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

HALLETTVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1914.

T. A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner
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No. 158

No. 158

(BY T. A. HICKE)

It is rather a peculiar coincidence that my old associate, comrade and neighbor should have felt the hot sting of the steel bullet while the ink was yet wet on the article I had just written for the "Stay out of the Primary" edition of The Rebel, exposing the mechanism of the courthouse rings of Texas. It is not strange that a trail of blood leads around the courthouse square to the operating table where his wounds were dressed.

In another column there will be found the biography of the old Judge, and the reading of that biography will show with thorough clearness why E. O. Meitzen should be at loggerheads with the powers that be in this town.

E. O. Meitzen is a type that can be reproduced thousands of times, not only in Texas but all over the South, the type of men that ever since the close of the war have realized that Lincoln's prediction has come true when he said before his assassination: "I tremble to think of what will happen to my country when, as a result of this war, corporations are enthroned and our government corrupted."

I repeat again that the Meitzen type is all over the South and the nation today. They are the examples of the new civilization; the fires of liberty are ever kept burning by such men, without them slavery, say as bad as that of ancient Rome, would be upon us; they are the brake on plutocracy's chariot and whenever it is necessary, with heroic courage, filled with the zeal of the apostle, they give up their very lives for the cause that is dearer to them than life. And when the death angel's presence is felt, they cry aloud through adieu lips as did Paul of Tarsus: "I have kept the faith, I have fought the fight, I have been faithful, even unto the end."

As day follows the night, does it follow that level-headed elements that comprise the county and city governments of the state and these towns there can be no compromise; they demand purity in the conduct of the city, county, state and nation and as a result a new tragedy unfolds. The people are not given the time to think, time to time and the only hope is that by continuous education, the people become so alive to conditions as they are that they will build up their economic organisms, erect their political organizations to that point where they can take control of the helm of government in county, city, state and national affairs.

In this particular struggle over which the old Judge was told that his "crime" simply consisted in sending a memorial to the city council asking for a new city hall, the old man was not alone. He was Hallettsville, not a line had appeared in *The New Era*, which is edited by his son, to cause this trouble. The old man simply acted in the spirit of James Russell Lowell's poem: "I will be heard, I will speak out, although all earth's systems crack." Here is the letter:

To The Honorable City Council, Hallettsville

Assuring you that it is neither notoriety nor spite, but only my duty as a tax payer, that prompts me to address you on this very important, though painful subject. If this matter continues to be neglected the citizenship will be disappointed. Fearing the danger of seeing the old method of carelessness in our public affairs begin anew, I would respectfully urge your honorable body be forthwith appoint a finance committee of citizens not entangled or connected in city or county policies, who, with the aid of an expert auditor make a careful and complete audit of all receipts and disbursements of the city assessor and collector from the time the last entrance into office until the next expiration of their term. I would also suggest that this special fiscal investigation will be made by the committee who will not only on the ad valorem and occupation tax matters, did not make oath to their report and stated that they were unable to make an audit on the collection of the water and light fecks of the city because a few cash books could not be found

I take it that this excuse was not well founded as the greater part of the stūls are yet in existence. An approximate estimate can be made as to the missing months. The importance of this step is obvious from the following facts:

1. Should there be a shortage in this matter as was discovered in the other fund, the city loses every month it is put off such amount as the shortage of the first month four

years back would show. In other words if you postpone this action four years the city loses all of that for which the sureties are responsible.

2. It is idle to guess at so important a matter as this and say that probably there has been more money turned in than had been collected for this fund.

3. If the latter be true the collector should have such amount, if there be an overplus on his over due shortage.

Assuring you that I will aid and assist every honest and fair effort on your or any other person's part to get at the facts and all the facts. I am

Very truly yours,

R. O. MEITZEN

To the gunman man who did the shooting on **July 1982** near any of his family harkers any resentment. He said since one of his best of people if he had succeeded in getting the gun away from his assailant he would not have shot him. He has asked his friends to help him in his quest for justice. He has also asked for the respect and dignity of the community and let the law take its course. All of us who are associated with him are carrying out his advice to the "letter." Things laid out for peace and quietness in this town and county when the news went out about the shooting. In two hours we stood at the phone answering calls from all portions of the country. We were prepared to come to town on horseback, in autos, busses and vans to our assistance. But fortunately the Judge was not mortally wounded and the men who kept their heads at this end of the line prevailed and counselled peace and it was because the Judge lived that we have the papers we are growing, making money for our wife and our same or near the same.

The Rebel does not believe that the assassin of Judge Meares is a bad man at heart; he was the victim of a vicious system. Were he a murderer he could have shot the old man from ambush, but he did not do so. He met him face to face in the broad daylight and his reason swept away by a wave of passion he used his gun on the defenseless old man and in this lay his crime and in his passion lie his excuse.

It is now up to the people of Lavaca county! There will be no settle anything; howling agitators on either side should, will and have been shunned. The need of the hour is cool, quiet, courageous men who will walk to the ballot box next November and use their ballot as a broom to sweep out the courthouse and hand the entire Socialist ticket in power. Then the old Judge will again sit on the bench, serene, calm and determined to hold the scales of justice even between men. In the meantime we, who have been through the struggles of the last week and submitted to the fire test, will peacefully pursue our calling, because—

"He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat.
He is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
O, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant my feet!
Our God is marching on."

the semblance of an organization in the state. He helped to organize the Hallettsville Local No. 56, S. P. prior to the election. On being elected to county judge he retired from the Socialist party and remained outside until his term of office expired two years later. When the Farmers' Union came into the county he took an active part and served as county president and lecturer and, until recently, as a regular speaker.

He has acted as assistant state secretary of the Communist Party when his son, E. R. was elected to the office of state secretary in 1930. Just about this time he resigned from the editorial control of the New Era and turned the management over to his sons, E. R. and A. C. Melton. In 1934 he was chosen as state secretary of the Communist Party of which he was elected to the office of state secretary in 1935 and now holds

At the time of the shooting in 1967, he was assistant to T. A. Hickey in the state attorney's office and was in charge of the office after purchasing postage stamps on the postoffice that day. "I was down, because he is in line with his old established principle of struggle for purity in political affairs," Hickey said. "I had taken a memorial to the city council of Hallettsville asking for a thorough investigation by experts of a shortage in funds by the state of Texas organized, they would have said a potent influence upon the political affairs in the state, that the tax rate would be raised so that money could be secured to drain the swamps of East Texas, to irrigate the arid places of West Texas, to prevent loss from floods in short to look after the welfare of the people who make the state what it is, and that is all." Hickey accordingly, up with the Renters

The Socialist vote next election day will ease the powers that be out of the primary and secondary schools with might and main until next November and you will be rewarded for your efforts one hundred fold.

THE BIOGRAPHY OF E. O. MEITZEN.

[illegible]

and remained so until it was disastrous. At the previous presidential election, the party had been in contempt for the capitalist class by voting for the underdog, the underdog party. In 1890 Mr. Mritzen appointed Governor Hogg and the railroad commission and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in San Antonio convention. At this convention he became disgusted with the party and returned to Texas and returned party prepared to help in the launching of a new party, the Farmers' Alliance, which would be freed from the corporate control that is part and parcel of the Democratic Party in the South. When in 1892 Chairman Webb of the Democratic Convention in Chicago refused to allow the Farmers' Alliance to join the party, Mritzen, as a member of the Farmers' Alliance, withdrew from the party, which simply provided a platform for the party to their control of the grain as well as the U. S. government and was not fit to be taken to the Democratic party he decided to leave the party and then attended the first Texas convention which occurred in Austin for the purpose of organizing the Farmers' Alliance of the Populist party. He came back to Hallefelle and was elected to the position of secretary of the 10th congressional district which embraced ten counties from here to the Gulf of Mexico. He was elected to the position of secretary when he traveled over the entire district speaking from Hallefelle to Brownsville. He was made a 60 mile drive from New Columbia, to Brownsville. The following year he was elected as the second county of the New Era

a descending sun casts rays
men and women who were
the day before and so it will
be.

SOCIALISM AND THE FARMER.

(By F. F. Gary, Minister.)

People tell me that the farmer is independent. I know better. He is the most abject slave in his land. He is not monarch of all he surveys. He grovels in the dust before the monarch, the man who farms the farmer.

Inevitable walls hold him from the enjoyment of all the things that make life worth while. These are the laws that make private property, the basis of the capitalist life possible.

He is robbed, and only Socialism will stop the robbery. How? To understand how Socialism will stop the robbery it is first necessary to understand how the robbery is done.

I am going to take the case of a tenant farmer of Oklahoma and Texas as an example. His is the case of all the tenant farmers in the South, and with slight variations of the north. There are nearly 250,000 of them in Texas alone, or about three out of every five of the actual farmers of that state. The number is increasing, and even faster than the increase in numbers is his increase in Socialist misery. He has no security in Texas and Oklahoma. He is secured to death.

He has no farm production in Texas and Oklahoma is less than \$600 per year. This is mostly in grain production, and the returns for those two states it is less and grain.

He doesn't own the land, yet he must use it, and to use it he pays a rent. He drew a perfect square. Figure 1. Let us assume that this square represents his \$600 farm production, and that he, being an average farmer, has produced this much.

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They are not doing it for their benefit. They charge a profit. They charge a profit. They charge a profit. They charge a profit. They charge a profit.

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(H. M. Sinclair, State Secretary)

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for all State Officers. Political parties have been invited and participate in a rally at Chickasha, August 8th, 1914. The State will be represented by Eugene W. Holt, and P. S. Na. All will be one of the largest and best attended political gatherings in this State in 1914. At this time is assured to and will attend to attend. Address, J. Chickasha, Okla.

Lists of Major Co. will hold a day encampment at Fairplay on July 31st. The very thing is the movement will deliver lectures. Companies in form companies. Companies from all parts of the State. The best time.

Ball, B represents
and C. represents Meit-
want to represent
and children as they
represented in this mat-
Meitzen.
W. T. Flowers.

DeLeon, Tex. July 8, 1901.

W. A. Hartman, Sec.
• • •
Spring, Texas
Feb. 7, 1914.
To note the progress made all along here and we must give credit for accomplishment of this. To help asking of you to send a copy of your special ed. inst. Also please "Christian membership." Kieberg wrote, I am home, I still want to with my comrades. That there is a call teachers and thanks for its help in our on—that will be glad.

friendship also. As
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Catalogue will be
sent on application.
We have good bargains
in Presses, Paper Cut-
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sell less than a case. Fire in
orders comrades while it lasts. J
Laddox, LaPryor, Texas, Box 65.

WOODROW'S MONTHLY.
2, Vol. 1, July 15th, 1914.
stands for Christian Socialism.

the monthly stands for equal opportunity for all, here and hereafter, and is opposed to an aristocracy on earth and in heaven.

Thomas W. Woodrow, Ed-
Hobart, Oklahoma. ltp

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Lawyer,

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