

STORE TORTS \$1,000,000 FROM TOILERS YEARLY

Vast Net Profits Demanded by The Fair's Owners Enslave Workers

GREED AS A FINE ART

Supt. Jones Entrusted With Delicate Task of Sapping Employes' Lives

No matter how many men and women faint from exhaustion, no matter how many women may seek the red light district as a source of livelihood, the Fair must yield \$1,000,000 net profit to the Lehman family, annually. To that end Superintendent Cyrus Jones plans the policies of the store.

Superintendent Jones does the grueling, too, knowing that starvation wages prevail at the store. He showed this in a recent interview with a Daily Socialist reporter in which he said, in speaking of the women clerks and their suffering from the cold: "A great many of them cannot afford to buy warm clothes."

Hundreds of trusted and valuable employes are given from two to three weeks' "lay off" each year on their "own time" instead of the vacations to which they are entitled. To that end are men discharged when they dare ask for "raises" they have earned.

Fine Art Slave Drivers

Jake Kessner, one of the principal owners of the Fair, is down at the store every day. He has the business at his fingers' ends. He and Jones and a few men directly under Jones shape the policy of the huge store which employs 5,000 men and women. Slave driving at the Fair is a fine art. When business grows the least bit slack employes are shifted from departments where the wage paid is almost a living one and they are placed, temporarily, in other departments where the pay is far below a life sustaining wage. The alternative to such a transfer is discharge. The State street department stores have a system of interchanging "recommendations" which operates in such a way that if a man or woman leaves the Fair to take advantage of better wages elsewhere, during the holiday season, that person will not receive employment at any other store on State street.

On one day during the holiday rush, the employes worked 15 hours and the supper fed them by the store was unfit to eat. All those who did not eat the miserable food the management furnished were free to go outside and pay for their meal on their own money. A system of docking prevails which extorts a quarter of a day's pay from anyone who is 15 minutes late. If anyone is twice late in a week it means discharge. A salary of \$15 a week is considered princely at the Fair. To get such a salary sales of many thousands of dollars worth must be made each week.

Overtime Pay Is Unknown

Work on Sunday and holidays is often exacted and overtime pay is unknown. The usual day's work is about ten hours, but for the 15, 16 and even longer hours, not a cent extra is received by any employee.

"It would be all right if I was living at home," said a girl employed at the Fair, "but, say, when I have to buy all my food and clothes and pay my board on \$7 a week—I—well, say, what does the manager expect? I've got to live same as anyone else and I ought to eat three times a day. Refinement? What have I got to do with refinement on \$7 a week? I can't indulge in refinement on my pay, and decency's an expensive luxury."

"Twelve fifty a week for a man with a family; that's what I get," said a man employed at the Fair. "No overtime either. I don't know at the end of one day that I will have a job the next morning. It's slavery, it's—, that's what it is. It ain't living."

Scientific Parsimony

In addition to the tremendous advantage which buying all products in bulk gives to the huge store, an advantage shared by all the State street stores, the Fair exercises a system of scientific parsimony as described.

LEWIS CLAIMS BIG MAJORITY

Indianapolis, Dec. 28.—"My majority for re-election this year is twice as large as it was last year," said Thomas L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, when he returned to the headquarters of the organization in this city to begin writing his annual report to the national convention, which will open here on Jan. 18.

The tellers of the vote of the individual unions have arrived here, and they will at once begin counting the ballots. About 1,800 local unions voted, and Mr. Lewis says he has returned from 754 of them, from which he is able to calculate that he has a majority of 28,000 votes over his opponent, William Green of Ohio.

FORCES U. S. TO AID AMERICAN

Loss of Prestige in Yelaya Fiasco Shames Taft Into Action

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—To keep up the bluff that the United States was not a party to the escape of Yelaya in a Mexican gunboat, after worrying for over a month concerning the shooting of the two adventurers in Nicaragua, the United States government has at last taken up the case of Conductor James A. Cook, an American workman, unjustly confined in one of Diaz's prisons at Guadalajara, Mexico, on a trumped up charge to the effect that he was implicated in the robbery of a freight train on a Mexican railroad.

The state department has now called upon Ambassador Thompson to investigate the matter, but only after continued pressure on the part of the labor unions, chief among which was the Order of Railroad Conductors.

When President Taft was in El Paso, Texas, during his love feast with Diaz, a deputation of railroad men from both sides of the border waited upon him. According to his usual custom he promised that steps would be taken at once to either get Cook released or to see that he had a fair trial to answer the charge against him.

Ignored Labor as Usual

Safely back in Washington, however, Taft forgot all about the victim of his friend Diaz. All that was left to the railroad men, who are all brotherhood men, was to become very much wrought up over the matter.

Cook, who is a native of Adrian, Mo., and has made his home at Fort Scott, Kan., was an employee of the Rock Island as a conductor before going to Mexico. He lived at Delhart, Tex., several years. His record has been a good one as a union man.

"That Cook had no knowledge of the crime, which was committed while his train was running into Guadalajara, is admitted by the officials of the Mexican National railroad and by all who are familiar with the case."

Notwithstanding this fact, the American has been held prisoner since last August without being admitted to bail, and with no effort being made by the American ambassador or other representatives of the United States to secure his release. Whether Ambassador Thompson will now give the matter his attention is to be questioned.

LAWS FLOUTED; BOYS ENSLAVED

Coal Barons Seek to Bring Children Back Into Anthracite Mines

Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 29.—The United Mine Workers in this section will make a final fight in the courts against the opinion handed down by deputy attorney General J. E. B. Cunningham, of this state, who because of two words in the child labor law has declared the law to be, in his opinion, invalid. The law thus attacked reads:

"That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, copartnership or corporation to employ any minor child, under the age of sixteen years, inside of any anthracite coal mine, or to employ any minor child, under the age of fourteen years, in any anthracite coal breaker or colliery, or around the outside workings of any anthracite coal mine."

This act was good as far as it went, but Pennsylvania is still under the disgrace of permitting boys of twelve years to work in soft coal mines, and the act introduced in the last legislature was designed primarily to raise the age limit in the bituminous workings to fourteen years for boys working inside. To this end the first section of the act of 1909, which goes into effect on January 1, reads:

Fight Over Two Words

"From and after the passage of this act, no minor, under the age of fourteen years, shall be employed, permitted or suffered to work in, about or for any bituminous coal mine, or any anthracite colliery or breaker."

The expression, "anthracite colliery," is the point on which the whole case hinges. Under the ruling made by Chief Roderick upon interpretation of Deputy Attorney Cunningham, an "anthracite colliery" is an anthracite mine as a whole, including inside workings as well as outside, so that the act permits boys less than sixteen to work inside.

Prized Belies Are in Danger

Washington, Dec. 29.—Relief of a prehistoric race in Colorado will be lost unless prompt action is taken to prevent deterioration by exposure to the elements. This statement is made in a report by Superintendent Randolph of Mesa Verde National park in Colorado making a plea for the preservation of the historic spots within the reservation.

600 SOCIALISTS ARE PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA

South American Republic Has Adopted the Tactics of Tyrant Diaz

RADICAL PAPERS MUZZLED

Party Headquarters Closed; Aid for Prisoners and Families Asked

The progressive Argentine Republic is taking its place in line with Russia, Mexico, and numerous other supposed, allied, countries in its treatment of its people, according to an international circular being sent out by the Socialist party of that country.

This circular has been received at the national office of the Socialist party of the United States and reads as follows:

"The government of this republic has declared military law through the nation on account of the death of the chief of police, M. Ramon Falcon, killed by a bomb last Sunday."

"This Chief of Police Falcon is the same man who on the first of May of the present year massacred the working people and thereby provoked a general strike, in which the Socialist party played a very important role."

Socialist Press Muzzled

"This military law has caused a great damage to our Socialist and labor organizations. The Socialist press has been forbidden to appear. Our daily, La Vanguardia, has been suppressed. The office of the anarchist paper, La Protesta, has been forcibly entered and its presses destroyed. The headquarters of the Socialists have been closed and are under police supervision. Many of our militants have been put in prison and the editors of our dailies have gone to Los Santos."

"These facts are sufficient to demonstrate the political state of this country. Without constitutional guarantee of our liberty and rights, we are at the mercy of the government and the secret police."

"We pray you to protest through your journals against these barbarous punishments of Russianized Argentina, which express themselves by the unjustified arrest and deprivations."

Ask Aid for Prisoners

"We ask your moral and material aid for our prisoners—more than six hundred—and their families and our journal, La Vanguardia, wounded unto death by the blow of the government over the pretext of punishing terrorism. We await your assistance and your solidarity. Yours fraternally,"

"(Signed) MARIO BRAVO, General Secretary, S. P."

WAYMAN GROWS MORE CAUTIOUS

Will State's Attorney Wayman turn his alleged prosecutions of city grafters into a farce? Rumors issued from his office that the big coal dealers will not be attacked as yet, as he seems determined to go about his work "cautiously."

That the grand jury has found practically nothing to show the existence of a conspiracy between coal dealers and city officials, is a statement often heard around Mr. Wayman's office.

The jury will charge conspiracy to defraud the city of Chicago and obtaining money under false pretenses in its indictments tomorrow. But the indictments will be against only a few small dealers, who will be dragged into Mr. Wayman's net apparently to show that the office is "doing something."

Tomorrow will be the last session of the December grand jury, and the indictments will be issued before it adjourns.

SOCIALISTS TO ELECT HYNDMAN

London, Dec. 29.—H. M. Hyndman, Socialist candidate for the house of commons in the special election now being held on the budget bill, is certain of victory, if the enthusiasm with which he is everywhere being received is any indication of success. Hyndman has been a candidate for the house of commons at several elections, each time increasing his vote. Up to the present time he has not, however, polled enough votes to beat out his capitalist opponent.

Excellent Socialist meetings are reported from all parts of the United Kingdom. Scores were unable to gain admission to a meeting held in the town hall at Northampton, where Harry Quelch, editor of Justice, the Socialist weekly of London, was the principal speaker.

STRIKE OF HALF MILLION WORKERS IS THREATENED



CHICAGO'S BIG BUSINESS SCHOOL BOARD HAS AT LAST SUCCEEDED IN TRANSFORMING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL INTO A SWEATSHOP.

DE LARA WON'T ASK TAFT'S AID

Mexican Socialist Explains His Contemplated Washington Trip

(SPECIAL TO THE DAILY SOCIALIST.)

Oakland, Cal., Dec. 28.—L. Gutierrez de Lara, the Mexican Socialist who was imprisoned at Los Angeles, Cal., on the charge that he was an alien anarchist, but released before the case came to trial, has issued the following statement regarding his contemplated trip to Washington, D. C.:

"In regard to my trip to Washington, I wish to say that I am not going there to ask President Taft to pardon my countrymen and comrades in the penitentiaries of the southwest. I did not start out with that intention."

"A prominent senator has offered his assistance, and I am going to Washington to urge a full investigation by the house and the senate in regard to the cases of the Mexican political refugees in order that further persecution of these men may cease."

Not Mercy, but Justice

It is said that Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin has offered his aid to secure an investigation. The Mexican refugees in prison claim they do not want mercy at the hands of President Taft or any other official of the United States government. All they want is that justice be shown them.

TAFT TO BUST TRUSTS AGAIN

Washington, D. C., Dec. 29.—President Taft has begun the preparation of the first of his special messages to congress. This message will deal with the amendments which he believes are necessary in the interstate commerce and Sherman anti-trust acts. Recent reports to the contrary notwithstanding, it is known that the president will take up the anti-trust act and deal with it at great length.

He also will bring forward his ideas as to issuing federal licenses to corporations.

STEWART WILL SHAKE UP POLICE HEADS JANUARY 1

Another "shakeup" in the police department which may hit lieutenants, captains and inspectors, is contemplated by Chief Stewart for the first of the year, according to reports about the city hall. The chief would not deny the truth of the reports today. He declared that in future he would not make his plans known to any one outside of his office.

ASYLUM INMATE SLAIN BY NURSE

Male Attendants Outraged Insane Women, Declare Witnesses in Probe

New York, Dec. 29.—The probing of the Essex County Hospital for the Insane by the freeholders' investigation committee in Newark, N. J., is continuing to unearth amazing revelations and manifold discrepancies in the records of that institution.

Leonard H. Conant, the expert for the committee, called attention to the fact that 400 names which appeared on the statistical registry did not appear on the medical registry, and that the bookkeeping record, known as the statistical record, showed that about 8,000 had been entered since 1872, while an estimate of the number of patients entered on the medical record registry, which only goes back to November, 1884, would probably reach 4,500.

Skeleton Reveals Murder

But the most sensational discovery and the one that engenders the attention of the committee, is the mystery of the skeleton, which was discovered by bystanders who gathered to see the institution move on August 17, from South Orange avenue to Overbrook, N. J., where it is now located.

According to one witness, Mrs. Francisco Hinkel, of 256 Washington street, Newark, N. J., the skeleton is the body of a woman whom she saw killed by one of the nurses of that institution on February 25, 1904. She saw this, she said, when she visited her daughter, who has been an inmate of the asylum. Mrs. Hinkel told her story to the committee, but said that she was only allowed to tell very little and was shut up when she was about to tell of the horrible treatment of her own daughter.

Assault Insane Women

Mrs. Hinkel's story is a pitiful record of cruelty, murder and rape that had been practiced within the walls of that asylum by male nurses and doctors, on the friendless, unfortunate inmates, many of whom had no relatives and who were buried in potter's field when their miserable lives came to an end.

Her experience with that institution, she said, cost her every cent she ever saved and it sent her husband to an untimely grave. She is now living with her son at the above address and maintains herself by doing some sewing in a shoe factory. The son is a metal worker, and and Altheimer, who works but three days a week.

Cook Namesake Drops Name

New York, Dec. 29.—John H. Thirney, New York philanthropist and educator, will ask the courts to permit the re-naming of his youngest son, born September 14, and named in honor of Dr. Frederick Cook.

DEBS SPEAKS IN CITY NEXT MONTH

Mammoth Meeting in Defense of Free Press Takes Place on January 13

Eugene V. Debs will speak in Chicago January 13 at Orchestra hall in the campaign now being conducted to arouse public sentiment against the persecution of the Socialist press.

This meeting is to be one of the biggest protests against the gagging of a free press ever held in the United States. It will be followed immediately by another monster meeting in St. Louis, Mo., just before the hearing in the appeal of the case of Fred D. Warren, managing editor of the Appeal to Reason.

The Warren case has attracted attention throughout the world, being commented on by the press in many countries. One of the latest of the articles on the case appears in the Worker of Johannesburg, South Africa. It is by Councillor J. F. Trembath and gives the history of the fight to emancipate the press, with conclusions to be drawn from it. The article says in part:

The Early Struggle

"Few episodes in the history of the democracy appeal to us more than the long and fierce struggle for the emancipation of the press. The early pamphleteers risked fortune, liberty, life in the struggle. Milton pleaded for a free and unrestricted press in language which will never die, and was rewarded by imprisonment and fine and by burning of his pamphlets by the common hangman; Defoe, the greatest of English publicists, was compelled to live in hiding, was ruined by heavy fines, was imprisoned for nearly a year, and was exposed to the indignity of standing in the pillory for three days; Dean Swift had a price on his head; Steele was expelled from the house of commons, and hundreds of other men and women have suffered indignity and oppression in the same noble cause."

"When George Jacob Holboke, with the haunting memory of his earlier imprisonment before him, fearlessly resolved to free the press of Britain from the 'tax on knowledge,' the stamp duty on newspapers, he adopted the novel expedient of publishing several newspapers, all of which were minus the requisite stamp. He recklessly incurred penalties amounting to \$300,000, and the fiscal attempt to collect this sum was the removal of the obnoxious duties and the institution of the penny press."

Eags Gladstone's Son

"This was half a century ago, but we do not seem to have advanced very far in the interval. Was it not only a few weeks ago that a son of William Ewart Gladstone followed up his father's triumphant repeal of the paper duties by confiscating a whole issue of that breezy little Socialist journal, Justice?"

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Switchmen, Telegraphers and Other Railroad Men of Nation May Quit

NEGOTIATIONS FUTILE

Last Hope for Rail Peace Is in Conference Called at Washington

Prospects of a general strike of railroad workers are looming big on the labor horizon again today as one of the immediate results of the abrupt termination of the negotiations in the switchmen's strike at St. Paul.

Union officials declared flatly that all negotiations with the railroads have been definitely terminated and that the general walkout, which they regard as possible, will affect all of the allied orders belonging to the railway branch of the American Federation of Labor. These include unions of telegraphers, boiler makers, machinists, freight handlers, clerks, switchmen, car workers, blacksmiths and maintenance of way employes. Their combined strength is placed at 500,000 members.

Perham in Final Peace Move

H. B. Perham, president of the telegraphers, who has been acting as chairman of the delegation of union officials at St. Paul, has left for Washington, D. C., where, he said, he would seek the aid of the federal government in a final effort to secure peace.

"What if your efforts to secure the intervention of the government fail?" was asked of Mr. Perham.

"Then there undoubtedly will be a general strike," he answered.

It was announced by President Hawley of the Switchmen's union that several other railroad union officials who have been participating in the peace negotiations have left St. Paul for their respective headquarters to make preparations for a strike of their organizations.

"There are ten organizations in the railway branch of the American Federation of Labor, with a combined strength of half a million men, and before they would permit one union to be destroyed, all would join in the fight," declared S. E. Heberling, first vice president of the switchmen's union, who is in Chicago.

"Our branch of the American Federation of Labor is strong enough to put a good many railroads in the hands of receivers."

Government Asked to Act

President Hawley and Mr. Perham called on Gov. Eberhardt at St. Paul and asked him to invite the interstate commerce commission to intercede. The governor replied that he did not care to act on this request until he had consulted the attorney general who is now out of the city. When Mr. Perham first reaches Washington he will appeal to members of the interstate commerce commission, and that if this mission fails he will then carry the whole matter up to President Taft.

The railroad officials are held directly responsible for the breaking off of the strike negotiations. They refused to reinstate the strikers at once. The final disagreement came when Third Vice President Slade of the Northern Pacific and J. M. Gruber, general manager of the Great Northern, handed Gov. Eberhardt a written document in which they stated again their willingness to submit the matter of wages and hours of labor to the Chicago conference, but that they could not agree to reinstate the men at once.

Railroads Become Arrogant

On the other hand, they pointed out, they would agree to take back the switchmen who walked out, as rapidly as vacancies occur.

"Friday we were on the verge of a settlement with the railroads, and we thought the matter would be fixed up," said Perham, in reviewing the situation. "But the railroads suddenly presented a mysterious change of front and assumed such arrogance that we decided at once to have nothing more to do with them."

James B. Connors, third vice president of the Switchmen's Union of North America, and one of the union officials in charge of the wage negotiations between the railroads and the switchmen's organization, which have been in progress for some time, declined to forecast the ultimate effect of the situation that developed in St. Paul.

All Railroad Unions to Confer

Washington, D. C., Dec. 28.—Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, explained the coming conference of the leaders of the railroad department of the federation as a step in the general agitation for increases of salary all along the line for railroad men.

While the four big railroad brotherhoods—the engineers, the conductors, the firemen and the trainmen—are not

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TAFT PERMITS CRIMINAL WASTE OF PUBLIC FUND

His Rule Will Surpass That
of Squanderer Roosevelt
for Extravagance

BALLINGER GLUTS SELF

Big Appropriations Demanded
While Country's Treasury Is Depleted

(SPECIAL TO THE DAILY SOCIALIST.)
Washington, Dec. 29.—The much heralded Taft policy of "cut-to-the-quick" economy has already been sidetracked. Every indication is that the cost of running the government under President Taft will be greater than under Roosevelt, when the National expenses reached a higher figure than at any time in the history of the nation.

With the deficit for the first six months of the present fiscal year amounting to over \$28,000,000, and while arrangements are being made for a bond issue of \$100,000,000 to replenish the treasury, the work of creating new positions in all the departments is going steadily on. New clerkships are being created by the score, and they are all for men friendly to the Taft-Aldrich-Cannon wing of the party in power. There are not even crumbs for the insurgents.

A careful examination of the appropriations asked for in the various departments for 1910 fails to reveal downward revision. The party leaders apparently do not agree with the president that it is good politics to retrench. Political machines thrive best under a policy of liberal appropriations. Figures show that even Mr. Taft's cabinet officers failed to comprehend the meaning of his announced policy of "cut-to-the-quick economy."

Ballinger Wants Help

Here are some of the latest estimates and increases asked by Mr. Ballinger, secretary of the Interior:

Office of the secretary—One additional assistant attorney, at \$2,500; an increase; returns office clerk, \$400; nine skilled laborers, at \$720 each; contingent expenses, increase asked, \$10,000; rent of buildings, additional for civil service commission, \$5,500.

Patent Office—Increase of one principal examiner, \$2,700; increase of five first assistant examiners, at \$2,400; increase of second assistant examiners, at \$2,100; increase of ten third assistant examiners, at \$1,500 each.

A search through the army appropriation bill, as prepared by the "cut-to-the-quick" economists who are acting under the immediate direction of the president, fails to reveal a single item suggestive of the advertised retrenchment. On the very first page \$40,000 is charged to "contingencies." Last year the amount was but \$14,000. It was expected that the signal service would be cut, but not so. The amount asked is \$250,000, the same as last year. In the hospital corps the enormous sum of \$945,168 was appropriated last year. The bill as prepared this year carries \$1,065,572; increase, \$115,504. In the medical department the appropriation last year was \$1,300,000; this year it is \$1,400,000.

Ruthless Extravagance

Eight years ago, in 1902, the aggregate appropriation for the support of the government was \$890,667,138; last year, \$1,944,014,293. Indications are that a new record for extravagance will be established this year, reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

YOUTH HOLDS POSSE AT BAY

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 29.—Barricaded in the home of a friend, apparently desperate in the belief that he had killed his mother and ignorant of the fact that she doubtless will recover, James F. Roach, scarcely more than a youth, is holding a posse at bay on the outskirts of Memphis. The youth declared he would not be taken alive, and a battle to the death is looked for soon. Every door is watched by the posse.

PASTOR AND WIFE ARE SLAIN; INDIANA TRAGEDY A MYSTERY

Washington, Ind., Dec. 29.—The Rev. William Ritter and his wife were found slain in their home near Ellettsburg, Ind. A glove found on the stairway near which lay the body of the man is the only clue to the slayers. It is not known when the couple were killed. They have been alone since Friday.

While the officers hold the theory that the Ritters were murdered there is some evidence to show Ritter choked his wife to death and then took poison to end his own life. If the couple ever quarreled it is not known. There had been no attempt to rob the home.

A double crime was discovered by Ritter's brother and wife, a young couple who made their home with the Ritters. They found the bodies when they returned from Berea City, where they had gone on Friday to spend Christmas with Mrs. Ritter's parents.

The Hustlers' Column SOMETHING NEW

Here is just what you have been looking for—a clubbing proposition. This is your opportunity to get several papers at a "rock bottom" price. These rates were never made before and are liable to be withdrawn in a short time. It's a "straight from the shoulder" business proposition—you get more for every dollar than a dollar ever bought.

It's just like taking your money from one pocket and putting it in the other. The prices are squeezed, cut, slashed, smashed, twisted, and hammered down. It's a wholesale bargain. ACT NOW.

OFFER No. 1			
The Daily Socialist	(For)		
and	(one)	\$3.50	
The International Socialist Review	(year)		
OFFER No. 2			
The Chicago Daily Socialist	(For)		
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The Chicago Daily Socialist	(For)		
and	(one)	\$6.00	
The New York Daily Call	(year)		
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The Chicago Daily Socialist	(For)		
and	(one)	\$7.25	
The New York Sunday and Daily Call	(year)		

CONDITIONS OF THESE OFFERS

For the International Socialist Review and the New York Call NEW subscriptions must be sent.
For the Daily Socialist either NEW SUBS or RENEWALS will be accepted. START THE NEW YEAR RIGHT BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF SOME ONE OF THE ABOVE CLUBBING RATES.

A PAPER FOR PROGRESSIVE AND THINKING PEOPLE

Please Send THE DAILY SOCIALIST

One Year, \$3.00 Six Months, \$1.50 Four Months, \$1.00
Three Months, 75 cents Two Months, 50 Cents
In Chicago, by carrier, same rates. Carrier will collect.

Name.....

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If you live in Chicago, mention which flat.

Bear in mind that this is the only daily paper in Chicago which gives news and editorial comment from the viewpoint of the worker. The other papers are printed in the interest of the employers and capitalists. Once you get to know the Chicago Daily Socialist you will depend upon it for all news of interest to the wealth producers.

Two happy New Year ones with a renewal come from Edward A. Wieck, Staunton, Ill.
It's great when you get your Irish up. Here is C. L. Irish of Maricopa, Ore., with a plump and rosy renewal and an extra one for a renewal. It's better than you can use some of that Irish that's in you to good advantage for the cause.

Two more couples come promouncing into the office. The first couple are renewals and the second are new recruits. They are chaperoned by John T. Shaffer, Quincy, Ill.

With best wishes for the cause, Comrade A. Murray, Staunton, Ind., puts his name down for another year and then trims it up a little by adding a new one.

The farmers are coming out red hot for Socialism. John Kent, Waukegan, Iowa, a member of that profession, sends in three dollars for a renewal. It's hotter out in the country than in the summer.

Five plunks for sub cards is plunked down by George H. Gebbard, Foster, Ohio.
"I handed this sub while distributing a bundle of Dailies," writes J. R. Smith, Mount Olive, Ill., as he comes in his capture. Get on to the wisdom of his way.

N. W. Olson, Brainerd, Minn., hands in five class-conscious dollars and takes in return subscriptions and revolutionary sub cards.
That class in effective speaking is effective. It does something else besides speaking. Just handed over ten dollars as a donation. Wish everybody could speak that way.

"The Daily has come to be a necessity," writes W. A. Rich, Taboga, Idaho, "for we all of us cannot be rich, but most of us can renew."

A BRIGHT IDEA.
Dear Comrades: I did not renew my sub for the reason that I am seldom at home to read it. Besides, I have been laboring with the brethren at the Y. M. C. A. trying to induce them to allow their young men to hear both sides of the industrial dispute that divides the civilized world into two warring camps. I am glad to say that they have decided that the foundations of society will not be wholly destroyed and the structure sink into primitive chaos if the Socialists have a representative in their reading room. So I am instructed by good St. Nick to favor the Y.

MARKETS

WINTER WHEAT—Up 1/4c. Sales, 10,000 bu. No. 1 red in store, \$1.22 1/4; No. 2 hard, \$1.18 1/4; No. 3, \$1.16 1/4.

SPRING WHEAT—Up 1/4c. Sales, 10,000 bu. No. 1 northern in store, \$1.18 1/4; No. 2, \$1.16 1/4; No. 3, \$1.14 1/4. Sales, 5,000 bu. No. 1 yellow, \$1.18 1/4; No. 2, \$1.16 1/4; No. 3, \$1.14 1/4. Sales, 5,000 bu. No. 1 white, \$1.18 1/4; No. 2, \$1.16 1/4; No. 3, \$1.14 1/4.

CATTLE—At six western markets, \$2.62, against \$2.60 a week ago. Total for 1909 to date \$5,520,000, against \$5,500,000 same period 1908.

HOGS—An advance of 10c per head the average price to \$24.00 or 10c higher than last Friday, and so above one week ago. Highest bid \$24.00. No. 1 Fancy \$24.00; No. 2, \$23.50; No. 3, \$23.00; No. 4, \$22.50.

SHEEP—Shippers did not send many sheep or lambs to market and the \$2.00 estimate was about one-half of what many expected. Prices were generally \$2.00 higher than last Friday.

POULTRY—Live, per lb. Turkeys, 16c; fowls, 12c; ducks, 10c; geese, 8c; chickens, 6c.

Two Slain in N. Y. Tong War
New York, Dec. 29.—Determined to smother Chinatown's renewal of the tong feuds, which resulted in the murder of two persons in the night, the police department had quadrupled the ordinary force of patrolmen in the oriental section.

Make Merry: Are Robbed
Burglars who entered the home of Charles Kaufman, 5026 Grand boulevard, and stole furs, jewelry and silverware valued at more than \$2,000, are said to have hauled their booty away in a wagon. At the time of the raid Mr. and Mrs. Kaufman were attending a Christmas celebration at the home of their son, a block away.

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CAPITAL PLAYED BY PATTERSON

Corruption in High Places
Dramatically Exposed in
"The Fourth Estate"

Once the genial and kindly Louis XI of France had an "astrologer" who guessed wrong once too often and so the gracious king invited the star gazer to the royal chamber and introduced him to the royal hangman. Then the seer bethought him of a way out of the difficult and said:

"Kling, I have just cast your horoscope and I find that your death will very shortly follow mine." Thereupon Louis reconsidered and the seer lived on.

All those financiers who have fumed over the Standard Oil fine and other things should see "The Fourth Estate," at the Grand Opera House and receive comfort from the words of Edward Dwyer, lawyer, who played by Neil Moran, says: "The federal courts are the final bulwark—'Yes,' is the reply of Ross McHenry, 'the bulwark of capital in distress.' McHenry, at the opening of the play is managing editor of the 'Advance,' and in the sub-servience of McHenry to the interests of the great advertisers, Joseph Medill Patterson and Harriet Ford, authors of the piece, show the plight of the modern newspaper."

The Bribing Judge

In the role of Donald Barthelmy, federal judge, Charles A. Stevenson presents a suave lawyer who, after persisting through clever intrigue in maintaining public respect, is finally photographed while tendering a bribe of \$10,000 for the suppression of a story of his visit to the house of a corporation lawyer, just prior to the rendering of an unpopular decision. After he is "unmasked" and standing in the composing room of the "Advance," wherein lies the first page form with the judge's picture, as he offered the hush money, Judge Barthelmy says:

"I rendered my decision as I saw the law, for the ultimate good of the people, the indirect good. If certain people saw fit to pay for my decisions, that was their affair. I took the money."

As a foil to the suave judge is Michael Nolan, played by Thomas Findlay. Nolan is a wealthy mine owner afflicted with a family desiring social position. Nolan first visits "The Advance," which he has bought, when one of the initial stories against Judge Barthelmy is about to be suppressed because Edward Dupuy, lobbyist, has threatened to kill the paper's advertising. Nolan then

discloses his identity as Jerry Dolan, a former street car man, whom Judge Barthelmy sent to jail for contempt of court.

"I was blacklisted," says Nolan, in explanation of the change in his name. Wheeler Brand, said by many to be modeled somewhat after Brand Whitlock, mayor of Toledo, is the play's hero. He is a newspaper enthusiast who wants to print the truth and what is more to the point knows how to get it. A little agency is introduced into the play by making Charles Waldron in the role of Brand fall in love with the daughter of Judge Barthelmy, the judge whom he is muckraking.

Realism That Grips
The most dramatic moment in the piece comes when a flashlight goes off as the judge tenders Brand a \$10,000 bribe. The judge asks:

"What is that?"
Brand answers: "A picture of you in stripes, Judge Barthelmy."

In defiance of the owner of the "Advance" Brand prints the bribery story and is plainly told that he has shut himself off from the newspaper world. Whereupon the judge's daughter falls on Brand's neck and Brand says that he will take to the soapbox. The girl says, "Maybe the halls of congress."

To which he answers, "Maybe the barricade."
The play has the unique virtue of originality. It is unlike anything the prolific playwrights have ever offered and it depicts newspaper life as realistically as it is possible to serve it up within the limits of a stage. There is a fund of humor to lighten the serious preachments and the character drawing is delicious. That the author has intimately seen the bourgeoisie at its worst is proved by the feminine portion of the Nolan family. A large audience gave enthusiastic indorsement to the play.

THE
MILLS OF
MAMMON

BY JAMES H. BROWNE

Four hundred and ninety-one pages of forceful narrative that is rousing an entire continent from its sleep and making it sit up and take notice.

Seventy-one chapters of a masterpiece, written by a man inspired with the fire of the Social Revolution. Indorsed by all Socialists and all its readers.

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A. M. Simons, editor of the Chicago Daily Socialist, says: "This book might well be described as a cross section of Capitalism seen through the eyes of a wage worker. All the figures of such a society are there. We have a capitalist, and he is a typical capitalist, too, and not a Davenport cartoon of a monster decorated with dollar marks. There is the Socialist working man, and the author is able to hold him down to only one speech in the whole book, which must have been pretty hard on both author and hero, but for which the reader owes a debt of gratitude. Its characters are alive, with real flesh on their bones."

"I Am Delighted With It," Says Deba.

"The Mills of Mammon," by James H. Browne, has been a long time in the writing. I knew of this book through my confidential relation with the author a long time ago, and I have been eagerly looking for it ever since. At last it has come and I am delighted with it. It is a large book, almost five hundred pages, strikingly illustrated and gotten up in admirable style, and it has all the appearance of a standard work inside and outside, and when I say it is a large book, I mean it is large in every sense of the term. This book was not written in a hurry; it has been years in preparation, and is the ripe production of the author's genius."—Eugene V. Debs.

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THE CHICAGO DAILY SOCIALIST

Entered as second-class matter, Dec. 22, 1906, at P. O. Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879. Issued by the Workers' Publishing Society, 180-182 Washington St., Chicago, Ill. NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER (ALL DEPARTMENTS) FRANKLIN 1108

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The Postoffice Deficit

The postmaster general is very much alarmed at the increasing postal deficit. It now amounts to about \$17,000,000 a year, or about the cost of one of the latest types of battleships, which are now being planned. The report of the postmaster general goes into great length to explain the source of this deficit. He finds that while the carrying of first-class mail brings in a huge profit there is a deficit of \$65,000,000 on the second class. There is no consideration of how much of the other class of mail is sent as a result of the publication of the journals that are carried as second class, a consideration that goes far to destroy the whole argument.

The railroads are paid \$50,000,000 a year, and in spite of the assurance of the report that this sum is now fixed by competitive weighing and cannot be reduced, it is a notorious fact that the private mail car graft, by which some of the cars are paid for two or three times a year, would more than account for the whole actual deficit of \$17,000,000. But there is no suggestion that this graft should be interfered with.

The whole force of the report is directed against the second-class rate. Here, again, there is careful discrimination. The greatest dailies are treated with elaborate consideration and no mention is made of the tens of thousands of country newspapers that are carried absolutely free within county limits.

The whole animus of the report is directed at the magazines and the weekly and monthly publications in general.

Is it hard to see why this is so?

The great dailies are still controlled by the capitalist class. The little country papers can be largely controlled through "patent insides," "plate matter," ready-made editorials, and, not infrequently, by direct bribery.

But the monthlies and the weeklies are still in a large degree independent. They include the entire labor press, with the exception of a half-dozen struggling dailies, that contain promises of becoming a powerful force in the future, but whose influence is still restricted in comparison with the capitalist press. It includes all the magazines whose exposures have galled the system's flanks, even though they have left its vitals unscathed.

Two schemes are proposed by which to reach this remnant of an independent press and curb its power. The first is a direct increase in the rate for second-class postage. Unfortunately, this would interfere with some of the powerful daily organs of the ruling class. So another scheme has been evolved. It is proposed to throw overboard the whole principle upon which postal charges are based—that of one rate regardless of distance—and to introduce a "zone system" of charges. Since the dailies circulate almost exclusively within comparatively narrow circles this would exempt these, with the very desirable exception of the Socialist dailies, that have a continent-wide circulation. It would land with crushing force upon the hated remnant of a free press issued weekly or monthly.

That the suppression of a free press and not increased income is the object sought is seen in the fact that there is no recommendation of a parcels post, such as every other civilized country possesses, and the establishment of which would pay the deficit many times over. But the express companies object to a parcels post.

Extending the Circle

The consolidation of the street railways of Chicago raises some suggestions concerning the course of future development. There has been quite a general agreement that street railways must ultimately be owned and operated by a municipality. This consolidation includes several lines extending beyond the limits of Chicago. It will undoubtedly include many more as the process of concentration goes on. Some of these extend into another state.

Power is to be furnished by the Commonwealth-Edison company. But one branch of this company is the Economy Light and Power company. This is located at Joliet, where it has coolly pre-empted by "squatter right" the power created by the building of the drainage canal. It is, however, far outside the city limits of Chicago.

All these things do not constitute an argument against municipal ownership. They simply show that such ownership is wholly inadequate to solve any problem. They illustrate how closely linked together is modern industrial life and how wide must be the circle that shall embrace any unit of that life.

A WORD TO CULINARY WORKERS

BY FRED EBERLING, COOKS' UNION, 885

There may be many members of old Hotel and Restaurant Employers' Union who will not agree with me, but really, when you consider the sacrifices made and the energy wasted in past organizations, you find at the bottom of it all the one thing—lack of experience—ignorance.

It has been an important factor for the past in past unions and it is hard to put the light of knowledge in the brains of the average culinary worker. Rent, profit and interest separate the wage worker from his wage payer—his employer or exploiter—and the gulf in the social sphere of the two is getting bigger and bigger.

When a printer goes to work he uses a machine, a printing press, a linotype, and knowing that these machines, this shop is his livelihood—he naturally has the desire springing up in him to own and control his livelihood, to own and control his machine and his shop.

Consequently he discusses the benefits of this condition with his fellow laborers and forms a union to attain his ends; consequently he works 8 hours a day and is respected in proportion as he respects himself.

The culinary worker does most of his work by hand, the employer or his agents—chefs, stewards, head waiters—are always moving around them and watching the processes of the work. The good worker gets the pleasant look, the slap on the back, the hot air talk

OMNIPOTENCE AND TOM LAWSON

BY JOSEPH E. COHEN

In a series of discussions which Robert G. Ingersoll had with Rev. Dr. Witt Talmage, the famous agnostic asked the preacher to inform him out of what God created the earth. To this question, Talmage replied that it was out of "His omnipotence."

However unsatisfactory the explanation was to Ingersoll and the free thinkers generally, Talmage felt that it was sufficient. And Talmage never thought of advancing the opinion that when he was created, some of the original omnipotence was transmitted down to him. Or if he entertained such an idea, he was too modest to try to create an earth of his own.

Thomas W. Lawson of Boston is a different caliber of man. For months and months he poured forth a stream of vitriolic English to inform the reading public that "this system" of Wall Street financiers were enriching themselves by hundreds of millions of dollars, for which they returned no equivalent. Lawson termed these "made" dollars. He told how, on one occasion, thirty-six millions of dollars were "made" by the stroke of a pen in a deal on copper.

Lawson assured his readers that he knew what he was talking about. He confided to them that he had been the most trusted "street man" for the "system." He let them into the secret that "the system" always selected Thomas W. to put through any particularly delicate piece of business. In fact, he led one to suppose that if "the system" made its money out of its omnipotence, that omnipotence was no other than Thomas W. Lawson of Boston.

However that may be, "the system" yearned for a little excitement, and invited it by dismissing Lawson from its service. Lawson accepted the challenge.

He began laying a most gigantic plan to crush "the system." His campaign was so magnificent that even Thomas W. Lawson of Boston became enthusiastic over it. Even that gentleman was convinced, after reading thousands of pages of his magazine articles and thousands of lines of his advertisements, that "the system's" tenure of life was not worth the proverbial thirty cents.

The Hon. E. S. Hammond of Blackville, S. C., the owner of an interesting leaflet, which tells the story of William Bass.

William was a negro who resided in the district of Marlborough, state of South Carolina, "before the war."

Unlike many of his race at that time he was not a slave. In official records he was described as "a free person of color." According to many philanthropic well-wishers of his race, William ought to have been, therefore, a very happy man.

Many other negroes envied William as a "free person of color." Willingly they sacrificed much, and in some cases risked their lives that they might become free, like William Bass.

But William could not understand why other negroes should envy him. Freedom? Bah! What was freedom without work, without bread? He was willing to exchange his freedom for slavery. As a "free person of color" he might starve; as a slave he would at least be sure of food and shelter.

Yes, William Bass wanted to become a slave. He was tired of being a starving "free person of color." So he went to Lawyer Townsend and got him to draw up a

petition to the state legislature, praying that august body to permit him to become a slave, and to give Mr. Philip W. Pledger full legal authority to become his master and owner.

William's petition set forth that his position as a free negro involved more suffering than that of a slave; that he was very poor, though able bodied, and that he was without house or home, and in greater destitution than the slaves of many of the planters in the district. The petition was signed "William X Bass."

Whether the legislature granted William's petition and permitted him to become a slave, I do not know. Let us hope so, for the reasons advanced in the petition seem to prove that he could only be benefited by the change.

You, kind reader, may not readily understand how a free negro could desire to become a slave. But if you have been miserably poor, destitute, homeless, workless and hopeless, you will understand.

The Irish laborer I met yesterday had never heard of William Bass, but he was hungry and out of a job. His wife and children were hungry, too. So he understood.

"By the Saints! We're worse off than the niggers in slavery days," he said.

His petition to the state legislature, praying that august body to permit him to become a slave, and to give Mr. Philip W. Pledger full legal authority to become his master and owner.

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WILLIAM X BASS

Mark

BY JOHN SPARGO

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"By the Saints! We're worse off than the niggers in slavery days," he said.

His petition to the state legislature, praying that august body to permit him to become a slave, and to give Mr. Philip W. Pledger full legal authority to become his master and owner.

William's petition set forth that his position as a free negro involved more suffering than that of a slave; that he was very poor, though able bodied, and that he was without house or home, and in greater destitution than the slaves of many of the planters in the district. The petition was signed "William X Bass."

Whether the legislature granted William's petition and permitted him to become a slave, I do not know. Let us hope so, for the reasons advanced in the petition seem to prove that he could only be benefited by the change.

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TO THE EDITOR



The Conspiracy.

Dear Comrade: I enclose a clipping from today's Boston Traveler which explains itself.

This in addition to rumors about the formation of a labor party in which the names of Simons, Hunter, Berger and Spargo have been mentioned, leads me to believe that there is some private work being done.

If you have any information covering this matter I would thank you for it, and I ask you further to see to it that it is given prominence in the Socialist press.

If the published statement be true I want to advise you that as far as Massachusetts is concerned the members here will require something more than an alliance by so-called leaders with any outside body without their previous knowledge and consent.

I trust the rumors contained in the article have no basis in fact, but in any event the comrades who are so generously dealing with the party's future without the party's knowledge and consent will receive the treatment they deserve.

JAMES F. CAREY, State Secretary, Boston, Mass., Dec. 23, 1909.

The following is the "clipping" referred to:

Traveler Bureau, Washington, D. C., Dec. 23, 1909.

By JERRY A. MATHEWS.

A political movement of momentous significance, organized to combat both of the great parties, has just been directed to the attention of the Republican leaders in congress. It is nothing more nor less than the formation of an offensive and defensive alliance by the dominant spirits of the American Federation of Labor, headed by Samuel Gompers, on the one hand, and representatives of the Social Democratic party, on the other.

Only the bare outlines of the alliance are known to Republican leaders, but the facts now in their possession are such as to warrant a belief on their part that in the very near future, probably in the congressional elections of 1910, a force will be at work in the world of politics inimical alike to prominent Democrats and prominent Republicans.

This movement looking to the organization of the Socialist and labor vote into a solid phalanx had its inception in the inner councils of the American Federation of Labor.

As the story goes Gompers, acting in conjunction with Socialist leaders, called a conference at which the details of the plan to combine the two forces for effective use in politics was discussed at length. It was decided that the movement could not be successful unless it was properly financed. Agents were set to work to see what they could accomplish in this respect.

According to the man who first called the matter to the attention of the Republican leaders the results were surprising. Representatives of labor came to the front, as did the Socialists, and promises were obtained that assured well for the raising of a formidable campaign fund. In this connection were mentioned the names of J. G. Phelps Stokes of New York, the millionaire Socialist; Jack London, the author, and Upton Sinclair, author and leader among Socialists.

After assurances had been received that the plan could be properly financed, another conference was held to map out a plan of action against men in public life hostile to legislation dear to the heart of the Socialist and approved by labor organizations. It was decided that for the present at least the campaign should be waged quietly. The employment of a dozen or more "organizers" was authorized. These were empowered to travel throughout the country and confer with men who could be expected to join a movement encouraged by the labor unions and the Socialist leaders.

Gompers made an unsuccessful effort in the campaign of 1908 to drag the American Federation of Labor into the contest against Taft. Gompers entered the fight himself, contrary to the advice of his associates, and he was whipped out of his boots. The result was entire repudiation of a Socialist who was opposed to the conversion of labor unions into political organizations, but who was favorable to the formation of a party made up in part of Socialists and in part of men affiliated with organizations of labor.

J. A. MATHEWS.

As one of those referred to in the above letter and clipping I want to say that it is false in every particular. No such conference was ever held with Gompers. No conference took place at Toronto between the members of N. E. C. who were there and anyone except other members of the Socialist party.

No proposal to start a labor party was ever made by any member of the Socialist party at such conferences as were held. It was recognized that such a party was possible, and its probable effect upon the Socialist party was discussed by the Socialist members among themselves.

No member of the N. E. C. has ever suggested that an alliance should be made with any labor party through any action of the N. E. C.

The only conspiracy of which I have seen any signs is on the part of some would-be leaders, some of whom are not members of the Socialist party, none of whom have ever taken a part in any actual labor movement, to capture the machinery of the present Socialist party and use it for the establishment of a movement at war with every principle of Socialism as endorsed by our national convention and the referendum, and the resolutions of every national and international Socialist gathering ever held. Those who are engineering this conspiracy have resorted to every form of character assassination and calumny on the eve of an election in the hope of stampeding the membership into handing the party over to them.

So far as I know the men referred to in the letter of Comrade Carey believe in maintaining the Socialist party on the lines laid down at the last convention and endorsed by the referendum. They realize that no Socialist party on earth has ever amounted to anything that did not work in co-operation with the economic organization of the workers. They have sought to reach and make Socialists out of the

rank and file of organized labor, hoping thereby to turn the strength of such organizations into political action through the Socialist party.

In so doing they seem to have aroused the anger of a number of non-proletarians who are seeking to turn the Socialist party into a sect, out of touch with labor, and, evidently, to be controlled by these same non-proletarians. The membership have a chance to decide which road they wish the party to take.

A. M. SIMONS.

Important, If True. Enroute, Dec. 20, 1909.

Dear Mr. Simons: The Tom Sladden article reprinted in the Chicago Daily of November 30, together with your editorial comment, practically indorsing his traitorous position, which virtually advocates the dissolution of the Socialist party, has just been read and marveled at. I wonder if the rank and file to whom you have with such frequency appealed for the life of the paper, and never in vain, do not feel proud of "their" paper? Is it your purpose to wreck the Socialist party which you assume has "so much the matter with it"? To be instrumental in launching some sort of an abortion Labor party in which the leaders can a little more securely satisfy their desire for power than is possible in the S. F. P.

What the matter with the Socialist party? Nothing of vital importance, unless it is that it has permitted a few leaders to continue themselves in office and dictate its policies and management. Furthermore, nothing will be the matter with it in spite of the Chicago Daily Socialist and a few self-ordained leaders to the contrary.

You might use this in your column "What's the Matter With the Socialist Party?" if you desire.

Yours for Socialism, GEO. D. BREWER.

Unfortunately for the logic of the letter, the Daily Socialist editorially denounced instead of indorsing Sladden's letter, and pointed out that he had only traveled the logical road of the ultra-revolutionist. Extremes often meet in the political world. That is the reason Gompers is favoring the French syndicalists.—Editor.