

The emancipation of the working class must be the class-conscious work of the working class. -- KARL, MARX



# THE ALASKA SOCIALIST

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## G. W. PENNINGTON GIVES AN ADDRESS

On Sunday, Nov. 30th, at Harmonic Hall, 3 p. m., George W. Pennington spoke to a crowded house, consisting of Christians, Jews, Socialists, Freethinkers and Atheists, giving an address that was well worth listening to. He arraigned capitalist society, payed his respects to the leaders in superstition, and hung Christianity up to dry.

Mr. Pennington is a fine speaker and a follower of the great Agnostic, Robert Ingersoll who expected to banish care misery, sorrow, poverty, and all the ills that confront the human race from the world by appealing to sentiment.

Mr. Pennington made no pretense to being familiar with the Socialist position that the ills which he enumerated have their roots in the economic question, before man becomes free he must own the tools of production. And when man owns collectively the tools of production there will be no need for vices of any kind.

Mr. Pennington quoted Aristotle. We have not the works of Aristotle at hand but we have the famous passage from that great philosopher which Marx cites and which Aristotle imagined if it could somehow or other be done would free the human family from toil. The passage is: "If every tool, when summoned, or even of its own accord, could do the work that befits it, just as the creations of Daedalus moved of themselves, or the tripods of Hephaestus went of their own accord to their sacred work, if the weaver's shuttles were to weave of themselves then there would be no need either of apprentices for the master workers, or of slaves for the lords."

A writer comments on the above passage as follows: "The Aristotle school grasped the sociologic law that decreed intellectual progress. Pardonably unable to project itself into the future so far ahead as the time when mechanical conditions would be so radically revolutionized that the "weavers' shuttles would weave of themselves," this school considered slavery, which meant labor and poverty, to be unavoidable. By so doing the Aristotle school planted itself upon material conditions as the prime factor to determine social institutions and morality. The fruitfulness of their posture is inestimable."

The abolition of poverty, prostitution, and all the other vices that afflict capitalist society is an economic question and not a sentimental one. When the Socialists were elected to the government of the city of Paris, under election laws that the capitalist class themselves had made, did the capitalist class abide by the will of the majority as expressed at the ballot box? Not by any means they didn't. They at once prepared to capture the government, not with the ballot but, with armed force. Here was a chance for the capitalist class to show its law-abiding spirit and all the good that is in man spoken so much of by sentimental reformers. The history of the Paris Commune is the best lesson in all history, ancient or modern, for the Socialist to study, and it shows the lawless character of the capitalist class.

## WICKERSHAM HANDS THE POLITICIANS A GOLD BRICK

### Many of the Old Line Politicians Who Expected to Feast at the Pie Counter Are Sadly Disappointed. Declare they Will Vote no more for Jim

From the discussions heard lately in certain quarters it is now beginning to be recognized by many of the old retainers who were very skeptical regarding the beneficial results of home rule, that the Wickersham Home Rule Bill is not what it was supposed to be. Many of the old guard who expected sinecures under the Home Rule (which we enjoy) are expressing themselves as being sadly disappointed. Under home rule, they were led to believe, just as the people of Ireland are led to believe, that home rule will give everybody a soft job and nobody will have to work. The Wickersham Home Rule Bill prohibits the Legislature from doing almost anything and everything. The ruling of Judge Fuller in the Wigger case is the first exception in this district to the laws passed by the Legislature, but others are expected to follow.

It is supposed that many of the legislators knew not what they did. Here is one: August 24, 1912. An Act to Provide a Legislative Assembly for Alaska.

Sec. 418 in the Compiled Laws of Alaska. That no member of the legislature shall hold or be appointed to any office which has been created, or the salary or emoluments of which have been increased, while he was a member, during the term for which he was elected and for one year after the expiration of such term; and no person holding a commission or appointment under the United States shall be a member of the legis-

lature or shall hold any office under the government of said Territory." Did the bright intellects who passed the law making the U. S. Commissioners, who are holding appointments under the United States, Territorial tax collectors, in direct violation of the organic law of the Territory, understand?

There were a few lawyers in the first legislature and they probably reasoned as follows: "Perchance some poor fellow who is unacquainted with our bar assassinations and the ethics of our noble profession will refuse to pay the tax and as we have a closed shop our fees are of the union scale and besides we need to make business for our profession."

Here is another reputed law, passed by the Legislature and effective July 27, An Act to provide punishment for Pimps and Macques,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Territory of Alaska:

Sec. 1. That any male person who may be found loitering around houses of ill fame; or who solicits, induces, encourages, persuades, or prevails upon any other male person to patronize any house of ill fame, or any woman commonly reputed to be a prostitute; or who shall be an inmate of any house of ill fame; or who is commonly known to consort with any prostitute; or who wilfully permits a woman to whom he is married to practice prostitution; or who wilfully permits a woman to whom he is

married to practice prostitution; or who lives upon or receives the earnings of any prostitute, shall be deemed a pimp or macque, and upon conviction shall be imprisoned in the federal jail not less than 30 days nor more than one year.

Sec. 2. In all prosecution under this act common fame or reputation shall be competent evidence in support of any indictment, complaint or information; and in prosecutions of this act the wife shall be a competent witness against her husband, and may be compelled to testify on behalf of the government against her husband in any proceeding wherein he may be a party defendant under this act.

Sec. 3. All acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflicts.

This last one, we are informed, is a useless measure as there are no macques here. When John Corson was here he told us that we were the smartest, most intelligent people of any, and a smart intelligent people would not become macques or have them in their midst, so there can't be any macques or pimps in Fairbanks.

It makes no difference to the Socialist how much lawyers and capitalist legislators wrangle amongst themselves as to the meaning of this that or the next clause,---he knows that home rule bills passed by capitalist congresses are, as far as the working class is concerned, nothing less than gold bricks.

## COMMUNICATION

Mr. Editor:--- In the second issue of the Alaska Socialist you propounded a very simple but pertinent question for your readers that so far none have attempted to answer. It seems strange that you have not received many replies. It appears to me, judging of the condition of the workers since that Legislature adjourned, the query might be answered with one word, and that word should be nothing, and it capitalized. The Skagway Alaskan tells us that it costs "steen" dollars to find out just what they did do. Their enactments are now published in a beautiful volume that costs "steen" dollars, and that price will keep many of the Alaska workingmen from finding out the full particulars.

However the same old conditions prevail, the usual amount of laborers beat out of their wages. The usual amount of litigation and the usual amount of bunco, handed out by the capitalist press, prosperity enveloped in hope. That Legislature did just what it was elected to do and what the Socialists said it would do, and that was that they would run the legislature in the interest of their masters. It was not the Alaska workers that engineered the fusion deal in the Fourth Division or pulled the political strings during the campaign, it was the bosses. That Alaska legislature was in no way answerable to the Alaska workingmen. It is true that a considerable number of benighted dupes joined hands with the gang, the pimps and the gamblers, to elect the gang's lackies. But if they expected to have any laws passed that improved their condition they were doomed to disappointment. No man or set of men can serve two masters. But in that case there were no two masters. Only the master and his dupe. Therefore Mr. Editor you will ask in vain for an answer to your question other than the one given above.

Such laws as we have got in Alaska are those that have been handed out to us by Congress, a body of men unacquainted with everything except the interests of the capitalist class. "What did the Alaska Legislature do for the workers?" They did all that any capitalist legislature could do and that is nothing. In their estimation the worker is equal to the cube root of nothing.

The working class must know that representatives that are acceptable to the master class are poor ones for the workers to have anything to do with. No matter under what mask he may appear. There is no affection between master and slave. The opulence of the former breeds the misery of the latter.

The riddles and conundrums that the first legislature did enact at Juneau, we are told, provides no funds for their enforcement. The federal government disowns them. Have those laws yet received the royal sanction at Washington in compliance with Sec. 20 of the Wickersham Home Rule Bill that reads as follows: "All laws passed by the legislature of the Territory of Alaska shall be sub-

## THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

(Continued from last issue)

After nearly three years of successful organizing on the industrial field elements that were anarchistic, and opposed to political action, succeeded in capturing the I. W. W. at the convention in 1908. They immediately cut out the political clause from the constitution and "hit the ballot box with an axe" as their slogan, they started in bands through the country singing at the top of their voice "Hallelujah on the Bum."

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## DIRECT VS. POLITICAL ACTION

Last week before Judge Fuller Frank Eckert received sixty days in the Federal jail for using direct action on John Patton. It seems that there was some misunderstanding about wages due Eckert, and as he was hungry, and a hungry man is an angry man, he went out to Patton's farm and brought him to town with a shotgun. The light sentence imposed, as compared with the sentence of others, was, it is supposed, on account of extenuating circumstances and the great provocation which he underwent. There are those who will probably in-

st that he should have gone to law, but we haven't got the name of the lawyer who can collect a matter of twenty bucks for nothing and that is the amon! that Eckert had. Eckert is not crazy. He will be good material for the Socialist propagandist to work on, and teach him the use of the ballot. Eckert with a ballot will be far more dangerous to the labor skinners of Alaska than Eckert with a shotgun.

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