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Cladeks Column

EDITED BY

V. CLADEK

The things you are told that Socialism stands for are the very things that are disgusting you with conditions today. You are told that Socialists believe in free love (lust). But that is what you have now, and that is why you think of it. If this system does not favor free love why are there so many prostitutes? Who seduced the 400,000 fallen women if not republicans and democrats? Who but the capitalists have money enough to hire women who are not their wives? You are now voting for a system that upholds and protects the system of prostitution or free love. And you are such fools that you really believe Socialists favor such crimes when, if you had any sense, you would know that Socialists have never been in power to make laws, while your old parties have. We are controlled by capitalists and we have the free love business legalized and protected by republicans and democrats who are now in office. Socialists would make laws governing employment that would give women as much for their labor as men, and employment for all at such good reward that no woman would be forced by poverty to sell herself. The tens of thousands of republicans and democrats who make fortunes out of the white slave traffic are opposed to Socialism because it would put them out of such criminal business. Socialism stands for purity of the race, a condition that has never yet been achieved. Most people have some female kin who has fallen, and all of us have male kin who have fallen, and they are worse than the victims of their lust. You are condemning us for the very sins you are all the time committing. You make good old party voters. It is so easy to get office and graft with such supporters.

Socialism seems to be about the liveliest wire in the nation just now. You can't pick up a paper but your eye lights on some cussing or discussing of it. That is the way the chattel slave question came up. For years but few papers would even discuss it, but the people were taking it up and soon the whole press and nation were in the hot of it. Socialism is going to make more discussion than ever did chattel slavery—and is destined to make greater changes on the nation than did that institution, or its abolition. There is one thing certain, the ignorant opponents of Socialism cannot hurt it by their condemnation, and if they read up to find out what it really is, we will convert a majority and control the state. Now you can make the most of it. The future is ours as certain as day. We smile at your lack of knowing what is going on.

Socialism in America seems to be a protest against the startling inequalities in human society; against too much work and too little play for the majority; against the fact, or alleged fact, that 1 per cent of the people hold 54 per cent of the wealth and 50 per cent of the people have nothing whatever above their meagre wages; against the fact, or alleged fact, that not less than 10,000,000 people in the United States are too poor to obtain sufficient nourishing food.

Glib old politicians told the voters that if the g. o. p. was again voted into power the Gong of Prosperity would fill the land with music and plenty. But the Grind of Poverty is causing needless weeping and waiving and suicides by the thousand. Happy homes are ruthlessly broken up, and crowded slums and prisons and overcrowded poor houses are the order of the capitalistic system.

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The Alaskan telegraph systems are owned by the United States government and as a consequence the rates are only one-fourth those charged in the states, and a still further reduction is being planned. This is what it means to have the government serve the people, service at cost.

Socialism is ignored only by the ignorant.

A LOVE DRAMA.

The Characters Were a King and an Actress.

By EVELYN WITWOTH.

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At Posenhoffen, on Lake Stannen-berg, in the Bavarian Tyrol, stands a chateau in which lived Sophia, daughter of the Duchess Ludovica. Posenhoffen is also memorable as the birthplace of the late Elizabeth, wife of Franz Joseph, emperor of Austria. It is there that the emperor when a young man, having gone to propose for the hand of Elizabeth's older sister, saw a girl in short dresses, running about the grounds, fell in love with her and asked her hand instead. The change was reluctantly granted by the father of the two girls, and Franz Joseph took Elizabeth back to Vienna. From that marriage sprang Rudolph, crown prince of Austria. It was he and the Baroness Vetsera who gave the world probably the most tragic love affair that has ever involved an heir to a throne.

There is another story of a royal lover whose ladylove lived on Lake Stannen-berg. This was King Louis of Bavaria. His affair did not end in a tragedy, but came near being one.

Louis, who in his youth was especially handsome, was of a peculiarly fiery disposition. He was betrothed to the Princess Sophia, and the match, acceptable as it was for reasons of state, was, in addition, a lovers' mating. The royal pair were often together at Posenhoffen, frequently sailing over the bosom of the lake in view of the snowy peaks of the Tyrolean Alps.

While in Munich the king met a very beautiful actress. This woman, whom we shall call Gretchen, was captivated by the handsome young king, falling desperately in love with him. She knew that he had recently been betrothed to Sophia and that his heart went with his hand. Gretchen formed

in possession of another a gift he had given his betrothed.

It is only in real stories that people violate every doctrine of probability. One would suppose that any man in his senses, seeing his present in possession of another, would have made an investigation. Louis did not even ask the guardsman how it came by the trinket. Perhaps the doctrines of probability do not apply in cases of jealous lovers. At any rate, there are many instances to show that ordinary sense and common prudence do not. King Louis, furious at the apparent evidence that his beloved had been untrue to him, wrote her a scathing letter breaking off their engagement.

The letter fell like a bolt from heaven. It is a question whether disappointment, wounded love or indignation at the unpardonable treatment for which no explanation was given most affected the girl, who from having loved and received the love of a king was suddenly cast off. Such misunderstandings usually become more complicated and less explainable at every step. The second scene in the drama was even more deplorable than the first. The princess was astounded to learn that her reader had fled from her and taken up her abode within the limits of the royal park.

This began another error. As the king believed that the princess had given the guardsman his present, so the princess believed that the reason the king had broken with her was that he might possess the actress. This led to a third complication. Sophia returned to the king all the presents he had sent her except the half hoop of turquoises, which she could not find and supposed had been lost.

The evening after the receipt of his gifts the king and the ex-actress-ex-reader were out on the lake. The boat, shaped like a swan, was fitted up in royal style. The moon shone down upon them, its soft light intensifying the girl's beauty. That they might be alone the oarsmen had been left on shore, the king having himself pulled the boat out on to the lake.

But Louis' mind was on the princess, with whom he had been so wroth and who, instead of suing for forgiveness for the offense of which he had accused her, had broken the last link of the chain that had bound them together by returning his gifts. Moreover, he had noted that the half hoop which had made all the trouble was not among the gifts he had received. He spoke of this to his companion.

Gretchen came to a sudden resolution.

(Continued next week)

The Wedding Day

A Tale of New Amsterdam

By HELEN INGLESART

(Copyright, 1910, by American Press Association.)

(Continued from last week)



"I want you for my husband, dearest."

The next morning Katrina went to her father and claimed that the 15th of the month had passed while the council were debating and she was now entitled to marry whom she pleased.

The old man was satisfied that it was now at least the 10th of the month, and he was not quite sure but it was the 17th. Katrina's mother got a mixed in her calculations that her reckoning was lost entirely. The father, being satisfied that whatever was the date the day appointed had passed, felt bound in honor to permit his daughter to have her own way.

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