

SOCIALISM is a plan to enable the working class to get everything it produces and to prevent nonproducers from getting anything.
—Alma Lewis Bacon.

AMERICAN SOCIALIST

The working class remains firmly united in its organizations and views, in spite of the war, then we may reasonably face the future. The future belongs to the working people. — Warm, Socialist member German Reichstag.

VOL. I, No. 20

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1915

50c per year \$1 per year outside United States; 25c for 40 weeks in Clubs of 4 or more except in Chicago

A NEW YEAR'S CALL TO YOU!

COMRAD report to you have watched the circulation in Socialist. It has climbed gradually. At first the increase was a trifle, then it came over a week—and that increase of short-time subscriptions. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF INCREASE IT WILL TAKE THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST AT LEAST FIVE YEARS TO REACH A CIRCULATION OF 100,000.

The American Socialist is a party owned paper. It is YOUR property. From the comments we receive at this office, it is clear that you are more than pleased with its contents. We find it hard to believe that you, who have been able to build up powerful privately owned papers, should be unwilling or unable to build up an organ which is the common property of the members of the Socialist Party.

What we need is organized action. In this new year, therefore, we have organized THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST BOOSTER CLUB, the purpose of which is to insure a steady flow of subscriptions to The American Socialist, and to make it, in the course of time, the most widely read political paper in the world.

Members of this Booster Club are to pledge themselves to send in five subscriptions, or to buy five sub-cards at twenty-five cents each, for a period of fifty-two consecutive weeks.

Locals, as well as individuals, may become members. Each member of the Booster Club will receive a certificate of membership suitable for framing.

AT THE END OF THE 52 WEEKS EACH BOOSTER WILL RECEIVE FREE OF ALL EXPENSE THE FAMOUS LIBRARY OF CLASSICS, consisting of thirty cloth bound volumes containing the best writing of the most renowned Socialist thinkers.

We want 1,000 MEMBERS AT ONCE. One thousand members will mean 5,000 new subscribers each and every week. It will mean—making allowance for expirations—at least 200,000 subscribers by January 1916.

Here is an aim worth working for! Comrades, we send out this New Year's call to you with full confidence in your reply.

Do not hesitate. Determine to do greater services in this year than in the last. To the Socialist Party and the party name, than you have ever done before.

Cut out the application below and send it in with \$1.25 for your first bunch of sub-cards.

Yours for a big party paper,
J. L. ENODAH, Editor,
RALPH KORNGOLD, Circulation Mgr.,
WALTER LANFERSIEK, Business Mgr.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby apply for membership in the AMERICAN SOCIALIST BOOSTER CLUB.

I pledge myself to send in 5 subs at 25 cents each. I pledge myself to buy 5 sub-cards, each and every week for 52 consecutive weeks.

Please send a certificate of membership at your earliest convenience.

Signature _____
Street and No. _____
City _____ State _____

A FINISHED PRODUCT

By JOHN M. WORK
THE apologists of capitalism make many boasts about its accomplishments. One day I had the good fortune—if that is what you call it—to meet a finished product of capitalism. He was a workman who had been cast on the junk heap. He was near blind, and he was prematurely decrepit. He had a sack of old rubbers on his back. He told me that he made his living by collecting old rubbers and other rubbish and selling them.

I made some inquiries into his past. He had been a wage slave all his life, sowing that others might reap, as all working men and women do. His near blindness had been caused by an accident in the industry where he had worked. His ill health had been caused by the insanitary condition of the industry.

HE WAS ONE OF the victims of the capitalist system. He was one of the human stepping stones whom the capitalists have tramped into the mud in order to climb to their financial eminence. He gave his life to them.

AND THEN THEY CAST him off to live the life of an abandoned, homeless, worthless dog, in his old age. He was a finished product of capitalism. If capitalism continues, practically every working man and woman has a similarly hopeless old age to look forward to. Socialism will make old age comfortable and happy. It will be a paradise for the aged.

WORK FOR IT.

LET WORLD CRY FOR PEACE GROW LOUDER, PLEADS LIEBKNECHT

KARL LIEBKNECHT, Socialist member of the German reichstag, who voted against the war credit of \$1,250,000,000 in December, and who is now reported to have been forced into the Kaiser's army and sent to the front, has addressed an appeal for peace to the Socialists of the world, in a message published in The Labor Leader, the official organ of the British Independent Labor Party. It is as follows:

"As a labor leader I am pleased to be able to write a message of brotherhood to the British Socialists at a time when the ruling classes of Germany and Great Britain are trying by all the means in their power to incite bloodthirsty hatred between the two peoples. But it is painful to write at a time when the radiant hope of previous days, the Socialist International union, lies smashed with its thousand expectations, when even many Socialists of the belligerent countries in this most rapacious of all wars of robbery willingly put on the yoke of imperialism.

"Just when the evils of capitalism were becoming more apparent than ever, the British Independent Labor Party, with their Russian and Servian comrades, saved the honor of So-

cialism against the madness of national slaughter. "Confusion reigns in the rank and file of the Socialist army. Many Socialists blame our principles for our present failure. It is not our principles which have failed, but the representatives of those principles. "All the phrases of 'national defense' and 'liberation of the people,' with which imperialism decorates its instruments of murder, are deceiving tinsel. The liberation of each nation must be the result of its own work. Only blindness can command the continuation of slaughter until the enemy is crushed. "Nowhere have the masses desired this war. Why should they, then, murder each other. It would be a sign of weakness, it is said, for any one people to suggest peace. Well, let all the peoples suggest it altogether. The nation which speaks first will not show weakness but strength and will win glory and the gratitude of posterity. "Already among German workers there is far greater opposition to the war than is generally supposed, and the louder the echo of the cry for peace in other countries, the more vehemently and energetically will they work for peace here."

BRITISH LABOR ASKS ALL TO FIGHT WAR; REVOLT IN AUSTRIA

With organized British workers calling on their class to refuse to assist the government in the present war, and serious internal troubles threatening in Austria and Hungary, the struggle in Europe is taking on new interest for the world's toilers.

Very significant is the open declaration of the British workers against the war voiced at a meeting held at Glasgow, Scotland. It is reported that the Scottish Independent Labor Party, following a lengthy meeting at which James Keir Hardie made the principal address, issued an appeal to all members of the Independent Labor Party not to assist the government in its campaign.

The meeting was a secret one but it was officially announced that resolutions had been adopted regretting that the labor members of parliament had joined with the other members in aiding the government in recruiting and calling on all members of the Independent Labor Party to refuse to assist the government in the present war.

Members of The American Socialist will remember the article by Hardie in which he pointed out that capitalism had fooled the workers into taking up arms in the name of the fatherland. He declared that new demonstrations against the war had taken place in Vienna, especially on Christmas Day. It is declared that the masses are demanding peace and that the women who appeared in the throng shouted, "Give us back our husbands and sons!"

The police charged the demonstrators in the Praterstrasse, where they were threatening the official buildings, and wounded thirty of the manifestants. Several others were arrested and are being court-martialed.

Disturbance Every Day. "Since the Serbian victory," the correspondent says, "not a day passes in Budapest without disturbance. Crowds once or twice have turned against the police, shouting, 'Down with Tizza' (the Hungarian premier)."

"A majority of the Roumanian population of Transylvania have refused to be enrolled in Hungarian regiments and have appealed to Roumania to help them. "Some students arrested in a demonstration Dec. 24 are believed to have been shot.

Students Imprisoned. "Sedition and mutiny are rife in the coast districts of Dalmatia. Scores of students have been imprisoned at Agram because of demonstrations in favor of the Serbs. A reign of terror, on which the Serbs are advancing rapidly.

The American Socialist Party will not have a representative at the proposed peace conference of neutral nations to be held at Copenhagen, Jan. 17-18. Morris Hillquit, who was selected as the delegate, points out the reason for this action in a communication published in the party's official business on page three.

Shaw Desmond writes from Copenhagen that the recent conference of the Swedish Socialist Party decided to continue the working alliance with the liberals and when the time comes to partake in the government by letting a Socialist take office in the capitalist ministry.

Invest Fake Interview. Every method possible will no doubt be used to keep the reputation of the Socialist Party in the eyes of the public. The Herald-Republican, Salt Lake City, Utah, organ of United States Senator Smoot, republican, has opened its columns of filth on the Socialist Legislator J. Alex Hovan, by publishing a fake interview declaring that Hovan would lead the forces in the state legislature against prohibition. Smoot's chief of crimes is used to publish the denial. Through the Inter-Mountain Worker, the Salt Lake Socialist weekly, the Socialist legislator is putting himself right before the workers of the state, declaring he wants this subject submitted to the people, to be voted on by them in referendum.

The Comedy Of Capitalism

By CHARLES W. ERVIN
WHEN THE HONORABLE "Larry" Sherman, Senator from Illinois, talks one is reminded of the lines from "Hudibras"—

Could twist as strong a rope of lead
And weave fine cobwebs for the brain
That's empty when the moon is full.
Such as fine lodgment in the head
That's to be let unfurnish'd."

It is not that "Larry" is on the wrong side of every question. Even a mind such as Sherman's must yield at times to its modern environment. "Larry's" reasons however for supporting at long intervals some mildly progressive measure are anything but radical. Sherman's "Rooster" speech in the Senate on the Immigration Bill was some performance. Perhaps the Eugenic Society will publish it.

We won't deal with the "Rooster" portion of it here as we want to keep our mailing privileges and we haven't the same pull with the post-office authorities as the Congressional Record. "Larry" had some brain storm when he denounced the wicked "agitators." He told the Senate about the "soap-boxers" whom he had heard giving voice to their damnable doctrines on Jackson Boulevard, Chicago.

The thing that seemed to arouse Sherman's ire the most was what he called one had to say about "production." "Larry" christened this "shameless rot." We suppose the Senator from Illinois was shocked by some "soap-boxer" telling his hearers that those who produced the wealth of the world should be in possession of it. Sherman said, "If such a thing were constitutional" he would vote to have these men "exported to Dry Tortugas or some island in the Philippine Islands."

Nice amiable gentleman this in dealing with his fellow-citizens who differ with him in the ideas of justice! "Larry" should father a movement for a new legislation. We can see him with our mind's eye in the act of administering the tortoise to a Jackson Boulevard "soap-boxer." It is the kind of shoddy material from which the great state of Illinois manufactures a United States senator. Small wonder that familiarity with the finished political product breeds contempt.

CY CURTIS'S MAGAZINES and newspapers are producing such a quantity of piffle daily, weekly and monthly that there is some danger that even a market that consumes as much of this product as the United States may become overstocked. A recent product from the pen of one of his hired men merits a big increase in wages. Commenting upon a dispatch from Governor Harrison of the Philippines which said that there was no likely to be an outbreak of any proportion in our Eastern possessions, Cy's editorial writer asks, "Why should there be? However tyrannous our administration may be, it is nearly perfect in comparison with what is going on in the Philippines."

Otherwise if your conditions are rotten you shouldn't kick if they are less rotten than they formerly were. It is times before you didn't get enough to eat any day you mustn't kick when you get enough to eat one day out of the week.

And Curtis has made millions peddling out this sort of stuff. Thomas Carlyle is credited with the statement that there were "40,000,000 people in England, mostly poor. Still there are 100,000,000 in these United States and they're mostly and mostly fooled."

THE NATIONAL MEREVILE for the Americanization of Heaven and Hell since the Civic Federation has been in labor and brought forth not the proverbial mouse but a new Bill of Rights applied to freedom of speech. Some time ago these fearless champions of the rights of our common folk appointed a committee to investigate this whole question of free speech so that they could tell us just how far we could go in giving voice to our opinions. Free speech should be, as allowed provided it is "reasonable," says the Civic Federation. Sounds like a decision of the gentleman of the Black Robe doesn't it? Some time ago the Holy Bunchers defined what might fitly be termed "reasonable robbery."

We suppose the Civic Federation

SOCIALIST NEUTRALITY

By MORRIS HILLQUIT
IN the face of the all-consuming European conflagration the American Socialists should remain neutral and, as much as possible, rational. If any country of the world is called upon to maintain an even balance in its sympathies for the unfortunate nations of the old continent in this hour of their general madness of destruction, it is this United States, largely made up of the offshoots of all of the fighting nations. If any people can afford to take a sober and dispassionate view of the European catastrophe, it is the people of this country, about four thousand miles removed from the fields of battle, and if any section of our people should be free from hysteria in its attitude toward the war, it is the Socialists, who pride themselves on the possession of a sober social philosophy and an unflinching key to the interpretation of the great world-phenomena of our time.

AMERICAN Socialists should not sides with the allies as against the Germans. The assertion that the forces of the allied armies are warring against democracy against militarism is a hollow catch-phrase devoid of true sense and substance. The governments of France and England are not fighting for the liberation of the German people from the yoke of their reactionary and militaristic government. If they will be victorious, they will not force the abdication of the Hohenzollern dynasty and the establishment of a democratic republic in Germany. The militaristic imperialism of Germany can be superseded by a regime of peaceful democracy only through the action of the German people themselves, and principally through the struggles of the German Socialists and organized workers. Just as the working-class as a whole must accomplish its own economic emancipation, just so must the people of each country conquer its political rights and freedom. No nation in history has ever obtained true liberty as the forced gift of a foreign power.

Besides it will not do to speak glibly about France and England and conveniently and complacently forget about Russia. Russia is the most unrepresentable but by no means the least important member of the allied family. In the final settlement of the European score, it will have as much to say as England or France. And when we speak of Russia, we do not mean the Russian people, who are never consulted, but that most hideous and perfidious of all European forces, the reactionary, absolutistic, militaristic and brutal government of the Czar. Whatever the cause of human progress and civilization may gain through a punishment of Prussian militarism, it will lose a hundredfold through a victory of Russian despotism.

Would consider any expression of opinion "reasonable" that stopped short of showing how the many are being skinned by the few. The whole lot of these ponderous Whollyards could be summed up in the words of one of the characters in "The New Paul and Virginia": "Opinions can only be tolerated that arrive at no possible conclusion."

When the American people are compelled to look for guidance to Belmont, Low and Company they might as well hand over what little portion of liberty they have left to these plutocrats and stop fooling themselves with the belief that they are citizens of a free country.

Freedom in Great Britain.—The newspaper Sinn Fein, did not appear in Dublin, Ireland, last week. The publishers refused to print it, in consequence of having been warned by the authorities that they would be liable to prosecution for the publication of treasonable matter. This is the second step in the suppression of Irish publications, which have been opposing militarism and expressing pro-German sentiments.

Only Talked Socialism.—"We did not discuss the tariff or the reduction of taxes. We held 58 meetings at which we discussed nothing but Socialism," is the way F. W. Brinborough, editor of the Pittsburgh, Kans., Herald, told his friends at Ottawa during a "Christmas" visit. That Socialism was opposed in the recent election, according to the Ottawa, Kans., Republican. There is nothing like getting the opposition to stir up an interest in Socialism.

"PEACE ON EARTH"

By EUGENE V. DESS
THE hundred daily papers of the Scripps League embraced in the November Scripps Association recently addressed fifty resolutions to the people in the United States to give their opinion — to tell in what way they think the American can be of most service in bringing both peace on earth and good will toward men. The following are the "Dobbs" contribution to the symposium:

THERE has never been "Peace on earth and good will toward men" and we shall have to go forward and not backward to realize that ideal. Civilization is still in a primitive, rudimentary state. It has taken countless ages to bring us from the brute, the cave-man and the savage to where we are today. The development has been painfully slow, but steady, and will continue to the farthest stretches of time.

"Thou shalt not kill" is now the law. But it applies only to individuals — not yet to nations. To slay your neighbor is murder — unless you are in uniform. But when the nation slays its neighbors and the killings mount into the thousands, it is not murder but patriotism to be proud of, and rejoice over.

When the brute and savage have been tamed in us and we have become human, in a word — we are going to earth when humanity has been humanized, civilization civilized, and Christianity Christianized.

The war in Europe is a crime against civilization but it had to come. It did not come by chance. Every war has its cause. Modern wars are between rival nations for commercial supremacy.

IT IS OF LITTLE use to cry out against war while we tolerate a social system that breeds war. Capitalism makes war inevitable. Capitalist nations not only exploit their workers but ruthlessly invade, plunder and ravage other nations. The profit system is responsible for it all. Abolish that, establish industrial democracy, produce for use, and the incentive to war vanishes. Until then men may talk about "peace on earth" but it will be a myth — a mirage.

But there is no cause for despair. The world is awakening and we are approaching the sunrise. We cannot stop the European war. We can and will intervene when the time comes and do all in our power to restore peace. To end the war prematurely, were to simply mean another and perhaps even a bloodier catastrophe.

Let us show the people the true cause of war. Let us arouse a sentiment against war. Let us teach the children to abhor war. More than forty years ago the socialists of Europe declared: "We are against all wars, and especially against dynastic wars. With sincerest regret do we accept the unavoidable evils of a defensive war, and we demand that the recurrence of such a social calamity be made impossible for all time to come by vesting in the people themselves the power to decide over war and peace."

THE PROPOSITION is here made to put an end to war by democratizing war. In all the history of the world THIS PEOPLE have never declared a war.

A CONSTITUTIONAL amendment providing that no war shall be declared except by a vote of the people and that, as Allan Benson has suggested, if war is declared they who voted for it shall be the first to go to the front, would put an end to war forever in this country. Woman, although the most vital factor in war and its most heavily suffering victim, has always been conspicuously ignored when war has been declared. Give woman the ballot on equal terms with man in every state of this union and a mighty advance will have been made toward ending the terrible scourge of war from the face of the earth.

The earth is filled with its billions. There is light in every brain and good in every heart. Let us rejoice that we live at a time when old wrongs are being uprooted and new rights being proclaimed, when the light is passing and the better day dawning, when all shall join (approximately) in the same anthem — "PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN."

Need To Evict Strikers.—The coal barons of the western Ohio coal fields, where the miners are on strike, have issued a statement of intent to force out the strikers from their homes Jan. 15.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Propaganda Among Farmers.
Q. What is the best method of propaganda among farmers?
A. While there does not seem to be very many leaflets and pamphlets written especially for socialist propaganda among farmers, there are a few, and first you should get a supply of what you can. They are: "Digger in the Earth" (leaflet) \$1.60 per 1000. "Socialism for the Farmer" (pamphlet) 10c each, \$7.50 per 100. "The Farmer" (pamphlet) 10c each, \$5.00 per 100. Distribute the leaflets as widely as you can. If you are able to travel through the country leave them in the mail boxes. Have a supply on hand on market day and put it in the wagons of the farmers when they come to town.

Or, if you have no better way you should get a list of the voters in the different communities and mail a leaflet to each one, enclosing a slip to be returned to you with the name and address of each one who might be interested in receiving further material. The names you get in this way furnish a good basis of a list to work on.

Then try selling or distributing the pamphlets and after you get your people to reading them, see if you cannot get some of them to subscribe for a socialist paper. Or, from your list, select a few names and send them workers' subs to the American Socialist.

Arrange a few meetings in the neighborhood or other neighborhood centers, with speakers who under-

stand the farmer question. Stereotyped lectures sometimes make effective propaganda.

Plans for work among farmers have not been worked out in detail, and we hope that comrades who are anxious to progress and methods and schemes that might be helpful to others.

SOCIALIST FARM PAPERS.
WANTED: The names and addresses of and particulars concerning working socialist papers that deal particularly with farms and farming. Address the Information Department.

Spurred By Socialists.—Spurred on by the Socialist local, the Dayton city government has adopted a plan under which 100 unemployed men a day are given employment.

Oppose Commission Government.—Denver Socialists have adopted resolutions favoring the repeal of the present commission form of government.

Illness Battle Situation.—The Montana Federation of Labor will discuss the battle situation at the convention called for the first week in February.

Was His Bill Ready.—James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, and representative-elect from Reading, has a bill which he intends to present to the legislature.

Vote For Suffrage.—The North Dakota Association opposed to woman suffrage has issued a detailed statement declaring that an analysis of the vote on woman suffrage showed that the Socialists voted solidly in favor of it. We admit it.

Executive Department

WALTER BARNETT, Secretary
National Executive Committee
VICTOR L. BELMONT, Sec. First Dist.

LEWIS J. BUCHANAN, Sec. Second Dist.
ALBERT COOPER, Sec. Third Dist.
JAMES H. MAHER, Sec. Fourth Dist.

J. STYTT WILSON, Sec. Fifth Dist.
The National Party of the United States is the only party that stands for the interests of the people and not for the interests of the few.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
RE: BUREAU OF LABOR
The National Party of the United States is the only party that stands for the interests of the people and not for the interests of the few.

By Local No. 1, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 2, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 3, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 4, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 5, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 7, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 9, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 10, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 11, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 13, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 14, New York, N. Y.
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By Local No. 15, New York, N. Y.
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FIGHTING THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

ARTICLE I By ADOLPH GIERER

In my previous article I spoke of the action of the American Federation of Labor Convention in declaring itself opposed to a national eight-hour day. Let us think about this a little more. Unquestionably it is the greatest error of judgement committed by Mr. Gompers in his 25 years domination of the A. F. of L.

It is so patent that she fears that Mr. Gompers is falling and that his anarchist friend Mr. J. W. Sullivan is now managing Mr. Gompers.

NOW IT IS AN interesting fact that both Mr. Gordon and Mr. Sullivan have been closely identified with the National Civic Federation and both have spent many a dollar of August Belmont's money.

Mr. Sullivan has travelled considerably abroad and lived well at Mr. Belmont's expense, and in denouncing municipal ownership Mr. Sullivan has served the cause of the street railway king will not soon forget.

Mr. Gordon, too, has been extensively employed by the National Civic Federation. He spends most of his time looking up figures to prove the folly of municipal ownership and writing letters denouncing the Socialists.

And why wouldn't Sullivan and Gordon defend their benefactors, Belmont and Gompers? Should the A. F. of L. become a militant force and do something of real value for Labor, would the effect of the dollars of Belmont which Sullivan and Gordon stand excellent chances of helping to spend.

There are the two men who apparently today dominate the mind of the "Grand Old Man of Labor."

IT HAS BEEN RUMORED recently that Mr. Gompers has not been well, but that he is in no danger of death. It is no question what is over but that many of the editorials in the AMERICAN SOCIALIST are written by Mr. Sullivan.

It is only in the light of these facts that one can understand the recent actions of the A. F. of L. machine.

As a diplomat in the labor movement Mr. Gompers has all his life been a matter. No matter how bitter were the feuds nor how intense were the passions of the labor movement, Mr. Gompers' position was usually unassailable.

In the early days he defeated the Socialists because he was the greater mind, and because his position was somewhat consistent and harmonious with the best interests of the labor movement.

But in recent years he has made one mistake after another and at last there comes the terrible and fatal error of forcing the A. F. of L. actually to oppose a national eight-hour day by law.

DURING THE RECENT eight-hour campaign in California the Merchants and Manufacturers Association used large placards quoting Mr. Gompers' statements against the law. The most effective opposition to the eight-hour law was furnished to the enemies of organized labor by Mr. Gompers.

He explains his attitude by saying that he wants the unions themselves to fight and enforce an eight-hour day.

He says he does not believe in leaving such matters to the government.

In other words Mr. Gompers would get the eight-hour day by starting the workers through long, drawn out and bitterly contested industrial conflicts in which scores of human lives are inevitably sacrificed.

It is an easy matter for one with \$7,500 income per annum and expenses to talk of obtaining eight hours of labor among the Democrats.

And he does not believe in laws for labor, why is there a labor lobby at every state legislature and at Washington? Why does he bother about the Clayton Law? Why does he back the Democratic Party?

If the end and aim of political effort is not to obtain, among other things, a national eight-hour law, what is the use of all his recent political efforts, of his denouncing the Republican reactionaries, and of his praise of the great friends of Labor among the Democrats?

Is there any consistency in Mr. Gompers in these days? All his life long he has been one of the most consistent and logical thinkers in the labor movement.

Now he seems to be losing his grip, and throughout all his activities one sees traces of the ruthless work of his friends and Belmont's employees, Gordon and Sullivan.

LET US GET A clearer view of Mr. Gompers' consistency. He discards legislative efforts to get an eight-hour day, yet every issue of the AMERICAN SOCIALIST is filled with praise of the laws obtained by the A. F. of L. through its legislative efforts.

The Clayton Law and many other labor laws were heralded as immense and everlasting victories of the labor movement.

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Now he seems to be losing his grip, and throughout all his activities one sees traces of the ruthless work of his friends and Belmont's employees, Gordon and Sullivan.

LET US GET A clearer view of Mr. Gompers' consistency. He discards legislative efforts to get an eight-hour day, yet every issue of the AMERICAN SOCIALIST is filled with praise of the laws obtained by the A. F. of L. through its legislative efforts.

THE POWER OF UNIONISM

ARTICLE II By ROBERT HUNTER

A FEW MEN, weak and helpless as individuals, can by unity become a powerful force. Unionism is the hope, the only hope, of the working class.

Individuals may go up or down in our present social system but the workers as a whole can progress upward only through the exercise of unionism.

This is beyond all dispute, yet few of us have even begun to grasp the great meaning, the value, or the power of unity.

Millions of men have been crushed and ruined by the power of the individual, but not by the power of the united force.

Let us think of the power of unity. How few are compared with the rest of the workers in America. Yet look what unity has done for them.

They have the shortest hours, the highest wages, the best treatment. They have hope, confidence, self respect.

They have to an extent emancipated themselves from subjection to individual oppressors, vile conditions, low wages, and long hours, yet even they, the most intelligent of the working class do not yet understand the full power of unity.

THINK WHAT IT WOULD mean if every man, woman and child who toil in this country should be bound together in bonds of perfect brotherhood.

Think what they could do in case of a strike or a lockout or any difference whatever with the powers that rule this world.

If they would all unite how quickly they could bring tyranny to its knees. Of course the unity must be first of all and above all the unity of men in the shop, the mill, the mine, and the factory.

Three workers must stand by each other, believe in each other, work with each other and love each other in the shop, but there must also be unity when they go to the grocer or the clothier.

When union men often spend forty dollars a month to destroy unionism when they give one dollar a month to build up unionism.

The union men of this country spend no less than one billion five hundred million dollars a year to purchase the necessities of life. Every dollar of that immense sum that is spent for non-union goods is spent to break down the unions.

When a strike is on, union men all over the country send their contributions to support the strike.

They for all their power to support their brother unionists when they seem to be in trouble, but the little strike which you aid here and there by contributions is nothing compared with the evil your millions of dollars do in supporting non-union products.

WHEN A UNIONIST SPENDS forty dollars a month buying scab products he is trying with a great big hand to pull down the unionism which his poor little dollar of dues to his union is trying to build up.

When you spend money to support non-union products you are very proud of yourself as a good unionist. He thinks himself a philanthropist. I suppose he thinks that that miserable laborer a month will build up a powerful trade union movement. But it never will so long as he takes his forty dollars a month into ten-cent stores and buys the products of prison and scab labor which is cutting the very ground from under his union.

Suppose every man of the three million trade unionists in this country considered it a crime to buy prison products or scab labor products, suppose the merchants knew that every penny of the billion and half dollars spent by these trade unionists would be spent only for union goods, what would you see?

Every store in this broad land, patronized by working men, would have a big union label over its door. Merchants would themselves advertise the union label and many a merchant would produce union goods and hire union labor or go bankrupt. If union men bought right, they would not have to strike so much.

That, brothers, is the power of unity in the small matter of spending a week's wage. The buying power of labor if exercised in unity would solve many of the problems of Labor.

Back of every union fighter, back of every strike, back of every industrial union movement, back of every effort to improve the power of the worker, there should be a union label over his door.

Every dollar spent by union labor for union goods is money in your own pocket. Think of that!

THE FARMER. A recent issue of the Appeal to Reason came out with a strong plea for a united effort among socialists to reach the farmer vote. It is no doubt true that socialism can never come until it does capture the farmer vote.

And there is just one reason why socialism does not reach the farmer. It has not yet reached an acceptable conclusion as to the disposition of the land. Human nature demands the private ownership of the home and all talk of socialistic land ownership is just a scheme of land tenure that will be acceptable to the people. Then issue a definite literature on the land question.

J. R. LASHBROOK, Donner Springs, Kans. I want to make you a suggestion on "Butter Fund for a new home for National Headquarters. That any local sending you \$25.00 will have a brick placed in the building bearing name of the local. As location for these bricks I suggest that after consultation with the local, a course of stone be put on — this about 8 feet above the ground, then put on the "brick" of the local. Commence at front and go as far around as necessary.

I believe the Appeal Local will take a "brick". Just put on it in raised letters "Connect. O." People who see it will understand. L. R. BENJAMIN, Connecticut, Ohio.

ANSWERS SPENCER. It seems to me unfortunate that Comrade Dwight Spencer of Coal-gate, Ohio, should take that nasty stab at Christianity in the American Socialist of the 19th. I have been a Christian for thirty years and have lately become a red card Socialist, believing that the ethics of Socialism are the ethics of Christianity.

Comrade Spencer's broad-side can have no effect on my faith of a lifetime, but should his article have generated reading among voters who feel themselves disciples of Christ it would drive many voters far away from the Socialist party that are now hovering near.

And far-seeing Socialist editors have a long ago concluded that the Socialist appeal to voters must be made under the economical and industrial banner; that such is lost and absolutely nothing gained by attacking religion, there are certain religious beliefs that I heartily despise, I think not without reason, and which I feel stand in the way of Socialism, but I feel that the cause of Socialism is too precious to jeopardize by taking any flings at sacred things. The right can be gained by attacking the capitalist system for combat and here we win or lose. The thing that steered me away from Socialism a decade ago was just such sneering gear as Comrade Spencer uses on his wits. BARNEY E. ANTROB'S, Crawfordville, Ind.

of us who favor peace except at such periods when "our" Capitalists must protect and further their interests by war. It is this idea of race-superiority, imagined to be a fixed characteristic of some society that leads to race- pride and race-hatred, which in the last analysis is nothing but a child's naive idea that is giving a great impetus to a rising Militarism in this country and that fooled the Socialists of Europe to lead each other believing they were defending their "race" against the "other race". Let us among the War-patriots away from our door. Let the Socialists of other countries do likewise. Let us each and all look the Cause of war squarely in the face, and the old scare of a foreign enemy will no longer fool us. Then we will be in a position to adopt a tactic that will truly "War against War" — The General Strike. CLARENCE OLSON, Lindsburg, Kas.

LOSS OF TEARS. To weep over the German Socialists, not preventing the war, is useless and loss of tears. To ensure them would be nursing remorse, and poisoning the strongest thoughts that are budding in the mind of universal brotherhood of mankind.

To forgive AS CHRIST DID, is the motto for the International Socialist Convention to adopt. The world needs the German Socialists, we are all Brothers, this unnecessary bloodshed of the present war will waste as all the closer with stronger ties of love and duty to one another; brotherhood of man must come.

We need fearless workers and we will find them rallying to the cause; this war will be the purification of the Socialist doctrine, to the extent that Socialism will be understood more as science and truth, and the man embracing Socialism will be truly class conscious and nothing can make him false. C. J. FRY Copper, Cal.

FOR DOUBLING MEMBERSHIP. In order to increase the membership of the Socialist Party and to increase the efforts of the members in the ranks, who have worked without any thought of reward I offer the following for your consideration as one of the methods that could be used.

The National Party to have some Socialist buttons and pins made of a special design to be known as Meritorious Service Buttons and Pins. The words "Meritorious Service" to be substituted for the words "Workers of the world unite." These buttons and pins should be given to members who have done some good deed for the party.

The best campaign we ever made in Skagit County was managed by two uneducated women, wives of wage slaves, one sawmill laborer and two farm hands. It does not seem possible that anyone willing to make a socialist would accept a higher rate of pay for those that work for the Party than the average working man receives.

The cry is made that we can't get the best talent unless we pay a high price. The working class should look with suspicion on anyone that accepts a higher rate of pay for those that work for the Party than the average working man receives.

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Get Ahead! I Will Help You! LAW Is Your Big Opportunity

THE RUSSIAN BIGABOO. If Comrade Rissanan who in the issue of Dec. 13, criticizes A. M. Simon's "Comment," would apply the law of Economic Determinism to Russia, he would plainly see that Canada now occupies the territory that would be a peasant country but a modern capitalist nation.

This Significant Law Library With Every Course. Special Offer from the President. J. E. MARSH, President.

THIS COLUMN RECORDS THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR SUB HUSTLERS FROM WEEK TO WEEK

Table with 2 columns: Week, Amount. Last Week 67.215, Off 1279, This Week 67.718, Gain 503.

The hard times still refuse to hit the American Socialist circulation report. In spite of wars, rumors of wars, unemployment and what not...

ROLL OF HONOR

- W. E. McClure, Warren Springs, Kan. leads the list with 10 names. E. F. Alvord, St. Louis, Mo. comes next with 9 names...

JOBLESS EVIL IS PART OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM

By SOCIALIST CONGRESSMAN-ELECT, MEYER LONDON

UNEMPLOYMENT is an evil inseparable from the prevailing system of production and distribution...

We find it under protective tariffs and under free trade, in countries from which there is a large emigration...

COMPETITION BETWEEN WORKERS.

THE supposed harmony between capital and labor is evidently based upon an arrangement that the workers should share nine-tenths of the product...

The introduction of a new machine, the adoption of new devices, the promotion of a change of the tariff...

FOR NATIONAL LABOR EXCHANGE.

THERE has been a total failure to grasp the bigness of the problem, and it is necessary to follow that the means heretofore adopted...

Neither hypothetical charity nor barbarous vagrancy laws, nor the degrading system of poor relief...

As a preliminary step, the gathering of information must be organized on a national scale. A national labor exchange...

In every civilized country of Europe, the establishment of a labor exchange was followed by the adoption of social insurance.

Modern society cannot guarantee continuity and regularity of employment to any class of workers...

We have learned that there is an obligation upon the community to protect the worker against loss by industrial accident...

Modern society cannot guarantee continuity and regularity of employment to any class of workers...

As far as immediate relief is concerned the nation should, in addition to the work of the municipalities and States...

It is only as a nation that they can grapple with the problem of unemployment which is but an incident of wage-slavery.

As far as immediate relief is concerned the nation should, in addition to the work of the municipalities and States...

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE INEVITABLE.

COMPULSORY unemployment insurance on a national scale, is inevitable.

The people of the United States learned that they were a nation when confronted with the curse of chattel slavery.

It is only as a nation that they can grapple with the problem of unemployment which is but an incident of wage-slavery.

As far as immediate relief is concerned the nation should, in addition to the work of the municipalities and States...

We believe in the conservation and the development for the use of all the people of the natural resources of the country...

The churches might be thrown open to the bewildered and homeless pauper-brother...

These lessons on Capitalism are a new series of Socialist Sunday School lessons on "Capitalism" is just out, published by the Rochester School, 530 St. Paul Street, Rochester, N. Y.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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American Socialist Lecture Bureau

RALPH KORNGOLD, Manager

Small lecture dates are made up for January and February they are as follows:

- JANUARY: Saturday 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.

- FEBRUARY: Monday 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th.

OBSCURE AMERICAN'S ROUTE

- Saturday 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.

STANDING OF LOCALS

- Monday 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.

Lessons On Capitalism

A new series of Socialist Sunday School lessons on "Capitalism" is just out, published by the Rochester School, 530 St. Paul Street, Rochester, N. Y.

There are twelve lessons in this series, beginning with a simple statement of what Capital and Capitalism mean...

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THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE

(By WALTER THOMAS MILLS, M. A.)

This book of which nearly 50,000 copies have been sold has been out of print for several years.

The National Office has often had calls for it which it was obliged to turn back.

The book contains 400 pages and is probably the most complete study course in Socialism that can be found within the covers of one book.

There are 48 chapters. At the end of each chapter there is a list of questions for the training of the student.

To give you an idea of the comprehensiveness of the book, we give a list of the different parts and chapters:

- Part I. (Clearing the Ground): 1. Capitalism and Socialism, 2. The Money Question, 3. Primitive Life, 4. Order of Primitive Progress, 5. Summary.

Paper—\$1.00 per copy postage prepaid. Cloth—\$2.50 per copy postage prepaid.

One copy free with a club of 20 subscribers at 25 cents each, or an order for \$5.00 worth of sub-cards to The American Socialist.

NATIONAL OFFICE SOCIALIST PARTY, 803 W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

Woman's Department

WINNIE E. BRANNERTY, Director

This department has charge of propaganda and organization among women. It has been organized to help women to help women.

Patronally: (Signed) MAY WOOD-SIMONS.

This resignation has been placed with the Executive Committee for submission to the National Committee.

Winnifred Brannerty

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FOR YOU!

The Workers of America have established a school where Low, Public Speaking, and English are taught at cost. For particulars write...

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE

Department 101, Fort Scott, Kansas

SOCIALIST MOVIES

You can make good wages and make Socialists at the same time by procuring a picture machine outfit with picture lectures on some of the many red hot subjects as put out by Dr. E. E. Bonastrophe of Girard, Kan. Write him for particulars.

Patronally: (Signed) MAY WOOD-SIMONS.

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FREE TO YOU!

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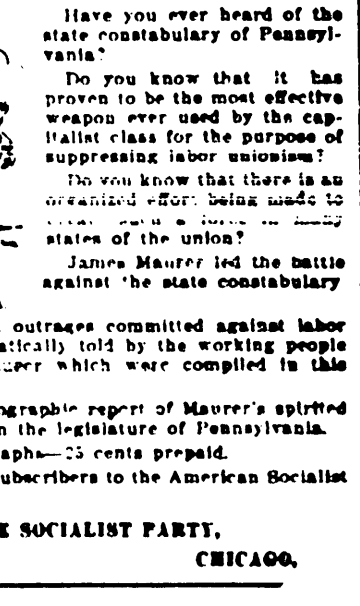
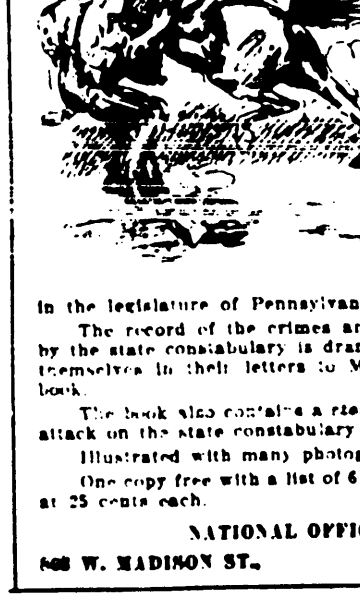
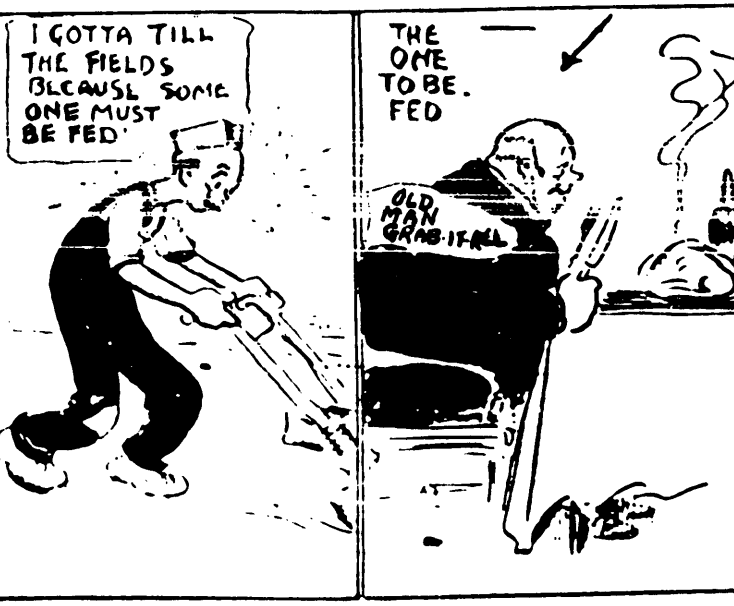
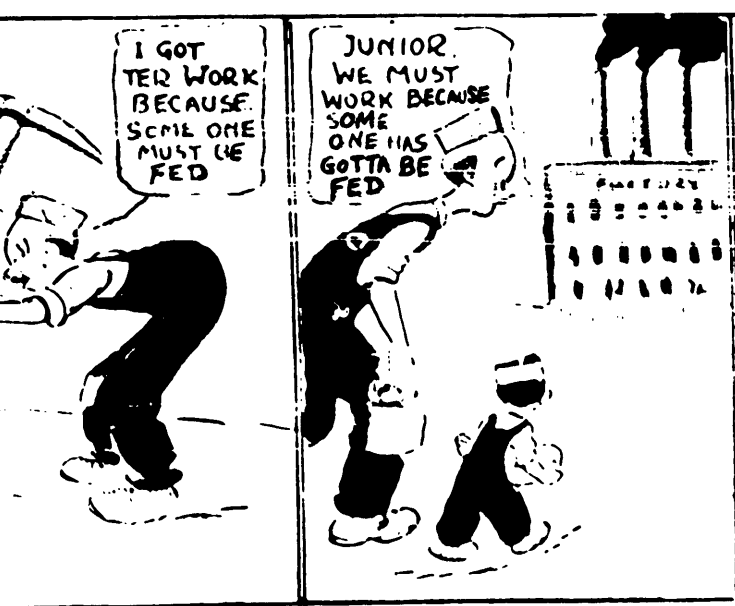
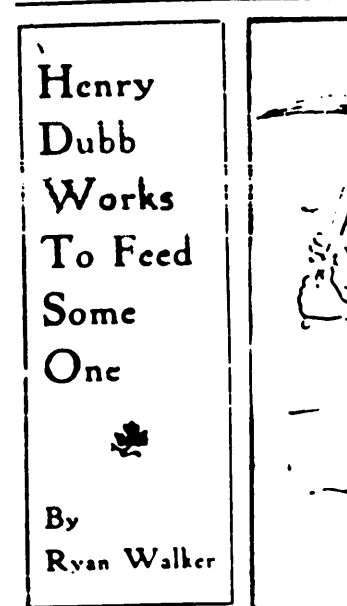
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By Ryan Walker

POP WE ARE HUNGRY BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN WORKIN' TO FEED THE MAN WHO'S BEEN WORKIN' TO FEED HIMSELF!

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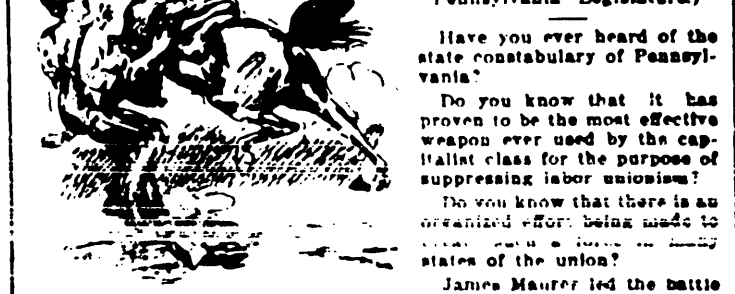
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The American Cossack

By JAMES MAURER

(Member of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, President of State Federation of Labor, Pennsylvania, and Socialist member of the Pennsylvania Legislature.)



Have you ever heard of the state constabulary of Pennsylvania?