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

VOL. 1, NO. 17, JULY 15, 1911.

THE PASSING SHOW.

A Fate Fourth.

The newspapers report with a seeming pleasure that: "We had a sane fourth." Which means that not so many "free Americans" went mad over the memory of the Declaration of Independence. Let us hope the report is true. There is no surer sign of insanity than the sight of an American whether he be home-grown or imported, waving the starry banner and disturbing the peace and calm of a beautiful July morning with hollow hurrars about freedom.

The fellow who is loudest in his mountings about independence on the Fourth of July will bend his slavish neck to the yoke of capitalism early on the morning of the fifth and keeps it there until the passage of time releases it, that he may again hallow himself and his house.

He thinks it's freedom to work ten hours a day, when he can get it, and obeyed to his boss.

He thinks it's freedom to get such pay as keeps him alive from day to day.

He thinks it's freedom to beg for a job and read the signs: "No help today."

He thinks it's freedom to build the railroads and walk the ties; to make the mansions and live in the slums; to weave the wool and wear the flannel; to sow the seed and reap the staff.

He thinks it's freedom to build great fortunes for the few; to pay the taxes and pay the rent, and labor and toil till his life is spent.

He thinks it's freedom, yes, the most exalted patriotism, to fight the battles his masters plan, to murder the slaves of another flag, and be slaughtered himself.

Let that be the end of the insane American.

The same American does not worship the flag. He does not raise from his seat and remove his hat in awe, when the band plays: "The Star Spangled Banner." He sits quiet and is as at the sight of his fellow countrymen making a fetish of the flag. For he knows that once a thing becomes sacred the people cease to reason about it, and having stopped reasoning they become the easy prey of the p r i s e s , capitalists and politicians, who will lead 'em into slavery behind the object of their worship.

The same American sees the stars and stripes floating over Wall Street and he says: "The flag that covers you, Morgan, no longer staff be mine. You symbolize the greatest, the most gigantic system of thievery the world has ever known. You are the prince of robbers. You have stolen our land, you have appropriated our industries, you have throatted our liberties; you own our courts, you own our government, and the flag goes with them, it is yours also; I repudiate it."

Thus spake the same American.

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

From the newspaper reports one would think the defeat of Mosby and his arrest on coming in the United States had ended the revolution. But the truth of the matter is that the greatest part of the country is in a state of open rebellion, and the combined forces of Madero and Federalists are very far from controlling the situation.

In the State of Morelos, 3000 men under Gen. Zapata have taken possession of the land and large farms and are tilling the soil with their loaded rifles strapped on their backs.

In the States of Chihuahua and Coahuila, the red flag is floating in the breeze. In the State of Guanajuato the Mexican President's favor etc. gov- ernor refused to take office on the grounds that he did not wish to risk his life by taking up arms against a state in the throes of revolution.

In the State of Sonora, the reign of the famous Yaqui Indians, the revolution is on in full force. Madero, knowing well the great fighting qualities of these people, fed them on promises of the return of their land, which he failed to keep. Now they have swept the country round of Maderists and Federals.

From these and other reports to hand it is very clear that Madero controlled only the men directly under his command, and that the real revolutionary forces throughout Mexico repudiate his leadership, and oppose his peace proclamation.

It is also very encouraging to learn that the Maderists and Federals are fighting each other for possession of the offices.

The revolution is flourishing. Let its friends keep active.

THE COURTS RULE THE COUNTRY.

The State of California recently made a law to the effect that it would be a crime to employ women more than eight hours a day. The labor men were behind the law, and were highly elated when they succeeded in forcing it thru the Legislature. The bosses smiled. Then they made dire threats to pack their collar boxes and leave the State. That of course was only a bluff. No such good fortune could befall the people; altho the majority of them would look upon it as a terrible calamity. The next move of the wily bosses, and the one they really intended from the start, was to appeal to the courts.

The courts are the legal pillars of the system, the actual rulers of the country. It matters not what laws are passed by Congress or the States, the courts may declare them unconstitutional; and there is no redress. They are the last word, aroomfull of men, corporation lawyers, elevated to the bench by the influence of the corporations, rule "Democratic America."

The courts of California declared the eight-hour law for women unconstitutional, class legislation, if you please. It interferes with the liberty of free women to sell themselves for as long as they choose.

What are you going to do now, ye labor men of California? Amend the constitution? Bosh! Bury it.

A RELIC OF THE DARK AGES.

Prudery is one of the prime superstitions of this country. Our art galleries are a pitiful example of this hypocrisy, where the nude figures are carefully "dressed" in the mirth-producing fig-leaf. We laugh at the "taboo" of the savages, but cannot see our own, which are a thousand times more to be laughed at. For we pretend to the possession of intellect and reason. As a matter of plain fact our minds are enshrouded in the black cloak of the Christian church. Patriotism is not nearly so dangerous a blight as the deceptive dogmas and perverted morality of the dark ages, perpetuated and propagated by the Roman and Protestant churches.

Prudery is a form of insanity when viewed in the light of reason, and a dangerous one. I commend the reader to Mr. Macauley's excellent editorial reprinted in this issue. This earnest and able advocate of clean, moral, healthful living, knows only too well the curses of Prudery; and to no single man is the propaganda more highly indebted for his long and vigorous fight against prudery.

One of the invaders of personal liberty at Home has acknowledged his error, and, in a communication to the people, expresses his regret for the part he took in disturbing the harmony of the Colony.

It is to be hoped he has profited by this experience, and if he will take the right mental attitude towards his neighbors, he will find it far easier for himself and very much to the general good of all to learn the lesson of liberty and follow strictly in its path.

JAY FOX.

CRANKY NOTIONS.

The temptation to impose rules on others is left for the great and near-great to resist, unless those for whom the rules are made are in position to resist the rules. But, unfortunately, under economic conditions as they exist today, at least 90 persons in 100 have no jobs of their own, and are dependent upon the owners of capital, the bosses and the petty bosses for the privilege of working and earning enough to keep themselves out of the poor house and the prison.

The petty boss is probably the worst in the lot in piling indignities upon fellow employees. He makes his boss believe that much is being done in his behalf, imposes indignities upon those in his charge that one must crush his self-respect and carry a heart that is bruised by a cowardly brute and resentment, noble and manly, nearly bursting his soul in order to keep himself employed. Every shop and factory, every store and office, every industry imaginable, has its sneaking, impudent, invasive boss, with the cowardice of a rabbit, the shy manners of a snake, the covered claws of a hawk, ever ready to take advantage of his position to inflict rules and conditions that irk every noble soul within his dastardly influence.

The Bible says we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves. And we do. The most of us, however, hate ourselves, judging by the way we go through the world doing the very thing that hate does.

The protection the state gives the individual worker is that which the wolf gives the lamb.

JO. LABADIE.
THE AGITATOR

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THE AGITATOR does not bear the union stamp because it is printed for profit; but it is union, every letter of it. It is printed and published by unionists and their friends for the common and political elevation of themselves and their fellow toilers. Much of the labor is done by them, and in a work of love—the love of the idea, of a world fit for the free.

FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS

Dear Sister,—as I have said, I believe you and I agree perfectly in our analysis of social wrongs. We may both be mistaken in the final arrangement. Utility must settle many vexed questions, but justice and fair play will promote a higher order of civilization. We differ as to method.

Your hope lies in reforming the political situation, by political organization, by good men and women banding together, and by "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull together" bring order, justice and law out of the corrupting influence of political disorder. While I look upon the present situation as the natural and inevitable result of political organization. Injustice, corruption and oppression are the natural fruits or organized power—sovereign authority.

You see the evil in man and human nature, while I find it in our environments. We are simply the victims of circumstances. All nature is paradoxical. Beginning in ignorance and brutality, we choose the seeming instead of the true. Our habits, environments and heredity have fixed the faculty of falsehood.

Intelligence and a proper study of human nature alone can upright the ancient evil. We are just beginning to learn the paradox. Science is separating the truth from the seeming. We are slowly but surely learning the course of evolution. "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." Action is followed by reaction. Force is met by force, and love engenders love.

Evil, like pains, is a symptom of disease. The true physician will diagnose the disease, not the pain. To remove an evil we must search for the cause, not the symptom. If there is any good in the application of force it is in the nature of a panacea, not a cure. The fountain head must be purified, else the stream will be contaminated. Here is where we differ!

You would put new wine into old bottles, while I contend that the germs in the old bottles will infect any new wine. The earthen vessels have been stacked; we want a new deal.

You ask if I do not think Government has improved, grown better? Decidedly No! Men have improved, grown better. That is to say, intelligence has introduced a true version of nature. We are learning to apply means more in accord with ends, without finding that to have good we must do evil. To enjoy liberty—happiness—we must grant it. Just in proportion as liberty has been granted, happiness has increased, just as government becomes lax morality has improved.

The principle of government never changes. It is as bad—wrong—today as when the savage wielded his club. It is an idea that is gradually passing away. We are gradually substituting a better, not a worse, government. You cannot abolish an idea. You can't strike down a thought. It must be proven false. Hence, the revolution must be an intelligent one.

But you may ask: Why advocate a revolution which may prove disastrous? It can only prove disastrous by the employment of force. And yet forceful resistance is better than slavery. Circumstances sometimes create an exception to the rule, and I sympathize with the militant anarchist rather than with the religious non-resistant. It is better to fight than be bound hand and foot. Direct action stimulates thought and invention. The most progressive nations are the most forceful, still "peace hath her victories no less than war." Even greater, I should say; and so, in a way, wars have been necessary to advance thought and invention which in turn demonstrates the principle of the Golden Rule.

You find much fault with the Trades Unions; so do I. But I realize, as Artemus Ward said: "We can't have peace so long as the war goes on." These Unions are applying the principles of Politics and Government which you uphold. To be sure, you would reform them, but the principle would remain—Polley—"the ends justify the means," which I regard as a fallacy. Justice alone can render justice. The old falsity of natural depravity still lingers in your mind. But depravity is simply good misdirected. There can be no evil in cause and effect which is not nature. All is good, if intelligence could arrange it.

I can sympathize with your idea of "votes for women." "Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." If votes for men be right, votes for women can't be wrong. But is it right? Politics is war, and war is hell. Ballots and bullets are the arguments of government. The difference is in degree, not in kind.

While I oppose suffrage, I advocate woman's rights. Rights to her person, and rights to her property. Financial independence is woman's only crying need, with sexual and industrial freedom. Liberty cannot exist until mothers are free.

Suffrage is not a right, it is a privilege granted by government. It is giving the slave a choice of masters. Lincoln said: "No man is good enough or wise enough to govern a man without that other man's consent." Of course, he had reference to that sophistry, "Government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed." No man ever did, or would, give his consent to be governed directly or indirectly by entering the game of politics in hopes of winning the trick.

I am making my letter too long, and I wanted to speak of that offspring of government, the fetish, Business. The same evil has wrong exists here. As government is based on sovereign power which arrogates to itself, all rights and standards of rights, so business assumes gain as a cardinal virtue. The old loyalty to self to the Lord, of slave to the master, the divine right of power has given sovereignty to gain—a graft of Power.

Business to a child of state and partake of all its cruel, cold oppression. Mercy, humanity, sympathy knows it not. We want to speak again of the plan I favor to do away with these obstacles in the way of love and sympathy.

The scheme I believe would work, if properly applied. First, to the unemployed. Get them out of the city; teach them how to cooperate in self-interest, not for industry, but to supply all their needs, by their own endeavor; teach them how they can help themselves to the full fruits of their toil, by mutual aid and reciprocal exchange and cut out the graft of gain, by the high ideals: Reciprocity, Love and Sympathy.

A. B. BALLOU.
THE AGITATOR

A PROTEST.

Editor of "Justice," London, England:

We note in your issue of May 13, in an article entitled "Anarchists' Agents," the statement:

"It is not generally known that Emma Goldman is in the pay of the police, though the fact has leaked out recently. At one time she was employed by Mr. A. E. Olarovsky, of the Russian Secret Police in San Francisco, as an agent and a spy."

We write to protest in the most emphatic manner against this outrageous slander. It passes our comprehension why you should soil your columns by printing such an absolutely unsupported charge against one of the most devoted and beloved representatives of the radical movement in America. Emma Goldman has given the best years of her life to the anarchist cause. Her integrity is above suspicion. There is not one iota of truth in the charge.

(Signed)

LEONARD D. ABBOTT, Associate Editor, "Current Literature," New York.

H. KELLY, Organizer, Francisco Ferrer Association, New York.

ALEXANDER BERKMAN, Editor, "Mother Earth," New York.

WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING, Author, New York.

HUTCHIN SHAPGOOD, Author and Journalist, Spring Lake, N. J.

J. G. PHELPS STOKES, Stamford, Conn.

WILLIAM MARION REEY, Editor, "Mirror," St. Louis, Mo.


ALDEN FREEMAN, East Orange, N. J.

BOLTON HALL, Lawyer and Author, New York.


SIMON O. POLLOCK, Attorney for Russian Socialist-Revolutionists, New York.

ROSE PASTOR STOKES, Author, Stamford, Conn.

THEODOR SCHROEDER, Attorney, Free Speech League, New York.

VOLTAIRE CLEVEY, Author and Lecturer, Chicago, Ill.


EDWIN C. WALKER, Publisher, New York.

DANIEL KIRKWOOD, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ROSE STRUNKSY, Joliet, New York.

I. C. BARROWS, Boston, Mass.

WINIFRED HEATH, Journalist, New York.

H. J. GREER, M. D., Author, Chicago, Ill.

H. SOLOTAROFF, M. D., Journalist and Lecturer, New York.

HULDA L. POTTER LOOMIS, Author, Chicago, Ill.


LITERARY NOTES.

This is the clearest evidence of cultural exchange between the nations, and George Sylvester Viereck, the brilliant young author of "Nineteen," in the "House of the Vampire," enjoys the distinction of being the first American poet to visit Germany in behalf of American poetry. Mr. Viereck, who may claim to be a representative of German-American culture in that he is bilingual both in his creative work and in his editorial labors on "Current Literature" and the "Bundeszeit" published in Berlin, opened his campaing in Berlin University at the end of May. He spoke before the Students' Association, taking as his subject "America a Country of Our Own." The "poets of America," said Viereck, "betray beauty in order to serve ethics alone, and they look for their laurels in religious rather than aesthetic fields. This predominant religious note, he felt, does not always sound great depths, but not infrequently becomes a shallow rhetorical, theological reflection."

Rev. H. Hampton, owner of Hampton's Magazine, assures us he has not and will not relinquish control of his publications, as the statement is to be congratulated for this stand. His magazine is one of the boldest in exposing the graft of our treasured country.

Doubleday, Page & Co. will publish in the fall an economic interpretation entitled "The Call of the Carpenter."

Books Received.

"Legal Doctrine and Social Progress," by Frank Parsons; B. W. Huebner, New York, $1.50. To be recommended.

"Trade Unionism and Class War," by Guy D. Ad- did; Bakunin Press, London.

"The State and Its Treasonous Role," by Kropotkin.

"Socialism and Individualism" by Bernard Shaw and others; John Lane Co., 72 cents. To be reviewed in next issue.

A boss is usually like a thistle—if you take hold of him courageously he won't prick you.

THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY.

Books and Pamphlets For Sale by the Agitator Publishing Association.

The Anarchist, or, History of the ancient working people, C. Osborne Ward; two large numbers.

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THE AGITATOR

MILITARYISM IN UNITED STATES

In various states of the Union the following notices is being sent to citizens by the county assessors:

Sir,—Under the provisions of the Chapter 160, Laws of 1909, I have enrolled your name as a person liable to perform military duty.

On the back of the notification slip are the following quotations from the Dick military laws. Among the capitalistic papers have been telling you existed only in the imagination of the Socialists:

Persons Subject to Military Duty.—All able-bodied males over the age of twenty-one who have declared their intention to become citizens, who are more than eighteen or less than forty-five years of age, and who are residents of this state, shall constitute the militia, subject to the following exemptions:
1. Persons exempted by the laws of the United States.
2. Persons exempted by the laws of this state.

Sec. 1429 Revised Statutes of the United States,—The vice president of the United States; the officers judicial and executive of the government of the United States; the members of both houses of congress and their respective officers; all custom house officers with their clerks; all postmasters and persons employed in the transportation of the mails; all ferrymen employed at any ferry on any road, all inspectors of exports; all almoners and workmen employed in the armories and arsenals of the United States; all pilots; all mariners actually employed in the sea service of any citizen or merchant within the United States; and all persons who now are or may hereafter be exempted by the laws of the respective states, shall be exempted from militia duty, notwithstanding their being above the age of eighteen, and under the age of forty-five.

The United States are under military rule. You are a soldier, subject to call, and liable to court martial if you fail to obey. Who said peace?—Appeal to Reason.

Inquiry.

Seattle, June 1, 1911.

Col. W. P. EVANS:

United States Army,

Dear Sir—Kindly inform me, or forward my request for information to some one who can inform me as to the truth of the enclosed article, and greatly obliged.

S. T. HAMMERSMARK.

Reply.

This signifies nothing except that the Federal Government is more accurate in its reckoning as to the number of men in the country liable to military service.

This record has been kept since the foundation of our government, I believe, but in many cases it was based on estimates only.

Since the passage of the Dick law of 1903, the government has been trying to secure more accurate data and seems now to have enlisted the aid of the assessors.

Of course it is a fundamental principle of government that every citizen owes to his government military service in times of need. In our history it never has been compulsory but once, i. e., in the Civil War when we had to resort to "drafts" to keep the armies filled. The same necessity may arise again, although it does not now seem likely.

W. P. EVANS.

The only thing that will save the working men of this country from having a soldier sympathy, and one of their backs be a vigorous anti-military propaganda.

The American is not temperamentally suited for soldiering. The discipline of the army galls him. This is shown by the extraordinary number of desertions.

Still more disagreeable is not going to save him. The ruling class wants a big army, and it is going to have it. If the people are willing to create a public opinion strong enough to stave it off until the workers are educated and organized sufficiently well to overthrow capitalism and establish a system based on peace and harmony.

J. F.

TO THROTTLE REBELLION

It is very distressing that the Mexican and American Governments have combined to suppress the Liberal rebellion in Mexico at any cost. This assertion is born out by the street of four members of the Liberal Junta at Los Angeles, and the arrest and an attempted extradition of the Liberal leaders of Lower California.

There are ten Liberals now under arrest, the following six of whom have been taken on warrants charging them with "murder and arson" committed in Mexico. This is merely a pretext to get them back to Mexico, as extra-

tradition proceedings have been started by the Madero Government. Torture and death await them in Mexico at the hands of "the Liberator Madero". The names are:

J. R. Mosby, C. R. Pye, J. B. Lofkin, Jos. Reed, and two Mexicans who have been turned over to the Immigration Department.
The reasons why these men should be arrested are: the trial of men, the same as the others. Besides these six men, the four members of the Liberal Junta are under arrest in Los Angeles for "violation of the neutrality laws". Job Harriman of Los Angeles is defending them.

The Mexican Government have hired as their Attorney California State Senator Leroy A. Wright, who has made a statement in the newspapers "that these bandits and murderers will get their deserved fate in Mexico" adding that he would see that they were sent back there. Now it is up to the American working class to see if this capricious blood sucker will have everything his own way and send our Comrades unrem. to be shot in Mexico.

The six men arrested in San Diego are being defended by twoWindowTitle.

We are writing to the state for money and we are now auding out a notice asking for funds to save them. The Agitator will receive and acknowledge funds for this cause.

J. LEHON.

Sec. I. W. W., Local 173.

San Francisco.

RECEIPTS

Wast EFOLK, $3.90; Alexander, Slocum, each $1; Lebon, Poolet, each 50 cents. Lebon, 25 cents.

"SOLIDARITY."

A weekly revolutionary working class paper.

Published by P. O. Box 622, I. W. W., NEWCASTLE, PA.

"FREEDOM"


Published by 122 Osage St., New York, N. Y.

Embry, 131 Main St., Spokane, Wash.

"MOTHER EARTH"

Monthly Magazine Devoted to Social Science and Literature.

Published by 216 N. 13th St., New York, N. Y.

For sale—in home—a two-story frame house of seven rooms, bathroom, pantry and cellar, with two acres of

land, partially cleared. Well situated, commanding an

excellent view of bay and mountains. Pull particulars

may be had of THE AGITATOR.

For sale—near home: seventeen acres uncleared water-

front timber land (will divide. Apply, 50 cents

per acre.)

For exchange—Dental work; for any other kind of work

Apply to THE AGITATOR.

HENDERSON BAY ROUTE.—Steamer Tyroda leaves Commercll 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., returning same day 2:30.

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

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Lynn, Mass.: S. Yaffe, 233 Union Street.

New York City: I. B. Vanadium, 212 Henry Street; M. Bieri, 422 Grand Street.

Winnipeg, Manitoba: Eikins' news stand, 796 Main St.

JEFFERSON'S PROPHET

Besides, the spirit of the times may alter, will alter. Our rulers will become corrupt; our people corrupt. Capital may pro-

duce overturn, and better men be its vic-

tims. It can not too often be repeated that the time for fixing every essential right on a legal basis is while our rulers are honest and ourselves united. From the conclusion of this war we shall be going down hill. It will not be necessary to resort every moment to the people for help. They will be forgotten, therefore, and their desire disregarded. They will forget themselves, but in the sole faculty of making money, and will never think of uniting to effect a due respect for their rights. The shackles, therefore, shall not be knocked off at the conclusion of this war, but will remain on us long; will be made heavier and heavier, till our rights shall revive or expire in a con-

F. J. STEPHENS.

MAIL BAG

Editor The Agitator:

Dear Comrade: You will find inclosed money order for one dollar, to renew my subscription for THE AGITATOR. I think the paper is fine, and you made it better when you put it in bigger type. What you need now is more readers, so you may give us more matter and may publish more often. I will do all in my power to help you to get some. Yours cordially,

ALBERT LOUCHE.

Spring Valley, Illinois.

Fellow Worker.—Please send me 25 copies of THE AGITATOR twice a month. I handle the Industrial Worker and Solidarity on the street and I will try to push THE AGITATOR, as I had a few demands for it lately.

J. LEHON.

Sec. I. W. W., Local 173.

For sale—in home—a two-story frame house of seven rooms, bathroom, pantry and cellar, with two acres of

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