

# THE AGITATOR

A SEMI-MONTHLY ADVOCATE OF THE MODERN SCHOOL, INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

VOL. 2

## THE PASSING SHOW

### Socialism and Idiots.

The Socialist press joined with the labor and capitalist press in a cowardly denunciation of the McNamara brothers. The California Social-Democrat says:

"That men with the brains of a mosquito could be guilty of playing into the hands of the enemy by violence is inconceivable to a Socialist.

"Socialists hold terrorism in intellectual contempt even in Russia.

"In America, where political action is possible, such methods are beneath contempt.

"That there is one man of the J. J. McNamara caliber capable of such idiotic treason to the labor movement proves that our party has a work to do which must not be evaded or delayed."

The McNamaras are idiots because, alone, they failed to achieve the Social Revolution. The Socialists are profound philosophers in their failure to elect Harriman. If you do not see the logic of this distinction, you are an idiot.

If you refuse to submit, peaceably, to the destruction of your unions, by the insatiable monsters, the trusts, you are an idiot. If in the desperation of your reduction to the depths of poverty and serfdom, you strike back at the thugs, spies and gun men set upon you by the master class, you are an idiot.

You must not do anything upon your own initiative, but listen to the sage advice of the lawyers and preachers of the S. P., elect them to office and bread and freedom will be yours.

You common, mosquito-brained working stiff, what do you know about economics, anyway? Can't you get it through your shallow pate that it is "the historic mission" of the Socialist Party to save you?

How is the S. P. going to do it?

It is going to throw the old parties off your back and climb on itself. And it is because of its hurry to get there that it has become so respectable and law abiding, and joins so ardently in the popular, capitalistic outcry against the McNamaras and all forms of direct action. That is why it is flirting with the A. F. of L. and warning that decrepit body against the wicked direct actionists, hoping to win it over after it has been beaten to the ground by the Trusts.

That the master class have no more fear of the Socialist "victories at the polls" than of the other parties is well attested by the capitalist press. The New York World, in speaking of these "victories," says: "There is nothing to worry about in these Socialist gains, if the old parties will not give good local government they must expect new parties to grow up and get votes."

The Rev. George R. Lunn, the new Socialist mayor of Schenectady, N. Y., immediately upon his election, hastily reassured the shivering capitalist world with these words: "My election does not mean a revolution."

The Journal of Political Economy tells its capitalist readers this pertinent truth: "The average Socialist begins as a theoretical impossibilist and develops gradually into a constructive opportunist. Add a taste of real respectability and he is hard to distinguish from

HOME, [LAKEBAY P. O.] WASH., JAN. 1, 1912,

a liberal reformer. It is the same with the movement."

### Capitalistic Law and Order.

While the labor leaders are busy repudiating the McNamaras and all acts of violence, the lumber barons of Aberdeen are having men dragged from their hall, blindfolded, taken to the town limits, slugged, and left there to die.

Yet John D., Morgan, nor any of the big guns are rushing into print disavowing their lawless brothers. They are class-conscious. They know that in war all things are fair. They know that laws are made to govern the poor. When the law is not sufficient to suppress them, the masters apply the kind of force that is not legalized by the legislature. They make their own law to fit the particular case they have in hand. That is practical.

The master class has no illusions, no reverence for forms or conventions. Those men in Aberdeen opened up their hall, that had been illegally closed by the police some days previous, and were engaged in putting its contents in order when the police raided them, in violation of every tenet of the law, and dragged them to jail.

They kept them in jail until 12 o'clock at night; then, in a heavy downpour of rain, took them, blindfolded, in an automobile to the city limits, where they beat them up badly and turned them loose.

That was lawlessness of the rankest kind; and most culpable because practiced by those sworn to uphold the law.

No newspaper denounced it, because the newspaper owners are all on the other side. No preacher cursed it, because all the preachers are on the other side. The capitalist-minded working man is silent, because he is an indifferent fool. Everybody is silent except the revolutionist; and he does not denounce it from the standpoint of "law and order." He is not concerned with catch-phrases. He is too wise for that. He knows the bosses do not believe in their own dope, and will break the law when the law will not break the workers. His object in making a noise about the lawlessness of the law enforcers is to awaken the indifferent worker, who is blinded by the theory that all men are treated fairly and equally by the administrators of the law.

He wants this backward fellow slave to know that the virtuous howl for law and order is raised only when a slave, goaded by want and oppression, steps over the legal boundary line, striving thereby to get the justice which the code denies him. This sleeping worker is the fellow the revolutionist is after. And when he once gets him awakened the days of the lawless capitalist policemen will be no more.

We will then have peace, for a powerful working class will compel it. We will then have plenty, for an intelligent working class will produce and keep its product. We will then have freedom, for no one wishes to enslave another except to exploit him.

### Starving, Humiliated India.

They are starving at the rate of six thousand a week. Their best men are in jail, and every newspaper that dared to give a free utterance has been suppressed. Meetings of every kind are forbidden; every friend of the people is be-

ing hounded by British spies. And to crown the infamy the puppet King of England went strutting across the sea and declared himself Emperor of these people, who had a high form of civilization when his ancestors were living in holes in the rocks.

Yet India's present oppression and humiliation by the British barbarians is the outcome of an oppression and tyranny and a foolish system of cast that the natives have submitted to and enforced these thousands of years.

Tyranny always begets tyranny. We see our own faults best when reflected from others. It is to be hoped that when the people of India accumulate sufficient power to cast off the British they will also discard the native tyrants and become really free.

We Americans once indignantly cast off the British yoke and forged one with native hands that is galling us today. We are learning the lesson that it matters not who waves the sceptic wand of authority, oppression is still oppression.

### Socialists Celebrate Election of First Gun Man.

Grand Junction, Colo.—Grand Junction's Socialist chief of police, S. B. Hutchinson, recently took office and the Socialists of the city presented him with a solid silver star. On the back of the star was engraved, "S. B. Hutchinson, the first Socialist chief of police in the United States, presented by the Grand Junction branch International Socialist party."

I wonder if this cop has a union label on his club. If not, the Socialists are neglecting their duty to "organized labor." Besides, what sensation can be sweeter than that one receives from a wallop on the head from a union-made club in the hands of a Socialist policeman.

### More Injunction Tyranny.

Judge Wright, of the U. S. Court, has sent a newsboy to jail for selling the Chicago Daily Socialist.

This paper had offended the I. C. railroad by publishing the truth about the shopmen's strike; in consequence of which the learned gentleman had put his ban on it, and sent an orphan boy to jail for thirty days for offering it for sale.

They do no more than that in Russia, only there they have no hypocritical cant about freedom of the press. America is the arch faker among nations.

### McNamara Not a Squealer.

Attempts to get the McNamaras to testify before the Federal Grand Jury, now conducting an investigation of the dynamite traffic between the states, failed, utterly. When approached by Oscar Lawler, J. J. replied:

"What are you trying to do? You have been an agent of the government a long time, but whether you are an agent of the steel trust or otherwise, I can state frankly that, so far as I am concerned, I will not confess. Why should I? Freedom is nothing to me."

JAY FOX.

### SLAVES FEAR FREE SPEECH.

The community that will not allow its humblest citizen to freely express his opinion, no matter how false or odious the opinion may be, is only a gang of slaves.—Wendell Phillips.





**LAWS FOR THE BAUERN BALL**

To Be Held In Redding's Academy  
Twenty third and Jackson  
Seattle, Dec. 31st.

- Members are warned that the prosperity and happiness of the colony depends upon their frequent and persistent violation of these laws.
- Ignorance of the law is no excuse. But ignorance is encouraged, as it is easier to get you in the meshes.
- No lawyers, juries or witnesses will be permitted in our courts. They cause unnecessary delay, are expensive i.e., and often defeat the ends of justice. Our judge knows his business and is up to date. You are guilty if brought before him. You will be arrested on suspicion and convicted beyond reasonable doubt.
- No peasant is allowed to have both hands in his or her pockets at the same time. This law cannot be construed to mean your neighbor's pockets.
- Adam was tempted with an apple. We have added an orange. If you fall before either, a five cent fine or a half hour in prison for yours. If you carry away the whole show we will send you to the U. S. Senate.
- You may make all the noise you wish provided it means nothing real. Talk freely about salvation, astronomy and even revolution—in Russian or Borneo, but speak not of atheism, anarchism, socialism, or industrialism; nor of a revolution in this colony. For this is a free community and such talk is treason to our court.
- Peasants caught spooning will be instantly arrested and shackled with the bonds of matrimony.
- To embrace a maiden is to marry her. Kissing is also a crime punishable by marriage. After marriage it is not a crime to kiss for she is yours; and one can do what he likes with his own.
- Besides his blessing which is wind, the parson or rabbi who knots you will give as special premium, a ring, which is a sound.
- What God hath joined together let no man put asunder. Divorce is immoral and sinful. The only cure for marriage is more marriage. Marry another, marry again.
- If these laws do not suit you, they suit the judges, police, and parsons who rule over you. So it is all right—for them.

By Order of the King

**"INTERVENTION!" IS WALL STREET'S CRY**

Once more the sword of the United States is suspended over the Mexican people's neck. "The Mexicans are incapable of self-government," say all the adventurers who wish to make millions by exploiting the labor and natural wealth of Mexico.

Madero has promised to hand over to Americans the liberties of Mexico; and, in addition, the land, the woods, the mines, the waters, all Mexico itself. Naturally, the Americans are on Madero's side.

The Mexican people are taking possession of their own country's natural wealth; and this fact, coupled with the revolutionary effervescence now clearly observable, has caused the American speculator to cry to heaven and proclaim that Mexico should be acquired by the United States, at any price.

Madero being naturally weak, as Diaz was, is seeking the aid of the American government, that he may maintain himself in power. To this end it has been necessary for him to agree to the American bourgeoisie's demand for slavery in Mexico. And the compact has been made! To the conscience of the criminal what are the sufferings, the despair and the blood of fifteen millions? Did he not, at the very first, sell out the revolution for \$20,000,000? He longs to rule—the miserable wretch! and he has been manacled with chains of gold the hands of whoever had it in his power to raise a revolutionary force and stuff with gold the snout of every man who had the ability to shout a protest. He has been tearing out the hearts of all who, some day, might have unsheathed the dagger of a Brutus.

The promises Madero has made to the American speculator can be realized only under a bourgeois peace; a peace of the bayonet and the dungeon; a peace guaranteed by the judge and by the hangman.

Capital needs peace to make its profits and it sees, with the sinking heart of a usurer unable to get his claws into his neighbor's pockets, that peace is more distant than it ever was. Madero is impotent to bring into submission all the elements opposing him. He would play the dictator, the strong man with

the hand of iron, and the result is that he is a nutshell floating aimlessly upon a storm-tossed sea. In his despair, in his utter dejection, he begs from the Colossus of the North what the Mexican people will not give him—its support. He does as Diaz did.

The people are not rebelling for the pleasure of rebelling. The revolutionist is not tearing the life out of his enemies for the satisfaction of witnessing a spectacle of bloodshed. The revolutionist applies the torch, but not, as did the Roman emperor, for the sake of enjoying the shifting colors of the flames and following with his eye the black spirals of smoke as they are blown hither and thither by the wind.

The Mexican people are in arms because they must play the game to the finish in order to save themselves and future generations from that economic slavery whence spring all tyrannies. Neither Madero nor any other man can give the people what they need—Bread. They can decree liberty of speech, liberty of assembly, liberty of conscience, etc., etc.; but who can decree the abolition of misery? No one. No one; because it would be a decree at which the rich would laugh. The abolition of misery means the abolition of the rich man's right to retain in his possession the land, the machinery of production and the means of transportation. All this the rich man will not let go of from kindness, but only through being forced.

The people of Mexico, with a judiciousness that does them honor, have come to realize that their salvation—that is to say, the death of misery and the conquest of liberty—does not depend on the establishing a government, but, purely and simply, on laying hands on what the rich withhold and on making the property of a few the property of all.

In rising in arms the people of Mexico are exercising a legitimate right; the right of rebelling against all that oppresses them, against all that makes them suffer, against all that is opposed to their development and progress. What right has the American government to intervene in matters that are not its own?

We long for liberty and well-being; we have no desire to be slaves; we wish to be free, and free in an effective manner; and, inasmuch as is because of this the Revolution is prolonging itself—since a true Revolution cannot be brought to a termination within a single year—Mexico's exploiters are now urging their government to hurl itself against human beings who are struggling and sacrificing themselves solely for the betterment and advancement of their lot.—From the Spanish of Richard Flores Magon.

**NEW BOOKS.**

"Social Forces in American History," by A. M. Simons. (The Macmillan Co., N. Y., \$1.50 net.)

Things have come to a pretty pass in this cold materialistic age when even the beautiful romance called history cannot escape the dissecting table of the realists.

All the guilded American heroes of my schoolboy days have been ruthlessly snatched from their pedestals and dashed in the dirt at my feet by this cruel materialistic historian.

He brazenly tells us that the Boston tea party, "of glorious memory," was organized by a gang of smugglers, headed by Samuel Adams and John Hancock, whose business was destroyed when the English Government abolished the tax on tea.

Among numerous other unromantic things he tells us that Washington, the truthful model of my youth, was a land thief, and hints that his patriotic fervor in helping to ferment the revolution may have been influenced by his desire to cover up his stealings. And all I can do by way of defending my heroes is to call names, for he surely has "the goods" on the entire lot.

Well, if I must be disillusioned, I may as well accept my fate as stoically as possible. It is not the first time the veil of romance has been torn from my eyes; and though the operation was painful, I am now thankful.

So I say to you, Simons: Bravo, you have not only done your work completely, you have done it scholarly and well.

It is an ominous sign of the new times when the working class has begun to rewrite history. For this book is really a short history of the United States, written from a working class, or materialistic viewpoint. It has all the earmarks of painstaking study and will be a revelation to everyone who has been feeding from the trough of capitalistic historians.

It cannot be too highly recommended. Every working class library should have it. Every student of working class economics should read it. It may be obtained through The Agitator. J. F.

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