

ENLIST FOR THE WAR AGAINST THE JINGOS  
No. 166 If No. 167 appears on your address label, your subscription expires next week. Do not fail to renew.

# AMERICAN SOCIALIST

PAY UP YOUR DUES.  
Attend the meeting of your local; pay up your dues; get in good standing so you can vote for presidential and vice presidential candidates, executive committeemen and secretary. The ballots go out next week.

## New Politics Arrives

WASHINGTON.—When Meyer London, Socialist member of Congress, came back to his job at the holidays, he found that his colleagues had been much impressed by his enterprise in reporting in person to the voters of his district. The fact that almost every newspaper in New York City published accounts of the two meetings held by London for his constituents in the Twelfth New York district has sunk into the minds of Congressmen who have remained in the House, obscure and unnoticed, for two or five or even ten years. This Socialist has gone before the people of his district and told them what Congress is proposing to do. At once the press discovers that a new politics has arrived. London's meetings are news.

The fact that the New York Herald, which has nothing at all in common with the Socialists, as a rule, gave one of these meetings more than half a column, and that the conservative New York Sun printed a report of even greater length, has not been lost upon the Tammany members. Most emphatically they do not want to stand up before audiences of their own constituents, as London has done in the Twelfth, and answer questions from men fully informed upon the measures now before Congress. Yet they fear the effect of their refusal to follow the Socialist's lead.

**Creates Favorable Impression.**  
How favorable has been the impression created in the minds of the editors of newspaper and journals is indicated by these remarks by the New York World:

"A Representative Who Represents"—The purpose of Meyer London, Socialist Congressman from the Twelfth District, to meet his constituents once a month and discuss with them his service at Washington, must be commended. Aitho Congress has been in session only a fortnight, he was greeted at the first of these meetings by nearly 1,000 persons, and the Representative and the represented exchanged views freely. It was remarkable, perhaps, that the plan of the Congressman, who is said to be the first to institute regular conferences of this kind, is the interest and intelligence manifested by the voters of the East Side. Unlike a good many people in most of our districts, they knew the name of their Representative in the House, and their regard for public affairs was keen enough to give him a good audience at a casual, when political, meetings are held.

"It is not possible for all members of Congress to make monthly reports in person, but if even a third of them were to follow Mr. London's example we should have fewer complaints of the failure of representative government."

**Brooklyn Eagle Comments.**  
On the same subject, says: "Queer people are the East Side Socialists. They can charge an admission to party mass meetings, and voters come just the same. They can raise the very roof with indignation, or with contempt, or they can follow Mr. London knows them. And we are glad to note that he is not afraid to dose them with a modicum of political sanity."

"To the query why he did not include in his peace resolution the assurance that the cause was an exclusive cause of wars, London responded: 'Because that isn't so. The greatest cause of wars is the stupidity of the people.'"

"On behalf of the calm thinkers of the United States we are inclined to congratulate Meyer London. He had things to have in the House of Representatives one man standing for a considerable minority of American thought and of the American electorate. And the way may never agree with London again, his courage and poise may be conceded by all fair-minded persons."

**Few Favor Preparedness.**  
It may be interesting to note that Rep. London's next-door neighbor in the House of Representatives office building here has been sending a circular letter, with a request for the opinions of his constituents on military preparedness, to all the voters in his district. This Congressman is Edward Keating of Colorado, one of an inheritance tax. Out of 5,000 replies so far received, Keating finds less than 10 per cent favorable to a large increase in the army and navy, such as advocated by the so-called defense leagues.

## A Christmas Appeal to the Peoples at War

WE DO NOT appeal to Governments and Monarchs. We appeal to the common people. To the common people in every town and village of this land, not of this land only, but of every nation which has drawn the sword.  
For sixteen months we have lived to kill. With each of us that has been the aim of our national existence. Do we understand, CAN we understand, what we have been doing?  
This Christmas let us pause and look upon our handiwork. Let us look not afar, but about us, close at hand.  
Everywhere is heard the moan of the bereaved. Wives sorrowing for their husbands. Mothers and fathers sorrowing for their sons. Young women sorrowing for the men who were pledged to them and for the children never to be born.  
"The enemy is responsible." Yes, but we are responsible for similar grief in homes whose dead were equally dear.  
The suffering we see is reflected in every town of every nation at war. Hundreds of thousands of brave men lie dead. Millions of strong men lie maimed. Millions of loving hearts are broken.  
However much we have been led to hate each other, in this common sorrow are we not made one?  
In the name of suffering Europe, for the sake of the future of the race, in memory of the Babe of Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace, we appeal to the peoples to  
**END THIS WAR AND WAR FOR EVERMORE.**

## "WAR, WHAT FOR?" IS FEARED IN AUSTRALIA.

George R. Kirkpatrick, author of "War, What For?" has just been notified that the Commonwealth Government of Australia has issued a general order to the customs collectors of the several states, that hereafter, for the remainder of the war, the book, "War, What For?" shall be rigidly excluded from Australia, the explanation being that the book hinders recruiting.  
According to a copy of the Glasgow, Scotland, Forward, the militant Socialist weekly of Scotland, just received, the Forward editors state they cannot publish the article, "A Good Soldier," recently created by the United States postal department, claiming it would be a clear violation of the defense of the realm act. This is what may be expected in this country if the militarists get control.

## A BUNCH OF KIDS

THE HUMAN race is a bunch of kids.  
There is no other explanation of the actions of human beings. The race is simply in its youth. It has not yet developed into maturity.  
Of course there are a few grown-ups.  
I once heard John J. Ingalls make a speech in which, among other things, he said: "There are a few bad republicans—now and then one; and there are a few good democrats—now and then one."  
Just so with really full grown men and women. Now and then one.  
The rest are mental, moral and spiritual kids. . . .  
THE RESULT is that they act like kids.

Most of them spend their whole lives struggling for things which a grown up person does not care for. What is wealth? A mere bubble. No full grown person cares for it. No highly developed person would for one moment consider the idea of spending his life in accumulating property. You could not sentence him to a duller dungeon than to compel him to waste his time in making money.

And most of the people fight over these bubbles. Take a glimpse at society, as depicted in the press, giving the daily events in a country which is at so-called peace, and what do you see? A shouting, struggling, laughing, crying, hammering, cursing mob, each trying to snatch the earth, like a football, and make way with it, while the others oppose or follow after. And they make believe that they are doing big things, and that all this is really worth while.

And then look at the nations which are admitted to be at war. Raising armies, drilling them, furnishing them with guns and ammunition, going to the front, and shooting each other to death—for nothing.  
As a woman would say—"The very idea!"

YOU COULD not hire, coax or force a full grown man to go to war. The kids all around him might be engaged in battle, but he would not engage in it. If they tried to force him to do so, he would very much prefer to be shot as a traitor rather than obey the order.

Youths are often the most mighty, unreasoning and obstreperous just before they develop, rather swiftly, into the first stages of manhood.  
The race is at this point in its development. We have not long to wait for it to get over the worst of its foolishness. More and more men and women are becoming full grown all the while.

When a majority of them become so, they will put away childish things. They will introduce Socialism and live together in harmony and happiness.  
Upton Sinclair, who has just completed a tour over the trail of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. thru the coal fields, predicts that the United Mine Workers will be in complete control of the new organization built up by young Rockefeller within another year. Sinclair says that he has talked to all of the miners who are leaders in the new Rockefeller organization and that they are quietly planning to go over to the old organization that was broken up by the big strike of 1914.

## What Of The Hopeless?

Do you know where this thing is going to end, Mr. Wilson?  
Can you guarantee that, the American may "prepare" until the people are bankrupted, they will not have war or be defeated in war?

Are you sure that the workers will volunteer to fight for the nation that does not give them justice? Why should they fight for it?

Why should they battle for the "protection and in the interest of" their employers, when the employers have waxed rich off their toil while they remain poor?

Your talk of "patriotism" is hypocrisy, Mr. Wilson, a politician's web with which to catch suckers. The workers in general own nothing in America; they have no country.

You say "patriotism" or love of one's country, but you mean love of the other man's nation. A school master ought not to juggle terms for the purpose of deception.

Why should the workers fight for a nation that upholds a private monopoly of employment and never has work for all? Why should they support a nation that supports a system which robs them?

Would they be worse off if conquered by Emperor Wilhelm? Does he not provide unemployed insurance, sickness insurance and a thousand other things the hogs in control of America refuse the voters?

Would you employ conscription, Mr. Wilson, to make the workers fight; or would you force them to murder for the hogs in charge of America by denying them employment and therefore life if they do not fight for the masters?

If the hogs "for whose protection and in whose interest the workers are expected to enlist" are given a full day a week on pay for purposes of drilling, will it not mean the selling of the army to the hogs who have stolen America?

If you build up an army that is paid by the capitalist class and that therefore belongs to them, to conquer markets and loot for them, what has become of the republic? Are you going to violate your oath to really protect America?

If you are assisting the traitors who own America to destroy American government in their private interest, how will you guarantee that the workers will not enlist in order to get with guns and which to shoot their officers and the capitalists?

How will you manage the men who are denied employment because they will not enlist to commit murder for their fellow workers? Do you imagine they are going to be starved for doing what their conscience tells them is right without a word or act of protest?

Are you figuring on a possible working class revolt? And do you believe that you will stop it because you place the arms, at the expense of the workers, in the hands of the looters and their agents? Do you really believe they will be helpless?

Suppose there are two million who are deprived of employment because they will not enlist in an army paid by the capitalists. They are starving. If they matter but little to them if they are killed, because they expect to die anyhow.

I am not advocating the match. It will not be Socialists who will use the match. But if you are going to try to force the world to militarism "for the protection" of employing looters of labor, I want to warn you and the demons who thus betray civilization to destruction that the weapon that will count in the class war will not be battleships.

The hopeless can prepare themselves in five minutes for this warfare, at an expenditure of ten cents, better than the masters can prepare for conquest and loot of the world in five years at an expenditure of ten billion dollars. It was gunpowder that unhorsed the knight. It may be the match that will destroy paper bonds.

You have experienced a fraction of the danger already. The attempt on the life of the chief conspirator against American peace, whom you support, and the fires and explosions in munitions plants are only a hint of what may come, intensified a thousand fold.

You are ready for the trial of arms. You may think you, a Democrat, can deny the Socialist the ballot and prevent his agitation thru military dictatorship, and so work your wicked will. But you are only closing the safety valve and blocking the only way that might lead to freedom thru peace.

It may be the people will not have sense enough to legally annul peace-canceled franchises, repudiate bonds and so free themselves and save the world from the threat of conquest and the need of preparation to conquer others in order to live. But suppression and starvation and

## A GHASTLY JEST, MR. WILSON.

NOW THAT it has been proved that the navy league and many of those who are promoting war agitation profit directly from the making of munitions of war, an investigation is promised.  
This is no time for such buncomb, Mr. Wilson.  
The evidence is conclusive now. We do not want a whitewash.  
We remember how years and millions were spent in investigating the same set of criminals by the Walsh commission. We remember how they were officially pronounced guilty.  
Now you and congress want to award them millions in contracts in order to bribe them to provide employment for the workers, and never mention the crimes already proved against them.

We don't want another investigation that will find them guilty of treason, then a suppression of the report, and a call for the workers to rally "to the protection and for their benefit."  
Shoot them, Mr. Wilson, for the traitors they are. Confiscate the property they claim as theirs, then open the mills by the government and in behalf of the whole people, and quit playing into the hands of the wreckers of civilization.

slaughter will intensify rather than end the crisis.  
This is not a new idea. It is not my idea. It is what the farsighted seers saw three millenniums ago. You believe in the bible, Mr. Wilson. Read Revelation 18, and you will see how Babylon (US) is pictured as being "burned out" "as in an hour." This is the fire and brimstone into which you would turn the world.

Read the passage, and you will see pictures of kings and merchants and ship owners standing helpless and before the mighty conflagration that they themselves have provoked. You will see that it is pronounced just. You will see that it is said there never will be a renewal of the old system. You will see where Heaven and earth are called on to rejoice over the destruction of the system.

It doesn't have to come that way, Mr. Wilson. You are familiar with the explicit scriptural statements that if the people change their attitude and do justice the evil spoken of by the prophets will be turned aside. Socialists show how the new order opposed by the dragon might come in peace and still fulfill the vision of the olden seers.

But you will not avoid the end of wicked confusion thru preparation to wreck the world to prevent it. It will come anyhow. You merely have it in your hand to determine the manner of its coming. But woe to you if you force the bloody war. The lives of half a billion people (a third of the people of the world as Revelation forecasts) will rest on your soul and the souls of the capitalists for forcing that route. Do you want to assume that responsibility, Mr. Wilson?

## IN THE WAR GAME

IT IS very hard, in refining down the combination of ingredients that go to make the war game, to find anything amusing in the manner of a byproduct. If any can be found, it must arise out of the peculiar, foreign matter injected into the mixture in the belief that there can be any relief for preparation for preparedness and militarism.

For the ends of the war game it may be worth while to overlook the observation that "all is fair in war." What this really means, that everything unfair which cannot be justified by any upright standard is done in war, is just as well to the whole war game. And why shouldn't it?

In truth, to go to war when war is on has many redeeming features, once we take out of the question the essential viciousness of bloody conflict. For as a thing, under the stress of such conflict and led or misled by reports of actual invasion, it is quite easy for peace loving people to persuade themselves that they are in danger of immediate attack and destruction. And "self-preservation" then becomes the first law of nature.

BUT THERE is no such excuse in the war game. It is a game, first of all, because it is not the real thing. If war itself proves anything in this respect, it is that the war game and what happens when war is declared are two things, often entirely unlike. What is more to the point, there is no particular in which the opinion of the war players is more unreliable than that which tells us about imminent danger and the amount of preparation required to meet it.

In fact, the war game is never so much of a game as when the players are at their best displaying their ability to win the public to their views of the case. It is necessary in actual war, fearfully necessary, to carry on military expeditions that are purely political, that is, which have for their purpose to keep those at home believing something is being done which is especially worthy of their commendation—and increased recruiting. We have seen this very recently in the "drives" undertaken first by the allies, then by the German forces, to impress the Balkans, British parliament and German reichstag.

But in the war game itself, the players are at their wits end to "put over" as much as possible on the public. The public must foot the bill. Unlike war itself, the public has a choice as to whether it will spend the taxes for preparation—for the war players,—or in peaceful pursuits—for the general good.

So we read an inspired despatch from Washington saying that the war lords of the nation are watching to see whether Britain adopts compulsory

military service, with a view of insinuating the same idea into the American mind.  
We do not think the war game crowd expect to go this far. But they do expect to go much further than they otherwise would, if Britain paves the way, and the American public can be made to believe that the evil it is choosing is so small as against what it thereby avoids, that it amounts to an actual good.

IN SHORT, we shall get as much or as little militarism as we are willing to stand for. The fact that we to the present the nation is not in the least excited about the prospects of our being swallowed by any power on earth would cool the ardor of the war game crowd if they had any ardor in the first place. But they haven't. They are only in the game—not the reality.

About the only real thing in the game is concealed behind the President's message to congress which called this session into being. It is this: The present industrial depression, knit up with all the ills that are in it, and intensifying the burdens always upon the shoulders of labor, is entirely forgotten.

That is to say, the President of the United States is using the war game, as war itself is used, to take the attention of the people away from their own difficulties.  
It is an old piece of strategy, but in time of peace it leaves the party in power exposed to attack from its worst enemy—the party of opposition.

That the party of opposition is not the Republican party one can readily see by the way these two factions have locked hands about the diapole, on which they hope to carry their campaign banner. Each is always eager to serve the nation when it is sure such service will be only for its own party.

NO, THE party of opposition is the Socialist party, and while those in the war game, both old parties, may be very willing to forget the actual plight of the masses and their need for relief, the nation will not forget, and the Socialist party will speak for the disinherited. And this may help to put some human interest into what might otherwise be mere sport in playing the war game.

That is the interest which needs to be put in at this time. The most important document we have been given this year past is not the President's message but the Walsh report on industrial relations.  
Let the gentlemen who play the war game use the President's message as a campaign platform. The people who do the nation's work will find their hearts in the Walsh report. And we should keep on telling them so until they tell it to the gentlemen who are playing the war game.

## Bosses Planning To Discipline Workers

Military training as a means of disciplining the workers and making them more useful to the corporations is the latest idea put forward by the National City (Rockefeller) Bank in the publications with which it is flooding the country.  
This is the bank whose president, F. A. Vanderlip, has organized a fifty million dollar corporation to exploit foreign markets and the natural resources of foreign lands.

Went World Empire.  
Attention has already been called to the campaign of the Rockefeller bank for unrestricted immigration and low wages, in order that American employers may undersell foreign

competitors in foreign markets and so establish a commercial world empire.  
In the issue of "The American," just published by the Bank, appears a leading article, urging a "super-organization of industry," under private control, as the best means of coping with European competition. The Bank says:

"It is hardly necessary for anybody to advise that something of the idea of the German super-organization of industry ought to be attempted here since it seems to be coming along naturally. There appears to be a more liberal disposition, both official and popular, toward co-operation in business activities to-day than during the time when discipline and tribulation for corporations was the indiscriminate order of the day. The Federal Trade Commission has just entered upon a gigantic questionnaire of business men all over the country regarding permissible combination in foreign trade. The Commission's attitude is friendly. Manufacturers in several lines are so confident of full liberty to co-ordinate their efforts in going after export business that they are establishing formal selling combinations for the purpose."

No Benefits For Worker.  
But part of the Wall Street scheme for a "super-organization of industry" is its insistence of low labor costs. The worker and producer are not to share in the benefits. They must be "reasonable," and get their reward in the knowledge that American business is supreme. Incidentally they must support a huge army and navy to protect foreign investments.

That the Rockefeller interests and the Morgan interests are working hand in hand in their campaign for foreign exploitation, is shown by the Gary dinner to Theodore Roosevelt, at which, according to "Holland," the well-known financial writer, foreign trade was principally discussed. It is shown also by the assertion of George W. Perkins that the industry of this country must be Germanized in order to compete in the markets of the world.

The flaw in the Rockefeller-Morgan plan is its ignoring of the producer. He is not to share in the benefits. Instead, labor costs are to be kept low, and therefore immigration is to be encouraged.  
Here is the Bank's new argument for a big army and navy:

"A basic element in the industrial organization of any country is, of course, the individual efficiency of workmen. Dr. Karl Helfferich, who has had charge of the financing of Germany since the war and is one of the leaders in shaping its coming industrial policy, was a strong believer in universal military training and service, not only for military purposes, but because, as he said, the military training had contributed very importantly to effective discipline in the high organization of German industry."

"Military service, for labor, may be analogous to higher education and technical courses for business administration."  
So, if the Rockefeller-Morgan interests have their way, the boys of the American farmer and wage-earner will be sent to military posts to remain long enough to get the habit of following orders without thought or question. They are to be transformed from independent, free human beings into parts of a great machine for the advancement of the interests of the great financial interests that are to conquer the world's markets. And don't forget that LABOR COSTS MUST BE KEPT LOW.

## They Arrested A Newsboy

ONE HUNDRED thousand men, women and children are arrested in Chicago every year. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand are the men, women and children of the working class.  
Fifty thousand of these are held from one day to two months awaiting trial; imprisoned in the vile, filthy, disease-breeding police stations and county jail of Chicago.

Twenty-two years ago a little newsboy was picked up by the police and locked in the Desplaines Street police station, the most vile of them all. He was kept there for several days. Then he was released.  
That would have been enough to start many a boy on a career of crime that would ultimately find him a cell in the state penitentiary. Similar arrests of boys in Chicago, and many other cities, for no reason whatever, are the beginning of new crime careers every day in the year.

System Wins An Enemy.  
The little newsboy of whom I speak did not turn criminal. But a deep resentment against the system of society that makes such conditions possible was roused within him.  
This newsboy that was now William E. Rodriguez, Socialist alderman from Chicago's Fifteenth Ward, and last Sunday, after he had told his story to the Chicago Federation of Labor, the organized toilers of Chicago, 250,000 strong, thru their representatives, voted to support Rodriguez' fight in the city council to have all prisoners immediately released on their own recognizance, pending a date of trial, which means that they cannot be locked up for petty offenses and that they do not have to give bonds to secure their liberty.

I'll tell you how this affects the workers during strikes. The garment workers' strike in Chicago is in progress. During this struggle, 2,000 strikers were arrested on numerous charges, practically all of them without any evidence at all to support them. These cases were dismissed by the hundreds when they came up in court. These arrests, however, forced strikers to pay from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for the services of bondsmen alone. This money would have gone a long way to pay for hall rent and strike benefits.

Condition In Every Strike.  
These conditions prevail in Chicago in every strike. They prevail in every other city during every strike.  
"Keep the pickets on the picket line," was Rodriguez' plea to the Chicago Federation of Labor. "If this measure had been in force during the garment strike, they couldn't have taken the pickets off the picket line".

Ald. Rodriguez put stress on the fact that this proposition, in addition to being a great help during strikes, is also a great humanitarian measure at all times.

Chicago's police stations and the county jail are criminal manufacturing institutions," he declared. "They are the worst institutions of the kind I have ever seen in my life."

He showed that similar measures are in force in Ireland, France and other countries of Europe. Since Rodriguez has introduced his resolution in the city council the mayor and chief of police have provided that boys between the ages of 17 and 21 be not detained following an arrest.

Don't Arrest Bosses.  
It was pointed out that the employers of Illinois are not arrested and hauled off to jail when they violate the state factory laws. They merely have a summons read to them to appear in court. But the worker is hauled into a patrol wagon, thrown into a vermin infested cell in the basement of some ancient police station, and is lucky if he gets within hailing distance of justice next morning when his case comes up in court.

The Chicago Federation of Labor voted to urge evermore of its affiliated organizations to bring pressure to bear upon the city council to secure the passage of this measure.

J. Ramsay MacDonald has resigned as the representative of the British Independent Labor party's representative in the International Socialist Bureau and has been succeeded by Will Thorne, member of Parliament and president of the General Laborers and Gas Workers' Union.

After you have read this copy of The American Socialist do not throw it away. Put it to work. If you find an article that you like better than all the rest, mark it, and pass the paper on to someone else.

START THE NEW YEAR BY CIRCULATING THIS PETITION TO CONGRESS!  
CUT OUT THE PETITION BELOW AND PASTE IT ON RULED SHEETS OF PAPER. WHEN YOU HAVE FILLED IT OUT SEND IT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR DISTRICT IN CONGRESS.

## We Want Congress To Adopt Rep. Meyer London's Plan To End The War In Europe

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_



The American Socialist

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States.

J. L. ENGDALH, Editor. WALTER LANFERSIEK, Business Mgr. RYAN WALKER, Cartoonist.

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National Office, 908 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered as second-class matter, July 21, 1914, at the post-office at Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

BUNDLE RATES.—Bundle Rates One Year to one address: 4 copies, \$1; 3 copies, \$2; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6.25; 50 copies, \$12.50; 100 copies, \$25.00.

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Here is all the week's news worth while being read by workers so busy fighting for socialism they do not have time to read the daily capitalist papers.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28. Free Poland and huge indemnity reported to be Germany's price for peace.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29. British-French forces reported ready to start gigantic drive in west.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30. Consuls of Germany, Austria, Turkey and Bulgaria, with their staffs and families, are to be evacuated from Saloniki, Greece.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31. William Waldorf Astor, expatriated American millionaire, made Baron by King George of England.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1. Rejuvenated Russian army, equipped with munitions from Japan, America and England, engaged in new offensive on Austro-Hungarian forces in Galicia.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2. Henry Ford returns to New York from peace expedition to Europe and holds conference with Bryan.

MONDAY, JANUARY 3. British liner Geelong, sister ship of Persia, reported sunk near the Mediterranean.

LABOR'S FEAR OF "PREPAREDNESS". (From The New York Call.)

A local of the United Mine Workers in Bay City, Mich., has issued a manifesto opposing the "preparedness" advocates in the latest Presidential message.

We interpret that part of our President's message to mean that the increased army is for no other purpose than to subjugate labor in its demands for higher wages and better conditions.

Perhaps Mr. Wilson did not exactly mean that, but the interpretation is a fair deduction from what he said.

It is said that this is the general attitude of organized labor toward "preparedness," and that it is causing the Washington administration much concern.

And labor is thoroughly justified in that attitude. Its real, immediate and most dangerous enemy is not the foreigner, but its own capitalist class.

Once heard of a fellow who said he could write as good poetry as Shakespeare did if he had a mind to.

His friends assured him he had discovered his handicap. I am compelled to admit to the readers of "The American Socialist" that I could have made as much money as Mr. Carnegie or Mr. Rockefeller if I had a mind to.

It is not that I am not a genius, but that I am not a capitalist. The ruling class can give the workers no reliable guarantee that the increased armed forces of the nation will not be used in the way described by the United Mine Workers.

So far as the workers are concerned, the rock that "preparedness" splits upon is not pacifism, but the class struggle. And, under such conditions, it is not at all surprising that the administration in Washington should be uneasy over the situation.

Argument of Critic Who Really Disagrees With Socialism Ably Answered by Socialist

Shaw and Simons Debate Socialism.

By LESLIE M. SHAW. I AM more than glad to accept the opportunity so kindly extended to get the eye, and I hope the understanding of the many readers of "The American Socialist."

The letter inviting this communication contains the statement that Socialists are "biased, one-sided, prejudiced and ignorant." That charge cannot be truthfully made against me and against everyone. My belief, however, supported by my observation, is that Socialists are unusually well read and are, as a rule, well intentioned. In fact, nearly everyone is well intentioned. There is a very wide difference, however, between being well read and being wise; and between being well intentioned and being correct in judgment.

SOCIALISTS AND I separate at the very threshold of the argument. Most alleged Socialists whom I have met appear to start with the assumption that because the existing system fails to prevent many conditions admittedly regrettable, therefore the system must be wrong. They seem to take as their major premise the proposition that a perfect system will result in nothing imperfect. They seem not to observe that the All Wise Maker of the universe has never been able to promulgate a law more than that did not proceed matched wing and wing with good and evil. The Law of Gravitation has probably caused more suffering than all wars, and yet God lets it stand. If the Law of Gravitation was a provision of our Federal Constitution it surely would have been amended or superseded during the last five years. You will observe that Nature is not a Progressive. Nature is a Stand-Pat.

I am a firm believer in equal opportunities. Socialists seem to demand equal rewards for equal work. This demand were it not for the fact that there is no way to secure equal results except by denying equal opportunities. Equal opportunities in athletics, in art, in music, in any of the professions as well as in business, insure equal rewards to those contestants who possess unequal aptitude and who give the subject unequal application. Equal opportunities permit Mary Pickford to earn and receive \$75,000 a year as a motion picture artist and forces certain of her sisters to wash other people's clothes for hire and scrub their floors for daily bread.

Some years ago a man with a full and unkempt beard interrupted a political speaker at Seattle with the question: "How do you account for the unequal distribution of wealth?" The speaker retorted: "How do you account for the unequal distribution of whiskeys?" When the audience had quieted down (for it did quiet down during the afternoon) the speaker shouldered up and said: "I have a friend, to cause merriment at a great expense, I made it to illustrate a great principle. I was born with equal opportunity and equal aptitude for whiskeys with yours. But I have dispensed with writing his name under every sky and in every language."

Prominent among my objections to Socialist teaching is the atmosphere it breathes that whoever is successful in a material way is an enemy, whoever accumulates does so at the expense of others, and whoever amasses a fortune is an all round scoundrel. Allow me to warn the readers of "The American Socialist" that unless their children imbibe from some other source a different understanding of life they will never disgrace their names in the "Directory of Directors" or on the letter-heads of successful firms. Our blessed country can ill afford to lose from its struggling, striving, triumphing citizenship so promising a group as the direct descendants of the stuporous, sincere and patriotic men and women who compose the rank and file of Socialists.

I FURTHER object to the proposed system of Socialism because I believe it impractical. When at the head of the Treasury Department of the Government I frequently said that if it were a business enterprise instead of a political institution I could do the work better and at half the cost. Senator Aldrich has been frequently quoted as saying that three hundred millions could be saved annually if we would apply business principles to government affairs. Senator Aldrich never said anything of the kind. What he did say was that three hundred millions per annum could be saved if business principles could be applied to government affairs. But business principles cannot be applied to government affairs—and no one knows it better than Senator Aldrich knew it.

The people will not consent to business principles in public affairs. Let me illustrate business principles to the end that you may realize the truth of what I have just said. When the panic of 1897 struck the country the Baldwin Locomotive Works was employing 21,000 men. Its business suddenly dropped to such an extent that it was compelled to discharge 17,000 men. Then as business picked up it increased its force to 17,000 by adding 13,000. It took back all its old force who applied; but many had gone elsewhere, for competent men do not long remain out of work even in a panic. To get the 13,000 competent men the Baldwin Locomotive Works actually tried out 85,000,

every one of whom claimed to be expert and each could have passed a civil service examination. There were hundreds of clerks in the Treasury Department, while I was at its head, who could not have secured and held a job elsewhere at \$100 a year; but their dismissal would have been charged to politics. Had their administration would have been denounced as violating "civil service."

The senior Mr. Weyerhaeuser once told a friend of mine: "I am interested in a great many enterprises—so many, in fact, that I am unable to manage them. I have the exception of one unimportant lumber proposition neither I nor my family own fifteen per cent. of any of them. I am kept on the board of most of them, and usually attend the meetings. Necessarily I know little about the affairs of these companies and seldom say anything till the other members of the board have spoken. Sometimes they ask my advice and sometimes I volunteer suggestions, and frequently, not always, they follow my lead. Sometimes they say it would have been better if they had taken my advice. If the Weyerhaeuser companies, or the United States Steel Corporation, or any big business or bank, were managed by the stockholders, as we are now in charge of the city and states and the government be managed directly by the people rather than thru representatives chosen by the people, these concerns would be in the hands of a receiver in six months."

I AM well aware that it is claimed by Socialists that under their proposed system the men of special aptitude will be selected for special positions. Very well; but if the new way works the same as the present system I see no advantage in changing. Unless it works differently it will produce chaos. If the proposed system is ever inaugurated I shall expect the people to act towards their new responsibilities about as they do towards the responsibilities they now select men of special aptitude for positions of responsibility?

I was elected Governor of Iowa in 1897. At that time there were in the United States Senate, Perkins of California, Wolcott of Colorado, Orville H. Platt of Connecticut, Aldrich of Rhode Island, Hoar of Massachusetts, Hale and Fry of Maine, and many others of excellent ability. I have only mentioned giants and not all of those. These men had been selected to occupy the chairs of nominating committees, the same as churches, colleges, financial and industrial corporations use for the selection of presidents and other officials. This method of selection, however, has been forever eliminated from the United States. Socialists have now make their selections much in the same way that Socialists propose to do. If one of your readers wants to see how it works in actual practice let him go to Washington and size up a majority of the men who have been selected to occupy the chairs that were once filled by the above named men. The people of the United States have not selected for the United States Senate three men in the last ten years of aptitude for public matters equal to the men who have been mentioned—and they will not keep those they have chosen long enough to train them to even moderate efficiency. It requires greater aptitude, greater industry and a longer period of training to make a wise, safe and sane law-maker. I would rather see a man putting an untrained man on the bench to interpret the laws that are made than to put an untrained man in legislative halls to make laws. An unwise man on the bench might bring disaster to a few litigants, but unwise law-makers have done, and ever will bring disaster to millions.

Individualism did not result from any inaugurated system. It was a natural growth. It has grown in the same way that our system of jurisprudence has grown, that which has been tried and proven measurably satisfactory has been retained, and errors have been gradually corrected. God never has, man seldom has and never should make radical changes.

IF ONE-HALF the effort were put forth to train the young to meet conditions by giving them training them in efficiency and by teaching them thrift and independence, as is now being spent in teaching them to be discontented with their lot in life, hopeless of the future and envious of those who temporarily enjoy the rewards of extraordinary aptitude plus extraordinary application, much better results would ensue. At least so runs my dream.

Thanking you again for the opportunity of being heard, and with nothing but the best wishes for those who temporarily enjoy the rewards of extraordinary aptitude plus extraordinary application, much better results would ensue. At least so runs my dream.

I am, very sincerely yours, LESLIE M. SHAW.

THE SOCIALIST ARGUMENT. By A. M. SIMONS. FOR ONCE we have a Socialist critic who really disagrees with Socialism. So often such critics only disagree with something they call Socialism, and which bears no resemblance to the real thing. This is not the case with Mr. Shaw. He is correct in saying that, "Socialists and I separate at the very threshold of the argument."

Therefore, let us get to the meat at once. The burden of his position, which must be that of the consistent defender of the present system, is that under it each one is rewarded according to his deserts, that opportunity is equal and free to all and that autocracy is to be preferred to democracy. The Socialist denies everyone of these premises.

The Socialist denies that the basis of the Vanderbilt fortunes is to be found in the 20 cents saved by Mrs. Cornelius V. in getting breakfast at 5:00 a.m. for embryo railroad magnates, or that Armour's wealth was based upon the ability of "P.D." to get shaved, eat his dinner, dictate letters and discuss politics with Mark Hanna at the same time, altho we might admit that the latter occupation had something to do with that fortune.

CHARLES Edward Russell in "The Greatest Trust in The World" shows that the Armour fortune was based on many things more fundamental than the long hours of labor on the start of "P. D.", of which so many tales are told. I lived among Armour's working men and women when he was putting the finishing touches on that fortune. I saw thousands of men working as long hours as ever Armour worked, but in spite of all Mr. Shaw says, neither they nor their children, no matter how much "mind" they have had, could have established another beef trust. One reason why this is true is that more than half of those children died before they were four years of age.

Mr. Shaw is as weak in his analogies as in his argument. Wealth, unlike whiskeys, or the rain from heaven, does not fall alike upon the just and the unjust. The man with a goatee does not grow whiskeys any faster than he who is smooth-shaven. But the man with wealth can take from millions of workers the wealth, but not the whiskeys, they produce.

changing." But the difference would be that the billions of dollars in value that now flow to ignorant and incompetent stockholders (his characterization, not mine) would remain in the hands of the workers with "special aptitude" for the tasks they were engaged upon. From this fact would flow other momentous results due to production for use instead of for profit. They are plenty of books that explain these results, and it takes a book to do this, I must not attempt it here.

BUT MR. SHAW challenges the ability of democracy to select men of "special aptitude" for positions of responsibility. I am quite sure he would not have made this statement when campaigning for office, but Socialists may well be grateful that he has had the courage to say it now. The illustrations he gives once again prove the Socialist position.

The senators he names were not chosen by the people, nor by parties, nor committees, but by the powerful corporations. Their "aptitude" for public matters" was, I will admit, far greater than that of those now in the Senate. But their aptitude was all devoted to turning over public interests to private control. The greater their ability the worse for the public. Skill in a burglary is not generally admired by bankers. These senators burglarized the public domain, its land and minerals, water power and natural resources, kept some of the plunder themselves, and turned the rest over to the corporations whose creatures they were.

The blackest page in American legislative history was written by these men of "special aptitude" and the children of those unborn will suffer for the crimes they committed. The coal lands of West Virginia and Colorado have been dyed in blood because of the looting due directly to these men. In their actions far more than in the "mind" and industry of capitalists is to be found the secret of the plutocracy that now possesses American industry and so little brains that an attempt to nationalize it would result in a "receiver in six months."

MR. SHAW repeats a few of the reckless and wrong charges that are frequently hurled at Socialists. One of these is that Socialists consider "whoever is successful in a material way is an enemy." Another is that we demand equal material rewards. A mere correction of the statement should suffice as an answer since no proof is offered of the assertion.

There is a trick and unfair comparison between "millionsaires in art, music, invention," etc., and millionaires in business. A Raphael did not make other artists impossible. The existence of a Paderewski does not drive all other pianists to poverty. Edison's inventions do not bar the road to inventive ability on the part of anyone else. The reverse is true. Supreme achievement in these fields helps others. But the millionaire in steel, railroads, water-power, gas and

electricity, closes the road to all others, or makes their fight harder. Private ownership of industry takes tribute from all who do not share that ownership, and makes such sharing more and more difficult.

Socialism believes in equality of opportunity in industry as well as in art. It believes in the right of the people to rule themselves in government and industry and to suffer or to profit from their own incompetence.

Students learn more and more toward socialism, according to Harry W. Laidler, organizer and secretary of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, who recently made a four weeks' tour of colleges in Iowa and Illinois. Chapters were organized in Grinnell, Simpson and Rochester, Ia., a basis for a chapter was planned at the University of Iowa, also at the Illinois State Normal College. Economists professors everywhere gave Laidler an opportunity to speak on fundamental Socialist principles. In some cases professors, and even college presidents, were favorable to socialism. An equally enthusiastic report comes from John Spargo, whose tour touched Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Spargo has received the same reports from the past decade, and he says that never before has he experienced such a fine reception and found the students so responsive. In many places the members of the faculty gave him great assistance and he received his message with genuine pleasure.

In the World's Work and Commerce and Finance a lengthy article is printed dealing with the war problems in Europe, written by Theodore Price, well known as a political, sociological and economic thinker. "One intellectual by-product of the war is the increased interest in socialism which has been aroused," says Price. "It is just being discovered that, under the cover of military law, the belligerent nations are being completely socialized, at least insofar as their economic resources are concerned, and political socialism will naturally follow when the war is over. With the example of a socialized Europe before them, who can doubt that the majority will attempt it?"

The national congress of the French Socialist Party, which has ended its sessions at Paris, has voted a resolution affirming that the Socialists would continue to support a vigorous continuation of the war until French territory is freed, Belgium and Serbia are raised from ruin, Alsace and Lorraine are restored to France and a durable peace is assured.

RED HOT If you want, for self or friends, a paper that combats all religious dogmas sent for each AGNOSTIC the best paper published. Don't get today. THE CRUCIBLE, G. PAPER 1380 1st Ave., Seattle. 50 CENTS

Get Ahead! Will Help You! I have helped thousands of other men to attain success, and I will do it for you. If you are plodding along in a dull rut, if you are underpaid, if you are grinding down in the study of law—500 filled ambition to get ahead, to do things, to be successful, to drive all other things to poverty, Edson's inventions do not bar the road to inventive ability on the part of anyone else. The reverse is true. Supreme achievement in these fields helps others. But the millionaire in steel, railroads, water-power, gas and



EXECUTIVE DEPT.

WALTER LANFERSIEK, Secretary
JAMES H. MAURER, 1835 N. 11th St., Reading, Pa.
ADOLPH GERMER, Mount Olive, Ill.
GEORGE H. GOEBEL, 14 Bridge St., Newark, N. J.
EISEL, 1154 Twentieth St., Milwaukee, Wis.
ARTHUR LE SUEUR, Fort Scott, Kans.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

PROPOSED NATIONAL REFERENDUM.
By Local Drain, Oregon.
That the National Constitution of the Socialist Party be amended making the state and national dues \$1.00 per year, payable semi-annually, National dues 50 cents and state dues 50 cents.

EXPIRED REFERENDA.

By Local New York.
To amend Section 4 of Article IX (Conventions) by striking out, in the second line, the word "three" and inserting "two".

Engine Prices Reduced

The new price list of kerosene, gasoline and gas engines put out by Ed. H. Witte, of the Witte Engine Works, Kansas City, Mo., marks the lowest prices yet made for high standard engines. The new list quotes a 2 H.-P. engine at \$34.95; a 4 H.-P. at \$69.75; a 5 H.-P., \$97.75; 8 H.-P., \$139.65; 12 H.-P. at \$197.00, and other sizes up to 22 H.-P. proportionately low.



ED. H. WITTE.

user to have the engine earn its own cost while it is being paid for. His kerosene engines have proven themselves especially desirable at his new prices.
Witte's big factory has had to be doubled in manufacturing capacity, to keep up with the heavy increase in orders, which come from every section of the country. An interesting fact that may not be generally known about Witte, is that his factory is the only one in America that has come down through the whole history of the gasoline engine business, under the management of the man who started it, with his first engine made with his own hands.

SPECIAL TO AMERICAN SOCIALIST READERS

COL. ROBT. G. INGERSOLL'S FORTY-FOUR LECTURES COMPLETE—CLOTH BOUND
A standard volume, worth \$2.50, which I offer to American Socialist readers for only \$1.00, postage prepaid by me. Just stamp 50 cents on your check or money order, and I will send you the book at once. For only \$1.00 I will send you the book at once. For only \$1.00 I will send you the book at once.

W. SCOTT, COUPON
2-10 So. Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
Enclosed find \$1.00 for which send me Robt. G. Ingersoll's 44 Complete Lectures, prepaid.

Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

LETTERS FROM THIS DEPARTMENT.
The National Committee of the Socialist Party in providing for an Open Forum in the American Socialist ruled that:
"Recommendation No. 4.—An open forum to discuss the views of party members or organizations on disputed points of party policy, views and tactics. No personal attacks or abuse or intemperate language shall be allowed. No communication in the Open Forum shall exceed 400 words in length.

WHAT ABOUT SOME AUTOMOBILES FOR WOMEN IN 1916.
I am out on the road and have no settled abode, or headquarters, so have only just seen the article entitled "A New Plan for 1916".

By Comrade Katterfeld's letter urging the abolition of that Department.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Information Department to assist them.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Collective Ownership, Democracy, Anti-Militarism.—I. T. BARRON, Keene, N. H.
BY THE EDITOR.—The editor has no desire to withhold anything from the readers of The American Socialist. Next week's issue will contain statements from all candidates for the presidential and vice presidential nominations, for the five positions on the executive committee and for the national executive secretary.

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.
By Max S. Hayes.
A lengthy descriptive article in the New York Call, in which the humbug union formed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is fully exposed, Chester M. Wright, who was in the Colorado mining camps and made a first-hand investigation, explains how the voting was done on the question of whether or not to endorse Rockefeller's "union".

ITALY SEEMS torn with strikes in which clothing workers, metal workers, farm hands and others are engaged. The cost of living has been unreasonably increased by the patriotic plutes and a deaf ear is being turned to all demands for increased wages. Apparently the government is doing little to choke off the rapacious profit-mongers, and the poor are said to be suffering intense misery. The Socialists are going to kick up a row about it in Parliament, for which they will be denounced some more as traitors.

THE NATIONAL Association of Manufacturers, according to a report from Minneapolis, Minn., "has started a campaign against all union labels." This is news, indeed—nearly as interesting as the historic announcement that the Dutch have taken Holland. When didn't the N. A. M. fight union labels? And how much good did it do those would-be dictators and all-around despots? Whatever that crazy crowd is for, labor should be and largely is against.

IT IS reported from Chicago that employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. who indulge in liquor after Jan. 1, 1916, will do so at the peril of their jobs. Employers are urged in a bulletin that has been posted, to cooperate with the new prohibition regime of Colorado. Rockefeller is going to make his employees just as saintly as he is.

AN EDUCATION FOR FIVE CENTS A DAY

The People's College offers you a course in English, consisting of 30 Lessons in English, 30 Lessons in Spelling, 22 Lessons in Penmanship, 22 Lessons in Letter-writing and Composition; 104 Lessons in All. Two Lessons a week for 52 weeks, completes the best English Course ever offered by any Correspondence School anywhere.

YOUR TIME IS YOUR OWN

Fifteen minutes a day devoted to the study of this course will teach you to use good English, spell correctly, be a good penman, converse fluently, prepare a good speech, write a good letter, enlarge your stock of words.

LAY A FOUNDATION FOR AN EDUCATION

Knowledge is Power. This course is the key to knowledge. Begin Now and in a year you will know the power behind the spoken and written word. This college teaches you how to study and will make the time you devote to this course fascinating pleasure.

Built for Service, Not Profit

Because this college is devoted to the ideal of education for the workers, it is able to serve you with its courses at a cost to you never attempted by any profit making school. The People's College gives the most and takes the least.

Enroll at Small Cost

Two dollars on enrollment, one-fifty a month thereafter until course is completed. The college furnishes you with text books, paper, pen and ink, everything necessary for you to complete this course.

The People's College Fort Scott - - - Kansas

COUPON
THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, FORT SCOTT, KANSAS:
Send me full particulars concerning the course in:
-ADVANCED ENGLISH.
-LAW.
-PUBLIC SPEAKING.
-PLAIN ENGLISH.
-SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING.
-ELEMENTARY ARITHMETIC.
-ADVANCED ARITHMETIC.
-ALGEBRA.
-COMPLET BOOKKEEPING.
-PENMANSHIP.

LETTERS FROM THIS DEPARTMENT.
The National Committee of the Socialist Party in providing for an Open Forum in the American Socialist ruled that:
"Recommendation No. 4.—An open forum to discuss the views of party members or organizations on disputed points of party policy, views and tactics. No personal attacks or abuse or intemperate language shall be allowed. No communication in the Open Forum shall exceed 400 words in length.

WHAT ABOUT SOME AUTOMOBILES FOR WOMEN IN 1916.
I am out on the road and have no settled abode, or headquarters, so have only just seen the article entitled "A New Plan for 1916".

By Comrade Katterfeld's letter urging the abolition of that Department.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Information Department to assist them.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Collective Ownership, Democracy, Anti-Militarism.—I. T. BARRON, Keene, N. H.
BY THE EDITOR.—The editor has no desire to withhold anything from the readers of The American Socialist. Next week's issue will contain statements from all candidates for the presidential and vice presidential nominations, for the five positions on the executive committee and for the national executive secretary.

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.
By Max S. Hayes.
A lengthy descriptive article in the New York Call, in which the humbug union formed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is fully exposed, Chester M. Wright, who was in the Colorado mining camps and made a first-hand investigation, explains how the voting was done on the question of whether or not to endorse Rockefeller's "union".

ITALY SEEMS torn with strikes in which clothing workers, metal workers, farm hands and others are engaged. The cost of living has been unreasonably increased by the patriotic plutes and a deaf ear is being turned to all demands for increased wages. Apparently the government is doing little to choke off the rapacious profit-mongers, and the poor are said to be suffering intense misery. The Socialists are going to kick up a row about it in Parliament, for which they will be denounced some more as traitors.

THE NATIONAL Association of Manufacturers, according to a report from Minneapolis, Minn., "has started a campaign against all union labels." This is news, indeed—nearly as interesting as the historic announcement that the Dutch have taken Holland. When didn't the N. A. M. fight union labels? And how much good did it do those would-be dictators and all-around despots? Whatever that crazy crowd is for, labor should be and largely is against.

IT IS reported from Chicago that employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. who indulge in liquor after Jan. 1, 1916, will do so at the peril of their jobs. Employers are urged in a bulletin that has been posted, to cooperate with the new prohibition regime of Colorado. Rockefeller is going to make his employees just as saintly as he is.

AN EDUCATION FOR FIVE CENTS A DAY

The People's College offers you a course in English, consisting of 30 Lessons in English, 30 Lessons in Spelling, 22 Lessons in Penmanship, 22 Lessons in Letter-writing and Composition; 104 Lessons in All. Two Lessons a week for 52 weeks, completes the best English Course ever offered by any Correspondence School anywhere.

YOUR TIME IS YOUR OWN

Fifteen minutes a day devoted to the study of this course will teach you to use good English, spell correctly, be a good penman, converse fluently, prepare a good speech, write a good letter, enlarge your stock of words.

LAY A FOUNDATION FOR AN EDUCATION

Knowledge is Power. This course is the key to knowledge. Begin Now and in a year you will know the power behind the spoken and written word. This college teaches you how to study and will make the time you devote to this course fascinating pleasure.

Built for Service, Not Profit

Because this college is devoted to the ideal of education for the workers, it is able to serve you with its courses at a cost to you never attempted by any profit making school. The People's College gives the most and takes the least.

Enroll at Small Cost

Two dollars on enrollment, one-fifty a month thereafter until course is completed. The college furnishes you with text books, paper, pen and ink, everything necessary for you to complete this course.

The People's College Fort Scott - - - Kansas

COUPON
THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, FORT SCOTT, KANSAS:
Send me full particulars concerning the course in:
-ADVANCED ENGLISH.
-LAW.
-PUBLIC SPEAKING.
-PLAIN ENGLISH.
-SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING.
-ELEMENTARY ARITHMETIC.
-ADVANCED ARITHMETIC.
-ALGEBRA.
-COMPLET BOOKKEEPING.
-PENMANSHIP.

LETTERS FROM THIS DEPARTMENT.
The National Committee of the Socialist Party in providing for an Open Forum in the American Socialist ruled that:
"Recommendation No. 4.—An open forum to discuss the views of party members or organizations on disputed points of party policy, views and tactics. No personal attacks or abuse or intemperate language shall be allowed. No communication in the Open Forum shall exceed 400 words in length.

WHAT ABOUT SOME AUTOMOBILES FOR WOMEN IN 1916.
I am out on the road and have no settled abode, or headquarters, so have only just seen the article entitled "A New Plan for 1916".

By Comrade Katterfeld's letter urging the abolition of that Department.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Information Department to assist them.
The department was a splendid success. Twenty thousand dollars is a paltry sum to spend for three years of the immensely valuable service which it rendered.—JOHN M. WORK, Chicago.

Collective Ownership, Democracy, Anti-Militarism.—I. T. BARRON, Keene, N. H.
BY THE EDITOR.—The editor has no desire to withhold anything from the readers of The American Socialist. Next week's issue will contain statements from all candidates for the presidential and vice presidential nominations, for the five positions on the executive committee and for the national executive secretary.

IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.
By Max S. Hayes.
A lengthy descriptive article in the New York Call, in which the humbug union formed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is fully exposed, Chester M. Wright, who was in the Colorado mining camps and made a first-hand investigation, explains how the voting was done on the question of whether or not to endorse Rockefeller's "union".

ITALY SEEMS torn with strikes in which clothing workers, metal workers, farm hands and others are engaged. The cost of living has been unreasonably increased by the patriotic plutes and a deaf ear is being turned to all demands for increased wages. Apparently the government is doing little to choke off the rapacious profit-mongers, and the poor are said to be suffering intense misery. The Socialists are going to kick up a row about it in Parliament, for which they will be denounced some more as traitors.

THE NATIONAL Association of Manufacturers, according to a report from Minneapolis, Minn., "has started a campaign against all union labels." This is news, indeed—nearly as interesting as the historic announcement that the Dutch have taken Holland. When didn't the N. A. M. fight union labels? And how much good did it do those would-be dictators and all-around despots? Whatever that crazy crowd is for, labor should be and largely is against.

IT IS reported from Chicago that employees of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Co. who indulge in liquor after Jan. 1, 1916, will do so at the peril of their jobs. Employers are urged in a bulletin that has been posted, to cooperate with the new prohibition regime of Colorado. Rockefeller is going to make his employees just as saintly as he is.

AN EDUCATION FOR FIVE CENTS A DAY

The People's College offers you a course in English, consisting of 30 Lessons in English, 30 Lessons in Spelling, 22 Lessons in Penmanship, 22 Lessons in Letter-writing and Composition; 104 Lessons in All. Two Lessons a week for 52 weeks, completes the best English Course ever offered by any Correspondence School anywhere.

YOUR TIME IS YOUR OWN

Fifteen minutes a day devoted to the study of this course will teach you to use good English, spell correctly, be a good penman, converse fluently, prepare a good speech, write a good letter, enlarge your stock of words.

LAY A FOUNDATION FOR AN EDUCATION

Knowledge is Power. This course is the key to knowledge. Begin Now and in a year you will know the power behind the spoken and written word. This college teaches you how to study and will make the time you devote to this course fascinating pleasure.

Built for Service, Not Profit

Because this college is devoted to the ideal of education for the workers, it is able to serve you with its courses at a cost to you never attempted by any profit making school. The People's College gives the most and takes the least.

Enroll at Small Cost

Two dollars on enrollment, one-fifty a month thereafter until course is completed. The college furnishes you with text books, paper, pen and ink, everything necessary for you to complete this course.

The People's College Fort Scott - - - Kansas

COUPON
THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, FORT SCOTT, KANSAS:
Send me full particulars concerning the course in:
-ADVANCED ENGLISH.
-LAW.
-PUBLIC SPEAKING.
-PLAIN ENGLISH.
-SHORTHAND AND TYPEWRITING.
-ELEMENTARY ARITHMETIC.
-ADVANCED ARITHMETIC.
-ALGEBRA.
-COMPLET BOOKKEEPING.
-PENMANSHIP.



MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

TO SOME WORKING GIRL. On Christmas Eve, the letter was dated Dec. 24th, Eugene V. Debs, wrote to The American Socialist as follows: "Please extend my sub for the year ending December 31st, 1916. For the extra 50 cents enclosed please send The American Socialist to some working girl for a year."

"With the greetings of the season and the best wishes, "Yours Fraternally, "EUGENE V. DEBS."

We are wondering how many readers of The American Socialist would like to follow Debs' example and send The American Socialist for one year to some working girl. There ought to be many readers anxious to do this. Woman's suffrage, sweeping over the land and we need the women workers under the banners of Socialism in order to win the cooperative commonwealth. Send The American Socialist to some working girl.

ROLL OF HONOR

MICHAEL ANDELMAN, Boston, Mass., orders 25 copies of The American Socialist each week for eight weeks. He has the headquarters for Socialist literature in Boston at 291 Tremont St.

"Keep your ear to the ground and you will hear something drop down in Old Texas in November," is the message that comes to us with a list of five brand new subs. "We have got the place covered with our Socialist. It is the kind of material to keep them on the run until they are completely routed," says our Texas correspondent.

C. W. EASLEY, Sioux City, Iowa, sends in a list of five and "Wishes The American Socialist a better year to come." The New Times, the Socialist weekly at Minneapolis, Minn., sends in a list of combination subs for The American Socialist and The Socialist Campaign Book. Remember you can get the Campaign Book free with a year's sub at 50 cents.

"I can't get along without The American Socialist," writes MANLEY T. SWANSON, Great Falls, Mont., as he sends in a club of four.

A. W. JOHNSON, North Dakota, sends in a list of 20 subs and receives the Socialist watch for his work.

C. R. DAUTERMAN, Havre, Mont., fires in a list of six subs and gets one of our beautiful Socialist pennants.

"It is time every class conscious comrade does his bit to help destroy or at least minimize the military craze," writes E. HARRISON, Newburgh, N. Y., as he sends in a new sub.

FRED S. MARTIN, one of the Socialist councilmen of Sioux Falls, S. D., orders four sub cards and says, "At the present time Meyer London needs the assistance of every Socialist in this country. My idea is to have every comrade write to his congressman and senator and demand that he vote for the measures introduced by Comrade London. We are in a position to put strong pressure to bear on the opposition. The 20 copies of the Meyer London Edition, Dec. 4, mailed to our town, certainly woke up the workers."

"I picked up the enclosed names the day before Christmas," says W. G. MENTZER, Duquesne, Pa., as he sends in a list of five. Comrade Mentzer has been disabled for seven months as the result of a serious injury and for a time his life was in the balance. We are glad to hear that he is now getting well and strong again.

THE COMING KINGDOM

Lincoln Philifer's Great Book. Forecasted this war and another to follow it, thru an analysis of the old law of periodically, on which the prophets of old relied. It is a scholarly analysis of the early Christian ideal, the Kingdom of Heaven, showing wherein it resembled and where it differs from the Socialist ideal. Nineteen "books," 96 chapters, 300 pages.

A Dollar Book for Fifty Cents. "I have read The Coming Kingdom carefully two or three times. It takes a great hold on me." Comrade Kruke, Corning, N. Y.

Address: National Office Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

The Truth About 'Preparedness'

By JOHN SPARGO

THE PRESENT widespread and cunningly organized campaign for "Preparedness" illustrates in a remarkable manner the sinister character of militarism and its menace to democracy.

Let there be no mistake about it: This great and costly campaign really partakes of the nature of an investment from which a certain profitable section of the capitalist class hopes and expects to derive extraordinary profits.

The average worker has very little conception of the way in which the great military systems of the world have been fostered by cunning capitalist enterprise. It is our business as Socialists to make that clear, to expose the secret.

In 1913 Karl Liebknecht, heroic son of heroic sire, from his place in the German Reichstag exposed the innermost secrets of German militarism. He showed how the official military caste was supported by the makers of armaments and ammunition, the makers of armor plates and battleships, the steel trust, the manufacturers of electrical machinery—in a word, of a group of economic interests broadly designated as "the steel group," with the great Krupp firm as its center, each of which found that its greatest profits could be derived from military preparation.

THE METHODS pursued to win the German people's assent to the ever increasing demand for military expenditures were as immoral as they were ingenious. Large sums of money were spent by these good German "patriots" to subsidize and control French newspapers in which bitter attacks on Germany and the Germans were made. Then, in the German newspapers which they controlled the "French attacks on Germany," saying to the German people, "You see, the French hate us and mean to attack us."

In the German newspapers which they controlled they caused the publication of frequent attacks upon France and insulting references to the French people. And these they caused to be reproduced in the French newspapers which they owned wholly or in part. The uninformed Frenchman reading these things in a supposedly loyal French newspaper, and reluctantly, "The Germans still hate us, we must be prepared to defend ourselves against them."

No, gentle reader, these tactics are not specially characteristic of "German militarism." They are, indeed, common to the whole military and capitalist combinations of the world. Being neither pro-Ally, nor pro-Teuton, but pro-Human, pro-Internationalist and pro-Socialist, I am in duty bound to point out that France has long had a similar combination, and that the great firm of Creusot as its center.

This group has made it its business to foster fear and hatred of Germany by France and of France by Germany. And England has had its similar economic group with the great firm of McVickers as its center. It has done everything in its power to foster fear and hatred of her neighbors by Great Britain and to make Great Britain feared and hated by her neighbors.

And McVickers being a highly profitable concern the good ladies who give money to foreign missions invest as largely as they can in McVickers that they may have large dividends to spend on "Christian work among the heathens." And most of the clergy whose incomes are large enough to permit investments seem to prefer McVickers. When increased military expenditures lead to increased dividends for the stockholders in McVickers they can more efficiently worship the Prince of Peace!

VERILY, "patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels!" Whoever believes that our American capitalist "patriots" are different, beings of superior virtue, quite incapable of the sort of rascality herein described, must needs be very innocent. Quite unfitted for this wicked world in fact!

Every thinking person knows that the very powerful group of economic interests comprising the makers of guns and ammunition, armor-plates and battleships, locomotives and other machinery essential to modern warfare, together with those who want by force of arms to open up markets for their wares, have organized and are paying for this remarkable campaign for "preparedness."

The great war in Europe has caused many people to fear the astonishingly efficient military organization of Germany. With frightened hearts they have asked, "What if the United States were attacked by such an efficient foe?" And the capitalist "patriots" have capitalized that fear. They have made it the basis of the most hysterical campaign in our history.

They have even swept some of our best-beloved comrades from the moorings of their faith. Socialists who but yesterday thrilled us by their revolutionary ardor now join in the hysterical cry "Prepare against War! Prepare against war!" Let us not be deceived. The United States is more assured against attack

ments were put forth by the partisans of both sides and the names were even called. All this was changed now.

THEY HAD a new bee in their bonnet. They had shown the local comrades that they were capable of bigger things than mush-pudding and dog-fights. They wanted to develop on another field, the field of organization.

Looking around at the Socialist Party locals they could see that the reason of their permanence and strength (limited tho' it was) could not be ascribed to their own resources. The secret of their strength lay in the fact that they were organized. Every branch was definitely united with the local, every local with the State, every State with the National Office. Alone, even some of the best of them would have been hard put to to exist, but banded together they were invincible.

The same was true of the Labor Unions, Sick and Death Benefit Funds, Farmer's Co-operatives, etc. The lesson sank home quickly enough, and before long the members were talking State organization.

Other states were organized, why not theirs. Others reaped the benefit in the line of inter-league affairs, picnics, etc., in organization suggestions and help, in the training to their members, and in the great added prestige that a State Federation lent. There was no real reason why their State should lag behind.

AN INQUIRY addressed to the National Office of the League brought encouraging response. There were much less languages in the state, some smaller, one or two larger, but on the average almost, but not quite up to their point of size and experience. Their city being centrally located, the National Secretary suggested that they elect someone to represent them in the National Office. They were highly interested, for here was a chance to get in on something bigger than their former backyard confines, here was a chance to give their beloved organization another boost in the eyes of their Comrades. They had made a success of everything they had tried so far, why not of this?

LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION. Libertarian education, such as is now being offered by the People's College, Fort Scott, Kansas, cannot but result in incalculable benefit to the cause of the workers. Particularly in this true of a "Plain English, which is a 'legitimate' curriculum, lay at the door of the students at an unprofitable rate. Hundreds of letters from students of the college testify eloquently to the inspiration and power for good which it has given for the door of the workers of the world.

It is one of the first instances, if not the first, in the history of the world, where a great educational institution has been founded, by, owned and controlled by the workers, and has for its sole aim, the imparting of truth to the wealth producers of the world.

LEHANE GOING EAST. Comrade Lehane, the Irish orator, is now on his way east to conclude his coast to coast tour of the United States and back. He leaves Chicago early this month and enroute to New York will address meetings at Albany, Jan. 13; Rochester, Jan. 14; Schenectady, Jan. 15; Albany, Massachusetts, Jan. 16; Boston and Lynn, Jan. 17; Fitchburg, Jan. 18; North Attleboro, Jan. 20; Wakefield, Jan. 23; Boston, Jan. 24; Boston, Maine and New Hampshire: Berlin and Bangor, Jan. 25; Bangor and Bangor, and Bangor, and Bangor, dates to be fixed Jan. 25 to Jan. 29.

Assemblyman Shipplacoff, the lone Socialist in the New York Legislature, is losing no time in going to bat. He has prepared a bill prohibiting the employment of children under 16 years of age, to establish the initiative, referendum and recall, to exterminate private detective agencies which furnish thugs and strikebreakers, and that will make it legal for workers to boycott any concern unfair to labor; also a bill for maternity pension, by which women who are employed may receive a pension three months before and after childbirth; and bills that will alleviate unemployment; a bill against the issuance of injunction in labor disputes, and a resolution that will put up to the voters of the State the woman suffrage amendment in 1917.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPT.

Organization - Education - Solidarity.

WILLIAM F. KRUSE - Director

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 Leagues. Address all communications to: Socialist Party Young People's Dept., 803 W. Madison St., Chicago.

TO REACH THE BOYS!

Steps are now being taken to formulate plans for reaching the younger boys and girls with the message of Socialist comradeship, through the Boy Scouts and school organizations. The Y. P. S. L. are to investigate the question to formulate plans whereby a good worth-while movement of boys and girl comrades can be built up. This report is to be rendered to the N. E. C. at its next meeting.

The committee claims no monopoly of ideas on this question and realizes that a considerable number of our comrades have given the subject as much attention as they. Suggestions as to means and methods as well as the underlying educational principles are welcome. This is a big task, one of the greatest we have yet undertaken, and is worthy of all our best efforts.

A strong, effective organization of this kind would counteract the false ideal now inculcated by the Boy Scouts and school organizations. It would give the children a real interest in the things of the Socialists, and would give them intellectual and physical foundation needed by our workers. Finally, it would act as a leader of live, well-trained members to the Y. P. S. L. and thru it, to the Party.

PROGRAMS. This is the last call for material for the February program. Some stuff was sent in by some of our local workers, but not nearly enough to make up the whole thing. Get busy now! The program is to include an impromptu Mock-trial, subject "People vs. The Remington Arms Co." Chicago: Aiding an ancient abetting murder thru the manufacture of munition for war. Commemoration Birthdays, Washington and August Bebel, Feb. 22. Valentine's Party, Feb. 14; Leap Year, March, Feb. 29th.

NEWS NOTES.

Bronx, N. Y. had a very interesting Christmas celebration, a tree, Santa Claus, and a unique distribution of gifts to their "promised" members. The program was always paid, even the members of the league got in free. In scanning the educational program it would seem as though the program had some hold of five fine speakers arranged, four, Juliet S. Poynt, Anna Maley, Ella Reeve Bloor, and Frank Thompson, are women, while the only man, Morris Hillquit, strays the list. The very best speakers are more and more realizing more and more the need of covering their own ranks. The N. E. C. gave their services for the cause. The best is none too good for the five.

Peoria, Ill., is doing good work along the lines both of sociality and education. Good lectures and a splendid good-time on New Year's Eve are their latest exploits.

Omaha, Neb., can boast of a Red-Card member who is over 100 years old. Tom Matzger was a Socialist since he was nine years old, and has been admitted to the local, with all the honors. He has a very good record. The capitalist papers devoted considerable space to him, and the local members are very proud of their old comrade.

Some Splendid Results

If you want to start something in your community get The American Socialist Lecture Courses. See what splendid results the locals are having everywhere.

Elwood, Ind.—Comrade Becker writes, "Lecture course is a great success. We sold all our literature and could have sold much more; 900 people packed the Opera House at the Walker lecture and were wild with enthusiasm. The local has made money on the course and we have taken in members at the rate of seven every week since the lectures began, giving our local now over a hundred members in good standing. This is forty members more than we have had in the history of the local."

Gadsden, Ala.—Comrade Walker writes that the lectures at Gadsden were a splendid success in every way. Some of the comrades there had feared that the lectures would not succeed. Comrade Ferguson reports very enthusiastically about the lectures. He says that they were all splendid and did an immense amount of good in their community.

State Line, Ind.—Comrade Lakin is certainly some hustler. He writes, "We have in view the organization of a Socialist party local during the winter that are to be given here. We have already made a start and have eleven applications signed. I shall continue to solicit applications, however, during the entire course and expect to start out with a big local."

Portsmouth, Ohio.—Comrade Mautel reports on the lectures. "The attendance at the Seidel lecture was 125, at the Kirkpatrick it jumped up to 160 and at the Walker lecture up to 210. The literature sales were the best I ever saw in Portsmouth. The comrades could not hand out the books fast enough. Several applications were received for new members and several of the comrades who were in arrears have paid up their dues and taken hold again with new enthusiasm."

Memphis, Tenn.—In spite of difficulties the lectures finally turned out splendidly. Several applications were received. Comrade Walker's meeting came so near the holidays that the comrades were afraid it would not be a success. Walker's train was over 2 hours late so that he finally got to the hall at 11 o'clock. In spite of this the crowd had taken a vote to wait and were still there when Comrade Walker arrived. He finished his lecture about 12 o'clock and the whole crowd voted that it was one of the finest things they had ever had. Seventeen new members were added to the 44 that had before been secured. The comrades in Memphis believe that the three lectures will net them 100 new members. This is the record so far.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The comrades write that the course has given them three mighty good lectures. The weather was bad which made the crowds rather small but the meetings have done a great deal of good and the movement there is picking up. It will be in better shape for the 1916 campaign.

Fairmount, W. Va.—Comrade Mary Boggess writes that, "The lecture course here is causing no end of discussion and we hope to keep them running."

Marion, Ind.—"Seidel, Kirkpatrick and Walker stormed the town with telling effect," writes Comrade Shinn, chairman of the course here. "Each a specialist in his particular way of presenting his message of brotherhood, held his crowd fascinated. The 1916 campaign is, on with flying colors. The lectures have created so much interest that we have arranged to have Debs, Thompson and Creel in the near future."

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Comrade Walker writes that in spite of delayed trains he managed to get into town by 8:10 p. m. He rushed to the hall without stopping for supper or anything else and found the place packed to suffocation. The crowd was the largest that had ever assembled to hear a Socialist speaker, except possibly Debs.

UNUSUAL OFFER

THE FIRST week in the year should see a beginning of the campaign of 1916. A number of speakers are out working, but with about 5,000 Locals in the party, it is evident that the great majority cannot have speakers, for one reason or another.

But all locals CAN SELL and distribute literature. We have made it possible for the Locals to secure some cheap literature recently. Thousands of copies of "The Bombshell", "The Lone Foe of War" and "The Gunmen of Industry" have been sent out and have been distributed. In fact so many have been sent out that our stock of these pamphlets is exhausted, and no more orders can be taken.

We offer now The Truth About Socialism at less than cost to this office. The new price will be

10 cents apiece In lots of 50 or more.

This book sells for 25c and thus the Local makes more than 100 per cent profit. You must pay the freight, but even so you will make more than 10c per copy. Send \$5 for fifty copies or \$10 for one hundred copies. Your Local can put some money in the treasury by a little work, and at the same time do some good propaganda work. SOCIALIST PARTY, 803 Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Colored Cartoons

NEW EDITION—NEW PICTURES

A treat to young and old. A selection of Ryan Walker's best cartoons with the added attraction of colors.

32 pages, (5x13 1/2 inches) of colored comic cartoons. 352 inches of rollicking sure-enough fun.

THESE ARE THE New Adventures of Henry Dubb

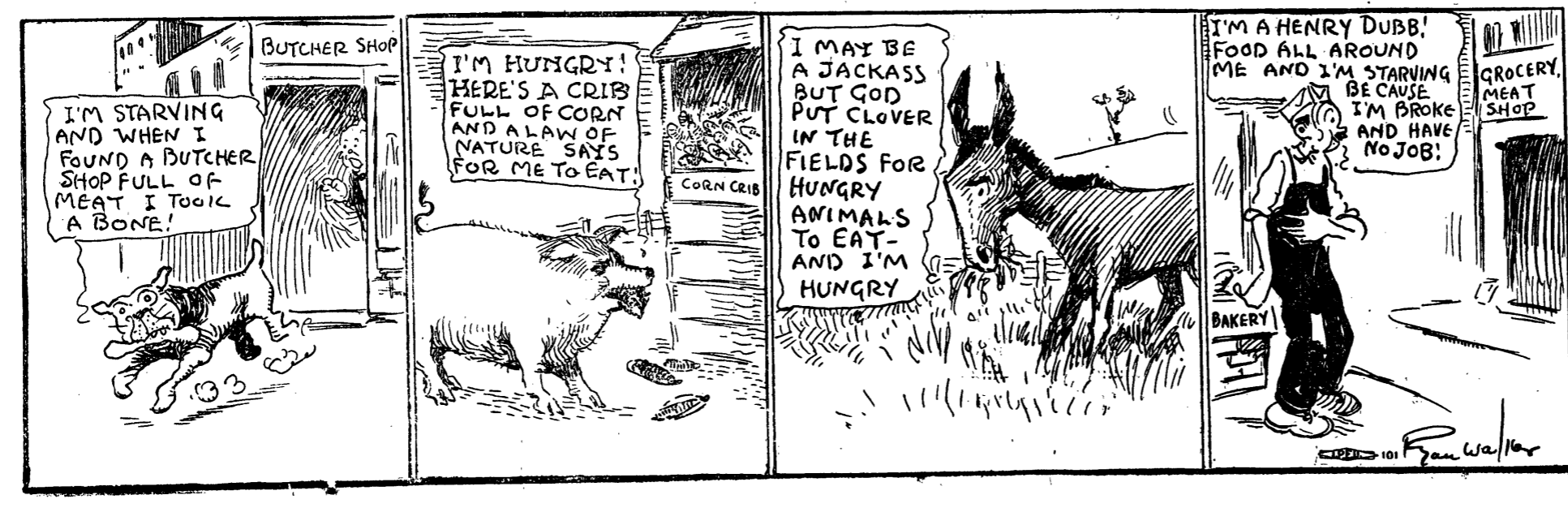
Thousands of copies of Henry Dubb cartoons have been already sold. This is a new edition, with new pictures, in three colors. They make a hit as soon as seen.

They will sell like hot cakes at street meetings, lectures, and to individuals. Every father who wants his son and daughter to comprehend the struggles of the workers will want to give this book of pictures to them. They will bring a smile on the face of any group. Ever the dullest mind can understand when taken in Walker's "easy-to-take" doses.

Single copies ..... 10c postpaid  
25 copies ..... \$2.00 postpaid  
100 copies ..... \$6.50 express paid

SOCIALIST PARTY, 803-W. MADISON ST., CHICAGO, ILL.

HENRY DUBB HASN'T AS MUCH SENSE AS GOD GIVES GEESE - - - By Ryan Walker



210. The literature sales were the best I ever saw in Portsmouth. The comrades could not hand out the books fast enough. Several applications were received for new members and several of the comrades who were in arrears have paid up their dues and taken hold again with new enthusiasm."

Memphis, Tenn.—In spite of difficulties the lectures finally turned out splendidly. Several applications were received. Comrade Walker's meeting came so near the holidays that the comrades were afraid it would not be a success. Walker's train was over 2 hours late so that he finally got to the hall at 11 o'clock. In spite of this the crowd had taken a vote to wait and were still there when Comrade Walker arrived. He finished his lecture about 12 o'clock and the whole crowd voted that it was one of the finest things they had ever had. Seventeen new members were added to the 44 that had before been secured. The comrades in Memphis believe that the three lectures will net them 100 new members. This is the record so far.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The comrades write that the course has given them three mighty good lectures. The weather was bad which made the crowds rather small but the meetings have done a great deal of good and the movement there is picking up. It will be in better shape for the 1916 campaign.

Fairmount, W. Va.—Comrade Mary Boggess writes that, "The lecture course here is causing no end of discussion and we hope to keep them running."

Marion, Ind.—"Seidel, Kirkpatrick and Walker stormed the town with telling effect," writes Comrade Shinn, chairman of the course here. "Each a specialist in his particular way of presenting his message of brotherhood, held his crowd fascinated. The 1916 campaign is, on with flying colors. The lectures have created so much interest that we have arranged to have Debs, Thompson and Creel in the near future."

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Comrade Walker writes that in spite of delayed trains he managed to get into town by 8:10 p. m. He rushed to the hall without stopping for supper or anything else and found the place packed to suffocation. The crowd was the largest that had ever assembled to hear a Socialist speaker, except possibly Debs.

Maley-Goebel Lecture Course. Arrangements are now completed for the Maley-Goebel lectures which begin in the New England states Jan. 14. Applications are still coming in and any locals that desire the Maley-Goebel lectures may get them if they hurry in with their application.

The Berliner Vorwaerts announced the arrest for high treason of 10 German Socialists, including Clara Zetkin. They are charged with engaging in peace propaganda.

The Chicago Federation of Labor has voted to send food, clothing and money to the striking copper miners of Arizona, in addition to telling the senators and congressmen from Illinois and Arizona that they favor the national ownership of mines. What is organized labor in your city doing about it?

EVOLUTION OF BANKING

THE POSITION of the Socialists on the Money Question is outlined in the following extracts from the COMMUNIST MANIFESTO of 1848:

Demand 5. Centralization of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.

From the Platform of the SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY, NEW YORK, 1904: Demand 5. The Government alone shall issue all money and such right shall not be delegated to any banking or other private corporation.

From the Platform of the SOCIALIST PARTY adopted by membership referendum, May, 1908: "The Government shall also loan money to states and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works."

No. 4. The collective ownership and democratic management of the banking and currency system.

"The government also to establish employment bureaus; TO LEND MONEY TO STATES AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHOUT INTEREST FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING ON PUBLIC WORKS, and to take such other measures within its power as will lessen the widespread misery of the workers caused by the misrule of the capitalist class."

There has been no discussion within the party on this subject and the comrades are not informed as they should be. The National Committee will undoubtedly be entrusted with the responsibility of formulating the platform of the party for 1916 and submit it to a referendum vote. It will contain a financial plank in harmony with the above submitted by the Committee on Banking, Bank Credit, Currency and Money System of the United States.

Comrade Robert H. Howe, a member of the Committee has written a book "The Evolution of Banking" which every member of the party should read in order to discuss the subject during the coming campaign.