

LABOR MUST BREAK THE GRIP OF DARKNES.

By IRWIN TUCKER Editor of "The Christian Socialist" ON THIS Labor Day a concrete, direct and imperative duty confronts every working man and woman. It is to wrest from the strangling hands of Labor's foes...

CAPITALISM'S powers seeking to Hide Terrible Truths revealed by U. S. Industrial Commission—Labor Day's prime duty to secure widespread publicity—Commission members appeal to people to save their work from suppression.

will exert every endeavor to prevent the truth from being known. ONE DUTY AT THIS HOUR. AMERICAN LABOR has at this hour one pressing duty. It is to overpower the choking grip of strangling hands, and give these facts to the light.

ularly the following, which are well worth the most careful study by all persons interested in human uplift. The reports cited below have been prepared by competent investigators and were submitted to the Commission after careful investigation and verification by Director Basil M. Manly and by members of the Commission...

Research of the United States Industrial Commission. Manly engineered the investigation, finding the witnesses who were to testify to the Commission, and preparing the fields to be covered. It is he who wrote the report.

against employers in the main report. First they call the main report partizan; then admit that they themselves are partizan; then admit that the charges made, and then say that if they were wage workers they, too, would be unionists, and unionists of the strongest kind.

WALSH WANTS PEOPLE TO FINISH THE JOB. On August 22, 1915, authority dropped from Frank P. Walsh, and he became a plain unassuming Kansas City citizen. For two years prior to that time he had been chairman of what plutocrats had come to fear as the devil...

Are the Workers of America Opposed to an Eight-Hour Law?

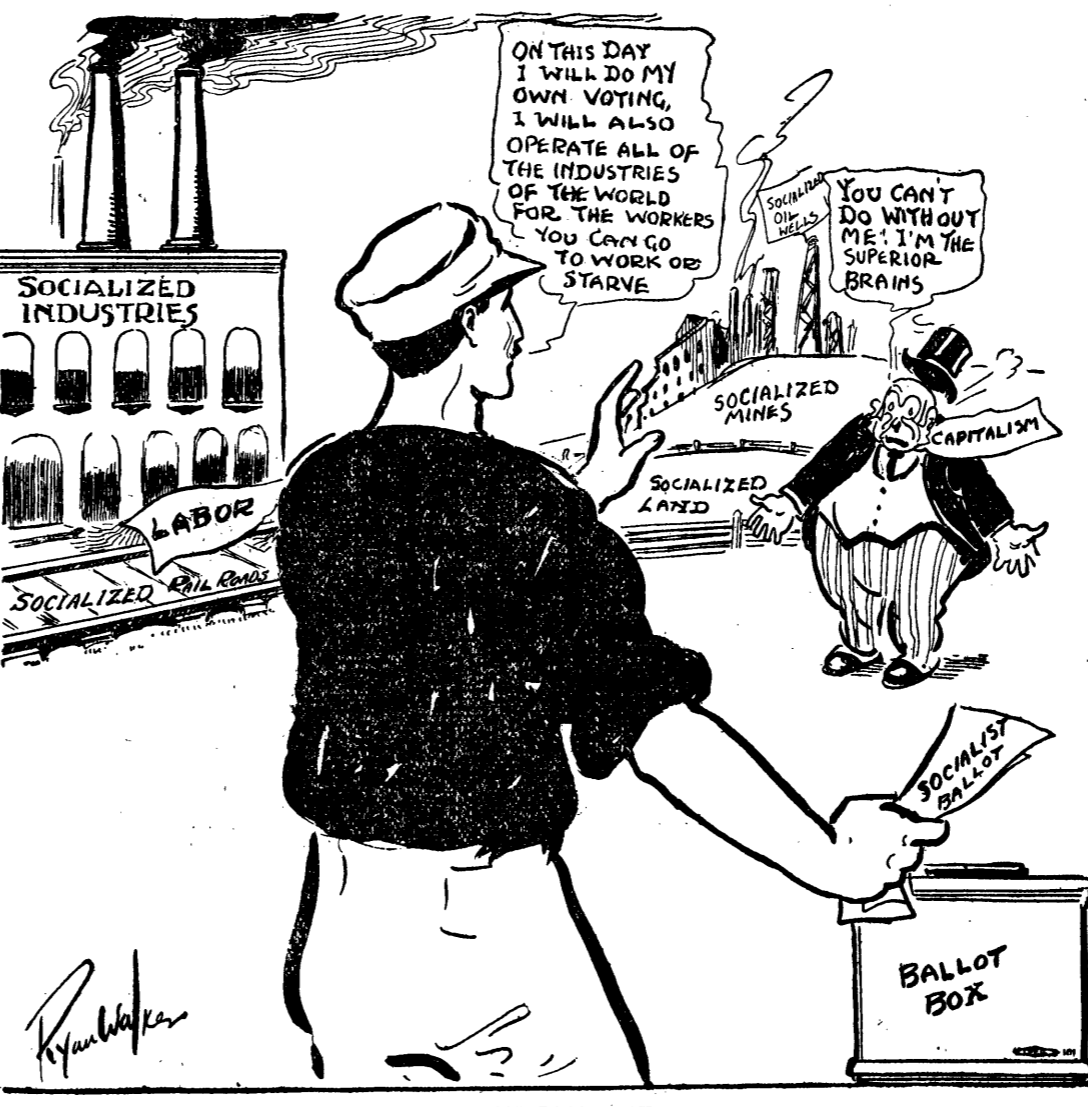
A FOREWORD THE National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party wishes to draw the serious attention of the workers of America to an action of the recent National Convention of the American Federation of Labor.

cialities and by the state. In the early days of the American Federation of Labor an immense eight-hour agitation was conducted and as a result of the enthusiasm produced by this agitation, the foundations were laid for some of the strongest trade unions in America.

THE RESOLUTION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR.

THE MATTER was brought before the convention of the A. F. of L. by a resolution introduced by Paul Scharrenberg, of the California State Federation of Labor. This resolution reads as follows:

in the report of the Committee on Shorter Workday. It appears from the above resolution, which was defeated, that certain officials of the A. F. of L. not only oppose the eight-hour law in theory, but that they are actually using the power and influence, which the labor movement gives



them, to defeat one of the most humane laws ever sought in the interests of labor. Another resolution along similar lines was introduced by Delegates J. A. Taylor, of the International Association of Machinists; J. G. Brown, of the International Union of Timber Workers; and H. L. Hughes, of the Washington State Federation of Labor.

difficult and expensive, if not impossible; and Whereas, a considerable number of States today enjoy the right to initiate and pass legislation by vote of the people; and Whereas, California, Oregon and Washington, at their recent election, endeavored to pass

od of shortening the workday in the States as the Federation of Labor in said States shall deem it desirable and expedient to use. Now it will be observed that the various labor bodies of three great States in the West were last year putting forward tremendous effort

helped them to defeat the working men of the West. The opposition of the employers was to be expected, but who could have dreamed that any leaders of labor in this wide world would come to their aid at such a time? Yet here is what happened. A great poster was gotten out by the Manufacturers' Association and the Metal Trades which told the workers of the West that President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, was opposed to an eight-hour law.

Business is wholesale robbery. It has temporarily been set aside to make room for war, which is wholesale murder. Government ownership is mastery so long as the capitalist controls the government.

SEEKING AN EXPLANATION. NO DOUBT the Manufacturers' Association misrepresented some of Mr. Gompers' views, but in order that there shall be no question that he is opposed to the eight-hour law, let us quote a few words from his testimony before the Commission on Industrial Relations. His full report can be obtained by them to read. They have been published in a booklet entitled "The Double Edge of Labor's Sword."

ONE MILLION COPIES Labor Day, this year, would mark an epoch in the progress of the American Labor Movement if one million copies of this issue of The American Socialist could be circulated among the working men and women of this nation.

THE offer made to those sending in \$1 for 200 copies will also hold good for those ordering larger bundles as follows: \$2.50 for 500 copies; \$5 for 1,000 copies; \$25 for 5,000 copies.

MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

Last Week 49,028 Off 1,997 On 47,031 This Week 47,870 Loss 1,158

WILL THIS BE THE LAST RETREAT?

One more retreat has been made by the army of the "Ons." Will this be the last? Some say that it will. The Lecture Course brigade is now nearing the trenches and that brigade is full of fight and of fire.

ROLL OF HONOR

"Your paper is excellent and should be read by every Socialist," says MOLLE FLAJO, Arizona. MAX DAMN, Massachusetts, will do a world of good, this week. He purchases 25 worth of cards.

LABOR AFTER THE WAR

By A. M. SIMONS

WHEN the sun finally shines through the smoke clouds and blood steam and poisoned gas of war it will look upon a new world,—not only in Europe, but upon this side the Atlantic. Industry, finance, politics and the whole mental life of peoples will have been changed.

A new ruling class, using new instruments will confront a different subject class fighting on a changed battle-ground. Private competing capitalists have already almost disappeared.

State capitalism has already taken the place of private industry. This process will go much further before the war ends.

THIS IS THE NEW world within which Socialists must fight even though peace be patched up before the war has run its apparently inevitable course to bankruptcy, repudiation and social revolution.

Our great task is now before us. It is the task of organizing the social revolution that must follow upon this holocaust.

For this we must prepare? The first step to that end is to see that the Socialist Party of this country is not used as a tool of any of the warring rulers of Europe.

THIS CANNOT BE DONE. But trying to do it may kill the Socialist Party just as the task for which it was created lies ready to its hand.

Our press and party must be ready to direct the mighty changes that will sweep across the world when this war ends.

We need no longer tell of the advantages of state capitalism. One year of war has taught the world more of the possibilities of government organized and directed industry than years of Socialist preaching could have taught.

THE ONE THING that will be hidden from labor is the road to democracy and liberty. These are the only things worth having.

WHAT WE NEED now is rebellion and democracy. There is more of hope for the future in a steady and willing enlistment than in well-fed slaves moving forward in machine-like obedience to organized lust for power.

WE need independence and initiative and education. We have seen some of the damnable defects of discipline in the Socialist movement.

LYING TO OURSELVES is poor amusement. On this Labor Day an opportunity stands at the door of the American Socialists such as has never come to a subject class in all the thousands of years that men have served masters.

Capitalism is blowing itself to fragments. Whether those fragments will be built up into the "coming slavery," or into the structure of the Social Democracy we now have the power to decide.

Ending private control of employment of the markets and of the government would be worth more as a protective measure than all possible forts, battlefields and ammunition.

HOW LONG!

George Vincent, President of the University of Minnesota, is one of the administrators of the Rockefeller Foundation.

"The Joplin miners are being rapidly organized into the Western Federation of Miners," writes Secretary Eleanor B. Carpenter, of the Joplin, Mo., Socialist local.

The appeal of the Pope for peace has led to a strange controversy in Vienna between the Socialist journal the Arbeiter Zeitung and the clerical organ the Reichspost.

The Chemnitz Volkstimme, a German Socialist organ, reports that the Germans on their entry into Warsaw liberated forty political prisoners from the Warsaw citadel who had despaired of ever gaining their freedom.

The arrest of Clara Zetkin has caused a good deal of excitement and resentment among German workers, though the censors are doing their utmost to prevent the expression of criticism of the militarist action.

The Reichstag has adopted a resolution calling for the organization by the government of a bureau, under the auspices of the Federal Bureau, to take charge of the food problem.

J. E. B. Reed is the editor of the American Negro Socialist, the first issue of which has just appeared at Butte, Mont.

The only honest thing to do is to repudiate all war debts.

Capitalist civilization has clearly experienced a blow-out.

The workers lose, in every war.

The fellow who always "votes her straight" is merely hustling offices for the other man.

"Watchful waiting" failed to induce the American people to purchase for war, so the interests order Wilson to pull it off anyhow.

If employment and the market were in the hands of the whole people, one-third of the workers of America would not be poverty stricken.

It is the desire to cut wages and the system which gives employment to the hands of individuals that have put millions of men out of employment and made millions of women victims of industrial conditions.

"Babies of the poor," says the Industrial Commission's report, "die three times as fast as those of the rich." Industrial conditions murder more than universal war does.

Young People's Dept.

Organization—Education—Solidarity.

To reach the nation's youth with the message of Socialism and to bring them into the organized Socialist movement through Young People's Socialist League.

NOTE.—The weekly story has been eliminated from this issue. The next installment will appear in the coming week's issue.

The weight of opinion regarding the Detroit suggestion of providing a special merit button as a prize for all Ypsilanti bringing in five new members, seems to be overwhelmingly opposed to the idea.

One league that is not affiliated with the National organization is the League of Women Socialists.

Another order has just been rushed to the button makers to supply the steadily increasing number of political buttons.

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Two successful parties and three more arranged for in the record of the Philadelphia Ypsilanti. And they were all half-dollar affairs, too.

McKeesport (Pa.), is arranging for a Lawn Fete in conjunction with the Socialist Party. It is to be held at the city park.

At least one other League realizes the gravestations of the city council, and they have the two Socialist aldermen to thank for their victory.

IN OTHER WORDS, the victory was due to political action. It was due to the fact that in two wards the workers quit voting for their enemies' interests and voted for their own.

SAILORS IN DUTCH NAVY CHEER SOCIALIST ANTI-MILITARISTS.

The war has not been able to swerve the Young Socialist Organizations of Holland from their loyalty to the International.

A report in their monthly paper "Het Jonge Volk" (The Young Folks) tells of the uttering of one of their manly warlike clubs.

Military service in Holland as in most other European countries, is compulsory. It was not the fault of these sailors that they were there.

\$108,000 FISHING TRIP.

The Minneapolis, Minn., New Times declares that James J. Hill, of St. Paul, the railroad magnate, has just returned from a fishing trip, the cost of which was \$108,000.

It will be remembered that recently at a banquet feasting the Chinese Honorary Commission, Mr. Hill expressed the opinion that Americans should learn to live on ten cents a day, because they may have to adopt this standard.

EDUCATION.

Pateron reports that the warm weather has not discouraged the splendid interest shown in the "School's" Correspondence Course.

AN OBJECT LESSON

By JOHN M. WORK

In reviewing the progress made since last Labor Day, the Chicago street car strike is one of the assets which have accrued to the labor movement.

ONE OF them introduced a resolution in the city council designed to make the use of strike breakers impossible. This resolution was adopted.

The other introduced a resolution for the seizure of the street railways. It was defeated.

These two resolutions were the real cause of the victory of the men. They scored the politicians and capitalists out of their boots.

OF course the politicians have endeavored to walk away with the credit. And many of the people fall for this deception.

But the fact remains that the ten thousand street car men and their families have the two Socialist aldermen to thank for their victory.

IN OTHER WORDS, the victory was due to political action. It was due to the fact that in two wards the workers quit voting for their enemies' interests and voted for their own.

If two aldermen can accomplish this, what could we not accomplish if we would fill the city councils, legislatures, and other public bodies and positions with Socialists?

We could emancipate the whole working class from robbery, unemployment, and poverty.

58 DATES FOR GERMER AND GOEBEL

We have thus far received 58 dates for Germer and Goebel. We must have at least 100 dates before a tour can be arranged.

TERMS: You can secure these speakers for the sale of 200 subscriptions to The American Socialist at 25 cents each.

Or you can secure both speakers for the small amount of \$25. Write for a flat rate contract.

You Can Now Learn To Speak In Public. Learn to speak forcefully and convincingly. The ability to speak effectively in public and in private means greater influence, greater opportunities and greater financial returns.

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Henry Dubb Has a Labor Parade And Gets In Bad. By Ryan Walker



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