

AN ADVOCATE OF WORKING CLASS INTERESTS.

New York Socialist

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY 50 CENTS A YEAR.

FOUNDED 1891

FORMERLY THE WORKER

VOL. XVIII.—NO. 6.

NEW YORK, MAY 9, 1908

PRICE 2 CENTS.

CONDITIONS OF LABOR GROW WORSE.

Commissioner Bogert's Report Shows How Workers Suffer.

Democratic Official Testimony Confirms Republican Official Testimony as to Disastrous Effect of Republican-Democratic Government Upon the Working People's Interests.

A few weeks ago we published the essential parts of the report of State Commissioner of Labor Williams upon unemployment in this city and state. We are glad to be able now to reinforce this Republican official testimony by Democratic official testimony, both showing how disastrously the system maintained by the Republican and Democratic parties affects the interests of the working class.

The annual report submitted to the Mayor of New York last week by John N. Bogert, Commissioner of Licenses, describes the condition of the labor market as reflected in the business of the employment agencies, recording not only a falling off in the volume of business, but a surprising reduction in wages. Business depression has affected not only the contract labor agencies and domestic servants' bureaus, but the theatrical agencies, those supplying stenographers, and those filling technical and clerical positions.

Domestic Servants Fare Badly. A year ago the intelligence offices could not fill the demand for servants, but now they are overrun with applicants for employment. There is no longer scarcity in the number of those willing to work as servants. The report says:

"The books of 900 domestic servants' agencies indicate that the average earnings of cooks in private families here fell from \$35 to \$32.50 a month; houseworkers, who were paid \$36 to \$35 a month in 1907, are now receiving from \$35 to \$28. The average wages paid to cooks obtained through agencies that supply the wealthier families have been reduced from \$50 to \$45 a month, and in the same families the wages paid butlers have fallen from \$65 to \$50 a month. Many other families in this class have reduced the wages of all the help employed by them since last December about 50 per cent, and the number of servants has been greatly decreased."

Clerical Forces Reduced. Regarding positions for stenographers and typewriters (female) furnished thru employment agencies, the report says:

"Beginners are now paid \$6 and \$7 a week, as against \$8 and \$9 a year ago. But the most significant phase is the reduction made in the number of employees. Houses which reduced the salaries of stenographers and typewriters have, since Jan. 1, reduced in number their clerical force of all grades from 30 to 50 per cent."

Commercial agencies report that during the first three months of 1908 the demand for office help, bookkeepers, clerks, etc., fell off 40 per cent as compared with that period in 1907. The demand for engineers, draughtsmen, and superintendents during the first three months of 1908 almost ceased. The only class of help, the demand for which kept up to that of former years, was salesmen. This is accounted for by the fact that merchants having stock on hand have been putting forth every effort to get rid of it. The report adds:

"April has shown improvement in conditions, but no advance on the reduced wage schedule. Wages in all branches where help is furnished through employment agencies have been reduced from 10 to 30 per cent."

Unskilled Labor Suffers. Domestic agencies which make a special effort of furnishing unskilled labor have, been practically at a standstill during the last three months. Wages were reduced, and standing orders from prospectors were cancelled. The New York Central, which paid its men \$1.45 a day in April, of which \$1.20 a day in April of 1907, paid \$1.40 in May, 1907, and \$1.25 at present. The Pennsylvania Railroad workmen in this country have reduced the wage of unskilled laborers from \$1.50 an allied a day to \$1.25 and \$1.50. Labor in grading work, not employed on the roads, have had their wages reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.35 a day. At the same time it is apparent that living expenses have not been reduced.

Farm Wages Cut. With regard to work on farms, the report says:

THE REVOLT SPREADING.

The current number of the "Painter and Decorator" has a vigorous editorial puncturing the rapid policy of the A. F. of L. leaders as announced in their latest address. The "Union Leader" of Toledo, O., endorses the demand for a new policy in the following comment on the "Painter and Decorator" editorial:

"It is the first Journal of an international union that we know of which protests against the present political policy of the A. F. of L., and in referring to the blasted hopes, broken promises and ignored appeals of Labor, the 'Painter and Decorator' declares these things may be the tonic needed to form trade union officials into"

"This is a serious indictment, but the 'Union Leader' has insistently declared that the average labor official stands against as he prays for some excuse to maintain his present do-nothing policy."

"The time for plain talk is now, and no trade union journal can much longer conceal actual conditions by deluding its readers into appealing for aid from old-party politicians."

"Just to show the interest of the A. F. of L.'s policy in Toledo it may as well be known that the executive council has forwarded thousands of

ranged from \$22 to \$23 a month; now they offer from \$18 to \$23. Many of them do not provide good accommodation for their help, and some of them are not liberal in their treatment of men who work from sunrise to sundown. Conditions like these hold in the cities a great part of that immigrant population which should seek its living in the fields."

HAYWOOD RECEIVES GREAT OVATIONS.

William D. Haywood's meetings continue to be great successes in every respect. Thousands of workmen crowd the meetings and give every manifestation of approval to his speeches. At Springfield, O., he had a great ovation and the "Daily Sun" gave more than three columns to the meeting. At Middletown 150 delegates of the Trades Council were seated on the platform. The president of the Council said, in introducing Haywood: "We trade unionists are contemplating going into politics. We are to be congratulated in procuring one to address us who is, perhaps, the best known unionist in the world. He has made such a determined fight for progressive unionism and political power for the union, he seems to typify the hopes and aspirations of the working class." Many delegates stated they would support the Socialist Party this fall for the first time.

At Newcastle, Pa., over 1,600 people were seated in the Opera House to hear Haywood and scores stood in the aisles. When he appeared on the platform he received an ovation that lasted several minutes. The Newcastle "Herald" gave a two column report of the meeting and quoted liberally from Haywood's address.

"HARRY ORCHARD WILL NEVER HANG."

The Spokane "Evening Chronicle" recently contained an interview with F. L. Payne of Boise, Idaho, on Harry Orchard. Payne arrested Orchard after the Steunenberg murder and claimed the reward for his arrest. The reward went to others and Payne is now inclined to tell a new truth. The following statement from him confirms the conviction held by the majority of workmen:

"Harry Orchard will never be hanged, and it is only a question of time until he is allowed to go free. I wouldn't mind being in Orchard's place myself from now on. He dresses better than he ever did before, looks well and enjoys many luxuries."

"Where he gets his money I don't know. He had about \$9 when I arrested him, but he seems to have the best of everything now. He doesn't associate with any of the other prisoners. He used to eat at the warden's table with the warden. He and the governor of Idaho are as chummy as can be. He calls Governor Gooding 'Frank' and the governor always speaks to Orchard as 'Harry'."

"I saw Orchard the day he was sentenced to be hung. He was just getting off a car. He seemed to me at first to be alone. He walked over and shook hands with me and acted like a man who had just returned from a trip with the boys and had had a mighty fine time."

"Orchard may have been sincere in his confession, but I don't believe he was. It is said his attorney cannot get him to sign a petition asking for a commutation of his sentence, but he will never be hung. Why, at the present time he is sentenced to be hung May 15, and he is also to appear as a witness against Steve Adams about the same time. He will never be hung, and it is only a question of time until he is allowed to go free."

appeals for the workers to sign, but the incident has not even interested the rank and file.

"Let us be frank with ourselves—let us face conditions. Our enemies know the workers have lost faith in that policy. Why should we 'fool ourselves'?"

"We again repeat that there is not a trade union weekly in America—excepting the 'Union Leader', 'Wheeling Majority' and the Cleveland 'Citizen' that seems to dare tell the truth regarding actual conditions. Organized Labor don't know the effects of decisions that will confiscate their homes, for the simple reason that they are not told. Why this criminal silence? Are they aware of the growing unrest of Labor, and are they only waiting for the revolt movement to become general, that they may shout with safety?"

"Or is the game to splutter around until the fall elections, and at the next A. F. of L. convention to get 'awful radical'?"

"Is this policy leadership? 'This game is worn out, and safe and sane trade union officials (not leaders) will have a day of reckoning, for we are firm in the belief that in the near future the workers will demand a show of hands.'"

STARVING MAN TOO WEAK TO DROWN HIMSELF.

Flying that the battle of life was against him an unidentified starving man staggered down to the Passaic River, in Paterson, N. J., last week with the intention of drowning himself. He was so weak from hunger that he stumbled and fell before he could throw himself into the river, and lacked strength to regain his feet. Several workmen saw the stranger lying on the shore with his feet half under water. They telephoned the police. When the police arrived the man was still breathing. They lifted him into the patrol wagon and drove to the General Hospital at a gallop. The stranger breathed his last as the hospital was reached. And Roosevelt says that the question that overshadowed all others is the stamping out of "anarchy." Cannon says "this country is a hell of a success." Taft admits he is weak minded and doesn't know. What do you workingmen think? Are the country's resources sufficient to supply the needs of a starving man?

REDUCED TO SAVAGERY.

The boundary line offers no shield to protect the workers of Canada from the effects of the industrial crisis in the United States. With no work in sight the population of Prince Rupert, B. C., is in a bad way, and men are eking out an existence by living on fish and clams. At present there are a thousand men idle in the camp. Provisions are high, and the unfortunate men without funds have been reduced to grubbing on the beach and among the rocks for food. Some of the Northern boats are seriously considering the advisability of cutting out the call at Prince Rupert on the homeward trip, until a large proportion of the men have found work. These hungry hordes, reduced to the methods of primitive man in securing a living, are a fitting commentary on capitalist control of civilization.

PEONAGE IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Peonage is not confined to Far Southern states if the news from Scranton, Pa., is correct. Evidence regarding alleged peonage by the White Oak Fuel Co. of Scarborough, W. Va., is being gathered by William O. Donnee, a special agent of the United States Department of Justice, from miners of West Scranton who, after a short experience at Scarborough, managed to escape and returned home. They said that the workers were kept at the mines with armed guards; that the employees were locked up in filthy holes upon the slightest provocation, and that men who were promised \$2.25 and \$2.50 a day got much less. The modern capitalist is no more averse to kidnapping to secure cheap labor than the Southern masters were before the Civil War.

Slandering the Dead.

The press bureau of the fat aspirant for the presidency is sending out a story to the effect that Frank Phelan, whom Taft sent to jail during the A. R. U. strike, was later "struck with remorse" and stated he would be glad to serve six years to undo the sufferings he had caused. Phelan is dead and cannot answer the charge. Certainly those who knew Phelan never received any intimation that he regarded Taft other than as a hireling of the railroads. "God knows" Taft would like to live down his record and an attack on the dead and a lie to the living are the methods chosen by Roosevelt's messenger boy.

To make unionism effective a powerful Socialist Party is absolutely necessary.

OUR DAILY NEWSPAPER.

The "Evening Call" Will Soon be an Established Fact.

Circulation Will Reach to Boston, Washington, and Harrisburg—The Publisher's First Rule Will Be to Make It a Truthful Newspaper—Many Inquiries from Newsdealers Show that the Field Is Ready for it.

After years of preparation, doubt and hopes deferred the Socialists of New York are prepared to publish their daily newspaper in the English language. It will be known as the New York "Evening Call". For two weeks Business Manager J. B. Menz and Circulation Manager John Kelly (who established the circulation of the "Morning Telegraph" and other big dailies) have been at work on a comprehensive plan for distributing the paper. As a result of their labors it will be possible for everybody from Boston to Washington, D. C., and as far West as Harrisburg, Pa., to get the "Evening Call" on the evening of the day of issue. It will easily compete with the other New York evening newspapers in this matter of reaching readers.

"Coming Events Cast Their Shadows Before".

The "Evening Call" will be issued on or about May 15. The interest manifested in it is most encouraging, inquiries coming from widely separated districts with assurances of moral as well as substantial financial support. An interesting feature of the announcement of the appearance of a daily trade union and Socialist organ is already seen in the larger space devoted to labor and Socialist affairs in the capitalist press. Every newspaper man knows that in the editorial departments of the plute organs there is no topic so much despised and of such little news value as Labor. It is a very wretched scandal in the opinion of the average rattle-brained city editor has not greater "news value" than a labor story. But within the last fortnight some of them, anticipating the "Evening Call", have given over a column a day. Most noticeable in this respect have been the Hearst organs.

The "Evening Call" will be either a four or a six page paper. The publishers believe that the people of the East are weary of buying their newspapers by the pound. We mean to print four pages of NEWS. A careful analysis of the capitalistic sheets will show less than that as a rule after the reader allows for scare headlines, digs his weary way thru pages and pages of advertising, etc.

First of All, to Be a Truthful Newspaper.

Above everything else the "Evening Call" will be a newspaper. The idea of its publishers is to interest as large a number of readers as possible in an accurate presentation of the vital news of the day. Of course the "Evening Call" will advocate Socialism as the remedy for the ills of our present society, but Socialism wants nothing better than to stand by the facts.

The "Evening Call" is anxious to get into touch with the Socialists and trade unionists of the country and wants to have one such as a correspondent in every town and city. It is also desired that such of the comrades as have talent for cartooning should submit the product of their genius. All who feel that they can act as correspondents or in any way contribute to the success of the paper are invited to correspond with city editor George H. Gordon, 6 Park Place.

The question of editor-in-chief is still open. Several comrades whose standing in the movement is without question are under consideration and when the selection is finally made the comrades and the great mass of working people will find they have a man at the head of their organ who can be trusted to fight for them at all times.

The Field Is Ready.

The subscription for the "Evening Call" has been fixed at 25 cents the month and for longer periods at multiples of that sum. On news stands and in the street the price will be one cent. Hundreds of news dealers and even the little newsboys have made inquiries about the paper, each assuring Comrade Menz of a ready sale and a large interest in the venture.

Socialist's Elected in Illinois.

In the recent municipal election in Harvey, Ill., Comrade J. Coale was elected police magistrate and Comrade Martin, Alderman, in the Fifth Ward. The result of this election was a complete surprise to the old-party politicians, and the local comrades are correspondingly enthusiastic as a result of the victory.

THE FAIR IS ON!

And It Is a Success from Every Point of View.

Jerseyites and Westchester Folk Join with Greater New Yorkers in Crowding the Big Hall and Adjacent Rooms of the Labor Temple—They Have a Jolly Good Time and a Nice Little Fund Is Being Accumulated for the "Evening Call".

The Fair is on! From all over Greater New York from its suburbs and from New Jersey, hundreds upon hundreds gather every night at the mecca of merry-making and pleasure—the Labor Temple, 243-247 E. Eighty-fourth street.

The May-Day Fair and Congress of Nations is a success. It is a success in its program of entertainment, in attendance and financial income, and in its demonstration of Internationalism.

Go and See for Yourself.

An attempt to put into cold print the various features that make the Fair what it is, would be futile. All I can attempt to do is to mention mechanically the different attractions, leaving the rest for the reader to find out for himself when he "takes in" the Fair before it closes, on Sunday night, May 10.

There is an elegant program of music, dancing, and vaudeville features in the main hall every night. Local Westchester County has charge of the International Booth, where various articles are exhibited and sold. A tablet with the words: "Workers of All Countries, Unite!" in thirteen different languages decorates this booth—an impressive illustration of the slogan of International Socialism.

Who's Your Favorite?

A feature of paramount interest is the Voting Booth. There you can vote for the most popular presidential candidate to be nominated by the Socialist Party's national convention next week; also for the most popular Socialist agitator, walking delegate, trade-unionist, union secretary, or lady or man worker at the Fair. Valuable prizes are to be awarded to the victors. It may be mentioned, not incidentally, that an exciting race is on between Comrade Mrs. U. Solomon and Miss Florence Margolies for the honor of being the most popular lady worker at the Fair. And as may be expected Debs and Haywood furnish some excitement in the race caused by their admirers for the presidential nomination.

The moving picture and vaudeville show is a big drawing card. It is in Room 16, upstairs of the main floor.

The Hungarian Socialist Branch has a booth containing Hungarian articles of merchandise. Russian goods are on sale at the booth of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party and the Bund. They also have on sale Russian and Yiddish literature. The Bohemian and Slovak Branches have a booth of art goods. The Dutch Socialist Branches have a windmill-like booth, where groceries are dispensed. The Socialist women of the Bronx have charge of the Italian Wine Booth. The 20th A. D. has a needlework booth. The Literature Booth is in charge of the West Side Agitation Committee.

Refreshments can be had at the Japanese Booth under the auspices of the Brooklyn Women's Auxiliary. Candy, ice cream and soda water are sold at the American Booth, run by the Socialist Women's Society. Mrs. Arnold is in charge.

Artists Help Along.

Charles Stifter, a sculptor, disposes of his work—plaques of Marx, Liebknecht, and Bebel. Louis Bromberg, a landscape artist, paints pictures "on the spot", which are sold while he is at work. "Eliore", the Hungarian Socialist publication, has installed a press and printing outfit and prints cards while you wait. The East Side Journeymen Barber's Union has a shop in the hat check room where you can "get a shave for the benefit of the 'Evening Call'."

Then there is a Registration Bureau where the organization having the largest number of its members in attendance will be awarded a handsome prize. The "Evening Call" has an information table, where subscriptions are also taken.

Those waiting at the booths are costumed according to the country their exhibition represents. Thus Japanese and Dutch girls, Russian Cossacks and peasants, and many other nationalities enliven the gay gathering.

Articles at the booths are raffled, causing much excitement and no mean income to help sustain the daily. And now we arrive at the Bayrische Bierstube with its steins of foaming beer, its waitresses in Bavarian dress, and its incomparable quartet of Yodlers. This place is an oasis, where the thirst is quenched. Comrade Eckert

A FEW WORDS TO MAYOR McCLELLAN.

Mayor McClellan sees danger in a wave of social unrest sweeping around the world, and concludes, therefore, that it "masks a concerted movement of lawlessness and anarchy." Because men do not suffer of hunger in silence, because they protest against weary months of fruitless search for work, because they ask for a few cents more wages when they find work, because they resent judicial usurpation of power, because they protest against Cossack raids, kidnapping, deportations, military rule and riot, therefore the workers' efforts to redress these wrongs are "lawlessness and anarchy."

You know better, Mayor McClellan. If this movement were what you call it, it would be perfectly satisfactory to you and other politicians and official representatives of property. If it were lawless and anarchic, you and those who believe like you might hope to club or shoot it down. That has always been the "remedy" you have offered for the justified protest of the working class. But just because the Socialist movement understands what you are ready and willing to give the workers into an intelligent army of revolt that refuses to expose itself to your clubs and guns. It bides its time and awaits its opportunity to retire all the representatives of class rule in the United States. It is this peaceful revolt that causes your dread. It is the only kind of revolt that you fear, because it does not invite the "remedy" you and yours always itch to apply.

However, there is one statement you made to the students of Cornell that is true. It is a fact that "during the last few years we have legislated on almost every conceivable subject, in almost every conceivable way." You have, and in so doing you have been better servants to the small group of capitalists who own the industrial equipment of the United States, than any other set of politicians that preceded you. You have given the capitalist class franchises and other legis-

has charge. Butchers' Union No. 174 has a lunch counter in the Bierstube.

"Jigger, de Cop!"

Almost forgot the Burgomaster! Well, well! Here is a little scene of a big hit at the Fair.

His Honor has opened court. The clerk stands beside him, pen in hand, ready to record the fines. The German police are picking out offenders, innocent or otherwise, and bringing them to justice. The German maidens notice their temporary affluence to the temple of the law, there to be ostentatiously married, and to have said affluence "soaked" for the license fee. (Later they get divorced—also for a consideration!) The Burgomaster and his clerk, police, and maidens look as if they were transplanted from a German hamlet, or have escaped from a German chromo.

A pleasure seeker is arrested and brought before the court. The policeman makes the charge. The Burgomaster asks the prisoner, "What, then, have you to say to this charge?" The prisoner is about to make his defense, and says: "I am—" when the Burgomaster thunders out: "SHUT UP! How dare you talk back to the judge. You are fined twenty cents for contempt of court." After "coughing up" he is told to "vamoose", and makes place for the next victim. The procedure may vary, but the fine is about as certain as the injunction when a scab boss asks for it in an ordinary court.

"Never Too Late to Mend."

The program of the last three nights is even more promising than those of the former nights. Many entertaining events are featured. On Friday night, May 8, East Side night, there will be present many of the dramatic, literary, and industrial organizations of that section. A big time is expected. Saturday afternoon there will be a dramatic entertainment for women and children; Saturday evening, singers' night; Sunday afternoon, awarding of prizes; Sunday evening, grand finale, with Letter Carriers' Band.

Let every man or woman who has not yet been at the Fair amend their indiscretions and attend immediately. And those who have attended are advised to retrace their footsteps to 243-247 E. Eighty-fourth street. The Fair is great, but the cause for which it is being held is still greater. An English daily is the crying need of the hour. And your attendance will help its immediate publication.

The Fair is on! Don't forget the date and place. L. K.

lation that made fortunes over night; your offices are merely departments of capitalist "business" to care for and guard property interests and share in the graft that has become a normal condition in the administration of government. And while you have "given every conceivable legislation in every conceivable way" to those who own your parties, you have also provided a police machine to catch smaller offenders and to suppress the rising protest of workmen.

And if, as a result of the unrestricted development of capitalism, "government by commission" is becoming popular in your ranks, do not forget that this "paternalism" is of your own creation. It is the only "remedy" you know for the certain social and industrial problems your rule has brought about—especially the problem presented by the almost universal tendency of capitalist corporations and capitalist politicians to become so excessively corrupt that they become injurious to the capitalists themselves. In response to the complaints of your own class you are compelled to investigate this and that, and then, to confess your inability to solve the problems your commissions reveal. You cannot solve them because "government by commissions" is capitalism investigating itself, and the first condition for the solution of any of these problems is the retirement of the political agents of the capitalist class who are in the main responsible for them.

We thank you, Mr. Mayor, for your criticism. We can add you to the list of "eminent men" who have testified to their fear that the day is drawing nigh when the workers will come into their own. Like all other similar testimony, it is unwillingly given, but you have at least learned that "the wave of social unrest" which threatens to engulf you cannot be stayed with silence. The next lesson to learn will be that politicians nursed on the spoils of capitalist politics are those least capable to challenge the new power they fear.

TRIAL IS POSTPONED.

Fred D. Warren is Held by the Government Until After the November Elections, the Prosecution Fearing the Result of a Trial Now.

The trial of Fred D. Warren, managing editor of the "Appeal to Reason", has taken an unexpected turn. After waiting for months for the trial to be called, it has been postponed until after November. This delay was demanded and insisted on by the government in spite of the vigorous protest of the defense which was overruled by the court. The government is certainly able to proceed with the trial now if it wished to, as the evidence against Warren is in cold type and delays will not make it more forceful or convincing for the government.

The reason for the delay is apparent enough. The administration fears the political effects of a trial at this time and desires to evade the issue until after the election. The capitalist hirelings that wish to destroy the Socialist press have had an example of its power to awaken public indignation in the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone kidnapping case, and they do not wish to provoke the resentment of workmen until after the votes have been "rounded up". Then it is proposed to place Warren on trial and, if possible, either rush him to the penitentiary as an "example", or prolong the case in an attempt to drain the "Appeal" of its financial resources. Perhaps the struggle for free speech in the United States will also merge into a struggle for a free press, and every workingman should take an active interest in the trial of Warren and make its import known to his fellows. The powers at Washington can also rest assured that if they attempt another injustice the working class shall know of it tho it be a year after the polls are closed.

Prosperity Not Returning Yet.

The American Railway Association reports 375,624 cars hauled April 15. This is 70,000 more than on April 1 and 32,000 more than on Feb. 5, the worst previous record. Even deducting the 40,000 which are said to have been idle on account of the temporary cessation of soft-coal mining, the number is far greater than the average for the four preceding months.

Patronize our advertisements.

The New York Socialist

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party of the State of New York, 239 E. 84th Street, New York, N. Y. John C. Chase, Secretary; William Hooley, Treasurer.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS. Invariably in Advance. One year \$3.00, Six months \$2.00, Three months \$1.00, Single copies 10c.

CANADA. One year \$4.00, Six months \$3.00, Three months \$1.50, Single copies 10c.

Two weeks are required to make changes in addresses.

Subscribers should not expect the paper for at least two weeks from the date when subscriptions are sent in.

When renewing subscribers are requested to mark their subscriptions "renewal".

As the Socialist goes to press on Wednesday, correspondents sending news should mail their communications in time to reach this office by Monday, whenever possible.

Communications concerning the editorial department of the paper should be addressed to the Editor of The Socialist, 15 Spruce Street, New York.

One of the editors may be seen at the office on Tuesday and Wednesday between 7 and 9 p. m.

THE SOCIALIST VOTE. The Socialist Party has passed thru its third general election. Its growing power is indicated by the increase of its vote.

1906 (Presidential) 95,961, 1902 (State and Congressional) 229,762, 1904 (Presidential) 408,230



PROPERTY AND THE LAW.

The commodity clause of the Hepburn Rate Bill went into effect last Friday, May 1. Since that day all the railroads in the country which transport commodities in which they have any proprietary interest have been carrying these commodities in defiance of law, and with nothing protecting them from the enormous penalties provided for in the act save the agreement existing between the railroads and Attorney General Bonaparte that he will confine his action under this clause to test suits until the question of the validity of the clause has been passed upon by the Supreme Court.

The foregoing appeared in the news columns of a great New York daily—a stalwart upholder of law, whenever it is a question of flourishing the club of the law against Socialists and union workmen—and without a word of editorial comment. The other law-respecting papers followed the same course. They seem to take it as the most natural thing in the world that the national Department of Justice should make an agreement with the great capitalists to permit them to go on violating the law with impunity until a "test case" can be arranged and carried thru all the courts and a decision reached on its "constitutionality".

In ordinary cases it is always assumed that a law is constitutional and must be obeyed until a contrary decision is reached. A workman arrested for violation of any new law not yet fully tested does not get the benefit of the doubt. He pays his fine or goes to jail. If afterward the law is declared unconstitutional, he may take his small chance of getting redress by an expensive action for false arrest. But when the interests of great property are involved, the theory is reversed.

OUR OPPORTUNITY AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

In 1896 the Socialists of this country cast 36,000 votes. In 1900 the number rose to 130,000. In 1904 it grew to 422,000. How great will it be in November, 1908? If the same ratio of increase is maintained, it will put us in a position where both old parties will have to reckon seriously with us in every state except, perhaps, a few in the South, where both industry and education are still so backward that a movement like ours, depending chiefly upon the intelligent activity of the wage-working class, can as yet expect little support.

DON'T LIE SO CLUMSILY, GENTLEMEN OF THE "TIMES".

Hamilton Holt was one of the speakers at the dinner of the Cosmopolitan Society, where white and black people ate and talked together. Mr. Holt is not a Socialist. Mr. Holt did not advocate intermarriage of the races. André Tridon was one of the hundred and fifty diners. Mr. Tridon is a Socialist. Mr. Tridon did not advocate intermarriage; being interviewed, he said he considered marriage as a thing concerning almost solely the two persons involved, and did not feel called upon to sit in judgment upon the conduct of other people in such a matter. These facts were correctly reported in the "Times". Yet the same issue of the "Times" contained an editorial in which the dinner was described as a Socialist gathering and as

squarely confronting the great capitalist forces.

When we consider the events of the last four years—the demonstration of the deep-seated rottenness of capitalist business by means of the insurance investigations, the "Jungle" meat exposures, and the like; the awakening of large and hitherto conservative sections of the working class thru the capitalist outrages in Colorado, the mine-owners' conspiracy against officers of the Western Federation of Miners, and the defeat of that conspiracy by the great national protest initiated by the Socialist Party; the inspiration given to the forces of progress by the example of the heroic revolutionary struggles in Russia, the Socialist victories of 1906 in France, and the rise of the British Labor Party; the exhibition of the disastrous effects of the capitalist system and of the utter impotence of the capitalists themselves to control its destructive tendencies thru the hard times into which the country has been plunged; the education of the organized working people as to the true nature of capitalist law thru a series of court decisions in favor of employers and against the trade unions—when we consider all these and many more things of like tenor that have happened within the last few years, it takes an effort to restrain ourselves from confidently predicting much more than a million Socialist votes next fall.

Never was Socialism so much discussed in the public press and on the public platform as now. Never were the spokesmen of existing institutions so completely on the defensive. Never before was it so widely understood, seriously and sympathetically considered by such vast numbers of people who are not yet committed to its support; never before was wilful misrepresentation by its enemies so futile. In 1904 we rejoiced that we had a larger field open to us and a field more easily worked. But the change in this respect in these few years is very far greater than in the few years ending with 1904. The growth of our organized party membership, which has considerably more than doubled, indicates a still greater increase in the number of our sympathizers. On the other hand, the Republican party has not positively strengthened itself (we put it mildly) since 1904, and the Democratic party is still more hopelessly divided and still more uncertain of its own policy than it then was.

We speak advisedly when we say that the political conflict now about to begin will not be a conflict between Republicanism and Democracy, much as old-party politicians and their backers would like to have it so; but that, in spite of all their efforts, it will be a campaign for and against Socialism. Our national convention opens in Chicago next week. May all its decisions be wise ones, reached after calm consideration and fraternal exchange of information and opinions, in view of the unparalleled responsibility which rests upon the delegates as men entrusted by their comrades with the opening of the most momentous campaign held in the United States since 1890. And once its work is done, may we have the spectacle of 43,000 party members in all parts of the land acting as Socialist comrades in all that the words imply, throwing off all apathy, putting aside all minor disagreements, and entering with enthusiasm upon six months of the hardest work they have ever done.

Our opportunities are all that we could ask. But let us not suppose that the abstract idea of Socialism automatically propagates itself. Where it is left to do that it produces many queer freaks, but not a satisfactory growth, in quantity or quality. Opportunities are of value only as they are used. If we have a greater opportunity than we ever before, that imposes upon us a greater responsibility than we have ever yet had to bear.

It should have been stated last week, in our report of the general meeting of members of Local New York, that the decisions of that body had no binding force, as it did not have a quorum as an official party meeting. The purpose of the meeting, indeed, was not to give strict instructions to the delegates, but to give them an opportunity of learning the opinions of the party members who were enough interested to come and partici-

having for its keynote the advocacy of "mixed marriages," and the readers are called upon to "visit public censure upon this exhibition of Socialism in all its nakedness," and such intelligent men and women as may have been "deluded" into sympathizing with the Socialist ideal of "brotherhood" (that word in scornful quotation marks) are adjured to cease "giving aid and comfort to agencies of destruction" and acting as coadjutors to men who are "seeking to destroy society, the home, and religion." Let us give the gentlemen in the "Times" office a tip. Either the editorial writer should examine the reports of fact about to go into the news columns before sending up his own "copy," or else the reporters should consult the editorial writer and "fix up" the report of facts so as to justify his editorial. A lying editorial is bad enough; but an editorial whose mendacity is exposed in another column of the same paper is too distressing. Set your house in order, gentlemen of the "Times". Lie, if you must; but at least don't lie so clumsily.

PROFITS FROM DEATH.

Few instances are on record that exhibit the sordid and ghastly motive of profit hunters as well as that presented by the National Funeral Directors' Association's appeal to Congress for legislation whereby the "inhuman practise" of burial at sea will be discontinued. Just why this practise is inhuman the association, of course, fails to state, altho the real motive for the request is apparent to the average reader. Burial at sea leaves no room for funeral directors to extract "cold, callous cash" from the relatives of the dead. And what is "business" for anyway if not to create profits from the living and to make even the corpse a source of supply for dwindling money tills? Anything that interferes with this process is "inhuman" in the eyes of the exploiters. And like every other section of the class with property interests, the funeral directors see in the law a means by which they can achieve their purpose. They would have the law say that those who die at sea shall be preserved for the profit of funeral directors as they need the money. The average bourgeois' "humanity", in this case as in others, is generally a cover to his cash drawer. It will be buried in a sea of Socialist votes some day. Let us hope that funeral is not far off.

TAMING ROOSEVELT.

An active lobby working for the Steel Trust is credited with having converted more senators to the four-battleshlp program than all the pulling and hauling of President Roosevelt. It is stated that a few industrial men drawing big salaries from the Steel Trust hustled around the Senate wing of the Capitol and succeeded in bringing six senators into line for the two additional battleships. No names are mentioned, but it is declared that the final vote would have stood 17 for four battleships, instead of 23, but for the Steel Trust lobby.

On April 25 the New York "World" printed a despatch from Washington concerning an agreement said to have been reached between the Administration and the Steel Trust whereby that concern was to support Taft for President. That Roosevelt did not get all the ships he wanted is no fault of his. He at least kept his part of the deal in asking for four and the rich "male-factors" of the Steel Trust are now in duty bound to support Taft. With Roosevelt, class consciousness loses its sinister aspect when the class interests of the capitalists are to be advanced. He is still a "practical man".

NOTE, COMMENT, AND ANSWER.

The distribution of tickets for the picnic of Local New York, to be held at Sulzer's Westchester Park on June 7, was delayed in order not to conflict with the fair now in progress. They have now been sent out to the organizations, however, and beginning next week comrades and sympathizers should see to it that they are sold in as large numbers as possible. In order to have adequate funds for starting the campaign, the picnic must be made an unprecedented success. Arrangements already made assure that the entertainment, musical, social, and in all other respects, will be better than ever before. The picnic must be well advertised, and one way of doing this is to help in placing the show-cards, which are now ready.

The policeman wields the club: the mayor gives orders to the policemen; the voters elect the mayor; if they use their votes wisely the club will not be used unjustly.

pate in the discussion and vote on the resolutions.

Every comrade who has not paid his assessment of 35 cents toward defraying the railway expenses of delegates to the National Convention should do so if he can. It is pretty late in the day, but "Better late than never". No doubt many who are out of work will feel that, much as they regret it, they cannot afford to pay the assessment. In such cases, there is no disgrace in the failure to pay; and comrades who can afford it should make up the balance by donations sent thru the heads of their local secretaries or directly to National Secretary Barnes, at 209 Dearborn street, Chicago. It is important that there should be no shortage at the National Office.

Readers of this paper may be interested to learn that Harvey Russell, one of our valued contributors, died suddenly last week. His work will be continued by Horace S. Reis, who has long dwelt inside the same skin with him.

Chairman Yoakum of the Rock Island railway system says that the railroads "need a rest from all agitation". If only people will stop criticizing the big capitalists who own the railways, all will be well—for the capitalists.

The woman suffragists of New York have done right in turning to the labor organizations for aid against the abuse showered upon them, or brokers and embryo brokers in Wall Street and by Harlem hoodlums incited by politicians and abetted by the police. It is in the ranks of the progressive working people that the movement for women's rights will find its strongest and sincerest supporters.

The hellcose Hearst is still urging more arms and more battleships. If he is so anxious to witness the spilling of gore, he should superintend a slaughter house. He can then satisfy his craving, be of some use to society in providing food, and to that extent avoid being a party to an increase of the suffering that comes of war.

The New York "Sun" observes that "the efficiency of the Socialist propaganda has been dependent almost exclusively on the influence exerted by the Socialist press." The remark is timely. Rally, comrades and friends, to bring the "Evening Call" into the field with the largest possible prospects of success.

Paul Lafargue has observed that the modern capitalist is superstitious because the social relations in which the capitalist finds himself are so complex that the latter is unable to understand them. The capitalist sees some men scale the heights of fortune almost overnight and others are buried into the abyss at the same time. This appears to him a mysterious power and tends to confirm his faith in the supernatural. The "National Prosperity Association", recently organized at St. Louis, is an example of this bourgeois superstition. The members believe that by looking pleasant or being "sunny" prosperity will be coaxed back again. The remedy is about as effective as burning incense over a broken machine would be in restoring it to service. Witchcraft has its last refuge in the ranks of the bourgeoisie.

Isn't it funny? During times of business prosperity, when we point out that the workers are poor, the answer is that they are extravagant, that they waste their wages in high living, that they do not practise the prime bourgeois virtue of thrift. Now that hard times have come (as we Socialists predicted they would), one of the commonest explanations given by the business man is that the working people wickedly hoard their money, instead of spending it freely and so promoting business. For the workman it is a case of "Be damned if you don't and be damned if you do."

The New York "Times" published a dozen or more letters (most of them anonymous) applauding its mendacious anti-Socialist editorial agent the Cosmopolitan dinner, and refused to publish a single letter correcting its misstatements of fact in that editorial. This is just one out of a million reasons why we must have our own daily.

A ONE-ACT SOCIALIST PLAY.

William Malloy writes: Requests have come to me from time to time for information regarding plays suitable for production by Socialist societies. It is hard to give this information, for such plays are few in number as yet. However, after seeing Clara Ruge's one-act play "On the Road" performed at the New York Commune celebration on March 6, I feel that I can recommend it for presentation at Socialist gatherings, where it is intended that strangers may be influenced to take up the study of Socialism. "On the Road" is easy of presentation, as it has only four characters, three women and one man, with one interior scene. With those rehearsal (something too often neglected by amateurs) the play can be effectively produced and provide a good half-an-hour's entertainment. Apart from the thought it projects, the play has a strong human interest and will appeal to any average audience. The dialog is bright, and there is good opportunity to bring out dramatic ability. Communications addressed to the author, Clara Ruge, care of the "Volkszeitung", 15 Spruce street, New York, will bring further information about "On the Road".

The only way to make it sure that the Supreme Court will not again declare the Railway Employers' Liability Law unconstitutional is to roll up a big Socialist vote.

Current Literature

TOLLERS AND IDLERS. By John R. McMahon. Wm. B. Eerdmans Book Co.

Of all the numerous "Socialist novels" put out in recent years in this country, "Tollers and Idlers" is easily one of the best. What differentiates it from most other attempts of the sort and commends it to our favor is that it is neither a romance of the imagined future nor a lurid melodrama modeled on the extreme performances of yellow journalism. The scene is laid in present-day New York. The persons are fairly typical men and women of different social classes, without a proletarian hero-saint or a gilded degenerate in the lot. And the events, if not all of them exactly in the ordinary course of things, are at any rate none of them too improbable to come within the field of a novelist's legitimate license.

We all know how Haroun Alrashid used to prow about the streets of Bagdad incognito and get into curious scrapes. Why should not a modern sultan do the same sort of thing and have equally amusing and edifying experiences. The device was not copyrighted by the authors of the "Arabian Nights"; it is the property of mankind. "The tools to him who can use them"—and McMahon uses this tried but not yet worn-out instrument with a good deal of skill and, what is unfortunately rarer, with creditably judicious self-restraint.

Otis Rensen had not the slightest intention of becoming a wage-worker on his own payroll. It was quite accidental that when, just for an unpremeditated lark, he applied for a job as laborer in an iron foundry, the foundry was his own and the source of the leisure and luxury which had grown tiresome to him. It would be unfair to the reader for us to tell what came of the prank; enough to say that Rensen, altho a capitalist, was yet a man—perhaps the less debumanized because he was an idle capitalist, a passive recipient of dividends, not an active business man—and the human aspect of the conditions of labor and the struggle of the classes took a strong hold upon him. His indignant surprise at finding what toil and hardship was at the root of his ease and culture; his perplexity as he gradually learned that no one was particularly to blame for the wrongs that shocked him so, that no one person could set things right, even within the narrow scope of his own business; his blundering attempts at reform and the conflicts in which they embroiled him, as much with the workmen whom he meant to benefit as with the good friends of his own class who seriously doubted his sanity and grieved over his headstrong departure from all the trodden paths of philanthropic and public-spirited respectability; and last the attempt, avowedly and necessarily a compromise, toward combining present amelioration with constructive work for the future—all this we may only hint at and commend our readers to the book for its working out in detail.

The writer is perhaps at his very best in the description of scenes and technical processes in the foundry; and perhaps he is least good in putting before us Sonya and Zienki, the Anarchists—if that is what they are. All the other characters are better drawn—the union mechanics, the bohemian artists, the conscientiously businesslike manager, the rich and cultured friends; and we are compelled to doubt whether McMahon knows the Russian Jews of New York's East Side at first hand. The love story is completely subordinated to the main interest of the book. As for the style, aside from a few verbal affectations—such as "He gazed with a complacency" and the regrettable overworking of the indefinite personal pronoun "one"—as a substitute for the familiar "he" and "it"—it is smooth, clear, and not without occasional picturesque force.

George Allan England has an excellent article in the May number of the "American Review of Reviews", showing the status of the Socialist movement as a power in the political life of all civilized countries. The New York "Sun" opines that "to those ill-informed persons who think of Socialists as a weak, obscure, and fantastic sect of dreamers, it may well come as a shock to learn that the world's Socialist vote at the present time is between 8,000,000 and 9,000,000 and is rapidly expanding." Comrade England is to be congratulated on the opportunity to administer this shock to so many readers thru the "Review of Reviews"; and the many papers which will quote it. Such shocks are useful in stimulating the mental activity of the peoples.

Werner Sombart's "Sozialismus und Soziale Bewegung" has just been issued by Fischer of Jena in a sixth and much enlarged edition. The revision may almost be said to make a new book of it. Among the additions may be noted especially a chapter on revolutionary syndicalism as it has shown itself of late in France, Italy, and other countries. Two valuable appendices are added, the one a guide to Socialist literature, the other a tabulated chronicle of social movements from 1750 to 1907. The book can be had from the Socialist Literature Co. for \$1.10. As yet no English translation has been announced.

The policeman wields the club: the mayor gives orders to the policemen; the voters elect the mayor; if they use their votes wisely the club will not be used unjustly.

THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN FORTUNES.

By Gustavus Myers. Author of "The History of Tammany Hall", "History of Public Franchises in New York City", etc.

PART II. The Great Land Fortunes.

(Copyright, 1908, by Gustavus Myers.)

CHAPTER VI.—(Continued.) THE PROPULSION OF THE ASTOR FORTUNE.

But the sources of the large rentals which flowed into the exchequers of the landlords—what were they? Where did these rents, the volume of which was so great that the surplus part of them went into other forms of investments, come from? Who paid them and how did the tenants of these mammoth landlords live?

Rentals from Disease and Death. A considerable portion came from business buildings and private residences on much of the very land which the city once owned and which was corruptly squirmed out of municipal ownership. For the large rentals which they were forced to pay the business men recouped themselves by marking up the prices of all necessities. Another and a very preponderant part came from tenement houses. Many of these were also built on land filched from the city. And such habitations! Never before was anything seen like them. The reports of the Metropolitan Board of Health for 1866, 1867 and succeeding years revealed that miles upon miles of city streets were covered with densely populated tenements, where human beings were packed in vile rooms, many of which were dark and unventilated and which were pestilential with disease and overflowed with deaths. In its first report, following its organization, the Metropolitan Board of Health pointed out:

"The first, and at all times the most prolific cause of disease, was found to be the very insalubrious condition of most of the tenement houses in the cities of New York and Brooklyn. These houses are generally built without any reference to the health and comfort of the occupants, but simply with a view to economy and profit to the owner. They are almost invariably overcrowded, and ill-ventilated to such a degree as to render the air within them constantly impure and offensive."

Here follows a mass of nauseating details which for the sake of not over-shocking the reader we shall omit. The report continued: "The halls and stairways are usually filthy and dark, and the walls and banisters foul and damp, while the floors were not infrequently used . . . (for purposes of nature) . . . for lack of other provisions. The dwelling rooms are usually very inadequate in size for the accommodation of their occupants, and many of the sleeping rooms are simply closets, without light or ventilation save by means of a single door. . . . Such is the character of a vast number of tenement houses, especially in the lower part of the city and along the eastern and western border. Disease especially in the form of fever of a typhoid character are constantly present in these dwellings and every now and then become an epidemic."

"Some of these tenements," added the report, "are owned by persons of the highest character, but they fail to appreciate the responsibility resting on them." This sentence makes it clear that landlords could own, and enormously profit from, pig-sty human habitations which killed off a large number of the unfortunate tenants and could retain, in nowise diminished, the lustre of being men "of the highest character". Fully one-third of the deaths in New York and Brooklyn resulted from zyanotic diseases contracted in these tenements, yet not even a whisper was heard, not the remotest suggestion that the men of wealth who thus deliberately profited from disease and death were criminally culpable, altho faint and timorous opinions were advanced that they might be morally responsible.

Humanity of No Consequence. Human life was nothing; the supremacy of the property idea dominated all thought and all laws, not because mankind was callous to suffering, wretchedness and legalized murder, but because thought and law represented what the propertied interests demanded. If the proletarian white population had been legal slaves, as the negroes in the South had been, much consideration would have been bestowed upon their gullets and domiciles, for then they would have been property; and who ever knew the owner of property to destroy the property which represented money? But being free men and women and children the proletarians were simply so many bundles of flesh whose sickness and death meant pecuniary loss to no property-holder. Therefore casualties to them were a matter of no great concern to a society which was taught to venerate the sacredness of property as embodied in brick and stone walls, clothes, machines, and furniture, which same, if inert, had the all-important virtue quality of having a cash value, which the worker had not.

Some Horrors of the System. But these landlords "of the highest character" not only owned and regularly collected rents from tenement houses which filled the cemeteries, but they also resorted to the profitable business of leasing certain tenements to middlemen who guaranteed them by lease a definite and never-falling annual rental. Once having done this, these landlords did not care what the middlemen did—how much rent they exacted, or in what condition they kept the tenements. "The middlemen," further reported the Metropolitan Board of Health, "are frequently of the most heartless and unscrupulous character and make large profits by sub-letting. They leave no space unoccupied; they rent sheds, basements and even cellars to families and lodgers; they divide rooms by partitions, and then place a whole family in a single room, to be used for living, cooking, and sleeping purposes. In the Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, Tenth, and Fourteenth Wards may be found large, old-fashioned dwellings originally constructed for one family, subdivided and sublet to such an extent that even the former sub-cellars are occupied by two or more families. There is a cellar population of not less than 20,000 in New York City. Here, again, shines forth with blinding brightness that superior morality of the propertied classes. There is no record of a single landlord who refused to pocket the great gains from the ownership of tenement houses. Great, in fact, excessive gains they were, for the landowning class considered tenements "magnificent investments" (how edifying a phrase!) and all except one held on to them. That one was William Waldorf Astor of the present generation, who, we are told, "sold a million dollars worth of unpromising tenement house property in 1890." "What fantasy of thought or erratic streak was it that caused William Waldorf Astor to so depart from the accepted formulas of his class as to give up these "magnificent investments"? Was it an abhorrence of tenements, or a growing fastidiousness as to the methods? It is to be observed that up to that time he and his family had tenaciously kept the revenues from their tenements; evidently then, the source of the money was not a troubling factor. And in selling those tenements he must have known that his profits on the transaction would be charged by the buyers up against future tenants and that even more overcrowding would result. What, then, was the reason?

Two Wrongs to Right. All industries are the labor power of centuries crystallized. The genius of the dead lives in them. The slave of antiquity, the feudal serf and the modern wage slave gave, of their sweat and blood to preserve them and to improve them for those who are yet to live. All of them contributed something to progress and the capitalist class now usurps control and ownership of these great industrial works. That class usurpation does not give intelligent management of the industry to compensate for the want of class rule. Both wrongs will be abolished when the working class gains control of industry and abolishes capitalist control.

Power of an Injunction. An injunction may force you to join your union funds; it may prevent you from feeding fellow strikers; it may dissolve your union; it may what little property the courts have allowed you to accumulate may place you in jail and give you a striped suit, but all the injunctions issued by a court hireling cannot force you to vote for the parties that stand sponsor for the injunctions. Only the misdirected use of the political power of the working class makes injunctions possible. Socialist ballots will put an end to this judicial tyranny.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Nearly 1,500 carpenters went on strike on May 1, in Elizabeth, Paterson and Passaic, N. J. In Passaic the bosses demand the open shop, and in Paterson and Elizabeth they demand to reduce wages. The masons and bricklayers in the latter city also struck against enforcement of the open shop.

A resolution has been introduced in Congress directing the secretary of commerce and labor to investigate the affairs of the Postal and Western Union Telegraph companies, with a view to advising Congress at the earliest possible date as to wages paid and working conditions of the employees. The telegraphers threaten to strike during the meeting of the Republican national convention.

Big Strike Imminent

Secretary William Delaney of the American and Canadian Council of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, states that he had received official reports from Denver and other cities that a general strike of machinists on the Denver & Rio Grande Railway was by no means ended and that preparations were being made to extend the strike to the entire Gould system, causing railroad shops all over the country as far East as the Atlantic coast to be tied up. The strike is to enforce the wage scales and conditions stipulated in the strikers' new agreements.

The General Federation of Labor of Paris, France, summoned the Socialists and trade unionists to quit work and participate in the May Day celebration. Troops were stationed in various parts of the city, but the demonstration passed without any interference.

Big Lockout in Great Britain

The woodworkers in all the ship-building yards of Great Britain, totalling about 15,000 men, were locked out last week, in pursuance of the determination of the masters to close the yards unless the northeast coast strikers agree to their terms. The workmen in other branches, totalling scores of thousands, may cease work before long unless a settlement is reached. At Glasgow the Clyde shipbuilders locked out 5,000 woodworkers. This measure is an outcome of the dispute between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and the shipworkers of the northeast coast, who struck rather than accept a reduction in wages. Lockouts have been decided upon at all the shipbuilding yards in the United Kingdom, and workmen in other branches will be locked out. There seems every prospect of a complete stoppage of the shipbuilding industry that will affect 250,000 men.

William Scafe, for the past eleven years employed in the office of the sec-

retary of the Illinois Bureau of Labor, has been appointed by National President Lewis, editor of the "United Mine Workers' Journal", published at Indianapolis.

What is supposed to be a model child labor bill has been reported in Congress. It prohibits child labor in the District of Columbia and is intended as a model for states that are inclined to enact like measures. An interesting feature of the bill is that permitting children to engage in theatrical performances.

A Big Strike in Montreal

A big strike of the cotton operators, bricklayers, masons, painters, and decorators, carpenters, roofers, stone-cutters and railway mechanics is on in Montreal, Canada. About 15,000 men are out. The latest corporations to announce a reduction, the Dominion Textile and Montreal Cotton Co., employ 6,000 "hands" in and about the city. The next largest body is the carpenters and joiners, and they number 3,000 in Montreal. At a meeting last week the decision was unanimous to fight the "open shop", which is now the bone of contention.

The Socialists of the Fifth Congressional District of Indiana, including the home of Eugene V. Debs, have nominated William D. Van Horn, President of District No. 11 of the United Mine Workers of America, for Congress. The Central Labor bodies of Terre Haute and vicinity are looking for competent men to represent them. What will they do?

Miners' Union of Japan

The miners union of Japan was organized in 1904. The miners' lot is a pitiful one. All the devices used to pluck them here, including the company stores, are employed in Japan. The blacklist for agitators is also the order of the day. After the big mine strikes of last year, which were suppressed by troops, conditions have grown worse. Each mine is policed by ten or twenty men, so that the miners are practically under guard all the time. Comrade Nagaoaka was prominent in the Ashio strike and together with other Socialists is proceeding to organize the miners again. The miners' organization had 400,000 members before being crushed by the military. Nagaoaka has been a miner and organizer for twenty years and is well known to all the miners of Japan.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM

Great Britain

In the municipal elections held in April the Socialists carried three seats at West Ham. One of these is a new one. Jack Williams left his own ward to run in another against a rabid anti-Socialist. The "anti" was defeated. In the Tidal Basin Ward two Socialists were also elected out of a total of three seats.

Russia

According to incomplete lists published in St. Petersburg and Moscow newspapers, there were no less than 11,000 victims of the Tsar in 1907. This gives an average of 922 a month or 30 a day, who were either shot, hanged, exiled or imprisoned. The court has sentenced 1,062 to death. Of these 748 were executed, 344 had their sentences commuted to penal servitude for life and the fate of 600 are unknown. There were 1,654 more victims of Tsarism in 1907 than in 1906. "Christian governments" should be proud to send representatives to the court of a ruler with such a record.

Italy

A tremendous indictment was brought by Comrade Giacomo Ferri against the Neapolitan police in the Italian Parliament recently, on the ground of their complicity with the Camorra, which is still the most powerful electoral organization in Naples. Thus, in 1904, at the election in the electoral district the Camorra worked against the Socialist candidate with dagger and revolver, and not a single one of the numerous cases of terrorism which were exercised on the day of election has ever been punished. The police have never "discovered" who perpetrated them, for the simple reason that they were carried out in the service of the government. Comrade Ferri proved that the police were the allies of the Camorra and that they paid a commissioner of police 50 francs weekly, and a sergeant 30 francs weekly, and another 25. The business could afford it because in the Camorra were blackmailers, pickpockets, leeches (or prostitutes' bullees), and burglars. Ferri recited a list of crimes committed by this organization with the tacit consent of the police. Prime Minister Giolitti attempted to deny the accusations when Ferri moved that the charges be investigated. The gov-

ernment opposed this and succeeded in defeating it.

Austria

The Bohemian Socialists celebrated their thirtieth anniversary as a party in April. The latter was founded on April 7, 1878, in a hotel, "The Holy Margaret", in Prague, when 20 people were present at a private meeting, and the Czech Social Democratic Party was founded and its program fixed. The participants then were accused of conspiracy and condemned to many months' imprisonment. To-day, after 30 years, the party has more than 1,000 political organizations, three daily papers and several others, and close on half a million electors. The Czech Social Democracy has now won the Czech workers; the Anarchist movement, once strong, is now a wreck; the Clerical Labor movement has only a nominal existence, and the so-called yellow organization of free labor or scabs fight in vain against the Socialist trade unions. The Young Czech party is dead, and, even in the agrarian districts, the Agrarian Party is obliged to divide its power with the Socialists.

Germany

The elections to the Prussian Landtag are fixed for June 3, and the Socialist Party executive have issued a manifesto to the comrades to make a great effort to see that the participation of the workers shall be so great as to form an effective demonstration against a system which leaves 85 per cent of the population practically unrepresented by reducing their entire vote to half the value of the remaining 15 per cent. In Altona the result of this wonderful system was that a brothel proprietor was a first-class voter, while high functionaries of state were reduced to the third class along with the proletariat, and in Berlin the Imperial Chancellor himself voted in the third class, the first and second class being composed of millionaire Jewish bankers and stock brokers. The existing system practically disfranchises 85 per cent of those who are qualified voters in imperial elections and deprives the people of political power in 1908 to almost as great an extent as before 1848. In the election of 1868, there were in Berlin 1,469 votes of the first class, 9,272 of the

second class and 280,973 of the third class, nevertheless the first and second class, comprising only 3.5 per cent of the whole, formed a two-thirds majority in voting power over the third class, which comprised 96.5 per cent of the whole.

PARTY NEWS

National

The national convention will assemble on May 10, 11:30 a. m., at Brand's Hall, corner of N. Clark and Erie streets, Chicago. The Reception Committee advises delegates and visitors to notify Secretary James B. Smith, 180 Washington street, in advance, of the main line railroad on which they will reach Chicago and the time of arrival. All communications relating to hotel accommodations should be addressed as above. Members of the Reception Committee will meet all incoming trains. The committee may be reached by phone, Main 4488.

Charters have been granted in unorganized states as follows: East Las Vegas, N.M., 10 members; Mayhill, 13; Roswell, 10; Lexington, Miss., 7; Carson City, Nev., 6.

John M. Work and Laura B. Payne both state they failed to vote on several National Committee motions because communications failed to reach them.

The proposed National Party Referendum submitted by Local Paterson, N. J., and first published in the Weekly Bulletin of March 21, relating to unity of the Socialist forces, has been seconded by the following locals: Augusta, Ga.; Plaquemine, La.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Mystic, Conn.

The following comrades have been elected delegates to the national convention from unorganized states: Frank Houck, Wilmington, Del.; Max Wilk, Augusta, Ga.; G. C. Potter, Omaha, Neb.; A. Grant Miller, Reno, Nev.; W. P. Metcalf, Albuquerque, N.M.; J. J. Quants, Spencer, N.C.; A. H. Dennett, Ware Neck, Va.

The National Executive Committee has decided to meet the day following the adjournment of the national convention. B. Bryn and Winfield R. Gaylord have been elected auditors for the National Office accounts.

John M. Work reports having reorganized 15 locals in Idaho with 148 members; added 33 members to existing locals; secured 10 members-at-large; spoke 24 times; sold 154 subscription cards and 384 books.

Comrade Carpenter of Rhode Island suggests an addition to the National Platform providing for government employment of the unemployed and coining of money by Congress to pay for such work.

State Secretary Stadden of Oregon protests against the action of the National Secretary in requesting that assessments paid by locals in organized states be sent direct to the National Office.

National Organizers are working as follows: Stanley J. Clark in Arkansas; Edward A. Cattell in Illinois; George R. Kirkpatrick in Connecticut; Clarence H. Taylor in Delaware; M. W. Wilkins in Michigan; James Williams in Pennsylvania.

All those who applied thru George H. Fieldman or direct to the Open Forum for the Fieldman-Perrino debate are informed that the debates have been put off until fall and winter, as it is considered too late in the season to insure success.

JERSEY CITY

The hall lectures have been discontinued and open-air meetings every Saturday night will be held at the corner of Newark and Jersey avenues. The lecture committee has asked for 50 per cent of the campaign contributions to carry on the street work in other parts of the city.

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA

The Philadelphia delegates to the national convention will travel on the Pennsylvania train that leaves Philadelphia, Friday, 8:40 p. m.; Harrisburg, 11:50; Pittsburgh, Central time, Saturday, 7 a. m.

Upwards of 800 letters asking for donations to the Free Speech Defense Fund were sent out last week to Philadelphia unions. The Campaign Committee has just issued 10,000 copies of a new circular, "Free Speech Shall Prevail". Comrades can get any quantity at headquarters.

William Haganman was expelled at the last meeting of the local for voting a capitalist ticket at the late primaries. Charges have been preferred against Comrade Merket for the same offense.

Julius Hopp will read his four-act play, "The Pioneers", in Logan Hall, 1805 Arch street, Saturday, May 9, at 9 p. m.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

M. W. Wilkins will probably speak in the county in June. Terms are \$3 and hotel. Hereafter the general membership meetings will be held at 2:30 p. m. Seven branches reporting for April show 322 members enrolled, 252 in good standing and 42 new members and a net gain of 87. Comrade Gregerson will speak at headquarters Sunday night, May 10, and John W. Clayton the following Sunday. Open-air meetings will be held after the national convention.

Wisconsin

The Socialist members of the Milwaukee City Council have introduced resolutions for more playgrounds for the children in the workmen's districts, for more time off for the city firemen, for better street-car service, and for track elevation of the railroads. Meanwhile the railway tracks thru Milwaukee are a constant menace to the life of the citizens, especially in the factory districts, where workmen and school children are obliged to cross the tracks daily. In this City Council and County Board committees our members have been given very poor appointments. In former years, before the old parties got together, our men were on some important committee. Now they are placed on those where their work will be least dangerous to the old parties. For instance, on the County Board, three Social Democrats are put on the committee in charge of the burial of ex-soldiers!

Washington

Five local charters were granted on April 12 and nine members-at-large admitted. The state convention will meet in Seattle in July. There are 175 locals entitled to 189 delegates. The total receipts for March were \$835.40; expenditures, \$204.90; balance, \$430.50. Eight delegates will be sent to the national convention.

New York State

At a special meeting of the State Committee on Wednesday, April 23, to consider suggestions to be made to the state convention, it was decided to suggest the

Continued on page 4.

A GREAT REDUCTION OF STANDARD WORKS

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHILDREN

By JOHN SPARGO. Clothbound. Illustrated. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

THE WAR OF THE CLASSES

By JACK LONDON. Clothbound. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

POVERTY

By ROBERT HUNTER. Clothbound. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

LOOKING BACKWARD

By EDWARD BELLAMY. Clothbound. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

PEOPLE OF THE ABYSS

By JACK LONDON. Cloth, Illustrated. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

RESURRECTION

By LEO TOLSTOY. Clothbound. Formerly \$1.50. SPECIAL PRICE, 50c.

These Prices do NOT include POSTAGE which is 12c. EXTRA per copy.

ADDRESS

THE SOCIALIST LITERATURE CO. 15 SPRUCE ST. NEW YORK.

JUST PUBLISHED:

THE IRON HEEL

By JACK LONDON.

PRICE ONLY \$1.08.

THE GREATEST THING OF ITS KIND EVER WRITTEN JACK LONDON'S MASTERPIECE.

ORDER AT ONCE

FROM

SOCIALIST LITERATURE CO.

15 Spruce St., New York.

JUST OUT

SUSTAINERS' EDITION

THE METROPOLIS

By UPTON SINCLAIR.

A Novel of scathing and terrible power characterizing New York as remarkably as "The Jungle" characterized Chicago. It tells you HOW THEY SPEND IT.

This Edition is furnished to Socialists at the Special Price of \$1.20, postpaid. Address orders, enclosing price, to

SOCIALIST LITERATURE COMPANY, 15 SPRUCE STREET, NEW YORK.

DENTISTS

DR. M. RASNICK'S

DENTAL OFFICE

188-190 CLINTON STREET,

Cor. Division St.

NEW YORK

Telephone 4168 Orchard.

DR. HENRY KIRSCHENBAUM,

DENTIST

86 AVENUE C

Cor. Sixth St. NEW YORK

DR. A. CARR, 133 E. 84th St.,

corner Lexington Ave.

DENTIST

All work guaranteed. Special liberal prices for comrades of S. P. Phone: 3967-70th.

DR. C. L. FURMAN,

DENTIST

121 Schermerhorn St., Brooklyn. Telephone

No. 3113 Main. Branch office: 163 E.

80th St. Open evenings.

DR. H. SHAPIRO,

SURGEON DENTIST

36 E. THIRD STREET.

One House from Second Avenue.

Phone 1700 Orchard.

DR. J. KADIN

DENTIST.

110 RIVINGTON ST. MODERATE PRICES.

DR. S. BERLIN,

DENTIST

22 E. 108th St., Corner Madison Ave., N. Y.

TEL. NO. 543 L. HARLEM.

DR. MATILDA SINAI LEE,

DENTIST.

248 East 86th St. New York

Phone, 3056-70th St.

DR. CHARLES CHESSE

SURGEON-DENTIST

33 and 37 Avenue C, Cor. 3d Street

PHYSICIANS

Telephone, 556 Orchard.

DR. M. GIRSDANSKY

237 EAST BROADWAY

near Clinton Street.

NEW YORK

DR. CH. SCHWARTZ,

275 E. BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Telephone: 1632 Orchard.

GEORGE OBERDORFER,

PHARMACIST.

PRESCRIPTIONS A SPECIALTY.

2393 EIGHTH AVENUE,

NEAR 126th STREET.

D. SIRELSON,

Wood, Tin, Brass, Silver,

Glass and Oil Cloth

SIGNS

Banners and Transparencies. Gliding

on Glass a Specialty.

104 E. HOUSTON STREET

NEW YORK.

Send postal and I will call.

DRINK COLUMBIA TEA

Save the coupons. Every coupon

has a value.

When you have the coupons bearing

the large letters to spell

C-O-L-U-M-B-I-A

Mail them to the below address

and we will give you a \$0.00

CLOCK FREE.

COLUMBIA TEA.

193 DIVISION ST., N. Y.

GUSTAF SJOHOLM.

266 ORDERDONK AVE.

Near Gates Ave., Ridgewood, B'klyn., N. Y.

CUSTOM TAILORS

UNION LABEL

The only Custom Tailor in the Borough

of Queens and Brooklyn that carries the

Union Label. All Orders Promptly Atten-

ded to, also Cleaning and Repairing.

NAT. R. WALKER,

Hat Maker

PANAMA HAT BLEACHERY

High-Grade Hat Repairing and Re-

shaping at Moderate Prices.

406 EIGHTH AVENUE,

Between 30th and 31st Sts.

Capitalism and Idiotcy.

The capitalist class wastes resources,

wastes opportunities, wastes life,

wastes productive power and in gen-

eral is incapable of handling the pow-

er it possesses. It wastes resources by

devastating the forests; it wastes op-

portunities by allowing abled-bodied

men to be idle; it wastes productive

power by closing mills and factories

and wastes life by the needless

slaughter of men, women and children

at unguarded machines. The capital-

ist class is a dismal failure. A group

of idiots could better manage the

world to-day than its present rulers

and as an idiot would not know how

to line his pocket with other people's

wealth, the workers would therefore

be better off.

LABOR DIRECTORY

Advertisements of trade unions and other societies will be inserted free of charge at the rate of \$1 per line per annum.

CIGARMAKERS' PROGRESSIVE INT. UNION No. 90—Office and Employment Bureau, 241 E. 84th St. The following districts meet every Saturday: Dist. 1 (Hoboken)—311 E. 7th St., 8 p. m.; Dist. 11—Cliffhousers, 219 E. 10th St., 8 p. m.; Dist. IV—342 W. 42nd St., 8 p. m.; Dist. V—260 Third Ave., 8 p. m.; Dist. VII—220 Third Ave., 8 p. m.; Dist. VIII—325 E. 75th St., 8 p. m.; Dist. VIII—Supervisors meet every Tuesday at Paulsen's Hall, 1551 Second Ave., 8 p. m.

CARB. SAHM CLUB (MUSICIANS)—Meets every Thursday of the month, 10 a. m., at Clubhouse, 243-247 W. 84th street. Secretary, Hermann Weidner, address as above.

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS & JOINERS OF AMERICA, Local 476 meets every Tuesday at 8 p. m. in the Labor Temple, 348 E. 4th street, Financial Secretary, Louis Mawler, 542 E. 10th street; City Recording Secretary, Arthur Gonne, 1902 Anthony avenue, Bronx.

UNITED JOURNEMEN TAILORS' UNION meets second and fourth Friday of the month in Links Assembly Rooms, 231-233 East Thirty-eighth street.

LABOR SECRETARIAT—Delegates' meeting the last Saturday of the month, 8 p. m., at Labor Lyceum, 949 Willoughby avenue, Brooklyn. Board of Directors meets the first Thursday of the month, 8 p. m., at the office, 320 Broadway, E. Secretary, Arthur Gonne, 1902 Anthony avenue, Bronx.

SOCIALIST WORKING WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—Branches of Brooklyn, Paterson, Newark, Elizabeth, Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati, etc., meet the first Thursday of the month at 11 a. m. in the Labor Temple, 243 E. 84th st., New York City.

BROOKLYN, 224 A. D. Dr. 1 (American) meets the second and fourth Friday of the month at 675 Glenmore avenue; Br. 3 (German) meets the second Monday of the month at 675 Glenmore avenue.

LABOR SECRETARIAT

Society for the protection of the legal rights of the working class.

320 BROADWAY.

