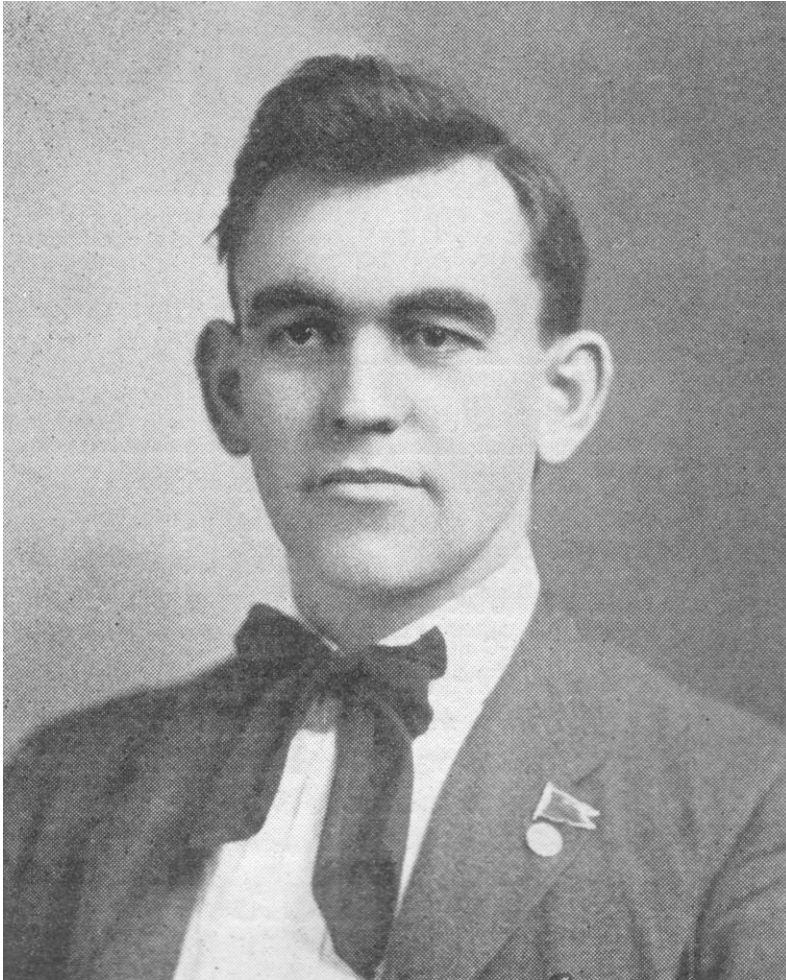


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# Hoboed Over 8,000 Miles.

by Thomas J. Mooney

Published in *The International Socialist Review* [Chicago], v. 10, no. 11 (May 1910), pp. 1052-1053.



**Thomas J. Mooney won 2nd prize in Preliminary contest.**

*Eugene V. Debs Recommends T.J. Mooney as follows:*

June 28, 1909.

To Whom it May Concern:

Thomas J. Mooney accompanied us on the "Red Special" last fall and rendered us most valuable service along the route. Comrade Mooney is one of the most active workers in the labor movement. He is absolutely honest and trustworthy and is filled with energy and ambition to better the condition of his class. Comrade Mooney is worthy of any position he may wish to hold in the labor movement and I cheerfully commend him to the consideration of Comrades and Friends as one of the best types of the Awakened American Proletariat.

Yours Very Truly,

(signed) **E.V. Debs**

Comrades and Friends: It is with the greatest hesitancy that I insert this letter I assure you. Last June I read of the "Wilshire Contest" for the "trip round the world," to one securing the most subscriptions for *Wilshire's Magazine*, within 11 months time. Fully realizing the value of such a trip to a working class education, at once I entered the contest determined to win that trip fair and square. Starting out without any finance, as I had just put in one month in a hospital from loss of a finger, I hoboed from town to town getting subscriptions, covering a distance of 8,000 miles, riding in box cars, on blind-baggages and tops of passenger trains over the deserts of Utah, California, and Nevada in

scorching suns of July and August; through October and November rains in Oregon and Washington; and worst of all the ice and snow and sometimes zero weather of December and January in Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Nevada, through which I traveled was all that any human could stand, snatching a few hours sleep here and there when convenient, many times in a boxcar, roundhouse, sand-shed, engines, barns, and Socialist headquarters when available as I did most all my riding at night, for it is easier to get over the road.

I don't want the readers of the Review to think I am trying to advertize and popularize myself, but to let you know of the efforts put forth by me in this contest and the disadvantages under which I labored. I would never have used this method of trying to secure subscriptions were it not for the tactics of one George Goebel, National Organizer and lecturer for the Party, who has been out on the road in the different states, at the party expense ever since the contest opened, and at the same time allowed to compete for this prize. He has offered a number of comrades in the West some of his "Wilshire Bishop Creek" mining stock and has written to almost every town in the west asking the active comrades to get subscriptions for him, also, he has gotten out private subscription cards and sent them to his friends, there are supposed to be no subscription cards in this contest.

I don't happen to have the distinguished

qualities that are required to be a National Organizer, but all my work so far in the party has been volunteered and wholly unremunerated, selling over \$1,000 worth of literature in two months on the "Red Special." Speaking every night for six months on the streets of Stockton, Cal., collected \$75.00 for the "Red Special" before it left Chicago, and \$38.00 at three meetings in Idaho, for the Mexican Refugee Fund. A member of International Molders' Union, Socialist Party, and the Industrial Workers of the World.

Comrades, I am sure I can win this trip if you will help me to the extent of sending me your subscription for the *Wilshire's Magazine*, 25 cents yearly, in money order, stamps, or coin at once or send it direct to Wilshire to count for me in the Round the World contest, and should I win this trip, the knowledge and experience I would gain from it would at all times be used to the interest of my class. And should I ever be in a position to do you a like favor I will gladly do so. Thanking you in advance, I remain your co-worker and Comrade for Industrial Freedom.

T.J. Mooney  
973 Market St., Room 301,  
San Francisco, Calif.

*All subscriptions must be in Wilshire's office June 1st. †*

†- According to the July 1910 issue of *Wilshire's Magazine*, George H. Goebel of Newark, NJ won the "Round the World" contest, with Tom Mooney awarded Second Prize — a trip to the Copenhagen Congress of the Socialist International.

*Edited with a footnote by Tim Davenport.*

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