

Seattle Wash Jan 3 98

Henry Kuhn

Dear Comrad

My conscience has been
pricking me a little of late, saying why dont you
write to Kuhn - Well when I opened yours of 25th Dec.
I was not surprised that you said you had not
heard from me for some time. My only apology
is that I have been rather over worked and not
quite up to my usual standard of health. You see
I am the only one in Washington who has undertaken
to carry the whole socialistic movement on my
dam good old shoules - I have bit of more than
any body can Chew but I have not sense enough
to know it and so go on chewing.

I never see anything so absurd before in
my life but once - That was when I was a boy
in New Orleans - The oysters there sometimes
grow as large and long as a western Ear of corn

one day I seen a crowd of Sailors having great fun over something - I boy like crept into the ring - Then a husky jack tar had made a bet and was trying to win it. He had contracted to swallow, whole, the biggest oyster they could find - When I seen him he was in his 21st trial. The only encouraging feature to me is that the fellow on the 31st trial succeeded in chomping this "monster of the deep". It was a great feat but I have a bigger one on hand. I hope I may have the fellow gift of Continence.

I am tramping up Socialist all over the State trying for new sections - The only bright prospect I have is with Conrad Beik of Whatcombe. I really think he will succeed in forming a section. I wrote to

the man Hawks of Tacoma - he replied that he had organized a branch of the S.D. of A (Some Darned Asses). But we will get them all right. I am very glad you advised us to get more than 3 sections before we formed State Organization.

Out of that number we may get 3 sections that will have an idea of what socialism is.

I have spent more than a year in this place educating - Learning Socialists what Socialism is - Men will sign the application and come into the Section and think they are Socialists but they bring in more 'good ideas' than would "patch hell a mile" all of which patches have to be ripped off. But I am getting a very decent set around me now. You see I say, "I am" - It is not the Democratic expression but I mean just what I say - It is my own personality that I have had to force to the front and if I had not done it the Section would have been disrupted long ago.

Now if I have had a job right here at home how has it been at Edmonds & Everett.

There never was a more earnest, honest, conscientious, well meaning man than Dr Chase of Edmonds. He is the most intense Socialist you ever seen - He would go through fire for Socialism yet he don't know any more about Socialism than a Bull Frog knows of high glory. Of course he will get there after a while, but we can't depend

on such men to foster the movement.

Everett is worse. If I sent you a letter I had from their new Organizer you would go crazy. His name is H.J. Beaubo. He is likewise a well meaning man - I thought enough of his case to write him 10 or 12 pages of this size paper explaining to him what Socialism was. His case is not hopeless and there are men in that Section that do know which from Luther. I will get him in line I think in good time. Then another case I have on hand who has the idea strutt, all except our National organization. They are bosses. Nobody knows what they do with funds collected, et cetera. Well his case, despite his vicious views in regard to monthly dues and N.E. Cont was hopeful - So New Year day, when I should have been drinking beer with the boys, I wrote him an essay of 20 pages "on why organization", just as we have it, was a necessity. You see from my stand point, it is very important, to get one good man at least, in a place. If I succeed in convincing this man he will be a force. If not convinced he will be an eternal thorn in our side - one more factor to fight. Now all this brings me to the

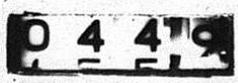
place where I want to say that I judge a man's
 Socialism very much by which ~~what papers he~~
 reads. The only perfectly safe Socialist is one
 who is a constant reader of our next organ, the "People"

Therefore I am very much interested in the success
 of the plan to make a 50 cent "People" - It is an
 absolute necessity, in my judgement, for the success
 of the cause. It will be hard even at that to
 get subscribers but not 1/2 as hard as now.

I would have the price 50 cts a year 25 cts for 6
 months - 10 cts for 3 months. I will do my best to get
 subscribers and I think circulation should be tripled in
 six months.

Then another thing - run a column or
 so for beginners - that is young Socialists. Give them
 first principles. Not short spicy dabs at present
 conditions, a la "Appeal to Reason" but enter into the
 philosophy of it. Any thing too profound or too long
 will not be as effective as something in the nature
 of paragraphs. I believe if there was a column or so

run on this plan it would aid materially. It is not
 only necessary to catch them but to hold them. Well you
 see I am working and thinking - trying to do the best I
 can to help along - We here in Washington need a



6

a good speaker and a good paper - we will get
back after a while. Wilkins of New Charter is
going to help us. He will try and raise a
fund in this state to send a speaker here.

At our busenep meeting yesterday old officers were
relected. I will send money for stamps in days
so - also writing report. We have a couple of good
Socialists with us now from SauT - only neither
can speak. Big Eddy was with us a while - he
joined our Section. He is very well grounded in
first principles but cannot speak. He is a printer -
came here for a job - Has gone to Olympia & may
help us there in organizing section, as he will likely
remain there. Cline speaker of house of Rep. of
last winter - says there are 8 to 10,000 Socialists in
Washington that will go into some Socialist organization.
You see it is a good field for propaganda.

Will try to be more prompt in writing in
future and promise my letters will be shorter by at
least 2/3 - Klondyke fever is begining to rage here again.

Fraternally,
T. J. Dean