

"Our object should be to leave open all the avenues of truth. As the most effectual hitherto found has been the press, it is, therefore, the first shut up by those who fear the investigation of their actions."—Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence.

NO, NOT SUFFICIENT

In an editorial in the Astorian this morning, some figures, re the meat packing business, are quoted, and the public is asked to accept them as "a sufficient answer to those who talk about swollen profits."

The trouble with these figures are that they were launched from the offices of the meat packing companies. All they prove is what everybody knows—that meat concerns doctor most everything, even figures.

Here also are some figures, taken from the meat companies' annual report to stockholders:

Armour & Company in the year 1915 made a net profit of \$11,000,000 even. In 1916 the net profit was \$20,100,000 or a war profit of \$8,900,000. What the profits for 1917 have been, heaven only knows.

Swift & Company, in 1915 made \$14,087,500. In 1916 it rose to \$20,465,000 or something over \$6,000,000 war profit.

Morris & Company, were the lowest on the list of three with only a net war profit of a million and a half in 1916.

It Armour only makes \$1.22 net per head on cattle, they would have to, in order to make \$10,000,000 (which is allowing half of the \$20,000,000 profit for other stock) butcher about 30,000 head of cattle per day, which we all ought to know is beyond the daily capacity of all the packing-houses put together; 30,000 cattle being at the rate of 25 head butchered per minute for two shifts of 10 hours each.

The figures quoted by the Astorian are not only insufficient, they are ridiculous. Even the publication of them in good faith can hardly relieve them of the charge of misinforming. Anyone should know better than to rely upon circulars sent out by the packing companies to allay resentment against themselves.

The packing concerns are very efficient institutions we know, from a capitalist standpoint. They are so efficient that we must pay whatever price they put upon a product, which price is as high as traffic will bear. And having brought the packing business to a high state of business efficiency now, Armour and other packers have completed their function in society. They must ere long give over the ownership and control of these concerns to the working class, to be carried on by the workers for the workers' own benefit and use. That is the next pressing step and no amount of placating literature will ever prevent its ultimate accomplishment.

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND GOVERNMENT

No man is good enough to govern another man without that other's consent. That's what Abraham Lincoln said, but our capitalists do not care so much for governing other men, with or without their consent, as for exploiting them. The aim and object of their rule is economic exploitation, and any form of government suits them that protects them in their effort to squeeze profits out of every person able to produce them. And it is easy for them to secure the consent of the exploited. There is not anything easier than that, as long as you possess the means of exploitation. There is no trouble in getting the consent of a starving man to practically everything that puts bread within his reach.

The masses of the people everywhere are ruled economically—that is, exploited with their consent. And not merely with their consent. They are enthusiastic about it and defend any system based upon their exploitation because it is their firm belief that without somebody exploiting them they could not exist. Exploitation to them seems to be an essential and indispensable factor of every well-ordered civilized society. Of course, they will get cured of that superstition, but it seems to be a long cure, and some of our fellow men are apparently incurable.

Meantime, the exploiting class manages the political side of our social business as well as the economic side, and, whether they do so under the name and form of democracy or any other, they are always sure of the consent of the governed as long as the governed are ignorant enough to stand for and defend their own exploitation. For, as said before, exploitation is the aim and object of modern capitalist government, and so long as that is assured the exploiters do not care a fig for the form of government.—Brewery Workers' Journal.

What the boss says goes, or the worker goes. The latter is "free" to take his choice.

Democracy, the Socialist Way

One of the great advantages of a democracy is that it provides a way for the people to peaceably settle vital questions of public policy and make changes in the social and governmental structure without resort to violence and bloodshed. It substitutes the open forum of free discussion for the arena of physical force. This advantage is increased—the possibility of peaceable development and the remoteness of violent revolution is made more certain—to the extent that the principles of real democracy are applied to government and the conscious, intelligent will of the people is permitted to make itself freely felt.

Wherever great questions are left to the arbitrary decision of authorities not answerable to the people, fierce discord and possibly ultimate violence are invited. In monarchies and autocracies, where the people are denied a voice in deciding their affairs, the only way to secure a change is to overthrow the government, to resort to the "arbitrament of the sword." In democracies, where autocratic power is vested in any quarter and the free action of popular government is checked, the dammed up tide of public opinion will sooner or later burst its barriers and then—the deluge.

Men with the least trace of true statesmanship in their makeup see this truth, which ought to be plain enough to common sense. In submitting us a copy of his speech on the usurped power of the judiciary, which we discuss in a recent issue, United States Senator Robert L. Owen, of Oklahoma, added this comment:

"If Congress does not exercise its constitutional power to settle by law any great internal, national question, but allows a judicial veto—under color of the judicial interpretation that Congress has not constitutional power—there is no forum except force where such questions may be settled.

"This issue—over slavery—led to the Civil War. It might lead to civil war over the controversies between labor and capital."

The safety of democracy lies in the supremacy of the legislative branch of the government, which should be brought even more closely under the control of the people. To permit judges appointed for life, and in no way subject to the verdict of the popular will, to autocratically decide questions of grave importance to the commonwealth, questions that go deeply into social relations and touch intimately the lives of thousands of citizens, is very dangerously to challenge the force and outrage the sentiment of democracy.

Judges who serve the organized interests of capitalism by setting aside child labor laws, income tax laws, laws designed to safeguard the rights of labor and cut down the privileges of capital, who deliberately seek to impede social progress and set their faces against the enlightened judgment of the nation, do more to foster the spirit of revolution than all the I. W. W.'s and anarchists.

The Socialist believes in democracy's way of settling our social questions, in the peaceful arbitrament of free discussion, a free ballot and free direction by the people of their own collective destinies for the common good. This way lies that peaceable, orderly, logical development of social and national life that is essential if civilization is to rule.—(Appeal to Reason.)

THE STRENGTH OF SOCIALISM.

"The ethical ideas of Socialism have attracted to it generous souls and have enlisted in its ranks its best adherents. It is these ethical ideals which have inspired the rank and file of the Socialist army with fiery zeal and religious devotion. It may be said, indeed, that nothing in the present day is so likely to awaken the conscience of the ordinary man or woman, or to increase the sense of individual responsibility, as a thorough course in Socialism. The study of Socialism has proved the turning point in thousands of lives and converted self-seeking men and women into self-sacrificing toilers of the masses. The impartial observer can scarcely claim that the Bible produces so marked an effect upon the daily habitual life of the average man and the average woman who profess to guide their conduct by it, as Socialism does upon its adherents.

"The strength of Socialism in this respect is more like that of the early Christianity as described in the New Testament.

"The person who takes up Socialistic works, having a conscience at all sensitive, will find it quickened and stimulated by passage after passage giving a new view of life which is based upon the worth of every human being."—Prof. Richard T. Ely.

Self-Supporting Women

We have often admitted that a certain amount of good comes out of evil. For instance, the war is giving some women an opportunity to become self-supporting. But it cruelly exploits them and doesn't solve the problem at all. The problem can only be solved by the abolition of the present capitalist system of industry and the establishment of Socialism.

For the present capitalist system of industry is an enemy of the family.

It drives many women and girls into prostitution.

It makes it hard for women to earn their own living, causing millions of them to be dependent upon men, with the consequent loss of self-respect.

It makes it impossible for millions of men to marry.

It drives vast numbers of children into the industries.

It keeps the masses of the people in poverty.

Capitalism stings the family with each of these poisonous fangs.

The result is what we see—millions of grown-up men and women unmarried—millions of families broken or breaking—millions of families with skeletons in the closet—millions of matrimonial misfits—only here and there a really happy family, an exception to prove the rule.

There is nothing sweeter, nothing nobler, nothing more beautiful, than a happy family. There is nothing holier than welcome motherhood. But the unwelcome motherhood now forced upon vast numbers of women, because of their economic dependence upon men, is infinitely degrading.

Though all of the poisonous fangs above-mentioned are deeply serious in their evil effects, the economic dependence of woman is the worst.

For many centuries nearly all women have been dependent upon men for a living. It came to be the customary thing. It came to be looked upon as a natural thing. Both men and women regarded it so. They acquiesced in it as if it were decreed by fate and were a thing which was not capable of being changed.

Only during the past few decades has there been a revolt on the part of some of the women. Modern industry has given them a chance to escape. The chance it has given them has been a pitifully poor one, but they have seized it eagerly. Several million women and girls are working in the industries. Their wages are low. Their hours are

long. For a great many of them the surrounding conditions are deplorable. It is a very unsatisfactory species of liberty. Yet it is better than none.

A comparatively few women have achieved economic independence in the so-called learned professions and as teachers.

But there are more millions of women who have not been able to escape even into an unsatisfactory species of liberty. They are still dependent upon men. We do not mean by this that they do not earn their living. Most of them work hard enough, God knows. But their work does not produce any income. They are dependent upon their husbands.

Aside from children, who are in a state of mental immaturity, it is impossible for one person to be dependent upon another person without loss of self-respect. This is true of both men and women. One man can not be dependent upon another man or upon a woman, without suffering a distinct loss of self-respect.

Thus, the wage workers find their self-respect constantly wounded by the fact that they are dependent upon the capitalists. Their revolt against this dependence is constantly growing in volume. The days are numbered in which they will continue to submit to it, for it is becoming more and more intolerable to them.

The dependence of a woman upon a man is still more galling. He claims a right to her person because he supports her. She may be the boss of the house in other respects, but in this one respect he asserts his ownership, because he has the power to.

She is dependent upon him for a living and can't help herself. She owes everything material to him. Her food. Her clothing. Her shelter. Everything. She is utterly dependent upon him. When she wants anything, she has to get it from him if she can, or else she does not get it at all.

The wheedling, coaxing, flattering, cajoling propensities, which are such a boon to the writers of jokes, are some of the disgusting effects of this dependence.

It degrades both the man and the woman.

Most of the men do not know that it degrades them. But they know that it harrasses and irritates them. They know that their wives are burdens, instead of comrades, to them. This is well illustrated by the reply of the man who was asked what he thought about second marriages. He said, "A man who hasn't any more sense than to marry a second time doesn't deserve to lose his first wife."

Some of the women also do not know that their dependence degrades them.

But vast numbers of them do realize it. There has been a wonderful awakening on the part of women in the past few decades. Divine discontent with present conditions is constantly spreading among them. They are passing it from one to another.

Inject vaccine virus into a person, and, unless he is immune from smallpox, nothing can prevent it from spreading through the body.

So with the love of liberty. Once inject the love of liberty into a woman, and, unless she is already immune from contentment with slavery, nothing can prevent its pervading her whole being and taking complete possession of her.

We should be thankful that love of liberty is catching.

It is spreading among the women like an epidemic—a benign,

grateful epidemic, if you please.

Except among a few extremists who are lacking in equilibrium, there is no hostility to the men involved in the matter. Emancipated women know that man is a victim of present conditions the same as woman. They know that freedom for woman will lift man as well as woman to a higher plane.

The family can never be a success so long as man and woman sustain the relation of master and slave.

The family will become a source of serene joy when the man and the woman become comrades and equals.

This can only come about when it becomes a matter of course that the woman shall earn her own living the same as the man, receiving her own income. Then, she will be released from dependence upon him.

Socialism will give all women this opportunity. It will give all women a full and free opportunity to earn their own living, with brief hours of labor, at occupations suitable to them, and to receive their full earnings.

It will place woman on an equality with man, both politically and industrially.

It will abolish child slavery.

It will abolish overwork.

It will abolish poverty.

Then, prostitution, both legal and otherwise, will cease, because there will be no women driven to it.

Women will no longer be compelled to marry for homes.

Marriages will be entered into for love alone.

These changes will lift the family out of the mire.

They will have a marvelous uplifting effect upon women.

They will have a marvelous uplifting effect upon men.

They will have a marvelous uplifting effect upon children. The children will be children of love, not of lust. They will be welcome children. They will have loving, not irritating, mothers and fathers—for the causes of irritation will be gone.

These changes will raise the relations of men and women to a plane of purity so much higher than the present that we will look back upon the present conditions with shame and horror.

TELEPHONE COMPANY IS VERY OBSTINATE

San Francisco, Nov. 2.—The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company will not recognize the Telephone Operators' union under any circumstances, General Manager Fullerton said in turning down Mediator Reed's proposal.

TO CUT OUT THE PLEASURE AUTOS

Washington, Nov. 2.—The steel and coal shortage is forcing a curtailment of the manufacture of pleasure automobiles and a readjustment of the whole automobile industry, it is announced. The war industries board and motor manufacturers are discussing the situation.

GOVERNMENT MEDIATOR'S FINDINGS ABOUT THE TELEPHONE STRIKE

San Francisco, Nov. 1.—Basis for settlement of the telephone strike was announced late this afternoon when Verner Z. Reed, the federal mediator, announced his findings and submitted them to the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company and representatives of the union for signature.

The government mediator's findings provide:

For recognition of the girls' union by the company—a concession to the strikers.

Acceptance of a wage advance of 12½ per cent by the electrical workers—a concession to the company, and

Arbitration of the other questions, including the permanent wage scale.

Local Notes

FOR A MILITARY EXAMINATION.

The local board for Clatsop county will soon call 49 men, in order to fill the assigned quota. The call

AMERICAN SAILORS KILLED BY A SUB

Washington, Nov. 2.—Seven were killed and one is missing, when the American transport Finland, was submarined, the navy department announced.

DYNAMITINGS IN ANACONDA.

Anacoda, Mont., Nov. 1.—(U. P.)—Three mysterious explosions—one last night which damaged the LaPage building and two early today which wrecked the front of Tony Dira's saloon—are being closely investigated by the police today. No one was hurt.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CENSOR

Why are we not at war with Austria? That is what Theodore Roosevelt wants to know. He asks about it in the Kansas City Star, and declares that neither he nor anyone else can answer satisfactorily; that "a limited liability war, in which we fight Germany ourselves and pay money to Italy and Russia to enable them to fight Austria and Turkey, savors of sharp practice, and not of statesmanship. It is a good rule either to stay out of war or go into it, but not to try to do both things at once."

Roosevelt is certainly a fearless person. Here he is saying we got into the war wrongly, and from wrong motives, a few days after Postmaster General Bursleson warned the entire press of the country that he would not tolerate any newspaper saying anything like that. But Roosevelt says it, and, worse still, says our entrance into the war savors of "sharp practice." Evidently he is not afraid that the Kansas City Star will be deprived of second-class mail privileges; or is it that he does not care, or is working to that end?

But there is still worse to come. He says farther:

Moreover, this matter squarely tests our sincerity when we announced that we went to war to make the world safe for democracy. The phrase must have been used in a somewhat oratorical fashion, anyhow, because we have ourselves, within the last year or two made the world entirely unsafe for democracy in the two small and weak republics of Haiti and San Domingo. Therefore, the phrase must have meant that we intended to make the world safe for well-behaved nations, great or small, to enjoy their liberty and govern themselves as they wished. If it did not mean this, the phrase was much worse than a mere flourish, for it was deliberately deceitful.

Now, we would never dare to say anything like this and flout the omnipotent censor. But Roosevelt seems to have no respect whatever for him. How does he do it and get away with it? Where is there a Socialist paper today that would dare to say as Roosevelt does—that "we have been guilty of a rhetorical sham when we pledged ourselves to make the world safe for democracy?"

We earnestly call the attention of the postmaster general to these disloyal expressions. What is he going to do about it? He declared that he would treat all newspapers on an absolutely equal footing. Now, let us see him make good with Roosevelt and the Kansas City Star. (N. Y. Call)

LOVE IS THE RAINBOW

Love is the only bow on life's dark cloud. It is the morning and the evening star. It shines upon the babe, and sheds its radiance on the quiet tomb. It is the mother of art, the inspirer of poet, patriot and philosopher. It is the air and light to tired souls—bulder of every home, kindler of every fire on every hearth. It was the first to dream of immortality. It fills the world with melody—for music is the voice of love. Love is the magician, the enchanter that changes worthless things to joy and makes right royal kings and queens of common clay. It is the perfume of that wondrous flower, the heart, and without that sacred passion, that divine swoon, we are less than beasts, but with it, earth is heaven and we are gods.—(Ingersol.)

A sad case of misplaced confidence in his own physical perfection is instanced in the case of the resident of the west end who had all of his teeth pulled, in order to escape military service under the new Military Service Act. Having thus fortified himself, he applied for medical examination, and was turned down on account of flat feet.

EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW

The law, in its majestic equality, forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal bread.—Anacle France.

Under capitalism, success means the efficient exploitation of one's fellows.

will include men whose order numbers are from 162 to 200.

The district board has notified of having certified as eligible for military service, Harvey Beeman, Frank E. Davis, and Henry Jokiperä, of this county.

GREAT DEMAND FOR MEN.

Closer tooting of the military harrow so that it will take in almost every man of "military age" who happens to be in its way, is indicated by the letters which the local board for Clatsop county has sent to certain men, requiring them to re-appear before the board and show cause why they should not be certified to the army.

One of these summons has been received by Comrade Levi Hietala, a printer with the Toveri, who was in the first call and was exempted on the grounds that he has a wife and a child to support and, also, because he does not have "first papers." Under the military service law, both of these grounds are valid causes for exemption, wherefore it is probable that some new device of interpretation is to be expected.

ANOTHER SEARCH.

A number of authorities invaded Uniontown last night in quest of unregistered men. They visited two or three poolrooms and tackled those not having the green card with them. A couple of young men who, as attendants at the dance given by the Bee Hive store employes Wednesday night, had come to the Finnish Socialist Club hall to gather their belongings, were taken in tow, but they were released on the way to the police station.

Five men were taken to the police headquarters last evening for not having the registration cards, but everyone was able to give a satisfactory explanation, and they were released. Some of those apprehended in the "streets and alleys" were ordered to appear before the immigration inspector in the morning to show their cards. It is said that the "regulations" provide for carrying the card about the person at all times.

WANT TEACHERS BETTER PAID.

At the meeting of the Parent Teachers Association yesterday afternoon at the Shively building, the membership went on record as favoring an increase of salaries for teachers in the local public schools. Supt. Hussong stated that a recent survey of the schools of the state showed Astoria to be very near the bottom of the list in the prices paid its teachers. He pointed out that the best teaching talent could be expected to pass Astoria up if salaries were not increased.

NOT QUITE SO FOOLISH.

It is hardly likely that residents "flocked" to the postoffice yesterday to buy two-cent stamps before the price advanced, as some reports have it. It was the price of letters and not the price of stamps which increased at 12 o'clock last night, as most everyone knows. There may have been two or three poor wits who thought the opposite, but certainly there are not flocks of people in this town so backward.

KILBURN CRASHES INTO DOCK.

The steamer Kilburn, of the Crowley and Mahoney line, plowed into the Sanborn dock about 12 feet yesterday afternoon while attempting a landing. She received a puncture near the bow which is being repaired before she can load out for San Francisco.

The cause of the mishap is laid to the fact that a big scow of gravel moored above the Sanborn dock created a strong inshore eddy by action of the out-going tide, making it difficult to bring the ship side on to the wharf. Captain Wayland attempted to dock the Kilburn nose on, as the only feasible course, and with the above result.

GUILTY OF HAVING IT.

In the trial of Walter Malone, charged with having liquor in his possession in violation of law, the jury, yesterday afternoon in the circuit court, found a verdict of guilty. This decision is regarded as a precedent. Anyone having liquor about his premises now had better drink it or pour it out. That is, unless he is a power in the community, in which case, of course, his premises are not so apt to be searched.

LOCK 'EM UP.

Patrolman Carlson arrested an auto driver last Wednesday on the charge of being in an intoxicated condition while driving a car. This is business. Children's lives have been menaced enough by sober drivers on our streets without having any drunken fools running loose with autos.