
Our Magazine

by Eugene V. Debs

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The outside world judge our Brotherhood, its standing, aims, and teachings, by our Magazine. Through its medium do we inculcate the lessons of "Benevolence, Sobriety, and Industry." Its pages inform our employers what our ideas are about the relations of employer and employed. These great results being dependent upon the character of our Magazine, it will be apparent at once that a high standard of excellence is necessary in its makeup.

In the first place it is the duty of its pages to teach to our members the imperative necessity of observing our bedrock principles — Benevolence, Sobriety, Industry. Brotherhood and sympathy between our members must be taught.

In the second place the relations between labor and capital, between employer and employee, must be fearlessly and clearly stated. We come before the world with the profession that we do not believe in violence and strikes as means by which wages are to be regulated, but that all differences must be settled by mutual understanding arrived at by calm reasoning. We have nothing to do with the sudden, awful arbitrament of violence, we invoke the peaceful methods of discussion and deliberation.

In order to place before the public clearly and fully our ideas on these great aims and objects, a high literary standard is necessary for our Magazine. It will not do for us to place our ideas before the public in crude editorials and muddy correspondence. We have arrived at that stage of importance that our Magazine is looked to as a source of information; this must be furnished in the best style possible and will be so furnished in the future.

We have determined to exclude everything from our pages that is not excellent both in matter and manner of statement. It is the first duty of an editor to have a big wastebasket and to keep it full to the top with rejected matter. Only the best should be published. We desire our readers and correspondents to bear in mind that our Maga-

zine is purely a business venture, and we expect to so conduct it as to make of it a financial and literary success.

We desire to say kindly, but firmly, that everything sent to us for publication can not be published. Only that can be published that we deem fit for publication in our pages. We receive hundreds of letters, all have to be attended to, our duties are numerous and arduous, and we desire to say to members especially that we can not possibly publish every suggestion, every letter, and every poem sent us, nor can we take the time to give reasons for not so doing. We are glad to receive contributions, but we must insist upon our right as editor to reject anything sent us. We desire to offend no one by refusing to publish what is sent us, at the same time neither do we desire to have our pages filled with matter not in good shape for publication; therefore we hope nothing will be sent us unless it has merit both as to information and literary style.

Hoping we have made the matter clear without offense, we must in the future fearlessly exclude everything from the pages of our Magazine that is not first-class in all respects. We desire to furnish our readers a Magazine that will be worth its price and that will be a fit mouthpiece of our great organization.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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