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

The Voice of Labor

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

A PAPER THAT DARES TO TELL THE TRUTH.

VOL. 6. NO. 18. PRICE 2 CENTS.

CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, JANUARY 20, 1917.

FIFTY CENTS PER YEAR.

Patrick Quinlan, in Letter to Gov. Edge, Lays Bear Conditions in Trenton Prison

The grossly unsanitary conditions, wretched food, utter lack of cultural and spiritual opportunities, indiscriminate intermingling of hardened criminals and youthful offenders, of the diseased and healthy and other evils exposed. Also improvements suggested.

186 Columbia Avenue, Passaic, N. J.

Jan. 15, 1917.

Hon. Walter E. Edge, Governor of New Jersey.

State House Trenton, N. J.

"Dear Sir: I wish to lay before you, as the Chief Executive of our State, conditions that are radically unsound in morals, unhealthy and insanitary and archaic in type and governing methods in the State Penitentiary.

"I believe you to be a progressive man. You come into office with a great majority and can rely on the same state pride and enthusiasm that supported Governor Wilson in his reforms and punished his unworthy successor and his party at the last election. If you will investigate my story and promote modern methods of penology in the state, I am sure you will meet with public approval.

"In this hope, my dear Governor, I call your attention to the conditions that prevailed in the State Penitentiary while I was a prisoner there.

"The building is out of date and inadequate and unable to accommodate all the prisoners in accordance with the modern standards of humanity and civilization. The west wing has no lavatories and the condemned by the health authorities was in use when I was discharged last November.

"The south or fourth wing was most unhealthy owing to the gas that oozed from the half open sewers that ran on each side of it. The new or seventh wing was so damp that all the lower cells in it had to be abandoned.

"The prison has an excellent bath house but was exploited only for eight weeks in each year of Keeper Madden's administration and for about sixteen weeks of Keeper Hughes' term. On this I have to charge the deputy keepers with rendering the bathing plant idle and useless by shutting off the steam heat, providing an inadequate supply of hot water and by keeping all doors and windows open during cold weather, thereby literally freezing the men out.

"The prison as a whole was badly lighted. So much so that the cultural and spiritual aspirations of the men had absolutely no chance for development. All lights were turned off at 8.30 p. m., and except in one section of the prison, no light was furnished on Sunday night. The Lord's day was a day of darkness.

"Speaking of cultural and spiritual growth, I must say that there were practically no facilities for promoting these most important functions. There were three chaplains but only a makeshift chapel in which to assemble the men with services on alternate days.

"Although the state laws provide for an up-to-date educational plant, there is none. The makeshift chapel which can accommodate only a class or two each evening has to serve for a school. For months there was no teacher in the prison, the Board of Education having neglected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Lanning, until a few weeks ago.

"Equally important is the food question. The prisoners do not get wholesome food unless they have money to pay for it, or work in the kitchen where they can steal it. The natural result of having the men supplied with bad food is constipation and sickness and much unnecessary work for the doctor. On several occasions there were violent outbreaks in the prison and the cries of the men protesting against

the rotten food, were heard by the people of Trenton.

"There are however, many worse aspects than those of food and sanitation. Criminals, whether they are murderers, forgers, pickpockets, politicians, rapists, syphilitics, white slavers, dope fiends, are put with boys and mere novices in crime. There is no segregation, thereby reducing the punishment of perverts and degenerates to a farce.

"The letter clerk can destroy or refuse to mail or deliver any letters which he does not like. Frequently he entertains his fellow officials by showing them prisoners' mail and when objected to by a prisoner he was told 'You're a "con." You've no rights. I'll let whoever I like read them.' The latter, I may add, is unable to read letters written in foreign languages. He is therefore, compelled to call in the assistance of convict interpreters, which results in the private affairs of the men becoming public property.

"The whole system is one of extreme viciousness but there are instances of individual brutality that any cursory investigation will reveal in all their disgusting details. The Mangani and Ferrati and Annie Rickarts cases need investigation, not for redress—the poor unfortunates are past that—but that such things do not happen in the future.

"I feel, sir, that the above charges briefly outlined as they are, are sufficient to attract the serious attention of any citizen but I believe if they were not accompanied by some constructive suggestions, would fail of their purpose.

"I therefore submit the following suggestions:

"1. That the west wing be torn down and dining hall and chapel erected in its place.

"2. That the arsenal grounds be added to the prison enclosure for recreation purposes.

"3. That the hospital be enlarged for the segregation of consumptives and syphilitics.

"4. That the bath house be kept open all the time.

"5. That the present medieval rules governing the prison be changed to conform to the humanitarian and progressive tendencies of the day.

"6. That a real parole agency be created.

"7. That the present dual or triple prison administration be abolished and a single administrative head be substituted.

"8. That no appointments be submitted to the Senate until after the report of an expert commission has investigated and made a survey of the prison.

"I trust that you will give this letter your serious consideration and do something for these unfortunate wards of the State of New Jersey. I am,

"Yours respectfully,
"PATRICK QUINLAN."

ATTENTION!

All comrades desiring to become members of a class in organization and public speaking are requested to send their names and addresses to the county secretary immediately. This work will be conducted by the Rand School.

Similar classes are being held with great success in Jersey City, Trenton, Elizabeth, Paterson and Passaic. In Trenton the enrollment is about one hundred.

If, within the next few days, a sufficient number of people signify their desire to take up this work, the secretary will call a meeting, when further details can be arranged.

A LARGE FAMILY.

"Yes," said the principal of the young ladies' seminary to the proud parent, "you ought to be very happy, my dear sir, to be the father of so large a family, all the members of which appear to be so devoted to one another."

"Large family! Devoted!" gasped the old gentleman, in amazement. "What on earth do you mean, ma'am?"

"Why, yes, indeed," said the principal, beaming through her glasses. "No fewer than eleven of Edith's brothers have been this term to take her out, and she tells me she expects the tall one with the blue eyes again tomorrow."—Tit-Bits.



ARE YOU GUILTY?

WILSON AND CONGRESS GUILTY

When war was declared in Europe the Socialists promptly demanded that our government "starve the war and feed America." That, an "embargo be placed on all food and war supplies."

Had Wilson and Congress heeded the demand, the war would have ended long ago.

Wilson and Congress did not pay the slightest attention, and the makers of murder machinery went joyfully on making millions of dollars and murdering millions of men. This they did in Europe, but their

terrible work was not confined to Europe alone; some time ago, great quantities of this murder material caught fire, exploded and caused millions of property loss and human lives. Last Thursday, at Kingsland, N. J., another frightful disaster occurred, an ammunition plant blew up, the press says, many lives may have been lost and millions of property blown to dust.

Both of these disasters must be laid at the doors of the White House and the House of the U. S. Congress.

MGR. GERLACH

"The Prelate Knight von Gerlach (Mgr. Gerlach), First Acting Private Chamberlain to the Pope, has been forced to leave Rome and has arrived at Lugano, Switzerland. He was the only German prelate in the Pope's retinue. The Entente, through the intermediary of the Italian government, urgently insisted upon his leaving. Although he belonged to the personal service of the Holy Father the Vatican had to submit to the unprecedented coercion of the Entente."

Mgr. Gerlach, who is an Austrian during the last two years has been the subject of various reports. The latest emanated from Rome on January 8 in connection with the destruction of the Italian battle ships Benedetto Brin and Leonardo da Vinci, concerning which an investigation has been in progress. The matter came before the Italian Cabinet last week and it was learned then that the name of Mgr. Gerlach had been introduced into the case.

One of the prisoners, an Italian named Ambrogetti, charged with

being implicated in the destruction of the war ships, alleged that he was the financial agent of Mgr. Gerlach. It was stated that Mgr. Gerlach, prior to Italy's entry into the war, was interested with Ambrogetti in a pro-Austrian newspaper at Vittoria. According to information in Rome, Mgr. Gerlach was once a cavalry officer, who became a priest and won the favor of the present Pope when the latter was a Cardinal.

A poor woman, a nurse in Germany, was charged with helping English war prisoners to escape, she was shot. Shooting Germans, Austrians, and Irish in London and Dublin for very trivial offenses, is quite a common business. Mgr. Gerlach is charged with sinking of ships and murdering many hundreds of men, yet he goes free—why? CLASS.

Would Emperor William execute the Czar if he caught him? Would England shoot Emperor William? Oh dear, no; it's only the working class who suffers death, never the master.

Socialism is frequently criticised because of lack of understanding. Get acquainted with what the Socialists really believe by reading the Appeal.

Frisco teamsters have secured an increase of 50 cents a day.

Savannah, Ga., has 350 organized negro longshoremen.

STATE INSURANCE

Recently an employe of a local newspaper accidentally sawed off the end of one of his fingers, thereby incapacitating him for a period of about four weeks. The printer dreaded the forced layoff, but did not anticipate any severe financial loss, expecting to find relief through the workmen's compensation law. He inquired about the detailed workings of the law, and learned that, although his employer paid large premiums to the private insurance company for the protection of his employes from industrial accidents, he would be unable to collect anything for the first two weeks and one-half of his wages, but not to exceed one-half of \$22 weekly, thereafter.

This incident points out the utter inadequacy and inherent defects of the present system of providing for victims of industrial accidents. In the first place, the large proportion of such accidents incapacitate the workman for periods of two weeks or less, which means that most victims do not receive a penny of compensation for lost time. This injustice is better realized when it is remembered that most workmen expend their entire earnings for immediate needs, and are unprepared to meet such an emergency.

At the present session of the legislature an attempt will be made to repeal the workmen's compensation law, and a state insurance law, remedying such conditions and providing that the state—not the private insurance companies—shall handle such insurance, will be introduced, and should receive the hearty and united support of labor, so that justice may be meted out to injured workers.—Duluth Labor World.

Socialism will be a success because every unit of society will cooperate. Capitalism is a failure because every unit competes.

A workmen's compensation law will be urged by Idaho labor unions.

Wants Embargo on Food and Munitions

Justice W. O. Howard, of Troy, Seeks to Stop Supplies for Allies.

Rensselaer, N. Y., Wednesday.—The European war would cease within one week if the American President and Congress demanding peace, told the belligerents that the United States would no longer feed them and supply them with war munitions. Wesley O. Howard, of Troy, Supreme Court Justice, said to-night at a banquet of the Republican Club here.

"Food conditions are becoming acute and alarming," he asserted, and the instinct of self-preservation should prompt the United States to action.

"The munitions makers and the food speculators want the war to continue," Justice Howard added. "They have become fabulously wealthy. Their greed is insensate. They and their allies, the stock gamblers, importune the President, they threaten Congress, they pull wires at the departments. They resist the great cry of humanity for peace. The limit of endurance of the American people is almost reached.

"We must stop sending food to Europe. No statesman should fear to take this stand. An embargo on the exportation of food should be declared at once and the manipulators of the food supply brought to a sudden halt. Then a bold warning should be sent to the nations of Europe commanding them to cease.

"The nation is rousing itself to demand this. The President and Congress halt between two contending forces—the munitions makers, stock gamblers and food speculators on one side, the housewives on the other. Let those statesmen who fear the magnates more than they love the people take heed."

This is practically what the Socialists said when the war started.

NEW BRUNSWICK SOCIALISTS WIN

JUDGE SETS ASIDE FINES OF 4 MEN SENTENCED BY RECORDER FOR HOLDING STREET MEETING.

New Brunswick, N. J., Jan. 13.—A complete victory was scored yesterday for the four Socialist speakers arrested here on September 16 last, when Judge Daly, in the country court, reversed their conviction and set aside the fines arbitrarily imposed on them by Recorder Joseph J. Feaster. The four men are Leonard Bright, Henry Sipos, Matthew Brendel and Ambrose Albertson. They have been out on bail, pending review of the recorder's decision.

Recorder Feaster's whole proceeding was illegal, Judge Daly held, inasmuch as no legal complaint had been made against the men before they were arrested, charged with violating a city ordinance governing street meetings and parades. The prisoners were given no opportunity to consult counsel or even to plead guilty, the fines of \$20 each and jail sentence of seven days apiece being imposed within an hour after the arrests.

State Secretary Milo C. Jones, of the Socialist party of New Jersey, said tonight that he would bring the whole matter up at a meeting of the state committee today, at 124 Market street, Newark, to determine what action the party will take. In the meantime, and ever since the arrest of the four men, street meetings held by the Socialist party in New Brunswick have met with no interference from the police.

The men were imprisoned late on Saturday afternoon, and were held in the Monday following, but were prepared by Henry Carless of Newark, counsel for the State Committee of the Socialist Party, were signed by Judge Daly admitting the men to bail pending the outcome of the appeal. Milo C. Jones, the State Secretary, said the question of commencing suit against the city of New Brunswick for damages as a result of the illegal imprisonment would be considered at the next meeting of the State Executive Committee.

TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE

(By Henry P. Lyman-Wheaton)

There are two kinds of people on earth today; Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.

Not the sinner and saint, for 'tis well understood The good are half bad and the bad are half good.

Not the rich and the poor, for, to count a man's wealth, You must first know the state of his conscience and health; Not the humble and proud, for, in life's little span, Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.

Not the happy and sad, for the swift flying years Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears. No, the two kinds of people on earth that I mean, Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go you will find the world's masses Are always divided in just these two classes;

And oddly enough, you will find, too, I mean, There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load Of overtaxed lifters who toll down the road?

Or are you a leaner, who lets others bear Your portion of labor and worry and care?

There is one good reason why the rich man can't take his millions along with him. In a few years all the money in the world would be consumed by the flames.

DANGERS OF MONROE DOCTRINE

(By JOHN SPARGO.)

In his very interesting and suggestive address, my good friend and colleague, Mr. Hillquit, dwelt at some length upon our national economic self-sufficiency, our freedom from dependence upon other nations for the necessities of life, and our consequent ability to live in complete isolation. As I listened I could not help feeling that, nevertheless, for nations as well as for individuals such isolation is impossible. Long, long ago it was observed with profound wisdom and truth that "no man liveth unto himself alone," and it is likewise profoundly true that no nation can live unto itself alone. For good or ill, the destinies of mankind are inextricably interwoven. It is not possible for a hundred millions of people to occupy a large part of the globe, and to possess a large part of the riches of the world, without establishing relations with the rest of mankind of the utmost possible importance.

Of the portion of the earth which we inhabit, and of its vast treasures we are, I take it, trustees. If we attempt to isolate ourselves, to selfishly monopolize the vast gifts and opportunities over which we have authority, we shall invite the envy and hatred of those whom we exclude, and ultimately their determination to wrest them from us. No! We are interdependent. There is no isolation for us. If, because of a fancied economic self-sufficiency, we attempt to ignore the claims of the rest of mankind and insist upon a narrow and selfish monopoly of our gifts and opportunities, whether thru high tariffs or immigrant exclusion laws, for example, we shall find ourselves the object of envy, resentment and hate and soon or late embroiled in war. There is no isolation for any nation. That, I take it, is one of the cardinal principles of a sound Socialist international policy.

I have been asked to speak upon the Monroe Doctrine, but I ask your indulgence for another prefatory word. For reasons which I need not here enlarge upon, but which are perfectly well understood, we are not accustomed to serious and intelligent study of foreign policies. Events of great importance are often treated with indifference. Take the projected purchase from Denmark of the group of islands known as the Danish West Indies; I have been painfully disappointed that no word in opposition to the purchase has come from our Socialist Congressman. Why are we to purchase the islands? For no earthly purpose except to provide a naval base. The purchase is but another link in the long chain of naval and military expansion, and is bound to be regarded as a threat by other great nations. I have been more disappointed than I can say that there has been no opposition to the sale by the powerful Social Democratic Party of Denmark. So long as Denmark retains the islands they are necessarily to all intents and purposes neutralized as surely as if they were under an international government. Sold to any great power, they become another link in the chain of militarism, another provocative of war.

In discussing the Monroe Doctrine one treads on dangerous ground. It is not too much to say that no single principle of our political life, no characteristic political institution, is regarded with quite the same reverence. To criticize it is to invite rebuke; to assail it is to invite the taunt of being a coward and a traitor. Nevertheless, I venture to believe the time has come to proclaim that the Monroe Doctrine, in its late development, is mischievous full of peril and ought to be abandoned.

During the rather hysterical agitation for increased military and naval "preparedness" which preceded the later presidential election, we were again and again told that a vastly bigger army and navy must be provided if the sacred Monroe Doctrine is to be preserved. I am disposed to agree to that, and to concede that we can only maintain that doctrine as the basis of our foreign relations by means of a vast aggregation of brute force. As it is understood today by the capitalist class of America, the Monroe Doctrine is a constant menace to the place of the world, a standing invitation to war.

When the Pan-American Congress was welcomed to Washington by Mr. Lansing, then Acting Secretary of State, he was replied to by the representative of Chile, if my me-

emory serves me aright. The keynote of that reply was the profound disappointment of the nations of Central and South America, republics like ourselves let it be remembered, that the United States expressed no intention of democratizing the Monroe Doctrine and bringing it into accord with present day needs, or expanding it into a democratic confederation of American republics.

As it has come to be understood, the Monroe Doctrine establishes a protectorate by the United States over all the other American republics. Not in their interests, nor at their request, but in our own interest and of our own will, we have virtually established a protectorate over the entire continent. In face of the fact that sovereignty is held over a large part of the continent by great nations like Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Columbia, and the rest, we have presumed to assert that their destiny shall be subject to our supervision, that the destiny of the entire continent must be determined by us. That is oligarchic and despotic; it is not democratic, but imperialistic. It is of the very essence of empire.

This oligarchic and imperialistic doctrine is perhaps the greatest single source of danger of warlike attack to which we are likely to be exposed at any time in the near future. The capitalist system is not destined to pass away very soon. It will last for some time to come. The laws of social evolution preclude the hope that the vast area of the republics of South and Central America, with their abundant and magnificent natural resources, will escape exploitation by the capitalists of other lands. Unless we abandon the Monroe Doctrine as it is now understood, in favor of a policy of common action by all the republics of the continent, acting together as equals, we shall find ourselves involved in war. For more and more the Monroe Doctrine is being interpreted to mean "A monopoly of opportunity to exploit Central and South American resources for United States capital."

Truly, the time has come for us Socialists to protest against this antiquated and dangerous doctrine. It is best for us, however, to adopt a constructive policy with regard to it rather than a policy of destruction and negation. We shall not go very far by calling simply for the abandonment of the Monroe Doctrine. We may go far by urging its modernization and democratization. Instead of urging that it be cast aside, placed in the dusty museum of political antiquities, we shall be wiser and far more likely to succeed if we urge the need of its reconstruction. The time is ripe for such a reconstruction.

We have heard from Mr. Hillquit once again of the great and august conception of a Federation of the World. Such, we may well believe, is the goal to which our poor humankind is blindly staggering thru all the blood and travail of the centuries. But world federation will not come all at once, full-grown. It must emerge gradually. Meantime, here on this continent, we have the elements ready for a great federation of republics. Indeed, a beginning has been made. The reconstruction of the Monroe Doctrine into a democratic federation of fraternal and equal nations acting together for the common good is immediately practicable. As a step toward a Federation of the World its importance is obvious.

JUST PLUCK!

The captain of industry was addressing the students of the business college. "All my success in life," he declared proudly, "all my enormous financial prestige, I owe to one thing alone—pluck. Just take that for your motto—pluck, pluck, pluck!" He paused impressively, and a meek little student in the front row said, "Yes, sir, but please tell us whom did you pluck?" —Ladies' Home Journal.

By referendum vote the International Photo-Engravers' Union has decided to raise a defense fund of \$25,000. This will be accomplished through an increase in the per capita tax, and special assessment, if necessary.

Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 7.5 per cent of the adult working population of the state is paid rates less than \$8 a week, and 55.2 per cent, or over one-half, were paid rates between \$8 and \$15 a week.

THE QUESTION OF BIRTH CONTROL

(By JAMES E. WILLIAMS COOK)

Did you read the Sunday edition of the Philadelphia "Public Ledger" January 7, 1917? If not, you missed one of the most remarkable articles, and one of the most superbly ridiculous ones ever printed by a "respectable" newspaper. With the author, Henry James Buxton, I have nothing to do, except to say that he is a past master in the art of slinging gush. I don't think "Ed." has a shovel big enough to remove him.

But the interview he records is of more than passing interest. Philadelphia's "angel of the poor," Mrs. Alice V. Herron, "the most beautiful mission worker" in the country, and a Colonel in the "Volunteers of America," recommends the "ducking stool" for advocates of birth control.

That ought to settle the question for those who blindly follow their leader rather than think.

We may remark in passing, however, that the world has its "ducking stool" according to the records in the "Deluge" but it did little good.

A reversion to the dark ages and their barbarous cruelties has often been denied by those who would represent the growing liberality of their day, and when no argument can rebut the opponent, it is still the common practice to end the discussion by bidding him "go to hell."

But the opponent does not always do as requested. The "ducking stool" and "hell" are both discounted by an advancing civilization.

Mrs. Herron herself is the mother of two beautiful and talented children, and declares that her ambition in life is to be the mother of 14 more. This fact is cited as proof of her sincerity in attacking the preachers of birth control. To me it proves rather her stupidity, bigotry, and inability to correctly reason. I hope for the sake of the world, her ambition will be realized, and as one of a family of 16 children, I take the liberty of telling her something of the other side of the question.

Indeed, it is a marvel how any woman mission worker, familiar with the existing conditions of the poor in our larger cities, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, can advocate the unlimited propagation of the species.

In the child age of the world, when vast territories were unpopulated, it may have been sound advice which the master class put into the lips of their god: "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." But the only advocates of unlimited families today, are the devils of greed and war, and the few mission workers they have obsessed. PROFITS cry out for kids to supply the mills; WAR cries out for more children to be "food for powder."

When I was born my sainted mother in the sublimity of her faith named me Ebenezer—"Hitherto has the Lord helped me." But she had not lived in the present era of commercialism which grinds children into profits and men into bonds. All the Lord's help has been unavailing to save her boy from a life of wage slavery, a life of ceaseless toil and worry, with the ghastly features of WANT peeping in at the window, and the FEAR of a neglected old age at the end.

WANT and FEAR, the twin fiends who have set their seal on the faces of the poor of every city's slums. WANT and FEAR, the atheistic spawn of the system that enables a few to live on the backs of the many. WANT and FEAR, the two conditions that show with lurid vividness how far our civilization has fallen. WANT in the land of overflowing abundance. FEAR on the faces and in the hearts of the men created "in the image of God."

How can a woman, a mother, sincerely desire to bear 16 children into such a condition?

There is not a more tender-hearted lover of little children than I. No language can express in full their sweetness and preciousness; they are my passion and delight. Two of the sayings of Jesus appeal to me as strong proofs of his divine humanity—one when he said of a little child: "Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven," and the other when he said: "It were better for a man to cast a millstone around his neck, and cast himself into the depths of the sea, than to cause one of these little ones to stumble."

I would rather be damned forever and ever than bring, by the mystery of procreation, another little soul into this wretched, sin-cursed greedy existence—this vile

slaughter house of all that is holy and pure for the sake of profits. If they "have been designated by God to enter here," which Mrs. Herron asserts, then let Him designate some other channel than I.

And by the same token I am fighting the system which impoverishes childhood to the limit of my ability, not for my personal gain, but for the sake of those little ones the Lord has given me—and given you.

Let me say if I were God, I would not permit another human birth until the sons of men had made right conditions and environment for child birth and child rearing. I'd sterilize the race, and "designate" these unborn souls to some other world or planet, where sweat shops and mills and factories and jails and poverty and malnutrition and diseases and abuse and cruelty and craftiness and cant and superstition and prostitution, and lust sanctified by marriage, are unknown.

It is better to be barren and childless, than to have 16 little ones come from God to be grabbed and devoured by Mammon.

In the ages gone by men have paid far less attention to the breeding of their own kind than they have to the breeding of their hogs, hounds and horses.

But a better day and a better race is coming, and in spite of all that Mrs. Herron may say to the contrary child birth will be regulated and controlled.

WAGING A BITTER FIGHT

CIGARMAKERS OF LANCASTER HAVE WAGED A BITTER FIGHT AGAINST EISENLOHR BROS. FOR NEARLY A YEAR.

Lancaster, Pa.—The locked-out Cigarmakers of Lancaster, Pa., who formerly worked in the Otto Eisenlohr Brothers, Inc., Cigar Manufacturers of the Cinco 5-cent Cigar, have waged the most strenuous protest against any cigar firm in this country and Canada, because of a willful wrong did them. Organized labor everywhere have been appealed to for sympathy which has been granted most generously and effectually. The protest has received the endorsement of A. F. of L. Convention at Baltimore, Md., Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor, Blue Label League of Pennsylvania, hundreds of Central bodies and thousands of Local Unions.

This trouble began with this firm and their Cigarmakers on March 9, 1916, with 280 Cigarmakers involved. Dissatisfaction was brewing for months on account of bad working conditions until finally a climax was reached when several girls while eating their noonday meal in a nearby restaurant, wrote the following notice on a brown piece of paper with a lead pencil: "Notice, Cigarmakers, are we going to continue working these small wrappers. Do you know the result, nervous and physical wreck is the result. Are we going to continue Cigarmakers? Let us all say no. Therefore at 3 o'clock let us all go to the stock counter and demand more wrappers; remember the time." This significant parchment was circulated throughout the entire shop, when the time came a woman arose another followed then a man and as with a clap of thunder from a clear sky the entire force with the exception of three joined the ranks.

The superintendent was immediately notified after hearing the complaints in a short address he promised the employees to take the matter up with the firm at their headquarters in Philadelphia. Their decision was quickly rendered, after a few days there appeared a published insertion in the newspapers to this effect. That all cigarmakers working in their factory at Lancaster would receive their pay envelopes and should call on Saturday to get their tools.

Several attempts were made by committees from the locked-out cigarmakers and Central Labor Union without any consideration given them whatever. The firm as a matter of revenge moved their factory from the city. If this action is not resented it is the belief of these mostly concerned it will ultimately enslave every cigarmaker working in other factories operated by this firm. For this reason this forceful agitation is being waged by the cigarmakers of Lancaster. They ask sympathy and co-operation from every Union Member and their friends to smoke but Union Label cigars and to urge upon cigar dealers everywhere to handle same for better patronage.

Textile workers at Toronto, Can., have organized.

MOTHERS' PENSION IN PENNSYLVANIA

By JUDGE HENRY NEILL. Fathers of the Mothers' Pension System.

The Pennsylvania mothers' pension law is not working satisfactorily. It has been helpful to only a fraction of those who should receive its benefits. A large share of the money which the Legislature granted for mothers' pensions is still in the state treasury. Yet this week in Philadelphia a widow without means and with six young and dependent children was refused the benefit of this act. She was told that the money available for mothers' pensions in Philadelphia was exhausted. Two hundred widows with families received the benefit of the appropriation and 800 other applicants are denied.

Twenty-seven states have adopted a mothers' pension law. It has worked out admirably in other states, but, though the first law on the subject in Pennsylvania was passed nearly four years ago, it has not yet done the good work expected of it. The term "widows' pension" law is a misnomer, but it answers well enough when the real object of the law is understood. The mother is not pensioned. She is merely allowed a certain sum, \$12 a month for one child, \$20 for two children, \$26 for three children and \$5 a month for each additional child. The widowed mother of six children would have received \$41 a month for their support, had the intent of the Legislature been carried instead of being frustrated by the imperfections of the statute.

Indigent and dependent children cannot be left to starve. They must be taken care of at the public expense. It is cheaper to pay the mothers the means of supporting them rather than pay for their keeping in some institution or elsewhere away from their mother. She is nearly always the best person to rear and care for her children, and will do it with tenderness, fidelity and affection if it is made possible for her by a mothers' pension law backed by an adequate appropriation.

The Pennsylvania Legislature in 1913 appropriated \$200,000 to carry out the provisions of the mothers' pension law. The payment of the money was so hedged about that though the state had many hungry, fatherless children, only \$50,000 was expended in the first two years, and only a part of that went to the children, as there are some expenses of administration to be deducted. The last Legislature appropriated \$100,000 new grant and re-appropriated the \$150,000 unexpended from the previous appropriation. This \$250,000 is not exhausted, because it is divided up among the counties, each county to appropriate from its own treasury as much for mothers' pensions as it receives from the state. A good many interior counties do not care to match the state grant by an equal appropriation of their own, so the money allotted to those counties goes unused, while Philadelphia has a waiting list of 800 indigent mothers with dependent children.

This useless locking up of funds that are badly needed for the purpose of the law should be remedied. These needing this money should receive it, regardless of county lines. It is in the large cities where mothers with dependent children abound much more than in the country districts. The appropriation should be made to reach its object and should be at least five times as large to meet all the cases and match the appropriations for this purpose which are made in other states.

The administration of this law is placed in the hands of five or seven women in each county to serve without pay. The work is continuous, and it is asking a great deal of 335 or more good women, who are designated to devote their time for nothing to do this work, to give that laborious attention that is essential to the efficient administration of the law. Paid agents would do the work better in most cases. The stipulation that a county receiving the money shall first appropriate an equivalent amount is just, as far as the counties are concerned, but hard on the children which the local parsimony deprives of a mother's care and places in an institution at that county's expense.

The whole law would doubtless come before the incoming Legislature for a fresh overhauling. It is a most excellent and humane measure and should be supported by a more liberal appropriation and stripped of the red tape and limitations that now rob it of most of its value.

Balancing the Books and Closing the Account

Sixty-one billion dollars is, according to the New York Times, the direct money cost of the war until the end of 1916, and this takes no account of the destruction of property, the wastage of human life and other minor incidentals. The expenditure is now going on at the rate of \$105,000,000 per diem.

These are most encouraging figures, when one remembers that the entire national debt of the belligerents before the war amounted to less than \$25,000,000,000. So it is now \$85,000,000,000, and the high cost of dying is still rising rapidly.

Another year of war, which seems most likely, will add at least another \$40,000,000,000 in the above amount, or \$125,000,000,000 as a total; and it may even go beyond that.

Calculating this inconceivable sum at the moderate rate of 4 per cent interest—and that is decidedly an underestimate—the belligerent peoples, greatly reduced in numbers, with millions of cripples and inefficient among them, will, apparently, have to tackle the task of repairing the wastage and at the same time finding at least \$5,000,000,000 annually as interest.

The interest on the British national debt before the war was something less than \$125,000,000 annually, or just enough to keep the war going—as the expenditure is now—about 27 hours. At the very least, the war debt of Britain after the war will total \$30,000,000,000 or \$35,000,000,000, which, again at the moderate estimate of 4 per cent—and taking the smaller figure—will need a billion and a quarter dollars annually as interest, or 10 times what the yearly interest on the national debt amounted to before the war.

Germany is in no better case; and it is the same proportionately with all the other belligerents.

How will the people of these countries live, and yet from their labor produce the wherewithal to satisfy these tremendous capitalist demands?

We don't know. No one knows. The only thing that can be known is, that, debt or no debt, the people will live, miserable. Their creditors cannot remark sarcastically that they do not see the necessity for them living, for satirical jokes will have no effect on the situation. If they don't live they can't pay—and, also, if they do live they can't pay, either, no matter with what good will they essay the utterly impossible task. And they are not going to get off the earth if they fail. That is the one thing that is certain.

Such is the actual condition and such the prospect for the future. Already the backbone of capitalism is broken, the snake is scotched and paralyzed, beyond recovery, but for too measure, and to make the demise still more sure, there will be some more pounding for another year, or maybe two.

Under the circumstances The Cail wishes all capitalists, capitalist retainers and apologists the happy new year their system has called into being, and of which it undoubtedly deserves to reap the fruits—which, we may say, will not take the form of "a fair rate of interest" on an investment of capital, the only tangible assets being several million dead men and the stink of gunpowder all over the earth. God rest you, merry gentlemen, as you realize on your last and greatest investment, and discover that the earth, and all that in it is, was not permanently and exclusively created as a place for the investment of capital!—New York Call.

MIGHT ENLIST.

A small boy astride a donkey was taking some supplies to an army camp in Texas not long ago, and got there just as a detachment of soldiers, preceded by a band, was marching past.

The lad dismounted, and held the bride of the donkey tightly in his hand.

"Why are you holding on to your brother so hard?" asked a group of soldiers who were standing near and wanted to tease the country boy.

"I'm afraid he might enlist," said the lad without batting an eyelash.

A handsome gold medal was presented to Bunji Suzuki, president of the Laborers' Friendly Society of Japan, at the recent convention of the International Seamen's Union of America, held in New York.

Women help in road-tar spraying at Chiswick, Eng.

200 MORE STATE COPS NEEDED, GROOME SAYS

Say It Is Impossible to Give Service Required With 228 Men and Officers

SUGGESTS MORE PAY

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 6.—At least 200 more state policemen are needed, if he is to meet the demands made upon him, says Capt. John C. Groome, superintendent of the force, in his annual report. The pay of the troopers should, he adds, be increased to conform to that of policemen in first-class cities.

Groome calls attention to the fact that his men have to care for 45,000 square miles of territory, and that during the year covered by the report they received 5188 requests for assistance. "The impossibility of protecting such a range of territory with the present force of only 228 men and officers must be acknowledged and does not admit of argument," says Groome.

The rounds of the state police during the year took them into every county in the state. Troopers visited 2896 towns and boroughs, and the total distance traveled was 667,882 miles.

During the year 3027 arrests were made for eight-two different kinds of crimes. Eighty per cent of those arrested were convicted.

According to Groome's report the state troopers have become as useful to the fish and game commissions as the deputies working under the orders of those bodies. Seventy-eight arrests were made for violations of the fish laws and nineteen for violations of the game laws. The number apprehended for violation of the liquor laws was seventy-eight.

Industry Must Be Made Democratic Says Speaker

George E. O'Dell Says Workers Must Be Given Voice in Employment

New York, Jan. 10.—"Until industry is democratized as well as political government this country is only playing at democracy," said George E. O'Dell of the American Ethical union, speaking last night at the public forum of the department of education.

O'Dell was speaking on "New Ideals in Industry." He said that the employer of labor did not need to be committed to either Socialism or syndicalism in order to see that without any root and branch change in economic conditions he had something to learn from both doctrines that could be applied in his business.

"Some means of democratic representation for the worker in a business or factor is needed," said the speaker, "not only for the voicing of grievances, but for the expression of views on the conduct of the industry concerned. Why should a man be counted as an adult in politics and as a child in his labor?"

"America is not a democracy so long as the mass of the people have no share in the government of those things which matter most to them. Political government is a very small affair alongside industry.

"Many employers have already begun to see this—to see that the responsibility is up to them to train their workers for an intelligent share in the control of their work. This new faith in the people is more difficult than the old, but it is the thing best calculated to lift industry out of the rut of sordid production for profit, which is a perversion of the natural order of things and the chief source of our social ills."

Allied shopmen employed by the St. Louis Terminal have secured wage increases that range from 2 1/2 to 5 cents an hour. These gains will total about \$75,000, and will benefit 625 employees.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels recently told the House naval committee that the wages of every enlisted man in the navy should be increased \$3 a month. This would add \$3,000,000 a year to the pay roll.

The capitalist, by manipulating prices, can always make your wages less than enough to keep you in decent comfort.

Charleston (S. C.) Street Car Men's Union has signed a new agreement.

STEAL--OR GET OFF THE EARTH

We are living in a country of, by and for a robber class. If, by the accident of birth or thru the development of cunning and heartlessness, and the hardening of our souls to the misery of our fellow-men, we happen to belong to the small class that fatten on the needs of an "economically illiterate" people, all is well with us. We will revel in wealth and riotous living, eat the choicest food, live in the finest homes, wear the costliest garments, and have servants to do our bidding and attend to all our wants.

But if we are mere useful working people who produce the necessities and luxuries of life, all is not well with us, and we will be engaged in struggling like beasts for a mere physical existence. All our thoughts and efforts will be expended in a frantic battle for bread, and the intellectual lackeys of the robber class will be lavish with suggestions and advice on how we may live still cheaper lives as the cost of living soars beyond our reach.

Fear that high food prices, by unbalancing diets, may lead to wider prevalence of pellagra in the United States during the coming year, is expressed in a bulletin issued recently by the U. S. public health service.

"The great rise in the cost of forage," says the bulletin, "is causing the people in many localities to sell their cows, and thus there is danger that they will deprive themselves of milk, one of the most valuable pellagra preventing foods. The high cost of living has further served to bring about a reduction in many families in the amount of meat, eggs, beans and peas consumed, all of which are pellagra prophylactics."

In plain language, what this bulletin says amounts to this: If you are so unfortunate as to be a mere worker instead of a respected member of the robber class, your POVERTY may cause you to become a victim of a loathsome disease commonly known as Alpine scurvy, or ITALIAN LEPROSY.

Rather a cheerful prospect, isn't it? How patriotic you must feel to realize that the danger you are warned against is caused by the inordinate greed of the robber class for profits at the expense of your health and the well being of your loved ones!

But don't become sad and glum at this cheerless prospect; there's really much to be happy about, as the class you loyally support in idleness don't want you to actually starve to death or rot with disease. No indeed; a live wage slave is far more profitable than a dead one, so the "experts" are right on the job to supply you with suitable sub-

stitutes for real food, to enable you to keep body and soul together.

Out at the Wisconsin University, Prof. McCollum, who had experimented with feeding white rats, found that alfalfa hay was the only food that took the place of the fat found in butter and eggs. Wonderful discovery! For human consumption the alfalfa hay should be ground into alfalfa flour, and is recommended to those who would boycott butter and eggs. (His honor, the mayor, will please take note). And surely, what is good enough for rats is good enough for working people, who alone are affected by the high cost of living.

You object to eating hay? Ungrateful creature! But maybe this will be more to your taste: At another university in California, by experimenting on two students a professor found that they could exist on peanuts and water. Of course at the end of three months the coeds couldn't look an honest peanut in the face; but they managed to live thru it nevertheless, and it only cost them \$4.20 a month, which is a strong argument in favor of this plan.

But still you object? Well, well! How would middlings suit your particular taste? Over around Vine-land, N. J., many workers have partly solved the high-cost-of-living problem by substituting this grade of cattle feed for real flour, and, while not overly delicious and hardly to be recommended to our better classes, have found it to be real filling when eaten on an empty stomach. In selecting your middlings, however, care should be taken not to select a brand that contains too much arsenic, or it might cause you to writhe in agony as it did the nine poisoned members of the family of Frank Mauro recently.

If alfalfa, peanuts and middlings fall to appeal to your palate, perhaps a letter addressed to the editor of The Daily Dope will tell you how to make dainty and appetizing dishes from grass, oats and other horse feed, which from time to time has been recommended to you in the columns of the capitalist press.

But if you object to the whole rotten scheme of the robbing class and their intellectual lackeys to train you to become cheap, docile animals, and demand instead a life of comfort to which your labor entitles you, you'd better get in touch with some Socialist and learn a few fundamental facts that will interest you as a working man. Failing to do this, and still insisting upon your right to live, we can only suggest that you take a course in the art and science of legal robbery; for be it remembered that at present this is a country of, by and for the robber class.

THE FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

(By LINCOLN PHIFER.)

A great cooperative movement has been developing in America during the last 10 years, until now it has reached tremendous proportions. It has never been adequately reported. The farmers, who chiefly were promoting it, did their work quietly, lest premature publicity interfere with it. The stupid city press, as usual, closed its eyes to everything that was happening a hundred miles from its sacred preserves. The Socialist and labor press, never with any real program for any one save the wage earners, has remained mum about it.

Now, however, when the country has suddenly been made aware of this movement as a force that must be reckoned with, the labor press is dumbfounded, and the average daily begins to misrepresent it. The real awakening came when the results of the election were announced and it was discovered that the West had wrested political dominance from New York and the Northeast. They who had for 50 years hogged everything for New York and New England began to cry, "sectionalism." They who had long monopolized the markets and boosted the cost of living beyond all reason began to demand "investigations" to, if possible, fasten their own crimes on the farmers' cooperations.

If the politicians had had only common horse sense they might long ago have discerned the tendency in the woman suffrage and prohibition movements that were sweeping the country; but they preferred to hide their eyes in the sand. If Socialist editors had had the real "nose for news" they would have discerned this movement and have turned its radicalism to their own purposes, instead of permitting their party to lapse through ineptness.

Immediately after retiring from the editorial staff of the Appeal to Reason I began the study of this movement. I wrote numerous letters and traveled over 4,000 miles in making investigation. I attached myself to the editorial staff of a cooperative paper. I spent a month in a cooperative colony run on the new corporate lines.

After two years of this investigation, I confess I don't know much about the cooperative movement. The largest organizations, of which there are five of a national character, will not reveal their strength. I do know the membership is very large. I estimate it at about 4,000,000; directly influencing perhaps 15,000,000. It was without assuming any special airs that before election I told close friends that there were going to be surprising results. I knew it must be so. In addition to the big national organizations, there are many smaller ones and many cooperatives without affiliation. There is also, for the first time in 70 years, a cooperative colony movement that has distinguishing features which entitle it to the term.

While we have been talking revolution the revolution has already begun. It is a revolution. The nation will be affected by it for years to come, and its influence on legislation will be much greater than was the Populist revolt that followed the cooperatives of the Wheel and Alliance years ago. Ultimately it may be tricked out of existence, as was the Populist movement by the detestable Bryan, the Progressive movement by the immaculate Roosevelt, and the Socialist movement by the plausible Wilson, but not before it has turned the nation upside down. A tremendous worldwide cooperative tendency will help it to hold out until this result is accomplished.

ONLY WHAT WAS IN HIM
"Children," said the teacher, instructing the class in composition, "you should not attempt any flights of fancy, but write what is in you."

As a result of this advice Robbie turned in the following composition:
"We should not attempt any flights of fancy, but rit what is in us. In me there is my stummick, liver, two apples, two cakes and my dinner."—Exchange.

A policeman's college will be started at Berkeley, Cal., with a faculty of 14. Lessons will be given in physics, physiology, anatomy, micro-analysis, criminology and other courses.

Y. P. S. L. COLUMN

Editor's Note.

After successfully editing this column for one year, since its inception, Comrade Milton D. Neuman, of New Jersey, has been compelled to resign, owing to lack of time, due to his studies.

The new editor takes this opportunity of thanking Comrade Neuman for his splendid work and his devotion to this important branch of Y. P. S. L. activities, and feels that in so doing, he expresses the sentiments of entire Yipseldom.

YIPSEL ACTIVITIES

The Jewish Circle No. 3, of Newark, has formed a Socialist Study Class, and is generally very active. On March 31 the circle will hold a ball for the benefit of the Jewish Federation of the Y. P. S. L. The elected: Organizer, Sam Raskover; Assistant Organizer, William Kucher; Financial Secretary, Jacob Borenstein; Recording Secretary, Freda Friedman; Treasurer, Rose Kraemer; Librarian, Rose Plotkin.

The State Committee of the Y. P. S. L. is once more doing its best to help the members of the league gain a better knowledge of the problems which society must sooner or later solve. They have secured a number of prominent speakers, who are willing to speak for the various circles for merely carfare expended. They will lecture on subjects which are of vital importance to young people. All members should see that their circles take advantage of this opportunity, and arrange as many lectures as possible with these speakers. The secretary of each league in Central and Northern New Jersey has received a communication in reference to this matter. Replies are, however, coming in rather slowly. Take this up at your next circle meeting. The long winter season is just the time for carrying out such a series of lectures to the advantage of your circle, and each circle should arrange one.

The speakers, and their subjects are as follows:
James B. Furber, ex-mayor of Rahway, will lecture on "The Tribulations of a Mayor" on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon.
Frederick Kraft, candidate for Governor at the last election, will lecture on "The Universal Religion" any evening except Sunday.
Dr. William E. Bohn, of the Ethical Culture School will speak on "A Walking Tour Through France," or will give a dramatic reading any evening or Sunday afternoon.

Dr. Maud Thompson will lecture on "The Athenian Democracy" or on "How to Get an Education," any evening except Friday, and Sunday afternoon.

O. Watson Flavelle, Newark's school principal, will lecture on "Primitive Man," on Sunday afternoon only.

Archibald G. Craig will lecture on "Chemistry and Physics," or "Incomes under Socialism."

W. S. Schlauch will lecture on "Where the World Came From," on Friday evening or Sunday afternoon.

ABE LUNDE,
State Educational Director.

THE BASE PASSION OF MILITARY GLORY
(By EUGENE V. DEBS.)
"I am absolutely opposed to the military training of school boys for the reason that such training develops the military instinct and kindles to flame the base passion for military glory.

"Military training of school children, deny it as may those who are craftily scheming to introduce it in the interest of the ruling class, is the first step toward militarism, and militarism in all its forms and manifestations is an abomination that should be wiped from the earth.

"As long as we teach our school children a false and vicious patriotism and train them how to kill under the plea of love for the flag and the nation, we shall have armies and navies and machine-guns, and we shall have war, with all of its unspeakable horrors. I would sink all of these to the bottom of the sea. War is simply murder in its most terrible form, and a nation that prepares for war is not civilized.

"I would no more teach school children a false and malicious military doctrine than I would teach them arson, robbery or assassination."

DANIELS A STEP TO R. R. CONTROL

GILSON GARDNER SAYS MEN LIKE HIM MAKE REGULATION BY COMMISSION AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Another step toward government ownership of railways was taken when the appointment of Winthrop M. Daniels was confirmed by the Senate, against the protest of Senator Cummins and 14 other nonrailroad senators. It is men like Daniels on the commission that make regulation by commission a failure, and leaves government ownership of railroads as the only recourse.

In practically every way the interstate commerce commission is breaking down. It is neither efficient nor faithful to the public interest. The business of hearing complaints is as far behind as the calendar of the United States supreme court, and when the commission does function it more often than not comes through with something like the 5 per cent rate increase order. It appears to be dominated by Daniels and Hall, who were forced on the commission before the 5 per cent hearing was held, and the policy of the commission has ceased to be that of Clemens, Prouty and Lane, and has become one of subservience to the banking and stock-jobbing interests by which the railroads are controlled.

The importance of the Daniels confirmation is to be found, however, not merely in what Daniels contributes in 5 per cent rate increases. The commission is soon to be called on to pass on the work of the board which is making a valuation of the railroads of the United States, and it is of great importance to the people of the country that the valuation, as finally approved, be an honest physical valuation and not a dishonest jumble of stock-jobbing values. When the people take over the railway properties, as eventually they must, it is important that they take them over at their actual physical value, and not at an inflated and stock-watered value; and in the mean time, when rates are made on the basis of value, it is important that these rates be based on actual and not speculative value.

In all these matters Daniels is wrong. No one accuses him of personal dishonesty—it is merely that he has the wrong kind of mind; also the wrong kind of fundamental beliefs on the subject of property and people. In the defense of Daniels made by Senator Newlands in the Senate, but prepared by Daniels himself, he cites the opinion of other public service commissioners like himself, and of judges to prove that his ideas are all right because there are judges and commissions which serve property instead of people. Daniels thinks it's right to serve property.

According to the claims made by Senator Charles Snyder, of Schuylkill, the United Mine Workers of the hard coal fields may expect to get the cold and icy hand at this session of the legislature. Snyder and the Penrose lieutenants were provoked because President Thomas Kennedy, of District No. 7, attacking the labor record of smiling Charlie in his recent campaign.

Snyder is opposed to the lobbying activities of Kennedy, and according to newspaper reports, he has let it be known that the head of the miners organization will not be in good company at Harrisburg this session.

The fact that the Penrose lieutenants are adverse to granting any relief legislation to organized labor will be but the first step in the great fight to eliminate dictatorial power in this State. Snyder may speak for the machine but he cannot speak for the majority of citizens of this Commonwealth. The people are gradually learning that the politicians are only in the game for personal reasons, and not as public servants. When men connected with the National Association can have a special seat while laws are being enacted, is not an indication that organized labor can expect but very little from those men who train with the machine.—Toolers' Defense.

Women voters in Norway number 602,000, while the men have only 532,000.

Van Lear, Socialist, Is Mayor of Minneapolis

Thomas Van Lear, the second Socialist mayor of a large city, has taken up his duties as mayor of Minneapolis, Minn. He was inaugurated Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 2, and for the first time in its history, Minneapolis has a working class representative as its chief executive. Mayor Van Lear has four supporters in the city council, Comrades Dight, Bastis, Voelker and Jensen. There is also a Socialist on the park board and one on the school board.

There was an historical scene in the crowded council chambers as Wallace G. Nye, the "big business" mayor, retired from office and gave way to the spokesman of the masses, Van Lear, official of the International Machinists' Union.

Will War On Vice.
Mayor Van Lear in his inaugural address to the new council indicated a strict policy of law enforcement toward the liquor traffic, relentless warfare against men and women property owners who profit thru rentals and by the earnings of fallen women, the establishment of a free municipally conducted employment bureau, in cooperation with the state, as the right of those who toil, and reiterated his position, taken during the campaign, on the street railway franchise renewal.

The Socialist mayor declared his belief that a fair valuation had not been made by either the company or the city engineer. He stated the valuation named by the company was, in his opinion, \$20,000,000 too high, and said he believed a report by a competent expert on such matters would positively establish the accuracy of his assertion.

Protects Workers' Rights
Mayor Van Lear gave what he considered the essential features of a street railway franchise. One of the essentials, he pointed out, was that, "Employees should have the full right to organize for self-protection."

He strongly supported the movement for a municipal market, and urged the council to continue its activities along that line until they reached a successful conclusion. He felt that such a market would strike a blow at the high cost of living.

He urged the beautifying of the Mississippi River front and turning it into a public playground.

"It is a sad and humiliating confession to make," he said, in discussing the social evil, "but study of this evil has convinced me that in most instances it is not passion or corrupt inclinations that impel young women along the road to ruin but the force of actual physical want."

Labor Aplauds.
Socialist Mayor Van Lear's statement that he had only pity for the victims of the vice trade, that he would be found without pity toward the city's promoters of profitable prostitution, was roundly applauded.

The labor men gave a hearty hand to his statements touching the responsibility of the city for its unemployed and its duty to protect the right of street railwaymen to organize for their own protection.

Lewis Hartgill, business agent, District No. 48, International Association of Machinists, has been appointed chief of police under the Socialist administration. O. M. Wassing will be Mayor Van Lear's private secretary.

FAMINE IS SWEEPING

CENTRAL ALABAMA
Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 7.—Famine is stalking through the central part of Alabama, where the cotton and corn crops were failures on account of floods and the boll weevil this year. Whites and blacks alike are in misery. White landlords are mortgaging their plantations to get enough money to exist, while the Negroes are catching rabbits, gathering wild nuts and resorting to other unusual means to obtain food. The poor in many cases are without bedclothes, and shiver all night over little fires of sticks.

There are whole settlements in which every member needs assistance. With the great prosperity in most parts of the country, it is hoped that prompt relief will be forthcoming to the stricken region.

A total of \$2,738,019.65 has been spent in relief work among its sick and unfortunate members by the International Molders' Union during the last 20 years.

Last year 15 men in California lost their lives while working on buildings.

NOW NOW, MR. WILSON

By the terms of an act of the supreme lawmaking body of the United States, approved by the president of the United States, the standard working day of all the freight train operatives of all the railroads of the United States was fixed at eight hours—that eight hour day to begin January 1. By the terms of the same act the pay to the same train operatives, or to others whose additional employment might be made necessary by the shorter work day, was increased in a sum which the railroad corporations estimate at five million dollars a month. The sum makes no difference to the principle involved.

Congress—the Senate and House of Representatives—enacted that law upon the initiative of the President and upon its own volition.

The Railroad Brotherhoods did not ask it. The 400,000 organized railroad workers did not ask it in any capacity. No organization of labor asked it.

In any other country in the world such a law would have taken effect without question, because, in all other countries, duly enacted laws do take effect without question.

Railroads "Hold Up" The Law
But the railroads have "held up" the law and at least temporarily repealed it because, not liking it, they have asked a court to disapprove it.

While resorting to the courts to suspend the operation of the law the railroad companies claim the right to keep the money that is owing under the law to the men who work longer than the standard day fixed by the law. They do not admit that, even granting the suspension of the Adamson Act, the railroad operatives are better entitled to hold their own wages-money, pending the court's action on the law, than the railroads are entitled to hold it.

The railroad operatives suspended their lawful right to strike and their economic power to strike because they were willing to abide by a law which they did not ask for. They deferred voluntarily to the act of the duly constituted lawmaking body in order not to inconvenience the country by using their own lawful and sure means of getting what "the conscience of the nation" has decreed is due them.

Railroads Earn Billion Dollars
Whatever may be the results of the railroad workers' willingness to accept the act of the people's legislative representatives and of the railroad companies' unwillingness to accept that act, these vital facts that have been set out show the different attitude toward the law and toward public opinion in which the railroad workers and the railroad directors stand.

At the close of a year in which they have made more than one billion dollars net profits the railroads profess their willingness to tie up the entire interstate transportation of the United States rather than to pay to the workers the comparatively insignificant increase in wages which a statute of the United States has declared they should have.

BULLY FOR LUTSICH!

One of the most invigorating and tonic things that we have read for a long time is Quartermaster Lutsich's report to his superior officer: "I regret, sir, to report that I had to knock down a man who wiped his hands on the flag." The incident occurred down at the battery, where Lutsich was on post at an open air recruiting station over which waved the Stars and Stripes.

Was it a man without a country or an anarchist, or a disloyal hyphenate who walked straight to the flag and contemptuously wiped his hands on the red, white and blue? Quartermaster Lutsich asked no questions, but instinctively sent the man reeling and down in the gutter with a blow from the shoulder.

It was no case for the police. Lutsich was commander of that post and protector of the flag. He was the American army and did his duty. Passersby instantly took in the situation and cheered him to the echo, while the offender fled precipitately and ignominiously. The lesson thus taught is well worth telegraph tolls to the remotest parts of America. Patriotism is not so robust as it should be. The fibre of our people has relaxed here and there and needs to be braced by the story of the blow that Quartermaster Lutsich struck for the flag. Bully for him!—New York Sun.

When the capitalist makes the legislature dance, you workers are expected to pay the fiddler—and you usually do.

THE "CONTRIBUTING EDITOR"

(By WARD MORSE.)

The flames sprang high—no fire-escapes!
Some poor girls seared to nameless shapes.

He writes, of what? the office gapes;
"More Babies Wanted!"

A rotten dam bursts in the hills
And mourning all the valley fills.
He pens a hot one, filled with thrills
"Big Game I've Hunted."

A flash! from out the shaft there pours
A hell of fire—dead lie in scores!
He seats himself and fiercely roars
At "Nature Fakirs!"

Five hundred thousand every year
They crush and tear and scald and sear;
He sets himself to grimly spear
"The Agitators."

A print-shop wrecked 'mind fire and stress,
'Twas dynamite. The men confessed—
A bitter war—a fierce redress
Against the classes.

The Editor? Ah! watch him rear,
And grit his teeth and pull his hair;
Shriek "Murder!" 'till the comets stare,
And smash his glasses!

NO BATHS FOR WOMEN

When we hear the stock arguments against woman suffrage we are reminded of the following bit of humorous paraphrase, which appeared in the "Woman's Journal":

"Bathing is not a right, but a privilege.

"Baths for women would only double the bathing.

"It would also double the expense; twice as much water, twice as many towels, twice as much soap.

"A great many women don't want to bathe. Do you see as many women as men at the beaches? If women wanted baths, they would prove it by washing their hands and faces oftener than they do.

"Why cannot man represent woman at the bath?

"A good mother has no time for bathing. Women should be mothers, not mermaids. It would consume too much of their time also from housekeeping.

"The husband might want the tub

at the same time as the wife. This would cause dissension in the home.

"The husband is stronger and could get the tub if he wanted it. The plumber is stronger and could refuse to carry out orders.

"Men by nature are coarse and sturdy and can stand baths, which would injure the delicate, sensitive fiber of women. Men exercise more than women and get warmer, follow all the active pursuits and golf, and they need baths. Women only do housecleaning and stand over stoves; they do not need baths. Baths would wash off their bloom."

"Only in a comparatively small region of the world, where there are advanced ideas, do women take baths.

"Vot against imposing upon women this additional burden."

Under capitalism the workers starve, while the parasites feast. Under Socialism the workers will feast while the parasites will starve.

"Old maid" insurance has made its appearance in Vienna, Austria.

