

WHAT'S SO AND WHAT ISN'T

Copyrighted by JOHN M. WORK

ALWAYS HAVE BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE.

No, things have not always been this way and they will not always be this way.

Things have always changed continually.

The man who can't see this must be blind, indeed.

We have always had street cars, for example, haven't we?

We always have had steam railways and we always will have them? It is all a dream that people used to ride in stage coaches! And there is no prospect of electricity ever taking the place of steam!

Certain muddle heads have tried to make us believe that the lights which appeared in the belfry on the night when Paul Revere watched for the signal and then made his memorable midnight ride from Boston to Lexington were made with tallow candles. But everybody knows that the colonial heroes merely turned on the electric lights! We have electric lights now, and, as things always have been this way, it follows that they had them in colonial days!

The historians have tried to delude the people by telling them that the negroes of the South were once chattel slaves and that two million soldiers went down there and freed them from chattel slavery! But that is all a hoax! The negroes of the South are now working for wages, and, as things always have been this way, it follows that they always have been wage slaves and never were chattel slaves at all!

What nonsense!

Things were not this way ten thousand years ago, nor five thousand years ago, nor one thousand years ago, nor five hundred years ago, nor one hundred years ago, nor fifty years ago, nor even ten years ago.

Before civilization began, society was not divided into classes. There was no master class. The tribes lived in a state of communism—not Socialism, but communism—and men made no attempt whatever to outdo or overreach one another financially.

For several centuries after civilization began, the people were divided into masters and chattel slaves.

And, after the feudal system had run its course, the present wage system, or capitalist system, began.

Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, in this very United States, wealth was quite equitably distributed, and the people had approximately equal opportunities.

A quarter of a century later, the concentration of wealth into the hands of a few had not progressed very far.

Ever twenty-five years ago, it had by no means reached its present stage.

Even ten years ago, the centralization of the industries into trusts and combines had not reached anything like its present stage of completion.

Labor saving machinery in all industries has developed and changed like a kaleidoscope before our very eyes.

Decidedly, things have not always been this way.

Still more decidedly, things will not always be this way.

This is a world of change, not of stagnation.

COMRADESHIP.

The Farmers' convention lately held in Madison, Wisconsin, to name a state ticket, adopted a platform of eighteen planks, urging a more elastic constitution, referendum and recall, equal suffrage, eight-hour day except for farmers, co-operative business legislation, government ownership of railroads and telegraph and national prohibition. Loyalty to the government was pledged, universal military training opposed.

One hundred thousand working men and women marched through the streets of Moscow, Russia, in the May Day celebration of this year, bearing gigantic red banners and proclaiming international Socialism, and passed in review before the members of the central government.

August 10th a conference of State Secretaries, the National Executive Committee, and other national officers of the Socialist Party will meet to consider a restatement of war aims and formulate a program for Socialist candidates in the congressional campaign.

Federal District Attorney Humes has lately issued a statement from his headquarters in Pittsburgh condemning the mob violence which has been finding expression in the form of tar parties throughout Western Pennsylvania to an alarming extent. Unlawful actions on the part of individuals, which very often inflict punishment on guiltless fellow citizens in times like the present, are dis-

couraged by the District Attorney as likely to embarrass the Administration rather than aid it in the prosecution of the war.

"Nothing has given more satisfaction and moral encouragement to thinking Russians than President Wilson's message to the Soviet," writes a London newspaper correspondent from Petrograd.

In a report which he has just made to the American Institute of Social Service, which sent him to Russia last year to study conditions there, Prof. E. A. Ross says, among other things, that there is no power in Russia, which in the absence of foreign aid, has the least chance of overthrowing the Soviet or Bolshevik government; that the notorious Cosacks have ceased to exist in Russia; that the bourgeoisie are impotent to do anything for themselves, and that if the Bolshevik Chiefs are agents of Prussia, as charged by opposition newspapers, the 250 genuine Russians composing the delegate body to which they are responsible for everything they do, have been unable to perceive the fact.

Eugene V. Debs is again on a speaking tour of the country after being obliged to abandon his work along that line some time ago on account of impaired health. He is scheduled to fill a series of dates this month and next in the states nearby his home in Indiana, and after the hot months of July and August are over he expects to resume his regular tours and fill engagements wherever his services may be required.

WE RECOMMEND

Eber K. Cockley & Herman G. Lepley

For Representatives in the General Assembly.

A. Lindstrom

For State Senator.

Hon. L. S. Mellinger

For Representative in Congress, 23rd Pennsylvania District.

"REPRESENTING THE VIEWPOINT OF PLAIN PEOPLE EVERYWHERE."

CIVILIZATION.

Two hundred and thirteen members were lately arrested in Seattle, Washington, when 50 patrolmen raided headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World.

Editor Lang, of the Muscatine County Socialist, was recently sentenced to imprisonment for two years and fined \$5,000 for violation of the Espionage Act. Judge Wade, who pronounced sentence, bitterly denounced the alleged evils of Socialism—"in peace and in war."

In Washington, D. C., the Federal Government has assumed control of the situation in which profiteering in rents, due to increased demands for housing room caused by a great influx of war workers, had developed to an alarming extent. Cases where as high as \$300 per month was charged as rent for several furnished rooms were recently disclosed in a federal investigation.

Lady fingers are the prevailing things in engagement rings.

Many a chap who is sneering at Socialism now will announce, after the great change comes, that he was for it all the time.

Representatives in Meyersdale of the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, will be urged to influence prominent men of our city in behalf of the Owen-Dyer bill, which provides for the equalization of the rank of Army officers with that of Navy officers. The measure already has been introduced into Congress.

The proposed legislation not only has the support of President Wilson but also the Surgeons General of both branches of the Nation's organizations for defense. The Pennsylvania Society at the request of the Government, thoroughly investigated the merits of the bill, and has given to it unqualified endorsement, on the ground that its passage will help to improve the quality of medical and sanitary service in the Army, and thereby help win the war.

R. Barclay Spicer, executive secretary for the Pennsylvania Society, says, in his message to representatives of that organization throughout the State: "We believe the passage of this bill will tend to promote efficiency in the control of disease, the treatment of wounds and the general sanitation of camps, by giving the medical officers of the Army a rank sufficient so that their authority can not be overruled by line officers of equal or inferior grade. It therefore, is our intention to urge as many influential persons as possible to impress upon their representatives in Congress, the necessity for the success of the measure."

CO-OPERATION

"For the Common Good"

Co-operation is defined in political economy as, "The association of a number of persons for their common benefit." Co-operation among the common people is essential to preserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In America, as in Germany, the plain people must come together in associations for their common benefit, or suffer the consequences resulting from a lack of such organizations. That person who opposes co-operation by the common people, claiming to be their representative and spokesman, whether his title be kaiser, king or just plain mister, is not the representative of the common people, but a traitor to the plain people everywhere.

Any person, anywhere, who is not at heart a traitor to the plain people everywhere, is eligible to become a member of the Commercial Co-operative Council and a conditional part owner of The Meyersdale Commercial.

Join the Commercial Co-operative Council today and argue the question tomorrow—or the next day you meet a Commercial reader who is not a member.

Her—"Dearest, will you love me always?"

Him—"Sweetest, I have loved you all the ways I know."

Free speech is to a great people what winds are to oceans and malarial regions, which waft away the elements of health; and where free speech is stopped miasma is bred, and death comes fast.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Unless a man looks silly when he tells a girl he loves her, he doesn't mean it.

Other papers all remind us We can make our own sub-lime,

If our fellow readers send us Contributions all the time. Here a little, there a little, Story, news note, song or jest, If you want a good live paper Each of you must do his best.

M
VOL. 1

FOR THE



Eber K. Cockley
"REPRESENTATIVE IN THE V"

Local a

Mrs. Cly Thursday in
Mrs. James Thursday in
Clayton V
tives in Fros
Mrs. Benj
Mance, spen
Mrs. Davi
burgh, is visi
Miss Carri
ited friends
day.
Mrs. Peter
business call
Friday.
Mrs. Cha
spending sev
berland.
Mrs. John
urday for a
Baltimore.
Mrs. Eliza
visiting Mrs.
of Boswell.
Mrs. James
ing, Pa., is t
John Maul.
D. P. Kur
was in Meyer
Wednesday.
Misses Ros
Stella McQu
in Confluen
Mrs. Frank
Colorado, is
Mrs. George
Mrs. J. T.
burgh, is vi
Miss Ella M
Miss Daisy
Sand Patch M
days' visit he
Mr. and M
sel and little
relatives in
day.
John Boucl
Pa., visited
and Mrs. M.
day.
Johnson Co
the summer w
DeForrest Lu
burgh.
Mr. and M
lor, who were
here, have ret
Ohio.
Mrs. C. E.
ed from Pitts
spent the we
tives.
Mrs. John
berland, visit
W. H. Habel,
week.
Mr. and Mr
iel visited rela
burgh, W. Va.
Sunday.
Mrs. Simon
three children
in St. Paul th
the week.
J. E. Barnha
visited at the