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Phil H. Callery

*Direction
Liberal Lyceum Bureau
Schenectady, N. Y.*

PHIL H. CALLERY

A Personal Sketch of the Man and His Work

WE PRESENT in Phil H. Callery one of the ablest exponents of Socialism on the American platform to-day. Born and reared on the frontier, his life has been a story of hard struggle and brilliant achievement. His parents emigrated to this country from Ireland in the stirring days of the Civil War, and after stopping for a short time in the coast states wended their way into the west. Taking passage by railway as far as the railway was built they then procured a "yoke" of oxen and pursued their journey into the extreme southwest of Missouri. Here they settled on a homestead and after building a rude cabin out of native lumber, began their task of carving a home out of the wilderness. Amidst these surroundings Phil was born. Hardly had the work of felling the trees and breaking out the raw land begun when the elder Callery, bending under the hardships of a pioneer life, took sick and died, leaving the mother with Phil, his sister and two brothers to fight the battle. Speaking of these early experiences in an interview Mr. Callery said: "No, I will never forget those bitter days of struggle, neither will I forget the heroic devotion and undying loyalty of my dear, old mother. All that I am or all that I can ever hope to be I owe to her."

Under the stress of circumstances Phil was forced to take up the task of bread-winner at a very early age, making the opportunities for education quite limited indeed. At twelve years of age he was doing his full share of work on the farm, caring for the crops and herding the cattle during the summer, and attending the district school during the winter. In this way by dint of persistent effort and hard study he went through the common school, qualified and entered the State University.

Being especially interested in social and economic theories, after careful and exhaustive research in the field of economic science he became a convert to Socialism. Inspired now with a great ideal, he threw himself enthusiastically into the Socialist propaganda, and soon acquired a wide reputation as a brilliant orator and skilled debator. During the past ten years he has spoken before chautauqua assemblies and Labor Lyceums in all of the larger towns and cities of the southwest, and has done more perhaps to rally the agricultural workers to Socialism than any other man in the west.

Not only is Mr. Callery a great orator, he is a constructive executive as well. And because of his wide knowledge of social and municipal problems he was called to Schenectady by Mayor George R. Lunn to assist him in his administrative work. Acting as Executive Secretary of that city he has rendered signal service in the working out of the many intricate problems that have confronted the Socialist administration.

What Others Say Of Him

"Among the many speakers whom I have heard I know of none better qualified to present the message of Socialism to the American people than Phil Callery. He has the power to interpret the great economic problems of the day into the simple language of the common people. With the fiery impulsiveness of his race he pleads for Industrial Democracy as Lincoln and Phillips plead for Abolition in Ante Bellum Days."—J. A. WAYLAND, founder of The Appeal to Reason.

"I have never heard a more powerful and eloquent speaker than Phil Callery. His forceful style of oratory typifies the spirit of the west."—J. I. SHEPPARD, Chief Consul for the Appeal to Reason.

"Phil Callery is one of the most brilliant and promising young men on the American platform to-day. His power as an orator is equaled by few in this or any other country."—EUGENE V. DEBS, thrice candidate for the Presidency on the Socialist Ticket.

"He is aggressive and at times beligerent, but always level headed. As an orator he has few equals in the Labor Movement."—FRED D. WARREN, "Fighting Editor" of the Appeal to Reason.

"One of the best informed men in the American movement."—GEORGE R. KIRKPATRICK, author of "War, What For."

"Phil Callery is one of the most eloquent and convincing speakers in the Socialist movement. He not only thoroughly understands the economic problems confronting the workers but is also possessed of that rare ability which can translate abstract doctrine into expressions intelligible to the humblest individual. As Executive Secretary of our city his broad grasp of the city's problems has been manifested in all of his work."—GEORGE R. LUNN, Mayor of Schenectady, New York.

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Press Comments



Mr. Callery's speech in nominating Eugene Debs for the Presidency in 1908, will be remembered as a masterpiece of oratory, comparable only with Ingersoll's speech nominating Blaine. Of this speech the Chicago Examiner had the following to say:

"In one of the greatest speeches ever delivered before a Socialist body in America—a speech during which men and women cheered and wept—the name of Eugene V. Debs was placed in nomination for the presidency at 1 o'clock this morning by Phil Callery of Missouri.

"Phil Callery has been fitly called the Ingersoll of the Socialist movement, on the platform he is eloquent, impressive, convincing and dynamic, and as an exponent of Socialism stands as a reconized authority."—THE NATIONAL RIP SAW.

"The large Auditorium was packed to its capacity to hear Phil Callery, the noted Socialist orator, lecture on the "Rise and Development of the Socialist Movement in America." For almost two hours the great audience sat spellbound as the speaker reviewed the historic struggles of labor. As he told the story of our fallen heroes, who sleep to-day in unmarked graves, many a head bowed in deepest reverence and wept in silence for our departed comrades. Callery is a most eloquent and dramatic speaker. His appearance here will be long remembered."—THE PITCHFORK, Dallas, Texas.

Announcement

Mr. Callery announces the following lectures for the season of 1913:

"The Trust and the Sherman Law."

"Economics and Ethics."

"The Constructive Principles of Modern Socialism."

"The Rise and Development of the Socialist Movement in America."