

THE WORKINGMAN'S PAPER

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IN BARBAROUS SPOKANE

Interview with Escaped Prisoner—First Authentic News from Our Correspondent, Foster—Wears Ball and Chain and Works On Rock Pile

Editor's Note.—The following interview was conducted by the editor of "The Workingman's Paper" with a logger who had made his escape four days before from the rock pile at Spokane. He is now a fugitive from justice, and does not care to have his name published. He is well known and his testimony is reliable. This man was convicted by the notorious Judge Mann for the "crime" of being a member of the I. W. W., and present in Spokane. This interview was taken down by a shorthand reporter word for word.)

Q. Were you in the sweat-box yourself?
A. Yes, I was there for about 48 hours.
Q. How many were there in there?
A. Six, when I went in; and 28 went in that day.
Q. How long had those six been in there?
A. Branstler, the writer of Red Card songs, was in there for about three weeks steady. Nelson was in about the same time; Nelson was a kid of 18 years or so, who laughed at Sergeant Miller in the Franklin school, saying, "If home was anything like this, I would never have left it." For this pleasantry he was stuck into the dungeon. Morse, who had been in ten days, a supposed committeeman; Appleby, also a supposed member of the executive committee, had been in about ten days. Amundsen, who had been a committeeman a year before, was in about 18 days. Foss, another committeeman, was there. Nearly all these men had been taken right after the hunger strike and put into this dungeon, without being given any good food, so that they were very weak when they went in, the idea being to make them "cough-up" and tell what they knew.
Q. How large was this cell?
A. As near as I could judge, 7 x 9 and about 15 feet high. I know this because when I lay on the floor it was about a foot wider than my length.
Q. How many men do you say were packed in when you went in?
A. Altogether, 32.
Q. 7 x 9 floor space makes 63 square feet on the floor. Now, you say there were 32 men in there? That means two square feet to a man? That is right, is it?
A. Yes, that is right.
Q. You say it was 15 feet high?
A. I think so.
Q. With 63 feet of floor space and 15 feet high, that would make a total space of 945 cubic feet, or about 30 cubic feet to a man. That is correct, is it?
A. Yes.
Q. What opening for the admission of air was there in that dungeon?
A. Only the door.
Q. Was there no window of any kind?
A. No.
Q. Was there an opening in the door for the officers to look through?
A. There was an opening in the brick wall for the officers to look through?
Q. How large?
A. About 10 x 6 inches. This was not open except when they passed something through or wanted to look through.
Q. Then do I understand that there was no ventilation in this place except around the cracks in the door?
A. When the door was closed there was none. Now, there were really two doors, the inside one of bars, the outside door closed like the door of a safe.
Q. Did they keep both of these doors locked?
A. Well, the barred door all the time, and the outside door most of the time.
Q. Was this dungeon heated?
A. Yes, one steam pipe, I should judge a four-inch pipe. This pipe went through across.
Q. Was steam on in this all the time?
A. Yes; always hot.
Q. Were there any toilet arrangements?
A. Let me explain about that: There were no toilet arrangements in the cell, but if a man pounded about an hour the jailer would come and take him out to the toilet. If any of us went too often he would not let us go at all, and we were usually treated

to the filthiest string of language that you ever heard, especially by Jaller Nelson. The other one treated us pretty good.
Q. Was there no way of relieving nature in this cell?
A. No, except a little trap opening about four inches circular size, opening into an old sewer; this the boys came to use as a urinal. In the crowded condition, this meant the floor all around this hole gave off a constant stench.
Q. Were those six men very weak?
A. Yes; very weak and all sick.
Q. How did they manage to get so many as 32 into that cell?
A. Well, the barred door opened inward and the pressure from the inside made it hard to open. The men were one by one forced by the jailer back to get the door open and the new arrival squeezed through. Just as soon as a man got inside, the door snapped back from the pressure from within.
Q. How did you sleep?
A. We did not sleep.
Q. How long were you in there yourself?
A. Two nights and part of three days.
Q. Did nobody sleep all that time?
A. I don't know how they could, unless a man could sleep standing up.
Q. How about those six men who were so weak in there when you were put in?
A. Well, their case was worse; they were so weak that they could not stand up, and it really made it harder for themselves and the others, because they lay huddled up in the corners, and the pressure caused the men standing near them to be thrown over on top of them. Some were half standing and half lying down, and generally some of the weak fellows were underneath, through no fault of the strong ones, but they could not keep their feet so weak. Amundsen's teeth were loose, his gums were discolored and his legs were swelling up.
Q. Now, you say this place was always heated?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Were you forced to take your clothes off?
I will just explain this. The men, some of them, preferred to keep their clothes on because they really had not room to take them off or place to put them if they did, and in taking them off they would shove others down who were weaker.
Q. Was there no light in that place?
A. No.
Q. What, not a gas jet?
A. No, nothing.
Q. Then it was dark?
A. Sure it was dark—black.
Q. Let me repeat a question: I understood you there were over thirty men in a space 7 x 9 x 15, which would only give 30 cubic feet of air space to a man. Is that right?
A. Yes, that is right.
Q. Do you know how many cubic feet of air space is required by the health ordinances of Spokane?
A. No; I do not.
Q. Well, I will tell you, as a physician, that the ordinances of Seattle require 512 cubic feet of air space for each person in all sleeping apartments. That means your cell dungeon sweatbox could only hold two people according to the Seattle ordinance, which is probably the same as the Spokane ordinance, as the cities have the same ordinances everywhere. Now, you had thirty people where only two people were allowed by the Spokane city ordinances.
A. The men who were up against the steam pipe had a time of it, I tell you, and those immediately over the trap. If anybody made a kick to the police and said they would smother, the jailers generally remarked, "Go and smother, you son of a b—; we don't give a damn whether you die or not. We have a crematory reserved on the other side for such as you. No, body cares a damn for the likes of you." I never thought that men could be so brutal as I found out in that jail.
Q. What amount of food did you get while in the sweatbox?
A. Twice in 24 hours we had one-quarter of a five-cent loaf of white bread, none too sweet.
Q. How about those six weak, sick ones: did you divide up with them?
A. Yes, sometimes. When we strong ones first went in we divided

some of our bread with them. I remember Morse carefully broke up the piece of bread I gave him into six small pieces and passed it around among the others who were sick like himself. I once saw them divide up a piece of bologna that had been smuggled in, no bigger than your two fingers—divide it up into six small pieces—and pass it around among the others. I never saw anything like it, the way these men stood by each other.
Q. Have you anything to say about the effect of this bread and water diet upon the health of the men?
A. One of them told me that he went 27 days without a movement of the bowels. I could hardly believe it.

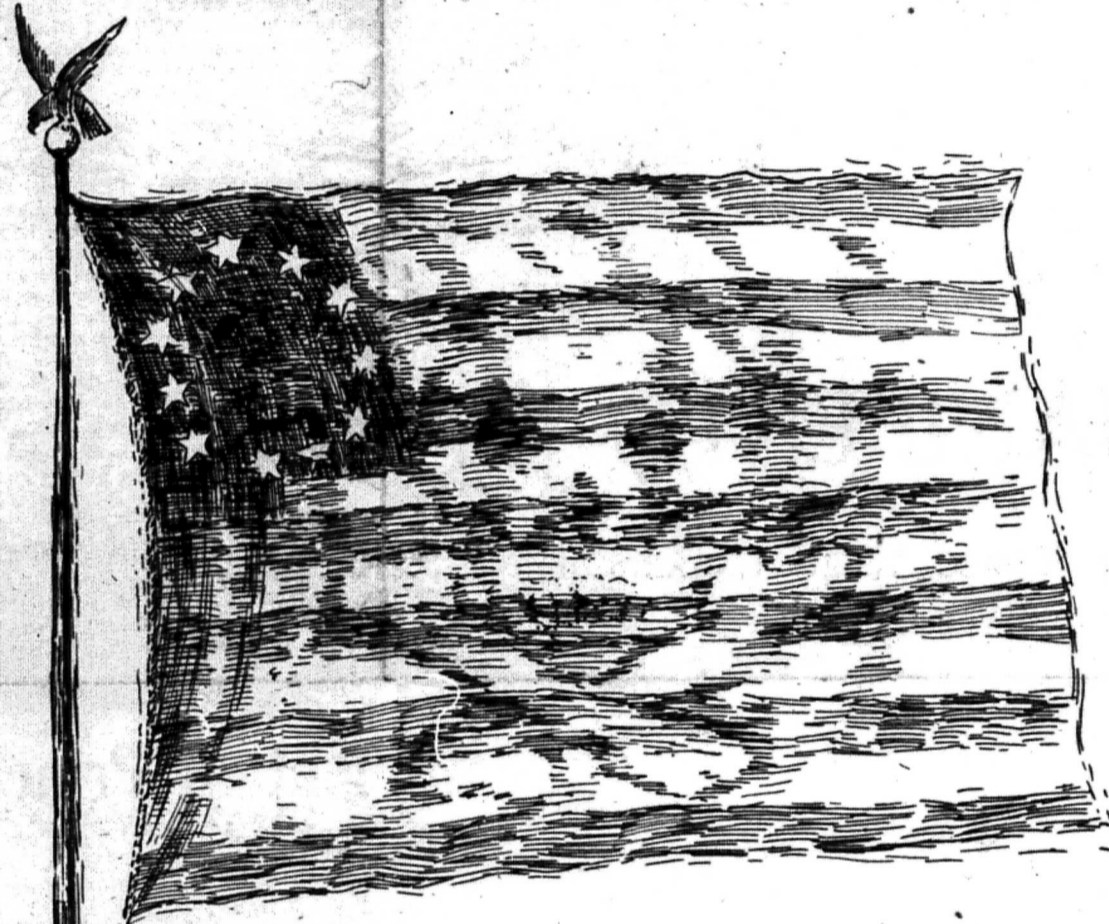
but others in the Franklin school gave similar reports. I know of my own knowledge, one man in the school who never left the room to go to the closet in 14 days. I think the men would have been better off without the bread at all.
Q. What sort of a trial did you have?
A. I was arrested with four or five other fellows at the postoffice by an officer in plain clothes—a young man. At my trial, another officer, an old man, swore he arrested me at the Polson building. I do not know where the Polson building is; I was never there.
Q. Why did you not object?

A. What was the use? I was bound to be sentenced anyway.
Q. How long were you on the chain gang?
A. Four and a half days.
Q. How long were you sentenced for?
A. Thirty days and a \$100-fine. I was altogether 27 days in, 23 days in the Franklin school until we received orders from the outside to go on the chain gang.
Q. What sort of chains did they put on you?
A. Well, the men are chained together in pairs. A short chain, I think it is about 15 inches long, attached to anklets put on the right leg

of one man and the left leg of the other man.
Q. Is not that too short to walk with comfort?
A. Yes, especially on frozen, slippery ground. If one man slips he is liable to pull the other man down.
Q. What other chain did you have on?
A. Well, now, some supposed to be very bad, like Newspaper Correspondent Foster, and those who went in a second time after doing 33 days in the Franklin school, were compelled to wear a ball and chain besides being chained to each other.
Q. Describe this ball and chain?
A. There was a short chain six or

eight inches long, running from the ankle or shackle on the leg to a heavy iron ball some five inches in diameter and weighing about 15 or 20 pounds. Attached to this ball was another short chain with a ring in the end, so that the man could walk by picking up his ball and carrying it on his finger by the ring.
Q. Then, I understand that Foster, correspondent of this paper, is now working on the chain gang, chained by one leg to another man, and chained by the other leg to a 20-pound iron ball, and thus chained he is expected to work at breaking rock from large pieces into small pieces?
A. Yes, and shoveling it up and carrying it, chained in this fashion over that rough ground.
Q. How many guards had you?
A. Three guards.
Q. Are they armed?
A. Armed with guns—revolvers.
Q. Were there men in for criminal actions chained like Foster and the I. W. W.?
A. No; there were two men in for assault with intent to kill, but only had the ball on and were not chained to each other, and another man in for indecent assault upon a boy, who did not have any chain at all.
Q. Do you know for what Foster was arrested?
A. He was arrested for standing on the street—on the sidewalk.
Q. We, here in Seattle, have been unable to find out anything about Foster's arrest. Did you work alongside of him?
A. Yes.
Q. Did he tell you about his arrest?
A. Yes.
Q. Was he selling papers?
A. No.
Q. Was he speaking on the streets?
A. No.
Q. Was he interfering with the officers?
A. No.
Q. Was he encouraging speakers?
A. No; they needed no encouragement, they were anxious to get in—volunteers.
Q. Did Foster tell you who arrested him?
A. Yes; Detective Burns, I think it was, walked up to him and said, "You might as well come, too, Foster."
Q. Do you mean to say that he was doing nothing at all when he was arrested?
A. That is what he told me—he was only standing in the crowd looking on, like the others.
Q. Do you know anything about Foster's trial?
A. I think he was charged with "disorderly conduct."
Q. Do you know whether he made any defense himself?
A. I forget; I am not sure.
Q. Then that is all you can tell us about Foster?
A. Well, he was taken into the chief's office, and the prosecuting attorney, Pugh, was there, and some others; I forget who.
Q. What did they ask him? Do you know that?
A. They asked him if he would go about his business and not help the I. W. W. any more; if they let him go. He refused. Afterwards Judge Richardson, the lawyer sent by his paper, brought Foster the same offer of liberty. Again he refused to go.
Q. Did you see Korthagen and Holland, the United Wage Workers who went from Seattle two weeks ago?
A. Yes, they were in the Franklin school with me for three or four days.
Q. Were they chained up, too?
A. Yes, they were chained up.
Q. Did they have ball and chain?
A. I do not think it; they were not so "bad" as Foster.
Q. Did the men on the city chain gang where you and Foster were do very much work for the city?
A. I do not know about the rest, but they did not make five cents out of my labor the four days I was there.
Q. What is your opinion as to the outcome of the present fight? The capitalist papers are claiming a victory.
A. I was put in jail six hours after I reached Spokane, and I stayed there until the day I left—I hit the grit and have been coming ever since—so that I did not know very much about the fight outside; but it is safe to say that the I. W. W. will continue the fight until it is won.
Q. You were in 27 days in all?
A. Yes.
Q. How much did you weigh when you went in?
A. 187 pounds. I weighed myself in Seattle three days after I got out, and I weighed 164 pounds.
Q. Did they take you from the

THE FLAG OF THE MASTERS



**"UNION MEN,
WHERE FLOATS THIS
FLAG IN EVERY STRIKE?"**

THE FLAG OF THE SLAVES

THE RED FLAG

"Tune: "Maryland, My Maryland."

By JAMES CONNELL.

The People's Flag is deepest red,
It shrouded off our martyred dead;
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold
Their life-blood dyed its every fold.

Chorus:

Then raise the scarlet standard high,
Beneath its folds we'll live and die;
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,
We'll keep the red flag flying here.

Look round! the Frenchman loves its blaze,
The sturdy German chants its praise;
In Moscow's vaults its hymns are sung,
Chicago swells its surging song.

It waved above our infant might
When all ahead seemed dark as night;
It witnessed many a deed and vow,
We will not change its color now.

It suits today the meek and base,
Whose minds are fixed on self and place,
To cringe beneath the rich man's frown,
And haul that sacred emblem down.

With heads uncovered, swear we all,
To bear it onward till we fall;
Come dungeons dark, or gallows grim,
This song shall be our parting hymn!

Is it treason to sing it?

No, there is no "Treason against the Flag" recognized by the United States Constitution or statutes. The exact words are: "Treason against the United States shall consist ONLY in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

It is not "Treason" to march under "The Red Flag," or under any other banner, like the emblems of the Masonic order, or A. O. U. W., or like the "Red Cross" flag.

There is no more "Treason" in carrying a red flag or in singing its praises than a white flag. In fact, the red flag signifies and prophesies more "peace on earth" than the white flag ever can.

There is no more "Treason," either, in criticizing the "Stars and Stripes" than there is in criticizing the United States government. There is no legal "Lèse Majesté" in this country—not yet. If the government goes wrong, or is wrong, citizens are free to say so.

We have a "perfect right" to show that this republic is an imperfect and temporary form of government. There is nothing treasonable in holding and avowing and proving that the present form of government is a class government, conducted in the interests of the Capitalist class and against the interests of the Proletarian class.

Nor is there anything treasonable in the Proletarian class adopting a flag of their own, since they find the Stars and stripes are the flag of a Capitalist class government which oppresses them.

The ONLY treason is the "overt act" of "levying war" against the United States government or some State government, or "adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort."

This Red Flag Song contains nothing but the noblest sentiments, nobly expressed. It is the "Marseillaise" of the new American Revolution. The workingman who can pronounce it's stirring call without feeling his blood leap in response is an unawakened clod. It is a song of International Patriotism. It has sprung out of the great class conflict now being waged the world over.

It breathes a higher patriotism even for America than the outworn phrases born of earlier capitalism. It is because the Capitalist class have degraded the Stars and Stripes by employing the government it is supposed to represent to imprison and shoot and beat the Wage class, that a new flag, really representing the "People" of the future, and the wider and truer patriotism of the present, has been flung to the breeze with the dauntless sentiment—

"With heads uncovered, swear we all
To bear it onward till we fall!"

You cannot meet a song like that with senseless and "thundering" denunciation of "Treason." Force cannot master Freedom. You must heed an organization and a class which marches onward under a flag and a song like that.

It is a Class Flag unfurled in a Class War. The question is, Which Class represents America best?

The Capitalist class, which has degraded the Stars and Stripes till it waves over soldiers and police and courts who tyrannize over workingmen—is that class patriotic and truly American? Or is the Proletarian class of fifty millions now awakening to consciousness of its interests and power and mission in the world's development, and raising "The People's Flag of Deepest Red" as the new hope of International Brotherhood, is not this class and this flag and this hope the only really patriotic thing in America?

Continued on Page 4

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This Sunday paper, for which there has been a strong demand, will contain a complete condensation of the week. Being, therefore, partly of the nature of a weekly periodical it will be able to circulate to every part of the Union.

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WAGE-WORKERS PARTY

Resolutions of Local Seattle, S. P. of Wash.

To the Members of the Socialist Party of Washington:

Whereas, We have learned through years of bitter experience in the Socialist Party, that but little effective work can be done as long as the membership is composed of members of classes other than the working class, and

Whereas, The Socialist Party is dominated and controlled by the Middle Class, as was proved by the National referendum C; and has proved itself totally inadequate to perform the mission of a Working Class Party, and

Whereas, The word Socialist is being used by all manner of freaks and reformers, and

Whereas, For all practical purposes the Socialist Party of Washington has ceased to exist; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Local Seattle in regular meeting assembled declares itself as standing for the revolutionary principles of Scientific Socialism; and be it further

Resolved, That Local Seattle take the initiative steps and hereby form itself into a party composed exclusively of Proletarians as defined in the Communist Manifesto, to be known as the United Wage Workers of Washington; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge all locals and members that stand for a Wage Workers' Party to join us in this movement; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the different locals in the State of Washington. Dated Oct. 15, 1909.

LOCAL SEATTLE.
 JOS. S. BISCAI, Sec.

MANIFESTO

Of The United Wage Workers of Washington

To the Proletarians of Washington:

For more than nine years there has been a struggle in the Socialist Party of Washington between Proletarian Tactics and Middle-Class Tactics—between Revolutionary Socialism and Reform Socialism.

At first, at the time Joseph Gilbert, then State Organizer, went through the state in 1900 calling upon the farmers to come into the party and take its control away from the wage workers, the Proletarian opposition, while aggressive and effective, was not far-reaching, and the success won by Gilbert bore fruit in numerous farmers' locals which in the course of time consistently stood in the pathway of the progress of revolutionary principles.

All through this struggle members of both classes have been on both sides. Many Wage Workers have supported Middle-Class Tactics because of their lack of knowledge of economics, or of the Class struggle, or because of their habit of dependence on those "above" them to do their thinking.

On the other hand, some members of the Middle-Class have seen with a clear vision the Class struggle in society and the mission of the Wage Worker in securing his own emancipation.

With the help of those members of the Middle-Class who stood with them, and in the face of the opposition of both Wage Workers and Middle-Class who strove for Reform Tactics, the Wage Workers succeeded in building up the strongest state party of any in the country. At the height of its strength this party had about 1,300 dues paying members, and in the neighborhood of 100 locals.

Though there has been strife and dissension for nine years, it was not strong enough to arrest the growth of the organization until a little over a year ago, when tools of the Middle Class influence secured control of the State Executive Committee. From the time of the seizure of this Executive Committee, controlled by Smith, Barth and male, a persistent and systematic effort has continued to tear down the work of eight years or organization in the interests of the Wage Class and to "broaden" the work of the party till it should compass "all classes."

After nearly a year of inactivity, holding sessions twice each month which were taken up with the presentation and hearing of senseless "charges" against faithful members of the party made by non-members, a meeting of the entire State Committee was called on April 18, 1909, to try D. Burgess for misappropriating funds of the party. At this meeting, taking advantage of the absence of two members of the committee who stood for the Wage Class, State Secretary Krueger was unconstitutionally removed from office without a trial, by a vote of 7 to 6, and his place filled by W. H. Waynick, a landlord.

Following this, a state convention was held at Everett, July 4-5, 1909. Many Wage Workers, delegates to this convention, stayed away because of the necessity of holding their jobs, and in cases where Middle-Class alternates were elected, these were present. A preponderance of this element at the organization of the convention made easy, in absolute violation of the constitution, the admission of other delegates representing locals that had been dead for months, thus making their control of the convention certain. A further violation in the adoption of a rule suppressing free debate compelled the Proletarian delegates to leave the convention hall.

On July 12, 1909, the State Committee met and removed Waynick as Secretary by a vote of 8 to 0, at the same time reinstating Krueger by the same vote. Waynick refused to recognize this action and absconded with the records of the office and remained in hiding for some weeks. An appeal to the courts to prevent him using the name after he had been removed from the office was successful.

A resolution declaring all the acts of the Everett convention illegal was presented for referendum by six locals and submitted in due form for a vote of the party. At this point the National Organization, absolutely controlled by the Middle-Class element, stepped in. Ignoring our State Constitution and the National Constitution, the

National Executive Committee continued to recognize Waynick as the State Secretary and even went so far, when Waynick was enjoined from acting by the court, as to carry on a referendum in the state over the heads of the State Committee and the regular State Secretary, Krueger.

About this same time, September 7, 1909, the Party in the Nation, by a vote of two to one, decided to withdraw that part of the Platform declaring for the Collective Ownership of Land, as well as all other means of production and distribution for the express purpose of appealing to the farmers and the small land owners in the cities.

Though put aside by the National Officers the Socialist Party of Washington, through its legal officials, continued to function as the Wage Workers political expression until the adoption of this "land amendment" by the National Party. When that occurred work stopped. The name Socialist Party had become a stench in the nostrils of the Working Class. Many who have worked in the Proletarian ranks in this state for years have dropped out, and let the work go.

Only in Seattle, and one or two other places, is there anything being done. So far as the party organization is concerned, it has gone by the board. There is no Socialist Party in this state now.

But the adoption of the amendment to the platform discarding the demand for the collective ownership of land is only one of the evidences of the departure from the revolutionary standpoint and the adoption of a reformist program. The raising of the salaries of national organizers from \$3.00 and expenses to \$4.00 and expenses a day; the concentration of effort in the farming communities; the decision against the party in this state MERELY BECAUSE IT WAS PROLETARIAN, and a hundred other instances go to show that the National Party has ceased to stand for Socialism and has become the exponent of a diluted form of Populism.

These conditions require a remedy. We, whose names are underlined, are locals and members who have upheld the Proletarian position in the Socialist Party for years. We are Wage Workers, every one of us. We are convinced that much of the strife and contention of the past years, while it has served a purpose in educating us, has, without disparaging those Middle-Class comrades who have stood by us through thick and thin in so many battles, been due to the presence in our ranks of those whose economic interests were different from ours. The National Socialist Party has become hopelessly Middle-Class and is shamelessly sacrificing principle for the purpose of securing the votes of the land owning class. We have come to the conclusion that the only remedy is a party composed only of Wage Workers, whose interests, being identical, will cause them to act as a unit against capital in every fight, both political and industrial.

Conscious of the power that we, the Wage Class, possess; and secure in the knowledge that it is our historic mission to abolish capital and emancipate ourselves from the galling chains of Wage Slavery, we call upon you, Proletarians of the State of Washington; you who realize that your interests are the same as the interests of all other Wage Workers; you who realize that an injury to one Wage Worker is the concern of all Wage Workers; you who have "nothing to lose but your chains," to unite with us under the banner of the UNITED WAGE WORKERS OF WASHINGTON, subscribing to the following Statement of Principles and pledging unwavering support to every effort of the Wage Class to better its condition:

Statement of Principles

The written history of the civilized world is a history of the exploitation of the many by the few, of the robbery of a producing class by an appropriating class.

Either as slaves owned by a master; as serfs bound to the soil, or as wage-earners beggared by competition with others of their kind, the producing masses of civilization have always been able to obtain for their toil little more than a bare existence.

At different times and at different places conditions for the workers have been better than at others, and the history of modern civilization proves that every advantage gained, either in the shortening of the hours of toil for a day's labor, the increasing of wages or the bettering of conditions under which the laborer worked, has been brought about by the organization of the wage-earners and their open rebellion and active resistance against the oppression of their employers.

Therefore do we, the United Wage-Workers of Washington, in order to better our condition and the conditions of our class, make this Declaration of Principles:

We are organized as an industrial body to back up by every means at hand, any and all organized or unorganized struggles of the wage earners in their resistance against the encroachments of the capitalist class.

We maintain that an injury to one wage-earner is the concern of all wage-earners, and that our final aim and object is the destruction in any way possible of the present capitalistic method used in the production and distribution of wealth and the institution in its place of an industrial administration of society by the wage-working class.

We are organized as a political organization to nominate for office at every election, wage-earners, members of this organization, whose aim shall be, if elected, to weaken the powers of resistance of the capitalist state, and to assist in every way possible every rebellion of the wage-earners against their exploiters.

We expect no assistance from any other class in society, and have full confidence in ourselves and utterly repudiate any compromise or any coalition with others than wage-earners who are gaining their livelihood by working for wages and who are members of this organization.

United upon the political and upon the industrial field, we shall be ready to give successful battle to the organizations of capitalism, overthrowing their institutions and ushering in an industrial republic in which we can truthfully proclaim ourselves free citizens of the world.

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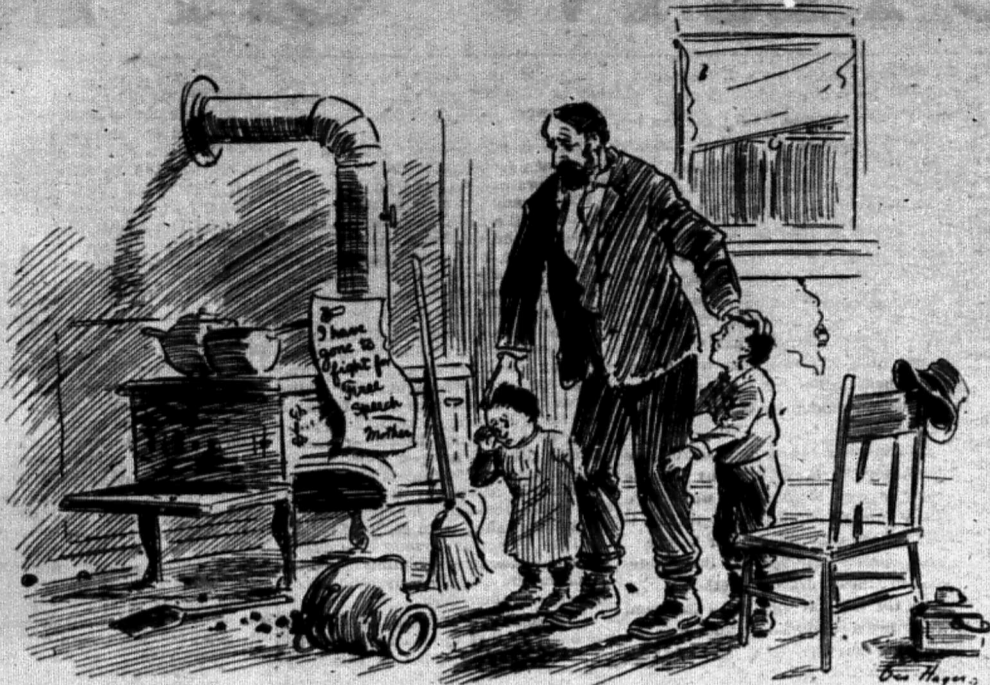
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WOMAN IN POLITICS



(From the "Post-Intelligencer," Republican Morning Daily, Seattle, Dec. 28.)

This cartoon makes a clever hit, more at Woman Suffrage than at Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Herman, who left Seattle for Spokane Dec. 27.

If we could have afforded it, we would have had a sequel picture made to accompany this one. In our sequel the surprised workman would be seated at his supper table, his two children alongside of him, all three with happy faces; and the father would be saying: "You've got a mother to be proud of, kids. She's gone to Spokane to fight for Free Speech. I'll be proud of that to my dying day."

For that's the way Emil Herman and Floyd Hyde feel about it.

THE SHADOW OF CHRISTMAS

By Ernest Poole

(This brief story was told by a doctor who works in a tenement section of the City of New York. It is no bright Christmas story—the bells ring out but once. It's only interest for Christmas day is the interest it would have for Christ.)

It's common enough—the doctor began—and I'll give you all I can remember. The trouble is that I am no writer and I've seen so many cases more or less like it that a good many details have slipped my mind. I'll give all I can.

Last year on Christmas eve—late, about 1 o'clock—a girl came into my office as I was closing up. She was young, slim, worn, her face so white that I took it for granted she was a patient. But she settled that with a quick, nervous laugh. She had a young sister "really sick" so sick that she wanted me to come at once. She could barely wait to get started.

They lived in a cheap furnished room—fourth floor back—with two windows looking into a court. I wish I could give you the room as it was. You might fill that in from what you know. Make it vivid. You can do that, of course, and still make it true. The point to be shown is this: The room was a desperate try at home. Bare enough, but clean. Furniture cheap and ugly—the landlady's taste. But the small things different, quite different, and arranged as to cover the ugliness. Some of the ugliness. On the whole, it failed. And the small woman touches made the attempt the more painful.

On the double bed lay the young sister. She was 16, but looked three years younger—small, thin and weak—a child. Her shoes were off and some of her clothes. She lay on her back, her hands opening and then clenching, her face twitching hard, her wide-open eyes staring up at the ceiling. When I tried to ask questions her only reply was a short, shaking laugh.

I turned to the older sister, who was 18. And she gave me the details of the case. While she talked she sat now stiff on a chair, then rose and moved about nervously. But her voice was quiet enough. She had herself well in hand. Only I wish I could put it all in her words, and in full, for she made it real, vividly real. Her story was plain and to the point. It ran about like this:

Their mother had died long ago. They had lived with their father, a clerk. He had died two years back, and since then this room had been their home.

Each had worked since the legal age of 14. One four years, the other two. They were in the same store. The older girl sold children's toys. The younger wrapped up parcels. Six and four dollars a week made their wages.

This money paid for rent, food and clothes. Room—\$3 a week; breakfast for two, 6 cents; lunch for two, 20 cents; supper for two 34 cents, on an average. Breakfast, coffee cooked over the gas. The other two meals were bought in lunchrooms. The total for meals was \$4.20 a week. Adding the rent made \$7.20. Carfare, when it rained, added 30 cents more, and made the average \$7.50. Of the \$2.50 left each girl spent \$1 a week on "laundry, clothes and amusements." Fifty cents a week had been saved. In two years they had saved not quite \$50—a brief illness having wiped out \$11.40. They were saving up to live in a "regular home."

The scheme for a home grew out of the girls' club they belonged to. It met one night a week. In this club they had joined with six other girls in a plan to save up and rent two small tenement flats—flats adjoining—and so make a regular home. Forty-eight dollars saved. They needed \$56. The Christmas season had come on. For the last six weeks they had worked overtime—with "supper money." At first only two nights a week till 10 o'clock. Then three nights—and in the last stretch six nights a week till 11 o'clock. One girl sold toys, the other wrapped 'em up. The pace was fast and never let up.

"Isn't that package of mine never coming? Can't you hurry it up?" The girl who wrapped 'em up grew sick. Not "really sick," but enough to make both sisters nervous. Three nights ago it grew so bad on the way home at 11 p. m. "she couldn't walk straight." Her sister had to help her.

They had faced the thing that night—faced the thing till 2 a. m. The objection to her quitting work was this: Last winter New York had 200,000 out of work. If she threw up her job she might not get it back. If she didn't, goodbye to that "regular home." They found a way out. The name of the way I needn't give. It was one of the worst of the patent medicine tonics. And the thing worked at first like a charm. She hardly needed meals even—and simply "sailed along" until the day before Christmas.

"Something began to happen inside" that afternoon. It happened more each hour. By 9 o'clock at night it was bad enough for her to lean down from her wrapper's perch and tell her sister to keep one eye on her—in case anything queer should take place.

The queer thing took place about 10 o'clock. An ambulance had been summoned. And that was about all that the older girl could tell me, except that her sister had been like this as soon as they reached the room. It had scared her and she had come to me. By now it was near 12 o'clock.

A writer like Dickens, I suppose, at this stage of the game, would have gone to the window, stared silently out at the city, with eyes that saw into a million homes, into mistletoe scenes and the like. Would have felt "the great hush that lay over the town." For in a few minutes the hour would strike, and Christmas Day, with its message of "peace and good-will to men" would begin. But I was only a doctor—with a bitter message to give. And standing by the window I only raked my brains for some other way out of the trouble.

THE WOMEN START U. W. W.

NOTES

Meanwhile a new element is already on the way to Spokane. Not much noise is made by two women, members of the U. W. W., who started Monday, Dec. 27, though the Seattle papers made a big "story" out of the event after their departure.

But Beulah Hyde and Eleanor Herman will be heard from in Spokane. They spoke at Buckley as their first stop, Tuesday evening, Dec. 28. They have a regular itinerary all the way to Spokane.

The avowed purpose of these two dauntless women is to "fight for free speech in Spokane." They do not propose to violate any ordinances of that city and thus be bottled up immediately in jail. They will appeal to public sentiment to deliver the city from its present disgrace. They believe the Spokane city government totally misrepresents the citizenship of that city. By every legal means in their power they will endeavor to arouse the Spokane public to reverse the barbarous practices of the present mayor and to restore the inviolability of person, speech, press, and property supposed to be guaranteed by the United States Constitution to all residents.

It is not at all improbable that Mrs. Hyde and Mrs. Herman will be arrested as soon as they set foot within the city limits.

On what charge? For "disorderly conduct" probably. It is "disorderly" in Spokane to disagree with the Spokane authorities.

If you dare to go to Spokane to convince the people of that city that Spokane is disgracing itself in the eyes of the civilized world, you will be put in jail. You might go to Russia and object to the suppression of Finland by the Czar. But not so in Spokane. You agree with the suppression of the I. W. W. or go to jail.

Well, we shall now see what the U. W. W., as represented by these noble women, can accomplish toward bringing back Spokane into America.

(Associated Press Dispatch, from the Spokane "Spokesman-Review," December 27.)

WOMEN PLAN TO POSE AS MARTYRS.

Coming from Seattle to Speak in Spokane Streets.

ONE LEAVES BABY.

Another Hopes She Will Be in Jail When Child is Born.

SEATTLE, Dec. 27.—Enthusied with the purpose of offering themselves as martyrs in the fight for the right to

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speaking on the streets in Spokane, six women, members of the newly organized United Wage-Workers, left Seattle tonight to make their way across the State.

Without sufficient funds to pay their way, the women purpose holding public meetings and by arousing sympathy for their compatriots at Spokane, hope to be able to reach their destination within ten days.

The women are led by Mrs. Emil Herman, wife of a former organizer of the Socialist party, who was a candidate for congress in the second district, and Mrs. Floyd Hyde, wife of a Seattle mechanic. The identity of the other four members of the party is not revealed.

Mrs. Emil Herman will become a mother within a few weeks and it was over the protests of the members of the party that she offered herself as a martyr in the fight. When it was suggested to her by her women companions that it was likely that her baby might be born in jail she replied:

"I shall go, nevertheless. I should be proud to have my child born in jail if it would help the cause."

Mrs. Herman is a young woman, and until a year or two ago was a school teacher near Chehalis.

Mrs. Floyd Hyde has left a baby a year and a half old with friends in Seattle until she returns from the campaign at Spokane.

First Word from Women

Dear Mrs. Titus: Will you send us some subscription cards? We are at Buckley, at Whitney's. The train got held up by a wreck and we walked in four miles.

BEULAH B. HYDE.
Dec. 28, 3:30 p. m.

Fool Tactics

Find out what your opponent wants you to do—and then don't do it.

Read below what the rabid capitalist paper praises the I. W. W. for doing—and then see what fool tactics their lawyer, Moore, led them into.

Of course, the Supreme Court will decide against them, but the lawyer will get his fee from the I. W. W. treasury and the present fight is lost.

(Editorial from Spokane "Chronicle," Dec. 27.)

IT'S THE RIGHT TEST.

After having failed in attempts to compel the authorities of this city to repeal its anti-street speaking ordinances by wholesale violations of the law, the leaders of the I. W. W. have at last adopted the course they should have taken in the first place and taken an appeal to the Supreme Court, where the question which has caused so much trouble and bad feeling can be finally settled.

The Superior Court has already held that the ordinance is valid and that the city has full right to pass ordinances regulating the use of its streets, and it is not believed that the Supreme Court will change this ruling.

The women are off for Spokane. They will stop all along the route to the "Inland Empire" in order to get other recruits who will fight for free speech.

They had managed to collect enough to start on by holding street meetings on the streets of Seattle mainly.

You may think that it requires no backbone to go to Spokane at this time. Those who have been reading the paper know what the women are likely to face. Still some look on with indifference.

A man stepped into the office direct from Spokane. He had been on the chain gang and saw Foster chained to another man, a ball attached to his leg. Some of the things that he related were beyond description.

He described the dungeon where many had been. The walls are covered with the emblem of the I. W. W. as high as it was possible to reach. The emblem was not drawn in pencil or ink, but in Blood, which the men had wiped from their wounds after being beaten and put through all the inhuman tortures. The boys moistened their fingers in the blood as it flowed from the wounds and made the drawings. These emblems of the free speech fight will be left for a long time as the authorities will be proud to leave such evidence of "law and order" intact.

Four burly officers are detailed to do the dirty work in a room between the receiving room and the cell. The men are shoved into this room one at a time. The four burles at once attack the inoffensive person with metal knuckles, clubs and stock of the gun. After the man sinks to the floor helpless they proceed to kick and stamp him until they are satisfied that he has been maimed and put out of commission; then he is dragged into the cell. Jaws have been broken, ribs crushed in, shoulders dislocated, and faces pounded into a jelly in this torture chamber. A boy of 19 after being beaten and kicked into unconsciousness, received a kick in the abdomen after coming to, as a parting salute, and nearly died from the effect.

This is the way that "law and order" is upheld in Spokane.

The votes are coming in on the election of the constitutional committee, and in another week the committee will be in action.

The P.-I. has come out with the usual contortion news about this organization. The straight goods are never printed in a capitalist sheet.

The street meetings last Sunday were, as usual, very successful in spite of the weather. Five meetings were held by six speakers, and \$22.50 in literature was sold. Large crowds were listening to our speakers; about 3,000 persons were reached with the right dope Sunday. Three meetings were held the day before, one in Tacoma, as usual.

Don't forget the free speech fund, comrades. You have read of the brutality that those struggling for free speech are subjected to. You are not experiencing such sufferings for the cause. If you sympathize, show it! JOB S. BISCAV, Temporary State Sec.

Propaganda Material

The Terrible Truth About Marriage

by VINCENT HARPER. A brilliant analysis of capitalist marriage. Suppressed by the chief of police of Seattle, though wholly without warrant.

Was 25c. Now 10c.

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By HERMON F. TITUS. It is the only pamphlet published in this country which clearly and simply defines the principles of Revolutionary Socialism. Simply great for propaganda.

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Christmas In London

LONDON, Dec. 25.—This metropolitan city is in for a winter of unprecedented distress. Over half a million men are out of work, and it is estimated that 1,000,000 people are on the verge of starvation.

The most pitiful scenes are everywhere witnessed nightly. Every doorway, doorway and place of shelter is crowded with these homeless and starving people. London's noblest thoroughfare, the Thames embankment, is nightly thronged with thousands of men.

Relief measures are totally inadequate. The Salvation Army feeds some thousands, the Church Army nearly as many. For the majority there is only the poorhouse and the casual ward.

Many of these sufferers prefer starvation to the casual ward. Once there they are branded with pauperism forever.

When they get inside they are given a meal of bread and skilly—an unappetizing sort of broth. They have to have a bath and are then sent to bed in not very comfortable or clean surroundings. The next day they are set a task of breaking stone. If their work is not satisfactory to the master of the casual ward they are liable to be sent before the police magistrate and sentenced to prison.

In the eyes of the English law there is little difference between the homeless man and the criminal, so far as treatment is concerned.

Shaw On Liberty

Bernard Shaw ridicules America's cry of "liberty" with all the force of his irony. "Americans," he says, "are ignorant of the fact that liberty does not exist there. I could be arrested the moment I landed on the charge of inciting the women of America to immorality by good looks. I could be imprisoned for suggesting reform of the marriage laws, or for questioning the story about Elshah and the bears. I do not want to see the statue of Liberty in New York harbor. Even my appetite for irony does not go as far as that."

THE OUTLAW CITY

Entered as second-class matter in 1900 at Seattle, in 1905 at Toledo, Ohio, in 1906 at Caldwell, Idaho, and April 13, 1907, at the postoffice at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1907.

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Table with 2 columns: Name and Position. Includes HERMON F. TITUS (Editor), ERWIN B. AULT (Managing Editor), ARTHUR JENSEN (Assistant Editor), BESSY FISET (Assistant Editor), HATTIE W. TITUS (Business Manager), RYAN WALKER, New York (Cartoonist), JOHN F. HART, Philadelphia (Cartoonist), THOS. A. SLADDEN, Portland, Ore. (Oregon State Editor).

Where We Stand

In what relation does "The Workingman's Paper" stand to the various organizations of the Wage Class, and to that class as a whole?
This question is frequently asked, now that this paper does not profess to represent any particular organization.

The following outlines our position exactly:
"The Workingman's Paper" does not seek to form a separate party opposed to other working-class parties. It supports the UNION of Wage-Workers.

We advocate no interests separate and apart from those of the Proletariat as a whole. All policies are decided from this standpoint.
We do not set up any sectarian principles of our own by which to shape and mould the Proletarian Movement. We follow, not force, that Movement.

The immediate aim of "The Workingman's Paper" is the same as that of all other really Proletarian organs, namely: FORMATION OF THE PROLETARIAT INTO ONE CLASS, OVERTHROW OF BOURGEOIS SUPREMACY, CONQUEST OF POLITICAL POWER BY THE PROLETARIAT.

In Barbarous Spokane

Continued from Page One
Franklin school into the new city jail in the top story?
A. Yes.
Q. How were you treated there?
A. Well, the steam was turned off. Chester Edwards, the silliest of them all, came to us when we first got into the city hall, and said, "Well, boys, nice and warm here; very different from the Franklin school. You will be all right here; won't have to pack in wood. You'll be nice and comfortable." And then he went out. In a short while the steam was turned off and we had to walk all night to keep warm. For two nights I could not sleep for the cold.

Two Industrial Workers were arrested on the street today for selling "The Industrial Worker" under their coats. The minute the cops see them selling the paper, quietly or openly (which is impossible now), they are arrested at once.

This is Russia No. 2. No freedom of speech, press or assembly. The two arrested were Myer and Barnes. They were caught at the Queen restaurant with the papers under their coats. W. W.

Seattle Gives Advice to Spokane

(From Seattle "Times," Dec. 28)
United Wage Workers are sending their women members to Spokane to take part in the crusade for free speech in that city. The application of the suffragette plan of campaign will give the authorities no end of trouble. Why not turn the Wage Workers loose in the streets, and let them talk their heads off? It would be much easier than the present method. Besides it would save the city the price of bread and water for the prisoners, and bread and water is money in Spokane.

Russia No. 2
(From Our Own Correspondent)
Spokane, Wash., Dec. 27, 1909.

Editor's Note.—The article printed herewith is from "The Public" of Chicago. It suggests an appropriate name for Spokane—"An un-American City." Whether it is un-American or American depends upon whether America disowns it or not. Certainly it is an Outlaw City, for it defies all law. No "constitutional rights" remain in Spokane. No "rights" of person, speech, press or property even, remain in Spokane.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH SPOKANE?

(From "The Public" of Chicago, December 24.)

Strange reports have been coming out of Spokane for many weeks, reports which, if true, show Spokane to be an un-American city. These reports may be exaggerated, for they come almost wholly from one side. Socialist papers complain bitterly and denounce roundly. So much so that one feels like questioning their reports, especially as the other papers are almost silent, for this silence may mean that there is really nothing to be reported. Yet they are not altogether silent. Here is an Associated Press dispatch from Spokane which we find in the Chicago Daily News of the 11th:

Charging that it was a libelous publication, the city authorities seized every copy of the Industrial Worker, organ of the Industrial Workers of the World, as it came from the press today. The papers were taken to the city hall and it is said they will be burned. The leading article is by Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, convicted this week of conspiracy, in which she relates her alleged experience in the county jail.

Spokane Authorities Dangerous Criminals

In a city where such official action is possible almost anything in the way of official law-breaking may occur. The city authorities guilty of that conduct are without the slightest respect for American institutions, unless they are grossly ignorant of American history and law; and they are more dangerous criminals than the common jail bird. Did the suppressed paper contain a libel? American law provides for libelous publications, and it does not permit their seizure or destruction. It provides for a trial of the publishers before a jury, and punishment upon conviction. Exposures of criminal conduct by public officials are not libelous unless they are false, and it is not for the officials accused to decide that question.

(Editor's Note.—There speaks an advocate of the traditional American spirit, the spirit of early capitalism, where competition thrives among the "free and equal" capitalists. But is it any longer the "American" spirit? When free speech by labor, or labor's free press, or even the free person of a newspaper reporter or union organizer, or the free property of a labor journal, becomes dangerous to the interests of big capital, as in Spokane or Seattle, then the American spirit of liberty vanishes, replaced by the black spirit of tyranny, as always when property and power are threatened.)

"Respectable Authority" for "Workingman's Paper"

"The Public" continues:
Since the public officials of Spokane are reported by so respectable an authority as the Associated Press as having committed so great a crime against one of the most distinctive of American institutions and the plainest and most fundamental of American laws, we may assume that the following accusations by the Workingman's Paper of Seattle of Dec. 11 (a Socialist publication) are probably true also:

Some of the boys recently released from the city jail in Spokane report police brutality there that seems almost incredible. One of the most devilish of these tortures, and one that apparently leaves no marks upon most of the prisoners, is the system of changing them from hot to cold cells, exposing them to all the suffering that such a change entails. Recently there was a wholesale sweating of prisoners in the hot cell. They were mostly men from Chicago, who turned out en masse for arrest the day after the arrest of Miss Flynn and others at the hall meeting. So angry were the police with them for their method of showing their contempt for the police that they decided to give them a lesson. As a result 29 men were packed into the hot cell and sweated from 12 o'clock noon until 10 p. m. So close were the men packed that they were unable to take their coats off, even though they were being stifled by the heat. This cell, known in police circles as "The Dungeon," is airtight when the sheet iron door is closed, and is heated by steam. It has no ventilation excepting when the door is open,

so perhaps the condition of the air in this second "black hole," after 20 or 30 men have been confined in it for several hours, may be safely termed indescribable. The door would be kept shut until the cries of the men warned the guards that the men warned they would be stifled. So hot is this cell that in a very short time one's clothes are wet with perspiration. After the required period is served in this torture chamber the prisoners, in their weakened condition, are taken to cells which are exposed to cold drafts, and there they freeze until their clothes become dry and their bodies more or less accustomed to the great change in temperature.

(Editor's Note.—We reproduce this account in order that our readers may compare it with another and independent account by one of the sufferers as given on the first page of this issue. It will be seen why our correspondent was jailed—for telling the truth about this un-American city of outlaws in official authority.)

"The Public" concludes:
It is hard to tell from the reports what all this barbarism is about. Reportorial lucidity seems to be as scarce in Spokane as official humanity. One may infer, however, that a Socialist propaganda by speakers on the streets was obstructed by the police on the ground that it impeded traffic, and that the street speakers, claiming that this was a pretense and false at that, persisted in their outdoor oratory. From that controversy the idea seems to have gone out that Spokane was suppressing Socialist meetings, and Socialist agitators consequently poured into Spokane. Whatever may be the merits of the controversy, it is certain that the action of the authorities, indicated by the above quotations, is vastly more disorderly than any disorder they charge to the agitators they are persecuting. So far as it is possible to form a judgment from the conflicting and inadequate reports, the object of the authorities appears to be less to maintain order on the streets than to suppress opinions to which they object.

(Editor's Note.—"Reportorial lucidity" seems to be the trouble with "The Workingman's Paper" in this instance. If Foster's reports were not "lucid" enough as to Spokane's barbarism, what does "The Public" think of the interview of the witness on our First Page this week? We can't call him an eye-witness, because his experiences occurred in a "Black Hole," where eyes were useless.

Spokane is in America, Friend Post, and these things are occurring in America. Yet the "American" press is silent; that is, the "respectable" Associated Press, whose testimonies almost leads you to credit the evidence of workingmen in a Workingman's Paper. Suppose you tell us, you champion of Individualism, you Jeffersonian Democrat, why your respectable press is silent about the most outrageous violation of the "Rights of Man" yet witnessed within the United States of America.

We would like to know your opinion of this respectable silence. We will tell you our opinion: It is as simple as A B C, namely: There is war in Spokane and the methods of war have been adopted, superseding all civil rights. Martial law has been proclaimed in Spokane. The capitalists knew no other way to check the growth of a labor organization which declared there could be no truce between capital and labor. The I. W. W. is composed of men who recognize the class struggle. They preach the class struggle. On the streets of Spokane, in workingmen's uncultured language, they declared their purpose to organize not merely a trade union, but a class union, to take and hold the wealth they create. Thousands of men working in the lumber camps of the State were joining this revolutionary organization. It must be killed before it got too strong, for it means not merely increase of wages, but the spread of the revolutionary spirit.

It is not merely the employment sharks in Spokane who are opposed to the I. W. W. The authorities in that city would never abolish the "Rights of Man" for the sake of a few employment agents. In fact, Mayor Pratt himself has already ostentatiously made public his opposition to said agents. The I. W. W. has effected that much already. But behind this declaration of war on labor in Spokane by Mayor Pratt and Chief Sullivan and Justice Mann stands the power of big capital, the lumber trust, the Water Power Company, the "Standard" mining combine, the railroad corporations. Nothing is done in any city of this State without their consent and approval. Their claim that this I. W. W. is an organization of hobos, their attempt to array the A. F. of L. unions against the new union, is a lying and cheating act of war.

These so-called "hobos" are workingmen reduced, with nothing, nothing to lose but their chains. Their name is legion. They are men. They have lost respect for "law and order." They are non-ethical. They are frankly and proudly disreputable. They despise respectability and religion. They sing "Hallelujah, I'm a Bum" in derision of the city Salvationists who only serve

as plasters on the sores of capitalism. But—there's millions of them in these United States. They are the legitimate offspring of capital, though they claim no legitimacy of any sort. They love and hate, have like appetites, fears, hopes, joys, kindnesses, meannesses, savageries, as other men. In one respect they are infinitely the superior of your respectables. They are frankly publicans not pharisees. They are not hypocrites. They are not "moral." They are human beings at war with a civilization which has made them slaves and paupers. They are the oncoming hosts of the New Revolution.

Judge Mann stated from the bench that he believed that the employment agents were the cause of all the trouble. It is a well-known fact that the employment agents divide their fees with contractors and foremen on jobs.

You should also understand that Mayor Pratt's hand was forced in this matter by the sentiment stirred up in labor circles by street speaking all previous efforts to secure official action in righting these wrongs without publicity having failed.

Judge Mann officially declared Nov. 2 that the last city ordinance on street speaking was invalid and unconstitutional for various reasons; but while his reasons applied with equal force to the first ordinance, he refused to pass on it, as it was not directly at issue. He also testified in open court at the trial of E. Gurley Flynn, on the charge of criminal conspiracy to break said city ordinance, that he had himself ordered a change from the booking on the folio docket of persons first arrested on the charge of violating this ordinance to one of disorderly conduct by speaking on the streets.

He evidently knew that in view of his decision that he could not convict on the charge of violating this ordinance, in view of the fact that he had himself already declared it to be invalid and unconstitutional. Since then some 12 or 15 arrests have been made under the State charge of criminal conspiracy to violate this same city ordinance which his own court had declared unconstitutional, thus enabling the city officials to place a more serious charge against street speakers arrested without resistance on the charge of street speaking alone, at the same time they were enabled to shift a large per cent. of the costs of these ill-advised arrests and prosecutions on the taxpayers of Spokane county.

TO ONE CORRESPONDENT

Seattle, U. S. A., Dec. 28, 1909.
Dear Comrade—Your money order for \$1 received, for which accept our thanks, and also our appreciation of the work you have been doing for this paper. We are sorry that it is necessary to ask comrades to dig up to meet any deficit in getting out the paper. The policy of the paper is not calculated to secure a very large subscription list until members of the working class are better educated to understand Marxian economics. In other words, the paper is more scientific than popular. As a rule, we do not appeal to sentiment, but to cold-blooded facts; we do not attempt to touch the heart so much as to appeal to the head. We believe that it is only through education that members of the working class will see the necessity of uniting and presenting a solid front in their fight against capital.

We believe it is better to continue this educational process until enough of the working class understand scientific Socialism so clearly that they can in turn educate their fellow-workers. The half-educated comrade, who may be sincere and devoted to the cause, may be a great detriment to the labor movement because of his own ignorance on vital principles, which should control the labor movement. We have been obliged to discriminate between Socialism and the Socialist party in the last few years, because, when the Socialist party misrepresents Socialism we must take our stand on the solid ground of scientific Marxian principles.

I think you understand that we recognize the necessity of arousing the working class to understand what their real condition is, by sending through the columns of the paper the stories of the fights between labor and capital, illustrated by the Swedish strike, the Mexican brutality toward the peons, the brutal treatment in our own country by police officials, and others higher up, of the members of the working class, whenever they attempt to gain their rights, such as the fight for free speech in Spokane. For this reason we sent, at great expense to the paper, a special correspondent to Spokane. The reports that we have received direct from Spokane have been quoted in nearly all the labor papers all over the country, and since our correspondent has been placed in jail, no further late reports of the Spokane fight have appeared. The fact is that the reports sent to us from Spokane were practically the only reports the labor papers were getting, except what meagre and false reports they saw in the capitalist papers, so that not only those who take "The Socialist" have had the benefit of these reports, but those who are subscribers to a dozen other Socialist papers; and labor papers have also received the benefit of the work done by our correspondent.

We hoped when we sent our correspondent to Spokane that he would be able to make his own way by selling papers, but he could not do this. He would have been arrested at the first attempt of this kind. As it is, he was arrested on a trumped-up charge when he was doing absolutely nothing to be arrested for—standing on the street listening to the speakers who were being arrested, in order that he could report to us.

The Spokane fight is a very important one in the history of the labor movement, and whichever way it is decided it is bound to have its effect on the history of the movement. The paper was hardly paying expenses before, notwithstanding the fact that comrades like yourself have been doing all they could to assist. But we felt it necessary to take upon ourselves this extra expense, as we knew the value that a true account of the methods used by the capitalist class in suppressing labor, that would be sent all over the country, would be almost impossible to estimate as a means of education of the entire working class.

If you know of any one in your neighborhood from whom you could get a subscription it would be as much of a help to us financially as sending money straight, and the subscriber would also get the benefit by reading the paper. If you would like a bundle of five a week to distribute, we would be glad to send them to you, and later on we might get some subscriptions from them.

What this expense has already amounted to and approximately will be, if these arrests and prosecutions are allowed to continue by interested taxpayers, can best be shown by consulting the big expense account already incurred.

Home builders and farmers of Spokane city and county, how do you like the showing? This effort of the corporations and combines to control all the industries of the county and daily rob you through extortionate monopolistic charges of the products of labor and to compel you to pay a large per cent. of the costs of their conspiracy, to destroy both industrial and civil liberty? Do you approve the action of the superior judges of this county in quashing on technicality an indictment against county officials for unlawful use of public moneys, while the courts are being used to enforce the extreme penalty of the law against workingmen for their attempt to maintain in the only way possible for them to do so the rights guaranteed every American citizen by the constitution of the country? And will you sit calmly by and see the prosecuting attorney's office of this county use all its power to prosecute these men and women in a so-called effort to maintain law and order should he fail immediately to file information against these indicted officials, as becomes his duty under the law, if the law and his office are to be used in an honest effort to prevent crime and protect the people's property and rights?

Bear in mind that all these workingmen and women have asked is that the same street privileges be granted them in this city which are freely accorded to people of all other cities in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
FREE SPEECH COMMITTEE.

Latest from Spokane

(Special to "The Workingman's Paper.")
Spokane, Wash., Dec. 27, 1909.
My Dear Titus—Socialist Local of this city held a meeting Sunday night at Oliver's hall. (They have held regular weekly meetings here for five years.) Gurley Flynn was the speaker of the evening.

The proprietor of the hall refused to let them sing "The Red Flag" after the meeting was over. Thomas J. Mooney spoke for fifteen minutes. Then the proprietor told them they could not have the hall any more if they allowed the I. W. W. to use it as a place for headquarters. The Socialists said they would not let the I. W. W. use the hall any more as a headquarters. So the proprietor said they could sing "The Red Flag" and speak and have the hall as long as they wished.

Vincent St. John was in town for a few days, but made no public announcement of it. He sent an open letter to the governor of the State. He is now on his way back to Chicago. The Spokane authorities had a warrant for his arrest today and the cat got out of the bag.

There are at present about 100 men in jail, and those coming out are not very willing to go in again. The proposition looks like it will be a long and hard struggle. Many coming out of jail now leave town at once. They have let up on the prisoners. They are not so brutal as they were at the start.

Socialists have given very little assistance so far, especially Spokane (middle-class local) Socialists. It is a little hard to get any inside information as yet, as I am not acquainted. It took me just fifteen hours to come from Tacoma, Wash., to Spokane on the blind baggage. Yours, W. W.

Foster Still on Rockpile

We have made every effort to get Wm. Z. Foster, the efficient correspondent of "The Workingman's Paper" at Spokane, out of jail. But he is held as a prisoner of war and "sympathizer" in Spokane are not revolutionary enough to make any special effort to release him.

Besides, Foster is reported to have refused to come out on bonds, preferring to continue to serve his sentence with the rest. This refusal is differently reported by an escaped I. W. W., whose awful recital we publish on Page One of this paper. In any event we shall soon have others in that outlaw town who will dare to tell the truth. Spokane, no more than Russia or Mexico, can quite shut out the rest of the world. Foster's imprisonment has not cost us so much as it might had not the contest in Spokane received a check, as shown by a special dispatch printed elsewhere from a new correspondent. Temporarily, at least, the I. W. W. has ceased its street-speaking tactics. Many of the members are leaving the city. But the fight for free speech is not abandoned. Doubtless in their own way and in their own time the I. W. W. will renew the battle.