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EIGHTH YEAR — No. 363

"Labor Mayor" Moore calls his new party "The Seattle City Party." We suggest a slight amendment. Call it "The Seattle City Party," or even "The Seattle City Party."

"Labor Mayor" Moore now says: "I will permit you Socialists to speak on certain streets, but I will not permit you to speak on any other streets." No, sir. We Socialists are not fighting for PERMITTED SPEECH, but for FREE SPEECH. Permitted speech means also Forbidden Speech. If you can permit, you can forbid. We Socialists deny both.

The Socialists have "Labor Mayor" Moore on the dead run. He stops only to jump sideways. The whole city is laughing at him and his dodging. He is now seen to be a mere jack in the box. Instead of the dignified ex-judge he was supposed to be, he now appears in his true character of cheap actor in petty farce.

"Moore the Mighty" he proclaims himself "Moore the Midget" the public proclaims him.

The Stubbhorn Man is always the Weak Man. The Moore stubborn the Moore weak. The Moore weak the Moore stubborn. "Did you notice it?"

Seattle Socialists to his Discomfiture, the Mayor of Seattle: "You have jailed us without hall. You have abused our wives and children. You have scorned and ridiculed us. You have done everything but shed our blood. You are too cowardly to do that. Now that an aroused and indignant public opinion frightens your little soul, you talk big about our violation of a 'permit' from you. You violate the law against obstructing the streets. What do you take us for? We are not beggars nor petty politicians, nor time servers, nor double crossers. We are not in your low class. We fight for the Rights of Men. We fight for Liberty. We scorn and defy your Autocracy, your contemptible assumption of illegal authority, your tyrannical orders, your cowardly threats and your plague-breeding dungheaps.

Our Motto: FREE STREETS FOR FREE SPEECH.

Walter Thomas Mills shows pretty small in the present Seattle Street Fight. For weeks he railed against the Socialists who were called nighties as "Barkers on the street corners." But nobody paid any attention to him except to take notice Mills never went to jail. Now that the Socialists are widdling their year-long fight against a vicious mayor, Mills comes out of obscurity to help the mayor out of his difficulty. He actually accepted a "permit" from the mayor to allow Mayor to "bark on the street corners" himself.

Everybody believes Mills and Moore are formed an alliance for the coming city campaign. "Labor Mayor" Moore "permits" free speech to Mills because Mills will support Moore for reelection as Mayor.

This view finds confirmation in Mills' appearance before the Central Labor Council last Wednesday night with the proposal to consolidate his paper, "The Saturday Evening Tribune," with the "Union Record," the only newspaper of Seattle which has always supported Moore as a "Labor Mayor."

Walter Thomas Mills is now outside the Socialist Party and can pose no longer as a Socialist. His Fusion tactics have been emphatically repudiated by the Socialist Party of the State of Washington, as is shown by the referendum vote recorded in another column. The only way for Mills to get back inside the Socialist ranks will be to go to some other state and be accepted into membership by some Local there. In that event, the Socialist Party of the State of Washington will be justified in demanding that the National Party organization discontinue the State Party's support of Mills and the State Party which has definitely rejected him.

The National Constitution forbids Fusion. The State Socialists of Washington has expelled W. T. Mills for Fusion. If now any other State Party accepts him into its membership and the National Party disavows him, the State Party of the Washington State Party can no longer be counted as part of the National organization. "The State Autonomy" provisions of our national constitution will then have committed suicide.

Mills announces that he will "probably" organize a new party in the state of Washington. We hope he will. Then the opportunists and reformers will have a chance to show what they can do. For years in Seattle, they have defeated the efforts of the revolutionaries by introducing dissension and strife over personal matters. Now, if they will only give us a chance to show what we can do without them and take the chance to show what they can do without us, everybody ought to be happy. By all means let Mills organize the Reformists, the "Constructives," into a new party.

Suuri Kansainvälinen Työttömien Kokous

Pidetaan

Egan's Haalilla, Arcade Bld.
Luantaina Marrask 23 p

Alkaa Tasmalleen k: 8 illalla

Ohjelmassa:

Puheita useilla eri kielillä
Soittoa ja Laulua

Huom!! Kaikki miehiissä ja naisissa mukana.

Sisaan Paasy Vapaa

EGAN HALL
Arcade Building, 2d Ave.

STEVE ADAMS' TRIAL

Mrs. Hazlett's latest story arrived too late for publication this week. It will be given in full next week, together with that covering the remainder of Steve Adams' trial. It is Steve is acquitted, the prospects are he will be at once arrested for trial in Colorado. Bulkeley Wells and his bounds must have somebody's blood.

Mrs. Hazlett will tell graphically of McFarland's grilling by Darrow on cross-examination, and of the fierce altercation between Hawley and Darrow. McFarland's Molle Maguire record was fully uncovered.

State rested Thursday, Nov. 14, at 2 p. m.

Moyer and wife went to Boise on same day to prepare for Pettibone's trial on Nov. 25.

Mrs. Hazlett had to go to her own trial at Spokane, the result of which is given in another column.

Darrow's opening statement went over Steve Adams' whole life, revealing the vicious persecution of him by the Mine Owners' Association, and especially dwelt on the powerful influences brought to bear on Adams in the Boise "Pen" to sign his "confession," which is the main reliance of the prosecution.

Mrs. Hazlett has now returned from her own trial at Spokane and next week will go to the Pettibone trial at Boise. Her reports of that trial will appear in "The Socialist" as well as in her own paper, "The Montana News."

MRS. HAZLETT REPORTS TRUTH

Rathdrum, Ida., Nov. 12, 1907.
Monday morning Mr. Hawley took his place as lead attorney for the defense and conducted the questioning.

The constructive evidence was presented this week. S. C. Thiele, manager of the Pinkerton Detective Agency of Spokane, was first on the stand. He has the name of being the champion liar of the northwest, and the way Darrow tangled him up on the stand did credit to his reputation. Their tales are carefully prepared to expect and to the uninitiated it appears that they are telling strange tales.

SAME OLD TALE

He told of arresting Steve in Oregon, said he was working under McFarland and the state of Idaho. He declared that no complete record was brought to bear on Adams to make him confess.

As the subject of the confession was approached, Mr. Darrow asked that

the jury be sent out of the room, and he asked that Thiele, Warden White, and McFarland be brought to testify before the jury. The object was to form a basis for objections to the confession on the ground of compulsion. Thiele said he was employed on the Steinburg case at first and Tyler case.

McFarland, the old sergeant, came on the stand with his forty odd years experience with the Pinkerton Detective Agency, aiding the employers' class of the country to keep their workers in subjection. His answers were all calculated and every word was weighed. The gun man, Garner, is with him as a body guard and follows him every time he steps out. He and his ilk are the reptiles of officialdom.

His talk was disgusting from its hypocritical point. When he was telling about how he told Adams about his alleged confession, Darrow said: "Who would forgive sins?" He solemnly answered, "God."

Darrow said: "You didn't say anything about the state forgiving them did you?" And just as solemnly McFarland answered "No."

This old lying, white reptile went on with his old lying of how he told Adams the tale of David and Uriah and about St. Paul and how all these dread sinners were forgiven, and how he told him how well the state used its witnesses and how it never even prosecuted Kelly the Bum and all the stuff that has edified the public ad nauseam. As this was the same truck that Orchard said was told to him, with the same illustrations, it shows on the face of it that it is simply a prearranged scheme which will keep the people that he wanted to use. The work is too coarse to even merit the consideration of intelligent people.

PRESSURE FOR CONFESSION

He admitted that pressure was brought to bear on the prisoner for the purpose of getting a confession from him. He said that he had been with Adams whenever he pleased, although his nearest friend could not obtain access to him, except in the presence of the guards.

McFarland further admitted that his purpose in getting the confession from Adams was to obtain evidence against Moyer, Hawley and Pettibone. These leaders of the working class proclaimed to the world that their main point of attack is the great union organization of the west, "The Western Federation of Miners must be destroyed!"

Warden Whitney of the state penitentiary when asked on what authority he received Adams and the penitentiary said "as a fugitive from justice." He put Adams in a cell with Orchard, a state witness. He said he told Steve he had better "come through."

After the jury was brought in Thiele was again called. On cross-examination

he said he had been a member of the Western Federation of Miners for about six weeks in Butte in 1904. He admitted that he was at that time in the employ of the Pinkertons, that he lied to the union men when he took their oath and answered to that part of the ritual where he said he was not a detective. He passed under the name of John Cameron.

One wonders that the prosecution will invite such evidence. To single-minded former people like the average country jury such deliberate deception and lying conveys an idea of horror. It is all crime to them and all the worse that it is employed to entrap the innocent. It takes a jury composed of business men to enjoy Pinkerton evidence.

COLORADO STRIKE GENERAL

"Today Bulkeley Wells came on the stand. Although he has been most zealous in his bitter hatred of the Federation and was at Boise ready to testify in the Haywood case, they were afraid to call him there. He has been the scourge of the working class of Colorado. Based in Boston, he came to Colorado as the superintendent of the Smuggler Union mine at Telluride. He was captain of the militia there and served through the strike trouble under Sherman Hall. He was then Adjutant General under Governor McDonald and is now railroad commissioner under Governor Hickenlooper. He had charge of the train that took the kidnapped Federation officials to Idaho and carried the keys to Moyer's handcuffs. He also had charge of Moyer when he was in jail at Pullman. He is one of the most prominent members of the Mine Owners' Association in Colorado."

He asserted also that the purpose of getting a confession out of Adams that would hold water was to assist in the conviction of Moyer, Hawley and Pettibone.

Last June Wells went to Wallace to try and get Steve to go to Boise and testify in the Haywood case. He got fooled on that trip. Steve had come to his senses and told Mr. Warden he didn't have time to talk to him.

DARROW DOES UP WARREN

Warden Whitney was on the stand. Darrow grilled him till the whole room was laughing at him. Rathdrum said that he had been in the sheriff of Kootenai county before he was appointed warden of the penitentiary. The court room was filled to listen to his testimony, but the way he sputtered and stammered under Darrow's questions did not do much credit to his reputation.

He told the stereotyped tale about Adams' confession, and his voluntary and how Adams confessed to him also. James McFarland came on the stand after the noon recess. With him on the stand Adams' confession was read to the jury by Attorney Hawley. About all there is in it is an admission of the Marble Creek murders and the assertion of the Federation officials getting him to help kill Steinberg. There is nothing else to know about Adams' life. There are no indications of its being a voluntary statement of a man who wants to tell about his life. It is simply a carefully prepared implication of the Federation men to which a liar and bandit man affixed his signature for the sake of a false peace and security.

Steve Adams will never be swinging on such flimsy claptrap as this.

IDA CROUCH HAZLETT.

THE FIGHT GOES ON

REPORT OF STATE ORGANIZER AND SECRETARY OF FREE SPEECH COMMITTEE.

Saturday, Nov. 16, 1907.

Visited newspapers. Was informed that Walter Thiele, Mills to speak on University Street between Second and Third Avenues tonight. Attended the Mills meeting. Mills informed the audience that he had asked for and received a permit from Mayor Moore to speak. He also advanced some scheme about supplying work for the unemployed. After returning from Mills meeting went with Thiele, Sladden to hold a meeting on Pike Place. Audience twenty. Mills audience five hundred. Sladden was arrested. No hall.

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1907.

Sladden will in J. B. Osborne to address tonight's meeting in the Labor Temple. Had good meeting. Organized new Socialist local in Seattle before and after meeting. Arrangements for a monster unemployed meeting in Egan Hall, Saturday of this week, progressing.

Monday, Nov. 18, 1907.

General consultation about getting Socialist Party property out of Mills' hall. Meeting of joint committee consisting of State Free Speech committee and Local Executive Committee to lay plan for this week. Decided to speak on University Street between Second and Third, Tuesday night. On Fourth between Pike and Union Wednesday night. On Pioneer Place Thursday night. On Pike Place Friday night. Informed Mayor Moore of our program. Elected Thos. Sladden, H. F. Titus, A. Wagenknecht as committee.

MRS. HAZLETT DISCHARGED. FREE SPEECH WINS IN SPOKANE.

The fight for Free Speech in Spokane resulted in a victory for the Socialist Party in the trial of Mrs. Ida Crouch Hazlett.

The case was tried in the Superior Court of Spokane, with Judge Sullivan on the bench. The trial commenced at ten o'clock Saturday morning and went to the jury Monday afternoon at four o'clock. The jury was out six and a half hours and brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Constance Hazlett was discharged from custody of the court at eleven o'clock Monday night.

Thousands of Men Are Out of Employment in Seattle. The Socialists Alone Can Tell Them How It Happened and How To Stop It.

Good Music
Good Speaking In Several Languages.

Admission Free
SAT., NOV. 23
Doors Open at 7:30 P. M.

Mills as a "Constructive" has proved somewhat of a failure in Seattle so far. For example, in his "Prospect" of eight months ago, he announced a "12 page 7 column paper." All he ever succeeded in "constructing" was an 8 page paper and now this, has been "constructed" down to 4 pages with a near prospect of being destroyed to no pages at all. The history of his "constructive" organization in Seattle is quite similar. His short months ago he had the whole thing. In his own private possession was all the accumulated property of Local Seattle, worth about a thousand dollars, valued for by all the comrades for seven long years. Six hundred folding chairs, a great library, desks, tables, piano, hall furniture, etc., etc., all turned over to the "constructive" Walter Thomas as the private property of the "Tribune Publishing Co." in which W. T. Mills had a majority of the stock. With this property Walter Thomas had and lease of the "Socialist Temple."

And now? Mills has been ejected from the hall by its owners for non-payment of rent and all the furniture and property around is locked up as security for the unpaid rent. This fact is probably the real reason Mills has taken to "barking on the street corners," because he can't pay rent in any hall. This is "Constructive" Socialism with a vengeance.

Again we say, let Mills go on and "construct" a new party in the state of Washington. Only let the Revolutionaries alone to proceed with their "destructive" tactics.

The Revolutionary Socialists of Seattle have rented the hall in the city for the next year. This was the result of being turned out of the Labor Temple by the "Labor Leaders" who will not let the Revolutionaries alone to proceed with their "destructive" tactics.

Next Saturday and Sunday nights Nov. 23 and 24, Egan Hall will be opened for the Socialists.

On Saturday night of next night this Hall will be occupied by the Revolutionary Socialists. The best of music and the best of speaking will always be presented. Comrades and friends will not get any more of the kind of setting aside Sunday evening to attend a Socialist meeting and find their acquaintances to attend and get out what Socialism is.

Sunday night, Nov. 24, the eminent comrade, Lois Felt, will sing and the great pianist, Evastoff Rose, will play. The Socialist Party will meet in the new Hall, Egan Hall, Arcade Building, Second Avenue, between Union and University Streets. One block from the Post Office. One block from Pike Street. On Second Avenue, the Main thoroughfare in Seattle.

LONGSHOREMAN'S HALL RAIDED

Thursday night the "Labor Mayor" and his Chief Wapensteen, ordered the Longshoremen's Hall raided.

For several days the police have arrested but not one of the alleged gamblers. The Police Station looks like a second hand furniture store. About twenty old and new old wood chairs being the main lot.

The charge was running a gambling house. Some of the longshoremen were playing a game of Black Jack and the police say there was some money up.

So they captured 200 black chairs to prevent any more such depravity. Incidentally, the church people will hear about it, it will send up a few more prayers for this Christian administration, while Wm. Hickman Moore, "Labor Mayor," will change and also cough over a poker game in his cashed chair at the Rialto Club and will quote as intelligently as his condition will allow a few words from the "Ten Commandments." "What Fools These Mortals Be!"

By the way, didn't the Longshoremen pass some Resolutions about Moore's treatment of the Socialists? Yes, it was this Union known as "The Riggers and Stevedores" which not only condemned this Labor administration for forbidding Free Speech, but also decided to refuse Clearing House Certificates in payment of wages.

Moore and Wapensteen are spanking them. Now will they be good?

ANOTHER "LABOR" VICTORY

The Free Employment Bureau of the city has gone into the strike-breaking business. All last week there was a card on the board at the "State Market" announcing that there were jobs in Southeastern Alaska for miners, where there was a strike on. Thus does the "Labor" administration look out for the interests of organized labor.

The Socialist

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Communications intended for the Editor should be so addressed. Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless stamps are enclosed.

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GUSTAF RYBERG, Socialism and Art
MRS. FLOYD HYDE, Socialism and the Home

THE FREE SPEECH FIGHT

Continued from Page One

tried. Prosecuting attorney practically claimed them innocent. Judge reserved decision, only because he owes his job to Mayor Moore. Weather very hot tonight. Rain and high wind. Thos. Sladden tried to speak on Pioneer Place. Audience about fifty. Big Salvation Army meeting half block away having a boys' band and a large audience. Audience at the Salvation Army meeting very large. Sladden arrested. No ball.

A. WAGENKNECHT.

AUTOCRACY REBUKED

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 19, 1907.

Hon. Wm. Hinkins, Mayor, Seattle, Washington.

Dear Sir: The Socialist Party of Seattle acknowledges receipt of your communication of this date in reply to our notification of our intent to speak on certain streets this week.

A clerical error occurred in the place chosen for tonight, which was University Street, between Third and Fourth, not between First and Second. On this locality you agree. You assume to deny us the right to speak at other places named by us and you designate certain other places where you will permit us to speak.

We hereby notify you that we deny your authority to give us permission to speak on the streets. If we violate the law, it is your business to arrest us. If we do not violate the city ordinance, you have no right to arrest us to touch us, wherever we hold our meetings. YOU CANNOT LEGALLY GIVE US ANY PERMIT TO VIOLATE THE LAW AND YOU CANNOT LEGALLY BID US TO DO ANYTHING ALLOWED BY THE LAW.

We have never violated the law and we do not propose to do now. We have carefully refrained always from speaking any street. The late are with our meetings. The places we have selected and notified you of, are little more for traffic and we will take every precaution to obstruct no one.

We hereby notify you again that on Wednesday evening, we shall hold a street meeting on Fourth Avenue, between Pike and Union; on Friday evening on Pioneer Place, and on Friday evening on Pike Place. If, in the language of Judge Morris's charge to the jury today, we do not keep the streets clear for ordinary uses of traffic, we welcome arrest and conviction. But if we do not violate the law, we expect the mayor to leave us unmolested.

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF SEATTLE.

By ALFRED WAGENKNECHT, State Organizer.

LETTER TO CITY COUNCIL

We again address you and again make a demand for your rights as officers of the United States. This time, our demand comes before you after we have received the two thousand votes of two thousand voters of this city, all of whom have signed this protest against the past week. The late are still circulating and there will undoubtedly be many more signatures. A blank form of the petitions that have been circulated in the past week is enclosed for you and voters have signed these petitions. You will surely give the demands of these two thousand voters some attention. We will gladly lay the petitions before the city council for inspection at any time.

You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that the Saturday night street meetings on Pioneer Square, on Pike street, between First and Second Avenue, First Avenue and Washington Street, on Occidental and Washington streets, The People's House holds night meetings on the corner of Third Avenue and Pike

announced at a street meeting on Second and Union that since he was not arrested there he would speak the next Sunday on Second and Pike, and see if he would be arrested there. John Devoine called out, "That is not so." Moore attempted to continue his speech, but was greeted with hisses. He then said: "I knew you would be here, meaning the Socialists. At this remark the audience groaned. He spoke a few minutes more. His supporters did their best to make some sort of noise in his favor, but it was plainly evident to all present that at least two-thirds of the audience had come to hear Mayor Moore on no other question save that of Free Speech. The majority of the audience, which was composed of working people, realized that what he said on other issues would never concern them, and they were absolutely opposed to Moore's persecution of the Socialists.

This charge by Judge George Morris, of the Superior Court of King County, Wash., in the case of City of Seattle against J. B. Osborne is the result of eighteen months of struggle by the Socialists of Seattle for the right of Free Speech and Free Assembly on the streets.

While it is not altogether satisfactory and complete, it yet constitutes a landmark in the fight for Free Streets in modern cities.

IT DISTINCTLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AND PUBLIC SPEECH ON THE STREETS. In judicial decisions that is an immense gain, as most such decisions are based on cases involving old-fashioned country highways, where there is only one thought, that of travel which necessarily must be kept clear. But in the modern city, if one street is temporarily closed by an Assembly of people, travel can go on with only slight inconvenience.

In such case, the greater public inconvenience would be imposed by compelling the Assembly to disperse than by forcing a few vehicles to pass. Even this fact is recognized in Judge Morris's instructions, when he says: "All that the law requires is that the streets shall be kept 'REASONABLY clear,' not absolutely so. These instructions constitute a most important precedent for other judicial acts on Free Speech on streets.

JUDGE MORRIS' CHARGE.

Gentlemen of the Jury:

The defendant, J. B. Osborne, is charged in the complaint in this case with having committed a crime on the 23rd day of September last by then and there causing people to congregate and obstruct a public place in the City of Seattle. The ordinance upon which this complaint is founded is, so far as it relates to the particular charge in this complaint, as follows: "It shall be unlawful for any person to obstruct the thoroughfare of any street by causing people to congregate upon and thereby obstruct any public place."

That is the only charge in this complaint against this defendant, that he obstructed the thoroughfare of any street by causing people to congregate upon and thereby obstruct any public place; then it is your duty to return a verdict of guilty. That is all there is to this case.

To wilfully attract the attention of persons is one phase of the ordinance. A man does a thing wilfully, of course, when he does it intentionally and not carelessly. Does it of his own free will? A public place is obstructed when that place is used in such a way as to hinder, stop, block up that street or other place for the purpose for which it was originally used.

is just and fair and reasonable and impartial. ALL THE LAW REQUIRES IS THAT THE STREETS BE KEPT CLEAR, REASONABLY KEPT CLEAR FOR THE ORDINARY PURPOSES OF THE STREET. That is all. Any crowd of people or assemblage of people, whatever their business may be, that do not keep the streets clear for the ordinary use of the street, then it does not make any difference what they are doing, whether preaching anarchy, Socialism, democracy or republicanism, or whatever they are doing. It does not make a particle of difference what they are doing. The law is not concerned with the private ideas of its citizens at all, and it is not concerned with the private ideas of the people who assembled there. It does not make any difference what the purpose for which they went there was. The law does not go to the man's mind for the purpose of ascertaining what his views are on any subject, economic or otherwise. Every man has a right to think as he pleases and to speak as he pleases. The law does not look at the cut of a man's clothes, the color of his coat, or the workings of his brain. So it does not make any difference to you whether you believe in Socialism or not; it does not make any difference what the police think of the Socialists; it does not make any difference whether the Socialists shall be permitted to speak upon the streets or not. We are not trying a question of policy at all; we are trying a question of whether this man, Osborne, did wilfully attract a crowd at that time and place, and did such crowd obstruct the street? That is all.

You and I in this case represent the majority and laws of the state, and you should act upon this case with that idea in mind; and if anything has been said in your hearing that would lead you to infer that there is or is not a public place, or whether the Socialists shall be permitted to speak with the enforcement of the laws of this city to limit speaking upon Socialism upon the streets, whatever you decide, it is your duty to return a verdict of guilty, whatever you may believe as to the force or propriety of the doctrines he believes in.

In other words, we are not trying Socialism in this case at all. Mr. Osborne has a right to be a Socialist, if he wants to, just like he has a right to be a Baptist, Presbyterian or anything of that kind. He has a right to follow any course that his intelligence leads him to believe is the correct one, to follow, and whether that agrees with our notions or not, we have no right to make any difference. You have the same right as he has. Your rights are equal. So he is not to be found guilty or innocent in this case according to whether or not you may agree with him or disagree with him in his views. We are not trying his opinions at all. We are trying this case just as the public would try it, and the question is whether or not he is violating this ordinance and whether or not he did attract persons and thereby cause them to congregate and obstruct a public place. If he is guilty of violating this ordinance, it did not, he is not guilty.

A number of copies of the "Franklin Labor Day" will be on our shelves. Price, 25cents, prepaid.

Now, the people have under the constitution and laws of this state the right of free assembly. They have a right to assemble. THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO TALK IN THE STREETS, AND THEY HAVE A RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE IN THE STREETS WHENEVER THEY PLEASE; but all their rights are equal, and they must all fit in and dovetail with each other. While a man has the right of free speech, white people have the right of assembly, they haven't the right of free speech on the public streets and they haven't the right of assembly on the public streets when they please. Sometimes those who are for the time being in place of authority may be unreasonable in the execution of the law; that is not the fault of the law. That may be the fault of those who are for the time being charged with its execution. The law

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INSIDE SIGHTS OF THE SEATTLE CITY JAIL

By Tom Sladden

On Monday evening, Nov. 11th, I occupied cell No. 2 in the Seattle City Jail. In this cell the ventilation is hardly sufficient to accommodate over three or four people at the outside. The room is no more than 18x20.

In this cell, before 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, were piled 26 human beings of various types. One of the last ones to come in was a man in a dazed condition from the effects of adulterated liquor, such as is sold in the lowest saloons. This man was in the last stages of tuberculosis and life was undoubtedly sustained for the time only by the stimulus of these same intoxicants. He lay for hours and vomited and spit the clearings of his throat upon the floor.

Most of the occupants of the cell were perhaps sufficiently hardy to overcome the effects of breathing in this vile atmosphere which polluted the cell. Many undoubtedly were not and guilty or innocent, some will be laid away, some fathers and mothers will mourn, some wives be left widows, some children left a heritage of disease, a result of someone being in cell No. 2 of the Seattle City Jail on Monday evening, November 11th, 1907.

In cell No. 3, which is slightly smaller, but a little better ventilated, 31 prisoners were incarcerated the same evening. Speaking of these prisoners, in cell No. 2 at least half were very lousy. Some of the prisoners had their clothes practically stripped from them by morming from incessant scratching.

Hardened criminal, lousy saloon bum, youths whose feet have slipped slightly, the children of respectable parents and respectable people who may have inadvertently spit upon the sidewalk, all piled indiscriminately into one horrible sweating, seething mass.

OLD COUNTY JAIL CELLS.

On November 13th I occupied, for a time, cell No. 3. In order to make room for the incoming Saturday night rush we were transferred to the basement of the old county jail in the same building. There nineteen of us were locked up in the dungeon corridor. These dungeons are, I should judge, 6x7x8 and the corridor fronting them is six feet wide and runs the length of the dungeons, 30 feet. Three dungeons were open and three men slept in each. The other two were occupied by men as yet not tried.

It was in this cell that I encountered the most horrible sights I had yet seen in the Seattle City Jail. The men who occupied this corridor were men who had already been convicted. Two cripples were paralyzed in the right side. These men had been convicted of the crime of begging. They had been in with others for three weeks and their food had been a half loaf of bread and a tin cup of coffee at 7 in the morning and a half loaf of bread and tin of ten at 5:30 at night—three-quarters of a lb. of bread a day to sustain life. (This was what they told me. That night we were all given a meal.) Both were so lousy as to be unable to sleep. One's body, who wore no clothes but a pair of overalls, was a mass of sores where he had torn himself with his finger nails. He was in for 63 days. He had no chance to rid himself of vermin until he gets out, or just before being released.

BURIED ALIVE.

In the dungeon two men were buried alive. One was Frank Cook, supposed to have been identified as a highwayman. Has been in dungeon since 11th. In the doors of these dungeons are six holes two inches in diameter, about five feet from the ground. These men are not taken out for exercise but are kept in day after day. While in the corridor we were able to give them water by making a funnel of a piece of paper and pouring a cup of water through this funnel into their mouths. These men are kept in this dungeon until they are ready to say what the police want them to.

COME OUT HEELS FIRST.

No ordinary man can come through the ordeals of the Seattle City Jail with health unimpaired. I do not speak for myself. They can put me and the entire police force of the city of Seattle in there and make still worse, if possible, the conditions, and I will be among the last whom they will have to drag out heels first. But I speak in the interests of the weaker, the ones less able to stand the strain; the frail, the sickly and cripples—the ones who may at any time be arrested by mistake.

They are victims of a social disorder, and society by corrupting, diseasing and demoralizing these petty offenders, spreads that disease, demoralization and corruption throughout the land. In such vile dens are crimes bred, pestilence preserved and anarchy and hatred planted in the hearts of men.

This is not the cry for mercy of one of the tortured. The little, insignificant discomfort which I must bear, temporarily, will soon pass away. But the hatred born in those miserable cells, the disease that lurks in its every corner, the demoralizing influence such corruption must spread, are things which tend to make disquieting all thoughts for the future. It is a human call for the general welfare and before it politics should be forgotten, individual material welfare restrained for the material welfare of all.

Diseased men should not be quarantined with the healthy, hardened crime with unimpaired youth, the filthy with the cleanly. Society owes even to a criminal some things, one of which is a chance to keep clean.

The torture chamber should have been long buried with the dead past. The jailers, the policemen, the under employes can not correct these abuses. The responsibility rests higher up. The officials of the city, the heads of the executive, legislative and judicial departments together with the entire citizenship of the community are guilty of this crime against the weak, a crime which must react with terrible consequences.

DEVoured BY COCKROACHES.

I placed a quarter of a loaf of bread in a corner near a steam pipe to see what would result, at about 8 o'clock. At four in the afternoon the cockroaches had carried all away but the crust. The investigations carried on by well meaning reformers "do not get at the bottom." Actual experience is the only way to get the truth in this matter and I, for one, shall consider that whatever discomfort I may have endured has been well repaid in the knowledge and experience I have gained, and if any man doubts the truth of these experiences all he will have to do is to question some decision of the Reform Mayor of this city and his illustrious Chief of Police and he will be able to obtain "inside information."

It is not a question of whether we are Democrats, Republicans, Socialists, Prohibitionists, Christians, Jews or Atheists which should concern us, but it is a duty we owe to ourselves and humanity to see this vile nest is cleaned up in the shortest possible time. If the mass of people in the city realized the terrible truth about this institution it would not last a minute. It is from what we do not know that we are most liable to receive harm.