THE AGITATOR

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

VOL. 1, NO. 10

THE PASSING SHOW

The appeal from the Mexican Revolutionaries, printed on this page and addressed to Samuel Gompers, is a powerful document. It places the cause of Mexican civilization before square to build up, to defend, a simple mind, which indeed it does.

Mexico is beyond his horizon because the color of the capitalist flag is not the same as ours. The Mexican is a foreigner, because his political chains are not welded in Washington. In a word, the average American worker feels he has nothing much in common with the workers across the Rio Grande.

With the capitalists it is different. There is not one in the country who is not well pleased with Washington for sending the troops to defend the revolutionaries in Mexico against the possible success of the Revolutionist, even though he has not the remotest personal interest in Mexico.

But he recognizes the principle. He knows that Morgan's interests in Mexico are the same as his at home.

If the red flag of Revolution is raised over Mexico, and the octopus of exploitation be headed, he is keen enough to know that the Revolutionary movement in America is strengthened thereby.

The American capitalist is so dolt he does not know that every American dollar must carry an American flag to defend itself from being devoured by the hungry and enslaved mob seeking bread and freedom.

What is true of the vast majority on the capitalists' side is true of only a minority of the side of the toilers.

That is why one is master and the other slave; why one is actively interested in the Mexican Revolution, and the other is not. That is why one makes a demonstration on the border, and the other does not even utter a word of protest.

If the government of this country may step into Mexico and restore the power of the cruel Diaz regime without a word of protest from the great body of American toilers, the degeneracy of American labor movement is well proven, and the plutocratic owners of the country may use the army and navy with impunity to carry out their dream of empire.

As the savage animal, man, learned from experience the value of combination or mutual aid he laid the foundation for all the civilization and culture we have thus far attained, and all future development of the human race. Combination is the watchword of civilization. It is the keystone of economy, and the very basis of all modern institutions.

For untold ages man has been struggling to learn the art of civilization, and his greatest teacher has been mutual aid. He is yet very far from the ideal of civilization, but his approach to it is measured by his power to apply the principles of mutual aid.

It is said the first law of nature is to pre-serve oneself first and his neighbor afterwards; but this law is supplemented by another law, developed by experience, which reads: "Self-preservation depends on the preservation of my neighbors; we therefore unite and mutually preserve each other." This is the new application of the old rule of nature, improved by the intelligence of man. And all who follow it will live and grow, but those who persist in clinging to the old law will be ground beneath the chariot wheels of progressive civilization.

In the Labor Union we see the grandest exemplification of this new law. One for all and all for each, is the foundation principle of this great world movement of the toiling masses, which is threatening the very existence of the institutions of capitalism.

The Labor Union is not a new thing. It has existed for thousands of years. Solomon's temple was a Union job. Unionism flourished in ancient Rome, and the Greek had cause to remember the combination of their slaves. Union Labor built the great cities of the middle ages, and its influence upon modern times is vastly more than many of us are ready to admit.

But the union principle is yet far from having the strength that will free the toilers. Stupid trade jurisdiction fights must be stopped. The principles of industrialism must be applied. The separate trade union idea continued in practice tends to prevent the growth of the real labor solidarity.

Industrial unionism, one union for all slaves, is the ideal form of organization to develop the power that will make us free.

How well the Roman Church is working its way into control of the American labor movement is shown by the new organization recently formed by its crafty priesthood, called the "Militia of Christ."

The object of this organization is to fight the adoption of radicalist ideas and tactics in the labor unions. Only Catholic workers favorable to labor unions are taken into its fold. It is offered by the big guns of the A. F. of L. The real head is a priest, Peter E. Dietz, who was admitted as a delegate from the Catholic societies to the last convention of the A. F. of L. That "revolutionary" body approved the priest's plan to form an organization "for social service."

The Roman Church works in such a subtle, innocent-looking manner that often even those outside its fold are deceived by it. It has well trained organizers in its service, whose oily tongues and hypocritical smiles carry its schemes without opposition, where less learned schemers would fail.

"The Militia of Christ?" Poor crucified carpenter, what villains are being enacted in thy name!

Thus this organization the Church will not only be able to keep in touch with everything that goes on in the unions, but will have a vehicle to carry out its schemes for the Romanization of America.

The Catholic Church is losing its hold on the Latin races, so has determined to capture America. Morgan is in its clutches. He is the official banker and has the handling and investment of all the papal money on this continent. The Republican party is in its power. It elected Taft for his services.

For be it known that the United States paid twice in money, besides once in blood, for the Philippine Islands. McKinley bought them from Spain; later on Taft paid for them again in Rome, when he gave the Church its own price for the "Friar lands," land that had been taken by force and freely from the natives by the crowns of Christianity.

So, having control in Wall Street and at Washington, Rome now hopes to complete its subjugation of the United States by gaining mastery over the labor unions. its Militia of Christ will do that. Will it?

JAY FOX.

MEXICAN REBELS APPEAL TO AMERICAN WORKERS

Headquarters of the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party, 519½ E. 4th St., Los Angeles, Cal., U. S. A.

March 11, 1911.

To Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, 425 C St., Washington, D. C.

SIR—The Mexican Liberal Party appeals to you—to you directly and officially, as head of the largest body of organizer labor in the United States. It appeals to you in a cause as just and holy as ever history recorded; it makes an appeal for your personal services, therefore that you cannot and, we are sure, will not resist.

It is time that the workmen of the United States speak out, and it is for you to give the word, promptly and decisively.

The slavery against which we are fighting is the slavery your American Federation of Labor was organized to fight. The chains that the money power has fastened on us are the chains against which you fret. Our cause is your cause, but yours in its extreme, most pitiful and, therefore, most irresistible form.

We are in revolt against unspeakably atrocious slavery, forced on us and supported by the American money power. The Standard Oil Company, the Guggenheim's, the Southern Pacific railway, the Sugar Trust—all that Wall Street autocracy against which you and the great masses of your nation are making such vigorous protest—are the powers against which we of Mexico are in revolt. They have disposed of us of our lands and rendered us homeless by the hundreds of thousands; they have left us the choice of exile or imprisonment in such hells as the Valle Nacional.

To support this Wall Street inferno, American soldiers are being called to arms. Already by the tens of thousands they are being sent to our borders, that they may aid in stamping out the last spark of that freedom which is supposed to be the basis of your Republic.

It is time for effective protest, and it is you who can make it most effectively.

The issue is clear, unmistakable, beyond evasion. We repeat that your cause is our cause, and we call on you to give it voice—promptly, clearly and decisively.

Yours, for human liberty.

(Ranulfo) RICARDO FLORES MAGON.
THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by The Agitator Publishing Association from its printing office in Home, Wash.

Subscription, One Dollar a Year.

Address all communications and make all money orders payable to Agitator Publishing Association, South Lake, Wash. Articles for publication should be written legibly on one side of the paper only.

The Agitator does not bear the union stamp because it is not printed for profit. But it is union, every letter of it. It is printed and published by unionists and their friends for the economic and political elevation of themselves and their fellow toilers. Much of the labor is given for nothing, it is written in a world of love—the love of the idea, of a world for the free.

Liberty is to the collective body what health is to the individual body. Without health no pleasure can be tasted by man, without liberty no happiness can be enjoyed by society. Revolutionary.

THE AGITATOR'S NEW SUIT.

How Does "The Agitator" Strike You Now, Dressed in Larger Type?

We have other improvements in view as soon as our financial support will warrant them.

And right here I wish to call the attention of our eastern comrades to the fact that their support is not at all what I used to believe they would give the paper before I came west.

Everybody lamented the lack of a paper, and said: "Sure, we will help." Yet only a comparative few have, so far, done anything to prove their statement and words.

Take Chicago, a city with enough comrades to support a paper alone, if each would do a little, yet THE AGITATOR has received but scant support from that big city. New York, Boston, Philadelphias are in the same box.

What is the matter?

It cannot be that THE AGITATOR is unworthy of support; for we have numerous let-s toers on file here, from comrades qualified to judge, giving it their heartiest approval.

The trouble with the comrades is they are nationalists in an international country.

English is the international language of America. All revolutionary ideas have been introduced into this country through other languages, and they have grown and spread in this country among the number of "foreigners" who have adopted the English language. I remember when socialism was confined to a "bunch of bewildered foreigners." It would still be there if some of these "foreigners" didn't begin propagating it in English, and giving their support to the few Americans they converted. Soon the American movement was big enough to carry on its own propaganda, with the result that socialism is today a force. Can't we profit by this and make a united effort to build a real Revolutionary movement in America?

Let us hear from you.

J. F.

THE SCABS AT WORK.

A writer in Collier's Weekly gives us the following account of how the pest of humanity does its work:

"When the strike-breakers are put to work their one instruction is: 'Keep things moving and put up a bluff of being busy.' If it is a factory to which they are sent, they are told to keep smoke coming out of the chimneys and the machinery humming. No work is expected from them, and they do none. If the strikers prove obstinate and form in crowds to make demonstrations, the supreme moment of the strike-breakers' existence at hand. Seeding out two or three stoo-pigeons with guns and instructions to shoot over the heads of their comrades, the strike-breakers' leaders supply the most determined and powerful of their men with guns and clubs and prepare for action. When the strikers and the strike-breakers come together, they will be able to go away from the crowd of strikers. Having been shot at, the strike-breakers have a legal right to defend themselves, the guards charge, and the things happen which tend to mob of the strikers are said to relax. Neither age, nor condition served to disarm the club, and the first sign of resistance brings a shot from the really revolver to end the argument. I will never forget the sight of a mother with a child in her arms in one of the riots of the Phil adelphie strike last year, staggering along, blood pouring from three jagged cuts in her head, the result of a clubbing administered by one of those guards. The man was arrested, but went free, as did all others arrested for similar crimes."

"Never before were there such systematic, willful, brutal, unpunished assaults upon an unoffending populace in an American City. It did not seem to make any difference whether the victims were strikers or sympathizers or not. They got it just the same, and they called the police, they got it worse. There has never been such wholesale pilfering and looting. If you gave the strike-breaking conductor a coin, you got no change. If you protested, you were thrown off the car and clubbed, and if you resisted, you ran a fine change of being shot. The strike-breakers made no pretense of turning in any money to the trolley company. ‘You ought to be thankful to get your ears back,’ they said.'"

SOCIALIST CRITICISM

"The author’s philosophy of life is that of the peasant proprietors of the eighteenth century. This is a review of the work in which Emma Goldman has discussed the leading problems of modern life in the light of the latest literature; Minorities, Veasa Minorities; according to Herbert Spencer, A. Beaver Herbert, etc.; Wm. Sullaghe, the Traffic in Women, Prince, Francisco Ferrer, and so forth. The book consists of the most recent works in the drama, in plays, now before the public. Fanny a peasant-proprietor of the eighteenth century having any such outlook on the subject.

I do not know who is answerable for that prepos terous criticism, but I do know that it appears in the February "International Review." Review. I do not know furthermore than other parts of the criticism, though not so palpably absurd, are gross misrep resentations of some of the main ideas of the book. For example, the author is declared as advocating "a return to the old wasteful methods, for the sake of developing the free initiative of the work ers."

One understands the animus that prompts that misstatement, which not a sentence in the book can warrant. One knows that the Political Socialists teach that machinery can be used advantageously only when operated on the largest scale, by the state as a whole investment, and not by the individual capitalist. One knows that the Anarchists are not content that there are no limits to the magnitude on which the voluntary co-operation of economically free men and women exist, and must be executed, as is de nied by the undertakings of modern corporations. One knows they ignore obvious reply because they wish to pile history high enough to put the hands of time and resort to bacterium. And understanding this from her experience in debating with them, I have found that endeavor to refute her with political abstracts of any kind, without that did not hesitate to pose her as of the eighteenth century peasant-proprietor type, longing for a return to primitive conditions.

Let me quote a few sentences from the chapter this critic pretends to review, that may you understand the scorn. From page 62: "That being the ideal of Anarchism, its economic arrangement must consist of voluntary production of domestic and foreign soci alizations, gradually developing into free commonin, as the best means of producing with the least waste of energy. How is human society to go on from here with the quoted passage from the critic?"

Again, page 65: "Anarchism stands for a social order based on the free grouping of individuals for the purpose of producing the means of life."

"The true social harmony grows naturally out of solidarity of interests."

And, page 67: "Only in freedom can they realize the importance of the solidaric general product."

Read the foregoing, as the reviewer must have read them, and ask yourself whether the language is that of a woman who advocates "a return to the old wasteful methods." Also please ask yourself whether, in your opinion, the reviewer believed he was writing the truth.

The Socialist Party in America today is drunk with dreams of power. It is crazy to catch votes at any price, and is victim of the insane delusion that it can attain its end by the double process of misrepresenting those who differ from it and claiming everything in sight. Thus every effort has been made to manufacture false enemies, and the recently executed Japanese were affiliated with their party, the rectification being,—"How heroic is the Socialist Party!" Not a single food would I steal from any kinsman of glory to which the party is entitled, nor would I instigate for one minute that it does not contain names of the most correct and self-sacrificing type.

But those sincere men and women are deluding themselves when they imagine that misrepresentation and the use of false colors can benefit the cause they have at heart. Between the Political Socialists and the Anarchists there is a gulf that no committee can bridge, for the first that the affairs of the individual should be managed by the State (Government, Administration, call it what you will) on the majority principle, while the second that individuals should manage their own affairs. Both cannot be right; one or the other must be tragically wrong; the two philosophies are irreconcilable.

He who comes out courageously and flat-footedly, stating his case clearly and unambiguously, confers the greatest service on the public; for the public, at bottom, wants to know and is hungry for truth. But he who misrepresents, in order that his opinion may have a following, is not only false on the truth, but on the future, and that the most he can do is to squander the educational work of others all who are striving for the emancipation of the race expand in knowledge."

Believing that the Anarchists, who seek no office and have no axes to grind, belong to the former category, I consider it incumbent on them to make the public protest against the systematic misinformation now in vogue. Surely they owe it to themselves and to the educational cause in which they are engaged.

W. F. OWEN.

LONG-EARED LAWMakers

The world is full of long-eared mule-sippers whose heads are full of guts. One of them has just declared that the United States Government introduced a bill which provides for the sterilization of crooks. Sterilization is another word for emasculation. This legislator would pour perfume in the cess-pool; he would enforce legislation that brings benefits to law-abiding citizens of years of a like procedure has not taught this egotist anything. Crime has its causes, but the half-baked individuals who seem to incline to legislative jobs, work altogether on the fin es and profit. Our great and noble machine is turning out criminals, pimps, parasites, and prostitutes, but the reformers never once think of fixing the machine.—The Pesimist.
THE CRIMINALITY OF BUSINESS

(Continued.)

"Resolved: That the business and commercial man of today is as bad, as immoral and as criminal as the thug and rafter of yesterday." I even extended the proposition to include the employer. It is to be feared that the thug and the rafter, and that saloons and dance halls were not to be cleansed at all.

My object in agreeing to do this was to please a friend; and I intend no denunciation of either the system or those who support it. In an individual way, I am simply willing to wish my friend that he has erroneous social conceptions, and make him acquainted with himself. For when an unlawful criminal system is in operation, and degenerates, thugs and thieves, will be included the merchant princes of every metropolis.

An oft-repeated saying of my friend's is that he is an honest man, that he has resorted to no sharp practices in amassing wealth, and that his career is helpful rather than injurious to society. In justification of this he points to his many charities, the number of people he employs and the public institutions he has roused. I have thought it well to begin with what constitutes an honest man.

To begin, I would say an honest man is one who would not willingly injure his fellow men. He would live decently, impose upon none and give every one all he was entitled to. The essence of the matter, however, is to lie so often.

An honest man is one who has not first injured him, and even then will seek only reprieve and not revenge. It is nothing that you believe someone is one who has not injured you, as he is about to injure you; you must await the act, and your retaliation can not honestly extend self-protection. For injurious other men in other acts and your reparation of the weakness of others is the very fibre of honesty.

This is the standard of the doctrine of Christ, Confucius and all other moral teachers. Thus the honest man must not only not injure others, but must labor himself to keep others from being injured. An honest man cannot be an indifferent speculator of the misery of others, and those who refuse to help a distressed brother are justly hated by their fellows.

Let us now have an understanding of the word injury, which may be broadly defined as any thing or act which injures the free exercise of any or all of our physical or mental powers. The policeman injures the escaping criminal by shooting or making him fall, but such injury is justifiable because the criminal has injured others maliciously, that is injured others who had not first injured himself.

Any man may honestly injure another who has been injured or is attempting to injure an innocent third person. In case a fellow man详半子 jostles in the street, another for his benefit, and another for his benefit, if any other person may attempt to restrain it, which he cannot do peacably he should do violence. For every one is entitled to protection by his fellow men and to be honest he must be willing to protect them, hence the right and duty of any individual to revolt against his own or any other government

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Under this heading we will publish, free, the cards of radical lectures and reading rooms.

Chicago: The Francisco Ferrer Club, free library and reading room.

Seattle: T. W. W., hall and reading room; lectures Monday and Tuesday evenings, 11:00 O'clock.

Tacoma: I. W. W. hall and reading room, 723 Commerce st.

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San Francisco: Call: I. W. W. free reading room, Room 29.

Philadelphia: Radical Library, 424 Pine street. Open every evening, 11:00 O'clock, Sunday night, lectures and music. Free discussion.

Get a new subscriber for THE AGITATOR.
Editor The Agitator:

Dear Editor—The Agitator is a fine newspaper, and I always hope that “Mother Earth” might be able to prove such a case, but I take it that Emma Goldman always has her hands full with lecturing all over the country and not much time to think of class differences.

If it should be that you are in a position to create such a center at Home it would be invaluable to the movement, both in this coast and elsewhere.—W. C. OWEN.

Los Angeles.

[The Agitator was started with the object of gathering together the scattered forces of revolutionary workers together, and the outlook is encouraging. Five months of patient, uphill work has demonstrated that the first step in the process of political development is possible. We have the facilities, and a group of live workers keenly aware of the necessity of united effort. Let the comrades rally to the call of the Agitator.—Editor.]

Editor The Agitator:

My Dear Comrade,—For the last three months I have been receiving copies of The Agitator at the various cities en route and have disposed of them at our meetings. I have forgotten just what price you made on them, but I am enclosing $2.00 to go on account. If you will send me a bill I will be glad to remit in full.

Personally I am enjoying The Agitator and think you are giving out a very good paper. I am sure that if you will be patient, you will build up a good circulation. It takes some time to get a publication established over the country.

Sincerely yours,

BEN L. RITMAN, M. D.

Editor The Agitator—

Fellow-worker:—

I note that the benefit held for the Agitator in Seattle was a success. I am certainly glad to hear the news. The Agitator, in my opinion, deserves all the success that it can possibly obtain. The boys that have read it are more than pleased with the attitude of The Agitator. Its program is plain and simple. It sends us a bundle of 25 copies of each issue. Wishing you the best of success in your efforts to destroy “the old superstition” (prayer) and “the new superstition” (balloting), I am, yours for the education of the workers.

A. BENSON, Secretary Joint Locals I. W. W.

Spokane, Wash.

Dear Comrade:—I am spreading The Agitator everywhere. I never walk a step without having a few “Agitators” in my pocket. The Agitator in the Library, Post Office, City Hall, at all teachers’ houses, hotels and depots; I can’t name all the places. It will probably take a little longer, but it will be worth it.

S. YAFFEE.

Lynn, Mass.

Editor The Agitator:—

Dear Comrade—Enclosed find $1.00 for bundle of 25 copies for two months. It is the best paper I ever read and I am very much pleased with it.

Yours for the Revolution,

OTTO WEIK.

Colville, Wash.

Fred W. Heslewood, editor "Industrial Worker," Spokane, writes: “I like The Agitator and look for it with more eagerness than any other paper in America.”


RECEIPTS FOR MARCH

Agents Freind Group: 40; Wasselevsky, $2.00; Branch 160, A. R., $2; J. E., $1.75; I.W.W. 41, Kincaid, 1.50; Jerome, $1.25; Ovis, Weik, Lawry, Guss, Busch, Bergman, Picciotto, Rubenstein, each $1; Pollock, 15c; Levitt, Stark, Penhollow, each 25c.

SEATTLE FOR THE AGITATOR

Dear Comrade,—A meeting of the supporters of The Agitator was held in the Shan club rooms at 10th and Weller Sts., Sunday, March 25. The meeting, though small in size, made up tenfold in spirit, as you can see by the donations, which amount to $65.00. The names you will find below.

If only the comrades everywhere would do a little more, we could easily not only maintain this paper and assure its foundation, but could even send out dozens Agitators throughout the country.

We could distribute thousands of these papers as well as leaflets that could spread the Gospel of Revolution and Freedom among those who are suffering under the iron rod of Capitalism. It would give strength to those who have not as yet become thoroughly saturated with the spirit of commercialism and who knows but what it might do to draw from these weak, split soul souls by who, through self-sufficiency and indifference only help to perpetuate this damna-

tion system of prostitution and graft.

It is up to you. You must not tire of working those souls born in slavery, and remind them of their natural birthright. It is up to those who can see the future in a brighter light and have love to work for the ideals they preach, to lead the way, to awaken in those countless dispirited the spirit of rebellion, to stir up in line who make themselves contented in their misery; those who, for lack of endurance, are getting away from the ranks and are graduates of the new generation, drifting into the ceaseless of commercial individualism and speculation.

It is up to you who possess love for the future and hatred for this poisonous system, that breeds indifference and degradation, and kills every noble effort to elevate humanity for a higher idealistic future.

Keep up this work. We are with you.

THE AGITATOR GROUP OF SEATTLE.

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L. Merid ........................................... 10.00
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SOCIAL AND LECTURE IN SEATTLE

The Agitator group will give a social and lecture, Saturday evening, April 8th at 10th and Weller St's. Refreshments served. J. C. Fore will deliver a short address on: "The story of The Agitator." Admission 10 cents.

Lecture

On the following day, at 2:30, Comrade Fox will deliver a lecture on the subject: "Are we drifting?" Admission free. Public discussion invited.

THE FOUNDATION OF BUSINESS

Deception may be almost called the foundation of business. It is true that it has been gradual. In the more recently cleared West, there is an excellent view of bay and mountains. Full particulars may be had of THE AGITATOR.

For Sale—In Home—a two-story frame house of seven rooms, bathroom, pantry and cellar, with two acres of land, partially cleared. Well watered. Rent $80 per month.

HENDERSON BAY ROUTE—Steamer Tyrone leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on Henderson Bay, including Home, week days at 2:30 p.m., returning next morning. Sunday at 8 a.m., returnoo

NORTH BAY ROUTE—Steamer Laura leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on North Bay, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a.m., returning next morning.

LORING BROS., OWNERS.

A STORY OF GRAFT.

The late Thomas C. Platt, for many years United States Senator from New York, was also for many years president of the United States Express Company, which, since April 21, 1889, has had the exclusive contract for transportation of government currency. Platt was long one of the leading bosses of the Repub-

lican party, and his success in wrenching the government business away from the Adams Com-

pany, which had previously held it, was conceivably facilitated by his political connections. However that may be, Platt showed sufficient business accep-

tance in enforcing every term of the contract once it was signed. It provides that all currency shipped by the government shall be handled by the United States Express Company, and a Treasury official of economical bent who desired to send $19,000,000 gold certificates from Washington to New York simply packed them in canvas bags and gave them to three or four trusted clerks to take to New York. The only cost was that of carfare, a sum distinctly insignificant. But by the Treasury it resulted in an ac-

quaintance of Senator Platt's ran across the little party and so informed the Senator. The latter promptly presented to the Treasury Department the very next day a bill for $2,000, the regular contract rate for carrying $19,000,000 of currency. The best part of the story is that the bill was paid.—From "The Great Express Monopoly," by Albert W. At-

wood in the April American Magazine

Chris Olson worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad as flagman for two or three years. His salary was reduced from thirty dollars a month, and he committed suicide. This is one of the things Capitalism does for the man who consecrates his life to its service. Some of you cheap reformers might find food for thought in this incident.—The Socialist.

DR. M. RASICK (formerly of New York City)

has opened a

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Comrade Rasick is a first-class dentist and is heartily recommended to the patronage of our readers in Seattle and vicinity.

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