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The Colorado Strike

Bertha Newell Mally

Trinidad, Colo., Jan. 21, 1904.—The grievances of all the mining camps in this district are practically the same, for the miners have to deal with the same masters. These grievances are but repetitions of all that have come to light in previous great coal strikes in other parts of the country, and find but a very moderate expression in the formulated demands which the striking miners have presented to the companies. To take as authority the word of those who have had experience in similar strikes, in no mining camp elsewhere has there been worse slavery than here in Colorado.

The specific demands of the strikers relate only to their work in and around the mines and scarcely touch the hundred and one details of infamous tyranny which surround and intensify the struggle for existence.

The miners ask for an eight-hour day. That eight hour day is their's by right, by the expressed will of the majority of the citizens of Colorado, and is denied them because it has been set aside as unconstitutional by a corporation owned court.

The miners ask also that all wages be paid every two weeks instead of monthly and that all payment in scrip be abolished. Under the present system each workman is paid at the end of the month, if anything is coming to him, with a bank check. During the month if he needs any money for the necessities of life he receives it at the office of the company in the form of scrip notes, for which, if he buys his goods of the Colorado Supply Co. (the company's store) he receives the face value. If he chooses to trade elsewhere the notes are worth 10 or 12 per cent less than their face value. Now, consider that the Colorado Supply Co. charges much higher prices for goods than outside firms, and you will see why the miners refuse to submit any longer to this imposition.

The 20 per cent increase in wages is little enough to ask, but unless the payment in scrip is done away with at the same time this circle of robbery by which the companies make both ends meet will leave the miner no more in return for his labor than he received before.

The same old system of forced assessments takes place here as in other parts of the country. One dollar a month for medical attendance, 50 cents for blacksmithing, 25 cents for maintaining school advantages, etc., etc., and these assessments the miner finds subtracted from his pay if he has been in the mine not more than half a day during all the month.

According to the legal standard of weight in the United States 2,000 pounds constitute a ton. Heretofore the companies in Colorado have required from the miners 2,500 pounds for a ton, or that each workingman shall give to the company 25 per cent on each ton he mines. The miners now demand that the companies comply with the law.

The last on the list of the strikers' demands is perhaps the most vital. It is that the company take adequate measures to insure a plentiful supply of fresh air. There are laws in every mining state requiring precautions in regard to ventilating fans, the storing of dynamite, etc., and yet the nine disasters, which no daily newspaper

is without, show the ruthlessness of mine owners in breaking laws which are contrary to their interests and their disregard for human life.

Such are the demands of the striking miners. And yet they give voice to only a few of the wrongs the miners and their families are forced to endure.

I have been unable to find any activity uncontrolled by the companies; from the birth of the child for which the services of the company doctor must be employed, oftentimes unwillingly, through school and church and daily labor through sickness and death through the company is never relaxed.

The companies own almost entirely the miserable houses. They own the land upon which the houses stand. Instances have been told me where their agents have ordered tenants not to spails or anything on the ground outside of the tiny huts, saying that the rent was paid for the houses, but not for the land.

The companies own, as well, the school system. Out of the school assessment of 25 cents from each miner they generously bail school houses in which they place teachers chosen by school boards composed of superintendents and mine bosses, with perhaps a moderate proportion of members of the Citizens' Alliance, the anti-union organization. The teachers teach from books prescribed (and changed each year) by the school board, and paid for by the miners. This custom of changing text books yearly is one of the innumerable grafts of the companies. Another one that pays well is that of the saloon business. In four different camps under control of the Victor Fuel company, two saloons pay each as license to the company twenty cents for every man on the pay rolls, about \$800 per month for the company.

The company store is a sore grievance. The owners, a group consisting of members from each of the mining companies, claim that no one is forced to buy there. Does not the system of scrip payment seem a pretty effective means of forcing? Competition is not permitted to grow very lively, for if an outside man comes into camp and attempts to sell anything he is taken before the local justice, also owned by the company, and promptly fined from \$10 to \$50. One incident will serve to illustrate the non-forcing process:

A woman who had been ill wanted some broth and ventured to buy a chicken of a neighbor who had a little vegetable patch and raised a few chickens. A company agent saw her carrying it home and asked her roughly what she had.

"Just a bit of chicken I got of John because I was sick."

"Why didn't you go to the company store?" he demanded.

"They haven't any chicken," she answered timidly.

"You can get all the meat you need at the company store,—you. You can tell your man to come and get his time."

Let me mention incidentally that Rockefeller controls 70 per cent of the stock of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co., and that the miners' families pay 25 cents a gallon for Rockefeller's oil at the stores of the Colorado Supply Co.

The United States postoffice in each camp is always located in the company store. The manager of the store is always the postmaster, receiving a salary therefor, and the work of the postoffice is done by the cashier of the store, who is an overworked drudge and whose

services thus cost the manager nothing.

There seems to be no question that mails have been tampered with during this strike in some of the most closely guarded camps. I have been told on direct authority of letters sent to persons in one of the most inaccessible camps which were never received. Labor papers sent through the mails scarcely ever reach those for whom intended.

The climax of all this robbery and perhaps its most hateful form is in the medical department. Each man working in and around the mines is taxed one dollar per month for services for himself and family. Some estimate of the company's income from this source may be made from the following figures, which are authentic:

Total hospital fees collected at Hastings, Gray Creek, Delagua and Chandler (Victor Fuel Company) each month about	\$2,300.00
Monthly cost medical attendance, etc.	850.00
Excess of collections monthly	\$1,450.00
Multiplied by	12
Excess of collections yearly	\$17,400.00

There is said to be more than \$60,000 hospital fund not accounted for in these four camps.

The company hospital is at Pueblo and is claimed by its owners to be the finest in the country. It ought to be when the cost to the miners is considered. It is a journey of from 150 to 200 miles from many of the camps to Pueblo and after being brought there the sick and injured men are often left lying in the railroad station for hours before being taken to the hospital. It is a sufficient commentary upon this subject to report that the women of the camps universally hate both company doctors and the company hospital. I have heard more than one woman say:

"I'd rather have my man die at home than take the chances on sending him to the company's hospital."

It is impossible to do more than suggest a few of the wrongs of the workers who live in these isolated and pitifully dreary camps. Their lives are all one vast woe and even a hasty glimpse caught in a few days' visit in the region makes you feel the desperate struggle before them. But not hopeless, as you realize the great growth that is taking place in the comprehension of their class wrongs and in the knowledge that the remedy for these must come through class loyalty and class organization.

One of the Victims

F. H. Clark

He is a coal heaver out of work, for three weeks he tried to find employment but in vain. While hundreds of families in New Hampshire stood sadly in need of fuel and his services in shoveling it, the wherewith to pay for it was not in evidence, so they went cold, and he hungry and cold. Pope Pius X. in his recent Bull remarks "According to the order established by God we find in human society both princes and subjects, masters and servants, rich and poor." God in His wisdom (according to Pius X.) made this a servant and very poor.

He procured driftwood, icy and wet, from the river to replenish his fire, and received charity from men as poor as himself.

The end came. He could procure no more food, and as a last resort he forced an entrance into a store house, stole a few pounds of old metal intending to sell it and buy food.

He was arrested. Arrested in the act; his wife told his story—their story of want and suffering. The police went to his home to investigate its truth. They found a fireless room, a child of five years, one of three years, and a baby of nine months, nearly starved and frozen, evidence against

the system under which we live.

The police of Portsmouth, N. H. are big-hearted men. Their suffering was relieved, but the father was held on the criminal charge of breaking and entering.

The thought that any of the human family, should in this land of unprecedented riches, be compelled to steal to procure the necessities of life, is revolting, but this is only one of the thousands of cases of poverty, that never come to the surface. Although the remedy is in our hands we hesitate to apply it.

This man is held guilty by those who insist that the propertyless shall rigidly adhere and obey the commandment, "Thou shalt not steal." But centuries ago a certain Nazarine, in a cornfield, placed himself on record, as to where he stood, regarding the right of private ownership, in the case of hunger. In the years that are to come, when our children's children, look back upon these scenes of poverty and crime, when they in the comforts of the new era, study the economic history of their forefathers, will they not in their surprise and wonderment at these scenes of daily occurrence, pause and exclaim!

Were our forefathers sane?

Ought to be True

Here is a story which ought to be true:

A broker who trained with the bulls and bears and occasionally howled with the wolves, finally left the pit for the happier hunting grounds. His soul rose on high, with an eye on a reserved seat in the New Jerusalem as a sure thing. He presented himself at the gate of Paradise.

"Who are you?" asked St. Peter.

"I am a Wall street broker."

"What do you want here?" said Peter, rudely.

"Why, I want to get in."

"What have you ever done that should entitle you to be admitted?"

"Well, once I saw a poor old woman on Broadway and gave her tow cents."

"Gabriel, is that in the book?"

"Yet, Peter, he has been given credit for that."

"What else have you done?"

"Some time ago, while crossing the Brooklyn bridge, I saw a cold and hungry newsboy and gave him a penny."

"Is that entered, Gabriel?"

"Yes, Peter."

"What else have you done?"

"Well, — I — ah, — ahem — I'm afraid I can't think of anything more just now."

Peter stood puzzled.

"Gabriel, what shall we do with this man?"

"Oh, give him back his three cents and tell him to go to hell."

—New York Worker.

"Japan will not purchase any canned meats in case she goes to war with Russia, the announcement being made that the Japanese army will subsist on rice and dried fish. This being the case, we cry out on behalf of progress and humanity to have the war stopped," facetiously exclaims the Chicago Record-Herald. Cert! What's the use of having a war if we can't make any profit out of it.

"The One Woman"

A Review by C. Y. Edkins

The Rev. Thos. Dixon's great literary acrobatics in defense of capitalism's "One Woman" (?) is the first of a series of purely anti-Socialist books—hence this review.

It is evident from the advent of this book of the growing strength of Socialism.

The literary hacks having exhausted all themes sensational—even "propaganda of the word" anarchism in Hall Caine's "The Eternal City," it was but natural that Socialism, sooner or later, would serve a dual purpose of sensationalism and attempt to establish in the public mind as an integral part the idea of "free love." The "blood and thunder" style appeals to the capitalistic instincts of tragedy, and the melo-dramatic effects disclose the author's hope for dramatization. Let us hope it will be staged for further agitation.

As the key to capitalist institutions is the economic thought of Socialism, literature is the open sesame from Don Quixote to the Bible. It is necessary for the Socialist student to have an historical, ethnological, comprehension which Engel's, "Origin of the Family Private Property and the State" gives, to perceive at once the maliciously false basis upon which the book is constructed. He is either a fool or a knave—perhaps both—and an intellectual prostitute into the bargain.

Banker Overman, the author's great knight errant of the established order, has "thousands of copies of literature on Socialism, yet quotes haphazardly from Utopian and novelist writers, which have no essential connection with the Socialist philosophy—that brands him as a fool.

"Private property had its origin in the family," and "the family is the source of all monopolistic instincts" and "moonshine brotherhood can never be brought to pass until you destroy monogamic marriage," brands him as a knave. The book bears all the earmarks of a libelous exploitation of the actions of two prominent Socialists who were outrageously maligned by the capitalist press, but a few years ago, and whose well known non-resistant principles furnish a safe refuge for the author from a libel suit.

"One step more and you are an anarchist" from the Wall street gambler-deacon, and, "You are the prophet of love," from the lady amour of the great "Christian Socialist" preacher, and his reply, "I fear I'm too great a coward for such a task. The man who does it must break with the past, etc.," proves to the deacon and others who are not deacons, that his con-

clusions drawn from a capitalist mind could not be otherwise than anarchistic, since the fundamental principles in the philosophy of anarchy are identical with the fundamentals of capitalism. His Tolstoian logic of chasing ruralwards is exemplified in a great speech of the "Socialist"—"Why people continue to turn their backs upon the open fields and crowd into this (New York) great foul, rattling, crawling, smoking, stinking, ghastly heap of brick-work oozing poison at every pore is beyond my ken, etc."

The anathema which he wishes to engender for one divorce is made sublimely ridiculous by his admission of five thousand divorces in one year, from my own state, Indiana, and proves to be the severest indictment of the failure of the capitalist economic system to maintain the institution he ostensibly tries to defend. As is natural for a distorted capitalist mind the implied view of sex relationship is through bawdy house spectacles, and as an insult to the noble women who are Socialists, he refers to them as sexless, ever-sexed and defectives. The sufferings of the poor and lacrymose weepings places him in the ranks of the charlatans of romanticism, while the feeling of paternalism and sense of superiority, chief characteristics of the "superior class," are manifested for the working class whom he designates in contempt as "the herd" and "the mob."

After denouncing political corruption and the rule of the mob he proceeds to praise a Tammany governor and stols in glorification the Tammany mob of political thieves and on demagogues anything to be found outside the actual facts of Tammany politics. As a finishing touch, he has his knight errant of the established order and defender of that sacred institution covertly win the affections of the Socialist's wife, for which he is killed by the "free love" socialist husband. The first wife of the Socialist, after years of loving self-sacrifice in his behalf, appeals to and receives a pardon from Tammany's governor, are re-married, and it is supposed, live happily ever afterward. As a literary effort in dramatic effects it is not to be compared to "The Eternal City"—and verily, Socialism has nothing to fear from such weapons.

Note.—This review is not intended to advertise for the purpose of increasing the sale of the book. Go borrow it from some of the "society push" where it circulates, or from a Carnegie library where it properly belongs.

around him suffer privations.—The Essene.

Get the whine out of your voice or it will stop the growth and development of your body. It will narrow and shrink your mind. It will drive away your friends. Brace up. Stand for something. Fill your place in the universe. Just quit whining and go to work.—Medical Talk.

"Who steals a ham, however much his need, By social law is deemed a thief indeed; But he who steals his millions from the bank Is deemed a business man of foremost rank, Learn, then, this lesson from the thieving ring— A little thieving is a dangerous thing. —A. L. U. Journal.

Don't be a mouse. Don't nibble at it—take the "whole cheese."

Zephyrs From Olympus

I exist as I am, that is enough, If no other in the world be aware, I sit content, And if each and all be aware, I sit content.

One world is aware and by far the largest to me, and that is myself, And whether I come to my own today or in ten thousand or ten million years.

I can cheerfully take it now, or with equal cheerfulness I can wait.

—Walt Whitman.

O why for and what are we waiting?

While our brothers droop and die, And on every wind of the heavens A wasted life goes by!

—Wm. Morris.

Love is the losing of self. Perfect love is perfect unselfishness. Greed cannot live in a heart where love is. A man who truly loves mankind cannot cheat and overreach his neighbor; cannot be content to live in luxury while others

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THE PROMISE OF SOCIALISM.

One writer on social economics has defined Socialism in three words—collectivity, democracy, equality—elucidating this definition in this way:

Collectivity, or the collective ownership—by all the people, of all the means of the production and distribution of all wealth. Democracy, or the democratic or collective management by all the people of all the means of production and distribution.

Equality, or the equal opportunity of all to partake in this production and distribution of wealth, collectively owned and managed.

Through these means to guarantee to every worker all the wealth that he produces, and to abolish forever, all forms of exploitation, whether it be called "surplus value" or rent, interest and profit.

Many people at first say this sounds well, but it won't work—it will never come. There are certain forces at work however, that will bring this change for us, but we can be instrumental in hastening and guiding in wise channels this mighty power.

Every one who has paid any attention to the present struggle between the labor unions and federations on the one hand and the manufacturers and citizens alliances on the other, surely knows that there is such a thing as a class struggle. This struggle between the various classes of society has been going on for ages—from the earliest recorded history we read of it.

In Rome, we find patricians and plebeians. The result of that class struggle was civil liberty. In the middle ages we have the feudal barons and the serfs. The battle waged warm—Capitalism was born and religious liberty.

The struggle of the classes went on, and little more than a hundred years ago, political liberty was achieved by our own forefathers. There is another liberty to be gained and the classes are now lined up for a battle royal; the outcome will be our industrial liberty.

As we have had classes and class struggles all down the centuries, so also is the modern trust an ancient institution, at least we read that Joseph cornered the grain markets of Egypt and made even his own brothers pay tribute or starve.

What are some of the conditions that confront us at the present time? We have gigantic trusts on the one hand, controlling the products of all labor. On the other, we have a vast army of laborers who produce all wealth and receive as their share of it a bare subsistence, and a second army of the unemployed.

We see the families of trust magnates, rolling in luxuries, fast becoming moral degenerates. We see the women and children of the workingman's family forced from the home into the labor market to assist as best they may in the maintenance of the family. The condition of women and children

in sweatshop and factory is something appalling.

Think of the present state of things in Colorado! Thousands of workers on strike trying in that way to gain a few concessions that will bring a little comfort into their dreary lives, while the whole power of the government is turned against them. Why? That the capitalistic system of exploitation may be maintained, to the end that the "owners of the earth and the fullness thereof" may continue to reap a profit off the labor of their fellow man.

How long, O Lord, how long will this thing continue?

Until the workers become conscious of their class interests, unite in one great political movement, and by the power of the ballot now in their hands, capture the machinery of government and through it gain possession of the means of production and distribution of all the necessities of life, manage them collectively, and thus give to ALL THE PEOPLE an equal opportunity to pursue liberty and happiness. THIS WILL MEAN THE INDUSTRIAL EMANCIPATION OF THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE, OR NEXT FORM OF LIBERTY.

The question naturally arises: "What will be the result to the individual and to society of this class struggle with its attendant industrial freedom?"

Our dreams for the future are many, but they are based upon two laws which are recognized by all scientific Socialists.

First, the law of evolution, which obtains not only in all the lower forms of life, but in human and social life as well; that is, that all life, lower and higher forms, individual and social, is a constant growth or unfoldment,—a reaching outward and upward toward higher and better forms and conditions.

Second, the law of economic determinism, that is, that the economic conditions of any people will determine the style of their education, literature, art, laws, religion, morality, home life—everything. The study of history and of present conditions reveals beyond question the definite coloring given to all other phases of life by the economic system in vogue at the time. This being true, we have a right to some dreams which we expect to see realized when our present capitalistic system is succeeded by the co-operative commonwealth.

First of all is our dream of freedom! Under the present system, every man, woman and child is a slave to something or somebody. The few are slaves to profits, and will grind up raw material and human flesh and blood of any age into dividends. The many are slaves to their jobs or the boss behind the job. Socialism, taking all industries out of the hands of the few whose only object is private profit, and managing them collectively for the good of all, will, by our law of economic determinism, free the few from their greed of gain, and the many from their fears and anxiety concerning their livelihood. This freedom from anxiety will be followed by fewer gray hairs and bent shoulders, and old age will be considerably postponed.

Freedom of speech will also follow, for while we now have theoretic freedom of speech, it is not practiced to any great extent, for a large majority do not yet dare to espouse any cause that is looked upon with disfavor by the "powers that be," "the Captains of Industry," for it would mean their immediate promotion to idleness, or to membership in the growing army of the blacklisted.

Freedom to choose one's own occupation will also follow; no one with a genius for one line of work will be obliged to accept a make-shift job in order to keep soul and body together; he will thus be able to bring forth his best possible product, and his work will become a joy as it should be, and the old feeling of drudgery and

the inclination to shirk will be a thing of the past.

And when all become workers, and produce for use only, the hours of labor will be so shortened and by the elimination of profit, the reward of labor so increased that there will be time and opportunity for individual growth or unfoldment along any or all lines that may be desired. The object in life will no longer be the accumulation of dollars, but the development of the possibilities within us into a perfect manhood and a perfect womanhood.

And when economic independence is once gained, marriage will be elevated to a higher plane. At present many marriages are simply business affairs—a seeking for more money or a better social position. When accumulated wealth has lost its power, and a life of endless toil can no longer terrify, mutual love and respect will become the foundation of marriage, and home will then become that ideal place it should be, where father, mother, children will dwell in peace in the light of liberty and love.

Then, too, will each family have a comfortable home of its own—no more hovels, no more crowding together in tenement houses.

Our educational methods will also be changed. The schools under Socialism will not be controlled by the spirit of commercialism, turning boys and girls into mere machines for making money, shaping them all after one pattern regardless of individual differences. While our present public school system is the best we have ever known, yet that best can and will be followed by a better, in which the number of teachers will be equal to the work required, and the aim will be to study the needs of the child-life, to educate head and hands and heart, to realize an all-round development of the Divine Life entrusted to its care.

And as the boys and girls reach manhood and maidenhood, they will be free from many of the pitfalls and temptations that surround our present generation.

Private profit having been eliminated, the saloon keeper will go out of business of his own accord; and in a co-operative commonwealth, no woman will ever be forced to choose between dishonor and starvation.

Life will be the most sacred thing upon earth; all things will be made to conserve the unfoldment of the Divine within us; and that Universal Brotherhood which we all recognize as a fact in nature will be brought into daily manifestation, and we will begin at last to "do unto others as we would have others do unto us." In the words of the poet, we can claim for Socialism "I will make the most most splendid race the sun ever shone upon, I will make Divine, magnetic lands, with the love of comrades, with the lifelong love of comrades."

For such things as these does the law of economic determinism bid us hope. Is it worth while? Do you like the picture? Is it not worthy our best service, our complete dedication to the work of hastening its realization?

Are you a Socialist? Many people are Socialists and do not know it; others think they are Socialists when they are not. Until you feel the weight of present conditions so heavily and see the possibility of the dawning of this better day so clearly that you are impelled to get into the party harness, carry your red card of membership, and work with a very bull dog tenacity of purpose, you are not a Socialist. When we are full fledged Socialists, we will never for an instant forget our work or our aim; we will "Let the cause cling

To the book we read, the song we sing;
 Cleave to our cup and hover o'er our plate,
 And by our bed at morn and even wait.
 Let the sun shine upon it; let the night
 Weave happy tales of our fulfilled delight;
 The child we cherish and the love we love,
 Let these our hearts to deeper daring move."

In a lecture in Milwaukee Father Sherman, the Jesuit, who is making a specialty of talking on "What I Don't Know about Socialism," made the statement that under Socialism "A man would not have the right to own a hen because she lays eggs and is therefore productive capital." Of course as usual the good father is mistaken. Under Socialism Father Sherman will undoubtedly be allowed to own as many hens as he may want. But we rather think he wouldn't care to own any. We imagine that under Socialism even the hens will be too intelligent and class conscious to submit to becoming "productive capital" for such an ignorant master.

Dun's Review reports that "labor organizations are accepting reduction in wages without controversy." And yet the ministers are bewailing the decadence of Christianity. The Christian fortitude displayed by the working man in "turning the other cheek" will surely earn for him an extra full dinner pail in the sweet bye and bye. And the while he munches it he will have the satisfaction of listening in Christian (?) ecstasy to the voice of his late oppressor floating up to him from the nether regions singing in reminiscent tone, "In the Good Old Winter Time." What more could he ask?

A newspaper of capitalist persuasion out in California asserts that Socialist criticism of Samuel Gompers is due to envy because of his having a bath tub in his house. This is a cheering sign. The fact that a man, with such a low order of intelligence as this California editor evidently possesses, will rush to the defense of soap, water and the bath tub shows the immense possibilities latent within the savage breast and presages much for the progress of civilization. By all means let this editor have a bath tub. He evidently needs it badly.

A member of Parry's Industrial Association in a speech at Kansas City referred to the small number (2,000,000) of union men in this country in comparison to the total number of workingmen, and pointedly asked how much longer the manufacturers and business men would submit to the dictation of this small percentage. "The labor unions must be crushed" is the edict that has gone forth. If the working class only knew their power they would soon crush the crushers.

The man who stands on a cold chunk of linoleum these mornings to build a fire in the kitchen stove while the wind roars around the corner of the house and goose pimples rise on his hind legs begins to think this is a cold, cold world.—Boone Independent.

So it is. And so it will remain until those goose pimples climb up his spinal column to his brain and set it in motion, when it will be a mighty hot, hot world for the fellows who are the cause of its being so cold, cold now.

Father Sherman may think he is slandering only the Socialists by his filthy misrepresentations of the relation of Socialism to women, but nevertheless his every utterance on this subject is an insult to every woman, and brands him a disgrace to the mother that gave him birth. Socialism would guarantee to woman economic independence and political equality. Perhaps that is why Father Sherman is so violently opposed to it.

The members of Parry's organization are at least honest and openly declare their purpose. Unlike Mark Hanna and his Civic Federationists, they do not masquerade as "friends" with knives up their sleeves. They have thrown down the gage of battle to the working class. Workers, fight them at the ballot box! "Ye are many; they are few."

If the people who so boldly champion the "right to work"—which it is alleged the tyrannical (?) labor unions deny to the scab—would only uphold this right as

strenuously when it is denied to the working class by capitalism—what a snap the fellows who are looking for a job would have.

The Socialist has no desire to see the labor unions go into working class politics as unions. The members of the unions, as individuals, ought to know enough to vote for working class candidates, without being forced to do it because of some rule or resolution of their unions.

Those good people who are afraid that they would not have an incentive to work under Socialism and that there would be too much temptation to shirk, ought to console themselves with the possible incentive they would have in watching for and pouncing upon the shirkers.

The case of the workingman who wants to know the full working details of the co-operative commonwealth is similar to that of a drowning man who would refuse to be saved unless shown a detailed map of the shore.

The people who object to Socialism because they fear time would hang heavily on their hands with a four-hour day, might put in their spare time doing the "dirty work" which no one else wants to do.

Perhaps the "dignity of labor" as expatiated upon so much because it is so evident that under the existing system that is all there is in it. But dignity is a poor substitute for bread or coal.

Thus far D. M. Parry has not been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate. We feel confident that he would get the capitalists' votes and also those of the pure and simplers.

Socialism will not give you a living ready-made, but it will give you an opportunity to make it without the payment of tribute in the form of rent, interest and profit.

Having given Socialism its death blow in Massachusetts we fail to see why Mark Hanna should still consider it the "menace of to-day."

Speaking of ground hogs, isn't it a fact that the landlord is a ground hog whose shadow continually casts a chilly gloom over the lives of many.

A "bull pen" is a place where the capitalists put bull-headed union men who refuse to vote for Socialism and working class candidates.

What will we do with the man who won't work under Socialism? We won't do a thing to him. We'll let his appetite do it.

There may always be room at the top of the ladder, but we propose to give the people on the bottom rungs a chance.

Socialists are what we need—not votes. Make the former and the latter will take care of themselves.

For an "idle and impractical dream," Socialism is causing a lot of "practical" fellows considerable worry.

D. M. Parry is a manufacturer of buggies, but that doesn't explain the presence of bugs in his attic.

When you make a pair of shoes, a loaf of bread, or a house the ought to be yours, but are not. Why?

The working class in Colorado is asleep, but the capitalists are doing all they can to awaken it.

If you prefer affluence to poverty don't make an ass of yourself by voting for the latter.

The capitalist has no objection to the Socialist who "nurses no political delusions (?)"

Men who are satisfied with a fair return for their labor will never get any more.

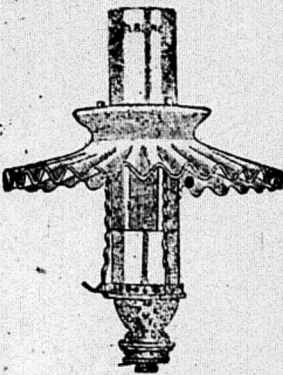
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The Colorado Strikes

Ida Crouch-Hazlett

The Socialist press has given so much space to the situation in Colorado that I presume most of your readers are tolerably familiar with the conditions we are confronting out here. The International Socialist Review, the American Labor Union Journal and the Appeal to Reason have all given excellent accounts of the circumstances.

Such outrages against law and order, the constitution, and common decency it was never thought would be tolerated by the American people.

The administration has made no pretense of upholding the law or allowing any matters to be settled by the courts of the people. With brutal audacity it has sought all the powers of the state to uphold the mine operators against the demands of the miners.

Colorado has twice voted for an eight-hour law. The first time it was declared unconstitutional by the courts, and then when the state voted a constitutional amendment the legislature elected on that understanding refused to pass the law. Seeing that there was no aid to be had through government the Western Federation of Miners went on strike.

This was followed by a strike in the northern and southern coal fields of the state among the United Mine Workers of America. The Western Federation of Miners is affiliated with the national organization of the American Labor Union. They both stand up on a Socialist platform. The Western Federation was formerly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor headed by Gompers. The latter withheld its support during the Leadville strike of 1899, whereupon the Western Federation withdrew subsequently amalgamating with the American Labor Union. By affirming its Socialist principles the Western Federation drew upon itself the hatred of the employing classes, and the mine owners and Citizens' Alliance have not hesitated to say that they would crush it because it was Socialistic.

The western labor organizations all lean to Socialism. Their program is intuitive rather than clearly defined. They see the necessity of independent political action as a class. The very breach threatening to-day between the western coal miners and their national as led to the defection of the metalliferous miners from the Gompers' organization with its loud-mouthed policy of "no politics in the union." That of course means no politics except republican or capitalistic politics. President Howell of District 15 United Mine Workers, introduced a Socialist resolution into the Indianapolis convention.

Governor Peabody, a banker was elected upon the platform of a "business administration." In pursuance of this policy he has used all the resources of the state to force the failure of the strike. Scabs have been brought in on misrepresentation, and put to work at the pumps in Craig Creek. When they discovered the true situation and wanted to quit work soldiers stood over them with bayonets and forced them to work. One man who attempted to run was fired on. Yet the constitution states that the days of compulsory servitude are over. Strikers owning their own homes have been arrested as vagrants and forced to work on the streets. Adjutant General Bell said they couldn't pretend to be at work by working a few hours a day on a lease. "They wanted eight hours a day," he brutally said, "and they've got to work eight hours." The officers of the unions have been arrested as fast as they were elected, till the unions have had to keep their names a secret. Union men arrested without warrant or process of law, and either deported from their homes and warned not to return, or thrust into filthy, built pens. These built pens are teeming with vermin, with nothing but boards for the men to sleep on.

The press has been muzzled and no paper is allowed to print what it pleases. The act of habeas corpus has been suspended, a violation of justice not tolerated since the days of Magna Charta. All individuals have been ordered to surrender their arms. Cases have been tried with the court room filled with armed soldiers to threaten and overawe the court. The civil authority has been completely overpowered and set aside by the military authority, and this when there has been not the slightest disturbance except that which the soldiers made. Peaceable citizens have been seized in their homes at night, and dragged before military officers for expressing their opinion about the lawless acts of the militia. Innocent men have been seized and held on trumped up charges, and when dismissed under heavy bond have been immediately rearrested. This in one case at least has occurred three or four times, in defiance of the constitutional dictum that no person shall be placed in jeopardy twice for the same offense.

The military and state authorities have gone upon the assumption that all strikers were criminals, and every mine or railroad accident in the strike district has been ascribed to them; whereas the unions have indubitable evidence that so biabolical are the acts to which the capitalist class will resort to protect their class interests, that they have themselves wrecked trains, injured life and limb, and even murdered helpless victims, and attempted to fasten the blame upon the strikers.

The troops are all in the strike territory of the Western Federation of Miners. Down in the southern part of the state, in the territory of the United Mine Workers, the hot blood of sunny Italy flows, and alien races mix the tale of their woes with Sicilian cleavers and Mexican whisky. Yet republican Peabody sends no troops to the scene, probably depending upon republican John Mitchell to wheel the United Mine Workers in solid rank to the support of himself and Roosevelt next election.

But the Mine Workers and all the other workers are thinking how long they will yet vote authority to their masters, their robbers, their jailers and their murderers no man can say.

Speed the wage propaganda of the word, and the press, the light of science, and the solidarity of interest of the wealth creators. Workingmen of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to gain.

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT
Denver, Colorado.

The Button Cutters

Muscatine, Ia., Jan. 22, 1904.
The button worker, or as he is more generally known, the button cutter, as a tradesman, holds a most peculiar position in the economic world. Besides being the most poorly paid mechanic in this section of the country, he also seems to be involved in a dilemma for which even organization seems to offer no radical cure whatever. Union after union has been organized, the various strikes have met with failure only as a temporary relief, as wages still remain as low or lower than ever. Being a victim of the piece-work system, each successive season finds him working just a little faster than the season before in order to hold his own with the best mechanic, whose wages, allow me to assure you, are always given out by the employers in their capitalistic mouthpieces (the Muscatine dailies, mostly) as a sample of the wages paid the cutter, which in reality is merely a bare subsistence when computing the general average. The greatest peculiarity of the button worker's trade however, and the one which will explain the present pitiable condition of the cutters, is the automatic or self-adjusting wage scale. This may seem unreasonable at first thought. Perhaps no other so-called trade is subject to the same phenomenon at the present advanced stage of industry. The button industry is divided into two distinct branches—the blank factory, where the raw blank is cut, operated by men and boys, and the finishing plant, where all the work is done by girls. As in nearly all industries today, the raw product is controlled by the manufacturer of the finished product. Most of the large finishing plants own and operate their respective blank factories. Should the cutters organize in these factories or in any manner obtain an increase in wages, the finisher immediately starts buying blanks from the small factories, of which there are any number scattered along the Mississippi from its source to the delta, claiming that he can buy cheaper than he can produce. A strike at a large blank factory could thus be held off indefinitely and the men easily starved into

submission. Considering the fact also that there is at present a great surplus of capital in the market it is a very feasible scheme for the finisher by mildly irritating the market to induce other small blank factories to spring up like mushrooms in a night. This phase of the market generally appears in the spring of the year. The button cutter naturally seeks the best advantage and the large shops begin to dwindle in numbers as the cutters flock to the smaller shops to obtain relief from the winter's depression. With chilly wather comes a drop in the price of blanks; other trades begin to slacken and the annual problem of the winter's unemployed labor is again a hand; another drop in the price of blanks and another, until the small factory is closed or has failed in business. The cutter, dock back to the larger shops, the owner of the blank factory being practically the only one having control of the change. It is, therefore, impossible for the button cutter to profit by organization, as a raise of wages only throws open the anxiously waiting door of the blank factory and the market is glutted with blanks at the expense of the cutter as the finisher proceeds to stock up on cheap blanks so as to maintain an independent attitude toward the cutters in case they should happen to strike at any time. It is now easily discernable that nothing can be gained by organization. Repeated attempts have been made to organize the girls in the finishing plants, but all to no avail. A strike at one plant only increases operations at another plant as there seems to be an understanding between the different finishers and so the old game goes merrily on. The button cutter has lost all hopes of securing a decent wage. I have said very little of the bare-face robbery in the weighing of the blanks or the number of blanks demanded by the firm to constitute a gross, which is fourteen dozen, or 168 blanks, together with all under a certain standard of thickness, besides many other imperfections too numerous to mention, which are all greedily raked in by the good natured sick-spittle boss, who, of course, is only acting as directed by the book keeper and he by the superintendent, he in turn by the stockholders, etc., and so no one in particular is to blame, while the button cutter listens in blissful ignorance and the old time-worn gag works like a new one every time. According to recent reports, next fall the large saw mill in the south end of the city (Muscatine) will close permanently. Competition does not need it. The trusts will always be busy buying up factories and mills. Those they do not need will be closed down, the already large army of unemployed will grow larger, they must have work in order to exist. The button cutters look in horror upon the intruders, unable to organize, and therefore unprotected, he stands helpless; wages drop slowly but surely to a mere pittance. Suddenly the cutter remembers that a few short years ago one of those fool Socialists had told him that he would have to work for fifty cents a day before he learned how to use his vote. Better start voting for Socialism right away, button cutter it is a class movement and you belong to that class.

MILO M. CLAPP.
MacCartney Memorial
Rockland, Mass., Jan. 20.

Editor Iowa Socialist:
Dear Friend:—At a recent meeting of the committee chosen to solicit funds and arrange for the erection of a suitable memorial to the late Frederic O. MacCartney, one of the committee reported that if the sum of \$2,500 could be raised it would enable us to secure for the purpose a life-size bust in bronze, with suitable setting, by one of the leading sculptors of the world. It is needless to say that the committee were both surprised and pleased at this announcement. It was at once determined to make the attempt to raise the necessary funds to erect a work of art in memory of one who as surely laid down his life in the cause of humanity as ever did a soldier in battle.

You can help us and will doubtless be glad thus to show your appreciation of a truly beautiful and heroic character.

Will you please circulate the enclosed subscription list and return it, not later than March 1st, to the treasurer of the committee, Mr. Albert S. Peterson, Rockland, Mass.?

Fraternally,
JOHN A. BILLINGS
[Any one desiring to donate to this fund may do so either directly to Comrade Peterson or to this office.]

Campaign Speakers

The state committee of the Socialist party of Iowa has engaged Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick of Kansas City, for a month's campaigning in Iowa, commencing March 2nd. The terms are as follows:
Option No. 1.—Local to pay \$2.00 per day, entertain the speaker and allow him collection and sale of literature.
Option No. 2.—Local to pay \$5.00 for one day, \$10.00 for three days, and entertain the speaker. Under Option No. 2, the Local retains collections with which to defray expenses, or an admission fee may be charged. For further information apply to J. J. Jacobsen, Secretary, Des Moines, Iowa.

Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick's subjects:

1. Justice to the Toilers.
2. Evolution or Revolution?
3. Five Kinds of Despotisms.
4. Think or Surrender.
5. The Purpose of a Gating Gun.
6. What is Scientific Socialism?
7. Babies With the Harness On.
8. The Hyptomism of the Working Class.
9. The Makers and the Takers.
10. The Right of the Trust to Be.
11. The Fatalism of Capitalism.
12. Socialism and Art.
13. Objections to Socialism.
14. Socialism from a Lawyer's Point of View.
15. Why I Respect the Capitalist.

Daily Kansan-Republican: "Every one of the fourteen hundred seats in the Auditorium was taken last evening, the occasion being a lecture by Geo. R. Kirkpatrick of Topeka. * * * He is a most unique figure on the platform, and for a young man is remarkable. * * * He spoke for over an hour, and never lost control of his audience."



J. B. OSBORNE.

Comrade J. B. Osborne, the blind Socialist orator will also come to Iowa about March 15th. Dates may be arranged through Secretary Jacobsen. His terms are \$8.00 for one lecture, \$12.00 for two and \$15.00 for three. Following are his subjects:

1. The Materialistic Conception of History.
2. Value and Surplus Value.
3. Labor Politics.
4. The Class Struggle.
5. Socialism, the Art of the Twentieth Century.

A powerful young orator who is gaining a reputation throughout the country by his lectures on social and economic questions.—Denver Republican.

The Iowa Socialist in clubs of four or more for twenty-five cents per year. Four postal subscription cards good for one year each for \$1.00. They are handy. Order a bunch.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.
The Socialist party in national convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.
Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by individual workers. Today, the machine, which is an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalist and not by the workers. The ownership enables the capitalists to control the product and keep the workers dependent upon them.
Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the ever-increasing uncertainty of the livelihood and poverty and misery of the working class, and divides society into hostile classes—the capitalists and the wage workers. The once powerful middle class is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition. The struggle is now between the capitalist class and the working class. The possession of the means of livelihood gives the capitalist the control of the government, the press, the pulpit

and the schools, and enables them to reduce the workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical and social inferiority, political subservience and virtual slavery.

The economic interests of the capitalist class dominate our entire social system; the lives of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit, wars are fomented between nations, indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged and the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalists may extend their commercial domination abroad and enhance their supremacy at home.

But the same economic causes which developed capitalism are leading to Socialism, which will abolish both the capitalist class and the class of wage workers. And the active force in bringing about this new and higher order of society is the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the instruments of wealth production. The democrat, republican, the bourgeois public ownership parties, and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, are alike political representatives of the capitalist class.

The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the collective powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes. While we declare that the development of economic conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist system, we recognize that the time and manner of the transition to Socialism also depends upon the stage of development reached by the proletariat. We, therefore, consider it of the utmost importance for the Socialist party to support all active efforts of the working class to better its condition and to elect Socialists to political offices in order to facilitate the attainment of this end.

As such means we advocate:
1. The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies trusts and combines; no part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the taxes of the capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employes, and to the improvement of the service and diminishing the rates to the consumer.

2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.

3. State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class and to be administered under the control of the working class.

4. The inauguration of a system of public industries, credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secured the full product of their labor.

5. The education of all children up to the age of 18 years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

But in advocating these measures in steps in the overthrow of capitalism, and the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth, we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership movements as an attempt of the capitalist class to secure government control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the public exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

Directory of Secretaries

Wm. Maily, National Secretary, 303-304 McCague Building, Omaha, Neb.
J. J. Jacobsen, State Secretary, 1129 12th street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Secretaries of Iowa Locals

- Albia, W. I. Shields.
- Atlantic, Chas. D. Beers.
- Avery, F. J. West.
- Bloomfield, B. H. Osterhoudt.
- Boone, John H. Cook, 1021 Meridian St.
- Burlington, Conrad Holstein, 1324 N. 7th St.
- Centerville, D. E. Hayes.
- Clarinda, T. F. Willis.
- Clinton, A. R. Kolar, 511 2d St.
- Correctionville, John Tangborn.
- Cresco, E. P. Dieter.
- Davenport, B. W. Wilson, 821 E. 14th St.
- Davis City, E. S. Grimes.
- Deloit, Stanley Browne.
- Des Moines, J. R. Blenes, Box 766.
- Dubuque, E. Holtz, 295 6th St.
- Fairbank, S. E. Moore.
- Ft. Dodge, H. A. Rayne.
- Grinnell, J. G. Fangmeyer.
- Hamilton, Louis Paulding.
- Hiteman, Wm. Truman.
- Hocking, Thomas Love.
- Holly Springs, Jared Pritchard.
- Jamestown, Chas. D. Leroy.
- Keb, Miles Martin.
- Lake City, Oakley Wood.
- Lehigh, John Heslop.
- Lester, Joseph Brucken.
- Little Rock, W. H. Attlessea.
- Logan, A. D. Wilson.
- Lost Creek, Lovel Talmage.
- Madrid, C. J. Peelstrom.
- Mapleton, Ezra DeWolf.
- Marshalltown, Myron T. Wiltse, 610 Frederick Street.
- Mason City, Leslie A. Tillitson, 119 West Miller St.
- Missouri Valley, John T. Culavin P. O. Box 124.
- Monroe, Henry Bowans.
- Muscatine, Lee W. Lang, 700 W. 8th St.
- Mystic, W. B. Bedinger.
- Newton, Abe Miller.
- Ottumwa, Isaac H. West, 601 Richmond Ave. S.
- Polk City, W. W. Ingersoll.
- Red Oak, E. W. Churchill, 109 W. Elm St.
- Rock Rapids, George Monlux.
- Ryan, Chas. Hicketbier.
- Sac City, W. J. Martin, Box 475.
- Scandia, A. F. Adams, P. O. Madrid R. F. D. No. 2.
- Shambaugh, John Rhodes.
- Sheldon, E. W. Farnsworth.
- Sioux City, Edward J. Robrer.
- Sioux City, Miss Carrie Yeager, 507 Douglas St.
- Waterloo, F. Connor, 1112 Franklin St.
- Wasson, McK. Miller.

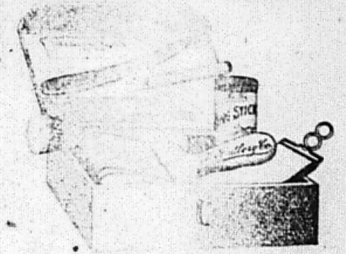
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Wood Coal Pine

Phone 10

Party News

National State Local

National Headquarters Bulletin

SPECIAL ORGANIZING FUND

The following contributions have been made to the special organizing fund since last report:

Julius Bernard, Hamilton, Montana	1.00
A. L., New York City	.25
J. A. Billings, Rockland, Mass.	1.00
25th Ward Branch, Local Philadelphia, Pa.	1.00
Geo. C. Alcott, Bridge-water, Mass.	2.00

Total to noon, Jan. 30. \$ 5.25
Previously reported ... 2,594.99

Total \$2,600.24

W. R. Healey, and R. C. Massey have been re-elected national committeemen from Florida and North Dakota, respectively.

National Lecturer John W. Brown's lecture dates in Oregon begin February 5th after which he will fill between thirty and forty dates in Washington.

National Organizer John M. Ray is dated for the first seven days of February in Houghton County, Michigan. He will work in that state during March.

Comrade James Oneal, state secretary of Indiana, has accepted the position as assistant in the national office and will assume his duties within the next two weeks.

Printed reports of the national quorum meeting, held January 16, 17 and 18th are being mailed either direct from the national office or through the state secretaries to all local secretaries in the party.

National Organizer M. W. Wilkins has concluded his three months' work in Montana and has entered Idaho with the special mission of getting the state organization into better running order.

John C. Chase's organizing tour of New Hampshire has been closed because of unfavorable conditions. Comrade Chase will probably work next in Rhode Island, where a state organization should soon be formed.

The Denver comrades have engaged Comrade James F. Carey for two meetings on February 15 and 21st. It is intended that the meeting on February 21st will be an immense demonstration. Carey will not get through in Colorado until the beginning of March.

George D. Herron will fill a number of dates in the west during March, while making a special trip from New York to Milwaukee to take part in the municipal campaign in the latter city. Comrade Herron will travel under the direction of the national secretary.

The Minnesota state convention of the Socialist Party will be held at Socialist headquarters, 45 S. 4th St., Minneapolis, February 21 and 22. The first session will open at 10 A. M., February 21st. Only locals in good standing up to the end of January will have representation in the convention.

John W. Slayton, of New Castle, Pa., will begin agitating in Colorado at the expense of the national committee of the Socialist party on February 5th. Comrade Slayton will act under direction of the Colorado Committee and will give special attention to the strike districts.

National Committeeman Fleaten, of Colorado, writes from Telluride, under date of January 20: "Last night a traveling salesman, H. S. Kent, expressed disapproval of the methods used towards the strikers, and at twelve he was taken from his bed and escorted to military headquarters and requested to leave this morning. He did not leave, so he was again arrested and taken before the captain this afternoon and told that he must take the next train out of town or go out through the bull pen. Last week, soldiers went out fifteen miles and brought in a farmer who had told some one that he thought the military was going too far."

The new coin card for contributions to the national organizing fund are being sent out, and every comrade receiving one should do

his or her utmost to fill it up quickly and return to the national secretary. The card has holes for ten dimes and two quarters, with places for names and addresses of every contributor. This is undoubtedly the best card of the kind yet issued. The national secretary will be glad to send cards to any comrades who wish to help in the most important work Socialists have to accomplish at present—that of organization. Address, William Mailly, McCague Bldg., Omaha, Neb., and you will receive a card by return mail.



James F. Carey
Temple Hall, Friday,
February 5.
Admission 10c.

Colorado Notes

It is said that Governor Peabody has decided to turn all the military prisoners over to the civil courts February 1st.

Charters were issued January 24th to two locals one at Fowler of seven members and one at Hesperus of twenty-four members.

The Coliseum, the largest hall in Denver, with a seating capacity of 5,000 has been hired for Carey's meeting on February 14th, and Local Denver proposes to make it a great demonstration for Socialism.

The national committee has placed National Organizers James F. Carey and John W. Slayton at the disposal of the state committee. The former for a two weeks' campaign and the latter for two months' work.

Mrs. Ida Crouch-Hazlett has been holding successful meetings at Arvada, Morrison and Golden in Jefferson County. In each place considerable interest has been revived and the locals have been strengthened.

With two lecturers of national reputation like Carey and Slayton working with our state organizer, Mrs. Hazlett, it is confidently expected that the next two months will mark an epoch in the history of the Socialist party in Colorado.

This action of the national office has greatly encouraged the comrades in Colorado and an active and aggressive campaign is being planned. Comrade Slayton will be at his work in the state February 5th and Comrade Carey February 12th.

Comrade Slayton will speak in Denver, February 7th under the auspices of the state committee, Local Denver assisting. An effort will be made at this meeting to raise funds to assist the state committee in carrying on Slayton's campaign in the state and organizing the results of his and Carey's work for the permanent good of the party organization.

The stealing of high grade ore in the Cripple Creek district was never carried on to so great an extent as now. The strike breakers who have been imported into the district, and who are herded in the mines by men with bayonets to prevent their escape, are managing to smuggle the richest specimens out of the mines. The mine owners are learning in the costly school of experience that cheap scab labor is costly labor in the end.

It is the general opinion that the fearful accident which recently precipitated fifteen miners to the bottom of a 1,500 foot shaft at Stratton's Independence mine in Victor, was the result, either of criminal negligence on the part of the management in using unsafe machinery, or of incompetence on

the part of some of Peabody's strike breakers employed in the mine. Although Colorado's premium Jawsmith, Sherman Bell, "Adj. Gen., Brig. Gen., Chief of Staff, etc., etc." says that he "suspects the Western Federation of Miners of having something to do with the accident."

J. W. MARTIN,
State Secretary.

The times still continue strenuous among our workers in the strike fields. Freedom of speech and the press is completely taken away in these districts. A traveling salesman was arrested in Telluride for saying, "damn the flag." The Socialists ought by all means to be pushing their work, and putting their solution of the problem before the working men. But we have no money to hire halls or pay car fare, and we can't get any. Not a single one of the well-to-do Socialists in America will give us anything to help us in this crisis. We have written to Wayland, who has said he was going to give his surplus money to the movement, and he has refused to help. We have written to the national organization and they have refused to help with any means. They are going to send Slayton and Carey here for some weeks' work. They state that this will be without expense to us. We suppose that means railroad fare and board. Unless hall rent is included we shall be unable to place the speakers where they ought to go. The strike districts have all they can do to carry their strikers, and the locals everywhere are weak and without funds for local work.

Under these conditions a star route performance is almost a total failure. It takes workers who can stay in the localities and work up a continuous interest. If we had just half the money that the national will spend here for these two men we could keep at work in the state all summer.

Then, in this stage of affairs it is very important that the utmost judgment be used by the speakers and strangers that come into the state.

Mr. Wayland sent A. W. Ricker out here to write up the situation. In his speech before the Lemur Local he made some remarks in regard to the unions that have set the Socialist union men by the ears, and plunged us into the utmost embarrassment. His remarks were evidently tinged by the misrepresentation of the disrupters in Cripple Creek. An outsider is liable to swallow everything that is said to him without having time or opportunity to investigate.

Our meetings have been very successful lately. Our hall has been crowded, mostly by working men, and many stand during the entire evening. We have devoted two evenings to the discussion of the labor situation.

Denver Local holds three meetings weekly now, the business meeting Wednesday evenings a debate Friday evenings, and the propaganda meeting Sunday evenings.

The state organizer with comrades from Denver held a series of meetings at Arvada recently, three evening meetings and an afternoon for ladies. The meetings were well attended.

Mrs. Hazlett also held a propaganda meeting at Morrison this week. Wednesday night she spoke at a union meeting of the unions in Golden. February 6th and 7th she goes to Fort Collins; the 11th, 12th and 13th she is at Platteville.

Saturday evening the Scandinavian Local of Denver gave a social and dance. They are doing fine work, and arousing great interest among their countrymen. Englewood Local gives its social Tuesday night at the home of I. A. Southworth.

Denver Local has instructed a secretary to initiate a referendum for proportional representation on the national executive committee. The proxy system just adopted seems to be an outrageous plan for enabling a few men to control the entire movement; while the plan hitherto in operation of letting small, recently organized states have equal representation with states containing many thousands of members manifestly does not represent the sentiment of the party.

IDA CROUCH HAZLETT,
State Organizer Colorado Socialist Party.

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The Iowa Socialist for one year and any of the following papers for one year for 80 cents: *Wishlife's Magazine*, *Coming Nation*, *Chicago Socialist*, *The Vanguard*, or the *Iowa Socialist* for one year and *The Comrade* for six months for 60 cents.

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Bargains in Hosiery, Underwear, Shoes, Tapestry, Shooting, Gloves, Mittens, Shawls, Notions, Carpets.

Iowa Notes

David M. Parry made one of his class-conscious speeches in Des Moines last week.

Charter has been issued to Local at Davis City, with seven members, organized by Comrade McCrillis.

Applications for dates for Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick have been received from Ryan, Rock Rapids, Sigourney and Hiteman. Locals wishing to secure him for one or more lectures should make application not later than February 12. J. J. JACOBSEN, Secretary.

Centerville, Jan. 25, 1904.
Dear Comrades.—We have just had a series of two Socialist meetings conducted by Comrade I. S. McCrillis, with the very pleasing results of organizing a local with thirteen charter members. Though it was in the midst of the terrible ice storm period we had a reasonable fair turn-out, yet we know of at least as many more that will swing into line. The boys seem very determined. Plans are being laid for energetic work to continue the work of organizing. One plan is to elect two captains who will "choose up" on the old spelling school plan, and the two classes thus formed will select a name as Ruskin or Marx, then enter an earnest but friendly rivalry in putting up the best entertainment; also to see which class could gain the largest number of members. We have two lady members and expect several more. Miners are in the majority at present, of which we have a large population here. I enclose herewith what the Centerville paper said of the meeting:

"For the past two nights Judge McCrillis, of Des Moines, Socialist-organizer, has talked to those interested locally and was listened to carefully. He makes a good presentation of his subjects dealing with co-operation, the differences in socialism and anarchy and other questions." You will probably hear from us later, as we will probably assist in this great struggle for liberty. W. C. WILLES, Secretary.

Sioux City, Feb. 2, 1904.
Editor Iowa Socialist:

Dear Comrade:—The meeting last Sunday at 3 P. M. was turned into a business meeting, there not being enough strangers to warrant holding a propaganda meeting, but after the business was taken care of Comrade Shank read an article taken from the American Labor Union Journal about a new invention which does away with the printing machine and also the printer. This article started a lively debate among those present as to whether the machinery of production was practically finished or not as far as capitalism is concerned, the majority taking the stand that it was.

The Socialist dance was a success considering the cold night that it was held on, those that were there had a very nice time, the only thing that hampers our Socialists is finances. Our hall has been a continual drain on the movement because it takes all we can scrape up to pay rent, coal and gas, we pay rent \$25.00, gas about \$2.00 and coal bill of about \$7.00, besides other minor expenses, our lease expires on the first of March, and we are thinking of giving it up and getting into a smaller place where rent is cheaper. Of course that will do away with the propaganda meetings, but we can hold street meet-

ings then and use our dues for literature. We are going to call a convention to nominate a city ticket, the date to be decided next Sunday. Enclosed you will find \$1.00 for which you will please send me a bundle of Iowa Socialists every week for two months; they are for free distribution. The money was donated by Comrade Max Brodkey. Yours for Socialism in our time, J. W. WILSON, Org. Local Sioux City.

Smoke "The Iowa Socialist" 5c cigar. Best in the city. Give it a trial.

Local Notes

Don't forget James F. Carey's lecture at Temple Hall, Friday night.

The Tuesday evening meetings are open to every one, and the general public is always invited to come to any or all of them.

At last Tuesday's meeting of Dubuque Local, there was a noticeable increase in the attendance of women, and a falling off in the number of men. Why is this? Are the men bashful?

Comrade Carrie L. Johnson read a very able paper on "The Promise of Socialism," at the Tuesday evening propaganda meeting of Dubuque Local. By special request it is printed as an editorial in this issue of the Iowa Socialist.

At the propaganda meeting next Tuesday evening, Comrade Rieck will give the address. As this Comrade has a tendency to contract "colds" on short notice, Comrade Dieterich was elected to act as alternate, so there is sure to be something interesting going at the next meeting. Be sure you do not miss it.

The entertainment committee reports things progressing in the right direction for a good old social time on the evening of February 11th. There will be cards with suitable prizes for those who wish to play, games for the children, and something to satisfy the craving of the "inner man," all for ten cents. It is a bargain you cannot afford to miss. Come early and avoid the rush. Socialist headquarters, 295 Sixth street, second floor, next Thursday evening.

David S. Cameron, carpenter. Terms very reasonable. 8130 Pine street.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Des Moines Local No. 6 meets second and fourth Sunday afternoons of each month at 3:00 o'clock in Yeoman Hall.

Davenport local meets every first and third Friday in the month at Turner hall. Visitors always welcome. E. W. Wilson, Sec., 821 East 14th street.

Dubuque Local meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock at Socialist Headquarters, 6th and Iowa streets.

P. C. Murray, the lawyer in the office building, makes a specialty of drawing wills and settling estates.

The workers feed, clothe and house the world and some day they will own it.

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J. PREITAUER,
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