

FOR THE CAUSE THAT LACKS ASSISTANCE; AGAINST THE WRONGS THAT NEED RESISTANCE.

The Voice of Labor

A PAPER THAT DARES TO TELL THE TRUTH.

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

VOL. 6, NO. 21. PRICE 2 CENTS.

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, FEBRUARY 10, 1917.

FORTY CENTS PER YEAR.

LET US PROTEST AGAINST WAR!

"Rouse, Brothers, Rouse!
Refuse! Refuse to Paint This Sad World Red With the Blood of the Toilers Fooled By the Mocking Flattery of Gilded Cowards."

LECTURE--"FROM NEBULA TO MAN"

Prof. Maynard Shipley, who is to speak at Post 5 Hall on Feb. 14, is a noted author, editor, lecturer and dramatist. He combines with extraordinary research and knowledge of the sciences, rare ability to present what he knows in clear and fascinating language. His lecture "From Nebula to Man" is the most interesting, unique and spectacular thing of its kind that has ever been offered to a Camden audience. It deals mainly with evolution, with the biological development of the human race.

This line of study has come to be regarded by educators as necessary to the development of our educational system and Prof. Shipley has given, in San Francisco and New York, courses of lectures in biology in high schools and colleges and churches that have given him a national reputation.

This lecture is unusual, because in its wide range of appeal it compels the interest of people of all description, of all ages and shades of opinion. There should be an enthusiastic response in meeting this unusual opportunity with a large attendance of the thoughtful and studious people of the community.

The other two lectures in the course are of equal value. This effort shows what a little co-operation between a few enterprising people can do in the matter of providing such educational entertainment at cost.

The admittance to course of three lectures is 25 cents, about 8 cents a lecture, and unless there is a large audience the promoters of this course of lectures will pay the deficit, which would be bad for the reputation of our town.

Mr. Worker, can't you see that the things the monopolists want are not the things you want? You persist in voting with them for what they want and they get what they want only because you do vote with them.

The welfare of the working class is always made secondary to the gain of the capitalist class. If it doesn't hurt dividends, it's good—that is the attitude of the coupon clippers. Capitalism places the dollar above the man.

Patronize Our Advertisers.

No War Mystery For Camden Socialists

Sent Telegram to President Wilson

The following resolution was adopted by the county committee in session Sunday, February 4, 1917, and telegraphed to Woodrow Wilson, and Congressman W. J. Browning:

To His Excellency, Woodrow Wilson, President of the U. S., Washington, D. C.

The Socialist Party of Camden county, N. J., is unalterably opposed to the working class of the United States being forced into the shambles.

We, therefore, respectfully urge you to use the powers vested in you by the constitution to avert the threatened participation of this country in the European war.

F. HARTMEYER, Sec.

Let the people of Camden follow the example set by the Socialist party. Wire the President, wire your congressman, that the workers of Camden have no cause to go to war, and most emphatically protest against war.

NOTICE TO LEATHER GLAZERS

All leather glazers are asked to keep away from Lynn, Mass., and to pay no attention to any advertisements for glazers. The glazers of the Benz Leather company of Lynn, Mass., recently went on strike, because five of their number were discharged for becoming members of the union. The firm refused to re-instate the men, which resulted in a general walk-out of the glazers employed in the plant.

The men were recently organized by the Central Board of Leather Glazer Association of North America, which is the national organization of the glazers.

It is doubtful if a single individual among all the unfortunate exiles of Siberia could produce proof of a more flagrant disregard of justice or a greater outrage upon the civil rights of citizenship than is perpetrated by some of the judges in the police courts of numerous cities.

Patronize Our Advertisers.

WHAT IS WAR?

"War is wholesale, scientific suicide for the working class under orders from their political and industrial masters."

War is:

For working class homes—emptiness.

For working class wives—heart-ache.

For working class mothers—loneliness.

For working class children—orphans.

For working class sweethearts—agony.

For the nation's choicest working class men—broken health or death.

War is a sneer.

War is the Devil's sneer at the Human Race.

War is a confession. In war the human race stumbles—stumbles backward across the centuries into the jungle.

War dethrones the Beauty and crowns the Beast—in human nature.

War is the eclipse of Brother and the collapse of God in the human breast and brain.

All war is defeat, defeat for the victims and for the victors, for the living and for the dead, and for nations that (confessing) cannot help but fight.

War is the roar and smoke of cannon, settling their disputes with nail and tusk—with lead and iron.

War is international jeering at the finest fruit now ripening on the "thorny stem of time"—Human Federation.

War mistakes brutality for bravery, madness for manliness and homicide for patriotism; war has belittled the world with jealousy, damned the world with hate, filled the world with fear and engloomed the world with sighs and groans; war has stained the earth with blood and tears, broken the health and shattered the limbs of millions of the world's strong men, and filled the highways with hobbling cripples; war has crowded the world with widows and orphans, with broken hearts, broken homes and broken hopes. War places the conqueror above the educator and the assassin above the artist; war, as organized force and cruelty, spits on religion, adopts the ethics of the tiger and the shark—Might makes Right; war smites the kind, curses the gentle, tramples the tender, crushes the sister's heart and the brother's face under the heel and fist of iron.

The past is darkened by two clouds—a cloud of lazy human vultures feeding on the lives of the straining, sweating working-class, consuming slaves, serfs and wage earners; darkened by another cloud of buzzards hovering over and feasting upon the slain toilers, butchered and wasted and despoiled on ten thousand battlefields.

War has slashed a wide, wide highway of ruin through the ages, a highway strewn with wreckage, reddened with fire, lined with crosses, prisons, corpses, skulls, skeletons and graves; and overmore, even today, this stained Beast spreads wide its blood-dripping jaws in wild and hungry howls for more, more, more victims.

Refuse, protest, protest loudly. Let the voice of the workers echo and re-echo from coast to coast saying: "We Shall Have No War."

SOCIALIST PARTY

Eleventh Ward Branch, Local Camden, N. J., 925 N. Twenty-sixth St. Meets Thursday evenings. Free reading room every evening and Sundays. Drop in and get acquainted with your fellow workers.

Real happiness can only come through real service to humanity.

MINISTERS WHO SPONSOR HIM WOULDN'T USE IT THEMSELVES

But They Look to "Religious" Gutter-snipe to Refill Their Emptying Churches as the Drowning Grasp at Straws.

(By GEORGE H. CORRY.)

The opening of the Billy Sunday revival campaign on Sunday, January 28th, was directly up to every good citizen of this city to decide whether the community will be benefited or harmed by the presence of the evangelist who makes a one-night stand of what many thousands of people regard as their most sacred shrine.

Naturally, the first question that arises is: "What will this man say?" Most intelligent people will admit that language was invented to express thought. Therefore, it must follow that if a community is to be benefited by the presence of a man in its midst, several weeks, what ever language he uses certainly must be expressive not only of his own thoughts, but also that of the community he is to benefit.

Some of the thoughtful (?) letters and inspiring (?) language used by Billy Sunday during his campaigns in Scranton, Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia is given below:

You think you don't have to go to church to be good, do you? Well, there are lots of other dirty, stinking mutts that think the same way.

The trouble with some of you mutts is that you haven't any guts.

Then Herodotus came in and dined with her foot stuck out to a quarter to 12, and old Herod said, "Sit, you're a peach. You can have anything you want, even to the half of my kingdom. She lifted off to her licentious mother.

Come on! You bull-necked, beetle-browed, hog-jawed, penut-brained, wassal-eyed, four-flushers, false alarms and excess baggage.

They talk about the excitement of a revival meeting being bad in any community. If you say that, then you are a dirty, rotten, stinking liar! Did you get it?

If a minister believes and teaches evolution, he is a stinking skunk, a hypocrite and a liar.

It makes me sick to see in a community like this, dirty stinking hell-holes of corruption, vomiting, puking, spewing out damnation.

And I want to say right here that I don't believe in your old bastard theory of evolution.

Little girl, you look so small, Don't you wear no clothes at all? Don't you wear no chemise shirt? Don't you wear no petty-skirt? Don't you wear no underclothes. But your corset and your hose?

Stand up there, you bastard evolutionist! Stand up there, with the atheists and the infidels and the whoremongers and the adulterers, and go to hell!

In the name of Jesus Christ, in the name of a—presumably—all-loving, just and merciful God, this kind of language is used in a Christian organization for the purpose,

they allege, of saving souls! If language of this filthy character, or anything approaching it, were used in the course of a Socialist mass-meeting at Elmwood Music Hall how long do you suppose it would be before the police raided the place? There is only one place where the vilest, the slimiest and the basest language may be used indiscriminately and that is in the "house of God" at the baseball park.

On Saturday night, January 20th, I placed the above quotation from Sunday before a committee composed of two ministers and two laymen. That committee unanimously declared that, while the language was so bad that none of them would use it themselves, it was not too bad or too indecent to fall upon the ears of the young and innocent members of the church.

From all over, was the odor of sanctity thrown over the most debased performance, by the most vulgar charlatan, ever perpetrated upon long-suffering people. Torquemada justified his bloody inquisition on the ground that "It was the only way to bring the souls to God;" the church has justified its long, long list of crimes by the same sophistry; the clergy of this country have saved their consciences every time they have added another burden to the load with that utterly false and absurd cry: "It is all for the glory of God."

But, when all the excitement and tumult dies away, and all the trumpets cease to blare, thoughtful men

least one child. We are against know—they KNOW. People are reading, studying, learning by the bitter, practical experience of life what all this amounts to. The churches are losing—losing—losing. Ministers—the MASTERS—are preaching to empty pews. Income is dwindling—livelhoods are in danger. Something must be done to make the people forget about bread and butter; protection from cold and innocent amusements. Bring them back to GOD! So long as we can hold them and keep them thinking about their puny souls, maybe they'll forget all about wages; maybe revenues will increase! And so, Billy Sunday is invited to hold forth—and is supported, of course, by all the prominent (?) business men.

Backed up by unlimited cash, bulwarked by what is sanctimoniously referred to as the "respectable element," the merry-go-round speed-up, and souls are ground out at so much per grind.

There are just three words that sum up the whole of every religious revival and here they are: SLUSH, BUNK and TWADDLE.

It is time the world brushed aside these moth-eaten and hide-bound prejudices and superstitions handed down to the twentieth century from the Dark Ages. It is time the world discarded the cruel, the heartless, the depraved creed of a half-insane, money-grabbing evangelist and began to realize that they have been working this "game" for two thousand years without appreciable results. Christianity is a failure, has always been a failure until the clergy cease taking orders from above and commence to look the bitter facts in the face. There will be little hope for the real practice of the true

Is Missouri To Be Afflicted With Cossacks?

Since our capitalist employers have found that they can no longer depend on the National Guard as strikebreakers, they are trying everywhere to have the state establish a constabulary of its own that would do the dirty work, but only in Pennsylvania have they been successful in this. There the Cossacks have made themselves obnoxious by their brutality against striking workmen, and this, of course, is the reason why the employers demand more of them.

But now the nuisance knocks at our own door. Mr. Zellweger, who represents Springfield, Mo.—or, rather, the street car company of that town—in our General Assembly, has introduced a bill "to provide for the appointment of special officers and constables at the request of the common carriers, provide for their compensation and prescribe their duties."

The principal features of this bill are as follows:

That upon the application of the general manager, superintendent or chief agent of any railway or common carrier doing business in this state, the board of commissioners for the protection and safety of all property and interest of such common carriers, provided such officers and constables are fully paid by the common carrier applying for their appointment.

That the several special officers or constables herein provided shall have all the powers, duties and responsibilities of deputy sheriffs and other police officers during the term of which they are commissioned.

No doubt, this bill was hatched by the Springfield street car company, whose employees are on strike these three months, but it is nothing less than an attempt to afflict us with a cossack organization after the model of the Pennsylvania establishment. Are the workmen of Missouri going to stand for anything of that kind? We hope they will not.

You know what it means when such a gang is let loose upon you under the pretense of protecting property and interests. It means browbeating strikers, it means a rule of terror in the interests of capitalist exploitation.

Oppose it with all your strength and power!—St. Louis Labor.

The newspapers are owned and backed by millionaires. It is from this source that the public gets its information about Socialism. This is why the public generally knows so much about Socialism that isn't so.

We shall have poverty as long as those who do the work of the world refuse to organize to bring about a system that will give each the full social value of his or her labor.

principles of Christianity until the preachers, the so-called leaders, cease to be sycophants and commence to act and think like honest and courageous men.

Why not hitch our wagons to stars? Could we do better than to follow the mighty teachings of Cicero, Plato, Epicurus, Spinoza, Bruno, Voltaire, Ronsan, Darwin, Huxley, Hume, Spencer, and all the other brave men and fearless thinkers who, unhampered by petty prejudices and superstition, kept their eyes and brains and hearts turned ever toward the light of reason, and from the hanging mists of ignorance and credulity carved out for the world those imperishable truths that fill our hearts with high hope for the future, clear and clean from superstitions fear.

Was The Apostle Paul A Trade Unionist?

(By Rev. Charles Steisle.)
It has been clearly established that there were powerful labor guilds in existence two thousand years ago and practically every workman belonged to the guild composed of those who practiced his craft.

In those days nearly every Jewish boy learned a trade, no matter what his social position may have been. So it happened that Paul, the great missionary in the history of the early church, learned the trade of tentmaker, even though his father was so prominent a man as to have the honor of Roman citizenship conferred upon him, and even though he had the advantages of a thorough training at the university at Tarsus. This apprenticeship made Paul eligible to membership in the Tent-makers' Union, and it is altogether likely that he became a member of that organization.

We find in sacred history, that on at least one occasion, Paul made his headquarters in the city of Corinth with Aquila and Priscilla, simply because they also were of the same craft, namely, tent-makers. He worked side by side with them in the synagogue on every Sabbath day.

We have it from Paul's own pen that he worked with his hands as he traveled from place to place, depending upon his skill as a mechanic to earn his livelihood. Because of the necessity for constant travel and because of his dependence upon his trade for a living, it is more than likely that Paul identified himself with the organization that would be most helpful to him in order to secure employment.

It is interesting to note that Paul visited first of all and established his greatest churches in the cities in which trade unionism was strongest. Unquestionably, he operated very largely through the labor guilds in these cities.

It should be an inspiration to workmen everywhere to read the wonderful letters which this apostle-trader wrote.

Thirteen of the books in the New Testament were written by Paul. Read his plea for the slave Onesimus in the letter to Philemon. Read his masterful presentation of the universality of the benefits of Christianity in every one of these epistles. Read that beautiful "love-letter" which he sent to the working-people of Philippi, when they sent him a "missionary basket" when he was in the Roman prison.

Follow him in his fight for the common people of every nation as it is told in "The Acts of the Apostles" and go with this workman-preacher as he travels over almost the entire then-known world, bringing a message of joy to the masses, who, for generations had been told by the philosophers that they "had no souls; that they were made of the same stuff as the dog which upon his death was kicked into the ditch" and then say that you are proud of Paul—Paul, the apostle-trader-unionist.

Honorable David J. Lewis, of Maryland, speaking in the House, said: "It costs the American as much to ship his long distance conversation over the wires, mile for mile, as it costs him to ship a ton of freight over the rails." Isn't that a good argument for the postalization of the telephone system?

We are told that a person lending another a sum of money is entitled to a fair rate of interest. Who shall decide what is a fair rate? Shall it be left to the borrower or the lender? Socialists say that all interest is unfair and would abolish it.

Washington Birthday Ball
GIVEN BY
Central Labor Union of Camden, N. J.
Thursday Evening, February 22nd, 1917
At the Eagle's Home, 415 Broadway.
Tickets, 35 Cents. Admits Lady and Gentleman.
Boselle's Orchestra.

The first of a series of lectures to be conducted by the Rand School Class of South Camden Branch will be given on Sunday, February 11th, at Headquarters, corner Broadway and Walnut St., at 8 P. M.
Subject: "Evolution."
Admission Free.
Everybody Welcome.

THE HIGH COST OF LABOR POWER

(By JACK MORTON.)

Did you ever notice how wages rise when the cost of living goes up? Of course, the capitalist class always pulls back like a balky horse and tries hard to force its employees to scrimp along on the old wage scale as long as possible, and then is usually forced to yield to economic necessity—in order to keep men in shape to go to work in the shops, factories and mills.

Just now the workers in America are so greatly in demand to produce commodities which their employers hope to sell at war prices, that the workers could, by displaying a little militant spirit and a little class solidarity, gain a much larger share in the value they produce if it were not for the fact that all Americans are more and more being forced to pay war prices for the necessities themselves.

The wheat crop has partially failed all over the world; the potato crop is only a shadow of its former self, and prunes, and apricots and beans and cereals have been sold in advance to foreign countries, so that we are finding our home supply in greatly reduced circumstances.

Food products and woolen products and leather products this year are falling so far behind the need that the brokers or speculators and manufacturers who have a stock stacked away somewhere, are able to ask monopoly prices and get away with them.

Meanwhile our own capitalist class are finding themselves able to reap unheard of profits upon their investments by sending war supplies to the Allies. But in order to make profits upon war supplies the employing class has to have strong, healthy workers toiling in the factory, shop, mine and mill. And healthy workers mean well fed, well clothed and well housed men and women.

Investors are feeling inclined to grumble at the unkindness of the Fates. It is unfortunate that profits should be dependent in the first place, upon "that low, shiftless, ignorant" class known as workers, so that just at a time when a thrifty manufacturer, who has managed to save up half a dozen million dollars or so, by hard and honest toil(?)—as we were saying—just when such an overworked manufacturer sees an opportunity of making an "honest 600 per cent upon an investment," it is unfortunate that the workers should be in such great demand by other employers of labor that a man has to pay "exorbitant wages" if he wants to keep the factory wheels revolving, and the stream of dividends pouring into his own pockets.

And then, to cap the climax, the American food and clothing speculators go out and sell American crops in advance to the Allies, and the inconsiderate South American capitalist sells "his" products to Europe, so that it looks now as though the food supply in America were going to run short before the next harvest.

With the cost of living soaring upward and food actually growing more scarce every day, the poor capitalists in this country are being driven to their wits' end to devise ways and means for meeting this rising cost, holding their employees and avoiding the bad precedent of paying higher wages.

Just about Christmas time the wise heads of the big industries were called into the private office of the Big Bosses all over the country to discuss what was to be done about it. The Steel Trust developed a wonderful change of heart after talking over the pernicious activities of the I. W. W. the past year and the expensive strikes that had been pulled off. It developed that other and more serious labor troubles might follow and the Steel Trust, all at once, as it were, became human and decided to "do something voluntarily," before it was forced, for the steel workers. So a universal 10 per cent to 15 per cent rise in wages was announced.

The Steel Trust stood true to its old creed that it is better to make a workingman believe his employer has given him something than to learn that he has been able to force anything from his "boss."

A hundred weaker manufacturers and industrial giants in Chicago announced their sudden conversion to the "profit sharing plan." It developed that their ideas upon the subject in regard to the future were more than hazy. "Of course the movement is only in its infancy," "we shall have to await business developments," etc., etc., but these capitalists, one and all, knew that

they were going to offer their employees something right down substantial for Christmas. At first it had been the plan to sift out the late comers from the old-timers, those who had slaved for the companies ten, twenty and thirty years, but caution and the experience of less regenerate employers, showed them that wisdom here would surely be the better part of valor and even the girls who had only worked six months in some of the mail order houses got "presents" of twenty and thirty dollars.

The Chicago express companies found the best solution of all for this odious problem of the higher cost of labor power caused by the increased cost of living. By it they do not establish higher wages against a future reduction of which their employees might go on strike, and yet they have posed as benefactors, have increased the money received by express workers, and next year they will be able to claim that, owing to decreased business they are unable to afford the munificence of the Christmas of 1916.

The newspapers screamed the glad tidings late in December that employees of the express companies were to receive gifts from the employers ranging from the amount of two to three months' wages. And the threatened expressmen's strike was averted. The public learned a little later that these wonderful money Christmas gifts were to be divided into four parts. The workers were to receive one-fourth of the gift on December 25th, another fourth in three months, a third in six, and the balance in nine months.

The expectation of receiving half a month's wages every three months was calculated among the workers. To stave off strikes, keep men docile and on the job, and most important of all to meet the high cost of living.

We are afraid the game will work, but if the working class of America only realized it, nobody need be out of work here today. The capitalists are competing with each other for workers. All the workers have to do is to organize, strike and get almost anything they want, because Capital cannot gather in those war billions without the labor power of the working class!

If the workers in the industries decided to all go home an hour earlier every day, now is the time they could make good with these demands. And they could quit another hour earlier two months from now. The workers were never in a better position to wage class warfare in America than they are now.

City Victories Won By Norwegian Socialists

The Norwegian Socialists have made a terrific gain in the last municipal elections. For 16 years the Norwegian capital has been governed by the Conservative party. The Socialists now have 42 out of the 84 seats on the aldermanic board leaving the Conservatives 37 and the Radicals 5. It is predetermined that the Socialists will elect the mayor.

The growth of the Socialist vote in Norway has been marked since suffrage was extended to every man and woman over 25. In the last state election, a year ago, the Socialists mustered 40 per cent of the voters. One of the reasons for the recent gains has been the high cost of living, and many middle class people have gone over to the Socialist platform, which would have the government take charge of trade in food and fuel thru municipal stores, where everything would be sold at cost.

Something has already been done in the matter of imports of flour and sugar and the sale of fuel, potatoes, milk and fish; but the Socialists would carry government help further, even to building dwellings for workers, who are suffering from exorbitant rent.

Socialism will give you all you can eat, all you can wear, a good home, a good education for your children, all the recreation you need music, books, pictures and comfort in your old age. What more do you want? Would it make you feel bad because under Socialism all would likewise be provided?

Some day the people are going to learn that they were not made for statutes and constitutions, but that statutes and constitutions were made for them.

In The World of Labor

(By MAX S. HAYES.)

Altho the gross and net wealth produced in labor in America during 1916 exceeded that of any other year in any country on earth in the world's history, plutocratic greed is not only not satiated, but more voracious than ever.

We are now informed, in plain terms, that the workers are greater thinkers than ever, they have not produced the wealth that they should and a sinister threat is made that the lash will be plied mercilessly when hard times come again in order to increase labor's efficiency.

The Wall Street Journal, which doubtless speaks the mind of Big Biz in such matters, says, among other things, in commenting on the alleged laziness of labor:

"In the periods when the workman seeks the job his efficiency is much greater than when the job seeks the workman. It is an axiom among those in charge of operations of all kinds that in boom times the workman is less efficient at his task than in times of depression. When business is bounding along at high levels the employe cares little whether school keeps or not. So it is safe to say results achieved by workers this year have been less satisfactory than under ordinary working conditions."

This organ of Capitalism ought to inform the country how much more new wealth its clients expect that labor should produce annually to be divided among the big thieves who comprise the plunderbund.

This lack of candor in specifying as to whether the Rockefeller and Morgans and their groups of manipulators want a billion more, or two or five billion more, leaves the masses of working people in the dark.

Loyal as they are in preserving the capitalistic profitmongering system, unselfish as they are in denying themselves and their wives and children many comforts in order to pile up billions for the corporations, the workers are likely to be rather peeved at the charge of being a lazy and ungrateful lot who have no means of knowing what is expected of them as a minimum of wealth production.

Until the Wall Street Journal and its class fix the limit of what they will expect in new wealth each year and be satisfied, we repudiate the allegation that labor is lazy and scorn the allegations.

Wage increases for many American workmen in the last two months are shown in tables compiled by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics from newspaper and periodical reports. Exact data cannot be obtained, bureau officials say, but the figures have been tabulated to show the trend. The number of general wage increases given is 116, of which 217 report more than 1,000,000 employes involved. Nearly half of the increases noted were voluntary and the other half were divided about equally between increases forced by strikes and those reached thru agreements between employers and employes. Iron and steel workers fared best in increase, nearly 400,000 benefiting in wage raises. Textile workers were next in point of numbers and garment workers third. It is not out of order to note in connection with the foregoing that the "voluntary" increases would have been mighty few and far between if organized labor had not taken the lead and started the fight to raise wages.

A report from Washington says national troops may be used as strikebreakers should the railroad workers decide on a country-wide tieup of the roads, if a bill sponsored by Representative Adamson empowering the President to take such action, is enacted into law. Adamson is the author of the eight-hour day law. While Congress is considering measures providing that it is illegal for the railroad workers to strike without giving 60 days' notice—submitting to compulsory arbitration—Adamson is preparing to push his proposed law. This stipulates that "in case of public necessity," the President has the right to place the railroads in the hands of the military authorities. Unless the workers are vigilant, it is likely that Congress will slip this law over just as the Hay-Chamberlain military act providing for conscription was put over.

It is quite certain that government employes will receive a wage advance. The House Committee on Post Office and Post Roads voted to recommend wage increases aggregating \$10,000,000 to the 150 workers employed in the postal service. The committee recommendation provides a 10 per cent wage boost for the em-

Wanted---A Central Socialist Reference Library

(By SCOTT NEARING.)

For some time serious students of the Socialist and Labor Movements have felt the need of a more complete collection of pamphlet literature than is at present at the disposal of the general public. To fill this want the Rand School of Social Science has undertaken to add to its Library an exhaustive collection as can be gathered. Several Socialists who have spent years in the service of the movement and who have in the course of time amassed valuable historical material have expressed their regret that no responsible institution existed to which it could be entrusted, and which would make it easily accessible.

No institution is so well fitted to undertake a work of this sort as the Rand School. Located in New York City, frequented annually by thousands of eager students of Socialism, economics, politics, history, labor movement and kindred subjects the Rand School is in a position to give to such a pamphlet library a publicity that no other Socialist institution could give. The school possesses a splendid nucleus of several hundred pamphlets, many of them old and valuable, many of them out of print. These are being classified, catalogued and made accessible by a committee of the American Socialist Society, especially qualified for this work.

Many veterans of the Socialist and Labor movements have pamphlets hidden away in closets, trunks, or piled up on bookshelves, that have served their purpose as campaign material, and that are now lying about unused, to be cast into the waste-paper basket at the next general house-cleaning. Much valuable material has been lost in this way, and much may still be lost. Many of these pamphlets have a literary value and an historical significance that is perhaps not fully appreciated. It is those pamphlets that are now unused and beyond the reach of the many, that we want. If the readers of this appeal have any literature of this sort, we ask them to write a card to the Rand School, specifying just what they wish to give. No private collection is too small to interest us. Readers may possess only one pamphlet, or only one leaflet, or even only one copy of a defunct Socialist periodical—it may be the one bit of printed matter that is lacking to complete a file, it may contain a piece of information that we have long been seek-

ing. Many of those old pamphlets are of no use to their present owners they may be of tremendous importance to us. Let us have them. No pamphlet is barred by its age or by its youth. We want any pamphlet that can be spared, whether it be in English, or in any other language! We are particularly anxious to have German leaflets dating from the early days of our movement in America. Pamphlets of the "split" period, pamphlets dealing with the old problems of the Knights of Labor would be particularly welcomed by us. No pamphlet or book is in so torn or mutilated a condition, that we cannot make use of it.

Some would-be contributors to our Library fear that their books will be lost or destroyed if put at the disposal of the general public. The Rand School of Social Science undertakes to guarantee against such contingencies. It already possesses the facilities of a Library and a Research Department. Pamphlets of general interest will be filed in boxes in the general reading room, and will be used for reference work only. That is, circulation of pamphlets, and their removal from the building will not be permitted. Only the librarian in charge will have access to the shelves. Pamphlets of greater value will be sorted in the Library of the Research Department.

The value of a library of source material cannot be overestimated. Frequently students enrolled in large universities come to the Rand School hoping to find material found nowhere else. Often the School can satisfy them, often it cannot. The possession of a library such as that outlined will redound greatly to the credit of the School, and eventually to the credit of the movement as a whole. The Socialist and Labor Movements are in great need of painstaking scientific information, and in this respect too a pamphlet library is invaluable.

Let us hear from you, if you possess any material that you think we could use. Address your letters to the Library Committee, Rand School of Social Science, 140 East 19th St., New York City.

A. L. TRACHTENBERG,
Secretary.
DAVID P. BERENSON,
WM. M. FEIGENBAUM,
MAX SCHONBERG,
THOMAS SELTZER,
The Committee.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—Circuit Judge McDonald declares that a labor paper can publish an "unfair list."

This decision was given in the case of Jeweler Ernest A. Prange against the Trades and Labor Council, the Building Trades Council and other affiliated union bodies, and Claude O. Taylor, publisher of the Observer, a labor paper dissolved restraining order issued by Circuit Judge Brown.

The result is considered a victory for the unions. Prange, who is a jewelry merchant of Grand Rapids, sought to have the unions and labor leaders restrained from placing his store on the "unfair list." He originally asked \$50,000 damages.

Judge McDonald said: "The complaint has not presented a case which would justify interference by a court of equity, for, so long as the object sought is lawful and the means used to attain it are lawful, the court cannot interfere, even though injury results. The principle is well settled that in case loss to an employer results from a peaceable assertion by workmen of their rights it is a damage without a remedy. Under the circumstances of this case the means used were lawful."

Federal government employes in Chicago have followed the lead of those in Washington, Boston, New York and several other cities and organized for protection against the impositions of political masters and for mutual assistance.

WARN SOCIALIST LEGISLATORS IN N. Y. AGAINST SOCIALISM

The two Socialist assemblymen in Albany, New York, have a laugh on the Allied Food Merchants' association. Letters received by the two Socialists form that organization end by saying, "Don't be rushed into Socialism with your eyes shut."

The letters say that it has been reported in the press that the proposed food regulation will be determined by the Republicans in their caucus. It is urged that the question of changing the laws relative to the marketing of food be debated in the open on the floors of the Assembly and Senate. Thus far the only debate that has occurred in the Assembly was that between Assemblyman Shiplock and Speaker Sweet, the Republican boss.

AID SCHOOL TEACHERS FIGHT FOR INCREASED WAGES

Sheboygan, Wis., public school teachers have asked the school board for a 20 per cent increase in pay, covering two years. In their petition the teachers show the cost of living has increased 64 per cent since 1911, while wages in Sheboygan have increased only about 33 per cent. The demand is supported by the Socialist member of the board. Thru the efforts of the Socialist member of the water commission engineers and firemen in the city water plant have been granted an increase of \$5 a month.

Fifth Amboy (N. J.) unions have started a weekly labor paper.

As The Twig Is Bent

(By SCOTT NEARING.)

The American Schools hold the key to the future of the democracy. For at least eight years the children of the United States are now required to attend schools which are being more and more highly organized under the direction of the boards of education and the school administrative officials. From all sides comes the demand for efficiency and for "standardization." The schools are to be made alike—they are to turn out a definite product. What are the schools being made like?

The answer to these questions rests with the boards of education, the members of which through their official position finally decide questions of school policy. The field of thought must be transferred from the schools to those who direct them and we must ask ourselves—Who are the boards of education? The facts permit of only one answer.

A study of the occupation of members of Boards of Education in 104 of the largest American cities shows that of the 967 school board members 766, or more than three-fourths are business and professional men. The business men form the largest single group with 433 of the total number of board members. Of these business men, 144 were merchants, 78 were manufacturers, 104 were bankers, brokers, real estate and insurance men.

Among the 333 professional men 118 or more than one-third were doctors and dentists; 144 or about two-fifths were lawyers. The total number of teachers among the professional men was 18. These were for the most part, college professors.

The board members with miscellaneous occupations include about one-fifth of the total board members. Of these 27 were retired business men, 48 were clerks and salesmen, 39 were mechanics and wage-earners, and 35 were foremen.

In the ordinary American industrial city, wage earners and clerks make up about five-sixths of the total number of gainfully occupied persons. Among all of the members of the boards of education in these 104 principal cities of the United States, four in each hundred are mechanics and five in each hundred are clerks and salesmen. Thus more than nine-tenths of the board members in the cities under consideration fall outside of the class which makes up five-sixths of the population. Or, to put the matter somewhat differently, nine-tenths of the school board members of the large American cities are selected from one-sixth of the gainfully occupied population which is above the rank of wage-earner or clerk.

Five occupational groups include the bulk of board members—merchants; manufacturers; bankers, brokers and real estate men; doctors and lawyers—558 out of a total of 967 board members. Thus more than three-fifths of the total number of members are engaged in five groups of business or professional occupations.

American school-board members are primarily business and professional men. A very few women occupy positions on the school boards and a comparatively small number of men from the subordinate industrial positions—wage earners, clerks, foremen—are found among the board members. This type of board member is in decided minority. The vast majority represent directly the business and professional interests of the community.

Reformers have been agitating earnestly for many years. They have talked in halls and on street corners. Wherever they could find an audience they have presented their case—occasionally. Meanwhile in season and out of season more than one-half million school teachers have been regularly presenting to some twenty million children a course of studies and a point of view which was decided upon by a group of professional and business men who represent the well-to-do part of American society. They are the owners of property. They have every reason to be satisfied with things as they are. They are not revolutionists. In most cases they are not even reformers. Many of them are dead-patters of the most absolute type.

The American children go to the schools. The schools are administered by the boards of education. The boards of education are composed almost exclusively of business and professional people—the beneficiaries of the present system. Under these circumstances would you expect the schools to teach lib-

erty, justice and the love of truth, or the conservation of the property value of the community? Even in America men cannot gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles.

Labor is the only honest basis for ownership. No man has a right to privately own what others have produced.

FORMER SOCIALIST

MAYOR OF BUTTE IS NINE LABORER

BLACKLISTED BY MAGNATES, LEWIS J. DUNCAN REFUSES TO BE DRIVEN FROM CITY.

Butte, Mont.: Two years ago he was mayor of Butte and candidate for governor of Montana, with the eyes of millions upon him.

Today he's a mucker here, a tired man with blistering hands and feet. Only by taking refuge underground with an independent company has Lewis J. Duncan thwarted the long arm of the copper kings, who have sworn to run him out of the district.

Twice executive of the city, former Unitarian minister and high in Socialist councils, Duncan was compelled to choose between starvation and wielding a shovel on the 2,000-foot level.

Drive Socialists Out. Practically every man who was ever identified with Socialists by card, friendship or sympathy has been driven from Silver Bow county.

They could get no jobs. They found every channel closed to them. The big mine companies had simply sent out word that they were "undesirables," and merchants, employers and bankers, all more or less dominated by the "autocrats on the hill," took the cue.

But Duncan, white haired, keen as an eagle and of a fighting strain, stayed, even though he and his family came to the verge of want before a friend found him a job as mucker.

"And I'm going to stay, stay and muck, stay and wait for an inevitable day," he said with a grin, bandaging his blistered feet.

Defies Copper Magnates. Duncan's resolute deft to the copper kings sounds an echo of a tragic day in Butte's turbulent history.

In 1914 a factional fight within the miners' organization came to a tragic head with the dynamiting of the federation hall. Duncan, then Socialist mayor, was out of the city. United States soldiers were sent in following more violence, and Duncan was ousted. He in turn became the target for abuse and violence.

The big Anaconda Copper Company, dominated by William Rockefeller, J. D. Ryan, the Daly and Rogers estates, got political control of the district. The miners' union was smashed. Open shop was instituted. Duncan and his conferees were listed as "undesirables."

"Land of the Free." In order to get on the company's property now, even to solicit a job, the applicant must have a "rustler's card" issued by their agent in Butte. He must give his history and pedigree, so that the "secret service corps" may check him up.

The mines want no organization among their employes. Benevolent paternalism prevails. The men are getting good wages and are satisfied say the company spokesmen. Duncan among the underground army of toilers would be a dangerous flame thrower.

"I'm remaining as a matter of principle and self-respect," he said. "The big fellows have cowed many men in this district and sent them away, but no man shall drive me out."

"It's great to live here. And tomorrow is another day."

The Czar, the Kaiser, and the other war lords are now issuing martial manifesto, in the name of "their people" and in the faith of "their God Almighty." But it is all bluff! These miserable creatures fear the result of their bloody work and the approaching peace. The days are past when the crimes of rulers by "divine right" could be unloaded upon the broad shoulders of the "Ole Man" above the clouds. The nations will insist on taking stock and securing a full report on their rulers' sanguinary crimes committed since August, 1914.

Those who do the work of the world and are victims of those who do no useful work have a philosophy which is born of grim necessity—Socialism—which is the only common sense method of meeting the bread and butter problem.

Labor is the only honest basis for ownership. No man has a right to privately own what others have produced.

erty, justice and the love of truth, or the conservation of the property value of the community? Even in America men cannot gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles.

IN CASE OF WAR

(By JOSEPH E. COHEN.)

It may be that, in spite of what the wise heads in America can do, we shall soon mix in the European war. So long as we are not thrown into the bloody encounter, we raise our voice in unending protest.

This is not now and never has been a people's fight. It is now and has been from the start nothing more than a quarrel among the European governments for industrial and commercial power and place. It will remain that kind of a war whether or not the United States enters into it.

To enter this war reason must be thrown to the winds. For consider, here is Germany (for whatever lack of reason) actually challenging the United States to fight or permit even its passenger vessels to be made contraband and prohibited from crossing the ocean. And here are our pro-English patriots clamoring for war with Germany, which is apparently just what Germany wants.

Germany is willing to have us go to war, because it feels it can then use its submarines more successfully in stopping the shipment of food stuffs, clothing, munitions and other supplies to the Allies. And the pro-Allies Americans are willing to play right into Germany's hands in order to have war.

They want war at any price.

Reason has been thrown to the winds in this war. In no case are a people of any nation fighting for democracy and freedom against those who keep them down and oppress them. This is a quarrel among the ruling classes and their governments. And the people of all nations are paying the cost.

It is true that this war is so appalling that the capitalist classes are bound to pay a large slice of the bill, and their governments may be put to it to drag themselves out of the financial hole. But the case is not nearly so serious as is often imagined.

Here is something by way of illustration: Sidney Webb and Arnold Freeman have recently issued a little pamphlet called "Great Britain After the War." It is an attempt to make a survey of all the factors, human and material, now involved and out of which the future empire is to be built.

They figure it out that if the war ends in 1917 Great Britain's debt will be about four billion pounds sterling (about \$21,000,000,000). Taking account of all governmental items, such as interest on the debt, sinking fund to meet it, war pensions, possible expense of further preparedness, and all non-military expenditures increased considerably, the annual cost of running the government will be about 550,000,000 pounds sterling. How far this sum falls short of being colossal may be judged from the fact that the budget for 1916-17 is 502,000,000 pounds.

From the above it can be seen how little there need be of increased productivity in Great Britain to cover the new obligations.

On the other hand the "Munitions of War Acts" of 1915 and 1916 prevent workmen from striking, from leaving their employment without the permission of their employers, and from disobeying any rules made by the employers for the shops. That is to say, the workers of England have been reduced to bondage, as have the workers in the other countries at war.

If war comes to America, it is because our ruling class has gone out to meet it and make it.

From the very beginning the business crowd have manufactured public sentiment in the direction of their own interests, while England and Germany alike have played havoc with American rights on the sea, England's invasions have been glossed over while Germany's have been exaggerated. And this because the Allies' loans had to be floated, and our plutocrats could sell their goods to one side only.

If war comes, it comes because the war profits of the capitalist are threatened by Germany's sea policy—profits which would stick to the pockets of the captains of industry instead of bringing prosperity to the workers.

If war comes to America, the most important thing to do will be to keep high the workers' standard of living, maintain the rights won in time of peace, and do what is in our power to shift the weight upon the capitalist class who have all to gain by the calamity.

If war comes, it is because war is bound to come so long as men's lives are cheap when business bargains are to be struck—because plutocratic supremacy is of greater importance than the welfare of humanity.

If war comes, it comes because capitalism is war.

Should war come, and should it be only a more bitter moment in the struggle for markets, merchandise and money, let those who stand to win such fortunes throw themselves into the furnace.

If war comes, then upon those who call it into being rests the fearful responsibility. The working people have no share in that responsibility.

It remains the responsibility of the working people to look past such a war to the coming of peace, wherein the common humanity of all nations may join hands in a universal brotherhood.

The ruling class makes war.

The working class alone can bring peace!

THE SOCIALIST PRESS

Capitalist exploiters and politicians appreciate the value and importance of the Socialist press, hence their frantic efforts either to corrupt or to ruin it. But, on the other hand, there are working people who do not even know that their class has or needs a press of its own.

When the art of printing was invented a means was found for the intellectual emancipation of the masses of mankind; but today there are still multitudes of men and women who fear intellectual freedom very much like many serfs despaired of their future on the eve of the abolition of serfdom, because they could not see their way clear how they would ever be able to make a living without someone "to take care of them," as they put it. These men and women, afraid of their own thinking capacity, are by no means illiterate. Not at all. They do read, but not for the purpose of being stimulated, not of learning the real condition of things, or taking part in the forward movement of society. What they read is calculated to prop up their prejudices to strengthen them in their superstitions, to justify them in their fears, to encourage them in their servility, and to idealize their moral cowardice; in other words, they read the press of their masters, of their exploiters, of their rulers—they read the capitalist press. And so long as the masses go there for instruction, amusement and education, so long as they accept adulterated opinions as food for thought, so long as they let the hirelings of their bosses do the thinking for them, they remain slaves intellectually, and the intellectual and moral slavery of the masses of the people is the most important factor in the capitalist government of the world.

It is the main object of the Socialist press to break down this slavery by informing the people of the real facts of our social life, by marking them acquainted with the shams and illusions by means of which they are held in bondage, and by encouraging them to face realities fearlessly and do their own thinking bravely.

The Socialist press does not merely represent the material interest of the working people. It also gives expression to their higher thoughts, to their nobler feelings, to their deeper longings, to their ideals, aspirations, and hopes, to the things which they themselves are unable to give articulate expression.

If you neglect or ignore your own press you harm nobody but yourself and work into the hands of your exploiters and their intellectual slave-drivers. You cannot afford to do that—therefore please doing it.

"Humor and war do not mix," says a newspaper correspondent. That's the trouble. If the workers had a real sense of the ridiculous they would refuse to make guns and then turn around and commit mass suicide with them.

Capitalist industry cannot grow until it has been baptized by blood and fire.

Nobody knows how much wealth Rockefeller owns. It is doubtful if he knows himself. But this much everybody knows—he can use but a small part of it himself. Why should any man be allowed to hold that which he cannot use himself and which others need?

Women willing to work as road men are offered \$5 a week at Bush-

The Monkeys and the Nuts.

A colony of monkeys, having gathered a store of nuts for the winter, begged their Wise Ones to distribute them. The Wise Ones reserved a good half for themselves, and distributed the remainder amongst the rest of the community, giving some twenty nuts, to others ten, to others five, and to a considerable number none. Now, when those to whom twenty had been given complained that the Wise Ones had kept so many for themselves the Wise Ones answered, "Peace, foolish ones, are ye not much better off than those who have ten?" And they were pacified. And to those who objected, having only ten, they said, "Be satisfied, are there not many who have but five?" And they kept silence. And they answered those who had five, saying, "Nay, but see ye not the number who have none?" Now when those last made complaint of the unjust division and demanded a share, the Wise Ones stepped forward and exclaimed to those who had twenty, and ten and five, "Behold the wickedness of these monkeys. Because they have no nuts they are dissatisfied, and would fain rob you of those which are yours!"

And they all fell on the portulacae monkeys and bent them sorely. Moral: The selfishness of the moderately well-to-do blinds them to the rapacity of the rich.

DEBS AND DOCTORS To the American People

It is a pleasure to comply with your request for my views upon the question of "What is the matter with the medical profession?" and to offer a suggestion for increasing its efficiency. The trouble with the medical practitioner under the existing order is exactly the same as it is with practically every other human being; he is the victim of his environment, and to a greater extent, perhaps, than the followers of any other profession on earth.

The physician is charged with keeping the people well, and if he succeeds in his charge he would starve to death under our present insane social system. In other words, the physician's economic interests and the ethics of his profession are at sword's point. Even so, the average physician I believe to be both professionally honest and conscientious, and he performs his duty as best he can under the conditions and circumstances surrounding him.

Ninety-five per cent of all physical ailments of the race have their origin in poverty—and until poverty is destroyed the human race must continue to be the victim of conditions which no profession can overcome. All that any physician can accomplish under present conditions of society is to attempt to alleviate human distress; he cannot possibly reach the source of physical ills, for that is social.

The physician is dealing continually with effects and not with causes; he is much in the position of the evangelist who seeks to save sinners from hell under a social and economic environment which manufactures sinners far faster than they can be saved. Dr. Cabot, of Harvard, has suggested that the physician should himself be a social employe—and I agree with this view of Dr. Cabot. In such an event, the medical practitioner would find his economic interests conserved thru devoting himself to keeping the people well. He would become the true physician in that the man who entered the medical profession would treat causes and not effects. He would of necessity be a student of social diseases and the major portion of his time would be devoted to preventive practice rather than to curative practice. The socially employed physician would 'dope' the system rather than the innocent victims of that system as he is compelled to do in the pursuit of his private practice today. Ninety per cent of all treatment of disease today is pure humbug and fraud, not because of the essential dishonesty of the practitioner, but simply because the present physician cannot reach the organic cause of his patient's illness.

Human beings should at least be as healthy as any other species of animals, but despite all that medical science can do the human race suffers from a greater variety of diseases than all other animal species on earth. This is not the fault of the medical profession but of the social and economic environment of the race which lays the foundation for the ill health and disease of each generation before it is born. A well-fed, well-clothed, well-housed race of people, free from poverty or the fear of poverty, would be a race of healthy, normal human beings, and these conditions cannot be reached under the capitalist system and the private ownership of the means of life—Medical Review of Boston.

There are several alternatives from which to choose. First, we can postpone until the war is over the settlement of any disputes which can not now be settled by peaceful means. Second, we can keep American citizens off belligerent ships. Third, we can refuse clearance to ships of the United States and other neutral countries carrying contraband and passengers on the same ship. Fourth, we can withdraw protection from American citizens who are willing to jeopardize the nation's peace by traveling as seamen with contraband on American or neutral vessels. Fifth, we can, if necessary, keep all American vessels out of the danger zone for the present, just as the mayor of a city keeps citizens in their homes when a mob is in possession of the streets. Sixth, Congress, which has exclusive power to declare war, can submit the declaration to a referendum vote making exception in case of actual invasion.

We can not depend upon President Wilson in an unprecedented situation.

Call upon the citizens at home to wire their views to the senators and members of the House.

(Signed) W. S. HAYMAN.

Y. P. S. L. COLUMN

THE WEEKLY MEET

No matter how small your circle may be, there is no reason why you should not have a library. Many Yipsels have learned from experience that go with having a library in the circle. Once it is started it progresses rapidly.

The circle library is a great help in debates, in discussions and upon all other occasions. Moreover, it draws the members closer to the organizations, and helps to broaden the scope of the educational work of the Y. P. S. L.

Do not for a moment imagine that the establishment of a circle library is too great an undertaking. In fact it is an easy and interesting task to accomplish.

The editor knows of one circle that has, today, a library of over 200 books and pamphlets, which hasn't cost the members a cent. When the establishment of a library was decided upon, the circle issued an appeal to the members and the older Socialists to contribute any books they were able to spare. Faster than they could be taken care of, the books came in. When it was necessary to purchase a book case for the volumes, the circle appealed to the local Socialist party branches, and they responded immediately and provided the necessary funds to purchase the book-case.

In the face of the success of this and other circles, it is foolish to assert that real devoted Yipsels can not establish a circle library. Remember, comrades, "where there is a will, there is always a way!"

YIPSEL ACTIVITIES

Brooklyn.
The Young People's Socialist League of Brooklyn has grown very rapidly during the past year. Due to the loyal devotion and energetic work of the officers and committees, the league was made greater and better and the scope of its educational propaganda work was extended, so that today a general improvement is visible on all sides.

Brooklyn's Yipsels are closely knit together by means of a Supervision Committee composed of five representatives of the Socialist party and five members of the Y. P. S. L. This supervision committee in conjunction with the Central Committee of the Y. P. S. L. gets together quite often and devises practical ways and means for efficient work. Some of its plans follow:

1. Lyceum course of lecture by prominent speakers who will present the side of Socialism in a simple manner.

2. Intercircle contests of all kinds in order to stimulate interest in a healthy competitive character.

3. Contest within the circles themselves in order to stimulate the best work of individual members and develop their good points.

There are ten circles in the Brooklyn league, and all are very active and working for the best interests of the Y. P. S. L.

Circle 7 (Central Brooklyn) meets at the Brooklyn Labor Lyceum, 157 Willoughby Avenue, has a fine membership, and recently ran a ball at Arion Hall at which one of the younger girl comrades presented the circle with a large and beautiful banner. This circle also did excellent work in the Whitehorn campaign.

Circle 8 (Lower Brooklyn) was recently reorganized, and has the basis of a very thriving and useful organization that looks very bright for the future. The members hold line educational and entertaining meetings.

Circle 9 (South Brooklyn) outgrew itself lately due to the members growing too old for the organization and lack of new and younger blood. The circle has started a new lease of life and has mapped out a plan of propaganda and education that speaks well for its future. The members are carrying on an excellent publicity campaign and expect to make a fine name for themselves in South Brooklyn.

Circle 10 (Borough Park) was recently organized with a membership of 30, and had 40 members at the second meeting. The circle had the complete and efficient cooperation of the Borough Park branch of the Socialist party, and has shown fine progress to date. The members are all excellent workers and are planning big things for the future.

The motto of the Brooklyn league is "Watch Brooklyn's Yipsels Grow," and those who have seen the members in action know that watching them is always a pleasure. They are planning to do, that activity they always carry through.

"CAPTURING POLITICAL POWER IN OKLAHOMA"

(By W. E. REYNOLDS.)

Prior to the election of 1916 the Socialists in particular and the country in general were led to believe that Oklahoma was sure to send two or three Socialists to Congress, elect a majority to the State Legislature and, in short, capture the state for Socialism.

This belief was held by the Oklahoma State Secretary, who published his predictions in the capitalistic press. The same belief was held and broadly published by the Appeal to Reason. Now, that the votes have been counted and the "stubborn historical fact" has dispersed all intoxicating effects of self-deception, let us examine "this form of Socialism which ended in a miserable fit of the blues."

Oklahoma, though one of the newest states, is one most in the grip of modern capitalism. Where twenty-three years ago free homes were given away by the thousand, today 68 per cent of the farm population in 47 counties are tenant farmers.

These tenants are not only poor but destitute, their "homes" in the great majority of instances being without the simplest and generally considered, necessary conveniences. They have no cooking ranges, no sinks, no kitchen appliances (often no kitchen to put them in) no linoleum, no carpets, not enough lishes to set the table for the family. Their furniture is of the most rudimentary kind, boxes and benches doing duty in the absence of chairs. A bathtub is a luxury which not one in a thousand may enjoy.

Houses without plaster, cracks you could lick one of the dogs through, floors uneven or missing, card board or rag doing duty for missing window panes, outbuildings dilapidated or absent—this is not a description of an exceptional case, but of the average tenant's home in Oklahoma. Their possessions may be summed up as follows: A mortgage on the team and necessary equipment, a few dilapidated house furnishings and rags, a raft of children, some small-scale catfish and a well-thumbed bible.

A Figg Islander thought he had a vision of Heaven upon approaching the Seattle skyline. An Oklahoma tenant farmer's wife would have the same emotions if she were permitted to view the kitchen of a Ford employe.

In short, the tenant is destitute, poorly educated, hopelessly in debt and desperate. Upon the basis of this misery "Oklahoma Socialism" was founded. It is a conglomeration of Utopianism, humanitarian sentimentalism, "good morals" crusading, etc.

The speakers were an aggregation of pulpless preachers and sky-pilot-elect who will peddle any kind of piffle for pay, a few clever politicians and several politicians not so clever, but just as hungry for pie, many agitators who drew more of their material from imagination than from books, a few Christian Socialists, rationalists, "constructive" reformers, hole and corner reformers, advocating everything from food embargo to prohibition, or a new religion, law enforcement, free soup for school children, or a new grade for our district. Then there was a goodly sprinkling of clear-cut, class-conscious, sworn enemies of the Capitalist system who will rally to no battler short of "Workers of the World Unite."

A compact and complicated political machine was huddled and a considerable amount of literature distributed—was in almost every instance it was anything but Socialist literature.

Instead of teaching the people that their misery is due to the development of Capitalism and the consequent social division of labor with its attendant increasing poverty for the masses, and increasing riches for the classes, they were taught that their misery was due to the Democratic machine of Oklahoma. Hence their fight was centered on their fight against the law and, in many instances, with an open alliance with the Republican party.

Milwaukee Socialists lost in this last election because they had been taught that chief labor laws, government control of railway situation and such reform were Socialism. Wilson had followed just that kind of route and was therefore entitled to the vote. Even so, Oklahoma.

The Socialists lost by division of votes, and by allowing their supporters to be misled by the other party supporters. Wilson because the greater part of

of the literature distributed by the Socialists was of the sentimental anti-war variety. Thus easily was Socialist(?) energy and Socialist coin converted into votes for Wilson.

These are the facts. Much energy expended, much "agitation," much noise and little real education. While the organization is now confronted with the inevitable reaction and "set of the blues," much of real worth has been accomplished. The popular prejudice against the term Socialism has been broken. The people are now aroused and flock to Socialist meetings in crowds, and are ready and willing to assimilate any real information we may have to offer. The organization has been taught its lesson. Liebknecht's No Compromise is a "best seller" today. The utility of reform measures has been rudely but, nevertheless effectively, brought home to some of the "leaders," and now, on all sides, one hears, as never before, the cry for economic organization and education.

At an after election meeting of the interested agitators and propagandists the sentiment for industrial or left wing Socialism was overwhelmingly strong, and the motion for the beginning of an organization to establish scientific Socialist study clubs was passed without a dissenting vote. Therefore the loss of 7,773 votes from the 1914 vote is more in the nature of a gain. It is a loss the Socialists could well afford to stand in exchange for the gain of an increasing desire for education, economic organization and the valuable lesson of No Compromise, No Political Trading.

Out of the ruin of the reactionary and Utopian Socialism of the past, with its sentimentalism (its Socialist and religious twins) its scramble for votes and for pie, is already developing the nucleus of a scientific Socialism with its clearer vision, its grasp of the relationship of men and events and its promise of a new and better life which will free humanity. Utopian Socialism in Oklahoma fell with a crash and with it fell the hopes of the reformers, but out of the ruins is springing a movement which is destined by the logic of events to be a great factor in the coming revolution which shall have for its aim the establishment of the Industrial Republic.—International Socialist Review.

EDWARD HAYDON ROUTE

Feb. 6—Shinglehouse. Kelly's Hotel. Glen Dawley.

Feb. 7—Warren. Exchange Hotel. Chas. E. Griggs, 8 Myrtle St.

Feb. 8—Kelleetville. Kingsley Hotel. John Lunneon.

Feb. 9—Meadville. Harr's Tailor Shop, Chestnut St., W. F. Fuller, Gen. Del.

Feb. 10—Erie. A. H. Forrester, 2928 Cochran St.
Feb. 12—Union City. Pearl B. Monroe, 113 N. Main St.
Feb. 13-25—Sharon. David Niven, Box 434.

Feb. 26 — Kittanning. Linnon Hotel. S. W. Reese, 1404 N. Grant Ave.

Feb. 27—New Kensington. W. H. Temme, 731 5th Ave. F. R. Ross, 604 4th Ave.

Feb. 28—Trafford, E. S. Miller, 3rd St.

March 1-2 — Scottdale. Chas. Musgrove, 101 Jennings Ave.

March 3-4 — Upper Middletown. Will be met at train in evening, at Waltersburg. Snyder Totten, R. D. No. 1.

URGE MUNICIPAL COAL YARDS

TO CUT PRICES IN WISCONSIN
Cities of Wisconsin will have a new weapon, and a real one, with which to combat the high price of coal, if a bill proposed by Assemblyman Frank Metcalf, Socialist, becomes a law. Various methods of control of "coal rings" have been proposed and prosecution is even threatened on a charge of conspiring to restrain trade. All these proposals have been viewed with little alarm by those responsible for coal prices.

Mr. Metcalf proposes to take all the profit out of the sale of coal and other fuel by vesting in every city the power to own and operate municipal plants for sale of fuel.

There are 5,000 women engaged in munition making in Canada, and this number is being rapidly added to.

THE VOICE OF LABOR
 Issued Every Friday
 Published by the Camden County Socialist Publishing Company, 942 Broadway, Camden, N. J.
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Afraid of the Women?

The staff correspondent of The Times at Harrisburg sent a dispatch yesterday to the effect that the legislature will kill any effort to have a suffrage resolution passed at this session. The effect of this deserves to be understood.

Suffrage for women may be conferred by the male voters through an amendment of the state constitution. The voters voted such an amendment down in 1915. Under the law the issue can be put to a vote only every five years. Thus the voters could not pass upon it until 1920. Before then, however, it is necessary to have the legislature pass a resolution to allow a vote at two successive legislatures. The suffragists ask for such a resolution at this session with the idea of having a similar resolution passed in the 1919 session.

If this legislature refuses it will be beyond the five-year period before the voters get another opportunity to pass on the question.

The failure of a suffrage resolution will be up to Senator Penrose. He is in control, has the votes and the legislature is doing his bidding. Behind Penrose today probably as in the past are interests, liquor interests among others, who are afraid of votes in the hands of women. The excuse, however, is that it would cost the state too much to have the issue passed on in 1920 again. The expense of advertising the 1915 amendment, it is cited, was \$85,000. This is the flimsiest kind of an excuse, Senator Penrose's lieutenants have at this session authorized an expenditure of \$25,000 to conduct a probe of Governor Brumbaugh's administration because the senator and the governor have fallen out. The idea is to besmirch the governor and his faction for the political benefit of the Penrosites and for this single purpose one-third of the amount that it cost to advertise the suffrage amendment is going to be dissipated.

The equal suffragists of the state are entitled, on the showing made in 1915, to have another test in 1920. The vote in favor of suffrage was 385,342 and against 440,575. Thirty-two counties favored equal suffrage and thirty-five were opposed but the slim majority of 55,233 against suffrage shows that the state was almost ready for equal franchise. The bulk of the majority, too, was made in Philadelphia, the headquarters of the interests opposed to equal suffrage for selfish reasons. Philadelphia went against suffrage by 45,272, so that outside of that city the majority against suffrage in this big state was less than 10,000. On the basis of these figures alone the issue is entitled to go to the voters in 1920.—Scranton Times.

TOTAL SOCIALIST 1916 VOTE IS 597,864.

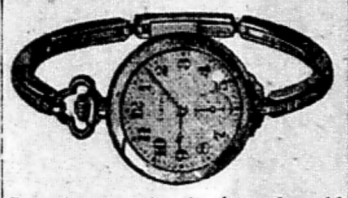
In his report to the executive committee, Secretary Germer stated that the 1916 national Socialist vote had finally been secured for all of the states and that it totalled 597,864 compared to 901,000 in 1912. He assigns several reasons to account for the falling off in the vote. They are as follows:

First—The general apathy that has prevailed in the party for the past three or four years and from which we have only in a measure recovered.

Second—The conflicting elements over the question of militarism and war which grew out of the European disaster. Under the slogan adopted by the democratic party, "He kept us out of war!" many, who in 1912 voted the Socialist ticket, as well as some who in the past have called themselves the "real Marxian revolutionary Socialists," went over to the Wilson camp, while in some instances those who charged Wilson with being pro-ally, voted for Hughes.

Third—In addition to the war propaganda, the Adamson eight-hour law and a few other so-called labor laws were instrumental in befuddling the workers.

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A capitalist politician is not half so anxious about inspiring public confidence as he is to avoid public suspicion.

WARNING!

Jan. 26th, 1917.
 There is a professional leach operating the New England States and "doing" everybody he can, especially the Liberal elements. He borrows, gets money under any pretense, skips hotel bills, etc. He is known under the name of "Le Grande" or "Grant," weights about 180, is about 5 ft. 10 inches in height, swarthy and smooth shaven, gray eyes, heavy head of dark hair mingled with gray, high brow, good talker with a French-Canadian accent, pronounces "point" like "pawnt." He carries among other things my samples and order blanks, altho he does not work for me at present. "The Meeting Pot" and "Rip-Saw" (St. Louis) exposed this crook some two years ago, after which he dropped out of existence. Subsequently he pleaded with me and induced me to re-employ him, only to find out that he is a bigger thief than I suspected.

Please communicate this to as many as convenient. It is possible by this time that he has departed for some other section of the country; but if he shows up, kindly wire me at my expense.
 Yours truly,
 L. L. HORCHITZ,
 637 West 142d St.
 New York City.

Thirty-five hundred women hold positions in Canadian banks alone who were not there before the war.

DEBS
 TO WRITE FOR
PEARSON'S



First article March number (on sale February 10th).
 Subject—Personal reminiscences of **JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY**
 PEARSON'S invited Debs to become a contributor as follows: "We want to introduce you to our readers in a series of personal reminiscences after which you may choose your own subjects."
 DEBS' second article will be **ROBERT INGERSOLL**
THE NEW PEARSON'S
 PEARSON'S is conducted and managed by radicals. Those who feared that the introduction of a new editor would bring a change of policy have been greatly surprised.

FRANK HARRIS
 THE EDITOR
 Robert Blatchford (author of Merrie England) once said of Harris to a friend: "There goes the greatest living writer."

OUR LABOR SERIES
 Three months ago PEARSON'S engaged A. M. Simons to write the history in series of the American Labor Movement. Three articles have appeared and have attracted wide attention:
 The Printers in December.
 The Cigar Makers in January.
 The Miners in February.

The Telegraphers will come in March; other trades from month to month. We have arranged for a special clubbing rate with PEARSON'S good for 30 days only. If your subscription to this paper has not expired, we will set your subscription ahead. Make your remittance direct to this office and your subscription will be promptly forwarded to PEARSON'S. THE SUBSCRIPTION PRICE OF PEARSON'S MAGAZINE IS \$1.50 PER YEAR.

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 Feb. 28 TOPIC: "The Evolution of the Machine"
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LOW-PAID WORKING GIRLS
DO NOT "ALL LIVE AT HOME"

One-third of Them Are Adrift and Bewildered Try to Achieve the Impossible on \$6.50 a Week

(By FLORENCE L. SANVILLE)

The country girl who works in the large city has long been a favorite subject of melodrama, romance and photoplay. She has, moreover, been for years past the topic of much academic discussion and speculation. Only recently, however, have practical, reasonable steps been taken to help her solve some of her most pressing problems; and by that curious thought transference which sometimes characterizes the rise of certain movements, there have appeared almost simultaneously in widely separated communities organized efforts to straighten out the housing problem for the working women who, in the language of the Federal Bureau of Labor, are "adrift," i. e., wholly dependent upon their own efforts to provide a home for themselves.

The discussion of this need was first translated into action in Boston when, some years ago, three organizations, the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, South End Settlement and the Young Women's Christian Association jointly organized a registry of boarding places for women. This was followed several years later in New York by the formation of the Association to Promote Proper Housing for Girls. During the last eight months similar organizations have almost simultaneously sprung into being in Philadelphia, in Cincinnati and in Cleveland. The purpose of all these efforts is to maintain registries of inspected and supervised houses where women and girls without homes in the city may find decent living quarters, and to encourage better standards among the boarding house keepers.

Heretofore the various cities have offered merely a choice between evils to the working woman in search of board or lodging. Conditions in the large cities virtually duplicate themselves, and facts are available for Philadelphia and Boston which may safely be considered typical for kindred communities. In Boston the Women's Educational and Industrial Union five years ago published a report on a study of the "Living Wage for Women Workers." The conclusion reached indicated that for decent living and the maintenance of health a girl is obliged to spend annually \$169.70 for food and \$74.81 for rent—or about \$4.70 a week. For the \$6-a-week girl, whose figure looms large in Boston, as it does elsewhere, this leaves an impossible margin of \$1.30 a week for clothing, carfare, health, recreation and all other expenses. As a matter of fact, the girl caught in the dilemma of poor food and lodging or no margin for other items is inclined to impale herself on the less obviously sharp horn of scrimped food and bad lodging, with the ultimate devastating effect on body and mind.

In Philadelphia the situation has proved equally perplexing. The Travelers' Aid Society has drawn significant conclusions as a result of its experience with girls in the course of its work. Its effort to collect lists of boarding houses revealed that there was virtually no decent outlook for the girl who could not afford to pay \$5 a week, and even this amount provides for only two meals a day. The girls in the predicament of providing for themselves on a \$6 wage have tried to edge their way out by renting a room for \$1.50 or \$2 a week and solving the food problem for themselves, a solution which almost inevitably means underfeeding.

The solace of the ancient belief that virtually all wage-earning women are living at home is no longer appearance of the facts published at hand. This was dispelled by the seven years ago by the United States Bureau of Labor, in which it was revealed that about one-third of the wage-earning women in Philadelphia are wholly dependent on their own earnings for a home. In 1914 a study of the condition of women in mercantile establishments in Philadelphia made by the Consumers' League bore out these same figures. It was found that sixty-four per cent of these women lived at home and thirty-six per cent were "adrift."

It is thus obvious that the worst difficulties which crowd about this new movement for decent living for wage-earning women strike their roots deep down into the chaos of their economic and industrial conditions. No mere extension of charity supported boarding homes can solve the problem; on the contrary, such an extension would tend to perpetuate it, because it gives the recalcitrant employer a chance to dodge the challenge that his workers cannot live on the wages they receive. Neither can the mere establishment of a legal minimum wage wholly meet the situation unless there is also taken into account the training and fitness of women for industrial work and the democratic administration of wage laws by boards representing workers, employers and the public.

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rejected for falling below standard. During the same period 253 girls and women have called for advice. The records of some of these applicants are full of significance, and turn new illumination on the question of work and wages of women in a great city. A saleswoman from a large department store who receives \$8.50 a week and is paying \$4 a week for board without luncheon wishes to achieve the impossible in the shape of board and three meals in the suburbs within her means. Many of the applicants ask for rooms at \$1.50 or \$2 a week so that the elastic expenditures for "light housekeeping" may be substituted for the full prices of boarding-house meals. The New York bureau has adopted a policy of discouragement for this arrangement, in recognition of its baleful influence upon the health of the girls.

The Bureau of Boarding has a big place to fill in the community and it has many difficulties to overcome. The most submerged, the most perplexed and resourceless of the stranded workers must be reached, and machinery must be devised to that end; standards of food and living among now isolated and struggling housekeepers are to be created and maintained; fallacies, like the old complacent assertion of employers that "the girls in my employ all live at home," are to be displaced by the truth, and the grim obscure facts which comprise the lives of many wage-earning women in our cities are to be frankly brought out into the light of public opinion.

A good habit is just as easy to form as a bad one. Get the habit of buying from PEOPLES PRESS advertisers, in place of buying from those who do NOT advertise in YOUR paper.

A change in the economic condition of a people has always been followed by a change in the ideals of such people.