
Burleson Notifies *The Call* To Appear for “Hearing”: *Call* Joins Socialist Papers Stabbed While Serving the People

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At 4:30 pm yesterday [Oct. 8, 1917] *The Call* was served with a notice to appear before the Post Office authorities at Washington today to show cause why it should not be deprived of its second class mailing privileges. As these privileges enable *The Call* to circulate outside the city of New York, this taking away of our second class mailing privileges would prevent us from reaching any readers without the borders of this city.

No specific charges of any misuse of the mails is made in the document served upon us. No quotations from any articles which in any manner violate any statute law of the United States as set forth are given. No charges of any character whatsoever are made against your paper. We are asked to show cause why we should not be penalized, and are not told what we have done to merit punishment.

If others had not suffered in the same way at the arbitrary will of the Post Office Department we would have been amazed at such an action on the part of any official of this republic. But, as they have so suffered, we were not amazed; we were not even surprised, and we were prepared to take our place with other Socialist papers which, having been loyal to the people, have been arbitrarily dealt with by those in authority in direct violation of the rights of free press guaranteed by the constitution.

That it is primarily the Socialist press as such that the present administration wishes to crush recent events prove. First attacking the Socialist weeklies by depriving them of mailing

privileges necessary to their very existence, the authorities have begun their attack on the daily Socialist press.

The character of the papers coming before the authorities prove the real animus back of the control of the Post Office administration. *The Milwaukee Leader*, that has stood for the rights of the working class since its first issue came from the press, was deprived of its mailing privilege on the grounds that the Post Office authorities objected to the general tone and tendency of the paper.

Then came the *Előre*, a Hungarian Socialist paper that hates both the Hapsburg and Hohenzollern tyranny which rules the Central Empires. There was no charge that it ever had said anything in favor of the kaiser and his military oligarchy or of the emperor of Austria. The *Előre*, however, hated tyranny of any kind, no matter what language it spoke in, was a champion of Socialism, and it was also punished.

The *Novyi Mir*, a Socialist paper published in the Russian language, was a revolutionary sheet that hated the Romanovs and all their hellish work, and supported the Russian revolution that overthrew the tsar. And the Post Office deprived it of its mailing privileges.

***Volkszeitung* Cited.**

And then came the strangest proceeding of all — the serving of notice on the German Socialist paper, the *Volkszeitung*, to show cause why its mailing privileges should not be taken away. This paper from the very start of the great World War had denounced the kaiser and all his works. In doing this it had aroused the ire of many Germans in this country and lost circulation. However, it never wavered for a moment, as it was edited by revolutionary Germans who had fought Prussian autocracy in the old country for years.

It never hesitated, however, to denounce every evidence of the spirit of kaiserdom shown by the industrial lords of this country. And it was also summoned before the Thought Controller of America.

Last week the *Jewish Daily Forward*, the greatest cultural paper of the Jewish race in America, received the honor of a notice from the Post Office to appear and show cause why it should not be deprived of its second class mailing privileges. *The Forward* is the official organ of the Jewish Socialist movement in America and, in the interest of truth and justice, was often called upon to tell the truth about the capitalist class in America.

And now *The Call* has been cited.

Let us see what has been our offense. *The Call*, with every fiber of its being, as an organ of a new and better civilization, has fought against the spirit of militarism during all its existence. It opposed the entry of this country into the present world conflict until war was declared.

Fought for Democracy.

After the declaration of war it strove with all its might to preserve what democracy the people had been able to wrest from the plutocracy who have been plundering them for so many years. It opposed conscription because it believed conscription violated every principle for which our forefathers had fought and for which many had died.

It kept up its opposition until the conscription bill was passed, and then in a perfectly legal, orderly manner agitated for the repeal of the act on the grounds that, as every member of Congress had been elected when conscription was not an issue, the people should have a chance to speak their minds on the subject.

It did something else. It agitated for a minimum wage for all conscripts of \$100 a month, believing that the hardships of the conscripts should be reduced by enough wealth being conscripted to enable the government to pay this wage to each conscript.

We also agitated in the columns of this paper for a peace along the lines formulated by the revolutionary government of Russia, adopted by the vast majority of Socialists all over the

world, and practically endorsed by President Wilson himself in public utterances.

We also opposed the taking from labor under any excuse whatever the little industrial rights it had been able to wrest from the iron grasp of those who live off its toil.

And, finally, we opposed and denounce the arbitrary and tyrannical actions of the Post Office authorities of the United States and charged that such actions were a denial of the most basic rights guaranteed in the constitution of the United States.

This is a record of loyalty to the people which we are proud to blazon forth where all can see and read. We have no apologies to make, no word to regret.

Future Rests With Readers.

We know that the future of *The Call* rests entirely with you, its readers. If you wish us to continue to be faithful to the interests of the working class in this country, we shall be proud to go forward, always fighting against the forces of reaction and autocracy. We do not know what the action of the Post Office authorities will be in our case. Nothing that they have done in the past, however, would lead us to believe that we shall receive any more justice at their hands than other papers brave enough to tell the truth as they see it have received.

There is just one practical thing that every reader of *The Call* can do, and can do this week, and that is to get at least one new reader of *The Call* in the city of New York. This is the only answer that is really practical to the attempt to interfere with the usefulness of this paper as a valiant champion of the rights of the workers.

If you do this, we can elect Hillquit and the entire Socialist ticket. And this will be an answer worthy of the dignity of the cause that we represent.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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