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# Able Talent in Array of Lyceum Course Speakers: Forceful Organizers and Entertainers Sure to Please All

by L.E. Katterfeld

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In the early days of the American Socialist movement a Lyceum Course such as is now offered by the Chicago Daily Socialist would have been an absolute impossibility.

## **Past Lectures Planless.**

Where no party organization exists or where the organization is still in its infancy, more agitation or propaganda meetings are all that are possible. No speaker knows what ground the one preceding him has covered, nor what those following him will say. Everything, from the very nature of the case, must be haphazard, planless.

Although every speaker knows that one evening is too short a time in which to cover the Socialist position, the speaker has to attempt it. That is good where nothing better is possible, but where there is already a fairly strong party organization much more can be done.

## **New Plan Effective.**

It is then possible to bring practically the same audiences back to hear succeeding speakers. When that is done, it is practicable to divide up the subject, select different speakers for the parts for which they are best fitted by temperament and previous preparation, let each speaker know in a general way how the others will take up their subjects, and in that way present a course of lectures very much more effective than ten times as many planless "hit and miss" meetings.

## **Series Carefully Outlined.**

Such a course of lectures we are presenting in our Lyceum Course. The whole series of lectures of the Chicago Daily Socialist Lyceum Course will be carefully outlined to give a logical presentation of the entire Socialist position.

The first two numbers will deal mainly with the fundamentals of the Socialist philosophy, the third will drive home the fact that there is a class struggle, and the fourth and fifth will deal primarily with the matter of organization. Then the closing number of the course will be a concert to finish the series with rousing good spirits.

## **Daily's Editor First Speaker.**

The opening address of the Chicago Daily Socialist Lyceum Course will be on the subject "The Philosophy of Socialism," and will be made by C.B. Hoffman, editor of the Chicago Daily Socialist.

Mr. Hoffman was prominent in public life in Kansas many years ago. He was a Republican member of the state legislature in 1880 and 1882. In 1884 he refused a Republican nomination for State Senator when that meant sure election because he did not agree with that party's attitude on the railroad question.

## **Stumped State of Kansas.**

In 1888 he stumped the state for a Union Labor Party and in 1892 helped the Kansas Populists achieve

their victory. He was then made Regent of the Kansas State Agricultural College and did for that institution what the Socialists are doing for Milwaukee.

Gradually he saw the futility of trying to reform an outgrown old system and he came into the Socialist movement in its earliest days in Kansas. The following letter bears eloquent testimony to his standing in the party:

C.B. Hoffman has decided to devote his time and talent to the work. He is eminently fitted in every way — a clear thinker, a strong writer, a forceful speaker, and an excellent debater.

We know C.B. Hoffman intimately and bespeak for him consideration as a class-conscious Socialist, a strong personality, and a man who will be of great service to the cause.

Fraternally yours,

**George W. Merilett,**

*Ex-Manager Speakers' Bureau, SP of Kansas*

**John D. Haskell,**

*Secretary, Local Dickinson County*

**W.L. Nixon,**

*Ex-Secretary-Treasurer, SP of Kansas*

### **Life an Active One.**

Mr. Hoffman's life has been an active one. In 1873 he went into the milling business as his father's partner on the Smoky Hill River in Kansas. He now is in control of a string of elevators and mills throughout the West and has extensive banking interests. But his sons, one of whom was State Secretary of the Kansas Socialist Party some years ago, have now relieved him of the active business management and he is bringing the ripe fruit of his long experience to the service of the Socialist movement.

Although he has not heretofore taken any active part on the Socialist platform and is therefore but little known among Socialists themselves, Mr. Hoffman has had much experience as a speaker. Leonard Abbot, assistant editor of *Current Literature*, says of him: "Mr. Hoffman is a gifted and vivid personality. I regard him as an original and very effective public speaker." He is a man of unusual eloquence and power and will prove a revelation wherever he is heard.

### **Richardson Second Speaker.**

The second speaker on the course will be N.A. Richardson from California. Although one of the ablest and clearest Socialist speakers on the platform today, Mr. Richardson is better known among Socialists themselves as an author than as a speaker.

Wherever the workers voice their aspirations in the English tongue, there his *Introduction to Socialism* is known and his *Methods of Acquiring National Possession of Our Industries* has also been sold by soap-boxers from coast to coast.

### **Lecture of Educational Value.**

It will be a real treat to hundreds of Socialists who were awakened to what is worthwhile in life by these books to be able to hear their author.

His lecture will be along the lines followed in the opening chapters of his latest book, *Industrial Problems*, and will be of great educational value to those who are merely investigators.

### **Speaks With Authority.**

Mr. Richardson is no novice as a teacher. For 15 years he was either principal of the high school or superintendent of schools at San Bernardino, California, his home city.

He has had prominence in the Socialist movement from its earliest days, has been a candidate for Congressman on the Socialist ticket from the 8th California District five times, has been for a long time one of the members of the National Committee of the Socialist Party, and is now chairman of the State Central Committee of California. When he speaks, he speaks "as one with authority."

### **Jail Prevents Warren's Service.**

The third number of the course was to have been taken by Fred Warren, the managing editor of the "Little Old *Appeal*." Readers of the *Daily Socialist* are familiar with the Warren case.

In order to show that a different law exists in the United States for a working man from that which applies to a capitalist, Warren offered a reward to

have ex-Governor Taylor of Kentucky, who was at the time a fugitive from justice, taken back to Kentucky for trial.

The courts that had ruled that Haywood, Moyer, and Pettibone had no recourse in law for the fact that they were kidnapped, or in effect that the kidnapping of workingmen was legal, decided that the mere suggestion of the kidnapping of a capitalist is a crime!

### **Ameringer in Warren's Place.**

Fred Warren must go to jail and will not be able to fill this number on the Lyceum Course this winter, but if there is any red blood left in the veins of American workingmen, such a mighty wave of protest will arise from ocean to ocean that even the capitalist rulers of the land, whom the gods have mad, will learn that they can no longer jail a man for standing staunch and true to working class interests without having to pay the price.

Warren's place on the Lyceum Course will be taken by Oscar Ameringer during February and by George Kirkpatrick beginning about March 1. The subject will not be changed. This third number on the course will tell about the "Present Class Struggle," and the past record of both of these men is such as to guarantee that they will make good on this subject.

### **Ameringer Forceful Speaker.**

Oscar Ameringer is best known in the Southwest, and he is considered by all who have heard him to be the most forceful speaker that that section of the country has produced. He was drafted into service by Wisconsin during the last campaign and was one of the strong factors in the election of Victor Berger to the United States Congress. The state organizer of Wisconsin, after noting his work there during this campaign, has this to say in regard to Ameringer:

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 28, 1910.

Dear Comrade Katterfeld:—

Milwaukee likes Ameringer. They couldn't help it. He could make a fortune on the vaudeville stage — if he could persuade himself to do it. But he can't do the latter, and that is why he is such a success as a campaigner, or as a lecturer for the Socialist movement. His mind has been captured by the logic, and his heart enthralled by the ideals

of Socialism and its philosophy.

And he will be happy only when persuading men and women to quit fighting each other for the sake of capitalism, and to begin cooperating for the sake of their own lives and the future of their babies. Ameringer is as funny as a basket of monkeys — when he feels that way. But he can be as terrible in his denunciations, as logical in his arguments, and as educative in his illustrations as he is naturally entertaining — and that is going some.

If you can get Ameringer, don't hesitate.

Yours very sincerely,

**Winfield R. Gaylord.**

### **Kirkpatrick to Assist.**

Oscar Ameringer is only at liberty to fill about 20 dates and George Kirkpatrick will not be able to start until about the 5th of March, so the two have been asked to carry the Warren number through the course. Ameringer filling the first 21 dates and Kirkpatrick all the others.

George Kirkpatrick needs no introduction to the American public. His preparation for social service includes:

Graduated from Albion College (A.B.).

Graduate student of Vanderbilt University.

Graduate student of University of Chicago.

Four years college professor in Kansas and Wisconsin.

Two years lecturing on Good Citizenship.

Three years lecturer for the New York City Board of Education.

Many years lecturing on Socialism.

Has debated more anti-Socialists than any other man in the United States.

### **Of International Renown.**

During the past year he has gained international renown through his book, *War — What For?*, which Charles Edward Russell, writing in *The Coming Nation*, calls "the most powerful blow ever dealt against the insanity of militarism."

Comrade Debs speaks of George Kirkpatrick in the following glowing terms:

Get out your very best audiences to hear Professor Kirkpatrick. He is strictly critical; his splendid, liberal training,

his rich gifts as an orator, and his unqualified sincerity and loyalty make him a man of great value and power before an audience.

**Eugene V. Debs.**

The fourth number, dealing with "Unionism and Socialism," is to be taken up by a union carpenter, John Slayton of Pennsylvania, who was the Socialist candidate for Governor in that state during the last campaign.

John Slayton was born in Virginia 47 years ago. Could not read until 13 years of age, and has never had more than 15 months of schooling all told in a little log schoolhouse in old Virginia. He got his "learning" through spare time study and through his faculty of observing keenly his surroundings, the way Abe Lincoln got his.

Slayton began working at the carpenter's trade and joined the union at his first opportunity in Salem, Ohio, in 1892. He helped to build up that organization in New Castle, PA, from a membership of 12 to 325, and was the leading factor in securing of the carpenters the first 8-hour day in and out of the mills in Pennsylvania.

From the beginning he was active in the union movement and he has been delegate to several national conventions of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and the AF of L. Just this last year he directed the strike of the workers at McKees Rocks for the first 5 weeks of its duration, and during the first week established the commissary department, without which the strike must have failed dismally.

### **Eminently Fitted.**

His whole training has been such that he is eminently fitted to speak upon the subject assigned to him, "Unionism and Socialism," and his ability as a speaker is vouched for by all the hundreds of Socialist locals that have already heard him. To quote from the State Secretary of Pennsylvania:

The organizations that have arranged dates for John W. Slayton are unanimous in their commendation of his ability.

Comrades everywhere can engage him with absolute confidence that he can satisfy the most critical audience absolutely.

**R.B. Ringler,**  
State Secretary, SP of Pennsylvania.

### **Stricklands Come Next.**

The fifth number on the course will deal with the matter of organization. Mr. Fred Strickland and Mrs. May Strickland are to speak on "The Socialist Party." They will tell why the Socialist Party exists and how it is organized and why it is organized as it is. They will tell what the Socialist Party is organized to accomplish and how it expects to accomplish those aims.

They will tell what the party does to better the conditions of the workers even today under capitalism, where it has already won local victories. They are eminently fitted for this very important part of the course. Fred Strickland was once State Secretary in Ohio, and his wife, May Strickland, served for two terms as State Secretary of Indiana.

### **Both Party Builders.**

Both of them have been actively engaged in the upbuilding of the party organization for years and will be able to make a powerful plea for party membership.

Fred Strickland is a graduate of Hiram College, Ohio, and was pastor of the People's Christian Church in Chicago for a number of years. Like many another minister, he left his pastorate to devote his time and talents to the establishment of economic justice.

As to the part that he is taking in the working class struggle, we quote from Eugene V. Debs:

Frederick G. Strickland is one of the strong men in the Socialist movement.

As an organizer he has exceptional qualities. As a speaker he stands among the most able and eloquent on the American platform. Mr. Strickland is a young man, imbued with the spirit of the Socialist movement, and one of its most earnest, enthusiastic, and effective exponents.

May Strickland is a native of the soft coal region of Ohio, was educated in the public schools of that state and at Horace Mann College. She is also a graduate of the Muncie College of Dramatic Art. Scores of locals recommend her as a reader of unusual ability, and in this Lyceum Course she will be at her best.

### **Mrs. Strickland in Women's Plea.**

But Mrs. Strickland's main object on the course will naturally be to bring the women into the party organization. Throughout the course the speakers will have instructions to make a plea for woman suffrage wherever it comes in logically to do so and to point out the necessity of organization for women as much as for men.

The closing number of the course will be an evening of music by the Socialist Quartet Concert Company. This quartet will be first class and will compare favorably with the quartets set out under capitalist auspices.

### **Quartet is Experienced.**

They have all had experience in singing and are now being trained by Harvey P. Moyer, author of *Songs of Socialism*. Their songs will not be merely the "Materialistic Conceptions of History" set to tune and rhyme, but their program will be a real entertainment, interesting to those who are not Socialists at all as well as to the party members.

The quartet consists of James Teecan, second bass, who is also an elocutionist of no mean ability, and who will entertain with several recitations; David Arndt, a professional pianist, second tenor, and William Scherr, who will make a name for himself on this tour as first tenor.

### **All Socialists.**

Every one of these men is an enthusiastic Socialist and has been or is now secretary of some Socialist organization, so that the quartet can be depended upon to sing the "Marsellaise" with the right kind of spirit that none of the audience will ever forget it again.

The average Republican or Democrat is honest

in his convictions, just as honest as the members of the Socialist Party are. The difference is one of information. In this Lyceum Course we present the fundamentals of the Socialist philosophy, we make plain the fact of the class struggle, we impress the necessity of organization and particularly the necessity of political organization.

So this Lyceum Course should appeal to all classes of people in all walks of life. It will be comprehensive enough to give a thorough presentation of the Socialist philosophy, an authoritative statement of the Socialist position.

This should appeal to every Socialist as a way of educating himself so as to make himself a better propagandist, a more effective campaigner, and it should appeal to the non-Socialists as a way of finding out exactly what this Socialist movement stands for that claims to hold out to them so much promise of a more abundant life.

And to the opponent of Socialism it should appeal particularly. It is universally admitted that the Socialist movement is growing strong and powerful in every civilized country in the world.

The opposition used to claim that the Socialist movement would never gain a foothold here, but the tremendous gains of the Socialist Party during the past year have put that claim to sleep forever.

### **Offers Grand Opportunity.**

The movement is growing here in the United States. It must be met or it will sweep the country. To be met intelligently it must be understood. This Lyceum Course offers the opportunity to get this understanding with the least possible loss of time and energy.

In another column a list is published of the cities where arrangements for this Lyceum Course have already been made. If your city is not in the list, mail the blank in the corner of this page.

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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