

PLANTERS IN
MEXICO SLAVE'S
BY THOUSANDSValle Nacional in Diaz' Do-
main Is Branded World's
Worst Hell Hole

DEBAUCH WORKERS' WIVES

99 Out of Every 100 Sent
to Plantations Die From
Inhuman Treatment

"Valle Nacional is undoubtedly the worst slave hole in Mexico. Probably it is the worst in the world. When I visited Valle Nacional I expected to find it milder than Yucatan. I found it more pitiless."

This is the manner in which John Kenneth Turner begins the third of his revolting stories of inhuman cruelty in the December issue of the American Magazine. In this article he describes the life of the contract slaves of the Valle Nacional, where tobacco growers thrive on the heart's blood of their Mexican slaves.

Deaths Outnumber Births

"In Yucatan the Maya slaves die off faster than they are born, and two-thirds of the Yagut slaves are killed during the first year after their importation into the country," writes Turner. "In Valle Nacional all but a very few of the slaves pass back to earth within a space of seven or eight months. There are no statistics, but it is positively known that the death rate is appalling."

"This statement is almost unbelievable. I would not have believed it; possibly not even after I had seen the whole process of working them and beating them and starving them to death. It is not the fact that the masters themselves told me that it was true. And there are fifteen thousand of these Valle Nacional slaves—fifteen thousand new ones every year. "I have been here for more than five years and every month I see hundreds and sometimes thousands of men, women and children start over the road to the valley, but I never see them come back. Of every hundred who go over the road not more than one ever sees this town again." This assertion was made to me by a station agent of the Veracruz al Pacifico railroad.

Walking Corpses

"There are no survivors of Valle Nacional—no real ones—a government engineer who has charge of the improvement of certain harbors told me. 'Now and then one gets out of the valley and gets beyond El Hule. He staggers and begs his way along the weary road toward Cardoba, but he never gets back where he came from. Those people come out of the valley walking corpses, they travel on a little way and then they fall.'"

"This man's work has carried him much into Valle Nacional and he knows more of the country, probably, than does any Mexican not directly interested in the slave trade. "They die; they all die. The bosses never let them go until they're dying." "Thus declared one of the police officers of the town of Valle Nacional, which is situated in the center of the valley and supported by it."

Mexicans Enslaved

"The slaves of the Valle Nacional are not Indians as are the slaves of Yucatan. They are Mexicans. Some are skilled artisans. The majority of them are common laborers. As a whole, except for their rags, their bruises, their squalor and their despair, they are a very fair representation of the Mexican people. Most of them are not criminals. The rest of them are peaceable, law-abiding citizens, yet not one came to the valley of his own free will; not one would not leave the valley on an instant's notice if he or she could get away."

Slaves Are Isolated

"The secret of the slavery of Valle Nacional is partly geographical. The part of Valle Nacional where the plantations are is a deep gorge from two to five miles wide and twenty miles long, tucked away among almost impassable mountains in the extreme northwestern corner of the state of Oaxaca. Its mouth is fifty miles above El Hule, the nearest railroad station, yet it is through El Hule that every human being must pass in going to or coming from the valley."

"I visited Valle Nacional in the latter part of September, 1908, spending a week in the region and stopping at all the larger plantations. I passed three nights at various plantation houses and four more at one or another of the towns. As in Yucatan, I visited the country in the guise of a possible purchaser of plantations. "It is the geographical isolation of Valle Nacional that accounts for its being the worst slave hole in Mexico, combined with this may be mentioned the complete understanding that is had with the government and the nearness to a practically inexhaustible labor market. "Just as in Yucatan, the slavery of

TRY TO BUY OFF
CHERRY WIDOWSMine Owners Making 'Easy'
Settlements With Sur-
vivors of Dead

Cherry, Ill., Dec. 1.—The St. Paul Coal company has at last come out openly in its efforts to make "easy" settlements of the claims of the families whose fathers or sons were killed in the mine. Claim Agent Burns of the company has established an office here and is "paying off" the widows whenever he gets a chance to do so. Meanwhile the rescuers are being paid \$5 a day for work in the mine. The coroner's jury has convened and thirty bodies have been identified. State Factory Inspector Davies and his aids are conferring with State's Attorney Eckert.

Child Labor to Grand Jury

It is thought the killing of young boys in the mine will be made a matter for the grand jury to deal with directly. Coroner Malm has announced that he will probe the entire situation at the St. Paul mine, which resulted in such terrible loss of life.

While the inquest was in progress scores of men who risked their lives in attempting to rescue the entombed miners from the tunnels gathered at the offices of the company and demanded the wages they said had been promised them. In several cases the officials said the demands of the rescuers were extortionate and refused to pay. Thomas Mulligan, one of the men who entered the lower vein of the mine, openly threatened violence against Chief Clerk Buck.

Rescuer Loses His Clothes

"They have bunked all the men," said Mulligan, "and it's a shame, for the boys went down in the mine and every one of them risked their lives ten times over to try to aid the entombed miners. A suit of clothes I left in the shaft house was stolen, and the \$30 pay they gave me does not make up for what I lost."

"The St. Paul company is not going to let these people want for anything," said Mr. Burns, the claim agent, "but at the same time we are settling up with the people whenever it can be done. They are not paupers, nor are they destitute, and this stuff about sending charity to them is all nonsense."

To Make Joint Inquiry

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 1.—The preliminary arrangements for an investigation of the disaster at the St. Paul mine at Cherry was the subject of a conference in the offices of the state mining board.

The conference was between the committee of the Illinois mine investigating commission, consisting of President Richard Newsam of Peoria, H. H. Stock, professor of mining at the University of Illinois, Champaign; J. W. Miller of Gillespie, and Glen W. Traer of Chicago, and the state mine inspectors.

It was decided that the men who met in conference should go next Thursday to Cherry. Arrangements were made with the coroner of Bureau county for a meeting of the representatives of the inspectors and the mine investigating commission in connection with the inquiry now being carried on by the coroner, the work of the coroner to be made a part of the investigation, which is to be continued until a thorough knowledge of the facts has been arrived at. At their meeting in Cherry the members of the two bodies will name a special committee to continue the investigation to a completion. The hearing will be open to the public.

U. S. TROOPS
TO CURB ZELAYA

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—The United States is getting into trim to shed Nicaraguan blood. Diplomatic relations between this country and the Central American republic are at the straining point and the state and war departments today are waiting action of Congress, which must be taken before war can be declared.

Meanwhile with the rebel army hourly nearing his stronghold at Managua, President Zelaya faced the formal notice from the United States calling for strict accounting for outrages perpetrated by the chief executive of Nicaragua upon American citizens.

And the United States stands ready to accomplish the military occupation of the ports of Corinto and San Juan del Sur if its demand is not complied with.

There is good foundation for the belief that some American marines already have landed on Nicaraguan soil. A report today from Galveston, Texas, says marines have been landed at Managua to protect Vice-Consul Harry Caldera. The information, however, lacks confirmation.

Officials of the state and navy departments will not deny the report, while they admit that the situation has taken on additional gravity because of the fact that Caldera, the American Vice-Consul at Managua, the capital, is in danger, his life having been twice threatened by President Zelaya. Caldera has taken refuge in the American legation at Managua.

Fire Ties Up Wireless Station

New York, Dec. 1.—The important wireless telegraph station at Brighton Beach, L. I., has been made useless by a fire of mysterious origin. The pole from the top of which messages are received caught fire 150 feet above the ground.

PAINTERS JOIN
NEW COUNCILLocal 194, the Largest in
the U. S., Started Exodus
From A. B. T. C.

The meeting of the executive board of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor, at the Briggs house, where steps are being taken to bring the remaining organizations in the Associated Building Trades council into the new building trades council, affiliated with the A. F. of L., made new importance to Local 194 of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers, which was the first local of that organization to leave the domination of the Associated Building Trades council. Since such action was taken five other locals have followed, and now of the 7,000 painters in Chicago nearly 5,000 are declared to be in the new central building trades organization.

Largest Local in U. S.

Local 194 has 2,000 members and is the largest local union in the United States. It has a library and reading room at its headquarters and intends to revive the practice of holding lectures on current problems in economics, sanitation and labor. It will send several delegates to the national convention of the union, which meets in Cincinnati December 6. Since the local led the exodus from the Associated Building Trades council, locals 180, 247 and four others, each with a membership of from 150 to 1,000, have followed suit.

Recently the international executive committee of the union came to Chicago at the instance of 194 and effected a change in the business methods of the painters' district council.

Secretary Skemp of the union is in Chicago now conferring with the executive committee of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor.

James Kirby, president of the department, presides over the sessions which began Monday. Harvey Raven, business agent of one of the locals of the International Brotherhood of the Electrical Workers, appeared before the committee. His organization still belongs to the Associated Building Trades council.

To Adjust Disputes

The convention of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers will take up the matter in dispute in Chicago, and seek to effect an adjustment.

GIRL PEERS OUT
OF CELL; SLAINRussian Political Prisoner
Is the Victim; Socialists
Demand Reform

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—The Social Democratic members of the duma have presented a memorial to the government, demanding a reform in prison conditions, particularly regarding the promiscuous shooting of prisoners. From a mass of similar occurrences the Social Democrats have prepared three cases, which were embodied in the memorial.

Woman Is Shot Dead

In the Riga Central prison last August a young political prisoner named Emma Podzisp showed her face at the window of her cell. There were several invalid prisoners in the courtyard below and the woman was watching them. She made no sign or attempted to communicate with them. A soldier on guard, without any preliminary warning, raised his rifle and shot her dead.

In October, at Riga, Edward Pals, another political prisoner, was climbing his hair at the window and a guard sent a bullet through his head. The bullet, besides killing the man on the spot, passed through the shoulder of another prisoner who was standing near.

Hundreds Slain for Nothing

A year ago a woman named Boster was shot at Riga in a similar manner. The memorial recites that there are hundreds of such incidents available, but that the three from one prison are quoted as a beginning. If the government does nothing in the matter the Social Democrats announce they will compile a complete list for publication.

TRAIN HITS CAR;
THREE MAY DIE

Several persons were injured, three perhaps fatally, and scores of passengers were thrown into a panic when a north-bound Northwestern freight train crashed into a crowded east-bound Lawrence avenue car at North 48th and Lawrence avenues. Peter Marriener, 25 years old, 1882 North Sacramento avenue, motorist of the car, is reported dying as a result of his injuries. Three women were seriously hurt and cut by flying glass. All were rushed to the office of Dr. E. F. Meyer, 4786 Milwaukee avenue, where their injuries were attended.

BOSS TAILORS
BREAK PLEDGESAbolish the Eight-Hour Day
and Force Lockout of
300 Union Workers

The Women's Tailors' association, an employers' organization, formed under the guidance of Frederick Job of the notorious Employers' association, has locked out 300 members of the Ladies' Tailors' union. Twenty-four firms took part in the action. The lockout was ingeniously brought about. Notice was served on the union that the eight hour

LABOR REBUKES
"BIG BUSINESS"Federation Rejects Educa-
tion Plan of the Com-
merce Association

The school committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor gave the Chicago Association of Commerce to understand that tax dodging is not the best foundation on which to build efficient public schools, and for that reason there seems little likelihood of agreement between the labor men and the

business men on the question of industrial education.

Industrial Question Vital

The labor men were very delicate in stating their position, but they made it very clear in the following letters: "The committee on schools of the Chicago Federation of Labor, after careful consideration of the invitation from the Association of Commerce, has decided that it would be inadvisable for it to be part of a joint committee whose scope of work is to be limited to the question of 'Continuation Schools.'"

"The question of industrial education is vital to the public, especially to the wage workers."

"The Illinois laws require that every child shall be given a common school education. Whether in this common school education industrial training shall be substituted for part of, or added to the present curriculum, or both, are questions to be solved. Whatever the solution the question of increased revenue for the schools must be considered, as any system of industrial education will materially increase the cost of maintaining our schools."

Want Fixed Joint Committee

"Until a general plan is proposed and acceptable to all interested, a fixed joint committee should not be organized."

"Joint conferences would be the best plan for securing co-operation. We will continue as a committee representing the Chicago Federation of Labor to advise with the board of education."

"Whenever some question arises which merits joint consideration we will be pleased to send or accept invitations for a joint conference."

To Crush Unionism

The very first action taken by the association was to plan the lockout which has just taken place. That scheme and a war against the enforcement of the ten hour law for women were the real objects for forming the Women's Tailors' association. The Employers' association, which is in the business of union crushing, will immediately give its aid in employing strike breakers.

The firms which have locked out the union ladies' tailors are: Gray S. Bank, H. Rosenberg, L. Swidler, L. Ginsberg, located in the Stewart building; Kerr & Schmidt, 28 State street; E. Michel, Haywood building; Jonas, Republic building; J. Wein, West Randolph street; M. Kaplan, Milwaukee avenue; Glasser Brothers, Irving Park; J. Gold, West Madison street; L. E. Davis, West Madison street; L. Rubin, West Madison street; J. Weinstein, East Forty-seventh street; W. Bain, East Forty-seventh street; D. Weinstein, East Fifty-fifth street; A. Makreit, East Sixty-third street; M. Lazar, East Sixty-third street; I. Greenbaum, 28 State street; J. Makreit, Drexel boulevard; A. Schimberat, Jackson boulevard; A. Kahn, Forty-third street; Ward, East Forty-third street; M. Hatt, Forty-third street, and Larner, Thirty-ninth street.

PROPAGANDA LEAGUE
PLANS EDUCATIONAL MEETS

The Chicago Propaganda League L. W. W. will hold regular educational meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, beginning Tuesday, Nov. 30. Tuesdays will be devoted to talks on trade unionism, and Thursdays to debates on various phases of the labor movement. Chicago Propaganda League hall, 222 Wells street, is the place of meeting.

ARREST THREE
BILL POSTERS

Frank McCormick, a delegate to the Chicago Federation of Labor from the Bill Posters and Billers' International alliance, was arrested Tuesday in company with Edward Baker and Jacob Connolly, union bill posters, on a charge of disorderly conduct, the police believing that the union men were about to paste lockout notices over the advertising of one of the theaters which are unfair to the union. The union men were lodged at the Fifth street police station.

The Associated Theater Managers have decided against the locked out bill posters and a strike of stage hands, musicians and scene painters is looked for today. It is expected that as soon as the official notice of the action of the managers has been communicated to Edward Neckels, secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, a special meeting of the executive committee of the federation will be called to take immediate action.

LABOR REBUKES
"BIG BUSINESS"Federation Rejects Educa-
tion Plan of the Com-
merce Association

The school committee of the Chicago Federation of Labor gave the Chicago Association of Commerce to understand that tax dodging is not the best foundation on which to build efficient public schools, and for that reason there seems little likelihood of agreement between the labor men and the

UNION WARS ON
TOBACCO TRUSTCigar Makers Organizing
to Stop Importation of
Filthy Scab Product

The action of the American Tobacco company to flood the country with cigars made under filthy conditions are being fought by the Cigar Makers' International union, whose president, George W. Perkins, is down in Tampa on an organizing tour. One new local union of 1,000 men has been formed and other locals are being organized.

The energies of the union will be directed against the importation from the Philippines of cigars made there under insanitary conditions.

Under the tariff it is possible for the trust to import vast quantities of tobacco and finished cigars from the Philippines, and labor is so cheap in the islands that American cigar makers are menaced by the competition from the Philippines.

Health Cigar Labels

As a step in that direction the union cigar makers will take up the question of the "health department" labels on cigars from "our island possessions," which, according to information gathered by representatives of the union, are made under conditions which are a menace to public health. The cigar makers say that the labels referred to are equal to a government advertisement of the trust products manufactured in the Philippines.

BUSSE REGIME
IN BAD SHAPE

City Purchasing Agent Coleman will be further examined by the Merriam commission to see what he knows concerning recommendations made by Mayor Busse and other city officials that the city buy from administration henchmen at prices far above the market. These questions will follow the admission made by Coleman that the price of castings for the fire department was less than \$60 a ton the city paid the T. A. Cummings Foundry company over \$100 a ton and that Mayor Busse and Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Redieski asked him to buy from Cummings.

Coleman Obey'd Orders

Coleman, when questioned, declared that the city was poor and that was the reason he bought from Cummings, paying Cummings' price because Cummings would not sell for any less.

ANSWERS DOOR BELL AND
FINDS INFANT ON STEPS

When Mrs. B. S. Landon, 4905 Washington avenue, answered the door bell of her residence last evening she was welcomed by the smile of a baby girl, about four weeks old, in a clean white dress, lying in a basket. There was nothing to show the identity of the parents. The child was cared for over night by Mrs. Landon.

Czar's Mind Troubled

It is said that several recent incidents troubled the official edict. Whether the Czar has ordered fresh murders which are troubling his conscience is not known. It is safe to assume, however, that he fears the resentment of an outraged people.

MOLDERS AT
ALLIS SHOP
ON STRIKEDemand for Increase May
Result in Repetition of
Walkout of 1906

Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 30.—The iron molders have struck at the plant of the Allis Malleable Iron and Chain Bolt company, part of the Allis-Chalmers company, which is notorious for its union-breaking tactics. Those who remember the great iron molders' strike of 1906 fear that the strike now on will spread as did that industrial trouble. The National Foundrymen's association, the bosses' organization, threw its power and its spies into that conflict and is expected to do so again. So far about 150 men are out after demanding a 10 per cent increase in wages and being refused.

PLANT IS NOTORIOUS

Trouble Recalls Murder of
Peter Cramer, Union Of-
ficial, Killed by Scab

Peter Cramer slain
In the strike before the Burr-Hurr detective agency had charge of the spies and strong-arm men and their tactics resulted in the murder of one man, Peter J. Cramer, for whose death the Allis-Chalmers company is being sued for \$100,000 damages. Men who were spies and thugs at that time have later declared that they were given a list of union officials and told to "get these men first."

Fourget, an official of the Allis-Chalmers company, was declared to have paid the fines of the sluggers whom Hurr employed. Several of those sluggers were arrested and the Allis-Chalmers company paid the fines and costs. Hurr was himself arrested and taken before the chief of police at Milwaukee. The greatest bitterness grew out of the strike.

Enemies of Labor

In Chicago, where the Allis-Chalmers company has a branch, there was the most notorious hostility toward organized labor and strikes and lockouts were continuous. In the plant of Chalmers & Co. at Chicago Heights, Thomas Chalmers, the president of the company, broke the contract which his plant manager had made with the International Association of Machinists. Chalmers then made a plea for an injunction when his entire plant was strike-bound.

All labor union men know the Allis-Chalmers company as what is poetically called an "open shop" and truthfully called a "scab" shop where union men are at a great disadvantage. The entire Allis-Chalmers plant employs in its various branches nearly 9,000 men, including machinists, metal polishers, core makers, iron molders and others.

Entire Plant May Strike

If the company tries its usual tactics it may be that the entire plant will be struck. The iron molders have had such experience with the company that they are not inclined to trust it.

CZAR PLANS TO
BALK SCIENCEOrders the Murder of All
Aviators Who Fly Near
Russia's Capital

St. Petersburg, Dec. 1.—Death is the price the scientific discoverer must pay in Russia for the privilege of carrying on his work, according to the latest edict of the Czar, forbidding the flying of airships of any description within a radius of ten miles of St. Petersburg, or near any fortifications.

Venturesome aviators who transgress this edict are to be shot without warning. Thus the czar puts the official taboo on aviation. In scientific circles the determination of the government to stamp out all aerial activities in Russia is being roundly condemned, but no method of evading the prohibitions can be found.

Czar's Mind Troubled

It is said that several recent incidents troubled the official edict. Whether the Czar has ordered fresh murders which are troubling his conscience is not known. It is safe to assume, however, that he fears the resentment of an outraged people.



UNIONISM IMPROVING WAGES OF WORKERS

Reports of International Organizers Show Encour- aging Growth and Bet- ter Conditions

Reports of international organizers and officers of the various labor organizations made through the American Federationist show that there is a trend toward better conditions and better wages. Winter has, however, caused a falling off in many trades. William Van Borden reports from Chicago that many plants employing members of the Brick, Tile and Terra Cotta Workers' International alliance have closed down for the winter.

"Trade conditions," he writes, "are only fair. Our organizers, who have been working in Ohio, will now proceed to Texas to build up unions in that section."

The cement workers, through Henry J. Ullner, report the adjustment of the Denver lockout, and that the trade conditions are fair. New unions of the craft are being organized in Minneapolis, Minn., and Galesburg, Ill.

President S. J. Koenekamp of the Commercial Telegraphers' union reports the formation of two new local unions and a gradually increasing membership.

Engravers Win Strike

Otto F. Altengraber reports for the watchcase engravers that his organization has won its twenty-five week strike in Chicago. The Brotherhood of Steam Engineers reports through Robert A. McKee that it has organized two new locals, one being organized in Ottumwa, Ia., and the other in Berlin, Ont.

William Figolish of the Glass Workers reports slight improvement in trade conditions. George J. Bessinger of the jewelry workers reports that his craft is increasing in membership, but that wages and hours are the same as four years ago.

William Borland reports that there is an injunction against the lace workers in Jersey City, N. J., and that employment is slack. The machine printers and color mixers are reported by Charles McCrory to be fully employed. A like condition is reported among the horseshoers. Rosdy Kanehan reports the best trade conditions in ten years and all members of the craft employed.

Firemen Are Organized

The stationary firemen report the formation of new local unions at Waco, Tex.; Gardner, Mass.; Adams, Mass.; Danbury, Conn., and Philadelphia, Pa. All the members of the craft, with very few exceptions, enjoy the eight hour day. The travelers' goods and leather novelty workers report fair trade conditions.

From Coal City, Ala., comes the report that the organized workers have obtained a nine hour day, while the unorganized workers labor twelve hours a day. Inside at that place are working full time. In Mobile union label agitation is being pushed. Hot Springs, Ark., reports increase in union activity. The barbers there have organized and the building trades crafts are organizing.

Injunction Is Denied

Conditions in Colorado are improving, the building trades men are at work, the printing pressmen have received \$1 a week increase without a strike and an injunction sought by the master plumbers was denied. At Jacksonville, Fla., the bookbinders have organized.

Organizing in Auto Plants

Aggressive Campaign Begun by Detroit Federation of Labor

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 1.—An aggressive campaign of organization among the automobile factories is being undertaken by the Federation of Labor here.

At the meeting of the Federation President Entenza suggested that the delegates take up the discussion of some topic of vital importance and mentioned the location in Detroit of the new automobile concern that would employ thousands of men. He thought it would be a good idea to do some organizing work.

Hard to Organize Factories

The delegates from the Machinists reported that the men in the automobile factories were working ten hours a day and even longer, owing to the rush of work.

Delegate Malone of the Iron Molders said it is hard to organize the auto factories. They only turned to the organization when they were getting pinched.

The delegate from the Machinists said that they had tried to do some organizing inside of the plants, but as soon as they were discovered they were fired.

Henry Kummerfeldt Held That to Organize the Automobile Plants

Henry Kummerfeldt held that to organize the automobile plants successfully it should be done along industrial lines—that is, the men in the plant should all be in one union and not be organized along craft lines in different bodies, which would result in instant jurisdictional fights.

Urges Trades Union Revival

Otto Zimmermann replied that if the Brewery Workers had not been organized in this way they would not have been able to make such progress as they have.

A number of other delegates discussed the idea, and it seemed to be the feeling that a grand trades union revival should be held in Detroit.

HAYES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Illinois Socialist Out for High Office in United Mine Workers

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 1.—Nominations for officers of the International organization of the United Mine Workers are now in at the headquarters in Terre Haute, Ind. Voting by the Aus-

tralian ballot in each lodge will be done in December. President T. L. Lewis will have one opponent, William Green, president of the Ohio organization. Vice President E. S. McCullough will be opposed by Frank Hayes, the Socialist, secretary of the I. M. W. organization. Secretary T. J. Perry will have no opposition. Issue is the alleged centralization of power by President Lewis, disregard of district or state organizations.

WITHDRAW FROM FEDERATION

Electrical Workers Design From Detroit Labor Body

Detroit, Dec. 1.—The long expected has happened in the Detroit Federation of Labor and the delegates of Electrical Workers tendered their resignation, which was accepted.

Delegate Brennan, business agent of the Electrical Workers, opened the matter by discussing the action of the convention, and asking why the appeal of the Detroit Federation had not been taken up by the convention. He also wanted to know what the standing of the Detroit body was since the appointment of the committee to adjust the Electrical Workers' difficulty.

Delegate Spence of the Painters, stated that while he regretted to see the Electrical Workers leave, he believed that it was for the best interests of the central body at this time.

NEUES LEBEN TO OBSERVE BIRTH

The seventh annual celebration of the first appearance of Neues Leben, as a part of the expansion of the German Socialist movement in the United States, will be remembered this year with a concert, theatrical performance and ball, Sunday, December 5, at the Social Turner hall, Belmont avenue and Paulina street.

Neues Leben is the only German Socialist newspaper in Illinois and every German workman able to do so should support it by attending the festivities to be held next Sunday.

The program, which will begin at half-past three o'clock in the afternoon, is as follows:

PART I
1.—Overture.....Schlegel
2.—"The Workers' Song".....Uthmann
3.—"Auf der Volkerruhung".....Kieserling

4.—"Salome-Tanz" with musical accompaniment.....Miss Charlotte Rose
5.—"Sunrise".....Frans Beidel
Solo by W. Anderson, accompanied by the orchestra.

6.—Speech by Julius Wahlteich.
7.—Dramatic performance, "The Police as Match Makers" (comedy in one act by E. Freccang).

PART II
1.—Medley.....Snyder
2.—"Schul-Boxen".....By the Social Turners
3.—"Auf den Berg".....A. Ludwig
4.—"Stark und militär" exercises by the Women's Social Turner classes.
5.—"Marschlied".....Rouge de Lisle
Chorus of the United Chicago Singing Societies.

Tickets for the event may be secured from German Socialists, at the office of Neues Leben and the Daily Socialist, 180 Washington street; Vorsatz & Schiller, 418 North Clark street; Buehler, 1229 Larabee street; Social Turner hall, corner of Belmont and Paulina street, and Schaeke & Heisler, 538 Wells street.

Saloon keeper held for injuries to aged toiler

Leopold Seradelle, iron worker, 71 years old, 1276 North Halsted street, is reported dying at Alexian Brothers' hospital of injuries suffered in an encounter with B. E. Steiber, proprietor of a saloon at 2701 North Halsted street. Steiber was arrested.

Seradelle was found unconscious on the sidewalk in front of the saloon by a pedestrian. Later he said he entered Steiber's cafe to meet a friend, and he and the saloon keeper quarreled. He said Steiber beat and ejected him.

Organizing in auto plants

Aggressive Campaign Begun by Detroit Federation of Labor

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 1.—An aggressive campaign of organization among the automobile factories is being undertaken by the Federation of Labor here.

At the meeting of the Federation President Entenza suggested that the delegates take up the discussion of some topic of vital importance and mentioned the location in Detroit of the new automobile concern that would employ thousands of men. He thought it would be a good idea to do some organizing work.

Hard to Organize Factories

The delegates from the Machinists reported that the men in the automobile factories were working ten hours a day and even longer, owing to the rush of work.

Delegate Malone of the Iron Molders said it is hard to organize the auto factories. They only turned to the organization when they were getting pinched.

The delegate from the Machinists said that they had tried to do some organizing inside of the plants, but as soon as they were discovered they were fired.

Henry Kummerfeldt held that to organize the automobile plants successfully it should be done along industrial lines—that is, the men in the plant should all be in one union and not be organized along craft lines in different bodies, which would result in instant jurisdictional fights.

Urges Trades Union Revival

Otto Zimmermann replied that if the Brewery Workers had not been organized in this way they would not have been able to make such progress as they have.

A number of other delegates discussed the idea, and it seemed to be the feeling that a grand trades union revival should be held in Detroit.

HAYES FOR VICE PRESIDENT

Illinois Socialist Out for High Office in United Mine Workers

Terre Haute, Ind., Dec. 1.—Nominations for officers of the International organization of the United Mine Workers are now in at the headquarters in Terre Haute, Ind. Voting by the Aus-

SUGAR COMPANY A 'SNEAK THIEF'

Senator Says That It Has Fleeced U. S. of \$30,000,- 000 in 15 Years

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—"The greatest sneak thief the world ever saw" is the way the American Sugar Refining company is spoken of these days. Up to date, however, its officials walk the street as honored citizens while the police and prosecuting attorneys of the country are on the trails of the "smallest" sneak thieves.

United States Senator Borah of Idaho has been given information to the effect that the sugar combine has fleeced the government during the last fifteen years of more than \$30,000,000. Instead of accomplishing something immediately along the line of law enforcement Senator Borah promises to introduce a resolution in the United States Senate calling for an investigation of the "thief."

Standard Oil Trust Merciless

The Standard Oil company has been merciless in killing competition and establishing an exclusive right to its own system of extortion and robbery, but it has not been guilty of the petty kind of larceny which makes the sugar trust odious and nets millions just the same. To date the sugar combine has been convicted of:

Rebating, and fined \$110,000.
Stealing duties from the United States, and fined \$138,000.
Stealing duties from the United States, and returning \$2,100,000 to escape legal proceedings.
Stealing water from the city of New York, for which it subsequently paid \$30,000.

Conspiracy in connection with the acquisition of the Pennsylvania Refining company, compromising the suit against it for \$2,000,000.

Plan to Perfect "System"

Senator Borah has been told that he can count on two-thirds of the Senate supporting his resolution. In the letter the writer gives an account of the methods used by the combine to perfect its "system." He said the heads of the sugar monopoly were the guilty ones and not the employees.

He added that every theft was committed with a full sanction of the heads, even the closing down of the Philadelphia Sugar Refining company, and that the combine was not only guilty of fraud by theft, but grossly guilty of violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

According to Senator Borah's informant, the "corset steel spring" used on the scales at the Brooklyn dock was one of a number of contrivances the monopoly used to defraud the government.

Roosevelt and Bonaparte Blamed

It also developed at the Senate office building that "Theodore Roosevelt and former Attorney General Bonaparte will receive no mild lambing by the members of the Senate if the investigation of the sugar combine is made by a senatorial committee.

It is openly charged that the former Attorney General did not prosecute the sugar monopoly when George H. Earle, Jr., of Philadelphia, receiver of the Philadelphia Real Estate company, reported that the American Sugar Refining company was the cause of that failure and violated the Sherman anti-trust law.

Alabama vetoes dry amendment

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 1.—All indications point to a majority of between 5,000 and 7,500 in Alabama against the prohibition constitutional amendment yesterday. Chairman J. Lee Long, who has been in charge of the fight against the amendment, declares that the majority against the amendment will be fully 27,500.

The early returns indicated a landslide against the amendment and succeeding bulletins from more "bore out" the early indications.

Jefferson county, which is Birmingham, the largest city in the state, in spite of the fact that the fight has been concentrated here, gave a majority of more than 1,000 against the amendment. Mobile, Montgomery and Cullman counties show the largest majorities on the victorious side, and it appears the amendment has carried but three counties—Talladega, Macon and Sumter, with Lee in doubt.

New trial for McCann refused

Judge Albert C. Barnes at 10 a. m. today overruled the motion of the attorneys for Edward McCann to give the convicted police inspector a new trial. By the action of the court McCann was thus brought a step nearer the door of the state penitentiary at Joliet for accepting bribes from vicious dives while in office. His only hope now lies in appeal to a higher court.

The appeal to a higher court, however, is a long one, and the defense were that a policeman was not a city officer as required in the indictment and that the remarks of the state's attorney during the trial had been detrimental and damaging to the rights of the defendant.

Auto Gas Tank Explodes; Kills

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 1.—George L. Odenbrett, automobile dealer, was killed here by an explosion of an automobile gas tank, which he was charging.

PASTOR TELLS CONFERENCE PREACHING IS TOO ANAEMIC

Present day preaching is too anaemic and a new direction and method is needed, according to the Rev. J. M. Stiller, pastor of the First Baptist church of Evanston, who addressed the Baptist ministers' conference in the Masonic temple yesterday.

"Few men go into their pulpits with the assurance that they are competent to their task. Our preachers seem to be suffering from anemia. We see all kinds of disorders about us and attempt to meet them by heroic measures."

"The anaemic patient mistakes a symptom for a disease. So have I. When interest in my sermons lapsed I sought to stimulate them by catchy titles or some little trick or other."

"KITTENS" TURN OUT SKUNKS; MORE WORK FOR DRESSMAKER

Monticello, N. Y., Dec. 1.—Mrs. Nicholas Van Vanness on her way home last night took pity on what she supposed were three little black Kittens, which turned out to be three young skunks. Today her brand new winter suit lies buried in her back yard.

SOCIALIST BALL TEN DAYS OFF

Just one week from Saturday night the tenth annual Socialist ball will be held at the Second Regiment Armory, Washington boulevard and Curtis street, on the evening of Dec. 11. It is the first day of December tomorrow, and from then on it is only ten days until the big social event of the winter season is given by the Socialist party of Cook county for the benefit of the Daily Socialist and the county organization.

An elaborate scavenger program is being prepared for the affair, different from anything ever gotten out for a similar event. It will have an ornamental, decorative cover that has proven a hit with the committee having the matter in charge.

The postal cards being used as plungers have been reprinted the souvenir cards in Chicago. Fifteen thousand of these cards were printed and but a few remain at the county headquarters. Twelve hundred of these cards were given out to the Garrick audience last Sunday, Lecturer Arthur M. Lewis announcing the place and date of the ball with his regular weekly announcements.

The entertainment committee will hold its weekly meeting Thursday evening as usual at county headquarters. The finance committee will meet at 7:30 on Thursday evening, while the ways and means committee will meet Wednesday evening. The sale of tickets is being pushed in every direction by the committee. They may be secured at any of the Socialist newspapers in Chicago. When bought at any of these places or at the ward branches the tickets cost 25 cents; at the door, 50 cents.

BABY HIRSCH SAYS PREJUDICE AGAINST JEWS IS BLESSING

The prejudice against the Jew has really been a blessing in disguise to him, declared Dr. Emil G. Hirsch in an address before the Chicago School of Civics and Philanthropy last night in Library hall. His subject was "Racial Loyalty and Self Defense."

"The Jew is the most conspicuous example of prejudice," he said. "But I want to show that this prejudice has been a blessing in disguise because it has spurred him on to do his utmost to remove that prejudice. It has brought to the defense of the race the best people of the race. It has made them determined to rise or to fall with the mass of the people who constitute their nationality."

Valle Nacional is largely peonage, or labor for debt, carried to the extreme, although outwardly it takes a slightly different form, that of contract labor. A portion of the laborers are convicts or those accused of crime. The origin of the conditions of Valle Nacional was undoubtedly contract labor. The planters needed laborers. They went to the expense of importing laborers with the understanding that the laborers would stay with their jobs for given time. Some laborers tried to jump their contracts and the planters used force to compel them to stay. The advance money and the cost of transportation was looked upon as a debt which the laborer could be compelled to work out. From this it was only a step to ordering the conditions of labor that the laborer could under no circumstances ever hope to get free.

A Synonym for Horror

"In time Valle Nacional became a word of horror with the working people of all Mexico. They refused to go there for any price. So the planters felt compelled to tell them they were going to take them somewhere else. It required only a little further deceit to play the workman false all around, to formulate a contract not to be carried out, but which was merely a pretense to get the laborer into the toils. Finally, from this it was only a step to forming a business partnership with the government, or at least certain officials of the government, whereby the police would be put into the hands of the planters to help them carry on a traffic in slaves.

Toilers Kidnaped

"One of the methods employed by the 'labor agents' for the planters is outright kidnaping. I have heard of many cases of kidnaping of women and of men. Hundreds of half-drunken men are picked up about the vulgar shops of Mexico City every season, put under lock and key, and later hurried off to Valle Nacional. Children also are regularly kidnaped for the Valle Nacional trade. The official records of Mexico City say that during the year ending Sept. 1, 1908, 360 little boys between the ages of 6 and 12 disappeared on the streets. Some of these have later been located in Valle Nacional.

"Often honest, hard-working Mexicans are taken into the Valle Nacional with their wives and children.

Women Made "White Slaves"

"If the wife is attractive in appearance she goes to the planter or to one or more of the bosses. The children see their mother taken away and they know what is to become of her. The husband knows it, but if he makes objection he is answered with a club, time and time again. I have been told that this was so, by masters, by slaves,

PUBLIC PURSE IS NOT FOR LORDS

British Upper House Barred From Monkeying With Government Cash

London, Dec. 1.—An effort to educate the House of Lords of Great Britain to the fact that they have no right to tamper with the budget bill is being made. Lord Morley, in a powerful speech, quoted Burke to the effect that the House of Lords had no right, in any sense, to the disposition of the public purse and contended that if there was one thing that could not wisely be submitted to a referendum it was the budget with all its complexities.

Hope to Check Socialism

"As to the Lords' contention that their action would arrest the wave of Socialism, he refused to believe that British artisans were predatory or Socialistic, but even granting that the misery existing among some classes had produced a movement akin to Socialism, it was hardly wise of the Lords to take up a position exposing them to the charge of straining the constitution as champions of the rich against the poor."

"The more triumphant the majority for Lord Lansdowne's amendment," said Lord Morley, "the greater the disparity between the numbers of the government and the numbers of the opposition, the more flagrant will be the political scandal."

Liberals Cheer Morley Speech

When the secretary resumed his seat the small minority of Liberal peers broke into enthusiastic cheers.

Lord James declared that it was entirely beyond the Lords' competency to reject the budget. Precedent, practice, usage and acquiescence, all came into play to prevent the house from taking the action Lord Lansdowne contemplated. He added that he separated himself from his party with regret and, displaying great emotion, appealed to his fellow Unionists to reconsider their decision.

Contest Will Be One-Sided

"The coming contest," he said, "will be one-sided. None of you will be able to defend the course you have taken and you will be at the mercy of your opponents, who will not spare you."

Lord James' uncompromising speech made an effect on the house second only to Lord Morley's.

BURLINGTON VOTES FOR
RULE BY COMMISSION

Burlington, Ia., Dec. 1.—Burlington voted for the commission plan of city government, the proposition winning 2 to 1. The vote stood 2,838 for and 1,323 against, a majority for the plan of 1,515. The opposition was largely among the liquor men, who feared a campaign of reform against them if the law was successful. Every precinct in the city gave a majority for the proposed plan.

Workers die by thousands

(Continued From Page One)

Valle Nacional is largely peonage, or labor for debt, carried to the extreme, although outwardly it takes a slightly different form, that of contract labor. A portion of the laborers are convicts or those accused of crime. The origin of the conditions of Valle Nacional was undoubtedly contract labor. The planters needed laborers. They went to the expense of importing laborers with the understanding that the laborers would stay with their jobs for given time. Some laborers tried to jump their contracts and the planters used force to compel them to stay. The advance money and the cost of transportation was looked upon as a debt which the laborer could be compelled to work out. From this it was only a step to ordering the conditions of labor that the laborer could under no circumstances ever hope to get free.

A Synonym for Horror

"In time Valle Nacional became a word of horror with the working people of all Mexico. They refused to go there for any price. So the planters felt compelled to tell them they were going to take them somewhere else. It required only a little further deceit to play the workman false all around, to formulate a contract not to be carried out, but which was merely a pretense to get the laborer into the toils. Finally, from this it was only a step to forming a business partnership with the government, or at least certain officials of the government, whereby the police would be put into the hands of the planters to help them carry on a traffic in slaves.

Toilers Kidnaped

"One of the methods employed by the 'labor agents' for the planters is outright kidnaping. I have heard of many cases of kidnaping of women and of men. Hundreds of half-drunken men are picked up about the vulgar shops of Mexico City every season, put under lock and key, and later hurried off to Valle Nacional. Children also are regularly kidnaped for the Valle Nacional trade. The official records of Mexico City say that during the year ending Sept. 1, 1908, 360 little boys between the ages of 6 and 12 disappeared on the streets. Some of these have later been located in Valle Nacional.

"Often honest, hard-working Mexicans are taken into the Valle Nacional with their wives and children.

Women Made "White Slaves"

"If the wife is attractive in appearance she goes to the planter or to one or more of the bosses. The children see their mother taken away and they know what is to become of her. The husband knows it, but if he makes objection he is answered with a club, time and time again. I have been told that this was so, by masters, by slaves,



Old Underoof Whiskey
For years it has been recommended by physicians as a stimulant of merit. The most good. The least reaction. Old-Pure-Rare-Rich in flavor. CHAS-DENNEY & CO. CHICAGO, ILL.

WE ARE
THE ONLY FIRM
In This Country That Sells
GROCERIES
at wholesale prices to consumers. This means a saving to you of 40 cents on the dollar. Send for our weekly list.
NATIONAL PACKAGE GROCERY CO.,
58 Wabash Ave., Near Randolph St.
Telephone Central 5812.

Rleck & Pixley's
BOSTON BAKED BEANS
AND BROWN BREAD.
New served in over 127 Lunch Rooms in Chicago. More than 10,000 people eat them every day. No preservatives used.
DELIVERED FRESH FROM OVERS, 642-648 Fulton St., Chicago.

ALOIS SPACHMAN
Best Equipped
RESTAURANT, SALOON
AND PICNIC GROUNDS.
3194 N. 40th Ave., Chicago
PHONE IRVING PARK 3064

NOTE TO NEW SOCIALISTS
READ SOCIALIST BOOKS.
Nearly 1,000 described in our new catalogue "The Question of the Hour." All pamphlets and books at lowest prices.
WILSHIRE BOOK COMPANY
Clearing House for All Socialist Literature.
300 William St.
New York, N. Y.

Central Drug Co.
100 STATE STREET
Diagonally across from Marshall Field & Co.

Football Free
With Every Boy's Suit or Overcoat, at
Continental
\$3.50 or more.
Exceptional Values.
Cor. Milwaukee and Ashland Aves.

CLASSIFIED
HELP WANTED
WANTED—Upjohners to keep away from Boston, as there is trouble on. By order of Local No. 111.
Agents
MEN AND WOMEN AGENTS—You can make money selling a good family medical work. Large profits. See the book: "A Physician in the House." Call or write: Dr. J. H. Green, 41 Dearborn st., Chicago.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE
BEFORE BUYING
Come and see our new five-room house, all modern improvements; lots 22x110; two blocks to Milwaukee av. car line; \$12,000 and up. \$100 cash; balance to suit.
ALSO FINE VACANT LOT, FROM \$25 UP. See CHRYE BROS., 414 Milwaukee av.

PIANOS
TEN NEW PIANOS, REGULAR \$250 VALUE, offered special this week at \$125; easy payments. SAMUEL BLOCK, 230 Wabash st.
NEW PIANO SOLD CHEAP if taken before Christmas. First class. 1014 N. Kedzie av., first flat.

LITERATURE
IT WILL PAY YOU TO READ "THE IRON-VENTOR'S SHARE," a revolutionary story, in eight, 10 cents; all postpaid. A. G. SAKER, 19 Grand Circus Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

ROOM AND BOARD
TWO MEN can have room and board at 228 North La Salle, near Oakley. First flat. Danish cuisine.

PURE HONEY FOR SALE
FOR PURE HONEY—C. STUBBINS, BOULEVARD, COLORADO.

No "Autonomous Groups" Wanted

An elaborate amendment is about to be submitted to a national referendum of the Socialist party. It contains a mass of details, but stripped of all its verbiage it is practically a proposal to dissolve the Socialist party and establish a mass of disconnected local and state organizations.

Doubtless the persons responsible for this proposed amendment thought they were suggesting something new. Few of those who so accommodatingly seconded it were aware that it is simply a proposal to revive the old anarchist "autonomous groups" that were once so famous throughout Europe and that were rejected by every Socialist party on that continent.

It is something of a reflection on the education in Socialism possessed by the membership of the Socialist party that it becomes necessary for such a proposal to be considered to the extent of a national referendum in this country.

Of course there is no prospect of its being carried unless through that careless good nature that inclines so many to vote "yes" on a referendum simply because someone has gone to the trouble to submit it.

If this referendum were to carry it would simply make it necessary to at once organize another Socialist party, for the old one would disappear. We would be the prey of every old party machine that cared to exploit our name and our work. There would be no possibility of coherent, consistent propaganda, of educational work, of discipline, of international relations, of anything that distinguishes us as a Socialist party.

This is not a question of difference of opinion. It is simply a question of knowing the facts, for this same plan has been tried many times in many places, and is as foreign to the whole idea of Socialism as the whole anarchist philosophy upon which it is founded.

Mexico and Nicaragua

What a difference in the attitude of the government of the United States in regard to revolutions in Mexico and in its neighbor to the south. Diaz may murder his thousands and enslave his tens of thousands; he may seize American citizens ON AMERICAN SOIL and torture and kill them; he may commit every possible atrocity against humanity, and still depend upon the active assistance of the United States government in suppressing rebellion.

Mexico has bonds to float, railroads to build, sugar plantations and mines to yield profits, and all these turn a flow of gold into the pockets of American capitalists.

Therefore anyone who preaches revolution in Mexico does it under peril of the vengeance of the American government.

In Nicaragua, American capital is not yet so highly favored. There are some steamship and mining companies that are anxious to introduce "law and order," presumably with the Mexican accompaniments of peonage and despotism maintained by wholesale killing and torture.

Consequently warships and armies are at the disposal of Nicaraguan revolutionists. The killing of an American citizen is at once resented by force, although that same force has been used to assist in the killing along the Mexican border.

It makes a great deal of difference whether a revolution is started by a steamship, asphalt or canal company for profits, or whether it is simply an uprising of an oppressed people seeking liberty. If it is the former, warships and money are at its disposal from the national government; if the latter is the case, then jails yawn for the revolutionists.

Day by day the Merriam commission, the Inter Ocean and other investigating agencies go on verifying and rehearsing the facts exposed by the Daily Socialist last summer. Perhaps within a year or two they will finally discover what this paper told everyone at that time, that "Chicago is ruled by a band of criminals," or which its mayor is the chief.

The Bankers' Magazine (note the name) is engaged in a strenuous effort to defend the Mexican government against the exposes made by the Socialist press and the American Magazine. Let's see: What was the size of the issue of bonds which Mexico is trying to float through American bankers?

As that Counselman case becomes more and more odoriferous, it is once more worth while to call attention to the fact that none of those concerned hold membership cards in the Socialist party. Yet as a "home-breakers' union" they seem to be doing about all that could be expected.

TO THE EDITOR

On A. F. of L. Convention
I was pleased to read in your issue of the Daily yesterday your brief editorial commending the work of the A. F. of L. convention at Toronto. It is undoubtedly true, as you say, that no convention of this body ever did more potent work than this one. At the same time it is my opinion that the Socialist delegates never did better work in an A. F. of L. convention than they did this time. This time they brought harmony and the spirit of real comradeship and brotherhood with them, and this spirit was reflected in the harmonious, unifying results of the convention.

This time the Socialists stood shoulder to shoulder with trade unionists, not Socialists because Gompers is facing a jail sentence—next time it will be hoped there may be harmony even though there is no such strong immediate motive present. It will set the cause of Socialism forward immeasurably.

ISAAC PETERSON,
Chicago.

No Immunity Baths
The loss of life at the Cherry mine disaster, it caused by the mine owners' lack of supplying the mine with safety devices, should at all cost be pinned on to the mine owners themselves, and the Socialists all over the country should aid the Miners' union in seeing that justice is done in this case and no loop holes left for any "immunity baths." Let not the case pass by with the usual verdict: "Negligence of a fellow miner." The working class as a unit has already many times shown its hand, as witness the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone trial; Rudwick, Pouden, and the De Lara cases. The brunt of the suffering and cost of these wholesale murders falls at all cost on the working class alone, and they as a class should put a stop to this.

If funds to prosecute the case are lacking then let the authorities in the case make a call for help and to a man, I believe, every worker in the nation will respond with a neat sum.

OSCAR HOOKER,
Brooklet, N. Dak.

THE MASSACRE OF MINERS

MORRIS KORSHET, M. D.

When the cold, wintry wind howls without and you sit down before your fire to watch it blaze into a warm, mellow glow, do you ever stop to think what it costs to mine coal? Not in hard cash terms, nor in dollars and cents, but in terms of human lives, of human flesh and blood?

It is hard to transport oneself from a crackling fireplace or steam-heated apartment to a dark, damp hole in the ground, where begrimed, besweated humans, amid the fantastic flare of lamps, are eagerly tearing from the bowels of the earth the precious coal that brings warmth and light and energy to the world.

It is still harder to realize that the very coals we cast so carelessly into the fire may be stained with human blood and burdened with the groans and curses of dying men. The coal mine is hundreds of miles away; it is no concern of ours what happens out there. All we want is warmth and light, and we are not particular how it comes to us.

If we were we would surely do something to prevent the killing and maiming of ten thousand men and boys in the coal mines of this country every year. More miners are killed and injured in the coal mines of the United States than in the collieries of all the European countries put together.

This annual slaughter of ten thousand includes those cases that come to public notice through some frightful disaster. But year after year, month after month, day after day thousands of miners die of pneumonia, bronchitis and tuberculosis, due to the laceration of the lung tissue by coal particles, or are slowly and surely poisoned to death by the noxious gases of the mines. Countless numbers are killed and injured by falls of rock and coal. But these are not important enough to record as accidents. They are only incidents.

It would take a stack of books equal in volume to the Encyclopedia Britannica to relate all the accidents that have occurred since coal mining began. It would take fully two of these volumes to describe all the fatalities in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania alone, the most dangerous coal mining region in the world. And all this in spite of the fact that there is not a state in the union, but has not strict mining laws and mine inspectors sworn to protect the lives and health of the subterranean toilers.

Coal mining is an industry subject to special and ever changing dangers. The lives and safety of the miners are far removed from public vigilance and investigation. The engineer, machinery, ropes and cage by which the miner descends to his work and returns from it, the passage-ways in the mine, the props for the support of the roof, the ventilating current of air are provided by the mine owner or his agent, the miner having no say in the matter.

Daily plunged in an atmosphere of noxious and poisonous gases, his bones aching and head nearly bursting from the foul air the miner can hardly be expected to be a sweet tempered exponent of the dignity and beauty of labor. On the contrary, he becomes shamefully discontented with his lot, never satisfied with the few advantages he gains and ever demanding more, until now he clamors for the social ownership of the mines so that his life, health and safety can be guaranteed.

People frequently complain of the air in public buildings or cars where they can at any moment supply themselves with fresh air. What can they say for the miner down in the depths of the earth where sunlight never enters and the only door is the mouth of a shaft a mile or so away from the little corner where he works?

On the surface of the earth the vitiated air flies upward into space. Were it not for this we would die for want of a respirable atmosphere. In the mines the air must travel from one working place to another laden with impurities from powder smoke, the excrementitious products of men and mules, the exhalations of their bodies, lungs and lamps, the decaying woodwork of the mine and the gases liberated from the coal and its associated strata.

Many factors enter into the causation of accidents. Inundations of water, explosions of fire damp, crushing of superincumbent strata and falls of rock and coal are the dangerous forces that deal death and destruction in the sunless recesses of the mine. Deeds of daring which quicken the pulse and stir the soul are performed in the hell holes of the earth without any hope of reward, and which, had they occurred on the battlefield, would have won immortal fame.

One of the worst accidents that ever took place in this country was due to inundation of water. Mine No. 3 of the Diamond Coal company, near Braidwood, Ill., was a shaft opening one hundred feet deep. The coal, which was three feet deep, was worked on the long-wall plan, the entire seam being removed as the workings progressed forward. On two separate occasions before the accident there had been slight inundations of water from breaks in the roof, a frequent occurrence in long wall mining.

Two days before the accident (February 15, 1883) there had been heavy falls of snow. During the night of the 15th the snow changed to rain. On the 16th the prairie above the workings was covered with several feet of water. At 11 o'clock in the morning the roof broke in a depression of the strata and the water rushed through the break in a roaring current.

The driver boys were the first to discover the flood. With unequalled heroism they left their mules and ran through the working faces warning the miners of their danger.

Those who ran to the hoisting shaft found it already full of water. All who flew toward the air shaft reached day in safety. There was another depression in the road leading to the air shaft, and in a few moments a mad torrent filled this from dip to roof. A number who saved themselves went back to inform their friends and were drowned. Several brave drivers lost their lives in the attempt to save their comrades. Altogether sixty-one men perished, and it was not until six weeks later that their bodies were recovered.

During the past twenty-five years the loss of life by explosion has been greater here than in any other country. Hardly a month passes but what some fresh horror throws whole towns into mourning. The usual excuse is that miners become careless or go into places forbidden to enter. Such excuses can be safely made, as dead men tell no tales.

The main cause of mine explosions is fire damp, the most dangerous element met in human enterprises. When fourteen times the amount of common air is mixed with it no explosion can occur, its greatest explosive strength being when nine or ten times the amount of air is combined with the gas. In this state, when brought in contact with a naked light, it explodes with the violence and rapidity of gunpowder.

Mines generating fire damp must be well ventilated or explosions occur. When an explosion results the dead miners are generally blamed for it, when as an actual fact no explosion is ever caused by the fault of the miner. It is enough fresh air is mixed with the gas to dilute it to become perfectly harmless, as it has no direct action on the human body. The greed of the mine owners prevents them from establishing thorough systems of ventilation, the miners are killed and the mine owners insult their victims by throwing the blame upon them.

Fire damp, or inflammable air as it is sometimes called, is rarely met in alarming volume in drift mines or shallow shafts, but such mines give off black damp and white damp, which have a poisonous effect upon the human body.

Air in the mines is always purest in the morning because it is renewed during the absence of the miners, but in the afternoon or toward quitting time becomes so foul that the miners' lamps will no longer burn and the miners suffer with severe headaches.

A miner can remain in his room before he becomes insensible for some time after his light goes out. In white damp he will fall insensible, and if not quickly revived will die. White damp is light will continue burning. White damp after damp is formed largely from exploded powder used for blasting out the coal, and from waste or wrought out parts of the mine, particularly where fires break out in the job.

All mining authorities insist that one hundred cubic feet of air per minute per miner should be circulated through the most hazardous mines. In mines which produce fire damp double or quadruple this quantity may be required, according to the amount of inflammable air

generated. Very few mines get this amount, and the arrangements for carrying the air is so defective that half the air current never reaches the miners.

A few of the most striking accidents may be described to show how easily they could have been prevented had the proper precautions been taken.

On September 6, 1889, the Avondale shaft in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, took fire and suffocated every soul in the mine, including two brave miners who attempted a rescue. The shaft had but one opening and the disaster was caused by the furnaceman lighting in the morning after the miners had gone down. He used wood in lighting the fire and the sparks flying up the shaft set fire to the wooden partition dividing the pit into upward and downward compartments.

The partition in turn set fire to the immense wooden structure on top of the pit. The fire departments of adjoining towns rushed to the burning mine, and 10,000 people gathered, but were powerless to assist. The mine, which was wrapped in flames, which rose to one hundred feet away from the fire in the wind and forming a fearful scene. The whole burning mass then fell crashing down the mine.

"GET ME FIVE HUNDRED DAGOES, QUICK"

BY ROBERT HUNTER

Can you imagine anything more irritating to a boss than to be short-handed? Here is a job to be done, profits to be made, contracts to be fulfilled. The boss phones to an employment agency: "Get me five hundred Dagoes tomorrow." Sometimes a railroad issues bonds for improvements. Contracts are then let and the demand goes forth that men are wanted.

The agencies advertise, five hundred "dagoes," a thousand "hunkies," strong, husky, able-bodied men, wanted.

In midsummer the harvest must be gotten in and two or three weeks' hard work to be done. The agencies advertise, twenty thousand men wanted, and wanted quick.

At such times the papers print stories showing the lack of sufficient workers. More immigrants are needed, they argue, labor is in demand, and how they scold then at those who speak of unemployment and misery.

The ideal condition for capital is an overcrowded labor market, with hundreds of thousands of idle skilled and unskilled workers.

Capital wants men ready at a moment's notice to jump on any job. It is irritated when it cannot find men ready immediately to grab a spade and start to work.

We pay our standing army to be ready at a moment's notice to fight. We feed, clothe and lodge them and pay them a small salary in order that they should be ready at a moment's notice to fight.

Yet capital demands and usually has a vast standing army of unemployed, starving while they wait the needs of capital.

If we said Capital must support this unemployed army, it would consider itself outraged. It pays for freight cars and machines and horses and mules that stand ready to serve, but not for men.

Capital says to millions of workers, "Wait, we may need you in the spring." If it does not need the unemployed in the spring they wait till summer. If it does not need the unemployed in summer, they wait till winter. THEY STAND AND WAIT.

John Milton once said, "They also serve who only stand and wait." The unemployed serve when they only stand and wait. The army serves when it only stands and waits.

Sometimes in this country five million unemployed walk the streets in anguish. They and their families starve. They dread the face of the landlord; dare not pass the door of the grocer. Every morning before break of dawn they tramp to the factory, hoping the gate will be open to them. They wait, and wait, and wait.

Sometimes this five million drops to two million, and now and then perhaps even to one million. Sometimes they work day and night rushing feverishly to get out the work. And sometimes they only stand and wait.

They beg and tramp; they seek and do not find, until one glad morning the boss sends word, "Five hundred dagoes wanted!"

And there they are at the gate. They have waited and waited, with hearts downcast and hopes broken, until they hear that news as a message from heaven, "Five hundred dagoes!" And then they fight to serve.

When I hear men speak of the brotherhood of capital and labor, I think of these things.

"Get me five hundred dagoes," says Capital. For a week, for a month, just so long as profit can be made out of poor Brother Labor is that brother cherished. But in the long winter months, without food or fire, Brother Labor walks cold pavements in search of work.

And Brother Capital is nowhere to be found. He has his profit, his gain. He thinks no more of poor Brother Labor until the ground softens with the spring, work opens, contracts are let and ditches are once again needed. And then Brother Capital appears, rubbing his hands and shouting his orders, "Five hundred dagoes, quick!"

HUMAN SERVICE CAPITALIZED

The Fair season is just over, the time of Stock and Fruit shows is here. These will illustrate the best and worst in our civilization.

Man's skill and genius have wrought great results in agriculture and in land reclamation.

To make two blades grow where but one grew before is a fine task. To make great plains yield choice crops where only sage brush grew before is an even greater achievement.

To find the best soils for every crop, the best crops for every soil, to seek the finest development of every variety of grain and fruit, to make science serve humanity at the very source of life—these are fine products of civilization.

To conserve the flooding water of winter and spring and by huge dams, power plants and miles upon miles of concrete canals, make this water available to nourish rich plains during the dry season—these are superb enterprises.

Brutal wars have been fought, with tremendous loss in human life, to conquer territories less rich and broad than have been reclaimed to the country by man's skill, knowledge and labor through irrigation.

Everywhere science, mechanical arts and organized enterprise are showing the splendid heights to which civilization is climbing.

Yet, wherever any of this work goes on, there the profit seekers hover. Land speculation and landlordism is forever ready to reap all the profits that come from work done by the scientific agriculturalist.

Capital stands guard as its servant, the government, carries on its vast enterprises in irrigation and for one dollar gained therefrom by a small property owner, the railroads and speculators gain millions.

Moreover these millions gained represent just so much of power to levy perpetual tribute from every settler in the newly created territory.

This is not grouchy pessimism. Society is in process of evolution and we are not going backward because conditions are exorbitantly anomalous in their transition stage.

But note one thing. Those who smile complacently at extended government functions and enlarging co-operation, saying "Oh, you see Socialism is coming," are in the wrong.

Help the wage slaves and salary slaves, the necessary workers, whether engineer or ditch digger, whether in office or in shop to know that they are robbed and by their own stupidity and all these splendid achievements of society will become at last the inheritance of all mankind.

Of Interest to Women

Mrs. Maynard Will Address Women

Mila Tupper Maynard, the Socialist author and lecturer, will speak at a meeting of the Socialist women of Cook county Saturday evening, Dec. 4, 8 o'clock, at 180 Washington street. She will speak on "The Essentials of Our Faith." Mrs. Maynard is well known

From Girard, Kansas, comes the news that our well beloved Comrade Kichi Kaneko has passed away in his native home on the eighth of October. Comrade Kaneko's death is a great loss to all the readers of the Progressive Woman, to some of us a personal bereavement.

Born in the far East where women are still kept in abject slavery, he felt deeply for womankind at large. The world will never know all the struggles he had to undergo while championing woman's cause.

His body ceased to live, but his soul will never die. The work he and his good comrade wife have started will live forever. New movements, new ideas and new papers may spring up, perhaps with a greater following and more success than our late comrade had dreamed of. His, nevertheless, was the greatest task of all.

An alien in a strange land he was the first among our Socialist men comrades to devote his life to sex emancipation. Never deviating from the Socialist point of view, but at the same time proclaiming openly and fearlessly that human freedom cannot be achieved as long as one-half of humanity is still enslaved.

He had lived, worked and died for us, leaving his life's task to his widow to whom we must pledge our sympathy, encouragement and help. Her burden has become greater by the loss of him who stood so nobly by her side. The personal sorrow has sapped her strength but, like a soldier of the battle field, she clings bravely to her post. The outcome is still doubtful, unless we rally loyally around her. With the hearty sympathy goes forth the hope of final victory for the cause championed by our late comrade.

MILA TUPPER MAYNARD as the author of a book on Whitman and is a brilliant speaker.

This is one of the series of successful meetings the Socialist women of Cook county have been holding for several months. It is hoped that this meeting will be the largest held so far.

Brief reports of agitation work among women will be made at the close of the lecture.

On the Firing Line

BY MONOSABIO.

When will the next "safest mine in the world" blow up?

Yellow Journalism reminds me of the legend on a certain ad: "It chases dirt."

President Taft, after preaching in the Mormon temple, riding the goat in the Masonic lodge and doing various other political stunts, recently attended

mass at Washington. If the Chinese had votes, he would surely have punk in the Jones house.

The Hebrew Veterans of the War with Spain met in New York the other evening and told how bloodthirsty and brave they were. Ten to one, under capitalism, they will not be brave enough to abstain from applying for pensions.

Mr. McAfee believes that politeness pays and therefore he will not allow his Hudson tunnel employees to yell.

"Step lively!" Besides this, pageantry have long since formed the rush habit, anyway, and the guards might as well have their valuable breath.

Well, Madame Four Hundred, what fresh debauchery are you planning at this very moment, while honest women are starving or committing suicide?