

Industries Paralyzed

While the Begorgerd System of Private Ownership Is Dying of Indigestion

The winter coal situation is an interesting commentary on the powers of capitalist industrial control to supply the material needs of mankind. Even under barbarism the capacity to produce artificial heat was not so menaced. But now the coal lords hold us all in the hollow of their hand. The inter-state commerce commission, the how-not-to-do-it aggregation, the modern circumlocution combination have avowedly been trying to run down the responsibility. The Minneapolis Dispatch says they have run down the "poverty circle." Farmers testified that they could not buy coal for the reason that they could not sell their wheat, and merchants couldn't pay the jobbers for the reason that the farmers could not pay the merchants. Jobbers testified that they were forced to borrow from banks, and cashiers of banks told on the witness stand of how they were compelled to get money from Wall street to tide them over the crises, and that rates of interest had been raised to an exorbitant height by the very men who had caused the car shortage.

The cause is evidently the game of the unprincipled, heartless and soulless big trust to freeze out the small operators, with not the slightest consideration for the misery and death that are the consequence, to say nothing of the general public. In opposition to the "poverty circle" is the "golden chain" of millionaires, promoters, capitalist owners that assist each other to accomplish the desired results. In the yards of the Helena division 375 cars have been standing that needed repairs to fit them for the road. In the various divisions of Montana not less than 700 are lying idle in this manner. Yet the companies have not put on more men to grapple with the situation. The coal miners are drawing less pay than ever, because their product can not be moved, and coal has advanced from \$5.50 to \$6, \$7 and \$8 a ton. The report from Goldfield, Nevada, is that \$80 was paid per ton. The wheels of industry stand still all along the line. Helena is without gas on account of the coal famine. The electric works are threatened, schools are closed, newspapers are unable to get out their editions. Stores, factories, homes are thrown into disorder—all because the lords of life have elected not to give us fuel. The gas company has been spreading the legend broadcast "Cook with Gas." They have held schools to instruct the housewives to make appetizing viands with a gas range, whereupon great quantities of ranges were bought, and lo, there is no gas. The capitalist system of supplying society with necessities is breaking down because of its own complications. Individual dealers cannot serve the public. Municipal coal yards would be able to do business on a scale by which supplies would be perpetually on hand that would abso-

lutely prohibit such a disgraceful crisis as the present. The economic development itself is forcing private industry to the wall. Nearer and nearer comes the dawn of capitalism, and the era proclaimed by the socialists. Then will the political forms change to suit the changed economic forms, and the day of collective efficiency draws near.

Three months before Christmas they call in troops of little children and begin full work and overtime work, making ready for this brave pomp of holidays. There must be preparation for the bulging paper sack and the swollen tarlatan bag of the Christmas tree, for the bottle of striated sticks, and the pudgy "sucker" with its noble lasting quality. Tons upon tons of candy must be prepared for the holiday markets. What irony of civilization is this—one band of children wasting their bodies and souls to make a little joy for the rest! What sardonic mind conceived this caricature of justice, this burlesque of life!

In the East Side factories the children, in the Christmas season, begin their work at 7:30 and keep up till 9 at night, Sunday included. From 7:30 to 9 o'clock at night! Reader, do you take into your heart how long these hours are for little fingers and little feet? But how are these tired workers kept at the wheels? You will not believe me when I tell you that the factory doors are locked to keep the little wage slaves at their tasks till the factory pasha is satisfied with his day's profits. Louis Shrednick, who has worked for years in these American dungeons, says that, in "rush" seasons, "the children are locked in so that they shall not go home till the master's work is done." The secretary of the Hebrew Trades confirms this astounding statement. Here is impression of American citizens! Here is the outrage that in 1812 we thought it worth while to go to war about! What is 1907 going to do about it?—Labor.

Charles S. Simpson, the socialist alderman of Livingston, met with a serious accident last Thursday. While fastening down a piece of work on the big planer in the Livingston machine shops, he had occasion to look at the rear end of the job. While doing so, the machine started up and caught his head between the tool post and a clamp holding the job in position. But for the machine being stopped in time, he would have been killed outright. Comrade Simpson suffered great pain, both his ears being nearly torn off. At this writing we are glad to report that he is on a fair way to recovery.

"In the great Empire state of the greatest republic in history, the purest woman is still politically on a level with the vilest criminal and the most driveling imbecile."—John Spargo in December Craftsmen.

PATRIOT AROUSES FUROR

Gregory Andrievitch Gershuni, the head of the Russian terrorists, who escaped from the mines in Siberia recently in a sauerkraut barrel, last night addressed three thousand men and women in Carnegie hall and received a rousing reception. Men and women, in true eastern style, threw their arms about the man's neck and wept. Every five minutes during his stirring speech of more than an hour and a half he was cheered wildly.

Gershuni spoke in Yiddish. He told the pathetic story of his exile and escape. He declared that not only the czar and his government, but the Rothschilds, who loan money to the autocracy, are responsible for the massacre of the Jews, as the money lenders supply the sinews for the horrible work.

Men prominent in socialistic circles and in the Russian Bund were present to hear Gershuni.

Every word was listened to with rapt attention. His graphic description in Russian held the audience, and when he denounced the czar and his soldiers and called on them to rise

and aid their Russian brethren, he was greeted with tumultuous cheers. A striking scene ensued when at Gershuni's call the entire audience arose and remained standing while the orchestra played the Russian national hymn in honor of those who had been killed in the recent outbreaks.

"I come here," he said, "to get volunteers to fight the flames which are consuming Russia. Every minute you delay in acting you allow the fire to consume 1,000 human beings. I must get the resources to fight the flames of despotism in Russia. The cause of the Russian revolution is the cause of the democracy of all lands. Liberty and social justice are endangered."

While Professor Laughlin was talking about socialist failures he should have mentioned Jack London, Ferri, Lombroso, DeGreef, Alfred Russell Wallace, and a host of others whose names will be writ high in the temple of fame when Laughlin is remembered only as an interesting relic of a dead economic system.—Chicago Socialist.

ANARCHIST SHEET TRADUCES RED LODGE

Under the above heading the Carbon County Republican, the paper that does not get the city printing proceeds to show what it don't know about socialism, and to malign the city administration, which is controlled by the socialists. Below follows the article:

"In its last issue the Montana News, an anarchist newspaper published in Helena, made a scurrilous attack upon the good name of Red Lodge, and headed a column of vicious falsehoods with the following: 'Socialist administration of Red Lodge Enforces State Gambling Law and the Mayor very nearly Loses his Life by the Murderous Law Breakers.' The organ of the lawless riot then goes on to convey the impression that the socialist mayor of Red Lodge is lying awake nights trying to devise some plan whereby he can, at one fell swoop, sweep the gambling evil from off the face of the earth—and that makes the people of Red Lodge who are familiar with the situation laugh muchly.

"The fact of the matter is, there has been no effort worth mentioning upon the part of the socialist administration to enforce the anti-gambling law in this city; it is true that the employees of one house have been arrested upon a charge of gambling but this is attributed more to a personal quarrel than to a desire to maintain the majesty of the law. During the progress of the last election numberless gambling games were openly operated in this city and the socialist administration, doubtless thinking to gain a few votes for its ticket by such a course, winked at this transgression of the law.

"The impression prevails in Red Lodge that if you are in sympathy with the socialist movement you need not be apprehensive as to the consequences and if you be a full-fledged member and if you be a full-fledged member you could manipulate the shell game with perfect impunity.

Another evidence of the profound respect which Red Lodge socialists have for the laws of our country was given last fall when an agitator was permitted to preach anarchy, treason and revolution from the street corners. Instead of throwing the fellow in jail for his seditious and un-American utterances the socialist administration chaperoned him about the city and exalted him as a hero.

"This newspaper sincerely regrets seeing Mayor Austin in the predicament in which he now finds himself, and our advice to him, and it is extended in a spirit of the utmost good feeling, is to rid his administration of the barnacles that are capable only of

imparting injurious counsel, and give us a rational, business-like administration. Drop these petty squabbles and, in an official capacity, at least, think only of the advancement and upbuilding of Red Lodge.

"In the meantime, Mr. Mayor, try and prevent the official organ of your party again gratuitously insulting the citizens of Red Lodge by publishing broadcast that we have a community of 'murderous law breakers.'"

Of course the term "anarchist" is a very intelligent method in this day of throwing odium upon the opposite position of socialism. Such crude subterfuges for argument are to be passed by as childish. The Republican weeps great gobs of tears because the good name of Red Lodge has been violated—always by exposure—never in the deeds themselves, mark you. The Montana News is an "organ of lawless riot" because it exposes the lawlessness of those who are resisting the state statutes. That is certainly good—a most unique course of reasoning—admirably fitted to those who undertake to justify the capitalist violators of government demands. The venal sheet then goes on to outrageously and brazenly malign Mayor Austin and the socialist administration, thus proving that it is the capitalist class themselves who most persistently defy the execution of the laws. The working class are expected to obey them, but when they come to enforce them—that is a different thing. This sheet that wishes to emphasize its respect for law by overriding all the laws that protect personal safety and decency exposes its hideous hand by its violent language regarding the lecturers of the socialist party. To oppose capitalist exploitation and class rule is to "preach anarchy, treason, and revolution." To desire better laws is to be a "traitor to our country." And then the nice, law-abiding, respectable examples of civilization advise that the orators of a political party opposing their own be "thrown into jail." For some patronizing advice to Mayor Austin, which is really a veiled exultation over his attempted murder by the partisans of the Republican, the mayor is imploringly besought to keep the Montana News from "insulting" Red Lodge by publishing the misdeeds of those who wish to break the law unmolested. While it is doubtless very harrowing to your feelings, Mr. Republican, to have the truth exposed in this impolite manner, nevertheless that is exactly what the socialist press is here for. You fight government in the hands of the socialists, and you'll come up against the real thing.

TO THE WORKING MEN OF THE UNITED STATES

Fellow Workers—It is now about 2 years ago that a cry of horror and indignation went up from the whole world at the news of Bloody Sunday in St. Petersburg—January 22, 1905, when the Russian government ruthlessly slaughtered the working men and women who came unarmed to petition the Czar for redress or grievances.

Since then the heroic struggle of the Russian people for land and liberty has been watched with sympathetic interest through the different phases of its development. There have been moments of inspiring though partial success, rousing the wildest enthusiasm. There have been bitter disappointments and heart-rending anguish. Many thousands of men and women and youths have heroically laid down their lives for the cause. The great strikes, mutinies and armed uprisings against tyranny have been met by wholesale massacre and savage persecution. Again and again the government has promised reforms; again and again it has broken its promises, matching its treachery with cruelty. Yet, as the champions of liberty have been killed or thrown into prison or exile others have sprung up to take their places, equally brave and energetic.

It is a long struggle. Despotism dies hard. The grand and terrible drama is not yet finished by which Free Russia, young and strong and ready for political and industrial progress is to rise out of the ruins of official

Socialists have elected a member of parliament in Austria by a majority of 4,000, and have lost another seat by only 300. In the Slav part of the empire the liberals were wiped out, and the socialists and catholics elected nine of the ten members. Socialism gains everywhere.

"Darkest Russia." It is the working men who have led in the fight. They have dared and suffered as never did any class before in the world's history. No sufferings can daunt them. From every defeat they rally, prepared yet more vigorously for freedom. They are sure of victory, you can make it easier; by your aid they can win sooner and with less loss of life. You ought to help them, for they are fighting your battle as well as their own. The cause of liberty and progress is the same, the world over.

You sympathize with your Russian brothers. Show your sympathy by deeds as well as by words. They need money—money to buy arms to defend themselves against their murderous oppressors; money to buy bread for themselves and their families, so that their strength shall not fail when the critical moment comes.

Working men of America, your brothers in Russia stretch out their hands to you. They ask you to help them in their hour of need. Respond to the call like generous men, like loyal working men. Give as much as you can, and give it quickly.

Russian Social Democratic Society of New York. Executive Committee: B. H. Brumberg, D. Greenfield, B. Prossky, M. Romm, D. Rubikow. Send all contributions to the Treasurer, Dr. M. Romm, 306 E. 15th St., New York City.

An ironical commentary on the action of the French government against the church is the incident that when Bishop Richard vacated his palace the new government department of labor moved in. When superstition quits the earth labor will come into its own—or perhaps it will vice versa.

Montana Legislature

Measures That Capitalist Solons Are Expected to Place Stamp of "Law and Order" On.

The members of the Montana legislature, who were all elected upon tickets controlled and prepared by the capitalist class, who were nominated by the capitalist class, who are pledged to capitalist programs, and who are devoted to the perpetuation of the existing system of capitalism, and its exploitation, over whom the people that voted for them have not the slightest control, will soon be in session to perform their economic function, as Marx puts it, of committees to do the business of the ruling class. The only legislation which they perform in the interest of the working class is what that class forces from them by its persistent and threatening attitude. It may be expected that capitalism and riot will run mad in the Helena legislature this winter. Clark's money has heretofore made us the scandal of American graft and political corruption. Now the capitalist factions are united, so that there will no longer be any war for domination, and the capitalist forces can proceed about their legitimate business, which is how to exploit the producers, and wring more of the surplus products out of the sweating hides of labor. Already these capitalist forces are in action. Already Mr. Heinze is spending money with princely prodigality. He has had the Butte delegation of lawmakers on a jaunt to Spokane in a private car. What for? Oh, the dignity of lawmaking. He has bought the Broadwater resort, a few minutes street car run from the city—beautiful plunge, spacious grounds, elegant hotel—and is fitting it up with gorgeous sumptuousness. They say it is modeled after the plans of Holyrood castle—winding stairways, dark rooms, and all that seclusion and secrecy could desire. Only colored people are employed about the place. They are tractable, and can easily be forced or bought into silence. The disgraceful conditions that have prevailed at the other city hostleries during the sittings of the Montana representative bodies will doubtless be removed to this safe and convenient seclusion. It will take no arts of magic to prognosticate that the legislature will hold its sessions at Broadwater, and do its voting out at the capital. A new primary law is on the tapis. Even a brief trial of the fake by that name perpetrated by the last legislature has substantiated the exposures the Montana News made regarding it. So one that will work better for capitalist control and against a fair popular suffrage is going to be attempted. The initiative and referendum, so overwhelmingly passed by the ignorant voters and which is absolutely useless so far as its present structure is concerned, must have an enforcing clause. All previous labor legislation has never had any provisions for carrying out the measures embodied:

The labor commissioner of Montana is absolutely powerless to act in any specified cases because the law gives him no authority to prosecute infractions. Poor lawmakers! Their work is too strenuous in framing the laws to admit of the arduous task of making provision for their enforcement. The head mogul of the Standard Oil-Copper interests in Montana, Scallion of Butte, will probably be made chairman of the sessions. Truly, this is a government in the interest of all the people.

A movement is on foot in behalf of the "business men" of the state that will probably open the way for one of the most gigantic grafts ever operated in Montana. An attempt is to be made to raise a fund to support a board of walking delegates to attract capital and exploit the resources of the state. The proposal is to have each county raise \$1,000, that will be \$27,000, and the legislature appropriate \$50,000 more to support one delegate from each county, said delegates to meet in session at Helena once in three months, and three to remain constantly here. Work ahead merrily, wage slaves. Produce surplus value to be spread around by a legislature to assist the business men to exploit the working class. What reply do you suppose they would get if the unions wanted an appropriation to assist them in more thoroughly organizing the working class to better their condition? But that is another story.

Adjutant General Alderson, in pursuance of Bloody Teddy's policy of war, wants the state to build more armories, to create a military board, to provide for instruction of officers, payment for good rifle shooting, and their brutal barbarities to increase capitalist power to keep the working class in subjection from any possibilities of revolt or restlessness under the iron heel of the capitalist slave driver. Alderson realizes where his opposition comes from. He says in his report, "The national guard has been steadily opposed by the union men, who believe that the militia is a natural foe of the laboring men." Of course, the fact that the militia is always used against them and never for them, that it comes on the call of the strike, mustered out on the other side, with the concomitant of bullpens, murder, violation of workingmen's wives, invasion of their homes, has nothing to do with this repugnance. The adjutant's wants for salaried men and supplies are legion. Especially emphatic are his demands for shoes and shirts. So if any unfortunate proletarian is shoeless and shirtless a ready way for him to remedy the deficiency is to join the Montana volunteers. This would be a good place for socialists to learn how to shoot. It is too bad to leave all the advantages to the capitalists.

SIDELIGHT ON GORKY

John Spargo, writing in the Craftsman about Maxim Gorky and Mrs. Gorky, who spent several months this year in the Adirondack mountains, says:

"Probably the best paid living writer, drawing immense royalties from his novels and plays, he regards it as perfectly natural for him to hand over practically the whole of his income to the cause for actually serving which both he and his wife are exiles, with the dread death sentence recorded against them.

"Generally Gorky worked from morning till night, taxing his powers of endurance to their uttermost limits, careless of life itself if by the wanton sacrifice the cause of Russian freedom might be advanced.

"Sometimes, indeed, he would exhaust himself, or the ill of his beloved country would so oppress him that literary work became impossible. In such moods he would pace up and down his room like a baffled beast in

an iron cage, morose and silent, his only relaxation being the catching of flies and their liberation. Standing by the window gravely catching flies of the large "blue-bottled" variety, he would open the window and release them, his face beaming with pleasure and shouting in triumph at their free and rapid flight to liberty. The freedom of the flies was for him a symbol of the freedom for which the Russian people are struggling against the bureaucracy and which they must inevitably win. 'See! So shall Russia enjoy freedom!' he would exclaim exultingly. If ever a man lived whose life was wholly consecrated to an ideal Maxim Gorky is such a man—and his ideal is freedom for Russia and for all mankind."

And yet the prostituted pen-pushers on the filthy Independent, who show such tender solicitude over the wretched slaves of man's lechery that these same men keep on Clure street, will publish vile cartoons reflecting on this hero and patriot's morality. Truly bourgeois civilization deserves to be preserved.

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WHAT IS IT?

Not exactly a gold brick, but what seems to be another golden socialist sun seems to be reversing the natural process and rising in the northwest. In other words, Walter Thomas Mills is promoting one of his freak movements again. This time the scene of operations is in Seattle. The long-looked-for paper of the masses is about to appear—a 12-page Saturday-nightly. It will cover the departments of the knowledge of the world. It will give particular attention to the churches and their activities. It will aim to offend no one; it will perpetuate socialist teaching as laid down in "The Struggle for Existence." Its prospectus states that it "will follow closely the philosophy as laid down in the Communist Manifesto." Not a word about working class revolution from beginning to end.

We are sorry that our comrades of the Seattle Propaganda Club have been drawn into this, and that the "Voice of Labor," which was really a very promising sheet, should have decided to suspend its own publication in favor of this "greatest socialist aggregation ever gathered under one tent."

With the mastodon sheet goes a continued exploitation of "The Struggle for Existence," lecture bureau, correspondence school and training schools in various cities. Mills has been associated for the last six years with various skyrocket schemes connected with the socialist movement. His various "schools" have been notorious for turning out pupils with a superficial knowledge of socialism, and exhaustive and positive ideas of their own erudition, power and importance. His book is twenty years behind the times in its science. Not but what it has pretty fair statements of the socialist position for those not posted on the subject, and as some one has said, workmen don't know anything about science anyway, and whether the assumptions are right or wrong. But the book utterly fails to pass the standard of posted critics.

The greatest objection to the proposed aggregation is that it will be completely outside and working in opposition to socialist organization. The Washington party is already split. Mills goes in with the affection outside of the organization. So we can imagine what a pretty kettle of fish we shall have in our party in Washington. Fortunately, the proposal is to confine the theater of action to Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia. The invasion of Montana is not threatened. Mills makes the inducement that the paper will be outside the difficulties that surround a party organ. In other words, it will be a free lance, liberal, spectacular sheet, ready to take any position desired, completely outside the control of the organized revolutionary movement. Moreover, it will be a continuous drain on all socialists that support it without their being able to organize and unify the movement in the least. The support given to an enterprise of this sort will deflect and scatter the resources of the socialist sentiment as it is, and we shall be worse in the bog than we are in the mire. There is not the slightest doubt but what some time large undertakings of this kind will be successfully taken in hand by the American socialist party, as is already done by our party abroad. But when that time comes the party will be working together behind the enforcement. It will be the expression of a class sentiment of determined oppo-

sition to existing institutions and not a hybrid between liberal sentiment and individual exploitation.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The national ballots are now in the hands of the party membership. The votes should be taken speedily so that a full expression of the party membership can be recorded. The personnel of the majority of the somewhat heterogeneous list presented are completely unknown to the party membership at large. Indeed, it looks as though most of the good men who were nominated have refused to run. The position on the National Executive Committee is the most important in the national organization, and the members of this body should be chosen with the utmost care. It should be composed of the very ablest and most efficient minds in the movement. This is something the American movement has as yet utterly failed to accomplish—place its ablest material on committee work to do the business of the party. The German party excels in this. After the committee is chosen it is given absolute power, and not embarrassed by silly referendums. The National Executive Committee should be composed of persons that are particularly acute and successful along the lines of finance, education and organization, and with these qualifications in mind the News recommends the support of the following men: Victor Berger, Charles Kerr, A. M. Simons, George Kirkpatrick, Ernest Untermyer, Arthur Morrow Lewis, Isaac Cowan. So far as financial ability is concerned, Charles Kerr is by far the ablest man in the American movement. The way he has built up our Chicago publishing house in the face of the greatest financial obstacles, and carried forward the ablest American periodical without resorting to cheap, popular and trashy methods, placing a grade of socialist and scientific literature on the market hitherto inaccessible to American readers, is a feat whose magnitude, we regret to say, is practically unknown in the ranks of our party. The value of Mr. Kerr as a party adviser cannot be over-estimated. Simons, Untermyer and Lewis represent the requisite educational ability. Of the two former it is needless to add anything not already known. They both stand pre-eminently for the ablest scientific and investigating scholarship in our national party. Lewis has peculiarly the scientific turn of mind; and this is united with a practically knowledge of the party's needs gained by much experience in the actual work. He is also a vigorous and busy personality, that likes to "see things doing," and has a wholesome discrimination for freaks, sharks, and fakers, that, true to national characteristics, are much in evidence in the American party as yet. Berger, Kirkpatrick and Cowan have special ability along the line of organization or constructive activity. Each one of them has special genius in the fundamental requirements of a strong, unified organization. Berger's tactics have largely made the Milwaukee movement the efficient body that it is, where definite results are accomplished. Kirkpatrick is one of the coming men in the movement. His work has been characterized by brilliancy, scholarship and system. He has an orderly, capable mind, and thoroughly understands the party and its needs. We long and look for the day when, in America, the proletarian organization will throw off its trivialities and become a worthy vehicle for the great revolution that will wipe the curse of slavery and subjection from the workers of the earth. And it is only by placing men in these important positions of responsibility who have an exalted conception of the seriousness of the task before us that there is any hope of its successful consummation.

The socialist party of Delta county, Colorado, is publishing its official paper, "The Organizer," at Delta. Wm. Ash is editor. This is a most excellent move on the part of our Colorado comrades. The Colorado movement needs amalgamating and unifying, and no motive force does this so well as a local paper dealing with local conditions. Comrade Wm. Ash is one of the best men in Colorado for the position of editor. He is admirably posted, firm in his convictions, and devoted to the cause of the working class; is a carpenter by trade. We trust the paper may increase till it includes the entire state movement.

Comrades Berger and Heath must be highly edified at the latest omnipotent claim of the Appeal that it laid the foundation for the Milwaukee movement.

Chattel slavery was not suppressed by imposing fines on the slave-owners or putting them in jail, but by taking the owners of government away from them. This is a pointer for those who want to get rid of slavery to the trusts.—Ex.

Proletarian Art.

Criticism of bourgeois art from the basis of the proletarian, scientific method of thought is already beginning to change existing social ideals in regard to the constitution of true esthetic creation. Leo Tolstoy has startled the world with a bitter denunciation of the Shakespearean dramas, and calls upon all thinking people to reject "the trivial and immoral works of Shakespeare" as unworthy of serious study and reflection. In the face of the storm of dissent from literateurs all over the world, Bernard Shaw, the English playwright and renowned socialist, has advanced to the front in support of Tolstoy's contentions. Ernest Crosby has also written an article on "Shakespeare's Attitude Toward the Working Class," in which he joins forces with the Russian and the Englishman to add an American flavor to the triple condemnation of the bard of Avon.

The vehemence of Tolstoy's bludgeoning of Shakespeare, at the advanced age of 75 years, recalls the fact that the last celebrated man of letters who thus attacked the greatest of all dramatic poets was Voltaire, whose extravagant admiration for Shakespeare turned into bitterness in his old age. But while Voltaire accepted Shakespeare's artistic merit and attacked his philosophic discrepancies, the Russian moralist denies to Shakespeare not only artistic appreciation, but sincerity and total lack of true religious consciousness as well.

Tolstoy explains the phenomena of the world-wide worship of Shakespeare on the ground that it is one of those epidemic suggestions to which men constantly have been and are subject. He especially resents Shakespeare's handling of the working classes. He mocks at the fact that there must be a king or lordling even on a small island. He insists that Shakespeare loves a lord, even the lowest, and despises the crowd, and says his representations are neither truthful nor natural in either language or position. It was Ernest Crosby's essay on Shakespeare's antagonistic attitude to the "lower" classes that caused Tolstoy to write his own condemnation.

"All Shakespeare's characters also talk alike," adds Tolstoy. "He lacks absolutely in individuality of language. All his characters speak not their own but always one and the same Shakespearean, pretentious and unnatural language, but in which no living man ever has spoken or does speak."

As Shakespeare has spoiled the character of King Lear and his daughter, Cordelia, so has he those of Othello, Desdemona, Iago, Hamlet and even roaring, ribald, swaggering old Jack Falstaff, if the Russian critic is to be believed. True, he admits that Falstaff is indeed quite a natural and typical character; but then, perhaps, it is the only natural and typical character depicted by Shakespeare.

Tolstoy does not admire, does not even like Shakespeare's "Hamlet." The "Meaneholy Dane," to the Russian's way of thinking, is a literary failure.

Tolstoy grudgingly admits that Shakespeare's scenes in the hands of good actors, are constructed to evoke sympathy; but qualifies the remark by adding that these tricks of the playwright are not expressions of character.

Even as Tolstoy apotheosizes Homer for the beauty and majesty of his poetry, he derides Shakespeare for his exaggerations and total lack of artistic ability. "Homer does not exaggerate," he says, "but with Shakespeare, from his first words, exaggeration is seen—the exaggeration of emotion and the exaggeration of effects. One sees at one that he does not believe what he says."

In the letter of G. Bernard Shaw, following the article on "Tolstoy on Shakespeare" in the Kunk & Wagnalls edition just published, the acrid British playwright says in part: "May I suggest that you should be careful not to imply that Tolstoy's great Shakespearean heresy has no other support than mine. Some of the prefaces of Dr. Johnson contain a good deal of downright, hard-hitting criticism. Among the nineteenth century poets Byron and William Morris saw that Shakespeare was enormously over-rated intellectually. A French book has appeared within the last ten years giving Napoleon's opinions of the drama. His insistence on the superiority of Corneille had greater power of grasping a political situation and of seeing men in their relations to the state is interesting."

Shakespeare wrote in the sunset of decadent feudalism. In order that he should be accepted at all it was necessary that he pleased a brilliant court and the social standards of the times. As the working class arises from the dusk of its submission it brings with it the nobler ideals of individual justice and opportunity and the exaltation of labor triumphant. These new and correct ideals will be embodied in the art of the future, and the present ones will fade away and be relegated to the perversions of the past. These startling and original critics are the spokesmen of the new day. So the material or industrial formation of society shapes its art among other institutions.

Montana's Best Newspaper.

The Anaconda Standard is the leading newspaper of Montana. It leads in news, in enterprise, in progressiveness, in beauty, in brightness, in timely illustration, in all that goes to make up a big, strong, vigorous, magnetic newspaper, pulsating with contemporaneous human interest. Leading in all these qualifications, it inevitably leads also in circulation, in advertising, in the respect, the esteem and patronage of its wide and flourishing constituency.

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The Secret of Optimism.
 "Whatever is, is right," he said. And straight I knew that he had found it pleasant sailing over life's tempestuous sea. I knew that things went well with him; that he was sound and strong; That those who owed him money didn't keep him waiting long. I knew his wife was kind to him and trusted him to do The very best for both of them—ah, if these women knew! I would have sworn his pay was good, promotion close at hand; 'Twere safe to guess the mortgage had departed from his land. I felt convinced of all these things, and very well I might, For only happy people quote "Whatever is, is right."
 —Chicago News.

SOLDIERS OF THE REVOLUTION

Socialist Organization for the Young.

The organization of the young has now become an international movement. It has taken various forms corresponding to the political conditions in the various countries. In Austria the youths' organization already embraces over 3,300 members, and this in spite of the fact that students, and especially those under age, have no legal right to organize. Their organ, the Jugendliche Arbeiter, offers the best proof of how effectively the young graduates of the schools can be trained for socialism. Protest meetings were held in nearly all the great cities in opposition to the proposed "reform" of the factory law which would have essentially injured the condition of the young workers. The Austrian organizations have decided that economic activity united to political education produces the most satisfactory results. A special organization is also maintained in Austria for the Bohemian young men. This has its headquarters in Prague and pursues the same line of work. In Holland the organization of the young is directly affiliated with the socialist party, has considerable strength, and has its own organ, De Zaaijer (The Sower).

France, Norway and Denmark have similar unions of the young, all of which are active politically, and some of which devote especial attention to the anti-military propaganda. The battle against militarism is also carried on by the "Union of Young Socialists" in Italy, whose members, because of this activity, have recently been subject to most brutal attacks—so much so that a great meeting was recently held in Rome to protest to the government against such treatment.

At the present time the strongest existing organization of the young is the "Socialist Young Guard" of Belgium, which at the present time has over 13,000 members. Here also the anti-military propaganda plays the most prominent part.

In Germany the river Main marks the boundary of the activity of such organizations. In southern Germany where there is still something of right of free union, the organizations of the young have combined into a general organization, possessing its own organ, Die Junge Garde (The Young Guard). This organization is also permitted to teach its members politically. In northern Germany, on the contrary, the scope of organizations of the young is very limited. Consequently the police exercise their tyrannous power to the utmost in order to cripple even what little activity is legally permissible.

In this way the foolish officials give a practical illustration of the existence of a class state, which is much more effective than the mere statement of the fact which they forbid socialists making. While our south German organizations are principally occupied with political activity, those of north Germany are compelled to confine themselves exclusively to economic action, with a little educational work. But this education is always in accord with the modern labor movement, and is especially effective when combined with practical union activity. When the young are assembled in purely educational organizations, only a few of those who are especially studious will remain true to the flag; but when the miserable condition of the young is constantly kept before their eyes, with the long hours of labor, the miserable wages, the insufficient schooling, with the impossibility of any higher intellectual training, etc., then the young pour into our ranks filled with a determination to better their condition.

They learn to grasp the idea of organization and to recognize the power of knowledge. The growth of the Berlin organization, now numbering over 1,000 members, is an excellent illustration of the application of the proper tactics to Prussian conditions.—Fritz Maeschke in Gleichheit; translated by A. M. Simons for International Socialist Review.

National News

Edwin J. Rohrer of Nevada, Ia., has been elected State Secretary.

In precinct No. 4, Minersville, W. Va., 6 votes were credited to the socialist party. Upon a recount being demanded, 27 votes were discovered.

Wm. H. Tref has been expelled from the local Philadelphia, Pa., for violating a party law in holding membership in a republican club.

Upon the initiative of Local Hagerstown, a referendum has been submitted to the locals of Maryland on the question of holding a state convention for the purpose of forming a state organization.

The socialist candidate for mayor of Brockton, Mass., was first reported defeated by 146 votes. On claim of fraud by the socialists, a recount of the ballot was taken on Dec. 10th, which showed the socialist candidate to have been defeated by thirty votes.

The socialists of Allegheny have put up candidates in 11 out of 15 wards. The strict compliance with the rule that members must be such one year before they can be candidates was the reason that candidates were not put up in all the wards.

The socialist study class of Philadelphia, under the leadership of Comrade Sykes, has opened auspiciously, about 30 signifying their intention to enter into the work. The class meets every Sunday afternoon at Logan Hall.

Comrade Arthur Morrow Lewis begins his course of lectures at Brand's Hall, Chicago, Dec. 23. The subject of the successive lectures are socialism and Modern Ethical Science, "Socialism and Biological Evolution," "Socialism and Darwin's Natural Selection," "Socialism and Weismann's Heredity," "Socialism and De Vries' Mutation," "Socialism and Spencer's Individualism."

The latest report from Milwaukee states that the socialists carried that city by hundred plurality over both old parties. But their county ticket excepting one nominee, was defeated in the country. This is the first time in the history of the United States that a large city was carried by the socialists. Nearly all union men in Milwaukee vote the socialist ticket.

The recommendation of the Finnish socialist national convention regarding the establishment of a National Finnish Translator's office, and arrangements for the sale of national dues, direct to the translator on certain terms provided the same is acceptable to the respective state committees, have been endorsed by the National Executive Committee, and the proposition has been referred for action to the state committees.

A call for a special meeting of the National Executive Committee to assemble at 10 a. m., Saturday Dec. 15, was issued by the National Secretary under date of Dec. 10. The purpose of the meeting is: First, the consideration of action to be taken in connection with the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone case; second, methods of organization for 1907; third, to advise with Comrade Frederic Heath, representing the National Plate Matter Committee, on questions relating to the work of said committee.

Resolutions by the General Committee of Local New York.

"That Local New York, socialist party, calls upon the National Secretary to have a special representative on the ground for the purpose of supplying daily to the socialist press the details of the trial and that local New York pledges the sum of \$25 for the purpose of assisting in defraying this expense. Our delegates to the Moyer-Haywood conference were also instructed to bring this matter up at the meeting of the conference so that additional funds for this purpose may be raised."

National Committee Motion

by Fred L. Schwartz of Pennsylvania, which will be submitted in due form December 26:

"Allegheny, Pa., Dec. 11, 1906.

"J. Mahlon Barnes, Chicago, Ill.

"Dear Comrade—I move that January 22, 1907, be made the day, by the National Committee, on which the socialist party locals of the United States be requested to commemorate the massacre of our Russian comrades, and that the same day be used to make a united protest against the kidnapping of our Comrades Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone.

"Yours fraternally,
 "FRED L. SCHWARTZ,
 "National Committeeman of Pennsylvania."

International

There are now three socialists in the British Columbia legislature—Hawthornthwaite and Williams having been joined by a third.

In the Tenth district of Saxony all the old parties combined to capture a seat in the national parliament, but a Berlin cable announces that they failed. Socialists polled 12,716 votes; combined opposition, 12,014.

Local unions of British railway employees are adopting resolutions in favor of socialism in a manner that presages the defeat of Richard Bell, general secretary, who has fought the tendency. Members claim that Bell is not keeping up with the procession and must go.

At a recent by-election in France, the socialists cast 4,000 votes, the liberal-labor socialists 3,000, and the radical socialists 2,500. At a similar election in Saxony, Germany, the socialists had 21,716 to the liberals' 3,642. It's coming in America, too. Conditions are being made here by the capitalists that will have just that effect upon the men who do the work of the nation.

At the elections for the general council of Alsace-Lorraine, the socialists gained three seats outright, and even where they did not gain seats their figures showed that the movement is on the up grade. In 1900 the clerical candidate in the canton of Bari polled 1,700 votes to 500 gained for the socialist. Last week the clerical could only poll 1,000 votes, while the socialist had increased his strength to 750.

Comrade August Dreesbach died Sunday, Nov. 25, in Mannheim, Germany. His Mannheim friends lost one of their most popular leaders and for him mourn the comrades of the whole of Germany. He was born 62 years ago in Dusseldorf, the child of a proletarian family, and learned the trade of a cabinet maker. But his intelligence, his rhetoric and his energy brought him soon at the head of the Mannheim workingmen, and in the lead of the party movement in the Grand Duchy of Baden. He was elected to the city council of Mannheim, to the landtag and to the reichstag.

In 1874 he was arrested in Wuerttemberg for insulting the king, but after six weeks' confinement found not guilty and discharged. The next year he was sent six weeks to jail for making contemptible state institutions.

In 1876 he was confined four weeks, and in 1894 for some days under the charge of high treason, the first time being discharged and the second time found not guilty of high treason but fined 50 marks for causing agitation. Until his death he was chief editor of the Colksstimme.

Australia.

The "Westralian Worker" has the following: "Socialist Unity—Justice" (London) hopes for some sort of general understanding between the Socialist basis of the Labor movement, and Socialist League of N. S. W., and the Social-Democratic Vanguard of Queensland, and says that this would help the proletariat here "to break through the crowd of indefinite Laborism which seems to greatly retard its action." The Labor party in W. A. has, by its objective, recognized the Socialist basis of the Labor movement, and the time should be opportune to form a socialist society here in order to educate and permeate the political and union propaganda with Socialist thought."

Russia.

The brief time of freedom of press has been well used by publishing houses to get out hitherto forbidden books. Even Herbert Spencer and Leckie have been among the forbidden fruit. Now, we read that in the latter part of the year 1905 German socialist and socialistic books for instance have been published in Russia in the following editions: Works of Ferdinand Lassalle in 283,000 copies; of Karl Kautsky in 266,400 copies; of Karl Marx in 123,400 copies; of August Bebel in 98,400 copies; of Friedrich Engels in 50,100 copies; of Werner Sombard in 24,500 copies; of Eduard Bernstein in 7,000 copies; of Franz Mehring in 3,600 copies. Besides large editions have come out of works of Sieyes, Milton, Robespierre, Jaures, Lafargue, Vandervelde, Spinoza, Voltaire, Heine, Diderot, Hobbes, Lorenz von Stein, Spencer, Leckie, Haeckel, Hettner, Strauss, Tolstoy, Kropotkin, Plechanof, Bjelinaki, Tschernischewski, Raditchew and others more that had been on the Russian Index Purgatorius, i. e., forbidden fruit.—Leipziger Volkszeitung.

Women's Clubs

Woman's Clubs.

The following letter from the treasurer of the National Woman Suffrage Association, who, by the way, used to sign the checks for the editor of the Montana News, is interesting: "Mrs. Ida Crouch-Hazlett, Editor The News, Helena, Mont.

"Dear Mrs. Hazlett—I have read with no little interest and amusement your editorial on 'Masterson and Woman Suffrage,' in a recent issue of your paper.

"It does seem absurd that after every election this man Masterson should burst forth into one of his tirades against woman suffrage in Colorado. If more newspapers had your courage, and showed him up as he really is, perhaps he would cease to find a market for his articles.

I want to thank you for the editorial in question. With all good wishes,

"Yours most truly,
 "HARRIET TAYLOR UPTON."

The committee of Chicago women interested in having women suffrage inserted in the new city charter, a few days ago, armed with 75 yards of petitions, representing 87 Chicago organizations and fully 10,000 persons, appeared before the municipal election committee and asked to be heard. These women were in high spirits because the law committee of the charter convention had decided that the extension of the municipal suffrage to Chicago women would be constitutional and because the State Federation of Women's Clubs, at its recent meeting, endorsed woman suffrage. Of the fifty present, sixteen were speakers, among the latter were women representing Jews, Catholics, Lutherans, trades unions, womens clubs, Federation of Labor, etc. Only one woman was present to speak against the question and she said she came unofficially. A long paper prepared by Mrs. Corbin, president of the Chicago Anti-Suffragists, was read by the assistant secretary of the charter committee.

Socialism and the Home.

Oh, yes, socialism would break up the home. Did socialism make the laws that grant 20,000 divorces a year? Did socialist judges grant these 20,000 divorces? Did socialists build up the trusts and monopolies that rob and plunder you? If you could get coal for the labor cost, \$1.25 laid down, would that break up the home? If you could get coal oil for 3 cents a gallon, would that break up the home? If you owned your job and was certain of all the comforts and luxuries of life by working four hours a day, would that break up the home? If a system of co-operation was inaugurated, so your washing could be done by machinery, instead of your wife scrubbing all day, would that break up the home? If your bread was made by a system that takes thirty seconds to make and bake a loaf, as is now done in large establishments, instead of your wife broiling all day over a hot stove to bake six loaves, would that break up the home? When farming is done by co-operation, with all the best machinery, the farmers and their daughters and wives will not have to work sixteen hours per day, taking all the chances of drouth, famine and failure of crops, but will have to work only the average—about four hours—with machinery that will make work only recreation. Will that tend to break up the family? At this time of the year, when winter is coming on, if you had no mortal fear of losing your job, or of the coal bin and flour barrel going empty, would that break up the home?—The Lantern.

Six millions of women in this country, according to figures given by the Technical World, are today engaged in gainful occupations. In the open labor market those women compete with men workers; yet only in the four states of Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho and Utah are these women equipped with that most effective weapon of defense so prized by the workingman—the ballot.

The Denver Post quotes Frederick E. Smutzer, secretary of the Denver Theater company, who witnessed one of the demonstrations by the English suffragists in London, as saying: "It did more good for the women's cause in England than anything that has yet happened, in that it created a great many new followers and also shows that the women are in earnest."

The National Grange, at its recent annual meeting in Denver, passed a resolution in favor of woman suffrage by a unanimous vote.

Municipal suffrage has been granted to the women in Natal, South Africa.

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Choice \$1.25 Childrens' extra good wool and cotton mixed Union Suits all sizes gray only, choice \$1.25	Choice \$1.75 Ladies' good extra heavy Union Suits, gray mixed, all sizes, button down front, choice \$1.75
Choice 75 cts 85c grade Misses good wool and cotton mixed Vests or Pants, all sizes, gray only, choice 75 c	Choice \$3.25 \$4.00 grade Ladies' all wool extra fine Union Suits, all sizes, gray white. Bargain choice suit \$3.25

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 Meets every Sunday night.
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 The finest work done at the lowest prices. We make anything you want in this line. Our shop is all run by electricity. If you want any special design in a ring, have us make it.
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LOCAL HELENA, of the Socialist Party
 Meets every Wednesday evening at the Workers Club. AUGUST JOHNSON, Secretary

LOCAL LIVINGSTON, of the Socialist Party
 Meets every Monday Night at Socialist Hall No. B. St. M. BEACH, Sec

LOCAL GREAT FALLS, of the Socialist Party.
 Meets every Sunday at Union Hall at 8 p. m. W. N. PALSGROVE, Secretary.
 815 7th Ave So

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State Department

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Three Subs a Week Will do the Business for the Legislature.

Comrade Austin sends in one sub.
Comrade Palsgrove sends in \$6.50, \$5 on the local's bill and 3 renewals.

Comrade J. B. McNair of Sheridan, Wyo., sends in a sub.

The A. S. of Dupas sends in \$7 for 6 sub cards, and the other \$4 to be variously disposed of.

Comrade Charles Anderson, one of the Helena boiler makers, renewed his sub the other day and handed in \$1.50 for the equipment fund.

Comrade Stone has been in from Garnet again. He did his regular stunt of buying 10 sub cards. The News force always eats pretty well while he is around.

Comrade Coster of Glasgow joins the hundred list of those who have agreed to get three subs a week to provide the means to handle the legislative matter properly. Come one, come all. Don't be a shirker, as one comrade says.

Comrade Rutherford brought in four more subs yesterday. When Comrade Selby was out there on a counting tour a few days ago Hank said: "Oh, here's \$5. Take it for a Christmas present to the News." The News will live as long as it has a few friends like that.

Charlie Johnson of Gilt Edge writes: "I enclose herewith postal order for renewal. I notice the call for new subs. You can depend on me to do the best I can. I would like to take a few days off and rustle, but cannot afford it just now."

Comrade Selby has been working among the unions in Helena this week and has taken about 20 subscriptions. He has also been down around the roundhouse gathering subs and back pay. There is plenty of work for workers everywhere in the socialist movement.

Comrade Powers sends in \$8.50, \$2.50 for sub cards and \$6 for due stamps. He reports as follows:

"The local had a very good meeting last Sunday afternoon. The following officers were elected for the ensuing term: Local Organizer, Andrew John Lundberg; Corresponding secretary, Jesse F. Gilchrist; Financial Secretary, John Powers. The local's next meeting will be Dec. 29, 1906, Saturday night, at 8 p. m., to be held at 209 North Twenty-fourth street."

One of the large unions of Great Falls sends a check for \$12.50 for 25 copies of the Montana News. Great Falls unions are headed the right way. Whenever the economic organizations of the country begin to take active interest in their political advantage, and disseminate the correct sort of economic teaching, the first steps have been taken to working class control of the industrial situation. Let other Montana unions follow this example and we'll soon have the working class of Montana feel that they have something to say in the political deal.

Comrades at Carneyville and Dietz, Wyoming, are complaining that they do not receive their paper for weeks. A formal complaint has been laid before the postoffice inspector. Comrades must let us know of any postal irregularities. It is the only chance we have to get action on them. The following is Comrade James Morgan's letter:

"We are not getting any papers

lately. I wish you would see if you could find where the trouble is. I don't believe it is in the office here. Do you suppose the mail clerks stuff them off? There are eight of us who take the Chicago Socialist and we worst service I ever heard of who can't get a copy a week. It is the ever is responsible."

Comrade Melinda Hinson, secretary of Local Dean, sends in \$3.50 for 7 sub cards. She writes, "We have only eight members in our local, but they are tried and know the benefit of having a party paper in Montana. We join in with Comrade Mrs. H. B. Balingier in our esteem for the News. Comrade S. L. Decker visited Red Lodge local this winter, and he is delighted with their meetings. He says the beauty of them is they take in new members at every meeting. We are not going to give up, but will keep on trying. We will hold an anniversary of our local at our home New Year's Eve. On that date we shall have been organized two years. We congratulate you on your effort to have a reporter in the state legislature."

Comrade Andrew MacDonald writes an interesting letter from New York: "I attended the reception given Comrade Gershuni, and enclose a clipping taken from the New York American, and can only add that the hall was packed at one dollar for admittance, the audience principally Jews. Gershuni spoke in Yiddish and Russian, and also made a short address in German. After the speaking they took up a collection which they thought would amount to \$500. I was particularly fortunate in having a Jewish comrade interpret Gershuni's remarks to me. Gershuni said a hero's life is worthless to him unless he can be free; also "We have the arm, we have the heart, but lack the means to make the Russ revolution a success. And when the veil is torn away that now hides Russia the Czar may be glad to get away in a barrel of saur kraut."

Comrade James Morgan of Dietz encloses \$8.25 for the Montana News equipment fund, and \$1 for subs. Local Dietz gave \$5 and five other comrades added to the sum. Comrade Morgan states the News has not been received there for two weeks. Something wrong with the postal service as the bundle left the office. The comrade also states, "I wish you would furnish me with a list of the subscribers in Dietz and the time when they expire, and I will endeavor to look out for the renewals." We are glad to see some that keep the equipment fund in view with substantial aid. Those who noted the annual report will see that it has never been large enough to accomplish very much. It has largely been taken up with job stock, ink, rollers, type, repairs and such essentials to the running of a paper, and when the motor is paid for it will be about exhausted, so far as what has been paid in. It takes a large sum of money to stock a newspaper plant; but it has been done elsewhere, even to some extent in America, and can and will be done in the Northwest. The socialists will yet rise to a sense of their responsibility as carrying forward the progress of the working class. The sooner they do it, the sooner will their movement become serious, intelligent and effective.

The National Synod of Norway has recently voted by a large majority to give women equal rights with men in the government of the church.

A friend from Wyoming writes as follows:

"Your article on organization in the News of Nov. 22 is along the right line. Your criticism of the 'Appeal' is about right. I take quite a number of subs for the 'Appeal', but at the same time I realize that the 'Appeal' is not doing very much after all to support the organized movement. I do not believe there is one reader out of 6 of the 'Appeal' that really understands that he ought to become a member of the party, and the 'Appeal' is not the only paper at fault in this. The socialist press in general fails to impress on the minds of its readers the importance of all socialists joining the party and supporting the party movement and as a member of the party. I will go still further, and say that our lecturers could accomplish more in giving more of their time in speech making to the importance of organization, instead of agitation. "Oh," you will say, "it is the duty of the local members to bring the lost sheep into the fold;" but I have always noticed that most people pay more heed to an argument from a stranger than they do to one that is well known. And herein is where local members are handicapped in building up the organization. "Oh," our socialist sympathizer will say, "it is only old so and so blowing off hot air." Several years ago I moved into a new neighborhood and found a local that had organized with a membership of 9 and had dwindled down to 4 members. But these were all good hard workers. Well, I joined them and in a short time brought in three more good members. Then my influence waned, my talk got to be an old song. I believe the lecturers should use at least one fourth of their time in explaining the methods of organization, party tactics, and the constitution. And as their audience is largely made up of socialist sympathizers, impress on their minds the importance of their joining the party. Our socialist press is almost silent on this most vital question, and our own Montana News can not be entirely excepted from this charge. We are now making a big bluster about the number of socialist votes cast but don't mention the little paltry 30,000 party numbers that stand the brunt of the war. As this is too big a question to discuss in one article I will now come to the part that is most in my mind, and that is in regard to the suggestion made by Comrade Cowan to the comrades of North Dakota that they might profit by co-operation with the Montana organization. Why would not this suggestion apply also to Wyoming, Idaho and Washington? Form a grand division out of half a dozen north western states and make the Montana News the mouth piece for the whole division. State lines should not be drawn as far as the work for socialism is concerned. It seems to me such an alliance could be formed through the co-operation of the state secretaries of the respective states. I have written Secretary O'Neal in regard to this matter but have had no reply from him yet. I believe an alliance as above outlined would be beneficial to the movement in the north west for the following reasons: It would be easier to maintain our party press; it should save some in regard to routing lecturers; the more strongly organized states would help to maintain the weaker; and then after we get firmly on our feet we will slop over the boundary line and join hands with our comrades in Canada."

Holiday purchasers should remember the News' advertisers. The News is carrying a large stock of advertising, and there is no better medium in the state for those who wish advertising of a widely extended character. Socialists should show their class nature by putting their patronage where it will benefit their press. Till those patronize socialism with their material interests they have a very slender basis for calling themselves socialists.

Campaign Donations.

The Denver Post comments on the apparently extraordinary size of the socialist party campaign fund in Colorado, when compared with the size of the party in the state, as follows: "The socialists differ from the average republican or democrat or independent, in that, if they are truly sincere, they will contribute out of small incomes to the cause, whereas the regular parties have to milk the corporations, or put up rich candidates, or assess office holders, to pay campaign expenses. If either of the regular parties, in this Colorado campaign were supported by its partisans as the socialists contribute to their cause, it would roll in money beyond the wildest political 'pipe dreams.'"

Louisiana has enacted a law which permits cities of over 10,000 inhabitants to appoint women factory inspectors. The mayor of New Orleans has appointed Miss Jean Gordon as inspector for that city. Miss Gordon has taken a prominent part in civic movements and is particularly well qualified for the position.

A Unique Letter.

Fellow Shirkers: While I am not a full-blooded socialist I believe I am socialist sympathizer. At least I have got far enough along so that I voted the ticket last election. It may be I do not understand the question fully, but I am willing to study it further. But for some time past it has been dawning on my mind that I have been shirking the expense of my own education, and when the Birthday Issue of the Montana News came to hand I was fully aroused to that fact. And I then made a resolve to take steps toward paying for my own education. In meditating on the best method to take to accomplish this purpose I have concluded it can be done better through helping to build up the Montana News than in any other way, being personally acquainted with the editor and manager of that paper and knowing they are fully competent to unravel the knotty questions pertaining to socialism. And again, as the Montana News is a party-owned paper its readers have a right to ask any fair questions regarding the principles of socialism. Now the manager of the News tells us that he needs a capital of \$3,000 to put the plant on a footing to supply a paper for the present demand; and that he also needs 10,000 subscribers for the paper to make the paper pay its expenses. Now I have been keeping tab on the donations sent in to support the News as published in its columns, and have estimated that there were not more than 100 actual workers among the 3,000 of its readers. That would leave 2,900 of us shirkers that weren't doing anything. So in thinking over these problems it came into my mind how easy it would be for us shirkers to supply both the funds and the subscribers desired. And here I will give my plan and how it is worked. It is to buy two sub cards for \$1 and sell them for \$1 each; then to send the \$1 made on them to the State Secretary to go into the shirkers' fund, which will supply the needed \$3,000, and the two sub cards will supply nearly the needed circulation. At any rate, if we shirkers come that near, judging from what they have done in the past, I think the workers would do the rest. Well, I carried this program out all right, and now Secretary Graham has the first dollar of the Shirkers' Fund, with the understanding that he will not publish the shirker's name. One of the reasons for making this a condition in this transaction with the State Secretary is that I am really not paying anything towards my own education.

A SHIRKER.

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