

EOS #53

THE MILITANT

Published Semi-Monthly by W. J. BELL, Socialist, 110 W. Erwin, Tyler, Tex

Price: 1 year 10c



Application will be made for entry as Second Class Matter.

Volume I.

TYLER, TEXAS, MAY 1, 1911.

No. 20

THAT INVESTIGATION.

(Continued from No. 19.)

Such statements, however, as "He would leave the office at lunch time with Mrs.—— * * and often did not return when we quit for the day;" "Several times * * the question arose among the girls as to whether Mrs.—— did not use intoxicants—her general untidy appearance—her loud talking—and the topic most frequently chosen by her—the sex question—which at times reached the point of vulgarity, thereby disgusting and displeasing the girls;" the night in question Barnes did not come home at all;" "Mrs.—— leaving the office sometime after three o'clock, Barnes leaving a short time after, neither of them returning until the following morning;" habitually leaving the National office together * * * around the hour of three o'clock;" while not proof of anything, will not justify the investigators in reporting that "we find that not the slightest evidence was produced."

That the investigators (?) were open to, and sought circumstance on which to feed their bias is shown by these inconsequential items brought into the report to the discredit of accusers.

1. "Miss Flaherty did not criticize the conduct of the comrades accused until nearly five years afterwards and not until she was discharged from the national office."

2. "We were greatly impressed by the fact that much of the inefficiency of the office is alleged to have been in existence during Brower's employment in the national office, but he did not protest or make suggestions for remedying them until some time after his severance from office."

The extreme and rabid bias of the investigators, by constituting themselves defenders and pleaders for the N. E. C. and Sec. are shown by these items of the report.

1. "An affidavit from Comrade Solomon does not contradict Barnes."

2. "They * * allege that he was dishonest only in that he did not repay it as early as Mother Jones thought it should be paid" (Allegations have been made that he was trying to beat her out of it.—Ed.)"

4. "In this matter (dishonesty) there is no conflict of evidence."

5. "No element of dishonesty could have been inferred."

6. "Even if the original debt had not been paid that the committee could not have entertained a charge of dishonesty."

7. "The National Executive Committee could not constitute itself a debt collecting agency, or by its action set a precedent which would enable private creditors or private debtors to use the party machinery, and threats of party discipline and party publicity of such private affairs to enforce private demands of this character." (No such action was asked, for the reason that complaint was not made until after the debt was paid. N. E. C. was only asked to "consider" and "act," with no specifications as to what action.—Ed.)

8. "The charges were couched in the most general terms. * * they were not specific." (Let us see them please?—Ed.)"

9. "Comrade Brower * * attempted to withdraw the charges from the N. E. C. and lay them before the N. C." (The N. E. C. had refused action on them as presented. Comrade B. considered them "specific" and had a right to appeal from their "decision...—Ed.")

(To be Continued.)

Get out of the way of democracy.

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Whatever goes to seed multiplies its kind.

* * *

The "biggest" state membership bought no dues stamps in March.

* * *

"To escape criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."—Pettipiece.

* * *

What will the national office do with all the money? \$50,000 a year?

* * *

"Voting for Socialism is not Socialism any more than a menu is a meal."

—Debs.

* * *

"A man in earnest finds means, or, if he cannot find them, creates them."—Channing.

* * *

When you bottle up democracy it is liable to burst forth and break something.

* * *

"If you believe in Socialism and dare not help Socialism, what are you?"—Free Press.

* * *

"We make up in noise and blare and jokes for what we lack in sound knowledge."—Call.

* * *

"For the Socialist movement, the times that try men's souls, are just ahead."—Heacock.

* * *

Only seven per cent of the party are members and over half of these are mere reformers.

* * *

"We would seek only to register the actual vote of Socialism, no more and no less."—Debs.

* * *

The only national committee we need is a campaign committee, and that is likely to become too spectacular.

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Elected candidates of the party in Wisconsin continue to hold party office. This could not be in Texas.

* * *

"How many of those elected at the last election will develop into mere half-baked reformers?"—Lee Heacock, in Call.

* * *

"Resolve yourselves into a committee to canvass those who are behind before your next meeting."—Anna A. Maley.

* * *

"One man in the ranks is worth more than one hundred outside who are just content with voting our ticket."—Schwartz.

"Dead locals may be converted into live ones by the comrades undertaking to distribute leaflets systematically."—W. K. Shier.

* * *

There is no deep and hidden philosophy in the demands of Socialism. Those of ordinary comprehension can be made to understand.

* * *

W. Hays Linville, who, like Barnes, puts his name in the middle, is sure that Barnes keeps sober, because he was sober nic-enough to see.

* * *

"It requires a trained mind to follow a lecture for an hour or more. Most of the workmen are incapable of the effort."—M. A. Malkiel.

* * *

We do not propose to let up on democracy because its opponents, in the absence of argument, coined the phrase "democracy gone to seed."

* * *

"The young man who full of enthusiasm comes into the party to learn and to work is given opportunity for neither."—L. Lichstein, in Call.

* * *

"Our party machinery is too complex and cumbersome * * * There is too much machinery, and too much 'red tape.' We are being strangled."—Spargo.

* * *

"Until the Socialist candidates can obtain a working majority, backed by a well organized party, it is better to miss the goal."—M. T. Maynard, in Call.

* * *

"From Missouri." We believe that these comrades would join the regular organization were it not for the fact that they are expecting the N. E. C. to interfere."

* * *

The reason your local movement remains weak is that you give your whole attention to helping the movement away off somewhere instead of your movement at home.

* * *

"Are we to have freedom of speech and writing in the party, or are the opinions of the present members of the N. E. C. to become subsidized orthodoxies?"—L. H. Wetmore.

* * *

"Every piece of literature counts in the long run. Every effort. We can't see it now, but in the future we can look back at the cosmic forces at work in us."—T. N. Freeman.

* * *

"The workmen and women of the Socialist party form a chain, hand joined to hand, all around the world. If you do not pay dues, you are at best a missing link."—Anna A. Maley.

"If the mountain will not come to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the mountain. We must invade the homes of the people, of the workmen, carry our literature to them."—L. A. Malkiel.

* * *

New York State Secretary is still elected by the State Committee. Their smashing record is 29 locals organized in six months. Some western states beat that record in a month.

* * *

"It is more important to stimulate the people to think for themselves than to secure some immediate alleviation of existing circumstances at the hands of so-called leaders."—Stokes.

* * *

"This struggle against capitalism is greatly delayed by the laziness of the working class—its unwillingness to raise a row, so to speak, against the wrongs and injustices of capitalism."—Stokes.

* * *

Socialists carried Star City, W. Va., with one Socialist candidate **running on two party tickets**, in violation of our constitution. What kind of a class-conscious solidarity is that and what kind of a Milwaukee will it be?

* * *

"I think if every state would send the national office five per cent of the dues collected, it would yield as much money (as \$5) on the whole and give the smaller states a chance to use what little money they have for their own expansion."—H. G. Terlisner.

* * *

"If the Socialist party is to win, it must have men who are strong enough to get into the jungle of capitalism, fight and win their own sustenance. We have got to beat the capitalism at their own game. We want men that fear neither man nor devil."—H. G. Terlisner.

* * *

"The large increase in the Socialist vote in the late national and state elections is quite naturally hailed with elation and rejoicing by party members, but I feel prompted to remark, in the light of some personal observations during the campaign, that it is not entirely a matter for jubilation."—Debs.

* * *

"The district organizations and other subdivisions are in the habit of arranging little entertainments and calling upon all other organizations to help them. This vicious habit should be given up. No organization should embark upon enterprises so large that the support for them cannot be drawn from its own locality."—Call.

"Many Socialists * * imagine that political victories mean Socialism. It would not. While I agree that the control of government is necessary to gain the means of wealth production, the election of political office holders is not the ultimate triumph. **There must be the well drilled army of the working class operating and controlling the industries before we can have Socialism.** For Socialism is INDUSTRIAL SELF-GOVERNMENT OF THE WORKERS."—Haywood, in Call.

* * *

"The personal work pays,—the work of ALL, and not alone of that good fellow—you all know him—who carries the platform, licks up the hall after meetings, posts the bills and distributes five-sixths of the leaflets put out by your local. If you recognize this individual easily on mention, it is to be feared that you have, properly speaking, no movement;; you have a man and your work would die if he were so inconsiderate of you as to give up the ghost."—Anna A. Maley.

* * *

"Two copies of your paper, 'The Militant' came to my attention recently. * * Please send it to me for one year. They gave me new ideas in regard to the organization of the movement. I thank you for the advice and warning in regard to my state-Maine. Altho, as yet I do not approve wholly of your criticism of our national and state organizations. Yet I realize that the surge and stir of ferment is necessary to keep the movement clean and healthy. Agitation is as necessary within the movement as without; it means life and progress as opposed to stagnation and death.—Keep it up."—G. M. Twombly, Monroe, Maine.

* * *

The comrades of Kingman, Kan., propose a recall of all national officers and election of a new deal all the way round. No use, boys, it wouldn't be much better, even if you could beat that 60 day limit, which you can't. It would be near election time anyway before you could get action. Better try a referendum to change the limit on initiative to 90 days; or 120 days would be better, and install a provision forever prohibiting conventions from tampering with the constitution. Then abolish national executive bodies except for campaign purposes and you will have peace. It will be the middle of March before the few who read the national bulletin will see your motion therein and the time will be up before they can get together and consider it.

THE MILITANT

Every county should have a paid secretary, devoting all his time to the movement. This may not seem possible to many of you, but it is. First raise subscriptions among the members to keep them employed for a while and in the course of time, by his activities he will build up a movement large enough to pay his salary from the dues.

The real growth of the party in the state dates from the time a state secretary gave his whole time to the movement. At first there was hardly any salary, but by plunging away at it, giving every minute of time possible to the work, the movement grew until there was a salary. Then by giving all his time the movement grew still faster and has kept up the gait. The same can be done in a county. Comrades will have to dig down for a while and pay the secretary a certain amount in donations each month until the county is well organized, and then the dues will keep it going without donations and the constant labors of the secretary build up a powerful county organization. Set this thing going in your county and see what a powerful movement we will soon develop in the state.

* * *

Industrial Democracy is almost at hand. If no great hitch occurs in the progress of the movement, the old gray beards who have longed for the good time to come "in our day" will most of them, see the full glory of the new regime before shuffling off to leave its benefits to their progeny.

Just now we witness the capture of a dozen or so industrial centers and the near capture of many more. This will continue until all industrial centers are in the Socialist camp.

The villages, county seat towns and those having but few wage slaves will be the last to come under the wire, because their population is bourgeois.

Ahead of these and perhaps ahead of the industrialists, will be the farming proletariat. The agricultural states will be the first to win because the farmer is exploited to a greater degree than the wage slave, knows how he is exploited and sees the cure more quickly. Though unable to express organizations in terms of dues-paying the farmer is a greater organizer than the industrial wage slave. In the agricultural states they will surround and close in on the little bourgeois graft centers and make them helpless.

These factors, the city and rural workers will win the day.—If no great hitch occurs.

But the hitches will occur. Already the successes chronicled point out to self-seekers the trend of events. The

inroads on the party by place hunters will be extensive. The rank and file, fired with optimism by recent successes will ignore and try to silence the danger signals hoisted during the flush of success.

The opportunity is thus made easy for the self-seekers, who even now have made their inroads.

To the average new recruit—and he is legion—the fellow who mounts the platform and flails the capitalist "system" (which quite the popular practice now) is the "right stuff."

The pettifogger and the half-starved preacher have all the "platform experience" necessary to "make a hit". They are doing it and getting to "the front."

It will require heroic effort to prevent these professionals from ignorantly or designedly side tracking the movement and on y by the most uncompromising tactics can they be forestalled.

This is not overdrawn. Concrete instances already abound. To name just one.—A lawyer broke into the movement in Texas. He appeared at an encampment. Spoke there. Made an impression on some comrades and was recommended for trial as a state speaker. The trial was made. From the start he overcharged the comrades. When organizing he levied extra per capita fees which went in his pocket, representing that dues the first month were larger than following months. Later he organized locals, pocketed all the dues and made no application for charters. A part of his route was in N. Mex., financed from the national office. There he charged a higher rate of car fare than was in vogue and for mileage he never travelled. In excess of contract he collected mileage from a comrade, then attempted to collect same from the national office. People lost confidence in the movement because of his crooks and abandoned the cause. His tricks found him out and he could no longer "operate" in Texas. He had, however, but to go a few miles to another state—OKLAHOMA—and renew operations, when lo and behold, he gets ON THE STATE TICKET AS A CANDIDATE FOR STATE POLITICAL OFFICE. As it is dangerous to publish names we will just say that his initials are F. M. ALLEE.