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THE REBEL

THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES - LET US ARISE

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JULY 19, 1913.

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ON WITH THE FIGHT

NO. 3

Whenever a nation is on the verge of a mighty change organization of the strong character are found within all organizations. This historical truth is universally accepted, and we in cannot fail to note the great organization in

Last year we saw the Republican party split in twain and a desperate portion of that body shot to pieces as the result of the small exponents. The Democratic party has split in half with conservatives of the Bailey strips driven into well-worned conservatism. The Socialist party has been rent with internal warfare over the question of sabotage and a revolutionary or conservative trades union policy. On the economic field the American Federation of Labor divided on the great question of industrialism at its last national convention.

The I. W. W. is divided on the question of centralization vs. decentralization; nevertheless it is engaging in strikes so far-reaching in character and we now in method that it is demanding the respect of friends and foe alike.

This hasty survey of the national situation, both economic and political, is nevertheless broad enough to enable The Rebel to point out a tremendous economic fact that may have far-reaching influence on the future of the working class in the mighty struggle in which we are engaged, a struggle that is destined to grow bigger with the days and pull over greater masses of workmen within its battle-line.

This fact is: That here in Texas the splitting parties and economic organizations do not exist in so other states. In Texas the labor movement, both economic and political, is as quiet as a midsummer night's dream. But yet we believe that it is but the quietness that precedes the breaking of the storm.

Naturally this peace is more or less artificial and does not sit well on the restless soul of the ardent Socialist who believes in struggle as long as there is poverty abroad in the land.

It follows then that to anyone those that are sleeping on their arms to smother the breath of militant life into great masses of workers is our sacred duty at this moment.

Hence The Rebel would like to see the state, aroused to a fighting, pitch on the all-absorbing question of Land. We would like to see fires of intellectual combat lit until the whole state would be aflame with discussion, and the tramp of marching armies of men to the hearings where the battle rages, would be the order of the day and of the night.

If we Socialists should start the fight on a large scale now we may be sure that we would not catch the enemy napping, for in secret sleep, but we would be able to awaken his spirit. Among his treacheries, and finally vanquish him, whereas upon the other hand, if we delay, the spirit of our own soldiers will be sapped and our army of manipulation will be rotted when the great engagements of the next few years take place in the Lone Star state.

To illustrate: The editor visited Nolan county, West Texas, three years ago. He sat in an open buggy at the top of a great divide and looked down into a mighty valley below. To my driver I said: "What is that great splat of paint on the roof of that renter's house down in the valley?"

"They murder the renters like convicts in West Texas," replied my driver.

On investigation I found that there were 125 renters and their families in 125 airy shacks where a landlord would not keep his blooded dogs. The renter had lost his identity. No longer was the price of "Me" joined to his name. In the land of his fathers he was not only homeless, but he was nameless, a pariah sitting at the master's gate.

"Shut a dog I met a great lawyer in Brath county and he said to me:

"We Texans are a proud people. Knock us down and we rebound

like a rubber ball and strike back. But if you lay your hands on the top of our heads and press down inch by inch we will sink to the ground and lie in the dust, without knowing that we have sunk from the proud position of a man that walks with his head erect.

And this is the danger that menaces us now. The land has been stolen from us, the open country is gone, the fields are fenced in, and mostly in alien hands. Our children are being reared to the slavery of the cotton patch. The young mother's dream of a collegiate education for her children has vanished as completely as the fabled island of Atlantis. Girls and boy teachers, poorly educated and poorly paid, teach poverty-stricken children of four and five-month schools. The rising generation is growing up, without any of the mind strengthening blessings of education, and without the discipline and control that comes from orderly thinking in a well-equipped school. Texas is forty-third in education among the states.

Farm labor is pitifully paid, hence like the children of Israel they flee from the rented home and the hire of the day dejects them to the life of a wage-slave in the slums.

Each year finds the army of tenantry increasing until now they number a quarter of a million and with their wives, children and dependents are over a million strong in Texas alone.

The president of the Farmers Union under his signature in a stoned article published in every daily paper in Texas informs us that it takes the average renter 60 years to secure a home as conditions are at present. The outlook could not be blacker for those million miseries. Not one ray of hope is in their sky, save and except that of united action both the economic and political field.

No man acquainted with the facts in Texas will say for one moment that the picture is overdrawn and I may add that conditions are equally as bad in Oklahoma and every other state in the cotton kingdom. Poverty is upon us in the South, and the whole situation is lit up with the flash of the guns from armed hordes in West Virginia. This being so that men in dejected of backbone, poor of spirit and weak of brain who refuses to be a soldier in the army of labor that is being mobilized now.

It is true this army is a peaceful one. It is true that the bullets we fire are made on printing presses and the only things that burn in our ranks are the burning thoughts of the injustice that results from this system and the only fire we display is the fire that consumes our souls for our righteous cause, but well we know that other fires will be lit—the fires that will burn the homes of the wealthy, the fire from the torch of the night rider—will be the fires that will light the southern skies if we remain aloof and be not up and doing and be valiant soldiers in the fight.

What steps shall be taken then? Shall we meet in our locals and indulge in abstract discussions of endemic subjects and marvel about the whistlers of the class and whisteners of the whole, or what emphasizes the analysis of a community, and shall we proceed to lend aid and assistance to our comrades in Europe and forget those who are suffering in our own beloved Sunny South.

To The Rebel the duty of the Southern Socialist is plain. He must lead a hand to the better center and help him to organize. He must do as the State Federation of Labor did recently, visit the dense revolutionary land amendment of the Renters Union, which is in fact the land plank of the Socialist party's national platform.

The Socialists of Texas and Oklahoma in particular and the South in general should not let a meeting pass without bringing up this matter for discussion in their locals and writing to Hallettsville for information. If we all act in unison in our Socialist locals in Texas and Oklahoma will be within the portals of our Renters Union and within the sphere of Socialist influence.

With such an army of rebellious renters organized, the capture of Texas and Oklahoma for the Socialist party would follow as a matter of course, and the Socialists of the South would thereby give

strength and hope to our struggling Socialists brothers of the north and thereby help in hastening the day of labor's universal emancipation.

Accordingly The Rebel would advise this as the first step to take—that of making each Socialist local in the South a recruiting station for the Renters Union, and in doing so, remember two facts: First, that the foundation principle of the Renters Union and Socialist party is identical, namely: "That use and occupation shall be the title to land" and all land held for speculation shall be taxed to its full rental value.

Second fact: At the last national convention held in Indianapolis 250 delegates arose to their feet and amid cheers that shook the ceiling of the mighty convention hall and that was taken up by the crowded galleries, these men and women, representing the Socialists of the nation, unanimously endorsed the principle of industrial unionism! The Renters Union is an industrial organization from top to bottom. The very nature of their occupation prevents them from splitting into craft units. Consequently, when The Socialist local in Texas, Oklahoma and the other Southern states help organize the Renters Union they are but putting into practical effect the unanimous declaration of our national convention.

Is there anything else we can do? There is something right here and now. Hear it!

On the twenty-first day of July forty-eight hours after you read this Rebel a special session of the state legislature will meet in response to the governor's call at the state capital. No legislation can be introduced there save that which the governor orders. Did we have the sentiment mentioned above crystallized we could place petitions on that governor's desk from not less than five hundred thousand men in the state of Texas. Therein lies the awful defect that I stress upon at this article:

"THE SENTIMENT IS HERE BUT IT IS NOT CRYSTALLIZED IN ORGANIZATION."

Can we not learn from this the necessity of taking steps to remedy the defects that flow from our apathy. I believe we can. I believe, there is enough fighting spirit and energy among the Socialists of Texas and Oklahoma that is manifest everywhere.

What shall we do then?

WRITE TO THE REBEL AT ONCE FOR PETITION BLANKS. WE WILL PUBLISH THEM IN THE REBEL AND WE WILL SUPPLY THEM IN CONVENIENT BOOKLET FORM IN WHICH THE REVOLUTIONARY LAND PLANK WILL BE PRINTED AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE IF BETWEEN NOW AND WHEN THE SNOW FLIES THAT PETITION CAN BE RECEIVED. SEND JAMES IN TEXAS GOVERNOR COL QUITT WILL FIND HIMSELF COMPELLED TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE DEALING WITH THE FACT THAT OVER ONE HUNDRED MILLION ACRES OF TILLABLE LAND ARE HELD OUT OF CULTIVATION FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES AND OF ALL THE ARABLE LAND IN TEXAS, BUT ONE ACRE OUT OF FIVE HAS FELT THE TOUCH OF A PLOW.

The result of such a move will place the Democratic party on record. Politicians will be caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. If they pass this land amendment they will destroy landholders. If they do not pass it we shall be in a position to destroy them, for we shall have clearly shown who supports and maintains that vicious institution.

From all this it can be seen that there is tremendous work before the Socialists of the South, particularly Texas and Oklahoma. It is no child's play, this battle upon which we have entered. Privilege is deeply entrenched and fortified behind great gains of land. A servile, uneducated, thought-enslaving press is at their command. Skilled lawyers are at their command, and without we should not falter in the fight.

They used to say the Socialists were all foreigners. The following Socialists went to jail last week: Patrick Quinn, Alexander Scott, R. E. Kirk, H. M. McLean, Elizabeth Flynn (jury duty).

History has not been created as yet and Kelly and Burke and others are coming up the line.

I am a Socialist because I believe in the evolution of human society and believe that the next natural stage in the course of the evolution of humanity is Socialism.

During the present hot wave Chicago is the hottest town in the United States. 2,000 negroes died in the stockyards. Arson's canned message and the "ham what eat" ought to be severely watched just about this time because the big hog needs the money.

The fact that the capitalist does mandate a profit upon the worker's labor renders the worker incapable of buying back the very thing he has made.

4-10 TIME TO DREAM!

Our Slogan—"Workers of the world, unite!" has never had the full meaning brought out of it. To believe in Socialism and vote for it to talk the doctrine to your relatives and solicit for your papers is work that must be done, but there is still more to do. There must be a search everywhere for members for the organization who are trustworthy, who will then help in the work of distributing literature, and do many other things to spread the gospel of Socialism among the workers.

Score again for Texas. Truth published at Texas, Wash., says: "Texas has started an educational bureau. Oklahoma will start a very soon and Idaho will follow. They are thinking the matter over in Ohio and Minnesota and it will be only a short time before every State will discover that a real constructive socialism means for more than political action. It means personal action everywhere."

Last month the Illinois legislature defeated the initiative referendum. The Chicago Federation of Labor, denounced the capitalist steel monopoly then the legislature censured the labor officials for accusing them; but they refused to investigate.

Wisconsin has 10,000,000 acres of land left for cultivation and it has never felt the touch of plow. They will wake up in Wisconsin after a while and get into the Texas revolutionary land amendment.

The women in Germany are some of the best in the world. They will vote. Somehow or rather the Chinese women seem to be.

On and on we wage the fight against

