

SPECIAL SPOKANE DESPATCHES

Foster In Spokane

"The Workingman's Paper" now has its own special reporter at Spokane, as the capitalist dailies cannot be depended on to give any approach to the facts.

Wm. Z. Foster went to Spokane Saturday night, November 13, and he sends a daily dispatch to this paper, which we aim to publish in a "Red Special" every night for sale on the streets of Seattle.

"The Socialist" was first published a daily when the Street Car Employees of Seattle went on strike. This was the only paper which stood by the strikers to the last ditch.

Again, this paper was issued daily during the trial of Haywood at Boise, and was the first to appear with the news of his acquittal on that fateful Sunday morning.

In Portland, when the I. W. W. were conducting their fight for the Saw Mill Workers, this paper published "Specials" in their support which were distributed by thousands through the lumber camps of Oregon and Washington, urging all to rally to the defense of their striking fellow workers in Portland.

In making a special effort to report the Spokane fight so that the wage workers may not be misled by false reports in the Capitalist dailies, "The Socialist" is following its practice since its foundation.

Got a Stove P. D. Q.

Two days were spent in Franklin schoolhouse by the I. W. W. prisoners without any heat. The officers kept promising a stove, but no stove came.

Then the boys tore off moldings from the old school room, broke them up, piled up old chairs, etc., in the middle of the room and set fire to it. Smoke poured out of the windows, armed officers came rushing in to put out the fire before it burned a hole in the floor, etc.

The boys got the stove two hours later.

Barefoot Torture

In cell 15 the prisoners had their shoes taken away from them and for four days were forced to walk the steel floor in bare feet.

In cell 14 a man lay unconscious for hours. Finally, he was dragged out by the heels when cell was swept. After the sweeping, dragged back. What else can Slaves expect?

Two Cops in Spokane quit, gave up their Stars and joined the I. W. W. Three others quit the force. One pulled off his Star and told the Judge he would not swear innocent men's lives away. And the Negro soldiers at the Fort treat the prisoners "white," while most of the white Cops treat them black as hell.

That Hunger Strike

The Capitalist papers never told why the Hunger Strike began nor that it ended only when won.

The men refused to work breaking stone for city streets on the "Rock Pile." If they worked, then they got usual food, meat, vegetables, etc. But Washington statutes provide that prisoners who won't work shall be put on bread and water.

The Spokane officers began feeding the men one-half a nickel loaf of bread for a meal twice a day. The men took it. Then the police reduced the allowance to one-quarter loaf. This started the "Hunger Strike," the prisoners refusing all food. At last, after many men had gone to the hospital sick and exhausted, Chief Sullivan ordered the half loaf returned and the Strike was won.

The Fake Picture

The "Spokesman-Review" published an alleged flashlight photograph of Wilson and Cousins eating a good meal while the Hunger Strike was in progress. All who knew Wilson and Cousins recognized the Fake. The officers had rigged up two "trustees" to personate the Editors, cheat the public and create dissension among the other prisoners.

Sensational Court Scene

Judge Mann Nonplussed—Attorney Bruce Rogers Defends I. W. W. Methods.

(Special to "The Workingman's Paper.")

SPOKANE, Thursday, Nov. 18.—Judge Mann in Police Court sentenced twenty more I. W. W. "orators" today. He kangarooed them all to his usual "Thirty Days." All cases appealed to Superior Court for Jury trials. Spokane County will have a pretty bill to meet when these two or three hundred Jury trials have to be paid for, besides furnishing these "30-day meal tickets," as the boys call the sentences.

Two boys of 18 years were up today. Mann offered them their liberty and jobs if they would promise not to speak again. They refused, and he gave them 30 days and \$100 fine.

A sensational tilt occurred between the Court and Bruce Rogers, counsel for I. W. W., from Portland. Judge Mann denounced the organization and declared its tactics in defiance of the law. Rogers replied and demanded Court to name any other lawful means for disfranchising to change the present ordinance. The Judge was nonplussed and could not answer, except to attack Rogers for defending such an "unlawful organization." Rogers replied hotly he would defend it, even if unpopular, and that there was just cause for rancor and hatred in the unprecedented severity of this Court in imposing sentences and fines in order to intimidate and coerce men from speaking in a perfectly orderly manner to their fellow workingmen.

Only one was arrested today. W. Z. FOSTER.

Conspiracy Trial

Tone Outwits Blair—Judge Hinkle Reserves Judgment—Will Probably Dismiss Case—Filigno Will Be Discharged

(Special to "The Workingman's Paper.")

SPOKANE, Friday, Nov. 19, 1909.—Three I. W. W.'s arrested today.

Main interest today centered around the trial of Filigno, one of those who have been confined for two weeks awaiting trial for "Conspiracy."

Attorney Tone, sent by Vincent St. John from Chicago, defended Filigno in a brilliant manner. He got the state's attorney, Blair, badly tangled up. The complaint against Filigno charges him with conspiracy to violate city ordinance which Judge Mann had already declared unconstitutional because it discriminated in favor of religious meetings.

When Lawyer Tone called attention to this fact Prosecuting Attorney Blair was allowed to amend the complaint. But he only changed the number of the ordinance, leaving the rest of the complaint as it read before. The complaint thus became unintelligible. When state closed its case, Tone moved to dismiss as the complaint had no meaning.

Court stated he was embarrassed, seemed to have been tricked, wanted time to read authorities, but was at present inclined to dismiss case. Finally he announced he would reserve decision till tomorrow. "Justice" is reduced to a farce in this attempt of capitalists to down a growing labor organization. Judge Mann and Mayor Pratt above him are becoming the laughing stock of the city. The I. W. W. are winning sympathy of the public every day. The longer the authorities continue their fight against Free Speech for Labor, the more overwhelming will be their defeat. Any ordinance which repeals the Right of Free Speech will be condemned by public sentiment—the highest court after all.

Today Joe Mullin, a member of the I. W. W., was arrested and slugged in the court hallway. He was quite inoffensive and screamed murder repeatedly, greatly disturbing the court. Officer Shannon was the slugger. The affair produced great sensation and must have been intended to incite indignation and provoke the boys to retaliation. So far I. W. W. has been absolutely peaceable under worst provocation.

Every one says "The Socialist" is now proving itself "the best ever." Yet it costs money. Are you doing your best to sustain it?

Showers of Food

(Special to "The Workingman's Paper.")

SPOKANE, Wash., Sunday, Nov. 21.—The City Administration made a mistake for their own cause today. They marched two hundred prisoners under strong guard, armed with shotguns, from the Franklin schoolhouse, now used as a jail, across town to the city jail, in order to compel the men to bathe. The bath was all right, but the reception given by the citizens of Spokane to these starved men, who had lived on bread and water for weeks rather than work for taxpayers on the rock pile, was an eye opener to Mayor Pratt and his man, Chief Sullivan, and his other man, Judge Mann.

The crowds cheered the prisoners, but they did more. They passed them tobacco and matches and sandwiches and fruit. When the guards pressed the crowds back, an inspiring thing occurred. Literal showers of food poured over the heads of the officers, to be eagerly caught by the famished men and devoured before the eyes of the angry police. One officer actually clubbed a prisoner for eating a sandwich. They hustled some prisoners into conveyances to escape the kind crowd, but one fruit dealer called to everybody to help themselves to his stock and throw oranges, apples and bananas to the men in the wagons.

When the boys were taken back to their Franklin School Prison, they were followed by big throngs who held a meeting near the schoolhouse and sung Revolutionary songs like the Marseillaise. The men in the schoolhouse joined in the songs. You can't shoot down a song, yet the officers dispersed the crowd, though this block is outside the limits covered by the Anti-Free Speech ordinance. They arrested four, including Mrs. Fernetto who has been in once before and is of the most active I. W. W.'s. She and her husband both play in the I. W. W. band, which furnishes music at the nightly meetings, or did, before so many were jailed. Z.

Hits the Woman Hard

(Special Dispatch.)

SPOKANE, Monday, Nov. 22.—Judge Mann displayed his Mannliness today by sentencing Mrs. Fernetto, arrested yesterday outside the Fire Limits, to Thirty Days in Jail and One Hundred Dollars Fine. This means Sixty-three Days in Jail. Maybe Mann and his Masters think they can break the woman's spirit by such infamous bulldozing. This will rather inflame a hundred other women. These stupid officials will find out soon what every one ought to know, that the Working Class are the Fighters of the World and these I. W. W. men are real workmen.

Four were arrested today and sent en masse sentenced by Mann. Elisabeth Gurley Flynn returned from a successful trip to Butte. Z.

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Mann Gets Madder

SPOKANE, Tuesday, Nov. 23.—Five more sentenced today. Judge Mann, under orders from his "Standard" Masters, took another turn at the screws today and increased the penalty for speaking on the streets, first offence, to the maximum allowed to municipal courts, that is, Thirty Days and One Hundred Dollars Fine and Costs, making a total of 63 or 64 days in jail.

The Chumps think thus to break these men's spirits. Meanwhile, the men fight on, laughing.

Twelve more arrested today. Z.

The Principle at Stake

The principle, stated as an ordinance, is this: "No one shall gather a crowd which materially interferes with travel on the street."

That is all there is to it. The streets are naturally for speech as well as travel. If a person speaks well enough to attract others, let him alone unless he hinders another natural use of the street, namely, travel and traffic. And that obstruction must be established by testimony like any other misdemeanor.

In practice the thing settles itself. Speakers don't want to block travel and rarely do so. In Seattle they take side streets just off main avenues, where they can catch the crowd and yet not get in the way of the street cars or teams or sidewalk throngs.

In all times when great public questions are under discussion, city streets and parks have been used for such man to man addresses. It was so at the time of the Civil War in America. It is so during political campaigns. With the workmen in these days, when unemployment is chronic and the Labor Problem forces itself increasingly to the front, street discussion is inevitable. To attempt to suppress it is only to fan it to greater flame. It is too late in the world's history to forbid men to talk to their fellow men in the open air where they congregate.

It is useless to tell them to hire halls. There may be no halls to hire, as in Spokane last Sunday, the I. W. W. could find no hall whose owner would rent it to them. But people want freer intercourse than in a formal hall. Two or three stop and converse. Others are attracted, and they stop to listen. There you have a crowd. If they do not seriously and materially interfere with others who wish to use the street, no law can stop such a crowd.

And there is always plenty of room on city streets. They are not like country roads, only one in a given direction. If one city street is blocked, there is always another going in the same direction only a short block away. If a thousand people want to use this street to listen to a good speaker, why it is less trouble for a score or a hundred to go a block further to reach their destination than for that thousand to move aside.

To pass an ordinance contrary to these principles, may be "constitutional," but no city public, who are the city, and who do the voting, are going to stand for any such stupid and arbitrary decree.

The Spokane Gag is bound to fail.