



SUPPRESSED EXPRESSION



Dissension: In the Minot Calaboose, where I was continuing my research work,—more of that anon—there is a cartoon upon the wall depicting capitalism in the act of putting Dissension “up to devilment,” against the I. W. W.—Homo surpasses his swift self in the effort.

Dissension always is highly centralized. Always it is very local. It is never broad in its scope. Great numbers seldom are affected by it, only the few.

Dissension may find its beginning in the seething breast of a single individual—and generally does. In that case, it is very local, indeed; completely centralized.

Trouble: All troubles have one source—(debate that)—one only. Capitalism itself is a “trouble” (its children are “troubles”). All these have but one source—an unnatural condition—like a river with dozen sources—unlike a tree with a thousand sources.

War: Dissension, Trouble and War have a very proscribed beginning, a centralized source. Dissension, Trouble and War are promoted by the few, the central few—never by the many. (Art Brisbane, with his slings about human nature may as well dry up). Wars are arranged for by the very few.

Human Nature: The sweetest thing on earth terribly soured (still the sweetest) by the machinations of the few, the couple, the one—the one-central-extreme.

Fear: Fear is not fattening, above all things. For instance: The minor fear of going “broke,” sometimes called worry, is one of the best reducers Known to Science—so much they know.—But I wish to dwell on this a moment. This fear, the fear of going broke, applies only up and until you do go broke. The minute you are broke the fear dissipates itself and sets you free—gives you a mildly modified freedom—

you are freest possible under present slavery. A dollar is an “amiable” agony.

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But there are many styles of fear, fright—we won’t discuss them.

Great and prolonged fear is very injurious to the kidneys—one should never fear more than two minutes at a sitting; even then it is better to stand at attention, but the best way to fear is lying down—try it on your sofa.

Great and protracted fear is still worse—ten seconds of protracted fear is about all a person can stand; anything more than that will prove fatal; its about as bad as snake bite and calls for same amount of counter-pison—best way is to regain confidence in your legs and see to it that they do not—do not betray you; there, I’ve said it.

Uncertainty is the father of all fear. (Is that a platitude?)

A failure to voice the dictates of opinion is fear. Support expression is to play the game of fear.

Les’ say something.

If the “building of the new society within the shell of the old” means anything it means that its members will have a voice in the management of it—provided they don’t get too loud.

Things will not be said for them—they’ll “do their own” bellyhooing.

What causes me to think they will have a “voice” in the new society? Well, you see it like this: In the present society we have no voice, hence, it follows, we are building a new society to regain control of our vocal powers. We do not propose to remain speechless the rest of our days.

At last things are breaking in our favor instead of capitalism’s—Just now picked up 9 two-cent stamps on depot platform.

Out of snuff again! Darn capitalism, anyway.

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Powers: I have in mind Three Kinds of Power.

First: Economic Power.

Second: Financial Power.

Third: Political Power.

Economic power is of the first magnitude.

Financial power is rated second.

Political power is a third grade power—and exists by tolerance, by sufferance, by permission—hence, it is no power at all.

Workers are invited to use this latter.

power—like hunting rabbits with a broom stick; once in a while you hit one.

Financial power, too, is a concession; a power more fancied than real; doing business by special permit and is merely tolerated by the folks—it hasn’t the staying qualities of Economic power.

25,000,000 men and women in next November will use political power—it will be interesting to watch the pork chops rise (on a plate) and shout for joy.

The I. W. W. is an economic organization.

At the same time it is the most misunderstood organization. Our enemies have villified us to ye perfection. But, a certain amount of “knocking” is good for us. (Our ruin is very incomplete, it looks more like a complete success, a “going-concern”). When people base their understanding on what they hear and when, upon investigation, they unlearn what they heard their knowledge of the I. W. W. will be doubly strong—academic and practical—experienced and theoretical—their information then will unbudgeable.

We, of the Wobblies, know how set we are in our conviction. We know how hard it is to change our opinion about Industrial Unionism—We have both the theoretical and practical knowledge on that score—hence, we must reason that others have opinions, however mistaken—however arrived at—they have them. They have their convictions. Honest convictions!

Therefore: Let us keep our shirts on—information makes and unmakes opinions—keep the shirt on.

We have the information.