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FIFTY CENTS A YEAR

This is Number 658

Appeal to Reason

J. A. WAYLAND

Entered at Girard, Kansas, postoffice as second class mail matter.

Girard, Kansas, U. S. A., July 4, 1908.

LOOK at the yellow address label, and note No. 659

No man is great enough or rich enough to get this paper on credit or for a longer time than paid for.

The Postmaster General's Order to His Postmasters

POSTMASTER-GENERAL MEYER has issued his order to the postmasters of the country in reference to the recent amendment to the Revised Statutes of the United States, bearing upon papers now admitted to the mails as second-class publications.

When the object of this legislation was spread over the country by the Appeal congress was deluged with protests and the amendment was forthwith withdrawn.

The Amendment.

"That section 3893 of the Revised Statutes of the United States be, and the same is hereby, amended by adding thereto the following: and the term 'indecent' within the intentment of this section shall include matter of a character tending to incite arson, murder or assassination."

The law already upon the statute books excluded "indecent" matter, and this amendment provides that the term "indecent" shall be so construed as to "include matter of a character tending to incite arson, murder or assassination."

To the wording of this amendment, it is freely admitted, there can be no reasonable objection. But there is a hidden danger in this legislation which, when exposed, at once reveals its purpose as well as the animus of its sponsors.

Order to Postmasters.

"In pursuance of section 3893 of the Revised Statutes (Section 497, Postal Laws and Regulations), as thus amended, YOU ARE DIRECTED HEREAFTER TO EXCLUDE FROM THE MAILS NOT ONLY PUBLICATIONS AND ARTICLES OF THE CHARACTER HERETOFORE FORBIDDEN BY THAT SECTION TO BE CARRIED, BUT IN ADDITION ALL 'MATTER TENDING TO INCITE ARSON, MURDER OR ASSASSINATION,' the depositing, conveying or delivering of which is prohibited by the section as now amended."

The gravity of the situation thus revealed cannot be overestimated. Each individual postmaster now constitutes the literary guardian of his jurisdiction.

Only that which passes his censorship may reach the people. Russian censorship was never more despotic.

Every citizen, to carry out the intent of the law, should now call upon his postmaster and ascertain what paper he may subscribe for with the assurance that it will be delivered to him.

Every republican paper is guaranteed in advance and no democratic paper is threatened with exclusion. It is the Socialist papers only, and the Appeal to Reason in particular—which the government has not dared to openly suppress—which are now to be pronounced "indecent" and barred from the mails, and each postmaster is vested with the full authority to make such political discrimination as will safeguard the interests of the ruling class, and incidentally his own job as a capitalist office-holder.

"Indecent" Publications.

When it is understood that from the capitalist point of view all publications opposed to capitalism are "indecent" it is seen at a glance that this order has but one purpose, the insidious suppression of Socialist papers.

Before the Socialist press developed the power it now has there was never any thought on the part of capitalist legislators to enact such legislation, nor did they ever evince any such solicitude for the purity of the mails.

Ever since the Appeal to Reason has become a paper of circulation and power it has been subjected to petty persecution by the authorities, with the one object of impeding its progress and destroying its influence in arousing the

The Postmaster General has appointed your postmaster your literary censor and political guardian, and vested him with authority to declare the Appeal to Reason "indecent" and refuse to allow you to read it.

working class and the people generally to the horrors of wage slavery and other iniquities of the capitalist system. The story of this persecution has been told from time to time in these columns and our readers are familiar with it.

Scrutinized by Inspectors.

It is not necessary to say that the Appeal, opposed as it is with all the means at its command to the capitalist system, has always observed the law and kept prudently within its bounds. Its columns have been repeatedly scrutinized by special inspectors for the one purpose of discovering passages which would warrant its exclusion under the law, but not one such paragraph or line has ever been found.

Every issue of it is on file and open for inspection. The Appeal challenges the world to show that in a single instance, however great the provocation, it has ever deviated from its well-known policy of advocating peaceful, orderly and lawful means of abolishing capitalism and establishing the Socialist commonwealth.

Capitalist Obscenity.

The truth is that if this very law, under which it is proposed to exclude Socialist papers, were fairly and honestly construed the capitalist papers would themselves be excluded from the mails, for their columns teem with vulgar and indecent matter, the obscenity of which is so glaring that it would be utterly shocking to any other than capitalist morality, based upon wage slavery and buttressed by political corruption.

That the postal authorities have not dared to face the editor of this paper upon the real issue of circulating indecent and offensive matter is evident enough to every intelligent reader and cannot be gainsaid in the face of the repeated postponements insisted upon by the government.

The Appeal in Canada.

It will not be forgotten that the Canadian authorities, animated by the same capitalistic motive, also excluded the Appeal from the mails, but that such an outcry followed that it was speedily restored. There was no case against the Appeal. The action of the authorities could be construed only as pure persecution, and when this fact became known the most vigorous and wide-spread protest followed, to which the authorities were compelled to yield.

The Appeal Army.

The readers of the Appeal are men and women who think; they are of more than average intelligence and they clearly understand the issue involved, and as clearly perceive the power behind these public functionaries whose design it is by fair means or foul, to silence the voice of protest against the exploitation of labor and the subjugation of the people to a condition of helpless and hopeless servitude.

this country, would tamely submit to having their light extinguished by despotic and arbitrary procedure and left in darkness, even capitalistic cupidity, blind as it usually is, is yet far from believing.

Every plan and artifice of which the postoffice department could conceive has been adroitly laid, but when the decisive moment arrived its courage weakened and the intended blow failed to fall.

Now comes a sudden change; recourse to other tactics. We want our readers to follow us closely and keep their eyes upon the situation.

Sneaking Legislation.

The amendment to the postal law was the first step in the change. It could not pass upon its merits and so it was put through in a sneaking manner as an amendment to the appropriation bill. This in itself condemns it.

It is an outrageous imposition upon the American people. They did not want it. Not only this, but they violently protested against it. Congress knew this only too well.

But congress could not refuse to obey the capitalist oligarchy of which it is but the political creature. The measure had to be passed. Political deception and jugglery had to be resorted to.

Transfer of Contest.

This change of tactics is of the gravest importance to the Appeal and other Socialist papers and their readers. The effect of it is already being felt and will be felt more and more as the order becomes operative.

The change of tactics means a change of the entire campaign of suppression. Hitherto the contest has been between the Appeal and the government. The Appeal held its own, its circulation and power steadily increased until the government was compelled to admit defeat and retreat from the field.

Burning the Appeal.

It is well known to many of our readers that during the past few weeks they have been getting their paper irregularly, or not at all. For this the Appeal is not responsible. Its mailing system is the most perfect that can be devised and its service and facilities are equally of the highest order.

Despite the fact that the Appeal is doing all in its power to deliver each issue to its subscribers thousands of them fail to get it for reasons more or less identical with that which appears in the foregoing letter.

Refuse to Deliver.

If under the amended law, as interpreted by Postmaster-General Meyer, each capitalist postmaster, practically all of whom are hostile and who understand it to be to their interest to antagonize the Appeal, is empowered and feels himself not only at liberty but under official obligation to destroy or refuse to deliver the copies which reach his office, the Appeal

is doomed and it would as well be barred by an official order executed by the head of the department.

Under the change of tactics, however, the responsibility cannot be fixed, and in this underhanded manner the Appeal, no longer able to face its antagonist, is to be sapped of its strength and slowly perish by the pin-pricks of its innumerable and invisible official capitalist enemies.

Fourth of July.

This issue of the Appeal will appear on July Fourth, the anniversary day of the nation's independence. Our readers will be reminded by the orators who address them that our forefathers immortalized themselves by throwing off the yoke of king rule and establishing a republic in which the people were forever to be sovereign.

Was the rule of Great Britain in point of fact more despotic than that of capitalism is today? And would the revolutionary patriots have submitted if their papers had been confiscated and free speech suppressed? Let these questions be answered by those who still insist that this is a republic, that freedom prevails, and that the people are sovereign.

The Abolition Press.

Fifty years ago the slave power of this nation adopted similar methods in dealing with abolitionist publications. Not only were the papers confiscated and every effort made to suppress them, but their publishers were mobbed. But in spite of all the brutality of the slaveocracy these papers increased in influence and power until finally the principles they advocated triumphed and the slave power fell to rise no more.

The spirit of capitalism toward Socialist publications is the same as was the spirit of the slave power toward the abolitionist press. It has not yet come to mobbing the publishers, but that may yet be incited if other means fail.

Fight to a Finish.

However this may be, the Appeal has not the remotest thought of allowing itself to be driven from the field. It has a mission and purposes to fulfill it, and if it fails it shall not be charged that it was due to cowardice or to any fault of its own. But in the coming phases of the struggle for its existence it will have to rely even more than in the past upon its readers. Its destiny is in their hands.

It is for them to decide whether or not the postmasters of this country shall be permitted to make bonfires of papers they have subscribed and paid for.

Since even this issue will doubtless fail to reach many readers we ask each of those who do get it to show it to others that they may understand the cause if they fail to receive their copy; that they may not charge the Appeal with being to blame and turn from it indignantly, as is the intention of those who are withholding it from its subscribers.

We ask that all those who fail to receive their paper promptly advise us to that effect, assuring them that other copies will be promptly forwarded and that nothing in our power will be left undone as regards the delivery of the paper, such and every copy, to each and every subscriber.

We take this occasion to say to our readers that however this new move may handicap the Appeal it will not daunt or discourage it for a single moment. The only effect it has is to intensify the determination of the Appeal to continue its work of propaganda and fight the battles of the working class to the very end.

That the supporters of the Appeal who have always been loyal and unflinching will steadfastly pursue that same course of fealty to it and to the principles it represents, the Appeal knows but too well. This is not the first nor will it be the last time the Appeal and its army have had their mettle tested. It is true that in this instance the test comes at a critical time, since the greatest political campaign in American history and one fraught with the grandest possibilities for the people is now upon us, but the confidence which has hitherto sustained us is not shaken and in the end the cause for which the Appeal is battling is certain to be victorious.

Indignation Meetings.

The readers of the Appeal, we are confident, can and will thwart this latest move. Whenever they fail to receive the paper we advise that they promptly call on the postmaster and ask the reason why. If it be but a single subscriber let him insist upon being shown what particular passage in its columns is "indecent" enough to justify exclusion. If there are a number of subscribers it is suggested that they meet and appoint a committee to call on the postmaster and insist upon getting their papers or knowing the reason why.

And if the paper is withheld where there are sufficient comrades it is urged that they not only protest to the postmaster but that they call a public indignation meeting and make known the facts to the people.

Upon that issue we have not the least doubt that the people, be they Socialists or not, will join with us, and the effect will soon be such that the administration will be compelled to withdraw its order even as the infamous Penrose amendment was withdrawn from the senate under the whip of public indignation.

Unconquerable Determination.

This is a critical time for the Appeal; but we have no fear as to the ultimate outcome. It is not an unmixt evil that confronts us. This latest maneuver of the enemy will react in many ways. Thousands will now want to see the Appeal who have not heretofore felt any interest in it, and instead of reducing the subscription roll the effect will be to augment it in every part of the country, and to this work we feel and know that all our friends will give themselves with renewed energy and unconquerable zeal and determination.

NATIONAL SOCIALIST TICKET.

For President EUGENE V. DEBS For Vice President BEN HANFORD

Man Socialists are also prohibitionists and not many prohibitionists go the length to which Senator Tillman goes. But if a single Socialist should make a public declaration such as Tillman made relative to prohibition, the whole party would be denounced as red handed and an effort would be made to suppress its propaganda.

Mexico, too, is catching the idea that it must conciliate the arousing people with "socialistic" measures. The senate has just appropriated \$35,000,000 for the construction of irrigation ditches throughout Mexico, and has also made provision for the establishment of banks of re-discount in aid of farmers.

When the Declaration of Independence was being signed, Franklin remarked, "We must all hang together or we will all hang separately."

"The financial district received with satisfaction the news of the selection of Secretary Taft," says an associated press dispatch. The great financier, Washington Connor, adds: "Under Mr. Taft's direction I do not look for any legislation hostile to capital."

The chief of police of San Francisco confesses that he is wholly unable to make the owners of automobiles comply with the law relative to speeding. Another proof that individualism is anarchy.

Texas School Lands

\$1.00 to \$8.00 Per Acre Texas has passed new school land laws. Millions of acres are to be sold at \$1.00 to \$8.00 per acre. Only one-fourth cash, and no more to pay for 6 years, unless you desire to buy more.

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Start from \$2.00 to \$10.00 a Year and Downward. We will teach you to use an eight-point grip and give you a position as a Traveling Salesman with a profitable arm.

Kate O'Hare, Says send her 25c for an Appeal and 7c for a copy of "Sorrows of Capital."

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HOW YOU CAN HELP THE APPEAL

Every subscriber we secure at 25 cents means a loss to the Appeal. We must secure a certain amount of advertising to make up this loss. Every reader of the Appeal knows of some good, reliable advertiser who does not use the Appeal.

SOCIALIST TABLES.

The Individualist Tapeworm.

A GOOD republican Tapeworm lived in placid content strictly on the "socialist" conditions of the world and used to defecate with itself because of its wisdom and prosperity. It was not a Socialist, and had to talk to itself or would have been infamous.

"Watch me create a revival of business," the Tapeworm said to its several sections. "Then he dug around until the Man was nearly frantic with pain and proceeded to feed the Worm."

The Twentieth Century Cow. A certain learned Cow who enjoyed a princely life, reflected upon the socialability of her position and moralized as follows: "Surely no age has seen such advancement as this."

EUROPEAN NOTES BY NICHOLAS KLEIN. SINCE 1904 the total Socialist vote of Paris has increased over 10,000. This means that the French Socialist party has increased its vote by 10 per cent.

Was it a Den of Thieves?

A suggestive comment on the republican convention was the posting of the following warning in the hall by a Chicago detective agency: "Fasten your watch to the lining of your pocket with a safety pin."

Has the king come? What is the difference between a king fathering his successor and a president "naming" him?

Dear Comrade: The beautiful Debs for chain received, please accept my heartiest thanks.

Below we quote a few prices on our regular lines of Job Work.

Table with 3 columns: DESCRIPTION, 250, 500, 1,000. Includes items like Note Heads, Bond Letter Heads, White Wave Letter Heads, etc.

FORECAST OF THE DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

M. DOOLEY has been forecasting the democratic platform to be adopted at Denver, and concludes it will contain planks something like these: "We favor the conservation of our national resources. (Ding dong)."

REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTION.

The membership now have their say on the subject of the national convention. The vote should be carefully taken. Each member should see that he reads the old and the new constitution with a view to the choice of its officials.

PARTY NOTES.

The Socialist local of Bay City, Wis., will hold a picnic on a beautiful island on the river July Fourth. An invitation and welcome is extended to all.

AGITATION LEAGUE.

On hand last report \$292.50. Collected since last report \$140. Total on hand \$432.50.

THE BUNDELS BRIGADE.

Name. State. No. Name. State. No. W. J. Hogan, Ariz. 5 C. P. McFall, N. J. 200

ARMY NOTES.

Circulation of Appeal to Reason by States. State. Of. On. Total. Oklahoma 538 876 22704

VALU, PRICE AND PROFIT

The Marxian theory of surplus value expressed in simple, direct, forcible style by Marx himself. Until lately this book has been difficult to obtain in the United States.

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"GOD KNOWS."

BY A. M. KINNEY. The Shades of grief were falling fast As through the city streets they passed. A blasted forth with shouting loud While bursting through the vulgar crowd.

Here is another result of republican individualism. T. J. O'Brien, a carpenter of good habits living with his family in Salt Lake, after being without work six months on account of the "late" panic, became such a prey to melancholy that he took his own life.

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Rider Agents Wanted

Agents for the Appeal to Reason. We will teach you to use an eight-point grip and give you a position as a Traveling Salesman with a profitable arm.

AGENTS SEND TODAY FOR OUR NEW POSITION

AGENTS SEND TODAY FOR OUR NEW POSITION. This does it. This is the best position in the world. It is a position of honor and respect.

\$33 On Credit

\$33 On Credit. Buy on credit, pay later. This is the best way to buy. It saves you money and gives you more time to use the goods.

THE BEST LIGHT

THE BEST LIGHT. A portable, powerful, and reliable light. It is the best light for use in the field or in the home.

AGENTS \$33 On Credit

AGENTS \$33 On Credit. Buy on credit, pay later. This is the best way to buy. It saves you money and gives you more time to use the goods.

PATENTS FOR SALE

PATENTS FOR SALE. We have a large number of patents for sale. They are of various kinds and are of great value.

