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EDITORIAL

## A GOOD POINT.

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“**E**MPLOYERS and their Employes Must Combine Against the I.W.W.’s” is the fat-typed double column heading over a double column article signed by Editor Alden J. Blethen in the *Seattle Sunday Times* of September 14.

The first thing to call favorable attention {to} is the recognition in the article’s heading that there is more than one I.W.W. So much noise has been made in the bourgeois press by the Anarch or Chicago I.W.W. that the unguarded and uninformed may readily fall into the error of believing that the Anarch concern, better known as the Bummery, is all the I.W.W. there is. The writer of the article in question deserves credit for not being taken in by noise, and also for not echoing the errors that noise promotes.

Encouraged by this sign of correct information, one reads on hopefully. Nor is the hope dashed.

The third paragraph is as follows:

“The chief reason for this conclusion [that capital and organized labor must enter into a radical agreement] lies in the fact that the total membership of organized capital and individual employers, when added to the total number of organized labor [A.F. of L.] are far inferior to the number of men outside of those two classes.” And the article proceeds to reason that “the total number of the first two named [capitalists and A.F. of L.] will not exceed one-fifteenth of the total population,—thus leaving three times more of the character of the I.W.W.’s—and those from which they draw.”

This is a good point—a bunch of good points. Whether the figures—one-fifteenth, etc.—be absolutely accurate, or not, does not matter. The point, or bunch of points, is correct, and pregnant to boot.

The first point is that the capitalist class itself is an insignificant fraction of the total population. Socialism has demonstrated the point to satiety. On the other hand, the bourgeois—realizing the force of the Socialist contention that a democratic nation, overwhelmingly proletarian, should be ruled by proletarian class interests, and not, as happens, by the class interests of a slight minority class—have frantically maintained, against rhyme and reason and obvious facts, that they, the bourgeois, were the majority, and have thrown sundry bones, some dry and some quite meaty, to their hired men of high and low degree to bark the bourgeois tune.—Editor Blethen deserves credit for having emancipated himself from the bourgeois leash, and correctly stated the fact in the matter of the numerical strength of the capitalist class.

The second point is that the bourgeois, even if combined with the A.F. of L., are a slight minority. As everybody knows, Gompersism was born by the breath of Capitalism, and the breather of life into Gompersism is so awake to its paternal duties that, so soon as it discovered its creature to be in danger, it hastened to inject fresh vivifying tonics into its arteries—first by Civic-Federationizing, and more recently by Militia-of-Christizing it. The sociologic impossibility of galvanizing even a majority of the proletariat, let alone the whole proletariat, into an anti-proletariat successfully aggressive body against the up-rise of class-conscious Labor, is a principle that Socialism has made plain, and that the bourgeois have endeavored to confuse.—Again Editor Blethen deserves credit for admitting the facts that bourgeois pundits deny and Socialist science banks upon.

In sight of these excellent points, Editor Blethen feels alarmed—justly so. That the gentleman should fall into the blunder of believing that by joining two errors—the continuance of the capitalist class and the existence of the dry-wood A.F. of L.—and by organizing the two into a “New Union,” Truth will result, is pardonable. Distress often engenders hysteria. Yet the hysteria that Editor Blethen falls into should not deprive him of credit for the truths he has stated. From these truths follow:

1. That the capitalist class has no numerical standing;
2. That the capitalist Union is a social abortion with not enough vitality to survive;

3. That the large majority of the population has interests at war with the interests of the minority, and that, altho' many among that majority may fly off the handle for a time, in the end sober sense will prevail; and

4. That the I.W.W. is a principle of Unionism that is bound to survive—the economic expression of the Social Evolution that finds its political expression in the Socialist Labor Party.

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