
Katterfeld Met by Hostile Audience

[event of December 22, 1917]

by **Albert Strout,**

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[REPUBLIC, Wash.¹]— L.E. Katterfeld lectured here on December 22 [1917] before a hostile audience. By coincidence (?) the Red Cross advertised a meeting for the election of officers to be held in the Court room on the same date as Katterfeld's lecture, but to begin at 7:30 pm, whereas the Socialist lecture was advertised for 8:00 pm. It took patience to witness the trespassing upon our time by spread-eagle oratory by those who had a Red Cross headquarters and gall of their own where their meeting by all due courtesy should have been held.

The main mouthpieces of capitalism here did their best to incite riot — but thanks to the common sense of the audience their efforts fell flat and there was nothing for them to do but retire in ignominious defeat, yelling “traitor.”

It is being circulated in Republic that the Kaiser furnished the funds for this lecture. Also that no more Socialist lectures will be allowed. This is to make one smile when the Socialists hold the balance of power in Ferry County.

Katterfeld is the ablest exponent of Socialism that has appeared here.

Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport

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¹ Republic is a small town located in Eastern Washington. The town had fewer than 1,000 residents at the time Katterfeld spoke.