

The emancipation of the Working Class must be accomplished by the workers themselves.

# The Call

The Weather.

Probably rain; followed by clearing and colder.

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## HOW BLOOMINGDALE BROTHERS TOOK A PIANO FROM WOMAN

### Mrs. Moore Had Paid All but \$34 of the Price.

## A VICIOUS CONTRACT

### Denounced by Justice Gavegan After Snap Trial, but Scab Store Gets Verdict.

Angered by a report in The Call some time ago of a decision handed down by Justice Gavegan in the Supreme Court against them, Bloomingdale Bros., through their attorney, have demanded that The Call retract its report and publish their version of the case. The report which aroused the ire of Bloomingdale's dealt with the case of Annie Mackin Moore, who purchased a piano on the installment plan from that firm.

Mrs. Moore failed to meet payments promptly and Bloomingdale Bros. took the piano, demanding that she pay the balance due on one installment. Instead, Mrs. Moore sued, and the lower court handed down a decision in favor of Bloomingdale's. Mrs. Moore appealed the case to the Supreme Court, and Justice Gavegan sent the case back to the lower court for retrial, administering a rebuke to Bloomingdale Bros. for the way they drew up the contract with Mrs. Moore.

On retrial in the 9th District Municipal Court a decision was handed down on January 20, giving judgment to Bloomingdale Bros.

The case was first heard in Municipal Court on June 10, 1910, when a verdict was rendered against Mrs. Moore. William C. Findlay, attorney for Mrs. Moore, then appealed the case, and it was heard in the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court in November, Justices Guy, Platzeck and Gavegan sitting.

A Vicious Contract.

The decision filed by Justice Gavegan on December 8 was of vital importance to working people who buy goods on the installment plan, reversing the decision of the lower court, and ordering a new trial.

When the case was retried in the Municipal Court on January 20, C. Berton Plante, attorney for Bloomingdale Brothers, introduced new evidence, and judgment was rendered against Mrs. Moore.

It will be remembered that Annie Mackin Moore bought a piano from Bloomingdale Brothers for \$250, signing a contract containing a rental clause, waiving all rights guaranteed to her under the law in case she defaulted in payment. The exact words of the contract read:

"Upon my breaking or failing to comply with any or all of the conditions hereof, Bloomingdale Brothers may immediately take possession of their said piano, stool and cover, and all moneys paid by me to them shall be retained by them as compensation for the use thereof by me, and in such event, I hereby authorize and empower the said Bloomingdale Brothers or their agents to enter the premises wherever their said piano, stool and cover may be, and take and carry away and sell same, at public or private sale, hereby waiving any action for trespass or damages thereon, and declining any right of resistance thereto, and I hereby waive any notice of said sale of whatsoever nature, and also all advertisements thereof, provided for under the laws of this state, or of the state wherein I now or may hereafter reside, or wherein said piano, stool and cover may at any time be, and as against this obligation, I hereby waive all rights of homestead and other exemptions under the laws of this or of any other state."

Woman Poor Woman.

The woman's name when she bought the piano was Annie Mackin. She was unable to meet one of the payments promptly, and having married a man named Moore, moved to New Jersey. Her attorney says she notified Bloomingdale Bros. of her change of address. Plante says she did not notify them.

At any rate, a representative of Bloomingdale Bros. saw her at her New Jersey home in February, 1909, and agreed to waive her defaults in payment if she would execute a new contract for the balance due on the piano, \$177, which could be recorded in the state of New Jersey. This was done.

Mrs. Moore was again unable to meet payments promptly, and later sent back to New York again. Having no settled residence, she put her household goods, including the piano, in the North Side Storage Warehouse, and then went to Bloomingdale Bros. to make a payment of \$10 on the piano, and told them it was in storage. The manager of the piano department at Bloomingdale's asked Mrs. Moore to give him an order for the piano that they might place it in their

## PROTEST OF LABOR ON MEXICAN ACTION

(Special to The Call.)  
CHICAGO, March 12.—Protests from labor and Socialist organizations all over the United States will be addressed to the authorities at Washington because of the sending of warships and troops to the Mexican border.

The action of Taft is looked upon as an effort to end the Mexican revolt by the threat of annexation.

J. Mahlon Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist party of the United States, sent a letter today to all members of the national committee of the party, asking for detailed instructions at once.

Local 10 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers of America, has taken the lead among the Chicago trade unions and last night passed resolutions condemning the "uncivilized" act of sending United States military forces to the Mexican border.

The action was taken by the union following a speech by William E. Hooliguer, Socialist candidate for mayor of Chicago, who explained that the great American trusts have huge holdings in Mexico and are upholding the bloody rule of Diaz for that reason.

The members of the union, nearly 200 of whom were present, were unanimous in passing the resolution.

## AFRAID TO PUSH CUNNINGHAM CASE

### Government Heads Hesitate to Declare Alaska Coal Land Robbers Guilty.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Complications have developed in connection with the Cunningham claims for coal lands in Alaska which may delay action further in this well known case. The law board of the general land office is divided on the question whether the testimony shows that the persons who filed on the Cunningham claims were guilty of attempted frauds on the government.

In view of this difference of opinion among his legal advisers, Fred Dennett, commissioner of the general land office, is undecided as to what recommendation he will make in the case. The facts will be laid before Walter S. Fisher, who will tomorrow succeed Richard A. Ballinger as Secretary of the Interior.

The Cunningham case was chiefly responsible for Ballinger's retirement and it may prove to be a troublesome problem for his successor. Department officials are plainly worried over the situation that has developed in the law board of the general land office. They are unwilling, it is said, to have the case go to Secretary Fisher with a statement in the record that the law authorities of the land office are divided over the question as to whether fraud was committed in the filing of the Cunningham claims.

Action in such circumstances, they insist, would lead to further controversy. The chances are that President Taft will finally be obliged to frame a decision in the Cunningham case. In fact, it is stated that department officials expect an early request from the White House that the record be transmitted to the President.

Taft is familiar with all the facts and is said to be perfectly willing to dictate a decision as soon as he has had opportunity to go over the evidence.

An effort was made at the recent session of Congress to pass a bill referring the case to the District Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. Secretary Ballinger recommended that such action be taken, but opponents of Ballinger fought the bill, insisting that as the Secretary of the Interior was empowered under the law finally to judge all land claims, there was no good reason why an exception should be made in the case of the Cunningham claims. The administration approved the bill, but it failed of passage.

Department officials declare that the country would accept a decision of the President in the case without complaint. They seem to be of the opinion that any decision by the department itself would be subjected to criticism. It is the understanding that the Cunningham case is one of the first department problems that Secretary Fisher will discuss with the President when Taft returns to Washington the latter part of the month.

Voluntarily testimony has been taken in the Cunningham case. The record fills five big volumes. The investigation was conducted by James M. Sheridan, chief of the field service of the land office. He inquired into the charge made by Gifford Pinchot.



A PILE IN MEXICO THAT IS NOW A LITTLE TOO HIGH.

## WHY M'GRATH BILL IS SHALLOW CHEAT

### Law Simply Compels Street Cleaners to Purchase Their Insurance.

Assemblyman Patrick J. McGrath, of the 20th district, New York, has introduced at Albany a bill to amend the city charter so as to provide a relief and pension fund for all employees of the department of street cleaning.

McGrath's bill is modeled along the lines laid down by reformers in many states and provides that the employees themselves shall create with deductions of 3 per cent of their salaries the fund from which benefits and pensions are to be paid.

Over a report of the introduction of the McGrath bill, The Call several days ago printed a headline which inferred that the provisions of the measure were entirely inadequate and based on the unjust assumption that the underpaid and exploited worker should share his scanty wages to provide the benefit fund.

Assemblyman McGrath has taken exception to this inference and written to The Call characterizing the headline as "misleading and certainly undeserved." "Fairness dictates," says McGrath, "that they (the employees) should contribute to a fund which will benefit them."

A Barren Measure.

The greenest Socialist journalist knows that it is the wage worker who contributes almost exclusively to all rent, interest and dividends which go to support the machinery of society, and very naturally condemns any proposition which aims to deplete further his curtailed income. This explains the temper of the headline which McGrath criticizes.

A glance at the text of the proposed amendment to the city charter shows furthermore that while the workers will be compelled to surrender 3 per cent of their wages, beginning July 1, 1911, no benefits will be paid until January 1, 1913.

It is at once clear that any employee of the Street Cleaning Department able to set aside 3 per cent of his wages can purchase accident and life insurance far in excess of the amount provided for in the McGrath bill. Therefore, the only merit in the proposed bill is that which attaches to a law compelling working people to insure themselves out of their own small incomes against accident and death.

Twenty-five dollars a month, or \$300 a year, is the highest amount provided for in the proposed measure for any beneficiary.

And "contributory negligence" robs the worker of even this paltry sum!

## EXPRESSMEN'S STRIKE ALMOST BOUND TO BECOME GENERAL

### Bosses Openly Declare They Mean War to the Knife.

## GATHERING FORCES

### Men Realize Union's Very Life Is in Danger in Present Crisis.

From all indications the new express strike, involving 1,500 men employed by the Adams Express Company, will be fought bitterly and to the finish. The strikers held a mass meeting yesterday afternoon at their strike headquarters, Washington Hall, 781 Eighth avenue. No definite information was given out regarding the proceedings of the meeting more than that the strike situation was discussed.

Another meeting will take place this afternoon, however, at 229 East 47th street, Curry's Hall, when it is expected that a definite move will be made to extend the strike. It was reported that General President Daniel Tobin, of the teamsters, would be here in a day or two to take charge of the strike.

Strikers yesterday stated that it is probable that a general strike will be called. There is a general concerted move on the part of the officials of all express companies to crush out labor organization among the express workers and the latter realize that if they do not make a stand now and fight they will be so weakened that they will not be able to do so later on.

Strike Sentiment Spreading.

The strike sentiment is spreading rapidly among the men, and it is said that more than 10,000 workers may walk out by tomorrow or Wednesday. For several weeks the men have been wanting to walk out in a body, but they were held in by their officials, who tried to get the companies to let up in discriminating against the men. The oppression has again become so intolerable that the Adams men were simply compelled to rebel. Hundreds of union men have been discharged and non-union men have been put in their places. Even the small concession which the companies granted the men, that of wearing the union button, has been prohibited by some of the companies. The workers who wore it have been running a chance of losing their jobs. Several were fired because they refused to tear them from their coat lapels and caps.

Howard Briggs, secretary of Local No. 437, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, gave the following as the demands which the strikers have made upon the Adams company:

First, that every employee discharged by the companies since the strike last fall be restored to his former position, as was agreed, the strikers say, when that strike was settled; second, that the companies permit the business agents and committees of the union free access to their premises at all

## MANY CHARGES OF PHILIPPINE GRAFT

### Governor General and Sugar Trust Named in Letter by Worcester.

Charges against Erving Winslow, secretary of the Anti-Imperialist League, and Jackson H. Ralston, an attorney who represented the league in the recent investigation by Congress of the administration of public lands in the Philippines, are made in an open letter which Dean C. Worcester, secretary of the interior of the Philippines, addressed to the officers and members of the league on February 21 and made public yesterday.

Worcester takes up alleged misstatements in a letter from Erving Winslow, which the Springfield Republican printed on January 17 last, summarizing the points which Winslow said had been developed by the Congress inquiry. The letter said enough had already come to light in the investigation to justify the removal from office of Secretary Worcester, Governor General Forbes, Captain Sleeper, Mr. Carpenter and some of the minor officials because "they seem to have been entirely deficient in the sense of high morality which should control those occupying a trust relation to the island."

Winslow charged Secretary Worcester and Governor General Forbes, according to Worcester's interpretation, with buying land at Baguio, the summer capital, at a low price fixed by themselves and then using their authority as government officials to increase the value.

"These charges," says Mr. Worcester's open letter, "are absolutely false." The officials, says Worcester, bought the land at auction like private citizens at prices fixed by the will of the public, which were the highest prices paid up to that time. He charges Winslow with bad faith in not referring to testimony before the investigating committee tending to show that the transactions were honest.

Worcester reproduces in his letter a long article on land sales in the Philippines which the Springfield Republican printed on June 29, 1910, at the request of Winslow, but the authorship of which Worcester has been unable to ascertain. That article made many charges against the insular government, all but four of which were repeated by Representative John A. Martin in a speech before the house of representatives four days later. Worcester tells of his vain attempts to learn who wrote the article and adds:

"Was its real author Major Aaron Gore, paid representative of certain beet sugar interests? Have these interests been constantly at the threat of the sugar producing industry of the Philippine Islands? Why did Major Gore attend all the hearings of the committee on insular affairs during this investigation? Is the machinery of the Anti-Imperialist League being used by unscrupulous corporate interests in a determined effort to strangle the sugar producing industry in the Philippine Islands?"

## JERSEY CITY FOR SUNDAY P. O. CLOSING

More than 1,000 people voted at the High School building in Jersey City yesterday afternoon in favor of a resolution asking Postmaster F. Farmer Warner to close the Jersey City postoffice on Sundays and give his clerks and clerks a day of rest. The Rev. Dr. John L. Scudder, manager of the People's Palace, presided.

A concert by the Brooklyn Letter Carriers' Band preceded the meeting.

## TROOPS ORDERED TO SAVE GOLDEN CALF

### FRANTIC, SCREAMING GIRL IS BEHEADED

BERLIN, March 12.—This happened in Germany in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and eleven:

At the Insterberg (Prussian) prison, a young girl, convicted of poisoning, was executed. Trembling and sobbing bitterly, the unfortunate girl was practically carried to the scaffold, where she had to listen to the formal reading of the judgment.

The condemned girl was seized with a fit almost of madness when the executioner's assistants tried to induce her to lay her head on the block, and, hurling herself to the ground, she struck wildly at the block with her hands, giving vent, at the same time, to frightful cries.

All efforts to calm her were futile and it was not until she was exhausted that her hands were tied behind her back.

### NEW CASTLE READY FOR THE NEW FIGHT

### Steel Trust Lackeys Press 'Seditious Libel' Charge. Funds Needed.

(Special to The Call.)  
NEW CASTLE, Pa., March 12.—The new trial on the charge of "seditious libel" of four well known local Socialists, who were connected with the publication of the Free Press, weekly organ of the Socialist party, during the strike in the tin mills here, about a year ago, will be begun on the 20th inst. The Socialist party is already circulating subscription lists to collect funds with which to fight the case in court.

Charles A. McKeever, member of the city council, and at present Socialist candidate for mayor; Charles McCarthy, Frank Hartman, and William White, are the four men involved. They were tried in June, 1910, before Judge Porter and a jury, in the County Court. No decision was reached, as the jury disagreed. It was generally thought then that the case would never be brought up again. But it appears the trust magnates behind the local lackeys want their pound of flesh, and if possible, these four men will be imprisoned as a salutary lesson to all rebellious wage slaves.

"This paper is damned by bosses large and small," says the Free Press, in its current issue, commenting on the notice of a new trial soon to be held. "This paper is almost three years old. Since its inception it has been a menace to local corporation lackeys. It defied the workers to the best of its ability in their recent strike against the steel trust. It damned that corporation as it justly deserved. It is now reaping as it had sown. Anything to get it out of existence is the command received by the local hirelings from the captains of industry."

Free Press Growing.

"We have been gradually becoming bigger and better equipped to fight the future battles of our class. It has been with great sacrifice on the part of many that we have been able to keep in existence. Our enemies here know our greatest weakness—which is finances, and for that reason they are living in hopes that they will be able to put us out of business with court costs and attorney's fees. It cost us over \$2,000 last year to defend ourselves against their onslaughts."

"What a disgrace that amount of money to defend their constitutional rights of free speech and free press. But it is nevertheless true that the masters of bread along with robbing us of four-fifths of what our labor creates will not be satisfied, it seems, until they make us of (if it be possible) humble submissive serfs, not permitted to voice the wrongs we are subjected to, going on forever and ever as cattle used for the pleasure of those on the upper crust of society."

"If a few men of our class are to be made the scape-goats, and to be left face a penitentiary sentence, all that will be necessary is for the working class in general to disregard them and not come to their aid. But such will not be the case. At the other trial the workers of New Castle contributed about \$500 to help defeat them and workers in other parts were quick to respond with their mite. Contribution papers are now being circulated, and all who are on the side of the working class will be given a chance to donate whatever they can to put up a defense for these men."

"We will put up with the wheels of the prosecution on every occasion we can. To do this we will employ the best attorneys we know of, and in the end if we should lose the case we can be satisfied that we did all we could to protect ourselves and our rights as American citizens."

### Only Query Is, What Most Menaced the Idol?

## DE LARA IS KILLED?

### Americans Die in Battle at Casas Grandes While Madero Avoids Harm.

(Special to The Call.)  
WASHINGTON, March 12.—Acknowledging—and everybody makes the acknowledgement now—that the 30,000 American troops were sent to the Rio Grande to invade Mexico and "rescue" American investments unless things quiet down there mighty quick, what facts are known to Wall Street and Washington and withheld from the public which made it necessary to move with such haste?

The above query is the nettle now pricking the war deponents and refusing to be answered.

Even the most reactionary journals have come to admit within the past few years that all wars of modern times are commercial wars—that when international business rivals clash troops of silly soldiers are called out to spill their blood to settle a dispute in which they are not at all concerned. And in the matter of Mexico, even the children in the street display a "patriotism" of the most blase character.

Knowing that it was an attack on the golden calf which brought out the troops, the only riddle is, from which side was the attack made most threateningly? Three or four theories present themselves at once.

Had Mexico executed a treaty with Japan which opened the door to a rail on Wall Street's aspirations in Latin America and hope of ultimately dominating the Pacific and the trade of the Orient?

Is Porfirio Diaz so near death's door that a reign of disorder and bad business had become imminent?

Did the predominance of Socialist influence and leadership among the fighting rebels make it necessary to crush out all armed resistance to the sovereignty of money without delay?

Diaz's Great Mistake.

Or did J. P. Morgan order troops to Mexico simply because his plan to grab the great issue of Mexican bonds at a low price fell through and he was determined to wreak vengeance and reap a profit at the same time by ending the reign of Diaz and all of his advisers?

One of these four theories very probably covers the situation and the public must wait for a diplomatic or financial blip to reveal which one of them is the right one.

In the meantime considerable discussion has been started here in radical circles by a significant editorial in the New York Sun of today. The Sun points out that the great mistake of the Diaz government has been its failure to permit the development within the "empire" of a middle class which would have proved its salvation at such an hour as this. In Mexico there are today but two classes worthy of mention. These are the great capitalists and landowners and the poverty stricken peons who labor from year end to year end for the exclusive benefit of those at the top.

her expansion and repay the humiliations. Admiral Kimituki said: "The Japanese must not fall asleep at a time when international competition is keenest."

YUCATAN REBELS CAPTURE A TOWN

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, March 12.—The troops stationed at Merida, Yucatan, have been ordered to Quantanc Roo to combat the rebellion in that district.

The governor of Campeche has ordered a strict watch to be kept on the border between that state and Yucatan to prevent the passage of the rebel forces now operating in the latter state. A report has been received here that the rebels attacked the town of Chinghapam, Puebla, killing the alcalde and freeing all the prisoners in the jail. The provisions in stores and commercial houses of the town were then confiscated.

TORREON, March 12.—The federal forces are now making desperate efforts to restore traffic on the Mexico Northwestern railroad.

It is reported that orders for the reopening of this line, which is owned by British interests, headed by Dr. F. S. Pearson, came to the military authorities operating in this state direct from President Diaz. The road has been out of commission most of the time since November 26. Foreign mining interests, which depend upon this road for transportation of supplies and ores, have been forced to close down their properties.

It is thought that immediate danger of attack upon Chihuahua by rebels has passed. Madero was to have led this attack, but he is headed in another direction since the fight at Casas Grandes. Colonel Babago and his 500 men are expected to reinforce the local garrison of about 2,000 soldiers within the next day or two.

Business interests in Chihuahua feel much encouraged over the improvement in the situation in this state, due largely, it is believed, to the massing of United States troops upon the Texas border. While it is not expected that the hands of rebels can be quickly put down, their chance of even winning temporary victories of importance are minimized by the cutting off of the main source of their supplies, particularly munitions of war.

MADERO TO INVITE U. S. INTERVENTION

EL PASO, March 12.—C. F. Z. Carracrist, mining engineer and soldier of fortune, who has been recognized here for some time as the spokesman for Madero, today dispatched a letter to the insurrecto chief suggesting that Madero make a formal offer to the United States for intervention on certain conditions.

One of these would be that both sides lay down their arms and that the Diaz party, the Madero party and the United States each select a commissioner to conduct a fair election in Mexico, the United States to supervise the election.

Another proposition is that the Madero party agree to guarantee not to molest railroads or in any way interfere with traffic if the Diaz government will agree not to handle troops on the railroads and the United States will see that this agreement is carried out. Carracrist says that as soon as Madero can get his communication, such a proposition will be made to the United States.

EUROPE SEES THE HAND OF JAPAN

PARIS, March 12.—The Temps refers editorially to the rumored treaty of alliance between Mexico and Japan, and says that while the report is hard to verify, it is certain that the relations between the two countries have become exceedingly close of late. In proof of this it cites the extreme cordiality shown by the Mexicans upon the occasion of the recent visit of the Japanese squadron to the Southern republic.

BERLIN, March 12.—The Koelnische says that while admitting that Washington's secrecy prevents determining whether the mobilization of the United States army is due to "American fears of Japan's mighty army and the knowledge of her own weakness," there are reasons for the belief that the present movement of troops is in the nature of a rehearsal of the mobilization which may be directed against Japan.

MADERO REPORTS DE LARA ALIVE

EL PASO, March 12.—Francisco L. Madero, insurrecto provisional president, was wounded in the left arm in the fighting at Casas Grandes on Monday. He says so himself in a letter received by the insurrecto junta here today. Madero gives his entire loss as eighty killed, wounded or missing, and says seventeen Americans were killed. Among those was R. F. Harrington, Raoul Madero, brother of the chief, escaped by feigning death and then slipping away.

Madero says Gutierrez De Lara, the Los Angeles Socialist, escaped without a scratch, although Roy Kelly reported last night that De Lara was killed. Kelly reaffirms today that he saw the dead bodies of De Lara and Garibaldi on the battlefield. Madero charges that Colonel Soto, who commanded the troops that went in to take Casas Grandes, got excited and left his men. He also says that two scouts sent out to ascertain if federal reinforcements were approaching failed to locate Cuellar and his troops. Soto and the scouts have been ordered court-martialed, the commander in chief says.

HE'S ON THE JOB.

(Special to The Call.) SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 12.—Colonel Theodore Roosevelt arrived here tonight. His secretary denied the rumors that he would take personal charge of the Mexican war.

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ENGLISH PRINTERS CONTINUE TO WIN

Several More Firms Grant 50-Hour Week, Pending Settlement.

LONDON, March 5.—Several more printing firms have agreed to the immediate reduction of working hours to fifty a week pending the settlement of the printers' strike for the forty-eight-hour week. The latest accession to the strikers' ranks is the Lithographic Union, which is both powerful and well organized. The London printing trades strike committee is now completely representative, the unions affiliated being as follows: London Society of Compositors, Amalgamated Society of Warehousemen and Cutters, Association of Correctors of the Press, National Society of Operative Printers' Assistants, Amalgamated Association of Pressmen, Platen Printing Machine Menders' Society, Printing Machine Managers' Trade Society, Amalgamated Typofounders' Society, Electrotypers and Stereotypers' Society, Stereotypers Assistants' Society, Bookbinders and Machine Rulers' Consolidated Union, London Society of Machine Rulers, London Society Lithographic Music Printers, Vellum (Account Book) Binders' Trade Society, London Society of Lithographic Printers, Lithographic Stone and Plate Preparers' Amalgamated Society.

The Socialist members of the different public bodies are co-operating with the committee to have all printing work done by shops that have signified their willingness to grant the forty-eight-hour week. There have been the usual unjust imprisonments by magistrates of the men on picket duty, one picket having just been sentenced to a month for an alleged assault on a scab. The number of strikers is constantly decreasing by reason of more and more firms having to grant the men's demands in spite of their bitter opposition to the eight-hour day. The men are going to win, and win soon.

MORE A. F. L. CHARTERS GO TO RAILWAY CLERKS

WASHINGTON, March 12.—The present progress of organization undertaken by the American Federation of Labor for the unionization of the entire railway postal service will necessitate the issuance of over fifty charters to the different chapters. The Postmaster General, especially the Postoffice Department, does not look upon this movement of the railway clerks with favor, but is violently opposed to it. President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, however, declares that he will take every postoffice clerk in the service under the protection of the Federation, and that it makes no difference what attitude the department will take. Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, says that more than twenty-five charters have already been issued, and that as many more will soon be granted. The Federation makes no secret of the fact that it intends to give aid in every manner possible to the clerks. If necessary, and according to the opinion of the labor officials, it may be they will call a strike.

COTTON UNIONS IN ENGLAND COMBINE

LONDON, March 12.—An important development has taken place in the cotton trade, the unions in the manufacturing section in Manchester having decided to combine. The new federation will be composed of weavers, overlookers, twistors and drawers, etc. The object appears to be to get a recognized list of prices adhered to, and also to enable joint action to be taken on any question that might arise in regard to hours of work or other working conditions. Other strong organizations in the cotton trade are now combined, and Manchester has done well by coming into line. The cotton trade generally seems to have settled down after the recent fighting, and employment has shown a considerable improvement during the past month. Returns from firms employing 133,850 work people show an increase of 0.6 per cent in the number of employed, and of 1.5 per cent in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

A REGULAR FAMILY JOB.

PARIS, March 12.—Jean Raralhe has just been appointed notary at Saint Sauvy. He is the eleventh son to succeed to the position, it having been continuously in the same family for 318 years.

BRITAIN'S CONNECTION WITH INDIA'S PLAGUE

Exploitation of Huge Population Has Created Widespread Misery and Ruin.

(Special Correspondence.) LONDON, March 4.—A fearful commentary on the iniquity of England's rule in India is afforded by some recent figures in reference to deaths from plague in that country and in China.

All the world has been told that England holds India for India's good, and has heard how beneficial has been the introduction of railroads, factories and workshops, and modern European sanitary arrangements.

The world is just learning something of the truth that has hitherto been hidden, or, when some of it crept into light, has been denied flatly by those who knew they were lying. On February 21 a cable message said that the total number of deaths in the Far East since the beginning of the present epidemic was estimated at 19,000. All the correspondents have drawn attention to the "exceptional" mortality of 9 per cent of cases.

Now, in India during the first three weeks of January alone the deaths from plague amounted, according to the official returns, to 44,981. The latest figures received are those for the week ending January 21. They are as follows: Seizures..... 24,785 Deaths..... 20,187

That is to say, the plague deaths in India during the third week of January were at least 1,000 in excess of the estimated total in the Far East since the appearance of the plague there last autumn, while the mortality reaches the terrible ratio of 81 per cent. The pestilence is most virulent in the Northwest (United Provinces), where during the week referred to the deaths were 11,255, the death rate in some districts being 100 per cent; thus: Seizures, Deaths. Muzaffarnagar district..... 461 461 Ballia district..... 363 363

In the city of Calcutta the seizures were 222, the deaths 220. In the district of Azamgarh there were 1,182 deaths out of 1,388 seizures. Even these figures, however, are trifling compared with those of the "million years" of the last decade. During 1907 the plague deaths officially recorded numbered 1,315,882. At one time the weekly total rose above 75,000, the Punjab alone (a province of some 20,000,000 people) registering 30,000, or over 4,000 a day.

British "Benevolence."

Those who have been to India and have seen the starving millions of that country in their unparalleled wretchedness have admitted that their stay in the country was like a nightmare. Nowhere in the whole world is the story of oppressive villainy by a conquering country so plainly told by every sight and sound as in India. Before England went there the plague was epidemic. Under England's beneficent rule it has become epidemic—a permanent feature of Indian life.

The plague, with its fearful death toll, is the direct result of the chronic poverty in which 100,000,000 of the people of India are forced to live, owing to the tremendous taxation levied on the country by their English benefactors; and the taxation is made much worse by reason of the method of its collection. England drains India every year of wealth to the value of \$175,000,000, for which absolutely no return of any sort or kind is given, save the presence of a tyrannous misgovernment of the country by its "conquerors." Twenty years ago the income per capita of the Indians was \$2 per head per year. Today it is estimated at \$2 per head per year. The British government insists on the land tax being paid in silver, and collects it just before harvest time. The wretched people have no money then, and are obliged to resort to money lenders, who charge exorbitant rates of interest, taking as security the crop that has not yet been gathered. It is a conspiracy between the government and the money lords to enslave an entire people. A few years ago the editor of a paper protested against this iniquity. He was arrested by order of John Morley, secretary of state for India, under an obsolete law, and sent to prison for a long term of years.

The whole of India has been seething with discontent for years past, and recently the government has taken measures to discover an alleged widespread plot having for its object the overthrow of the British government. Men and women were imprisoned and tortured by the police in order to make them confess: hundreds of patriotic Indians were imprisoned or deported, and a reign of terror exactly similar to that in Russia was instituted. A Day is Coming.

The fate that awaits the English in India is well told in this little story. An Englishman at the court of a native ruler was saying how great was the power of his country. In answer the rajah ordered a barrel of black beans to be brought, and that having been done, he ordered a layer of white beans to be spread on the top, so that it looked as though all the beans were white. "Shake up the beans," said the rajah. And when they had been shaken up no white bean was in sight! There are 200,000 Europeans and 300,000,000 Indians in India.

DENIED RAISE, STOVE MOUNTERS ON STRIKE

EVANSVILLE, Ind., March 12.—Five hundred stove mounters in four stove factories are on strike here as a result of the refusal of the employers to grant 15 per cent in wage increase. At a conference the employers offered a 12 and 12 1/2 per cent increase, but the men refused to accept. Two plants are closed today and two others will close soon unless a settlement is reached. The employers assert they will declare an open shop and operate their factories with non-union men next week, unless the strikers come to terms.

MINN. MINERS STILL ENTOMBED

DULUTH, Minn., March 12.—The Oliver Mining Company's official report today says that the number of dead at the Norman mine at Virginia, Minn., on account of the avalanche from the bank into the mine Saturday night is eighteen. Most of these men are Austrians and Finns. The work of removing the debris and the searching for the bodies went on today, and six bodies were removed. Owing to the immense quantity of ore covering the dead it may be several days before all are found.

President W. J. Olcott of the mine company, stated tonight that the earth gave way from the bottom of the bank and that the disaster could not have been foreseen. Many of the dead miners left large families. The wailing of the wives, children and relatives of the ill-fated men under the thousands of tons of ore in the open pit mine, is heart-rending.

Two of those entombed in the Elbe underground mine at Gilbert, Minn., were dead when the rescuers reached them. Captain Joseph Binny was rescued. He was pinioned under falling timbers and had ribs broken. In his desperate efforts to free himself he broke his shoulderblade. The dead are: W. J. Stone, from Cornwall, England, and Joe Bovich, an Austrian. The latter had a wife and five children.

PRIEST DENOUNCES MODERN CONDITIONS

A large audience listened to a lecture last night in the Montauk Theater, Brooklyn, by the Rev. Father A. P. Doyle, rector of the Apostolic House in Washington, in aid of the Monastery of the Precious Blood, Fort Hamilton Parkway and 54th street, Brooklyn. Father Doyle's topic was "Facing the Twentieth Century."

He asserted that "crime in all its revolting guises is terribly on the increase. The same, he also said, is true of suicide, all of which showed an alarming spread of irreligion.

Socialism, race suicide and divorce came in for a scolding. Said he: "The decadence of faith among the masses of the people and the dreadful prevalence of irreligious theories, subversive of the fundamental principles of morality among some university professors, the growth of Socialism, only another name for discontent, and all of anarchy, which is an attack on all forms of legitimate authority, the exploitation of the degeneracy of the idle rich, and at the same time the grinding hardships of the poverty stricken masses, while these conditions are becoming more and more acute the only bridle of restraint besides the policeman's club can be found in a widespread sense of religious conviction, and this too has been cast aside."

THAW MAY TELL OF NUGENT'S DEATH

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 12.—That Harry Thaw will be asked to appear in court here and give whatever information he may possess regarding the death of John J. Nugent, a Manhattan patient, is said to be practically settled tonight. District Attorney Mack had a long interview with Thaw in Matteawan last night and he says that Thaw has considerable information that will be useful. Thaw if he is called will testify at the next hearing of Daniel Riley, the attendant who is charged with causing Nugent's death. The district attorney says the next hearing will probably be held Tuesday.

"I went to Matteawan last night to make an unexpected visit," said District Attorney Mack tonight. "I questioned several patients whom I had been informed knew something of Nugent's death. I will call one or two at the next hearing. I also saw Thaw and he volunteered to go to court and give whatever information he has. He has much information which bears indirectly on the case. We discussed the matter freely and Thaw's information will be material when the time comes to try it all." George Galbraith, the complaining witness against Riley, will be punished for contempt of court for his failure to appear at the last hearing.

CONVICTS RESTIVE IN IDLE CONFINEMENT

CALDWELL, N. J., March 12.—Although many forms of employment, including the culture of flowers, have been suggested for adoption in the Essex county penitentiary here so that the convicts may not remain idle, none has yet been adopted, and the prisoners are restive under enforced leisure. The committee of the county board of freeholders will shortly pay a visit to prisons in Detroit and Cleveland to study the conditions under which convicts are employed there with a view to providing work for the prisoners in the penitentiary here.

Where to Buy Your Books Cheap

The Book Department of The New York Call was greatly enlarged lately. Like many other Call departments, it has undergone a great change. The old stock was given away as premiums. A new and more up-to-date stock of books on Socialism was put in. It is aimed to make the Book Department of The Call the clearing house for all party members and Socialist organizations in the East. Special Discount to all Socialist Party Locals and Branches, so as to enable Socialist organizations to derive extra revenue from the sale of books. Very low prices to individual Comrades and Sympathizers. Write or call at once to BOOK DEPARTMENT THE NEW YORK CALL 400 PEARL ST., NEW YORK CITY Book Catalog Mailed Upon Request.

SIX MEN KILLED IN FIREMEN'S STRIKE

Colored Scabs in Queen and Crescent Fight Shot in Tennessee.

SOMERSET, Ky., March 12.—The strike of the firemen on the Queen and Crescent route of the Southern railway has reached a crisis here tonight, and engineers and firemen are refusing to go out for fear of being shot along the route between here and Glen Mary, Tenn., as they say a total of six men have been killed in the past three nights: two last night and one this afternoon, besides three who were badly wounded.

While train No. 78, a freight stopped at Glen Mary, this afternoon, for water, James Carl, a detective, who was in the cab guarding the life of a negro fireman, was shot and fatally wounded. He was rushed to the local hospital, but is not expected to live. Two negroes—Tom Johnson and Arch Cook—who were firing south-bound passenger No. 9, and a freight train, were killed at Glen Mary last night, while No. 9 was stopping there to take on the body of a dead negro, who had been killed earlier in the evening.

"LAME DUCKS" WANT TO HOLD COSTLY QUARTERS

WASHINGTON, March 12.—A problem confronting the monetary commission and the senate committee on rules concerns the housing of some of the members of the commission. Six of them who were members of the senate when they were appointed to the commission retired to private life at the adjournment of Congress on March 4. As senators they occupied luxurious suites in the palatial marble senate office building and now they contend they should be permitted the use of the suites as members of the commission. Their senatorial salaries of \$7,500 a year continue as monetary commissioners and they fail to see any good reason why they should be deprived of the marble and mahogany senatorial working quarters.

The members of the commission who became ex-senators at the close of the session were Aldrich (Rep., R. I.), Burrows (Rep., Mich.), Hale (Rep., Me.), Money (Dem., Miss.), Flint (Rep., Cal.) and Talliferro (Dem., Fla.). Appointments were thrown to the latter two like life lines a few minutes before the senate adjourned.

Aldrich, as chairman of the finance committee and of the monetary commission, controlled half a dozen rooms, one of which, a large one, has become famous as the room in which the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was drafted. With his work reduced to the invention of a law to reform the currency system of the country Aldrich may give up half of his reservation. Other members have desirable suites of two rooms.

Former Senator Teller of Colorado, a commissioner, has held his suite since he left the senate two years ago. As that involved only a single pair of rooms it attracted no attention. With six more ex-senators to provide for, the committee on rules finds it a topic for serious discussion. A score of new senators will be coming in soon and it is suspected that they will desire the best quarters available. No commissioners created by Congress, except the monetary, will have quarters in the office building.

G. O. P. PLANS TROUBLE FOR HOUSE DEMOCRATS

WASHINGTON, March 12.—A policy of "backing" has been decided upon by Republican leaders, as the house minority attitude toward Speaker Champ Clark and the Democrats in the coming session. The rules of the house are full of pitfalls for the unwary. "Uncle Joe" Cannon, as speaker, had to trust himself to Asher C. Hinds at least three or four times a day for parliamentary rulings. There are two parliamentary experts on the Democratic side—Fitzgerald of New York, and Sherley, of Kentucky—and many other good rules men. Among the Republicans there are Hinds, the greatest living authority on the house rules; Jim Mann, of Illinois; Martin Olmsted, of Pennsylvania; John Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Serevo E. Payne, of New York, and Cannon himself.

Representative Mann recently gave proof of his parliamentary knowledge by a mysterious filibuster against the omnibus claims bill. A perfectly good majority in the house had to resign itself to Mann's whims. There was no stopping him. And he was always within the rules. He gave the Democrats a fair example of what they may expect during their regime at the house. He concluded with a satirical threat for them to be good. "I think we will have a good deal of fun after April 4," said Mann here today. "Things will begin to happen right off the bat."

CHINESE ARE SELLING CHILDREN FOR FOOD

WASHINGTON, March 12.—That the only salable property remaining to the starving people in the Chinese counties of Nansuchow and Mengben are their children, which are being exchanged for food, is the statement of Consul Wilder, in a report to the State Department from Nanking, China. In these two counties alone he estimates the number of starving at three quarters of a million. Outside the city of Nanking 100,000 famine refugees are without food or clothing and are sleeping in the mud in the open air. Thousands are even lying in the water, the living mingling with the corpses of the dead, which the authorities have failed to remove from the refugee camps. In the famine districts the people are dying so rapidly that no attempt is made to number the fatalities. By imperial edict, taxes have been remitted in three of the famine districts, and it is expected their similar action will be taken throughout the entire famine region. Consul Wilder reports that the money contributed for famine relief is being honestly expended. The American Red Cross and the State Department are co-operating in sending the money contributed in the United States to China, but much more is needed.

EXPRESSMEN'S STRIKE ALMOST BOUND TO BECOME GENERAL

(Continued From Page 1.)

times; third, that no club or other association of employees other than the union be allowed by the companies. These demands the company stated point blank that it would not meet. All the other companies are with the Adams concern in the fight against the teamsters' union. The bosses even go further. They say that the time has come for the employers to take the bull by the horns and fight out the disputes which were "only temporarily settled" at the conclusion of the last strike.

For months the various companies have been making preparation for the struggle which their officials saw was inevitable in view of the plans which they themselves had laid to go after the teamsters' union. It is also said they have quietly established dormitories in the far downtown section of the cities for the training of men who are ready to take the places of the union men when they walked out. The workers have known this since the last strike. That is why the present revolt has been threatening for some time. Had the rank and file had their way there would have been a general tie-up long before this.

The non-union men, who have been in the places of those who have been quietly weeded out, are the men which the companies have been training to take the places of the union workers. Thugs to "Shoot to Kill."

It was reported yesterday that one of the express companies declared that its firm had decided not to depend upon strikebreakers this time, which were so costly during the last strike, having stole more than they were worth, but that "this time the companies will take the field with a force of men who had seen service as soldiers, policemen, cowboys, and others who are accustomed to the use of firearms and the fight will be to 'kill.'" This exponent of "law and order" will not hesitate to employ physical force when he thinks it will work better than other methods, and he thinks he can "set away with it."

From the attitude which the bosses have taken, the present struggle will be a key to the knife; knife to the hilt. Another express company official came out with the following statement: "There will be no compromise. It has come to a point where it is a question of who shall run the express companies—the employees or the company officers."

Jerome to Defend Sluggers. William Travers Jerome has been employed by the express companies. It is said, to defend the thugs and hoodlums which will be employed "to shoot to kill," if necessary.

As was the case during the last express strike when cops acted as strikebreakers on the wages, the police force is again coming to the aid of the bosses. Police Commissioner Crosey has ordered all policemen to be prepared for strike duty. He is now busy getting his force ready so that they may work in harmony with the thugs and hoodlums that the companies have been rounding up from the slums and dives of the city and other cities of the East.

Strikers say that agents of the companies are now out securing the worst elements which they say will be able to deal with the strikers who do picket duty. The strikers are as determined as the bosses are that they will be ready to fight to a finish. This time they will be careful they are not betrayed by the Civic Federation gang and the Mayor, nor by leaders who may attempt to advise them to give in to the bosses as they did the last time. The last strike, several of the strikers declared yesterday, has been a lesson that they will not soon forget. This time they will depend upon themselves. There seems to be very little doubt among the expressmen that they can win if they all stick together. The Call reporter was told yesterday had a tieup been declared a day or so before the election they would have won all their demands with ease, and that is where a great mistake was made.

Car Men May Join Expressmen.

It is also reported that a general move may be made to get the street car men, who are unorganized, to walk out too, if a general strike is called. It is said the car men, especially the employees of the Interborough company, are ready to revolt and are only waiting for a battery.

No one can tell what the present strike of 1,500 expressmen may develop into during the next three days. But one thing is certain, the strikers say, and that is they are all ready to walk out.

This morning a force of pickets will be on the job early again. Over Sunday there was little doing as the express wagons were not running. It is expected that this afternoon's meeting at Curry's Hall will result in a general strike movement.

Taxi Men May Strike.

It was reported last night that the chauffeurs are ready for a strike which is likely to tie up all companies in the city before the week is over. Promises made by the companies in the settlement of the last strike have been repeatedly broken. The chauffeurs of the New York Cab Company and the New York Taxi Service Company are likely to go out either today or tomorrow. BOSTON, March 12.—The cruiser Des Moines, provisioned for three months' sea duty, with 700 tons of coal in her bunkers, which will enable her to steam ten knots an hour for 9,800 miles without re-coaling; with fifteen officers and 279 seamen, 4,000 charges of 5-inch shells, 4,000 6-pounder cartridges and 63,000 cartridges for rifles, sailed early today to take part in the naval demonstration in Southern waters. She is due to arrive at Tampanville late tomorrow afternoon. There she will stop two hours and take aboard an additional supply of ammunition from the naval magazine at Jones Island. Her active and reserve magazines will then have been filled to their capacity. Early in the evening she will leave for Key West, where she will report to the fleet commander.

REOPEN FERRER CASE IN COURT

"Radical" Lerroux Is Strongly Supported by the Clericals.

The Spanish cortes is now "reopening" the circumstances leading up to and rounding the trial, condemnation and execution of Francisco Ferrer, founder of the Modern Schools at Barcelona. Friends of the martyr are making an effort to reopen the case and effect a re-dication of the course pursued by Ferrer. A capitalist correspondent writes as follows: Although the ministry of justice declared that the case was "closed," the government's initiative in reopening the case was a parliamentary revision of the decision will offer the friends of the dead their opportunity. An attempt will be made to interpellate the government on the legality of the trial, and a long list of affidavits will be presented showing that Ferrer took no active part in the rebellion but that he was accused of it, and also that such evidence in his behalf was excluded from his trial, especially the proofs submitted by Josep Vilafranca, Ferrer's "comrade," who was prevented from testifying.

In order to facilitate on the part of legislators an examination of the case, government not long ago decided to pay the entire "dossier" of the trial, at an expense of \$7,000. As the editing progressed it was suddenly discovered that two letters catalogued in the index had disappeared. These letters had been written by Lerroux, the Liberal leader, to Ferrer, at the time of the first persecution of the police at the country home of Ferrer near Barcelona, they seized four of Lerroux's letters. Two of them were of particular importance, while the other two proved that Lerroux had obtained money from Ferrer for the revolutionary propaganda.

They were not used at the trial, their appearance would not have had the case stronger against Ferrer, as it would certainly have seriously incriminated Lerroux. It is believed by the Liberals that the missing epistles have been extracted from the "dossier" by the friends of Lerroux, fearing that he, too, might share the fate of Ferrer, or at least be proscribed by his political career brought to a close.

Light on Lerroux. It is a well known fact that Ferrer, toward the close of his life, wrote to his friends in Paris that "in order to bring about my condemnation of death, the Lerrouxists have done as much as Maun (the Conservative leader) and the monks." The president of the chamber of deputies, Count de Romanones, on being questioned in regard to the missing letters, has replied simply: "I suppose the letters disappeared before the 'dossier' reached the chamber."

This implies that they were estimated while in the possession of the department of military justice, which implication is energetically denied by the military authorities. Sen. de Romanones, who for some time been one of the monarchist protectors of Lerroux, El Paris declares that it is quite likely that the letters disappeared after the "dossier" had left the military archives.

It is generally believed in Madrid that the letters are today in the possession of Lerroux, if he has not already burned them. In connection with this, it is significant to note that the ministerial press is growing more and more respectful toward Lerroux. They speak of him as the "illustrious," "popular," or "eloquent" orator, or "the only man who has been of him the republican population," or "the only man who seriously menaces the monarchy."

If the Ferrerists are unable to make their interpellation should Count Romanones, as the minister of Justice has already done, declare the case "closed," they will attempt to open an inquiry in regard to the mysterious disappearance of the letters, alleging that they show that Ferrer was not in sympathy with Lerroux's radical propaganda, and that he only gave him money to further educational measures.

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# I. W. W. WINS FREE SPEECH AT FRESNO

## Jail Jammed, More Men Coming, Authorities Give Up the Struggle.

(Special Correspondence.)  
FRESNO, Cal., March 5.—The fight for free speech on the streets of this city has been won by the I. W. W. Thus solidarity wins another fight for the workers. This was one of the bitterest fights waged on the Pacific coast, and the workers came out of it with flying colors. The mayor and the city council were forced to concede the demands of the workers for the freedom of the streets for peaceful meetings.

### Legal Gymnastics.

When the case was heard in the Supreme Court, the exact meaning of the rental clause in the contract was considered. The attorney for Bloomingdale Bros. contending that the contract between them and Mrs. Moore was simply a lease of the piano, not a sale, and that she had expressly waived any cause of action she might have under the law.

### Big Company Wins.

Continuing, Justice Gavegan said: "To deny the relief here sought by plaintiff would be in effect to permit the defendants to retain the piano and the purchase price, which would nullify the very provisions and violate the spirit of the law."

### Recruits Turn the Tide.

At that moment word was received that fresh bodies of men were starting from various points in the West, some from points as distant as St. Louis. The authorities and business men were at their wits' end. The leading daily then said editorially: "Here was a body of men who returned all the ordinary motives governing mankind." In this editorial all citizens were called upon to keep cool, and by fighting their past excesses, the paper confessed the inferiority of the citizens to the fighting organization of the I. W. W. men, thereby paying tribute to the intelligence of this despised body of workmen.

### Company "Abused."

The statements of the two lawyers is conflicting on this point. That she went to Bloomingdale's and told them that the piano was in storage at the North Side Storage Warehouse when she returned to New York was conceded by the head of the piano department.

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# HOW BLOOMINGDALE BROTHERS TOOK A PIANO FROM WOMAN

(Continued From Page 1.)

own warehouse. This she declined to do, and Bloomingdale Bros. sent to the Northside Storage Warehouse and upon the payment of the storage and charges were given the piano, for which Mrs. Moore owed Bloomingdale's only \$24.

As Mrs. Moore had paid \$216 on the piano and Bloomingdale's had taken possession of it without complying with the requirements of the law, she had paid out to recover the amount she had paid on the piano. As before stated, the case was lost in the 9th District Municipal Court, only the contract which Mrs. Moore had signed being considered at that time.

When the case was heard in the Supreme Court, the exact meaning of the rental clause in the contract was considered. The attorney for Bloomingdale Bros. contending that the contract between them and Mrs. Moore was simply a lease of the piano, not a sale, and that she had expressly waived any cause of action she might have under the law.

Justice Gavegan ruled that the transaction was a sale, conditioned upon the payment of a certain sum monthly. He pointed out that the contract was in printed form, that when it was signed by Annie Mackin it was placed in Bloomingdale's files, and no copy ever delivered to her.

Section 65 of chapter 45 of the consolidated laws was cited by Justice Gavegan, showing that as Bloomingdale Bros. had failed to comply with the law, they owed Mrs. Moore all money paid for the piano.

Justice Gavegan said that a careful examination of the contract convinced him that Mrs. Moore did not waive the right to sue under the law. "At most," he said, "the plaintiff waived service of notice of sale, but she did not waive her right to sue under the statute, the provisions of which the defendants failed to comply with. It was conceded, as above stated, that the piano was retaken by the defendants and no sale or attempted sale was ever made by them, and that failure on the part of the defendants gave the plaintiff a cause of action under the statute."

Justice Gavegan further stated that the law was passed to cover just such a case; that the part of the contract which waived all rights of homestead or other exemptions under the laws of the state was "against public policy, and therefore void, because the piano was essentially a part of plaintiff's household furniture."

Continuing, Justice Gavegan said: "To deny the relief here sought by plaintiff would be in effect to permit the defendants to retain the piano and the purchase price, which would nullify the very provisions and violate the spirit of the law."

### The 800th Day of the Call and Our Ad

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your business, or your paper's business, or any one else's paper's business. "Oh, yes, it is," insisted the reporter. "When girls are paid starvation wages they are sometimes driven to the street. This is a social matter. When working people are underpaid and overworked they become ill, and some of them become public charges. The question of work and wages is not an individual, but a social matter, and as The Call is the voice of the working class, it is our business to print anything which concerns the working class."

This seemed to make the attorney for Bloomingdale Bros. very angry, and he warned the reporter to be very careful in reporting this interview. The reporter has been careful. Perhaps Plante knew what all this had to do with the case Annie Mackin Moore.

"This muck-raking has got to stop," declared Plante. The delightful interview closed with Plante's ultimatum: a full and complete retraction of the previous article in The Call, or take the consequences.

As the previous article only dealt with Judge Gavegan's decision, which was as far as the case had come at that time, The Call now prints the facts in regard to the subsequent trial in the Municipal Court, and the judgment rendered against Mrs. Moore in her suit against Bloomingdale Bros.

### CORONATION ORGIES IN JUNE OUTLINED

LONDON, March 12.—King George has already approved the main items of the program of coronation festivities, as follows:  
June 17, 18.—Arrival of royal representatives in London. On the evening of June 19 the king and queen expect to entertain royal guests at dinner at Buckingham Palace. A reception will follow.  
June 20.—Special envoys and delegations to be received at Buckingham Palace. A state banquet to be held in the evening.  
June 21.—Colonial premiers and other colonial representatives to be received. The colonial visitors to be entertained at dinner in the evening by some member of the royal family.  
June 22.—The coronation. In the evening their majesties will dine en famille.  
June 23.—Procession through South London.  
June 24.—The king and queen will travel to Spithead, embark on the royal yacht, and hold a naval review. The king and queen may spend the week-end on their yacht, but the princes and envoys will return to London the day of the review.  
June 25.—Gala performance at the theater.  
June 26.—Their majesties will attend a special service at St. Paul's Cathedral, and afterward a luncheon at the Guildhall.

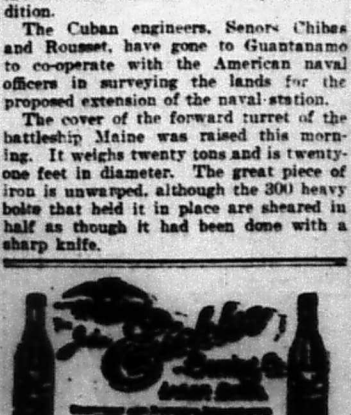
### MAY DAY CONFERENCE BEGINS ORGANIZING

The May Day Conference called by the Socialist party was attended on Friday last by about fifty delegates from trade unions and Socialist locals. A discussion that lasted some time was ended by the adoption of the recommendation that a procession be organized, and delegates will report back on Friday next the opinion of their locals on the subject and the question of the date for the procession. The course of the discussion on this latter point indicated a feeling that the procession should take place on May 1, but the matter is left for the delegates to report on.

### MAINE DAM NEARLY READY TO PUMP WATER

HAVANA, March 12.—Colonel Black of the Maine commission, announced today that the dam will be finished within two weeks, when pumping will start. The battleship will be on dry ground within six weeks, he says, ready to be inspected by the official commission which is to discover the exact cause of the explosion. Colonel Black says the divers' reports indicate that the hull is in very bad condition.

The Cuban engineers, Senors Chibas and Roussat, have gone to Guantanamo to cooperate with the American naval officers in surveying the lands for the proposed extension of the naval station. The cover of the forward turret of the battleship Maine was raised this morning. It weighs twenty tons and is twenty-one feet in diameter. The great piece of iron is unwieldy, although the 300 heavy bolts that held it in place are sheared in half as though it had been done with a sharp knife.



# FILIPINOS FLOOD HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

## Federal Immigration Officer Investigates Labor Conditions in Pacific.

(Special Correspondence.)  
HONOLULU, Feb. 12.—Conditions in the Hawaiian Islands are very bad for the workers, and as Commissioner of Immigration Keefe has been making an investigation of the lot of workers here, there is considerable speculation as to what the federal government will do.

The general opinion is that Keefe's report on conditions will favor the planters, and this view receives strong support in the fact that W. O. Smith, secretary of the Sugar Planters' Association, has hurriedly left for Washington.

Cheap labor is the chief need of the sugar planters, and they have tried the Chinese, the Japanese, the Russians, and now are using Filipinos. For many years China was the source of an efficient and plentiful supply of labor, but that was long since stopped. Japan also, for a time, supplied considerable good and cheap labor, but it is said that more Japanese left than came to the islands during the past year.

The experience of the planters with Russian workers was very discouraging to them. As will be recalled, the Russian peasants lured from Siberia to Honolulu early last year, revolted against the treachery of the planters and their agents. The episode created such a nasty mess at Washington that the planters want no more Russians. No more, thanks!

The planters were forced to turn to fields untilled, to lands where ignorance is bliss, and workers can be led to believe that in the Hawaiian Islands there is little work, big pay, lots of leisure, and milk and honey for all who come. The most promising field was the Philippine Islands, and for about a year they have been luring simple Filipinos here.

One of the things Commissioner of Immigration Keefe is said to have discovered during his investigation here is that the Filipinos, who are now being brought here in large numbers, bring various diseases with them. Several recent epidemics of diphtheria and smallpox have been traced to the Filipinos.

There is a lot of strong feeling against the Filipinos, because they are simple as children, with little or no property sense, and a number of residents in plantation camps charge that they are guilty of housebreaking. They are also, in many cases, of ugly disposition, and numerous assaults are charged to them.

The labor situation here is, indeed, a very peculiar one, the desire of the federal government clashing with the interests of the planters, and in a very strange way. The national authorities would like to see these islands peopled with American workers. Such workers would be, the Taft administration thinks, patriotic, and therefore available for military service, if needed at any time. The Filipinos, of course, lack any such spirit. The planters, on the other hand, have no such desires; they think in terms of profit. Cold cash is their chief consideration; they want cheap labor, therefore. The planters, for the most part, strongly and openly oppose the bringing in of American homesteaders. Such a move would interfere with their profits.

# TOBACCO TRUST IS STILL OBSTINATE

## Arrogantly Insists on Own Terms in Ending Porto Rico Strike.

By SANTIAGO IGLESIAS.  
(Special Correspondence.)  
SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, March 2.—The 2,000 cigar makers who have been on strike since January 28 against the Porto Rican-American Tobacco Company, together with 1,000 other workers, forced to stop work by the walk-out, are maintaining the fight with enthusiasm and courage.

The Stock Exchange of San Juan called for a conference of the representatives of the strikers in order to consider the position of the strike, as it is causing great losses to the commerce and the industry of the cities of Bayamon and San Juan. The strikers met with the representatives of the Stock Exchange and discussed the matter for some time.

In the interview the president of the Stock Exchange frankly stated that in behalf of the business houses and several industries that he was desirous that an understanding should be reached between the conflicting parties to the strike, and with that view he had called on representatives of the firm and they had practically agreed with him to submit the controversy to an arbitration committee, and that although he had not the complete assurance of the firm nor any binding declaration, he ventured to believe that the firm would agree to submit the matter regarding the price of two classes of cigars to the decision of the committee; that he hoped to obtain that much as a starting point, although the firm had made him no assurance nor could any be obtained until the strikers on their part had expressed willingness to submit the question to an arbitration committee.

The interview was based on these points, and after a three hours' conference it was resolved to call an assembly of strikers in San Juan and another in Bayamon for the purpose of considering the matter.

The resolutions passed at the San Juan assembly may be condensed as follows:  
1. Arbitration proposition accepted; committee to be composed of two representatives of the firm, two of the strikers, and a fifth member appointed by both parties. 2. The case of the discharge of the foreman, and the increase of the price of three classes of cigars, at present held to be underpaid to be submitted to the decision of the arbitration committee; that the decision of the arbitration committee be rendered within four days, and that the cigar makers shall await said decision before returning to their work. 3. That only a unanimous decision of the committee shall be effective.

These resolutions were not acceptable to the firm, as they would not agree to abide fully by the decision of the committee.

These fears were justified, as when the president of the Stock Exchange was advised of the resolutions he told the committee that he could not see the way to submit them to the firm, because it would not consent to arbitration under the unanimous vote condition, and the non-return of the cigar makers to work pending the decision, and besides, the time given the committee to investigate the matter was too limited.

The convocation of another assembly of strikers was thus necessary, and this assembly modified the former resolutions by substituting a unanimous vote for a majority vote of four members of the before mentioned arbitration committee. Reports of these assemblies have been sent to Bayamon, where a similar number of such gatherings have been held.

### A WORKER IN DANGER. WE MUST DEFEND HIM.

A Capitalistic Conspiracy to Kill Another Workingman.

# WM. D. HAYWOOD

Will speak for the benefit of the Buccalari Defense Subject: "The General Strike"

## Thursday Evening, March 16, 1911, 8 o'Clock

AT THE  
Progress Assembly Rooms, 28 Ave. A, near Second St., N. Y.  
ADMISSION, 16 CENTS

Tickets can be procured in advance by addressing Chas. Lintante, 10 Troy Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

# Bits of Life

HEARTS THAT ARE KIND.  
By PHYLIS MELTZER.

After all, it is the man who works, and works the hardest, who is the most generous. Here is an incident that occurred over in Brooklyn the other afternoon. The street railroad company was paying off its employees, and I was interested enough to stand and watch the men. On the outskirts of the crowd a pale-faced sister of Charity and a ragged man had taken up their stand in the hope that they could not possibly be overlooked by the conductors if they stood elbow to elbow with them. They held out their hand in silent supplication, and not a man of that bunch passed them by. Those good, kind fellows, most of them with families to support, were the very ones who came forward the most readily to offer relief to the less fortunate of their fellow men. Each man, as he opened his envelope slipped a coin into the outstretched hand of one or the other of the supplicants—nickels, dimes—and with my own eyes I saw one conductor give a 50 cent piece to each. It wasn't alone the money that they gave that made my heart grow warm with mingled emotions. It was the kind smile, the encouraging nod, or few words of sympathy, that made the small offerings appear sacred. Men like these are the ones that make the world a wonderful and a good place to live in.

### QUERY COLUMN

I would like to know the best manner possible to make a thorough study of Socialism. For years I have been reading in a more or less aimless and desultory fashion without any tangible mastery of the subject. Am frequently at a loss for a good answer or rejoinder to the banterings of an opponent, and often unable to give definite information immediately when required. I am so conscious of my own deficiencies in this connection that I would undertake any line of study, no matter how exacting, that would help me. The more thorough and fundamental the course would be the better I should like it. I am wondering, for instance, how far the study of biology would aid me, and what books on this subject would be the most beneficial.

If you can spare the time and the space in The Call to outline a course of study of this kind, I am sure it would be a great aid to a very large number of people beside myself.

Biology or natural science in general is not essential to a thorough understanding of Socialism. Of Socialist authors read all you can of Marx, Engels, Kautsky, Lafargue, Plechanoff, Bax, Hyndman, Bebel, Liebknecht, etc. Of non-Socialist authors the great historians are most helpful. Familiarity with economic history is particularly useful.

A few weeks ago in an answer to a correspondent you said that a copy of the Dick military bill could be secured by writing to the senate committee on military affairs, Washington. I have done so and received an answer that they know of no such bill and do not know to what I refer. Can you give me the date, etc., that I can specify exactly what I want?

The plea of the committee that they knew of no such bill was a mere subterfuge. Officially it was not known as the Dick military bill, but "an act to provide for the efficiency of the militia, and for other purposes." It was introduced in the house of representatives June 30, 1902, by Representative, afterwards Senator, Dick of Ohio. It was rushed through and approved by President Roosevelt January 21, 1903. It makes every able-bodied male citizen, and every able-bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention to become a citizen, who is more than eighteen and less than forty-five years of age, a member of the militia and gives the President the right to call them out to repel invasion, to suppress rebellion "against the authority of the United States," or to "execute the laws of the Union." It provides that courts-martial for men of the militia shall be composed of militia officers only. No other citizen in the world has such a drastic military law. It makes the President more powerful than any monarch living. Whenever he deems it necessary he may make workmen on strike members of the militia and order them to shoot their brothers on pain of death.

# CALLAHAN, THE MATTER

140 BOWERY, N. Y.

### SPORTS

#### FIGHTERS IN FIGHT MILL.

Big Crowd Seen All Sorts of Scraps at the Long Acre Club.

Being a legalized and regularly chartered club, the Long Acre Athletic Club held its amateur boxing carnival last Saturday night as usual. The Police Commissioner's edict to the various captains of police throughout the city failed to faze the management, since they felt their doings were within the bounds of the law.

A lad introduced as the "Fighting Longshoreman" fought a little stronger than his shifty opponent, Joe Meany. Joe Larry and Mike Stearns, a couple of puns with plenty of friends, went three rounds to a close finish. Ad Dorsey and Kid Rocky also came out even in a three-rounder. Joe Fitzgerald was too much for George Underwood. The latter was well in cutting in the second round. Young Crusier, planting two hay-upercuts with his right fist under Young Hagen's chin, toppled over the latter in the first session. Mike Loutig stopped Joe Alter in the second round.

Jack Pierce was exhausted after a three-round bout with Kid Palmer. Palmer's jab seemed to jar him. Kid Griffin and Fred Matthews showed up well in a clever and hard fight. Young McCormick made Paul Jones put up the white flag in the first round. Marty Herman, seeing Tommy Dorsey was too big for him, wisely quit after a few exchanges. Young Goldie badly punished Jack Gatter in the last fight. Gatter had two good hands to go to battle with, but Goldie dodged his raps. Gatter's own physique alone saved him from a knockout.

#### GIANTS 13, FORT WORTH 6.

DALLAS, Tex., March 12.—The Giant regulars buried the Fort Worth team today, the score being as follows:

Fort Worth.	AB.	R.	H.	O.	A.	E.
Reynolds, cf.	4	0	0	5	1	0
Thompson, ss.	4	0	1	0	1	0
Jolly, if.	3	0	0	2	0	0
Murphy, rf.	4	0	1	1	0	0
Miller, lb.	3	0	0	12	1	0
Curtis, 3b.	3	0	0	2	0	0
McMurray, 2b.	3	0	0	2	0	0
Ritter, c.	3	0	0	2	0	0
Watson, p.	3	0	0	0	0	0
Burleson, p.	3	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	30	0	2	24	3	0

#### GIANTS (Reg.) AB. R. H. O. A. E.

Devore, if.	4	1	0	0	0	0
Doolie, 2b.	2	2	2	1	0	0
Snodgrass, if.	5	2	1	0	0	0
Murray, rf.	5	2	1	0	0	0
Merkle, lb.	5	3	3	0	0	0
Cravall, ss.	4	1	1	0	0	0
Devlin, 3b.	5	0	3	2	0	0
Meyers, c.	4	0	0	0	0	0
Schlei, c.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Marquard, p.	4	1	0	0	0	0
Terreau, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals.	38	13	14	27	0	0

# BARBAROUS MEXICO

By John Kenneth Turner

This is the only book that tells the unvarnished, terrible truth about the Chattel Slavery against which the working people of Mexico are in revolt. Full details, ample evidence, seventeen pages of engravings from photographs. American capitalists are in league with Diaz to uphold the worst slavery ever known in modern times. THE PROOF is in this book.

Much of the material for this volume was gathered first-hand by the author, who made two trips through Mexico, in 1906 and 1909. The rest was taken from authentic Spanish and Mexican writings.

This book shows the relationship between American capital and the "barbarous" government of Mexico. It contains 340 pages, printed in plain, heavy type, and is generously illustrated.

Price, \$1.50. Special to Call Readers, \$1.00.

## THE NEW YORK CALL

400 PEARL STREET, NEW YORK

# THE ORIGIN, GROWTH AND WASTE OF LIFE INSURANCE

## Wonders Worked With the Nickels of the Poor—A Serial Expose of the Big Commercial Companies, Especially the So-Called Industrial or Workers' Concerns, by Writers on the Inside—Monster Corporations Threaten to Absorb All the Wealth of the Country.

By REX.

### INTRODUCTION.

The institution called insurance is one that though familiar to all is but little understood. Its origin dates back to the beginning of its development, and its growth, especially since the development of modern industry, has been exceedingly rapid. Modern life has increased and intensified the many hazards that surround our daily lives; thus an institution that thrives on discounting these risks to life, limb and property will naturally grow, the more intense the situation becomes.

We have seen gigantic insurance corporations develop until the financial sky is overcast by them. We have seen their stability in the stress of panic; a stability due to the regularity with which they could gather the earnings of the people, and the restrictions with which they hedged their contracts so that no appreciable sums of money could be withdrawn quickly. These two features, the regularity of income and a fairly well regulated outgo, have forced them into a position in the world of finance that is stronger than any other institution.

Their growth in the past has been enormous. Unless something is done to prevent it these monsters will absorb all the national wealth, for the larger they grow the more the tendency to become financially supreme manifests itself.

We hear much talk about the "banc industries," meaning thereby steel, mining, etc. A glance over the field shows us that financial capital is in the saddle. The life blood of business is credit. Cash money is the basis of credit. These monsters have cash money, all these premiums are cash. The ability to expand this cash into credit—this vast amount of regularly flowing in cash—is what makes these financial buccaners struggle so mightily to own these companies. By dominating their directorate they can, by using the funds, buy a controlling interest in various corporations. Then by virtue of their control of these newly acquired corporations, they can use their funds to buy a controlling interest in still more enterprises, and so on; until, at the price of their original investment, they dominate the earth.

The great life insurance companies, especially the industrial life insurance companies, that gather the pennies, nickels and dimes of the poor, are the source from which Morgan et al. get the money to float the bonds of steel and kindred trusts. This money coming in so regularly allows them to calculate in advance for vast sums to be expended. Thus do the poor men who construct the mines, mills and railways in which they are exploited, again in part of their meager earnings converted into insurance premiums, and when it reaches Morgan & Co. is again used to buy industries wherein labor can sweat, suffer and be exploited. So the vicious cycle continues. Realizing this situation, it is well that this institution be critically examined. The source of these great hoards of money must be explored. Those insured in them must know the meaning and terms of their contracts. The social effect of these companies must be viewed. Whether this is a beneficent or a vicious institution must be learned. These articles are written with that end in view. Nothing but facts will be used. The sworn statements of these companies

and insurance statistics alone will be used. The legal transaction, the normal transactions, alone will be drawn on for material.

Life insurance companies especially will be treated, and more especially that group misnamed industrial companies, which enter so largely into the daily lives of such vast masses of our people, and which practically block the way to real industrial insurance similar to that of Germany and other first class countries. Of course some brief history of the insurance institution will have to be given before we can plunge into our subject. Its origin, different lines of development and the forces that called different kinds of underwriting into being must be explained. The historical matter will necessarily have to be brief as space will allow, for few details and generalizations founded on experience and history will have to make up for the lack of detail.

It is hoped these articles will develop a taste in the readers for further investigation and that they will help to push forward a movement that will not down until this institution shall have passed from private into public ownership and control. Follow this series of articles earnestly and ask your various companies to answer some of the questions herein raised.

### Origin of the Institution.

Back in the early days of the present state of society one must look for the origin of this institution. The one distinctive feature of this state of society is the production of the commodities which made exchange necessary. Commerce is the keystone of the arch upon which capitalism rests. When commerce first started, losses to vessels and cargoes were frequent. Capital, ever timid, was anxious to discount these losses. Other capitalists more bold were willing to underwrite these risks for a given percentage. Thus the insurance business was born. The proverbial timidity of capital manifests itself even in this; at once there was a casting about for figures based somehow on the laws of probability, so that these more bold ones might safely take upon themselves these hazards and make a profit. In short, they wished figures to guide them in their ventures; they wished to know what proportion of risks would become losses. As they had no experience, early underwriting was largely sheer guesswork. These ingenious tables based on experience and worked out with mathematical exactitude came later. Compared to our modern underwriting the methods of these early pioneers was indeed crude.

### First Forms.

The first form of insurance was marine. Hulls and cargoes of ships were insured for a voyage against destruction. In those early days of commercial trading only the captain was an experienced navigator; if he was lost only a miracle could save the rest, so it was but a short step to the necessity of insuring his life together with the hull and cargo. Possibility of loss from hazards other than the sea caused the necessity for fire, accident, and various other forms of underwriting. Here we are to consider life insurance; so we will continue with its evolution, mentioning other forms only as they are incidentally involved.

The central idea of insurance at first was merely to protect property. Gradually the idea that lives themselves had a money value, also a speculative value, took root. Thus we see that out of what was originally a marine risk placed on the navigator's life the idea of insuring lives was carried over into everyday life. From this time life insurance, that vast modern institution which stands financially in a class by itself, came into being. None of the numerous branches of insurance, and their kinds are legion, have reached that stage of development where all hazard has been eliminated and profits are certain, except the life insurance companies.

### Cause of Strength.

The competitive struggle in business led men to shun a comparison of notes upon which to base any sound calculations; this was due to their unwillingness to allow a rival to know their business; then, too, the intense warfare made the keeping of records of anything not absolutely needed a useless expense. Underwriting of all kinds, with the exception of life insurance, has until quite recently, therefore, been more or less chaotic. The vital statistics kept in every well regulated community, and which were accessible to all, furnished a splendid basis for calculating human longevity and served for adequate calculations as to the necessary amount of premium to charge. So far earlier than in other forms of insurance, guesswork gave way to scientific calculation as regards this branch.

### Various Forms.

The various forms of insurance have come into being as the conditions developed the peculiar hazards they were destined to discount. Life insurance evolved naturally from marine insurance; fire from the waste due to fire; accident from the perils our surroundings have called into being, which the more intense the more complex becomes our civilization; liability insurance is designed to relieve the employer or property owner of liability he may incur, due to faulty machinery, or to negligence. One could go on enumerating the various forms of insurance for hours; suffice to say that almost any possible hazard can be discounted if you will pay the necessary premium.

### Detailed History.

Space will not allow any very elaborate account of the history of the early companies. Almost any encyclopedia can furnish one with a fairly good history of them. We will, however, give some account.

The first life insurance policy of which there is any accurate account was issued June 15, 1552. In amount it was for £382 6s 8d. The rate was 5 per cent. It was underwritten by thirteen persons, who guaranteed sums ranging from £25 to £50. An accurate account of this policy, which was payable to one Richard Martin in case of the death of one William Gybbons during the following twelve months, has been preserved due to litigation. William Gybbons having died May 28, 1554, the underwriters raised the claim that as twelve months of twenty-eight days had passed, the policy was void. Commissioners appointed to determine such cases held that the twelve months meant one calendar year. This view was sustained by the admiralty, which had jurisdiction in such cases. This early policy shows very clearly that the desire to quibble, to take advantage of technicalities, started with the very inception of the business, and it has continued ever since.

The gloomiest spot I saw in Paris was the Prison of the Saint. It was there I met Gustave Herve, editor of La Guerre Sociale, and author of 'My Country, Right or Wrong.' To meet Herve and other advanced thinkers was my mission in France. "Access to the prison where the doughty champion of labor is confined, was gained with little more trouble or red tape than necessary to visit a jail in this country.

### The Jail Atmosphere.

"On my return from Italy, Comrade Charles Marck, treasurer of the General Confederation of Labor, met me at the depot. We went direct to the palace of justice, and got the needed passes to the prison from the judge of instruction. We drove direct to jail. The approach to one of these institutions has a most depressing and indescribable effect upon a visitor. There is a vise-like grip on one's heart and soul; the blood runs thin and hot; the brain strains and thumps. Life's purpose seems narrowed and squeezed to the size and shape of the confines of great stone walls. All falls have a tinge of the same atmosphere, the odor of despair, of dying hope. Some characters grow strong amid the ashes of life, in musty cells, where daylight casts but checkered shadows. There they are whitened and annealed.

### Oldest Company.

The oldest purely life insurance company was the Society for Assurance for Widows and Orphans (1699). This company had only a brief existence. Next came the Amicable Society for a Perpetual Insurance (1706), which continued an independent existence until 1866, when it was merged into the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society, which in turn was merged into the Norwich Union. In 1721 were founded the Royal Exchange and the London Assurance Corporation, each of which issued life contracts. The bulk of their business, however, is marine and fire insurance. All of these companies charged practically a uniform rate of 5 per cent until the beginning of the present century.

The Equitable Society for Assurance and Survivorship began in 1762. This company is remarkable for the fact that it never had agents, never solicited risks, and paid no commissions. It has always been managed with great ability and success. It was the first to base rates on mortality and has been the pioneer in many lines. It reached its maximum in 1816, but it is again increasing its business quite rapidly. By mistake this company is said to be the first to transact business on lines similar to modern companies, but that distinction belongs to the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund of Philadelphia, Pa. This company started in 1769. A facsimile of one of its first policies on the life of Rev. Francis Allison, issued May 22, 1761, may be seen in volume II, page 83, of the Papers of the Astorial Society of America. It reads practically that in consideration of £6 paid annually, to pay £20 annually for a stated period after death. The premiums were based on the hypothesis of De Moivre, the rate being level for life. The next English companies were the Pelican (1797), the London, the Provident, the Rock (1806). New companies came thick and fast during the next fifty years; it is impossible to record them here.

The early history of both Great Britain and America is scandalous as regards life insurance corporations. Wreck! Ruin! Scandal! One insolvent concern reinsuring another still worse; and then both succumbing. This was repeated so often that the business fell into ill repute.

A detailed history of American companies space will not allow. A certain book, easily obtained in most public libraries, called 'The Story of Life Insurance,' by Hendrick, gives a fine description of the early history of the Mutual, the Equitable and the New York Life. Certainly the worthies who managed these, Winston and McCurdy, of the Mutual; Hyde, of the Equitable, and that trinity, Freeman, Beers and McCall, of the New York Life, were stars of the first magnitude. How these men managed to live as long as they did and keep out of jail proves conclusively that the day of miracles is not yet past. The man in the streets wants to set this fact firmly in his head—the Mutual started in 1847 with no capital; it was purely mutual; and from that time it has increased its earnings of its policy holders had amassed the tidy sum of \$53,856,457.41 in 1908. Poor business, this life insurance.

### America and Great Britain Exceptional.

The growth of these vast corporations in America and Great Britain has been much more rapid than on the continent. Two reasons could be advanced for this. First, in the two first named countries things of commercial character were of prime importance; and thus this institution so closely allied to nearly all commercial activities thrived. Commercial development on the continent was slow. Second, there has always been a more or less well developed hostility to private enterprise in such matters on the continent (a survivor of old communal ideas), and these have taken on a public or quasi-public character. Possibly, too, the scandalous history of such enterprises may have frightened them. These articles, although each is separate, are connected and one should read to the end to get the full meaning. It is our intention to try and make all re-aders familiar with this institution so that some of the bundle now practiced will become increasingly more difficult. The next article will deal with life insurance ideals.

You are at home when dealing with FRANK'S Department Store N. E. COR. 33D ST. & AVE. A. N. Y. Always Something New. We handle all union-made merchandise.

# HAYWOOD WRITES OF VISIT TO HERVE

## In March International Socialist Review—Herve Editorial Reproduced.

During Haywood's European tour he did not fail to visit Gustave Herve, the militant anti-militarist, in prison. Herve is doing a four years' sentence for his attacks in his paper La Guerre Sociale, on the Paris police and the governmental courts in behalf of an Apache.

Haywood in the March issue of the International Socialist Review gives a vivid account of his visit to Herve in jail. He writes: "The gloomiest spot I saw in Paris was the Prison of the Saint. It was there I met Gustave Herve, editor of La Guerre Sociale, and author of 'My Country, Right or Wrong.' To meet Herve and other advanced thinkers was my mission in France. "Access to the prison where the doughty champion of labor is confined, was gained with little more trouble or red tape than necessary to visit a jail in this country.

### The Jail Atmosphere.

"On my return from Italy, Comrade Charles Marck, treasurer of the General Confederation of Labor, met me at the depot. We went direct to the palace of justice, and got the needed passes to the prison from the judge of instruction. We drove direct to jail. The approach to one of these institutions has a most depressing and indescribable effect upon a visitor. There is a vise-like grip on one's heart and soul; the blood runs thin and hot; the brain strains and thumps. Life's purpose seems narrowed and squeezed to the size and shape of the confines of great stone walls. All falls have a tinge of the same atmosphere, the odor of despair, of dying hope. Some characters grow strong amid the ashes of life, in musty cells, where daylight casts but checkered shadows. There they are whitened and annealed.

"We reached the portals of the prison. Comrade Marck, a frequent visitor, was recognized by the guard; a few words were exchanged and our passes deposited with a recording clerk. We were then guided along corridors, passing through many steel doors, and at last ushered into an open court, down a stairway into a place that looked like a bear-pit. There were our comrades with some visiting friends. We descended the stairs and I was introduced to Herve, to Almeyra and Merle, his associate editors, likewise political offenders, who are serving terms of six months each for supporting the general railway strike in the columns of La Guerre Sociale. I met their friends. Again I shook hands with Comrade Herve, a warm, strong hand clasp. I seemed to have long known him, to have known him well. It was good to meet him. He is strong, stockily built, with a fine head firmly set on broad shoulders; his big, splendid blue-gray eyes brightened and glistened as his face beamed with smiles.

### Army the School of Crime.

"Through the medium of Comrade Marck, who despises his once enrolled military service, and said: 'The army is the school of crime; acting as interpreter. We discussed many things. The anarchist school of thought was spoken of. Comrade Herve said: 'I am not an anarchist; I am a revolutionary Socialist. As such I regard the organization of the working class on the economic field of first importance.' Next to building and strengthening the syndicalist movement it is Herve's purpose to weaken

### Once Free He Wanted Vengeance.

Once free he had only one idea—vengeance. "He had no weapons; to provide them he worked night and day at his business of making shoes, with feverish haste, accumulating bit by bit his wages. That was his midnight supper. "When he had a hundred francs he went and bought a good revolver; made himself a queer sort of a cuirass of leather covered with steel

the government of France and all governments through an anti-military campaign. This he carries on vigorously and relentlessly in the columns of his paper. In this work he is ably supported by the Voice of the People, the official organ of the General Confederation of Labor.

"Herve told of many instances where the anti-military propaganda had gained a foothold and bright "red" spots were discernible in the army. One company that had trampled the flag of capitalism in the mire; another company, to show their contempt for discipline, marched with guns upside down.

"We spoke of the world-wide movement, the success of the general strike wherever inaugurated. As the time was drawing near to end my visit, I asked our comrades for a word of greeting to their fellow workers in America.

"I was introduced to many other political prisoners. There are several hundred of them in this Prison of the Saint—members of the building trades and electrical workers, who went on strike in sympathy with the railroad employes.

"The massive doors were grating heavy on their hinges. "We must go; Herve must stay! Steel bars and doors and damp gray stone walls for nearly four long years. During those long, weary days and nights in prison he will be spurring the working class on to industrial liberty, that the sons and the daughters of La Belle France and of the world may enjoy a little more bright sunshine and blue sky.

### Cause of Herve's Imprisonment.

"And for this Herve is willing to die in a dungeon if need be." Haywood received a copy of the article written by Herve and published in La Guerre Sociale which caused his imprisonment. The copy which Haywood incorporated in his Review article is the first in English. Here it is:

"I am going to scandalize the respectable men and the imbeciles against. Do you know that that Apache, who has just killed the policeman, Deray, does not lack a certain beauty, a certain grandeur? "He is an Apache; that is understood; that is an unfortunate who at nineteen years of age picked pockets—perhaps when he was out of a job; prison commenced for him at his adolescence; the Bat 'd' at has finished him. Coming from there and returning to Paris, he lived on the thin edge of being caught, ever dragging his police record like a ball and chain. "One fine day the stupid asses—keepers of the 'morals'—arrested him under the charge of special vagabondage, sentenced him to prison for three months and to banishment for five years.

"For the Apache was everything one could wish, except a keeper of women! "Can the 'morals' have deceived themselves? That is possible. "Have they lied, given false witness in order to revenge themselves on the woman whom they found with our man? That is probable. Most of the stupid asses of 'morals' combine that honorable profession with those of keeping women, and they do not recoil from making a false oath to get rid of a rival.

"The Apache served out his prison term. He got out the middle of last December. "Once free he had only one idea—vengeance. "He had no weapons; to provide them he worked night and day at his business of making shoes, with feverish haste, accumulating bit by bit his wages. That was his midnight supper.

"When he had a hundred francs he went and bought a good revolver; made himself a queer sort of a cuirass of leather covered with steel

points; he sharpened two of his shoemakers' knives, and thus armed from head to foot and wrapped in a cloak he started out on his search for the two policemen who had been the cause of his conviction.

"One knows the rest and the masterly way in which he received the two plain clothes men who attempted to arrest him. "I do not ask the Monthyon prize for that Apache. "An Example to Us Revolutionists."

"But it seems to me that in our century of willless and flabby beings, that Apache has given a fine lesson of energy, of perseverance and courage to the crowd of respectable people. To us revolutionists ourselves, he has set a fine example. "Every day there are respectable working men who are the victims of police brutalities, \* \* \* of undeserved convictions, of gross miscarriages of justice. Have you ever heard that one of these avenged himself? "There are among us militants who have been insulted, slapped, knocked about in the police stations by the Cossacks of the Republic. Have you ever heard that a single one of them, with the tenacity of that Apache, passed his days and nights in thinking out his revenge, in hunting down his insulters and persecutors? "Every day magistrates, with unspeakable levity, lack of conscience and ferocity pronounced sentences with a light heart, with their legs crossed; bring ruin, sorrow and dishonor to families. Have you ever heard of a single one of these victims who has avenged himself? "Ha! Respectable people! Give to that Apache the half of your virtue and ask him in exchange a quarter of his energy and his courage. "GUSTAVE HERVE."

### MAP FOR FLYERS.

PARIS, March 12.—The first "aeronaut's map" of France will be issued shortly, 200,000 in number. Commander P. Pollachi, of the army, in conjunction with the army aeronautists designed the map which is in colors and extremely clear, showing hills, trees, levens, meadows, etc.

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# FELLOW SOCIALISTS SHOULD AT LEAST LOOK INTO The International

This is a liberal magazine of the character of the New Age in England, frankly Socialist, though not an organ of the party. It is discursive, yet vital.

Among the contributors to THE INTERNATIONAL are John Galworthy, John Butler Yeats, Edwin Markham, Reginald Wright Kauffman, Richard Le Gallienne, James Oppenheim, George Sylvester Viereck, Michael Monahan, Hudson Maxim, W. J. Ghent, George Allan England, Upton Sinclair.

Among those whose work (previously unpublished in English) appears in translation are: Brieux, Wedekind, France, Bjornson, Schnitzler, Strindberg, Artzbatzheff, Tolstoy, Hauptmann, Sudermann, Tchekhov, Andreyev, Echegaray, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL is noted for its mechanical perfection, printing, paper, decorations and clear type.

Here are two special offers for March: To everyone sending \$2 will be sent a year's subscription to THE INTERNATIONAL (twenty-four copies) and a copy of TONY BUNGAY, H. W. Wells' great sociological novel.

To everyone sending 50 cents will be sent six months' subscription (six copies) and a copy of MARIANA, by Echegaray, and A BEAR, by Tchekhov—two excellent dramas.

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"Ha! Respectable people! Give to that Apache the half of your virtue and ask him in exchange a quarter of his energy and his courage. "GUSTAVE HERVE."

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# The Call

Devoted to the interests of the Working People.  
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## AN INVITATION TO GAMBLE.

Several New York papers, all of them highly conservative, have been carrying an advertisement headed in big, fat, black type—"Five Hundred and Twenty Per Cent Miller offered, and the inducements the gold mining or industrial companies offer you are not to be compared with it. But this happens to be a bait thrown out by an old-time, respectable and conservative insurance company, chartered under the laws of Connecticut, and doing business in that state where it is believed insurance companies are forced to walk the straight and narrow path or go out of business.

It has to do with the accident policy carried by a noted architect who was recently killed in an automobile smashup. He took out a policy four years ago, paid in \$600, and the \$116,000 will go to his estate. Of course, everything a beneficiary receives must be paid for by some one. It is very nearly \$200 for \$1, a tidy return on even a gambling investment.

That it should have been put forward in the form of a costly and widely circulated advertisement shows that the heads of the insurance company know well what will catch the public. In reports they may make all sorts of claims to being conservative, to conducting a business in which no great risk is taken. Yet here was a risk that is more than absurd, a risk that no company could pay more than a few times. But they are perfectly willing to take it, and to spend money in making known the fact that they do take it.

This accident company, necessarily, gambles in a somewhat more reckless way than the ordinary life insurance companies. Yet they, too, are on a basis that must mean ruin to them and heart-rending disappointment to those who have invested or gambled in a policy. But they are permitted to go on, and other companies now dead and forgotten by all except the persons they robbed were permitted to go on, because the capitalist backers of these companies never lose anything. They put very little in, in the first place. The money for all operations, for all payments and for big salaries and dividends is paid by those who take out insurance.

This accident company's advertisement is a glaring instance of what is sometimes done. To pay that \$116,000 a good many people must have paid in without getting anything. That is a thing on which the companies figure, and in so figuring they are conducting a gambling game, a rank gambling game, and nothing else.

The state alone should be permitted to carry on insurance, for the state only can carry it on justly. It should not be a thing in which a few take any regard and win at the expense of the many. It should apply to all, and on a sound basis. The insurance companies have fought against state insurance, the same as they have fought against old age pensions. They wish to keep the field free to themselves for the purpose of carrying on the business as they have for so many years.

But that they are not fit to carry it on this instance proves. Investigation of the biggest and the richest proved how unfit they were. The failures of hundreds of smaller companies and of so-called "fraternal" organizations show how unfit they were. In each instance they were used as a source of revenue by some few men, and their purpose was not benevolence, but loot.

In the United States there are but two organizations that anywhere near approximate a sound and just basis, and they are the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit and the Workmen's Circle. But they are organized for real mutual aid, for the founders and members of them are for the most part radicals who seek under capitalism some lessening for the workers of the worst effects of capitalism. They have kept out of gambling and they offer no such alluring "come-ons" as \$200 for \$1 as is done in the case of this brazen advertisement.

## A STRIKE THAT WAS NOT SETTLED.

When the strike of the expressmen was throttled last winter, in order that the express companies might take full advantage of the enormous holiday business, it was realized that while the strike was "off" it was very far from settled. The companies realized it fully and began at once to prepare for trouble. There have been many complaints from the men that those who had been active in the strike were being discharged or discriminated against. The companies had utterly no respect for the "settlement," because they felt that even if they goaded the men into another rebellion it would be as easy as formerly to get another favorable "settlement."

For many years now the express companies have been in the fore-front of the reactionary and criminal combinations. They have been able to interfere with the legitimate business of the Postoffice Department in the matter of money orders and the parcels post. They have been able to discriminate in favor of certain concerns and through the discrimination by ruining some add to the wealth and the power of others.

It is evident that the express business is practically in every way a part of the postoffice business. But those who are at the head of it have been able to keep the government from carrying on a necessary and important function. In politics the express companies have almost invariably stood for corruption. Thomas C. Platt was always its representative, and what he was the companies were and are, rotten to the core, unscrupulous and dangerous.

Their treatment of the men who returned to work is typical of their whole policy. They had no regard for any rights the men might have. They knew that money is all-powerful and can beat down all opposition. So they have been more ruthless, more unjust and more daring since the strike than they were before it.

If the renewed strike spreads to any proportions the men should hold for one fundamental thing, and that is recognition of the union. If they do not get this they win nothing. That has been shown since the so-called settlement.

The looting, apparently under the very eyes of hundreds of visitors, of a case of gold antiques in the museum of the University of Pennsylvania would seem to indicate that Philadelphia politicians are entering the circles of art and culture.

Finance and politics usually go together and form an unclean combination. The inquiry into the affairs of the Carnegie Trust Company shows how unclean it is. But that is finance, the kind all the leaders, all the money kings indulge in. If it succeeds a man becomes great. If plans miscarry those who were forwarding them step aside for another band of crooks.

## THE SNOW SHOVELERS

BY ELIOT WHITE.

Just before sunrise on a crisp February morning the quiet spaces of Seventh avenue were bathed in a transparent bluish light that seemed the aura of the night's fresh fall of snow.

Beyond the solid rear wall of the Metropolitan Opera House, flanked with flimsy buttresses of canvas-covered scenery, I caught a glimpse of cherry-red wisps of cloud stream across the eastern sky, with their edges just kindling in the molten gold of the sunburst.

Suddenly the almost clostral stillness of the thoroughfare was broken by the rude clumping of wheels and hoofs, as a contractor's wagon was hastily driven south from 42d street. As it neared the opera house three men whom I had not noticed rushed from the sidewalk with shouts of greeting, and disregarding the driver's gestures of annoyance with his whip, they flung themselves upon the tail-board of the wagon and clambered up till they pulled out a long-handled shovel apiece.

At 38th street where the wagon was abruptly halted, a throng of forty or more men, hoarsely clamoring, surged about it, like some apparition of a black wave out of a calm sea, crested with pale foam of the clutching hands.

Over the wheels, sides and tail-board, the shafts and the horses' haunches, the deluge swept, its component bodies shoving, wriggling and climbing over one another, with uproar of shouts and muffled protests, as in some desperate panic to escape threatened death from fire or drowning, while the preaching arms and fringe of extended fingers recalled vivid pictures of a revolutionary mob demanding bread beneath palace windows.

The wagon, entirely lost to view, became a mere scaffolding to support the peaked structure of battling forms. The hill of straining muscles was more savage than the last scrimmage of football teams on the goal line before a touchdown, with here no stimulus from cheering thousands of spectators, or sense of sport to mitigate the antagonisms.

It conveyed something repulsive also, in its huddled avidity, like the swarming of famished rats over a huge cheese, or a combat of yelping wolves over a doomed sleigh driver and his horses in a Russian forest.

Above the mass the shovels in the grasp of the uppermost strugglers swayed to and fro like brandished war-clubs, and a flat-ended tin scraper that was lifted for a moment out of the rack might have been a tottering placard, demanding work, borne above a parade of the unemployed.

And all this conflict waged for the privilege of breaking and hurling into wazons until nightfall the stubborn glacial ice and befoiled snow from the city streets, where the roaring millrace of the traffic flung its mtry

As I watched the barbaric grapple, with a kind of fascinated loathing, a postman climbed the steps beside me on his delivery route and stopped abruptly at the sight beyond. To my remark that it was the struggle for existence in its real colors, he answered with indignation, "Them Eveltallians is no good to this country." "But they have a right to live, and they are certainly willing to work," I ventured. "Oh, yes," he allowed grudgingly, "they have a right to live, but they take the living from American workers because they can get on with a little food; I've seen them eat a piece of cheese and half a loaf of bread and carry the hod all day on that."

"Undoubtedly the gist of the postman's protest is at present true, but what a comment on the radical derangement of the industrial organism it furnishes! Bringing the situation to the doorstep of the individual it amounts to this: A heavy drift of snow blocks my front yard for if I might I don't live in a fifth-floor flat, and armor-plate ice has formed along my sidewalk. With a sigh for the time I might be spending on what I rate as more valuable employment at my desk or typewriter, yet acknowledging my obligation to do my stint of manual labor, I attack the snow and ice. In two hours the 'new' has worn off the exercise, as has much of the skin from my hands; I am sweating profusely and have more aches than I thought I had muscles, yet my task is not half completed.

"At this moment a powerfully built man (one of the 'Eye-tallians' under consideration, let us say) stops at my gate and volunteers to finish the job and set me free for the work I have been trained to do. Am I glad to see him, and do I delightedly hand him over my shovel and ice chisel? Under all sane conditions, most assuredly yes. But if I am consistently to represent in my parable the conservative American workman, I become violently angry and order him to begone, declaring that he is seeking to rob me of my sacred and inalienable employment, that he is in general 'no good to this country,' and that I intend to do my shoveling and chopping all by myself even if I have to pause for a while and knock him down for daring to offer his help.

Exactly this is the topsyturvydom in which our 'native' labor is shut up by capitalism, as a person fundamentally sane is sometimes committed to a madhouse by covetous and scheming relatives.

There is only one surviving reason why all such heavy work of the world, as cannot be performed by machines, should not be lightened to its minimum by being at once divided among the greatest available number of able-bodied workers, all of whom would be guaranteed not only an ample 'living' but also time and opportunity to share those joys without which there cannot in sincerity be said to be any real living. And that one reason, and supposedly insuperable obstacle is this: it would be Socialism.

## RUSSIAN STUDENTS REBELLIOUS

By MOSES OPPENHEIMER.

For some time troubles have once more broken out in several Russian universities. The students, so important an element during the stirring period of the Russian revolution, seemed of late to have been cowed by the brutal methods of the Stolypin regime. Now they appear to awaken from their torpor. The revolutionary spirit is once more abroad among them, and its manifestations have caused serious trouble, according to the Russian correspondent of the Vienna Arbeiterzeitung.

The movement has recently entered a serious stage. The students of the most important high schools in St. Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev have resolved not to attend any lectures until the government rescinds its reactionary and repressive ordinances against them and the universities.

The resolutions were passed after careful consideration as a protest against governmental action aiming at the abolition of academic freedom and autonomy of the universities. Every way of seeking relief being barred, the students felt it incumbent upon them to resort to self-help. So they entered upon a course of passive resistance. They intended to free the high schools from the interference of the police and the political spies.

For months the government had made arrangements for a thorough campaign against the universities. The governmental press denounced the high schools as breeders of rebellion. In the University of Odessa agents provocateurs of the political police had been at work, which resulted in an outrageous massacre of alleged Reds and Terrorists. But the bloodshed did not frighten the students of the other universities. It only served to convince them of the reckless schemes of the reaction aiming at the annihilation of every remaining shred of freedom.

Stolypin prepared for an extension of his brutal methods to the other universities. He claimed that the revolutionary committee in Paris was the real instigator of the rebellious spirit among the students. Therefore the government must destroy the evil, root and branch. The government proceeded accordingly, resorting to the same measures that failed so signally in 1905.

By an order issued January 23 the council of ministers abolished the right of free meetings and associations of the students. That order also virtually degraded the professors of the colleges to mere subordinates of the police. At the same time the

minister of education increased the number of supervisors of the universities and decreed a system of inspection similar to the notorious university statute of 1884. The measures aimed at the students harked back to the period of the last two decades of the nineteenth century, when the protest movement of the students was repressed with police clubs and transportation to Siberia.

The brutal men now in power at St. Petersburg are unable to comprehend the social causes of the renewed students' movement. Instead of recognizing in it a revival of the aspirations of the political bourgeois democracy, an uprising against the brutalities of the Stolypin system, the government only sees a crowd of 'rebels' that must be suppressed.

The narrow horizon of the ruling element led it to assume that the whole difficulty could be dealt with by eliminating the 'leaders.' Blacklists of students of both sexes were prepared in the ministry. The suspects were to be relegated and banished to remote governments.

In a recent session of the Duma Comrade Pokrosky told at length of those measures: "The council of ministers is waging a war of annihilation against the universities. It does not consist in sentencing parties convicted of violations, but in punishing people whose names have been placed on blacklists by police spies and secret agents. The steps now taken against the high schools are simply war measures. Four absurd and revolting acts are the result of that policy. Proceedings are ordered against persons whose names cannot be found in the university records. In Tomsk about 400 students were expelled because the police reported them as suspects. The professors are simply reduced to executive organs of the secret police."

The net result of the campaign is that the students lose all confidence in the professors who submit to that system and that large numbers of professors have resigned their positions out of self-respect.

But fermentation is going on among the student body. The struggle is now assuming a twofold aspect: it aims at restoration of the fundamental rights of free meeting and free speech and at the preservation of academic liberties. The students are once more turning their attention to public questions. They are drawn into the revolutionary struggle. New fighters are being forced to enter the arena. Their activity will of necessity render most valuable services to the revolutionary movement of the working class.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED.

Editor of The Call:  
I think meetings should be held at once throughout the country to protest against the threatened outrageous intervention in Mexico.  
C. L. PARIGOT,  
Allendale, N. J., March 8, 1911.

### THE DOCTOR.

Editor of The Call:  
"A Doctor of Medicine," reads my diploma.  
"A Doctor of Medicine," ha, ha, ha! I got the darn thing down in Wiggletooma.

Some four hundred dollars it cost my mama.  
Now ma didn't really buy me the paper.  
But sent me to college to teach me the game.

"So much for the course when complete," was the caper:  
For one year or twenty, the price was the same.

And so, when they saw I was only a sleeper  
And never would learn what a doctor should know,  
They gave me a sheepskin because it was cheaper  
Than feeding a youth so infernally slow.

They gave me my paper and shipt me to mother,  
And she sent the money to pay for my course;  
The roll wasn't bought, but somehow or other,  
There's twelve in a dozen, and pushing is force.

I lived a gay life while down in that college,  
The pranks we indulged in would move you to tears;  
The slicing and jabbing while groping for knowledge,  
Was quite on a par with the slaughter of steers.

You see, the directors had made an arrangement  
To handle the hospital trade free of charge,  
And all we might do would cause no estrangement—  
We murdered our hundreds and still are at large.

The patients were poor, just the scum of the nation  
(The hospital ran on the charity plan);  
Each case we received we would say: "operation"  
Quite needless, of course, but, er—practice my man.

No food were they given and when nearly starving,  
We opened their stomachs and rummaged about;  
To silence complaints against probing and carving,  
We dosed them with ether till life petered out.

At times we had vagrants whose fate was no matter;  
No relatives placing a claim on the dead;  
'Twas then we played baseball, an arm for the batter,  
The ball that we used was the blood-beheaded head.

And after the game we would chop up the body,  
And do it as well as a sausage machine;  
Then into the furnace—now, boys, for a toddy;  
While toasting the flesh let us toast the gay scene.

Ah, well, reminiscence and profit are clashing,  
Those times were a dream, but it's better today;  
I still have the pleasure of prying and slaughtering,  
And then, there's the price that the slaughtered ones pay.

They give me their lives—quite enuf, I am thinking—  
But no, eighty dollars, and thank me as well!  
Yes, pay me for curing a headache from drinking,  
By sending both ache and my victim to hell.

And then, there are those who make me so merry—  
Refuse to submit to my beautiful knife,  
'Tis then I use medicine—harmless? Oh, very—  
As potent as steel for destroying a life.

The earmarks of wealth are my cases' solutions,  
If evidence shows they are able to pay,  
I give them my poisons; I wreck constitutions—  
Two dollars a visit for many a day!

I write them prescriptions, ingredients seven,  
But one is of value, the rest are a blind;  
The druggist will charge them a dollar eleven  
For that which will injure both body and mind.

The six that I use are but six kinds of water,  
I change them to six other kinds every day—  
Ah, me, but the "doc" is a wonderful plotter,  
Who knows how to make ignorant menses pay!

Now why is the druggist allowed this addition  
To profits already much more than enuf?  
I help him because I receive a commission  
On 'all that I sell of his poisonous stuff.

We use the old Latin to further our stealing,  
Because by my patients it cannot be read—  
Significant fact, that my murderous dealings

Are aided in part by a tongue known as "dead."

Ha, ha, what is that that I see in the alley?  
A man on a drunk, scarcely able to stand.  
By Jove, it's Jack Smith of the Harvard grand rally.  
He once came to me with a snake-bitten hand.

Such trifles are nothing; their cure is quite easy.  
But Jack had the money, I drugged him to sleep;  
He took to the habit, now, dirty and greasy,  
He begs for a living—ha, ha, let me weep.

Ah, ha! what is this on the floor?  
'Tis a letter  
From Vuleher and Jackyll, two cronies of mine.  
The waste basket waits—well, a check is some better;  
"For So-and-So's funeral, twelve thirty-nine."

Unprincipled villains, these damned undertakers!  
I keep my agreement and kill by the score,  
Then twelve thirty-nine I receive from those fakers—  
Ah, well, it will help, but it should have been more.

The telephone rings, and they seem in a hurry—  
Hello, yes, the doctor, your daughter is sick?  
There now, never mind; there is cause for no worry.  
I'm coming—good-by. Hey, there, Jacques, auto, quick!

Come, hurry, you rascal, they tell me she suffers.  
I know you don't care, sir, and neither do I.  
But Old Man MacMillyns, the biggest of duffers,  
Won't pay me a cent if his daughter should die.

Look out, there, you villain; sometimes you act stranger  
Than some of the people who call on the "doc."  
Be careful! Be careful! Our lives are in danger,  
Look out for that tree! O, my God, what a shock!

I'm injured, a weight on my stomach is lying—  
The doctors will get me! They'll get me, I say!  
My poisons? Ah, by my hand I am dying—  
Far better than by to the doctors a prey.

HOBO POET.  
Girard, Kan., March 6, 1911.

### DO, PLEASE, TABOO IT.

Editor of The Call:  
In today's Call you say: "It is the religionists who are always belligerent and looking—yes, searching—for offenses, real or supposed, against religion, and not the free thinkers."

Inasmuch as I was the first one to offer an objection to that now much discussed Gould-Decies wedding report, it may not be out of order for me to state that I am not a "religionist," but am, and have been for quite a number of years, a free thinker, a secularist and an agnostic.

My objection to such items as the aforesaid wedding report is that they are coarse, crude efforts to have fun at the expense of persons who have beliefs, sacred to them, which we should have the common decency to respect as we like others to respect our own beliefs. I can find no good reason why a person cannot at the same time be intelligent, honest, a believer in God, an attendant at church where a preacher tells what both speaker and hearer believe to be the truth, and be a good Socialist withal. Besides, as one correspondent has said, it is "bonehead tactics" for a Socialist paper to unnecessarily arouse the prejudices of its readers by butting in a hornet's nest without the slightest good reason for doing so.

The definition of "secularist" in the Standard Dictionary fits in pretty well with my idea of what subjects a Socialist paper should deal with and what it should taboo.

EDWIN W. WHEAT,  
West New Brighton, N. Y., March 5, 1911.

[The writer of the above, and a good many others, seem to have forgotten that the editor of The Call has never written a word one way or the other. It is these letter writers themselves who insist on discussing the relation of religion or the church to Socialism.—Ed. The Call.]

### THE SAME COMPLAINT.

Editor of The Call:  
Like Comrade Wheat, my perverted sense of humor cannot see anything funny in the statement in the Gould-Decies wedding concerning "God being some kind of a grandpa to priest or a preacher." I have always prided myself on having a sense of humor, too. And what has that to do with the question of the sanctity of marriage or "knuckling to the rich," etc.?

Comrade Bertha W. Howe also says: "It (The Call) must not, it seems, poke any harmless fun at the ministers," etc. Why should it poke fun at the ministers any more than at the bricklayers, the garment makers, the bakers or any other kind of profession or trade? As Socialists we wave the red flag and vociferate about the solidarity of the human race, and then in practice we set off one or two sections of our fellow men to "poke fun at."

And a profession that fairly pours in converts to Socialism from its ranks, we choose as the chief butt of our "fun."

And what, in this country, do we mean by "the church"? The church, which I am still benighted enough to attend, teaches the doctrine of evolution, all the latest discoveries of science are welcomed, the very latest and best scholarship on all theological subjects is a part of its teaching and there is absolutely no authority accepted but that of reason. About one-third of the ministers of this denomination are Socialists. Our constitution is in about the average proportion of Socialists and non-Socialists. Now, how would I feel trying to convert any of them by handing out most of the statements concerning the church that one reads in The Call? Perhaps our Comrades in other countries

tries if they had been different country such as ours without a church and where every religion or no religion are on an equal footing would have avoided some of the quarrels with organized religion. Professor Rauschenbusch gave a lecture on the subject of "The Church and the Church" at Ford Hall in Boston last fall. I wish it might be published in some Sunday edition of The Call.

Another thing I personally like to see is a fair, impartial statement of the commission form of government, written by one who believes in it. We do not take our statements of Socialism from its opponents, we think the only way to judge of a program is when given by its author.

Melrose, Mass., March 4, 1911.  
[Again we beg leave to remind the writer that it is not we, but other respondents with the same right as the writer of this present letter, who have expressed their views. Are we to be completely suppressed in accordance to the demands of the church heretics?—Ed. The Call.]

### RAILROAD STATISTICS.

Editor of The Call:  
"John D." seems to think that is something remarkable about a statement made by Labor Leader H. Morrissey relative to his statement that railroad labor received 41 percent of the gross earnings of the ways. In 1903 labor received 46.3 percent of the gross earnings; fuel oil that same year was \$12 per barrel; taxes were 3.05; interest, 14.48; dividends were 8.74 per cent on the materials for locomotives, 2.63; materials for freight cars, 2.63; the cost of equipment, 2.53; permanent improvements, 2.21, etc. These statistics are taken from the Interstate commerce commission, as were the figures of the railroad industry.

What he said, it is a fact that while the railroads have been raising wages they have been reducing rates. In the freight rates averaged 241 cents per mile; now they average 235, or 1890 passenger rates were 2.17 cents per mile; now they average 2.15, or less than 2 cents. Twenty-five years ago I worked on the B. & M. as a switchman at \$1.05 per day; now the average is not below \$1.75 per day. Now, this may or may not have anything to do with Socialism, or government ownership, but they are facts as far as we have any knowledge of the government reports and personal experience.

RAILROAD MAN,  
Boston, Mass., March 4, 1911.

[How much has the cost of living risen in these twenty-five years?—Ed. The Call.]

### "CLASS-CONSCIOUSNESS."

Editor of The Call:  
For many of those who know Miss Yvonne Scudder, a professor in Wellesley College, as a writer of books whose work has been an inspiration not only because of its fidelity to truth, but also because of its beauty, it may come as a matter of interest that she is writing, from time to time in the Atlantic Monthly various articles of a very high order on Socialism. The March issue contains an article by her entitled "Class-Consciousness."

Miss Scudder's discussion is sympathetic and she asserts that Socialism is its class-conscious connotations "is probably the only form of group-consciousness yet evolved in history to look beyond its corporate aim." It is not necessary to add to what Miss Scudder has so ably written. The class struggle is on and the Socialists welcome discontent and inspire in revolt. As has been recently pointed out by another university professor, "the idea of the group as a means of interpretation is emerging more clearly."

and involves three fundamental things: common interest, a present crisis, a future purpose." There is always going on a struggle between the different economic classes, and the chief advantage of class-consciousness is that it assists in focusing the attention upon the relation of profit to one another, and demands a coordination of activities whether it be in the capitalist class or the laboring class.

Whichever side one may take in the controversy which rages around the question of class-consciousness and economic determinism, the welcome accorded Miss Scudder's articles ought to be a common interest. A present crisis, a future purpose." There is always going on a struggle between the different economic classes, and the chief advantage of class-consciousness is that it assists in focusing the attention upon the relation of profit to one another, and demands a coordination of activities whether it be in the capitalist class or the laboring class.

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