







# THE HIDDEN LAW

# 11654

## THE BILL THEY DARE NOT PUBLISH (CHIEF SECTIONS)

(Introduced in the house of representatives, on June 20, 1902, as house bill no. 11,654, and rushed through over the head of a small opposition, by 180 ayes against 28 nays. No personal roll call taken. Passed unanimously by the senate on January 14, 1903. Approved by the president on January 21, 1903.)  
Public Document—No. 33—An act to promote the efficiency of the militia, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the militia shall consist of every able-bodied male citizen of the respective states, territories, and the District of Columbia, and every able-bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is more than 18 and less than 45 years of age, and shall be divided into two classes—the ORGANIZED MILITIA, to be known as the National Guard of the state, territory, or District of Columbia, or by such other designations as may be given them by the laws of the respective states or territories, and The remainder to be known as the RESERVE MILITIA.

Sec. 4. That whenever the United States is invaded, or in danger of invasion from any foreign nation, or of Rebellion against the authority of the government of the United States, or the president is unable, with the other forces at his command, to execute the laws of the Union in any part thereof, it shall be lawful FOR THE PRESIDENT to CALL FORTH for a period not exceeding nine months, such number of the militia of the state or states or territories or of the District of Columbia as he may deem necessary to repel such invasion, suppress such rebellion, or to enable him to execute such laws, and to issue his orders as he may think proper.

Sec. 7. That every officer and enlisted man of the militia who shall be CALLED FORTH in the manner hereinbefore prescribed and shall be found fit for military service shall be mustered or accepted into the United States service by a duly authorized mustering officer of the United States. Provided however, That ANY officer or enlisted MAN of the militia WHO SHALL REFUSE OR NEGLECT TO PRESENT HIMSELF to such mustering officer upon being CALLED FORTH as herein prescribed shall be subject to trial by court martial, and SHALL BE PUNISHED AS SUCH COURT MARTIAL MAY DIRECT.

Sec. 8. That COURTS MARTIAL for the trial of officers or men of the officers or men of the militia, when in the service of the United States, SHALL BE COMPOSED OF MILITIA OFFICERS ONLY.

To provide means of carrying into effect the provisions of this section, the necessary money to cover the cost of exchanging or issuing the new arms, accoutrements, equipment and ammunition to be exchanged or issued hereunder, is appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.



## Sent to Washington to Find Out

The newspapers in Seattle are considerably stirred up about some news they failed to publish. They have both had big editorials to explain why they have never published the new Militia Bill. But still they don't publish it. The "P-I" says it is only an old bill re-enacted, really an innocent thing about a century old. It takes a column to tell us that, but still it does not publish the bill. The "Times" says—but we will let

the editor speak for himself. Here is his letter:  
Times Office, March 11, 04.  
Mr. D. Burgess—  
Dear Sir: You wrote to me upon a postal card and your communication was about the fortieth I have received touching the same thing. I referred the matter to our attorney, Daniel Kelleher, Esq., who promptly informed me there was no such law. I noticed the other day that the P-I

published an opposite opinion, whereupon I sent to Washington to our correspondent and asked him to consult the attorney general of the U. S. and give me a reply as speedily as possible. When I get that opinion I will publish it for the benefit of the large number of persons who have inquired concerning the same. Respectfully,  
A. J. BLETHEN.  
For the benefit of our capitalist contemporaries who don't print the news

even after it is a year old, we reproduce the chief sections of said bill, together with our pictorial comment on it. This cartoon has made a hit from New York to San Francisco. Thousands of copies of "The Socialist" have been sold because of this cartoon. Workmen everywhere pause to study it. Comrades in other cities should do as they have done in Seattle, send postal

cards of inquiry about this bill. Say you saw it in "The Socialist," and you want to know if it is true, you know, what these Socialists say. Street speakers cannot get a crowd quicker than by posting this cartoon on a pole where the light will shine on it and then explain the picture. Another letter of Editor Blethen's to P. O. Olsen has just been shown us, in which he says he has written his Washington correspondent, W. W. Jer-

maine, to "Kindly take this up with the Attorney General's Department and ascertain if our attorneys be right or if the Socialists be right, and let me know as soon as possible."  
When our capitalist editors find out that the Socialists are right, will they publish the law itself?  
Will they publish it in a conspicuous place?  
Will they tell us why they have not published it before? With correspondents in the capitol city, how is it

so difficult to find the news? With attorneys having access to the records of Congress, how is it so hard to find out?  
Is it true that the newspaper offices and libraries of Seattle are so destitute of the records of Congress that no resort is left but an appeal to the Attorney General at Washington?  
Is it really so that nobody but the Socialists are up-to-date in this cosmopolitan town of Seattle? Are all the boasted dailies of Seattle only backwoods sheets after all?