

to communicate the Anarchist philosophy to anyone outside their own ranks. Many attending the Anarchist conference were very aware of the meaning of Anarchy; but many others were not. A few carried black flags and shouted "smash the state" but in fact behaved like fascists and thought like nihilists. Many are struggling to find the meaning of Anarchy, but, unfortunately, a few believe that Anarchism means only hatred, vengeance, and committing futile, mindless acts of rebellion in public. Also, unfortunately, it was this group of Anarchists (?) that presented our ideas to the public. The warmth, compassion, brotherly love, and tolerance that drew me to Anarchism was not in evidence outside the conference classrooms.

I am afraid that neither the Anarchist conference nor the I.W.W. conference did much to honor the ideas of the Haymarket martyrs, as far as introducing their ideas to the public. The only group that did that, in my opinion, was the much-maligned "Adelman" organization. The display at the museum by the Chicago Historical Society, the dramatic reading of the martyrs' speeches at Haymarket Square, and the ceremony at Waldheim, while not above criticism, still did more to bring the martyrs' ideas to the public than anything we did.

So, what do we do now? Was the event a total failure? I think not. Divisive criticism will flow freely for awhile, which is natural, I guess, but what is needed to turn a negative into a positive is constructive criticism. What can we learn from this experience to improve our position in the future?

Is the labor movement a dead issue? I just spent four days in Austin, Minnesota, and Ottumwa, Iowa, and I can tell you that it is not dead, but flowering in all its glory there and fermenting under the surface everywhere else. There is a subterranean fire smoldering, and Austin is only a minor eruption, although an important one. Our goal should be to get involved and fan the flames; but before we can do that we must evaluate ourselves and try to understand why we aren't effective in reaching people.

Why didn't people come to the I.W.W. conferences? One reason I heard while I was in Chicago was that the hall was noisy and inconvenient. It was, but good labor rallies have been held in worse places. Another reason I heard was that Jon Bekken is divisive, abrasive, and alienated many would-be participants. Jon is abrasive and divisive, but he is also a hard worker, a loyal, conscientious Wob, and a bright Anarcho-syndicalist. The I.W.W. needs him. What we need is not fewer Jon Bekkens but more who are as strong in their convictions as he is; people who are not intimidated by him and will stand up for their convictions. Jon likes to lead. It is our responsibility not to follow.

Jon just needs to mature into his theory, in my opinion. He needs to learn the patience that democracy requires, to become more tolerant of the opinions of others. The intellect is only a small part of what it is to be human and we cannot judge a man solely on his political opinions. Some of the Haymarket martyrs went through Liberal and Social Democrat stages and may never have progressed without tolerance and warmth from others. But while Jon matures we must be just as strong and demanding as he is if he is not to