haven bank teller who embezzled \$70,000 has been sentenced to five years in the penitentiary. If he has his loot planted, he will be earning \$14,000 a year, without any deduction for living expenses.

When a New York millionaire declares he is taking no sides in a political campaign the chances are that he is sending checks of equal size to each of the committees.

The Philadelphia young lady who received a certificate entitling her to command a ship might be willing to exchange it for a mate's on a little matrimonial bark.

A Pittsburg justice has sent a man to jail for trying to bribe him with a dollar. Secretary Shaw should congratulate the justice upon not being a cheap man.

The managers of the republican campaign are apparently trying to win without letting Representative Littlefield know anything about it.

About a thousand Russians and Japs in Manchuria are being converted daily to the argument of perpetual peace.

The "General Slocum survivors" have been organized. Their badge should be an iron life preserver.

General Kuropatkin knows what it feels like to be the captain of a defeated college football team.

## P. A. Stokes

"Swell Togs for Men"

THIS IS A CUT OF our swell Belted Back Overcoat fifty-two inches long and a favorite with the "know how to dress man." It is a coat that we have in all patterns, materials and weights.

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### OCTOBER SUNSET MAGAZINE.

Gives Fine Pictures of California Life—Finely Illustrated. Gen. MacArthur and other army officers describe the recent military maneuvers in California, each article being profusely illustrated with halfward Cucuel. Interesting articles on California and Oregon. How Olive Oil is Made, How Almonds are Grown, and fine descriptions of Plumas and Sutter, two great California counties. 224 pages of articles, western stories, sketches and verses. 10 cents a copy. You can buy Sunset Magazine at all news stands.

### Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the registration books of the city of Astoria for the election to be held in this city on Wednesday, the 14th day of December, 1904, will be opened at the auditor's office in the A. O. U. W. building on Tuesday, the 8th day of November, 1904, at 4 o'clock p. m. All persons must register in order to be entitled to vote.

### OLOF ANDERSON.

Auditor and Police Judge of Astoria, Oregon. Dated October 28, 1904.

### He Pays His Subscription.

Rainier Gazette:—We were pleased to receive a call last Saturday from E. E. Stucker, one of Rainier's industrious citizens. We faintly would say that if all our subscribers were like Mr. Stucker the life of the country newspaper man would be more sweet.

Kallunki has fine candies, up-to-now bonbons and fresh fruits.

### Saves Two From Death.

"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Haviland of Armonk, N. Y., "but, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece, who had consumption in an advanced stage, also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for coughs and colds. 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Trial bottles free.

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