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Vol. 4.—No. 220.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1911.

### BERGER WARNS CONGRESS AS TO OLD AGE PENSIONS

#### Must Take a Stand, Declares Socialist Representative.

### TOILERS' TRAGEDY

#### Only Partial Restitution at Best—Points Out Corporation Fakes.

(By National Socialist Press.)  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—"Within a year you will have to make up your minds on the subject of old age pension," declared Victor L. Berger, the Socialist Representative, on the floor of the House today.

"You will have to determine where you stand. A mighty wave of demands for the passage of some such law will roll in from every section of the country, and the issue will have to be met."

Berger obtained unanimous consent to address the House on old age pension legislation. He spoke about fifteen minutes. At the conclusion of his address he was applauded by members of both old parties.

#### Tragedy to Workers.

"There is hardly a more pitiful tragedy than the lot of the toiler who has struggled all his life to gain a competence, and who at 60 years faces the poorhouse.

#### Shows Up Fake Pensions.

The Socialist Representative took occasion to attack the pension schemes now being established by various corporations. He said:

#### HIS COIN DELAYED.

##### Steeplejack's Mind Unbalanced and Asks for His \$1,000.

William Talent, a steeplejack, walked into the East 23d street station yesterday and asked for his \$1,000 had arrived from London yesterday.

### FOUR MORE LIVES LOST ON GRADE CROSSING

UTICA, N. Y., Aug. 7.—Jacob Nusbbaum, 15 years of age, is the only survivor of a party of five who started out this morning with a horse and wagon for a picnic a few miles north of this city.

The wagon was struck by the north bound Adirondack express at 10:50 this morning on a grade crossing and four of the occupants were killed. They are Mrs. Philip Nusbbaum; her son Julius, aged 10; her daughter Edith, aged 12, and her sister, Miss Goldie Goldstein, aged 21, of Rochester.

### 27 MILES AN HOUR HELD NOT TOO FAST

#### Magistrate Declares Callan Law Applies to This City and Discharges Chauffeur.

John Martin, a chauffeur, of 155 East 74th street, was in the Yorkville Police Court yesterday on a summons given to him by Policeman John Howe, of the motorcycle squad.

"This man was running an automobile down Fifth avenue early yesterday morning at a speed of twenty-seven miles an hour," the policeman said to Magistrate Murphy.

"I regret that some of my fellow magistrates do not agree with me that the Callan Law applies to this city, but Mayor Gaynor believes it does apply," said Magistrate Murphy.

### MOVE TO CENSURE LIBERAL GOV'T

#### Balfour Claims That Creation of New Peers Is Constitutional Breach, and Undemocratic, but Is Defeated.

LONDON, Aug. 7.—A. J. Balfour, ex-Prime Minister, today moved the vote of censure on the government, which was announced last week. The strangers' gallery was crowded with peers and members of the diplomatic corps, among the latter being White-law Reid.

### RAINEY JUMPS ON EVERYBODY.

#### BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio, Aug. 7.—Congressman Rainey, of Illinois, in a Chautauqua address at Orchard Island, yesterday, asserted the Steel Trust was a menace to civilization; called Congressman Hobson an alarmist; and denounced Roosevelt for spending \$13,000,000 in sending the battleship fleet on a cruise of the world.

#### OLD RAILROAD HURT.

TRENTON, N. J., Aug. 7.—Caught by a freight car, he was drilling, Conductor John Schupp, who had served the Pennsylvania Railroad for more than twenty-five years without an accident, was seriously injured. His left arm was so badly hurt that amputation was necessary and his left side was crushed.

### ICE BUSINESS IS SO BAD, SAYS OLER

#### Trust President Tells Affecting Story of Want and Privation.

It was really depressing to hear Wesley M. Oler, president of the Knickerbocker Ice Company, in the resumption of the ice hearing yesterday, tell what a miserable thing the ice business is. No profits and lots of abuse; only a single-minded devotion to the public welfare induces the trust to keep a-going.

"Six months in the year," said Oler, "you lose money; two months you just about hold your own, and you have to make your profits in the other four months. As a matter of fact it is a rotten business, and it doesn't pay people to put their money in it."

Oler said that the total net profit made by the Knickerbocker in the last four years was \$633,200, an average of \$158,300 each year. The actual capital invested, he said, was about \$4,500,000, so that the interest the stockholders got on their investment was about 3.5 per cent. In the last four years, he said, the price of ice had fluctuated greatly. In 1907 it was \$1.50 a ton, in 1908, \$3, in 1909, \$5, and in 1910, \$2.

To show that the ice business was profitable for only a few months in the year Oler said that in the seven months previous to June 1, of this year, his company lost \$81,000. By the end of June, however, there was a profit of \$1,922.70.

### LEATHER BOSSES' BLUFF IS CALLED

#### Strikers Keep Shops Tied Up Tight. Conspiracy Case Against Manufacturers on Today.

The striking leather goods workers yesterday called the bluff of the bosses when not a man broke away from the strikers' ranks despite the threats that the shops would be reopened with strikebreakers if they did not return to work. The bosses failed to carry out their threats.

### ATTACK CABRERA FOR CONCESSION

#### Guatemalan President Under Fire for Priceless Mineral Monopoly Given Senator Clark.

GUATEMALA CITY, Aug. 7.—Priceless deposits of emeralds are reported to have been discovered by prospectors in the employ of the corporation organized by Senator Clark to exploit his mineral monopoly in this republic.

### LAD SHOT BY COP MAY DIE

#### Commissioner Waldo Sees No Reason Why Officer Should Fire at Boy. Orders Him Suspended.

Policeman W. A. Weaver, of the station house at New Dorp, S. I., who Sunday night shot and perhaps fatally wounded a 16-year-old Italian boy, was yesterday ordered by Police Commissioner Waldo to report at headquarters and explain the shooting. In view of the fact that the boy was being arrested on a disorderly conduct charge, Commissioner Waldo said it did not seem clear to him why the officer should have shot him. Weaver has been temporarily suspended.

The wounded boy, William Trantino, who lives at 330 East 12th street, Manhattan, lies near death in St. Vincent's Hospital as the result of a bullet he received in the back. Coroner Jackson, because of the serious condition of the lad, has not been able to obtain an ante-mortem statement from him.

### TRY TO CHECK SUBWAY WORK

#### But Justice Ford Orders Quick Action in Proceedings for an Injunction.

Argument on the application by a taxpayer for an injunction to prevent the construction of the Lexington avenue subway was again adjourned when it was called yesterday in the Supreme Court under the name of the Admiralty Realty Company against Gaynor. Justice Ford set it down for tomorrow.

### NEW YORK'S POSTAL BANK IS POPULAR

The new postal savings bank here took in over \$41,000 during the first week of its existence. This is at an average of nearly \$7,000 a day, which the postal authorities think is doing pretty well.

### WOULD-BE SWIMMER DIES.

#### Jersey Lad Frightened When His Feet Didn't Touch Bottom.

As a result of gulping water into his lungs while he was swimming yesterday afternoon in the Hudson River near 205th street, Alfred Schwartz, 14 years, old who lives at Englewood, N. J., died last night.

### DOG BITES SIX PERSONS.

A brown mongrel dog bit at least six persons in Bayonne, yesterday. That many went to the City Hospital, where their wounds were cauterized. The worst hurt was Frank Carr, 12 years old, of 432 Avenue E. The dog was taken to the S. F. C. A.

### LORIMER WITNESS ADMITS HE'S A LIAR

#### Confessed Party to Illinois Corruption Wants to Save Time.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Former Representative N. J. C. Beckmeyer today testifying before the Lorimer investigating committee stated that he had received \$1,000 as bribes. Of this \$1,000 was paid him by Lee O'Neil Browne to vote for Lorimer and the \$900 was from the "legislative jackpot."

Beckmeyer said that while he had denied on several occasions that he had accepted a bribe he had told the truth to the Illinois Grand Jury and he detailed at length to the committee the manner in which the money was paid to him.

### IMMIGRATION LAW MAY BE CHANGED

#### WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Senator Dillingham (Rep., Va.), former chairman of the Immigration Committee today introduced in the Senate a bill providing that Asiatic immigrants shall be given the same legal status as other immigrants, except that manual laborers are not eligible to naturalization and will be barred from the country.

### TRINIDAD, Colo., Aug. 7.—What probably is the greatest coal discovery ever made in Colorado occurred here yesterday when a big vein was unearthed on the property of the Westland and Fuel Company.

### TRUCK DRIVER SHOOTS SELF.

#### Henry Laird, 25 years old, a truck driver of 112 East 56th street, committed suicide early yesterday morning in a saloon at 48th street and Third avenue by shooting himself in the right temple. He died before the arrival of an ambulance surgeon.

### QUET DAY IN CONEY ISLAND CAR STRIKE

#### Talk of Arbitration Damps Enthusiasm of Men.

The strike area in Brooklyn was yesterday as quiet as a funeral. A Call reporter made the trip from Park row to Coney Island and back, the only incidents on the route being the contemptuous glances and remarks from people on the sidewalks.

### REFORM ASSOCIATION IS OUT FOR PURITY

The National Reform Association with State headquarters at 37 and 39 West 42d street has started things in earnest. It has a thousand members, many of whom are workers. A man who is well known on the waterfront and popular in seamen's circles, named Capt. J. H. Mack, is likewise prominent in this movement, which has for its aim political cleanliness and moral decency.

### TAFT AGAIN FAVORS JEWISH PRIVATE

#### Orders Bloom to Be Given Examination for Appointment as Second Lieutenant.

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"The purpose of the association shall be to create public sentiment in favor of better administration, when needed, of public officers, and to bring enlightened public sentiment into action to secure the nomination and election of honest and efficient public officers, to labor for the enactment and strict enforcement of laws that will help to make for moral and political cleanliness, and to make thorough investigation for evidence against gambling, disorderly or immoral places of any kind, and to mail and deliver any proper literature that will help to advance all other good and proper movements that will make better places in which to live, and to protect our members in what is right. It is the duty of every member to report in writing any wrongdoing in his neighborhood to the president, who will see that it is stopped."

### SETTLEMENT EXPECTED SOON.

Ryan expressed the belief that the strike would be settled in a day or two, because the company could not continue to lose money at the rate of \$5,000 a day on the Smith street line alone. He estimated the damage during Saturday and Sunday at \$15,000.

### OPPIUM FOUND IN HOME.

#### Hence Jow Gum, of Pell Street, Had to Give Bail.

Jow Gum was arrested yesterday at Pell street, his home, for having in his possession smoking opium worth \$1,200. Jow had nothing to say as to how he got the opium or what he intended to do with it when he was taken before Commissioner Shields by Customs Inspector William Murphy. He was released under \$1,000 bail for examination.

### BIG BLAZE AT PHOENIX, ARIZ.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Aug. 7.—Fire of unknown origin destroyed property here yesterday valued at \$100,000, and for a time threatened the whole downtown district.

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### ANOTHER BRITISH SPY SCARE.

BREMEN, Aug. 7.—An Englishman, said to be an officer of the British Yeomanry, was arrested here today accused of spying on the German fortifications on the North Sea coast. The prisoner was subsequently admitted to bail.

### DOG BITES SIX PERSONS.

A brown mongrel dog bit at least six persons in Bayonne, yesterday. That many went to the City Hospital, where their wounds were cauterized. The worst hurt was Frank Carr, 12 years old, of 432 Avenue E. The dog was taken to the S. F. C. A.







WARNED, SAYS UNION BANK DEPOSITOR

Stranger Threatened Relative, He Declares—Cropsy Gets in Case.

STOLE BRIDEGROOM WHO PLUCKED "GOODS"

CANEY, Kan., Aug. 7.—Sixteen prominent young men of this place were today arrested on a charge of kidnaping Dale Williams, who yesterday married Pauline Canary, who has a monthly income of \$2,000.

OPTICIAN AND OPTOMETRIST

When you are troubled with your eyes, have them examined and, if glasses are necessary, have them made at

HENRY FRAHME TRUSSMAKER

Trusses, Braces, Bandages, Elastic Stockings, Crutches, Suspensories, Artificial Limbs. All stock guaranteed.

Arbeiter Kranken u. Sterbe-Kasse

Sick and Death Benefit Fund of the United States of America.

MATTEAWAN UNDER RIGID INSPECTION

As Patients Die They're Buried Without Ceremony That State Provides.

STOP ADVANCE IN FREIGHT RATES

Interstate Commerce Commission Puts Crimp in Plan of Roads Intending to Boost October 28.

TOGO VISITS THE NAVAL ACADEMY

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Aug. 7.—Admiral Togo arrived here at 12:30 o'clock on a private car from Washington.

MEN IN CINCINNATI FOR VOTES FOR WOMEN

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Aug. 7.—Headed by L. A. Watson, secretary of the Cincinnati Vigilance Society, there was organized in Cincinnati this evening the first distinct association of men for the suffrage cause in this State.

NO EMIGRANTS FOR URUGUAY

ROME, Aug. 7.—Because of the strict quarantine regulations enforced by the Republic of Uruguay, the Italian Government issued a decree yesterday prohibiting emigration to that country.

NOTICE!

We beg to inform our patrons and friends that we have opened our new place.

THIS MASSIVE DAVENPORT Retails for \$32.50. OUR FACTORY PRICE, \$14.95. Fine Solid Oak Extension Tables, Worth Retail \$15.00; Our Factory Price . . . 7.50. EVERYTHING FOR THE HOME AT WHOLESALE. THE ONLY FACTORY WHICH SELLS TO PRIVATE PARTIES. OPEN SATURDAY UNTIL 10 P. M. Write for Booklet No. 6. WE ARE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STORES ASSOCIATION. BIG G FURNITURE WORKS 203-205 E. 76th St. At 3rd Ave. Station.

STOPS ADVANCE IN FREIGHT RATES

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—Proposed advances in class freight rates by railroads running between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, which were to become effective on October 28, 1911, today were suspended by the Interstate Commerce Commission until December 30.

SENATE DEBATES ARIZONA CONSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—The time of the Senate was given up today to debate on the resolution for statehood for Arizona and New Mexico.

LOS ANGELES COPS DRIVE MAN TO SUICIDE

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 2.—Police methods in Los Angeles are growing more flagrant every day. Widespread indignation has been caused by the treatment of an aged and emaciated victim of capitalism's greed.

FIND JERSEY WOMAN STARVING IN WOODS

After a search lasting since Saturday, the authorities yesterday found Mrs. Joseph German, of Barkets Hollow, N. J., who had been missing from her home since Tuesday last, wandering in a thicket of woods.

WIFE SWUNG PIANO LEG.

George R. Merrill, who says he is a New York Central claim agent, residing at 511 West 179th street, accused his wife in Harlem Court yesterday of striking him on the head with a piano leg. He said she remained out late Friday, and when he remonstrated with her she attacked him. The case was put over until Thursday by Magistrate O'Connor.

CASHIER'S HIRED TOOL DIES

Jersey City Man Duped Another to Blow Safe to Destroy Books, Thus Hiding His Crookedness.

P. O. CLERK KILLED ON VACATION DAY

John Monahan, 45 years old, a clerk in the postoffice department of the Grand Central Station, was instantly killed yesterday by falling from a window in his home on the fourth floor of 2327 Seventh avenue.

ROTTEN HAM BONE THEIR ONLY FOOD

Found in a squalid basement apartment at 464 East 147th street, the Bronx, yesterday, by an agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, five little ones were removed to the society's rooms.

SAVED MILLIONS, NOW HUNGRY.

Fire Fighters Fed and Sleep in Jail After Heroic Work.

GOING TO PICNIC, IS KILLED.

Within a block of her home yesterday, while she was climbing on a truck which was to carry a crowd of her little neighbors to the car line on a picnic trip in Highland Park, Martha Basinsky, 9 years old, living at 106 Alabama avenue, East New York, was run over by the truck and almost instantly killed.

SPORTS CUBS LICK GIANTS TIGERS TRIM YANKS DODGERS DEFEATED

CHICAGO, Aug. 7.—Joe Tinker celebrated his reinstatement today by being the big factor in the defeat of the Giants.

ALBANY, Aug. 7.—Harry N. Atwood, with his flight managers, A. Lee Stevens and C. C. Mayer, passed through here this evening on the Twentieth Century Limited to reach Chicago tomorrow morning to prepare for Atwood's new record aeroplane flight.

OTHER GAMES

Table with columns for National League and American League, listing games and scores for various teams.

STANDING OF THE CLUBS

Table showing the standing of clubs in the National League and American League, listing teams, wins, losses, and percentages.

ANOTHER ROBBERY ON H. A. P. A. G. STEAMER

Another mysterious robbery was reported yesterday on the Hamburg-American liner Amerika.

NEW YORK, Aug. 7.—The Detroit Tigers yesterday put the Yankees to a humiliating defeat in the seventh inning.

ATWOOD PREPARES FOR HIS LONGEST FLIGHT

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FLYNN-BARRY TONIGHT

There will be an array of middle-weight pugilists stars at the Twentieth Century Athletic Club tonight when Porky Flynn and Jim Barry get together in a ten-round engagement.

DUFFY BUYS PLAYER

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 7.—Manager Hug Duffy, of the White Sox, today purchased Dan Senno, the hard hitting rightfielder of the Ottumwa Central Association team.

GAMES TODAY

Brooklyn in St. Louis; New York in Chicago; Philadelphia in Pittsburgh; Boston in Cincinnati.

BROOKLYN, Aug. 7.—The Brooklyn Dodgers yesterday put the St. Louis Cardinals to a humiliating defeat in the seventh inning.

DEMS. BEAT G. O. P.'S WITHOUT BERGER'S AID

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7.—About the weirdest thing in the way of a baseball game ever seen in Washington took place on Georgetown University field this afternoon between teams representing the Republican and Democratic sides of the House of Representatives.

WARD APPEALS CASE

Judge Hand having denied a motion for a new trial of John M. Ward's slander suit against Ben Johnson, president of the American League, appeal papers were filed in the Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday.

HOOKED FISH AND DROWNED

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Aug. 7.—While trying to land a big trout he had hooked at Gummer Falls, in Sullivan County, today, David Briggs, an engineer on the Ontario and Western Railroad, lost his balance and fell into the creek. He could not swim and was drowned.

BROWNED AFTER RESCUE

LANCASTER, Pa., Aug. 7.—After saving the life of Miss Susanna Steel, J. M. Smalling, first baseman of the local team of the Tri-State League, was drowned in the Conococtus River at Rocky Springs, near here. His body was recovered today and will be taken to his home in Bridgeport, Conn., for burial.











# The Call



Devoted to the interests of the Working People.

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VOL. 4. TUESDAY, AUGUST 8. No. 220.

## "EACH MAN KILLS THE THING HE LOVES"

No incident in many years has so fully and publicly corroborated the Socialist analysis of our industrial system as the investigation now proceeding concerning the Steel Trust and its acts since the period of its formation. If we have devoted much space to this subject it is for this reason.

One point in the testimony of Mr. Schwab is especially worthy of notice in view of the popular belief that the people who form trusts are not only willing to abandon competition, but set out with a malevolent and deliberate purpose to destroy it, and go cheerfully about their work of destruction.

But Mr. Schwab's testimony as to the futility of "gentlemen's agreements" during the pre-trust period displays the aforesaid "gentlemen" as the very incarnation of competition. While the agreements temporarily promised an increased profit to any of the particular individuals that entered them, they were observed, but were cast aside instantly and without the slightest compunction when they no longer served the interest of such individual. They were even entered into deliberately by persons who before their signature was dry on the document rushed for the nearest telephone to countermand at their plant the provisions of the compact.

The only chance that the "gentlemen's agreement" had was when one of the "gentlemen" became so much more industrially and financially powerful than his competitors that it was dangerous to incur his resentment by breaking it, and when this took place, as it was bound to take place, the trust was about ready to be born. The other "gentlemen" were forced into it regardless of their likes or dislikes, regardless of their devotion to competition. It was a case of come in and live, or stay out and perish. While they could hang on to competition they did so, and only abandoned it because they were forced to.

In Herbert Casson's work, "The Romance of the Reaper," a most interesting chapter is given to the formation of the Harvester Trust. Four or five of the oldest and largest manufacturers, like McCormick, Deering, Osborne and others, "self-made men" who had worked their business up from the smallest beginnings and had nursed it for half a century or more, and looked upon it as peculiarly the child of their individual care and effort, at last came to the point where the indulgence in further competition meant mutual business suicide. Morgan and his astute satellites saw the necessity for the trust, but the "individualist" owners, wedded to the competitive principle, for a long time would hear nothing even remotely suggesting combination. Finally, they were induced to meet for discussion by an agent representing Morgan who placed before them the results that might be expected from a continuance of competition. Some of them saw it clearly enough, but the competitive fetich was not to be abolished so easily. Again and again the conference was broken up by one or other of the great manufacturers, who sturdily swore by all the competitive gods that he would continue to "run his business in his own way." He would be partly talked over when another of the high contracting parties would kick over the combination traces and bolt the outfit. Morgan's man worked patiently for days and days before the foundation could be laid for the future trust. Finally, after long and wearisome wrangling and furious outbursts of temper, the agreement was signed, several of the old war-horses actually shedding tears as they placed their names on the document. They have stood by that agreement since simply because they dared not break it.

There are many millions of people of the mental caliber of, say, Mr. Bryan, who seem to believe that all actions are the result of deliberate choice on the part of those performing them. They recognize no necessity in economic action; all is the result of free will. The same reasoning that regards the wage system as involving "freedom of contract" on the part of the laborer, is applied to the formation of the trust. Any recognition that a certain course of economic action may be utterly unavoidable and the action itself dictated by this consideration is a conception they cannot seem to grasp. They would punish the constructors of the trusts as wicked and malicious persons whose only object was to destroy competition which they knew to be good, and establish combination which they knew to be evil, and that to such action they were in no way compelled, but rather performed it deliberately and willingly. They are the sort of people who would advocate the lynching of the heads of the weather bureau for predicting a blizzard or a drought or the astronomer who told of a coming eclipse, when such occurrences were actually realized.

Even Mr. Schwab himself, despite his experience, seems to still carry some of this antique rubbish as part of his mental equipment. He declared himself as opposed to trusts generally, but qualified the statement by limiting his condemnation to those which endeavored to restrict production. However, when asked if he believed that the era of competition was forever passed, he promptly answered in the affirmative. He doesn't want competition, and he doesn't want the trust which has supplanted it, and which only could supplant it.

The old superstitions die hard surely, when we consider that the trust magnates themselves are not wholly free of them, and in such case how much more difficult is it to convince the masses that those who actually formed the trusts did so under irresistible compulsion and in nearly every case with the greatest reluctance? It is hard to convince such people that these champions of competition, even while destroying their old goddess, actually fought for her to the very last ditch.

## A FEEBLE RECOMMENDATION.

It may not have been intended as a sarcastic joke at the expense of organized labor, but certainly the placing of Senator Borah, of Idaho, on the Committee of Inquiry into the kidnapping of the McNamara brothers at least justifies that suspicion when it is remembered what part this same Borah played in the Moyer-Haywood case, where he was chief counsel for the prosecution.

When Attorney Richardson for the defense, in one of the preliminary examinations of the prisoners, declared against the kidnapping of his clients, Borah, after admitting its irregularity, closed the discussion of the point by remarking after the manner of the late Boss Tweed, "What are you going to do about it?"

There wasn't anything to be done, to be sure, and the three victims of the Denver outrage went to trial as the McNamaras also will. The Supreme Court practically justified the man-stealing.

Now, Senator Borah's investigation committee, having decided that the Indiana prisoners were illegally extradited, limits itself to "recommending" that in future extradition "should" not be allowed until after a certain number of days had elapsed since the arrest. Just how much effect a recommendation beginning with "should" will have upon that inexorably conservative and capitalistic body, the Supreme Court, may be left to the imagination. However, it is the best that organized labor can expect either from a Borah or a Supreme Court, and possibly the best that either can do under present conditions. The Supreme Court can reply to Borah as he did to Richardson six years ago, "What are you going to do about it?"

And what Borah is going to do may be summed up in one word—nothing. And there is good reason for believing that what he

## WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### THE EARLY DAYS IN BUFFALO.

Editor of The Call:

After reading your editorial and Comrades Berker, Hillquit and Wanhope's letters on the tenth anniversary of the birth of the Socialist party, I thought it might interest your readers to have an account of the early days of the party in Buffalo.

After Bryan was defeated in 1896 I began to attend the public meetings of the Socialist Labor party, and at the city election in 1897 assisted in counting the S. L. P. vote on the night of election. Over 1,600 votes were cast for the S. L. P. in that year, a number which was never exceeded before last November.

I was on the point of joining the S. L. P. once or twice, but not feeling at home among them, I refrained, as I felt that the prevailing spirit in the S. L. P. would never attract the mass of the American people.

So I halled with delight the Social Democracy started in June, 1897, by Comrades Debs, Berger and others, and when, in 1898, a political party (pure and simple) began its career I was not slow in becoming a member. The first local was organized February 5, 1899, with thirteen members (one woman and one member who was able to speak English). This local died stillborn, for want of some one to act as leader.

I well remember the conference in New York between the "Kangaroos" and Comrade Debs and other Social Democrats, and the failure to unite except in New York City. I well remember two of the delegates at that conference passing through Buffalo in February, 1900. They were able, principally through the help of German Comrades, to hold a public meeting. It was called for John Harriman, in a hall where we had to wear overcoats to keep warm. And how impatient Harriman was for the chairman to get through introducing him. When that was over he practically took full charge of the meeting and ignored the chairman.

The other man, when he came, was just as unreasonable.

Nothing was done in Buffalo in 1900, and when a fighting German Comrade, who was sent through the State to get sixty names in every county to a nominating petition, arrived in Buffalo, the German Comrades called a meeting to receive him.

When our visiting Comrade found out who I was, and that I stood with Comrade Debs against immediate union, he rushed at me like a wild bull.

There were strenuous times, for the spirit which animated those who organized the Social Democratic party could not readily unite with the spirit which animated Comrades who were fresh from the Socialist Labor party. After the factions united in 1901, I met Comrade Henry Moses (an old S. L. P. man) on the street. He said: "Now they have united, it is time we began to move in this city. I begin to be ashamed of myself."

I said, "Come up to my house and bring others."

Well, he brought one more. That night the first effort was made to organize the united party in Buffalo.

Up to 1905 the conflict over having "immediate demands" in the party platform, or not, did not cut much of a figure. But since the advent about three years ago of the most active members of the S. L. P. in Socialist

party there has been considerable friction; for a time those opposed to any immediate demands had full sway along with a stormy antagonism to the American Federation of Labor, but the pendulum is swinging the other way quite strong at the present moment.

Yours for the revolution.

TOM FITTON.  
Buffalo, N. Y., August 3.

### REFORMERS AND THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

Editor of The Call:

What is a Socialist?

Will some Comrade kindly name any principle or rule of the party that cannot now be disobeyed with impunity?

We have long been accustomed to the entrance into the party of reformers who say that they propose to use it for their purposes without adopting a single Socialist principle.

We have heard conservative trade unionists all over the country taking the view that the Socialist party can be turned into a Trade Union party of the British type and we have seen them entering it for this purpose.

We have had the example of a certain State refusing to call its organization Socialist or to pay any attention to the constitutional requirement that those joining the party shall subscribe to the class struggle.

We know that no Socialist parties anywhere have been able to keep non-Socialist reformers out and that the only remedy is to take Socialist revolutionists in as fast as reformers are admitted.

But the Socialist parties in other countries have some self respect. They are not sheep. The Briands and Ferris are thrown out. They draw the line somewhere.

What is the most typical thing about our party? What have the party papers, speakers, soap-box orators mentioned most frequently? Is it not the fact that we control the people we elect to office?

Yet Mayor Stitt Wilson, of Berkeley, has defied the party by refusing to give in his resignation, and his excuse, which he has succeeded in getting the majority of Local Berkeley to approve, is an insult to every self-respecting party member.

"Our Berkeley charter," says the resolution, "providing as it does for the initiative, referendum and recall, there is no necessity for any official placing his resignation in the hands of the local."

In other words, Local Berkeley voluntarily surrenders its control over Mayor Wilson on the ground that he is controlled by the people of Berkeley.

It is well known that the Socialist party nowhere embraces more than about 20 per cent of the Socialist voters.

In view of this fact does not the resolution of Local Berkeley amount to a proposal to disband the local as a political factor until the next time for nominations arrives?

Does this not leave everything in the hands of Wilson and his appointees? Does it not make certain in the long run the formation of a political machine of officeholders that will find no difficulty in controlling the party?

Is a local free to resign its power for several years into the hands of a

few of its members? Is the Socialist party of the United States, instead of fulfilling its aggressive and momentous function, to fall into the power of the first handful of men it happens to elect to office?

Are we to succumb at the very first clash to what Whitman has well named "the never ending audacity of elected persons."

The affair was referred in the party press as "A Closed Incident." If this is true, then the present Socialist party is "a closed incident" in the international movement. Fraternally yours,

WM. ENGLISH WALLING.

P. S.—The question is, "Does a Socialist officeholder owe his first duty to the community or to the Socialist party?"

August 1.

### FOUR-FIFTHS AND FAILURE.

Editor of The Call:

A question was brought up at the meeting of the branch that I belong to, which we would like you to answer.

If capital gets four-fifths of the product of productive labor, why are there so many failures under capitalism? Fraternally,

WILLIAM ROCHER.

Newark, N. J.

To clear the way for an answer, let us understand that the figure given—four-fifths—is but an approximation. Possibly much less falls to the share of capital, but it may be admitted that the worker does not get much more than one-fifth of the value that he produces—a part of the rest being consumed in advertising, distribution, salesmanship and what is generally known as the waste of competition. Capitalism gets the remainder, and it can safely be placed at half the value of the total product.

Not to say that capitalism gets it but by any means the same thing as saying that every capitalist gets a pro rata share of it.

The smaller capitalist working with a petty capital, frequently gets less than 5 per cent on the capital he has invested, and frequently gets nothing at all. He goes bankrupt. But this does not mean that the workers have not been fleeced by him. It simply means that he was not able to hold onto his fleecings, as a horde of other capitalists took them from him.

The exactions of his brother fleecers in rent and interest and his disadvantage in the competitive field form the main reasons why he cannot hold onto his plunder. It must not be forgotten that though the exploitative industry, the expropriation of one capitalist or set of capitalist by another is an inevitable accompaniment, or more correctly perhaps an integral part of the capitalist system itself.

Great capitalist concerns whose fleecings are not deliberately minimized in the eyes of the public through the artifice of an inflated capitalization, or watered stock, frequently show dividends of 50 per cent, or one-half the total product of labor. The Standard Oil Company, for instance, whose dividends annually run between 45 and 50 per cent, may be given as an illustration of this. But it does not follow that a small capitalist dealer—a so-called "independent"—realizes any such amount of surplus value as this.

It should be borne in mind, too, that the expropriation of the small capitalist does not mean that what he may have had is lost to capitalism. His capital reappears in that of the larger aggregations which have swallowed him, and this fact easily explains why though some capitalists go bankrupt, capitalism as a whole absorbs the greater part of the value of the products of labor.

## DEMOCRACY

By REV. ROLAND D. SAWYER.

The very manner in which this great, seething, toiling, crowded mass of laboring men and women bear the hardships of life leads one to faith in humanity and gives confidence for the future. —Edward Atkinson, Manufacturer.

The great thing today, the spirit of the times, the movement that stirs the air, the only thing worth while, is Democracy. The term "Democracy" is an old one, used by Herodotus hundreds of years before Christ. It is of Greek origin, and was used by them as the opposite of "aristocracy," and it means the rule of the people as against the rule of the "best." The ideal is an old one, the idea of the rule of the people as against the oppression of privileged classes, is the great idea that has inspired the world's really great men in all ages. The Greek aristocracy began with the rule of the "best equipped," but it soon turned over into a military aristocracy. Military aristocracies, religious aristocracies, the rule of hereditary rank and blood, this has been the rule of the world. Today the aristocracy that rules, and the one more oppressive and intolerant than some of those of the past, is the aristocracy of dollars. The rank of property today is sovereign. Democracy stands for the denial of privilege and for equality among men. This ideal has actuated men more or less clearly for ages. Great steps in the attainment of democracy have been made. The first thing organized society did was to ordain physically democracy, that is to say, the small man should have an equal chance with the big man, and ever since society protects the small man.

The work of Moses and the Hebrew prophets is not without its democratic feeling, but the great figure to revolutionize the ideas of men to bring to light larger ideals was Jesus of Nazareth. Here we find for the first time a straight-out, flat-footed faith in men, in all men. The Greeks had given us the word and perhaps the idea, but it was Jesus who gave us faith in the idea. He believed in the common people; he declared against all caste in religion and government; he denied the right of any superior classes to lord it over the masses; he was the first to assert boldly the value of man; he was the first to live the broad-minded democratic life, and out of his teaching came the first great democratic movement in history, primitive Christianity.

And that movement secured for us religious democracy. We came to see that none are the favorites of God, that He is no respecter of persons, but loves all alike. But Jesus taught as a companion idea with the Fatherhood of God for all, the brotherhood of man among all.

This was and is a magnificent ideal, and the religion of Jesus has kept it alive and before the people. But splendid as is the ideal, great as was the personality of Jesus, vital as his religion has been among His genuine followers, yet the ideal could not secure a footing in the midst of the life forces of the old world. But modern world changes have come to the aid of the ideal, and now the feeling can see the possibility of its fulfillment and attainment.

Take the ruling privileged classes of the past, the common people in their lack of organization, in their lack of intelligence, and with their lack of means and arms, could do nothing to get their rulers off their backs. But the invention of gun powder, which made the common soldier with his musket more than a match for the mounted and armored knight, was of immense democratic significance. Then the printing press, which meant that sooner or later all should read and know things, and that knowledge should become democratic rather than aristocratic; the manufacture of paper from rags, the fifteenth century, so that books could be made, this takes away the monopoly of reading from the privileged. And now we find even the common man who cannot read even the exception. Then there was the compass that liberated the sailor from the sight of land, and allowed him to sail away, and enabled Columbus to discover a new world. Thus the modern world sprang up, a world in which kings and standing armies displaced feudal barons and lords, and in which the merchant, trading and rather than man despoiled by the state.

This merchant and manufacturing class, protected by the state, grew in power, and now we come to find that they are our rulers. These middle classes have deprived the kings of their privileges and allowed them to rule only as constitutional monarchs, and sometimes not at all.

Now these great changes brought along with them, big steps in advance for democracy; theoretically, equality of rights in the courts, civic democracy was secured; in the same way class distinctions in birth were largely put aside, and social equality attained.

And then came the great eighteenth century struggle for political democracy, to allow the common people to have the vote and something to say about the state that governs them. The advancing spirit that governs them, the church, and we had the great reformations, demanding the right of free inquiry for every one, and what was more important the universal priesthood of believers, equality in the church to choose a pastor, perfect its own government, etc. This brings us up to the world of 100 years ago, and this last 100 years has witnessed a mechanical development unprecedented in the world's history. Railroads and steamships now make the world small; machinery brings men together; co-operation to make things; the world has been brought together, the time is ripe for the people's rule. Life now affects all other things. The common good is now the individual good as well. A man with consumption in New York tenements is a menace to men on New England farms. Bad law, bad economic conditions anywhere menaces life and progress everywhere. Law, industry, religion, education, economic affairs, everything must be regulated in the interests of all mechanical invention makes it possible to care for the physical needs of all.

The same mechanical invention makes it possible that the products of the world's minds can be given to all; the learned book, the finest picture can be reproduced and given to all for a few cents.

The people's day is coming. And the people are to bring it on, as it is not to be done by the ruling classes.

The Socialist movement, making for this new civilization, is many-sided in its activities. It enters into every important phase of life, because it is turning the channel in which the human race now flows. And as imperative as it is to gain some immediate victory of a political or economic nature, it is to refashion the entire life of the human race.

That is why the Socialist movement is so broad, and is to be commended to all men. And the best thing about it all is that on the one hand the mental range is expanding by testing of the joy of co-operating with nature, while on the other hand they are grasping the Socialist way of looking at everything.

In short, they are being molded in the class and social consciousness of the coming civilization.

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### Socialist Boy Scouts

By JOS. E. COHEN.

One of the features at the picnic of the Socialist party of Philadelphia, held the other day, was a tent labeled "Camp Emancipation."

It was a patched-up old army tent, which must have seen a good deal of service, and was none the better for wear. It was one of two tents used by young boys who are forming a Socialist Boy Scout company.

At the bottom of the plan is a good Comrade, who has been in the regular United States Army, and who was in a position to feel what was times being. His little plan is intended to counteract the folly attached to the prevailing boy scout movement.

It was he who, out of his meager resources, bought the two tents. Having some time before secured a couple of building lots in a suburban part of the city, he pitched his tents and made camp. His spot is in one of the most beautiful parts of that section, almost overhanging the dreamy Wissahickon Creek.

Unaided, after working hours in sweltering weather, he cleared the ground, built his cooking shack and outhouses, and planned the camp routine.

It is a very simple routine as yet. The tents hold a half-dozen hammocks, to which as many boys may make themselves at ease. And until means are raised to form a fair sized company the boys will have only the beginnings of camp life.

But what has been done already is encouraging.

Since the Fourth of July, when the camp was opened, youngsters ranging from 6 years of age to 15 have been admitted for a really nominal sum, a week at a time. They get plenty of wholesome grub, well prepared, have a brook to splash and bathe in, and plenty of room to run about and play.

Not a few of the youngsters were lifted out of some penthouse in the slums, with its feed alley and hill-siding courts. The week or two in the country was not only a novel experience—it was a rebirth.

And those who may think all this is quite ordinary, and what ever so many benevolent organizations are doing, should mark this difference: The youngsters pay their way; there is no taint of charity to cloud their pleasure. Furthermore, they are always in the kind of company they like.

There is no very kind and well-meaning old lady around to exhibit them to the board of directors of some charitable association or social worker out gathering specimens.

They are just youngsters having a good time among their chums.

And there is another difference: In the evening, when they sit around the camp fire, they discuss the great bread and butter question, of which they are such important fractions, and think of ways and means to spread the Socialist propaganda.

Their pleasure is doubly keen in that it has been earned by having already done some work for the general human welfare, and in that their rest will make them better sellers and distributors of Socialist literature.

They are scouts, too, in the sense that they are looking ahead for their coming years.

And the best thing about it all is that on the one hand the mental range is expanding by testing of the joy of co-operating with nature, while on the other hand they are grasping the Socialist way of looking at everything.

In short, they are being molded in the class and social consciousness of the coming civilization.

The Socialist movement, making for this new civilization, is many-sided in its activities. It enters into every important phase of life, because it is turning the channel in which the human race now flows. And as imperative as it is to gain some immediate victory of a political or economic nature, it is to refashion the entire life of the human race.