



THE ALASKA SOCIALIST

NO. 6.

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, DECEMBER 20, 1913

COMMUNICATION

Jack Wade Alaska, Nov. 25, 1913.
Mr. A. Knowles,
Fairbanks, Alaska.
Dear Comrade:

The issues of the Alaska Socialist of Sept. 29th and Oct. 1st received and contents noted. I wish to congratulate you on the start you have made, and, while you will no doubt improve right along, it was all that could be expected considering the handicap under which you were working.

There were many who came into the party during the last campaign who did not belong there. But, of course, that was to be expected. We should always make them live up to the constitution of the party, for we want no political traders in our midst and we have no secrets in our party, for secrecy breeds corruption. Those who are guilty of irregularities we must get rid of as quickly as possible.

I was one of those that for twenty years was a political derelict. I was looking for the road that the workers must travel in order to emancipate themselves from wage slavery, for the working class must emancipate themselves leaders will never do it. Many years I had imagined that I was a socialist but until I took up the study of Marx I did not know for a certainty where I was at. Before I tackled Marx I thought referendum, recall, in fact reform issues were Socialism. The true basis of Socialism I knew nothing of. I never read of Socialism except from the pages of the capitalist press evidently written for the purpose of distorting the real facts.

If you have a little space to spare it will be appreciated as I have nothing but best wishes for the success of the paper and the emancipation of the working class.

I subscribe myself,
Fraternsly,
A. A. McCandless.

LANDLORDISM IN TANANA

THE REASON MANY WORKING MEN IN THE TANANA LOSE THEIR WAGES

COMMUNICATION

Of the many ills from which the working men of the Tanana valley suffer none have brought such distress and misery to them in this bedrock cursed mining camp than loss of wages caused through landlordism. Few countries or peoples have felt the iron heel of landlordism more oppressively than the workingmen who have been obliged, through economic necessity, to work for wages in this camp. Although the workingmen may not have rented his houses or his lands, yet they are victims of his exploitation just as directly as though they were his real tenants. Where mining ground is operated under a lease, as the greater part of it is in the Tanana Valley his rent or royalty, under the law, is a first lien on the product of the wage-worker's labor.

Through some means or other the landlord has secured possession of the mineral lands of the Tanana Valley. But in few instances does he develop amine or take any of the risk of mining. Under existing laws where the owner does operate the mine himself he is responsible for any indebtedness incurred through such operation. But by having his property worked by a lessee he evades all responsibility, and has a first grab for his royalty on all mineral product. Therefore, where the value of mining ground is in any way doubtful he will refuse to operate it himself but will endeavor to have it operated under a lease.

It is estimated that there is at the present time about \$800,000 worth of unpaid wages due to workingmen in the Tanana, time checks that are absolutely worthless, the exact figures not being available. But it is a fact that the majority of workingmen who have remained any considerable length of time in this camp are carrying around in their pockets unpaid time checks, usually issued by persons operating mines under the lease system; and gave those whose labor produced the gold the short end of the deal. The workingmen too often blame the layman for the failure and overlook the landlord. They are usually barking up the wrong tree. Those sacred rights of landlordism are the same in the Tanana as they are in Ireland or Russia. Where in do they differ? The Irish or Russian

landlord takes his rent although the peasant and his family may starve. The Tanana landlord takes his royalty just as heartless though the Tanana working man may starve. And the loss of wages in Tanana has made many an Alaska widow on the outside.

If the Tanana workingmen would do a little quite reasoning for themselves and look back to the places where they had lost their wages they would find that if the royalties that had been paid to the landlord had been applied to the payment of wages, that the loss to the laborer would be insignificant compared with what it is to-day. If any person should be obliged to take the short end of the deal, in justice, it should be the landlord. He is the speculator. But under the lease system he has the cinch, the workingmen are the speculators.

Let the workingmen just reason out the advantages of the landlord. When he locates what is supposed to be mineral ground its value is an unknown quantity, it is in the problem. Nothing but labor will demonstrate its value. If performs that labor himself he is entitled to all he finds. If he incurs any indebtedness his claim is liable for it. But if he should decide to have it developed under the lease system, how then? He selects some person as lessee that has some capital and the reputation of being a good miner to go upon the ground. And as is customary the lessee employs laboring men as it is not possible to carry on mining extensively without employing labor. And as mining is one of the blindest business propositions in the world men are kept working for long periods of time without any accurate knowledge of what their labor is producing, hoping some day to find pay. And during the winter season's work when the greater part of mining indebtedness is incurred they are unable to tell just what their labor is producing by reason of their not being able to wash up. In the spring season they discover that the work has not paid. Now during the winter they have done a great deal of prospecting for the landlord, as well as taking out gold to pay themselves. When the cleanup comes Mr. landlord is always on hand to grab his royalty and give the workingmen the short end of the deal. Although he working

men have not only paid the landlord's royalty but they have prospected his ground for which he is not responsible

With the forfeiture of the lease he regains possession of the ground unincumbered by the failure with all the improvements made by the workingmen on the claim for which they have not been paid.

Now that bombastic man that has been thrice sent to Washington by the voters of this Territory, first, by hypnotizing the voters of this district into supporting his candidacy for delegate to Congress chiefly, by pledging himself if elected to secure the passage through Congress of a miner's lien law that would secure to the mine workers protection for their wages. And Wick labored to bring forth a lien on the dump, knowing full well that in the majority of cases that was no security for wages. In nine cases out of ten where the dump is good security for wages there is no need for a labor lien on the dump the wages will be paid without any recourse to law. But lo and behold you, when the learned judge interpreted the law it meant the lessee's interest in the dump that was holding under the lien; the sacred royalty of the landlord was exempt. Royalty first if you please. Do the miner realize what such a lien means? If you take out your wages after paying royalty, you may be able to collect them by law, but if you do not, what then? Are you as wage workers consulted as to what ground will pay to work? Or have any say as to whether it will pay or not? If you take a pan and attempt to prospect what will happen?

Why should workingmen take the risk of mining through the mistakes or bad judgment of their employers, the majority of whom have everything they possess mortgaged or placed in safekeeping beyond the reach of any workingman in case of a failure, the landlord secure against all liability by reason of his notice posted on the claim.

There is little mining ground left in this camp that will pay wages and royalty, and until the laws of this Territory recognize that a partnership exists between landlord and tenant there will be no security for wages, and we must endure the curse of landlordism.

DAN McCABE
VAULT, ALASKA.

ADVICE FROM A COMRADE

Dear Comrades:

Your paper is a wonder. Keep after the capitalists our common enemy and keep us posted on his troubles and his tricks but keep our own troubles in the dark. If you see a socialist doing dirty work don't advertise it to the world but proceed to remedy it by a secret session.

Yours Fraternally,
A Comrade.

READ THE DISCUSSION ON THE RECALL OF JUDGES AND FIND OUT WHY THE LAWYERS ARE OPPOSED TO THE RECALL.

ELECTION RETURNS

From late papers.

Socialist Defeats Fusion

Shelby, Ohio.---Daniel Howe, Socialist, elected mayor with one hundred majority over fusion candidate.

Victory in Coshocton

Coshocton, Ohio.---Election for mayor resulted as follows: McDonald, republican, 818; Hefflinger, democrat, 691; Staats, Socialist, 854. Staats elected by 36.

Gain in Schenectady

Schenectady, N. Y.---Socialists lost heads of tickets in city by fifteen hundred against fusion of democrats republicans and progressives. Elected sheriff, assemblyman and five alderman and consider it a magnificent victory for the working class. Vote increased by two thousand over election of last year.

S. L. P. Vote in New Jersey.

Newark, N. J. Nov. 10.---According to the canvass made by the County Board of Elections, John Butterworth, Socialist Labor Party candidate for governor received 395 votes in Essex County. Reilly Socialist party candidate, polled 2310.

S. L. P. Vote in Boston Rises.

Reimer, candidate of the Socialist Labor Party for governor of Massachusetts, received 277 votes in Boston, according to the Boston Post. Last year Reimer, as Socialist Labor Presidential candidate had 176 votes. Wrenn, Socialist party candidate, had 1,311 votes

DEBS TO GO INTO COUNTRY FOR HIS HEALTH

It is reported that Eugene V. Debs will begin a three months' effort to recover his health by living the life of a ranchman forty miles from Denver.

He has returned to Terre Haute, Ind., from the Battle Creek Sanitarium and declares that the lounging and lying around process was ineffective.

---NEW TIMES

CRIME

Crime being a morbid emanation of capitalistic conditions, tends to interfere with their normal functions, and the punishment of crime is thus the legal means employed to consolidate and protect these same relations. Penal sanctions have, accordingly, followed the alternate prevalence of the different forms of ownership and favored the entire evolution of property. Thus an agriculture state metes out its heaviest penalties to crimes against landed property, while a commercial state punishes most severely the crime of issuing false money. Severity against theft, again, is an indication of this prevalence of movable over fixed property. For this reason primitive Roman law proceeded with great severity against thieves, while under the code of Justinian the rigor of the early law was considerably modified. And in general each state proceeds most severely against the crimes that injure its predominant interests.---From ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF THE LAW.

It is reported that a saboteur visited one of the local hotels and on his bill being presented under the door requesting payment of his room rent escaped through the window. The last that was heard of him he was discussing the length of time that would elapse before the Socialists were ready to take over the industries as he was ready to take them over now, especially the hotels.

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FAIRBANKS

ALASKA

Socialism stands, not for better wages,
but for the abolition of the wage-system.

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