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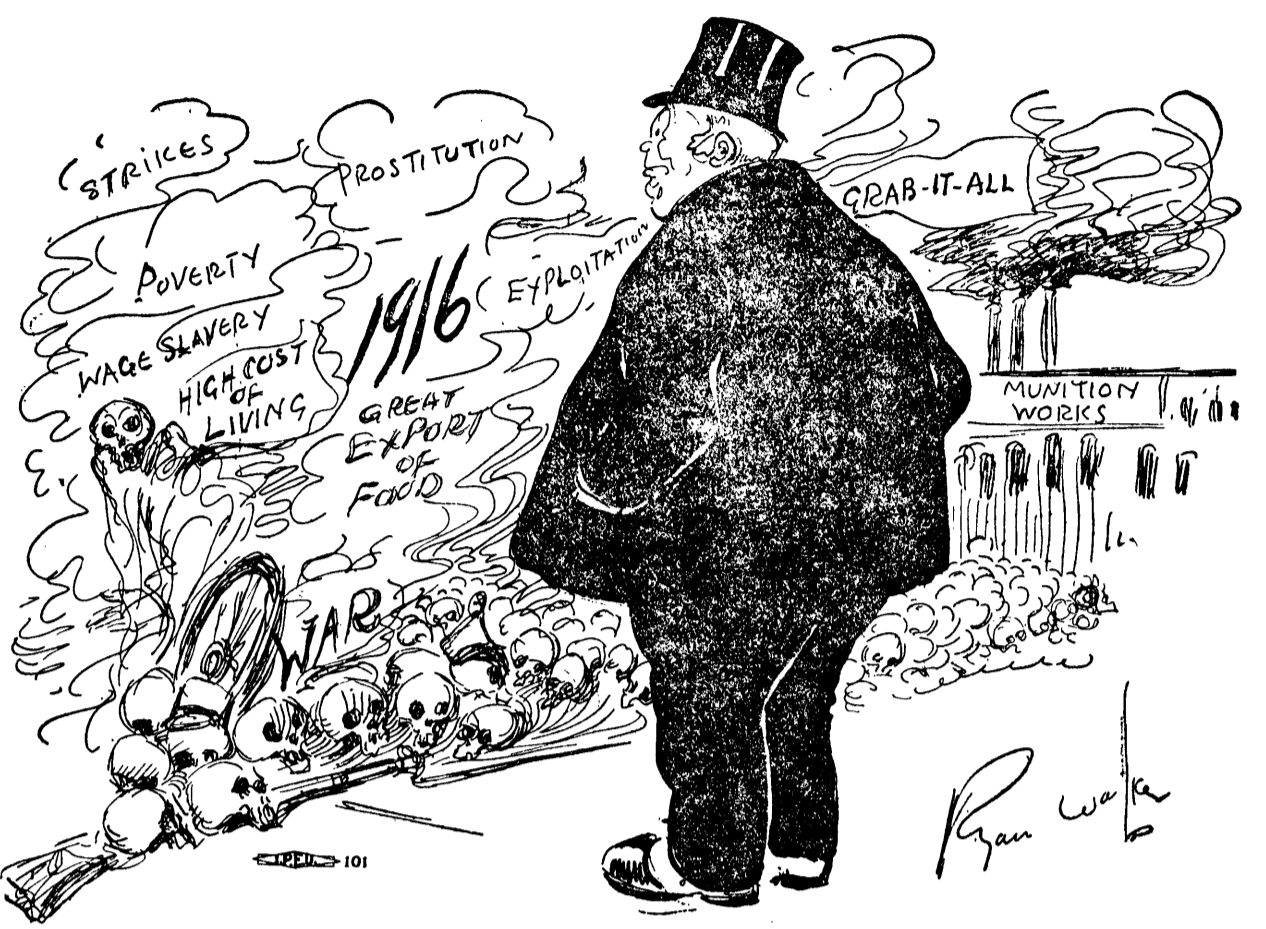
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Some good resolutions that will be easy for a good Socialist to keep

After The Election - A Voice From The West

The above is the title of an interesting article contributed to 'The Outlook' by Josiah Poeton, of San Ysidor, Calif. 'The Outlook' editor declares that Poeton expresses a view that is not his own. The article is in the form of an open letter 'To Messrs. Hughes, Wilson and Benson', and starts out as follows: 'Gentlemen:—A few weeks ago you occasioned me a lot of hard thinking. You were candidates for the office of President of the United States, and I was a prospective voter. It was very difficult for me to make up my mind which of you to vote for. 'A few years ago I would have had no difficulty, for it never would have occurred to me that I should vote other than the Republican ticket. I had imbibed the idea before I came West that the term Democrat was tainted with the odium that attaches to rum, rags, and slavery, and that a Socialist was a pariah, an outcast. The fact that I came very near voting for a Socialist and did vote for a Democrat the other day indicates that I am not the man I was; while the further fact that hundreds of thousands of others were in the same position indicates that the country is not what it was. Poeton told Hughes that he refused to vote for him because of 'the interests' behind him, especially the 'dollar diplomatists,' seeking intervention in Mexico. In addressing President Wilson, Poeton starts out as follows: 'You got my vote and I helped you get others. I didn't do this because I love you. I heard a lot of 'Woodrow-Wilson-Women' trying to sing 'I Love You, Woodrow Wilson' to the tune of 'I Love You, California,' and it nearly made me vote the Socialist ticket. No, I don't love you any more than I love Mr. Hughes or Mr. Taft.' He said he and others voted for Wilson because they thought that he understood the internal economic and social situation better than Hughes, and concludes by warning Wilson to tackle the big social problems or the Democratic Party will have to give way to some other. He addresses Benson as follows: 'Mr. Benson, you made a brave fight for the Presidency. The papers were against you. The money was against you. The prejudices of the people, not altogether without justification, were against the name under which you stretched your banner. 'You have patiently waited for this last word. You were the only candidate that dealt with the most important issues. We are more interested in the question as to whether an American can establish a home in the United States than we are as to whether he can establish a home in Mexico. My idea of 'true Americanism' is about like yours. It is that which does away with all graft, robbery, and gambling in this fair land of ours, in business as well as at the casino or on the race-track. I believe in that Americanism which says that no man shall have wealth he doesn't earn, that none shall oppress the poor, that says there shall be no poor to oppress, that would secure to every American child proper food, clothing, and education, and to every family a home. 'Lots of us who are not Socialists came very near voting for you, but we were afraid that if we did Hughes would be elected and that would be too much of a triumph for the reactionaries. We thought we would give the old parties one more chance. 'They have pretty nearly demonstrated their inability to solve the vital problems before the people. If they don't wake up to real business prudence, there will be no choice left us, so far as I can see, other than to give you folks a chance to show what you can do. We give Poeton and others like him four more years to get really educated in what Socialism stands for. BEGINNING OF THE END. 'It is the beginning of the end,' is the way Congressman London, Socialist, sums up the effect of Germany's peace offer. London believes the time is ripe for a definite turning toward peace, and that the United States can turn the scale. 'The contentment of the people in allied countries, and their disgust with their governments,' he said, 'is reflected in the fall of the British and French and Russian cabinets. They find they are losing the war. They must reorganize and make even greater sacrifices than before if they are to crush the central powers. The master diplomatic move of the central powers in proposing peace when the allies are in these difficulties is bound to have a lasting effect on the public in allied nations. Peace may be delayed a little, but not long. 'Russia has been forced to yield to the democratic movement of her people. The Russians are going to get constitutional liberties and keep them. 'But that does not mean the Finns, Poles and Letts, the Ukrainians and other oppressed nationalities in Russia, or, indeed, in other countries will be liberated when the war is over. They will find themselves in their old condition. The November report of the municipal electric light plant at Richmond, Ind., shows receipts of \$18,500 and operating expense of \$5,200. This is said to be the best record of any city plant in the state. From the plant's earnings the city expects to retire next spring \$80,000 of bonds issued in the last year for buying a competing electric light and power plant.



HIS YEAR

Waiting For Peace

'Why is it that when all are discussing peace no one mentions the 30,000,000 or so soldiers who are the most vitally concerned?' asks Oswald F. Schuette in a cable report from the battlefield in Europe. 'Now they lie among the perils of the winter trenches, exposed to death, unasked, unheard on the great question of whether or not the war shall end. For nearly two years I have visited all fronts and all battle fields and talked to the soldiers and prisoners of all nations. I am sure that their voice on both sides of the 2,000 miles of death zones would be for peace. New Horrors If Peace Fails. Nor has anyone thought to ask the mothers, wives, sweethearts and sisters of these 30,000,000, who sit at home and wait for news of their loved ones, fearing that they have been added to the great price humanity is paying for the war. Does any one think their voices and their vote is for war? If any one thinks the present discussion is merely a question of academic statesmanship let me say that if peace fails to come now the new year will bring more horrors than did the last twenty-nine months. The winter offensives will be the most terrible in the history of war—yes, in the history of the world. Merely Statement Of Fact. This is merely a statement of fact. The progress of war technique develops daily more cruelly and terror. Just as death's harvest in the last eight months was greater than in the preceding eighteen, so in the next eight months it will be attended by more horrors than in the last twenty-nine. URGE CAUSE OF PEACE. The French Socialist congress, according to cable reports to The Chicago Daily News, has called upon the allied governments not to cast aside any peace proposition without serious examination and to submit all such propositions to the interested legislatures. The congress says: 'If the propositions appear unacceptable we invite the allied governments to denounce them publicly to the belligerent nations and themselves and immediately to indicate, by formal counter propositions, the peace terms which they consider indispensable.' A summary refusal to consider Germany's proposition now, continues the congress, 'would gravely injure the allies' cause and might diminish their moral force while strengthening their adversaries.' 'Another significant passage from the resolution voted is: 'We consider that to obtain a durable peace a juridical organization of the world should be established with the aid of the neutrals.' The cable reports also say that several prominent German Socialists, one of whom is Philipp Scheidemann, member and one time first vice-president of the reichstag, have arrived at The Hague to confer with the Dutch social democratic party and formulate measures of protest against the deportation of the Belgians. They declare that both the majority and the minority groups of the German socialists strongly condemn the action of the German government. Both groups already have protested in committees of the reichstag against the 'enslaving' of the Belgians. Protest meetings are being called in various cities of Germany. This action of the German socialists is a direct answer to the appeal made to them by their Dutch colleagues. A protest against the proposal to establish in Massachusetts a mounted police force, similar to the 'Black Cossack' force in Pennsylvania, has been sent by the Fitchburg Socialist local to the Legislature. 'A menace to workers,' is the way the resolution terms the proposed State police force.

PLAN LAWS FOR MASSES.

Assemblyman Abraham I. Shiplacoff and Assemblyman-elect Joseph A. Whitehorn, the two Socialist members of the New York state legislature, plan to introduce a number of Socialist and labor measures when the session meets next month. These are the Socialist enactments planned: State purchase and operation of coal mines, to supply all the people of the state with coal at cost. Establishment of coal stations in every city, village and town to facilitate the distribution of coal at cost. Acquisition of all the railroads exclusively in the state to carry coal, food, milk and other supplies at cost. Establishment of state dairies on the lands now owned by the state. Permission to the municipalities to establish food distributing stations, at which groceries and farm products, bought in tremendous quantities, would be sold at cost. Permission to the municipalities to establish bakeries to turn out most of the bread needed by the people. WHERE YOUR PAPER GOES. We receive letters almost daily that answer the question of anxious subscribers, 'Why do I not receive my paper?' Here is one from Texas: 'Many complaints have come to me from ... about the Appeal, Rebel, Rip-Saw and The American Socialist. It is reported to me that the carrier on his route is fighting Socialism and is a booze fighter. The national office should have some influence with the government and any complaint filed by you will have weight. 'GO TO IT!' We certainly shall go to it. Another letter comes from Arkansas. It reads: 'The post office inspector has been close around this office for some time. The present post master came to me this morning with a petition that he be retained and stated if anything went wrong with Socialist papers he was not to blame and that he would see in the future that all went well, and if not to let him know. With this understanding I signed his petition.' This post master, no doubt, is not the only one that has a guilty conscience. His seems to trouble him more than that of others. Let us hear from you. Every case will be taken up and thoroughly investigated. Alderman Emil Seidel of Milwaukee, Wis., the Socialist who has many times made things hum, has launched a move for a municipal gas plant in this city. He introduced a resolution to prepare a legislative bill to so amend the public utilities law as to permit this action by the city. American people are overworked and are approaching a national breakdown, was the prediction made recently in New York City by Miss Josephine Goldmark of the National Consumers' League. Shorter working days are necessary to the workers to preserve their health and ideals, she said.

Message To Wall Street

In its current issue The Literary Digest summarizes the comment on the anti-strike feature of President Wilson's message to congress. It shows that labor is opposed to the proposed compulsory arbitration legislation while the forces behind Wall Street are very much in favor of it. The views gathered by The Literary Digest are as follows: Just one item 'stands out boldly,' in the 'brief and eclectic message,' read to Congress last week by President Wilson, as the Boston News Bureau remarks, and that is 'the breach with organizer labor on the issue of compulsory investigation,' or since the document was practically confined to the railroad problem, and was largely made up of restatements, it narrows down 'to the issue of compulsory investigation and report before there can be a transportation tie-up.' It follows quite naturally that criticism of the message comes, as the Brooklyn Eagle notes, 'from but one source'—that is union labor speaking thru its official representatives and its volunteer spokesmen of the press. President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor has announced his determination to fight the proposed legislation to the bitter end, with every means at his command. According to Eugene V. Debs, veteran Socialist and strike-leader, the President's plan 'would practically outlaw the strike and paralyze the striking machinery of the labor movement.' Any one who helps put such a proposition on the statute-books is, in the opinion of the Minneapolis Labor Review, 'pushing humanity back into slavery and bondage.' The national executive secretary of the Socialist party calls the plan 'a blow at the vitals of organized labor.' The Socialist New York Call's editorial on the subject is headed, 'The President's Message of Cheer to Wall Street,' and the radical Pittsburgh Leader's comment is entitled, 'Enslaving Labor.' On the other hand, the conservative press, which deplored President Wilson's 'surrender' on the eight-hour day, are now pleased at his determination to carry out his whole strike-prevention program, and commend the particular proposition which so arouses Socialist and union-labor ire. The message is to the hearty liking of papers like the Springfield Republican (Ind.), New York Evening Post (Ind.), Philadelphia Public Ledger (Rep.), Brooklyn Eagle (Dem.), New York Sun (Rep.), and Cleveland Plain Dealer (Dem.). 'In again insisting that there shall be neither strikes nor lockouts in the operation of railroads until there can be a full public investigation into the merits of the dispute, President Wilson,' says the Democratic New York World, 'is simply 'redeeming' his pledge that he made to the people last summer.' And it seems to the Chicago Evening Post (Prog. Rep.) 'the part of patriotism and common sense to credit him with good motives in his course and to uphold him in advancing upon it.'

Here's Food For Thought!

By LUCIEN SAINT. (Special Correspondence)

Washington.—Shall the United States follow the pattern of the old-world empires and conscript labor to work without cessation? This is the question that has been put up to Congress by the President. Congress is now listening to labor. Soon it may listen to capital. What will it do? Government experts have studied the systems of strike prevention in other countries and are planning a 'model' law for this free and easy democracy. In order that labor may know what capital already knows, I present herewith a summary of the anti-strike laws of the nations of the world. There's food for thought in it. AUSTRALIA: Strikes and lockouts are prohibited under penalty of one thousand pounds. For the adjustment of disputes elaborate legal machinery has been created. There is a court of conciliation and arbitration consisting of a president, who is a member of the Federal supreme court, and judges from the federal or state supreme courts, appointed by the president. Provision is also made for conciliation committees of equal numbers of employers and employees. The president of the court may summon parties or communities thereof to a conference and endeavor to reach a friendly solution. All the amicable settlements have the force of a formal award. NEW SOUTH WALES: Strikes and lockouts are prohibited, and the industrial court may issue an injunction to this effect. Employers are liable to a fine of one thousand pounds, employees to a fine of fifty pounds, which is charged against his wages, and if the striker is a member of a union, the union may be penalized. The law in New South Wales is similar to that of Queensland and Australia in that there are industrial courts and boards which seek to adjust difficulties. NEW ZEALAND: In certain cases where awards or settlements of former difficulties are still in force, strikes and lockouts are prohibited. Under the law of 1913 notice of industrial disputes must be given to the minister who refers the matter to an industrial commissioner or committee. In case of no settlement within a certain time, work may stop after seven days' notice. It is also provided that at any time during the progress of a strike, five per cent of the workers concerned may demand a secret ballot on any question relating to the strike. The law provides an elaborate system of courts of arbitration, councils of conciliation, and boards of investigation appointed under these courts. QUEENSLAND: Strikes and lockouts on public utilities are illegal unless a conference has been held before an industrial judge. Two weeks' notice must be given before cessation of work. Employer, union and individual worker are subject to fine for violations. There is an industrial court and local industrial boards which may be created upon application of employers and employees. BELGIUM: Strikes and lockouts are prohibited on railroads and in all forms of public service—railways, postal, telegraph, and telephone service, all of which are under state control. Imprisonment or fine awaits all violators. The law permits, however, the existence of trade unions of employees on public utilities under government supervision. Grievances may be presented to ministers thru the proper official channels. It is stated

on expert authority that there has been no serious strike on the Belgian railroads since their establishment. CANADA: Strikes and lockouts are illegal in public utilities and mines till after an investigation by a government board and the publication of its report. Fines, to be enforced by the injured party to the dispute, range from two to ten pounds per day per worker, and from twenty to two hundred pounds per day for the employer. The law is administered by the minister of labor, who may appoint boards of conciliation and investigation. DENMARK: Strikes are legal, except that public notice must be given. Strikes and lockouts are prohibited in case court or trade agreements are broken. A permanent governmental arbitration court on which sit representatives of employers and employees attempts to avert strikes and effect settlements. AUSTRIA: Strikes and lockouts of public utilities are prohibited. The union may be dissolved and its property seized. Before forming a union the organization must notify the government authorities and send them a copy of the constitution and by-laws. In case the formation of a union is considered by the authorities to be dangerous to the state, they may forbid it. ENGLAND: There is no legislation, and all the machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes is quasi-official. By the terms of an agreement effected between the railroads and their employees in 1911, agreement boards have been created with equal representation of employers and employees, to perform all conciliation work not settled by direct negotiation between the parties. In case of failure, a neutral chairman, whose decision is final, is selected from a panel previously chosen. The adjustment of disputes on other public utilities and in the mining industry is provided in the conciliation act of 1907 thru conciliators appointed thru the Board of Trade. FRANCE: Under the law, engineers, firemen and trammen may strike, but they may not desert their posts during the progress of a journey. Employees in the postal service and in the shipping service controlled by the government are prohibited from striking. In case a strike occurs on a shipping service to which the government has granted a monopoly, that privilege may be withdrawn. (In 1910 the Government, using its full authority under the military laws, ordered a mobilization of railroad strikers, and thus defeated the strike.) GERMANY: While there are no specific laws prohibiting strikes and lockouts on public utilities, the rules and practices on railways and other public utilities make strikes impossible. It is estimated that 90 per cent of the organized railway employees belong to unions whose by-laws specifically waive all claim to the right to strike. Furthermore, all union organization and by-laws are subject to governmental sanction, and employees who engage or endeavor to engage in strikes are liable to be dismissed or fail of advancement. Under the name of workmen's committees, means have been devised for enabling railway workers to bring their grievances to the notice of the authorities. HOLLAND: Strikes in railway service are prohibited by imprisonment or fine, according to legislation enacted as the outcome of a general railway strike in 1908. Arbitration boards enforce penalties, and delegates from the employees may present their wishes and complaints to the managers. ITALY: Strikes are prohibited by fine and loss of employment. It is stated that these measures would not prevent strikes were it not for the power of the government to call out

the reserves and compel strikers to resume work under the military law. OTTOMAN EMPIRE: Strikes on public utilities are illegal until the grounds of dispute have been communicated to the government. Boards consisting of an equal number of employers and employees, presided over by a government official, sit in industrial disputes. In case of failure to reach a decision, strikes may take place. PORTUGAL: Strikes in public utilities are illegal unless after notice. In all services, except public utilities, strikes have been expressly permitted since the establishment of the Republic in 1890. RUSSIA: Strikes are prohibited by imprisonment and loss of employment. Strikers may be arrested or banished. SPAIN: Strikes in public utilities are illegal unless after notice, but leaders and officials of labor organizations who fail to declare the causes of a strike are liable to imprisonment. As in Portugal, strikes in other than public utilities are expressly allowed. SWITZERLAND: Strikes are prohibited in the federal railway service and in the Canton of Geneva whenever an industrial agreement or award is broken. The Canton of Geneva has established a system of conciliation and arbitration. It is noted that since the nationalization of the Swiss railroads in 1897, there have been no strikes. TRANSVAAL: Strikes in public utilities and the mining industry are unlawful till after inquiry by the government. The law here is similar to that in Canada. LET US ALL BE OYSTERS. Oysters are happy—certainly they are happy—and they are happy because the life they live can be lived where they need and desire very, very little—on their low level of life. Under capitalism, the present form of society, many millions of workers live chiefly the life of humble animalism, robbed of the upper side of life; and there they are socially damned and despised by the 'prominent' people, despised by the 'upper classes.' 'Upper classes?' Up where? Up above the dead-line, sneering at the toilers sweating and worrying below the dead-line, sneering at the toilers' humbling struggle for the bare necessities, scoffing at the workers' fourth-rate, cheap imitations of comforts and luxuries. In dull, dumb meekness and obedience the workers class toil on and on in the mud of life bearing the capitalist class upon their shoulders—the workers, millions of them dead to the splendors of life—asleep in the hell of slavery. But they shall wake. They shall wake from the sleep of cheap contentment. They shall rise from their living death in slavery. WANT WOMEN'S MONEY. A noble proposition is suggested in Texas. The Port Arthur Record tells about it. 'The women of Texas, especially the suffragists, are to be asked to donate a dollar each toward the deficit in the Democratic campaign fund. They are told that whereas President Wilson was re-elected by the votes of the women in the western states, the women of Texas who could not help him should assist in a financial way. Rather a peculiar way of reasoning when we consider that it is the Democratic Party which has failed to give the women of Texas the right to assist in the election of presidents. The women are not capable of voting, but they are perfectly capable of conducting a 'ladies' aid society' adjunct to the organization which has the power to give them the same rights as possessed by their sisters of the western states.'

Great Serial Starts Next Week! Don't Fail To Begin Reading 'THE CALL OF THE WILD' Jack London's Masterpiece

ADOLPH GERMER, NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST PARTY, SAYS: 'I have read 'The Call of the Wild' twice and I am planning to read it again. It is one of those stories that never grows old. It will be read and read again in the years to come. If you haven't read it, read it now.' It starts NEXT WEEK in The American Socialist!



# Let The Plutes Rule!

By MAX SHEROVER.

## Why Not Award It To Meyer London?

London.—Reuter's Christiania correspondent says the Nobel Committee decided not to distribute the Nobel peace prizes for 1915 and 1916. The Nobel peace prize has not been awarded since 1913.

It is our recollection that Socialist Congressman Meyer London introduced a resolution directing the President to take an effective step toward ending the European carnage.

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## And Still Capitalism Lasts!

Just before turning on the gas in an unsuccessful attempt to end it all Mrs. Anna Oram, the wife of a workman and mother of four children, wrote down the following budget which conclusively shows that our "prosperity" is unprecedented:

- This is what it takes a week:
- Rent \$4.00, lunch and carfare \$2.00. That leaves \$6.00 a week for light, fuel, food and clothes, medicine and incidentals for husband, children and myself. I have about \$180 on a number of bills. I can only spare \$1 a week toward effacing this indebtedness. Heaven help the poor!
- John Oram, her husband, said: "I've been working steadily for J. B. Clow & Co. I absorb drink, I shrink from the very thought of crime. I give every cent to my wife and children. Daily I get 15 cents. Of this 10 cents is for carfare, the nickle for coffee. Out of this I was able to pinch \$1.73, which the children were saving and it went for bread a few days ago." Oram's wages are \$12 a week.
- Let the Plutes Rule!

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## Some Flowers of Capitalism.

(Picked at random from a list of "100 neediest cases" for which a Christmas assistance appeal is being made by a Chicago paper.)

- No Wonder He Went Insane.
- 2.—Demented uncle, caring for four orphans on \$14 a week.
- A Nation Of Fatherless Children.
- 13.—Fourteen-year-old boy, "father" to four, needs \$8 rent and help for baby brother with tubercular hip.
- 15.—If mother could get \$10 rent she could feed seven children ages 2 to 14. Wants work.
- 19.—Mother, vitality gone, supports seven on \$4, earned in laundry. Needs \$10 for rent.
- Heaven Help That Girl.
- 20.—Hungry widow, wages \$6, wants to keep four children in school. Eldest girl soon will be wage earner.
- 21.—Wife of violent insane man, wants rent met so her \$1 a day wages will provide for three little hungry children, 4 months to 5 years old.

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## How Socialism Breaks Up Homes.

- 4.—Blind barber learning broom making, wants \$50 to help support tubercular wife and three young boys until he becomes proficient.
- 5.—Twelve years making pants in sweatshop has ruined the mother's health. Now she and three children are tubercular. Needs rent, glasses and about \$50.
- 12.—Widow, paralyzed in side, supports self and two boys on \$25 a month. Needs \$7 rent and clothing.
- 85.—Mother has two operations, finds income of \$37 a month less than expenses of caring for four children. Needs bed and bedding.
- 86.—Widow, not eligible to pension, supports aged mother and three little ones on \$6 earned by 17-year-old brother. Income \$15 a month short.
- 87.—If you could get second-hand sewing machine, she says, she could earn enough besides her \$28 income to support five children. Panicky for fear home will be broken up. Would cost \$15.
- 88.—Wife of tubercular, blind, husband blind, supports four children, now wants clothing for them and aid until spring.
- 89.—Widow, cooped up in single room with two children, can earn only \$3 a week and needs \$14.50 a month. Wants to get two rooms so they can have real home.

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## Let the Plute Rule!

(Another Batch of Capitalism's Flowers Next Week.)

## Signs Of The Times.

Planning The Next War.

Sir Alfred Booth, chairman of the Cunard Steamship Co., expresses the belief that "Great Britain would be pleased to have America's co-operation in CARING for international trade, to prevent Germany's gaining a mastery after the war."

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## They Always Foot The Bill.

Says the same plute in a speech at Liverpool: "After the war, the burden of debt must be met by increased production. The responsibility and duty to achieve increased production will fall very largely on the working classes."

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## What's The Matter With The U. S.

A recommendation made in the annual report of the Post Office Department calls for government ownership of the telegraph and telephone facilities of Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico.

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## What Has The R. R. Bird Whispered In Burleson's Ear?

On January 1, 1917, says the P. O. Department's report, the P. O. Department will file with the Interstate Commerce Commission a recommendation for a revision of the railway mail pay basis of compensation which will give the railroads a more adequate (?) return for the work they have been performing in transporting the mails.

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## The H. C. of L.

(Bradstreet's Export Figures.)

What this week 6,727,000 bushels; last week, 5,587,000 bushels; since July 1, 169,585,000 bushels; last year, 180,173,000 bushels; since July 1, 22,644,000 bushels; last year, 5,042,000 bushels.

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## Hot, Cold, Or For Stock Inflation?

"The Right Way is the Gas Way"—Slogan of Wall Street Journal.

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## Workers Excluded.

Sub rates of Wall Street Journal; \$12 yearly, \$1 monthly, or five cents daily.

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## Logic—Thou Art Mute!

"It (suffrage) is a destruction of the right of self-government and a subjection of the people to the government of others."—Elihu Root speaking before the Anti-Suffragists at Washington.

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## Speaking Of Campaign Funds.

The Republican party's total amounts to \$2,441,565. The Democratic party's total amounts to \$1,808,348. Such proletarian "contributions" as \$25,000 are not uncommon to both of them. Of course, none of the "contributors" expected a return on their investment.

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## Niemand zu Hause.

"I, personally, can't say I desire government ownership of the railroads. I lean to the individual idea rather than the collective. I believe in individual ownership except where competition is impossible."—William Jennings Bryan.

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## The Materialist Interpretation Of Opera.

For the purpose of the Chicago Opera Association in a measure is bound up with the prestige of the city in which it plays its part.

## Socialists At Work

A bequest of \$100 is left to the Los Angeles branch of the Socialist Party by the terms of the will of Louis Bernson.

Union, N. Y., Socialists are circulating a petition to the mayor and city council urging a referendum on the question of municipalizing the electric light and gas plants.

William Blyly, of Elkhart, Ind., writes: "We have at present a good organization, a city central committee, an organization committee of 12 and a study class committee."

W. T. Webb, state secretary of Texas, declares that: "With a few good lecturers that have the organizing ability and understand the conditions in Texas, we could build up an organization of 10,000 or 15,000 members. As it is we have about 1,500". Here's hoping Texas gets the organizers.

Joseph Wright, local secretary at Clinton, Ind., says: "We are getting a good many new members into the party. The people in the Fifth Congressional District are up in arms against the old parties for robbing us of votes in our efforts to elect 'Gene Debs. Our new members are mostly young men. We are planning to educate them before they become backsliders or get discouraged."

The New York state executive committee of the Socialist party will soon undertake the most extensive organization campaign ever seen in New York to win back to the party nearly 5,000 men and women who have dropped out of party activities and membership, and to get 10,000 newcomers into the movement. There are 30,000 enrolled Socialist voters in the state, and from these the party rolls may be raised by more than 25,000.

Letting of a new contract for street lighting to the Utica Gas and Electric Company of Utica, N. Y., has been delayed by a protest filed by Otto L. Enderes, Onondaga county chairman of the Socialist party, and George W. Browning. They charge that the rate proposed is excessive and that the contract does not provide that it may be cancelled by the city if it should decide to go into the lighting business. Utica local of the Socialist party has adopted a resolution demanding municipal ownership of the lighting plant.

Local Shelbyville, Ind., didn't sit around waiting for the returns after election day but got right on the job for 1920 by electing committees to canvass the city for new members, new and old subscribers to party publications, and look up delinquent and ex-members. Financial Secretary J. E. Chenoweth writes that: "The results of two hours work of the committee which I am on were two new members, four renewals to The American Socialist, besides getting in touch with many excellent prospects. We expect to make this a permanent feature of our work, and as soon as we can get in a shape to supplement this work with a series of winter lectures."

William H. Henry, state secretary of Indiana, writes: "I have never seen the comrades in Indiana so active in organization work just after an election as they are at this time. Indianapolis is building a real political organization. Most of our Indianapolis speakers worked out in the state during this last campaign. They are going to work at home now. We are taking in from 30 to 40 members weekly. La Porte, Marion, Elwood, Anderson, Alexandria, Evansville, Bedford, Clinton, Newcastle, in fact at least half the locals in the state are reporting good organization work. They are not downhearted a bit. They realize they must have an organization. The Fifth Indiana (Debs) district is planning to start a paper and put an organizer on the job. Debs is enthusiastic. I think he will run again in two years and pull thru."

Harry W. Laidler, organizing secretary of the Intercollegiate Socialist society has just finished a 17-day trip to Pennsylvania and New York colleges. He gave 30 lectures in all before about 2,000 collegians, addressed some 16 economic classes and a couple of entire college bodies. An alumni chapter was started in Pittsburgh. Laidler found the younger professors of economics at the various colleges growing more and more sympathetic toward Socialism and showing an eager willingness to cooperate with the society and to help liberalize the minds of the undergraduates on economic and social problems. All efforts are now being turned toward making the eighth annual convention of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society, to be held in New York, Dec. 28, 29 and 30, a pronounced success.

Another long-felt want is to be supplied. Press agents for the Socialist and labor movement are to be trained in a new class of the Rand School which has its first meeting Dec. 16. The class is open to organizers and secretaries of the Socialist party branches, to secretaries and organizers of labor unions and all others interested in publicity and newspaper work. The course will be conducted by Ira W. Bird, a member of the New York City staff and publicity director for the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and other organizations. Bird has had a long experience on newspapers in New York, Milwaukee, and Washington, D. C. He was a reporter and city editor on the Leader in Milwaukee and went to New York from Washington, where he was city editor of the Washington Post. Although the class will be primarily for the education of press agents for the labor movement, there will be instruction in journalism to prepare the students for their work. The members of the class will start in as cub reporters and go thru all the experiences of the beginners in the newspaper game with the exception that few will see their early efforts in print.

They who voted for Wilson in the hope of "getting something new" had better be baring their necks for what they are about to receive.

Oh, yes, militarism leads toward Socialism. England, however, has been placed under a dictatorship, while France is in control of a military board. What is the use of democracy, anyhow?

The women are learning. The Housewife's League, two million strong, is asking for regulation of food prices similar to that which prevails in New South Wales. In time they will vote for Socialism.

If the women who this year began experimenting with the ballot do not vote the Socialist ticket by 1920, they will not justify the sneaking notion people have that they are more sensible than men are.

Now that certain Socialists have helped elect Wilson president he has recommended the change in postal rates that will make it impossible for Socialist papers of general circulation to exist.

"We can call it Socialism, or whatever name we choose, but when it becomes necessary for a large number of people to organize themselves in a society to fight old Hy Costalvini then it becomes the duty of organized society, the city, the state or the federal government, to tackle the proposition for the benefit of all the people, that is, except the food and fuel speculators," comments the Pilot, of Blair, Neb. Here's a paper that is trying to pilot the masses in the right direction.

## WHITE PAPER.

Unless there is a break in the price of white paper soon, 1917 will see newspapers totalling over all over the country. Let's suppose a case. Suppose a group of Wall Street financiers were to own the Chicago pulp and paper mills in the United States and Canada and were to refuse to supply paper at any price to newspapers that refused to obey orders as to news and editorial policy—what would happen to public opinion in this land of the free and home of the brave? Will Uncle Sam have to go into the paper business?—From The Day Book (Chicago).

## RAISES FEAR OF SOCIALISM.

Frank A. Vanderlip, head of the National City Bank of New York City, tried to interpret the handwriting on the wall in an address before the Bankers' Club of Chicago in the gold room of Chicago's Congress Hotel. Capitalists representing \$3,000,000,000 money power faced the head of the Standard Oil institution.

He blamed the bankers in part for the growth of state socialism in America because, he said, they had failed to play the big part they should have done, which gave rise to the demand by the people for relief thru state control. In other words, he thought the fleeing of the masses had been too vigorous. He urged that it ought to be carried on in a more gentlemanly and humane manner. Some of the biggest of the bankers smiled at this show of sentiment. Vanderlip said:

"State socialism in Europe may develop problems, the like of which have never concerned our minds. We may have to meet collective buying, state aided industries, forms of governmental cooperation with business quite outside our range of thought. Governmental control of ocean borne commerce, and novel factors in international finance will be subjects for national consideration. Indeed, there may ultimately come out of the great war changes in forms of government that will have profound and worldwide influence."

Then Vanderlip went on weeping about the danger locked up in the controversy between the railroads and their employees. He said:

"Within this week I heard the representative of the four great railway unions state his views before the Economic club of New York. To my mind, while clothed with graceful language, while presented with a smile, they were views that contained the essence of anarchy. We were told we must not pass certain laws because they would not be obeyed; we were given clear intimations regarding the power of these organizations; but there was not one hint of their duty or responsibility to society."

In response to which the pirates of New York's Wall Street and Chicago's LaSalle Street nodded their approval. Such is the argument of the money power. After admitting that the masses are rising in their wrath against the nation's money lords because of the treatment they had received, and were turning to Socialism as a last refuge, this oily Vanderlip talks of duty and responsibility to society. It will take more oil than is contained in Vanderlip's smug phrases to quiet the demands of the masses, some of which have been coined upon the privately owned railroads of the country.

It is a pitiful sight to see these bankers, blind as bats to the future, trying to stave off the inevitable with empty words and phrases that only fool themselves and those more ignorant.

## THEY BEGIN TO SQUEAL.

J. Hampton Moore, congressman from Pennsylvania, arose in the house of representatives at Washington the other day and asked unanimous consent to extend his remarks in the Congressional Record by inserting a speech by his colleague, "the gentleman from New York, Mr. William S. Bennett, on Socialism." There was no objection.

# 1907 "Law And Order" 1916

There is probably no record of any important criminal case where a verdict of guilty was returned on the evidence of such an evidently degenerate megalomaniac as the District Attorney Fickert used him in the Billings case, first of the bomb cases to be tried. It can only be explained by the damning fact that the same grasping degenerate influences control the District Attorney's office in San Francisco today as in 1907 in the famous "Graft Trials."

"Behind the expert lawyers of the trolley magnates," wrote the S. F. Call of September 26, 1907, referring to the trial of Trolley Road, street railway chief counsel "troop a making elite train of gun-fighters, professional plug-uglies, decoys, disreputable 'detectives', thugs, women of the half-world, and the wolfish pack of gutter journalism. It must be indeed a hard case that needs such bolstering."

Writing of one of these trials, (Calhoun's) Franklin Hixhorn says in his book, "The System," page 434: "There followed one of the most extraordinary scenes ever recorded of a court of justice. The defendant's attorney, the District Attorney, and even the prisoner at the bar openly and contemptuously defied the judge (Judge Wm. P. Lawlor) on the bench."

Gallows For Five Workers? The District Attorney referred to is Charles M. Fickert, the same Fickert who in 1916 outrages justice by endeavoring to hang five labor people because the unionism of San Francisco still successfully resists the onslaughts of the Chamber of Commerce. Those who covered before the outraged citizenry of 1907 have now usurped the courts, and thru professional jurists and police-controlled witnesses, hope to strangle Billings and his co-defendants. The attempted assassination of Francis Heney and the dynamiting of Supervisor Gallagher's home in Oakland (a witness against the United Railroads) are duplicated by the killing of the pickets, Tom Olson and Lewis Morey today, the convenient bomb explosion to discredit unionism and the penning up for slaughter of five innocent labor people.

The eloquent description by the "Call" of the Calhoun-Ford-Mullally following of 1907, quoted above, applies precisely to the persons and the dynamiting of Supervisor Gallagher's home in Oakland (a witness against the United Railroads) are duplicated by the killing of the pickets, Tom Olson and Lewis Morey today, the convenient bomb explosion to discredit unionism and the penning up for slaughter of five innocent labor people.

The Government pays \$100,000 a year in telephone rentals. The people of Washington pay over 4 cents for each call, which is more than four times what the independent companies of Chicago, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, and Buffalo pay.

Poor Are Disinherited. Under present conditions under private ownership, the poor man is denied the use of the telephone. "The prevailing rates," says Lewis, "simply disinheret the masses in respect to this most recent and useful means of communicating."

Telephones at a dollar a month with 100 calls per month and additional calls at a cent each is what Lewis proposes. He bases his proposals on the estimates submitted to Government authorities by a responsible telephone manufacturing company. His proposition is to buy the Washington telephone outfit at its cost value. Allowing 3 per cent for depreciation and interest, it could be run at first for \$12 a year for 600 calls, additional calls at two cents each. This would bring in, it is calculated, \$30 per telephone annually, enabling the city to reduce rates as fast as the growth of the business would permit. Such a system as that in Washington can be operated at \$20.51 per telephone annually.

Test Government Ownership. Lewis' idea is that the municipal telephone could be operated under the federal post office department and that it would test out the claims for government ownership and for private ownership, respectively. He quotes President Vail of the Bell Telephone Company as declaring that his corporation could give rates "more or less equal to those in Europe, and make a profit, too, but that 'the American people do not want them.'"

"At present," says Lewis, "the toll rates are prohibitive for many transactions. Although Washington is completely enveloped by farms, they cannot be reached within a practicable cost by telephone, while letter communication is impracticable; for the transaction, however small, requires conversation. For example, a certain farming center within twenty miles of Washington, can be reached only at the prohibitive rate of 20 cents for three minutes. Under my bill the night rate would be three cents, which would make it as easy for a housewife to give an order to a farmer as to a grocer in town. Then the farm products could be sent direct from the producer to the consumer by parcel post, giving the prudent housekeeper her necessities in the first mail."

Money Interests Active. "There is considerable curiosity at the Capitol to know what valid objection can be made by anyone to this experiment's being made, and thus the controversy settled by actual test. If it succeeds, then we shall only be following the examples of the other countries of the world, which, with few exceptions, have placed the telephone and telegraph communications, with the letter, in the hands of that most useful and popular branch of the government, the postal system."

The big monied interests are flinging themselves against this bill. Lewis has encountered them before. At the last election he ran for Senator from his state of Maryland, and the machine of the Democratic party defeated him at the behest of the telephone corporation.

Lewis' bill won't pass, but the people should know the facts about it and about the Telephone Monopoly and how it keeps the telephone from the poor man's house.

Francis Soukup, well known Bohemian Socialist who toured this country delivering lectures several years ago, and who is a member of the Austrian Parliament, has been arrested and imprisoned on the charge of high treason. Details are lacking but it is probable that Soukup was caught red-handed in some peace plot.

John Crowley, Sneak thief and

# AMERICAN SOCIALIST

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J. L. ENGDALH, Editor

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1916.

# IN THE WORLD OF LABOR.

By Max S. Hayes.

A WIDESPREAD industrial depression exists in Argentina. Thousands of building tradesmen and shop workers being out of employment and tramping from place to place. The Socialist representatives in the National Congress—who number 10, an increase of six—have introduced a bill for insurance against unemployment, demanding that the government take steps to secure employment at living wages for everybody. But these radicals are having a hard row to hoe. Although the recently elected government of Argentina travels under the mask of liberalism, it is utterly conservative when it was asked to take effective steps for the benefit of the working masses, as is the case everywhere when capitalist politicians are elected. There have been numerous hard strikes against wage reductions, and altogether the working people of Argentina are in a condition of general dissatisfaction.

AN unusual occurrence is reported from Denver, where the Rev. Allan A. Tanner one of the most prominent ministers in the city, announced that he will retire from the pulpit the first of the year. He tendered his letter of resignation as pastor of the first Congregational Church. He also will retire from the People's Tabernacle and expects to take up industrial pursuits, perhaps returning to work in a machine shop. Several years ago Dr. Tanner went to work in a machine shop in Toledo, O., and became skilled enough to join the union. While living in Toledo he was a friend and co-worker of "Golden Rule" Jones. It was he who preached the funeral sermon of Toledo's famous Mayor.

NOT ONLY is the problem of imported negro labor from the South confronting the workers in the Northern industrial centers, but even Indians and Mexicans are now being employed in considerable numbers. The Pennsylvania Railway Co. has introduced the innovation on some of its Eastern lines with satisfactory results. The colored, Mexican and Indian laborers are more tame and docile than the Europeans who have been employed almost exclusively in the corporations like. It means more profits.

THE FIVE steel and smelter workers' organizations in England are voting on the proposition to amalgamate. So far three of the national unions have decided favorably and it is believed that the two others will do likewise. It is hoped to perfect the merger shortly after the first of the year.

THE COST of living has gone up very much and now wages are going up a very little. But not because your master's love. Wages are going up because there's a scarcity of labor power.

The Navy Department has rejected the bid of the Cramp Shipbuilding Company for two submarines and awarded the contract to the government navy yard at Mare Island. The Cramp bid was \$1,195,000; the navy yard bid \$968,105.

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American Militarism Is Bared in Santo Domingo

Americans who think that militarism is a peculiarly European product will hardly relish the details which are coming to light regarding the American occupation of Santo Domingo.

With the declaration of Occupation and Military Government in Santo Domingo, a censorship is hereby established the existence of which will be immediately notified to the Press.

The publication is forbidden of expressions of a violent or inflammable nature or that will tend to encourage hostility or resistance to the Military Government.

The officer (General) commanding on shore will appoint censors and put this order into effect.

Some of the big newspapers which thought that the censorship was leveled at them, immediately let up a howl. Chief among them was the powerful New York Evening Post.

When Admiral W. S. Benson, Chief of Naval Operations, was interviewed by representatives of Washington Anti-military organizations, he freely admitted these facts to be true and showed official copies of the censorship proclamation.

His interviewer suggested that we were settling difficulties of similar nature in Mexico by the appointment of a joint commission.

"The navy is doing its duty"—sure thing. We have always given it credit for being only a black-jack for use in the big business man's stick-up game.

the exploiter's standpoint it is most eminently fit for the job, to fasten exploitation upon helpless natives of other countries and to put across an excuse for censorship and compulsory service in this country in the near future.

But for the purpose of spreading the doctrine of justice and brotherhood? It is NOT. An interesting side light on this case is that the ship sent down to "pacify" the island is the Cruiser "Force."

SOCIALIST VOTE COMPARED. Table with columns for State, Debs 1912, Benson Other 1916, and Obtainable.

WINS VICTORIES FOR PEOPLE. Fighting with its back to the wall, the Socialist minority in the town government of Plymouth, Conn., has succeeded in winning three important social benefits for the workers.

The Socialists have succeeded in installing a municipal water system for the schools and town buildings, artesian wells being dug by the town, in the face of bitter resistance from the private owners of the reservoir.

Another case in which the Socialists won out was in forcing through the council an ordinance requiring the local bank to pay rent for the town's property, which it had occupied for years gratis.

The free public night schools, which were squelched several years ago by the principal merchants of the town "because when the workers became educated they became Socialists," have been reopened, after a hard fight by the Socialists, who saw the truth of their friend the enemy's statement.

It is chiefly the women who are mentally "enslaved," in other words anti-suffragettes, that are preventing universal suffrage.

How Bankers Live On Interest Of Their Debts

By CHARLES LINDGREN.

The money of the people is used against them. The people deposit their money in the banks; the banks change this money into bank credit; this bank credit is loaned to men who buy up food and hold it for high prices.

We will say that a man has one dollar. He starts a bank. Mr. Smith deposits \$4 with the banker. The banker now has \$5 in cash.

Mr. Jones goes to the banker and wants to borrow \$20. The banker has only \$5 but loans Mr. Jones \$20 in this way. He writes down on a book, I owe Mr. Jones \$20. He then gives Mr. Jones a check book.

Now we will say that Jones borrowed the \$20 for one year and paid 6 cents on the dollar interest, which will be \$1.20 that he has to pay in interest. Now out of this interest the man who put in the \$4 out of the \$5 on which the \$20 bank credit was based gets 3 cents on the dollar for a year which is 12 cents.

Bank credit is the most wonderful thing in the world. It is bank credit that has opened up the mines of the earth; it is bank credit that has built the railroads and factories; it is bank credit through which all stock and bond issues are floated; and it is only through the use of bank credit that the great trusts could be credited.

Start Peoples' Banks. The only way for the people to control the bank credit is to start a new bank and the bank must be owned by the people. Here is how to do it. In every city the people will elect an honest lawyer to start a bank in that city for the people.

The following will show you how the plan will be worked in Chicago, and other cities will do the same. Mr. Rodriguez will open a bank for the people. The cost of the bank fixtures will be paid for out of the profits of the bank. Mr. Rodriguez will borrow the money to start with from a labor union and as soon as the bank starts up he will pay it back by giving the union credit on the books of the bank for the money he borrowed.

There are big profits in banking and as you ought to get the profit. Of course the bank will be for all the people, but the working people will benefit the most. Rich men do not keep much money in the bank, they keep it in their business because it earns more money for them there. They also borrow bank credit.

The Socialist Party has lost one of its oldest and most valuable members in the death of Comrade Otto Heidemann, of Forest Glenn, Md., member of the Wheaton Branch, Local Montgomery County.

James Murphy, publisher of the New Freedom, a Socialist paper at Alton, Ill., is in jail on trumped-up charges, but principally because he is too radical to suit the profiteers of this city.

When John Burns resigned from the British Cabinet at the outbreak of the war, he prophesied that Great Britain would be driven to "conspiration, protection and then to revolution." This leads the Milwaukee Leader to remark that "conspiration and protection have come, and revolution is waiting at the door."

The radical Bull Moosers, who refuse to be betrayed by the windy Roosevelt, are to hold a conference in St. Louis next month for the purpose of reorganizing their party and will probably adopt a new name. It is announced that a progressive platform of social reforms will be adopted for the purpose of attracting laboring people and others dissatisfied with the pretensions of the old parties to the new standard of political revolt.

That 10 per cent of the people in Milwaukee were sick Oct. 26; that sickness here results in a wage loss of \$3,000,000 annually; that less than half of the persons sick were under a doctor's care; that less than one-fourth of the sick had prompt medical attention, and that the poor are seriously sick three times as frequently as the well-to-do, are some of the outstanding conclusions drawn from the health census, conducted recently by the social workers of the city under the auspices of the City club.

It may be that the new Russian Premier Troppoff has become liberalized in thought and action, as is claimed by some writers, but last week he ordered that 12 Labor and Socialist members of Parliament be suspended for eight sittings because they led a demonstration against some parts of his government program.

Resolutions for signature by Socialists and Single Taxers declaring for closer co-operation between these radical movements in securing taxation of land values and public ownership of public utilities were prepared at conferences, held in Milwaukee last week. The meeting was attended by Chicago and Milwaukee Single Taxers and Socialists. Just along with lines the conferences intend to proceed is not quite clear, but will probably be made known as plans are matured.

Comrade Cornelius Lehane of Ireland is dated to speak at the following places in Texas: El Paso, Dec. 26; San Antonio, Dec. 28; Austin, Dec. 29; Houston, Dec. 30; Galveston, Dec. 31. Afterwards he speaks at some points in Louisiana on his way to New Orleans. Our Irish comrades are receiving an enthusiastic reception everywhere in the south, as many of the local comrades knew Connolly personally, and Lehane's story of the Irish Citizen Army, the first labor army in the world, is drawing enormous audiences.

Yucatan is undoubtedly the most progressive State in Mexico. Some months ago the Governor General, who is said to be a strong believer in Socialism, called a woman's congress in Merida. Several thousand representative women attended and discussed the important public questions concerning Yucatan. So intelligent and helpful were their deliberations that Yucatan women have now been given the ballot in recognition of the help they can be to the country. It is probable that other Mexican States will follow the example.

Canadian workers are again getting busy politically. A Labor party has been formed in Toronto and its platform demands include public ownership of utilities, initiative and referendum, eight-hour day, equal suffrage, proportional representation, etc. In Winnipeg several Labor candidates have been nominated for the City Council and they favor public ownership of municipal monopolies and radical legislation to reduce the cost of living. In Hamilton and other places Labor candidates have likewise been put forward to struggle for political power in order to secure improvements for the workers that the old politicians can't or won't concede.

J. McLean, the Scotch Socialist writer and speaker has been sentenced to three years in the penitentiary, by the Edinburgh Superior Court. He was charged with "making speeches interfering with recruiting, and apt to cause a rebellion." When led out of court, the people in the gallery cheered McLean three times, and the crowd sang the "Red Flag." The judge ordered them to stop and threatened to have the gallery cleared with the crowd. The song was continued to the end. Four of the singers were arrested and fined for insulting the court. McLean is more dangerous to the capitalist class while in jail than outside.

For A Lasting Peace

By JOSEPH E. COHEN.

The battle cry of peace raised by the German alliance and the British entente is for export trade only. At home it is a battle cry of war.

Forgotten is that which was alleged to have caused the conflict—the interference of Serbia in Austrian affairs. The Russian mobilization and the German invasion are now given as the first steps in the war, and both sides are more emphatic than ever in asserting that it was not within their power to shut their doors against it.

Strangely enough, while one side or the other could not prevent war, one side or the other can offer to end it. And whatever the terms might be which would be acceptable to the belligerents, they are terms which are not covered by the cost of the war.

The only difference is that not the ruling classes, but the masses have borne the price of the conflict; not the masses, but the ruling classes will reap the benefit.

In the negotiations for peace the voice of labor will not be heard. This, despite the fact that a member of the labor group is to be found in Lloyd George's cabinet, the premier of Belgium is a Socialist and the French premier and two of his associates in the cabinet are Socialists.

Ignore Will Of Humanity. The truth is anywhere but in what the envoys of the two contending powers declare it to be. The will of humanity is to be ignored to bring about the disaster that less than the people will have to be neglected in continuing this war and preparing for another like it.

Little Chance Of Lasting Peace. There is not much chance of lasting peace as long as capitalism lingers. As well expect the vulture to breed doves.

The only conceivable case in which war would not come under capitalism is that where the money lords of the various nations have investments in all lands, and are so mutual in their interests, that one group of rulers could not let loose the dogs of war without tramping down the golden wheat belonging to all. But that is a rare speculation.

When international capitalism is thoroughly organized and its control centralized in a single agency it will not necessarily mean the end of conflict of economic feeling. At the very best it will mean that the ground has been cleared for the final war between the capitalist class and the working class. But such an outcome is to be expected. When the present war is ended, it will be ended only when economic routes have been guaranteed to the conquerors across the wealth of Europe, and those routes have no outlet but in further menace to the peace of Europe.

The French Language Federation of the American Socialist party has started a new official party organ, Le Socialiste, in place of L'Union des Travailleurs, of Charleroi, Pa., which had been discontinued by Louis Gochaziou for want of sufficient support. A. Champion, Illery, Ill., has been elected editor of the new organ which is published at Johnston City, Ill.

Former Secretary of the Interior Walter L. Fisher, of Chicago, told the Senate committee on military affairs that the regular army officers complain of their inability to get the kind of men they ought to have, due to the fact that such a large portion of the recruits are caught by the recruiting officers on the rebound of a debauch.

We learn from New York City that the poultry combine operating in that town cleaned up \$288,000 in six weeks, showing that business has been good and prosperity reigns among the Bro. Capitalists whose wonderful foresight and enterprise enabled them to buy cheap and sell dear. The four or five millions of mostly boneheads who live in New York and vicinity celebrated Thanksgiving Day by thanking the Lord that they are alive.

Kansas City, Kans., may soon see things in a new light. And it isn't the Socialists, either, who are trying to bring this about. A municipal electric light plant, such as is saving Cleveland, Ohio, a cool plant a year and furnishing three-cent current at that, has been advocated before a meeting of the club presidents by a committee of the Federation of Public Improvement clubs. This recommendation was made after a year's thorough study of the proposition by the committee.

Virtually all of Cuba is tied up by the railroad and trolley men's strike. Engineers, firemen and motormen, ignorant of the existence of a strike, are coming in on every boat from the states, where they were hired to help break the walkout. Hundreds of such men have already entered Cuba. The organized labor movement of the island has sent out a warning to its agents on the continent to inform men there that a strike is in progress and to keep out.

You ask for Book Reviews for American Socialist readers so I wish to recommend "The Visioning", by Susan Glaspell (Copyright April 1911, Published by A. L. Burt Co.). The scenes are laid among commissioned officers stationed at an army post. It does not "preach Socialism", but it dissects army life to the core and in apt phrases and situations shows the hypocrisy, not only of the army, but of the church as well; and also the futility of "welfare work." And all of this is shown without a particle of rancor for institutions or individuals, but it is plainly stated and shown that it is the result of generations under capitalist ideals.

Another outstanding feature of this book is that it does not "talk around" Socialism as so many novels do, but comes out plainly, by means of one of the characters in the story, and shows that Socialism is the only remedy for evils which it vividly portrays. The author does not do this at the expense of the literary value of her work. The style and diction are fine, the characters and the plot are consistently developed, and in all, the volume cannot be too highly recommended.—MRS. M. ADLER, Braddock, Pa.

Allan L. Benson, Socialist candidate for president at the recent election, was one of the speakers at the memorial meeting in honor of the late Mrs. Inez Millard Boissevain, Socialist and suffrage leader, held at Cooper Union in New York City.

YELLOW PRESS LIE NAILED.

Several days ago the prevaricating Associated Press sent a lurid story all over the country to the effect that Ernest G. Strand, Socialist mayor of Two Harbors, Minn., and representative-elect to the Minnesota legislature, had been arrested as the result of an indictment returned by the grand jury charging bribery.

The big business controlled Associated Press didn't take the trouble to get a single word of reply from either one of the Socialists arrested. The story was extensively used by the yellow press everywhere under startling headlines, "Socialist Mayor Is Arrested For Bribery."

We have just secured some of the facts in the case. Two Harbors is in the iron country in Northern Minnesota, where the iron miners have been on strike against the tyranny of the steel trust. The United States Steel Corporation is not content with industrial mastery over the slaves in its iron mines, but must needs control the municipal, county and state governments as well.

The first victims were non-Socialists, including Mayor Victor Power, of Hibbing, and practically every other member of the Hibbing administration that had befriended the strikers, and fought the steel trust. Not only city officials but editors of non-Socialist newspapers, who had said a good word now and then for the strikers, were also indicted.

Having secured these indictments the steel trust repeated its tactics at Two Harbors. The complaining witness against the Socialist mayor is Park L. Fullerton, a self-confessed blind pigger, self-confessed law breaker and self-confessed briber, whose place had been repeatedly raided. Hence his grudge against the Socialists. He was supported in his evidence by a couple of corporation "detectives" commonly known as gunmen. In addition the grand jury was packed with steel trust lackeys with the result that the indictments were readily secured.

The Two Harbors Socialist, owned and published by the Socialist Party, is making all the facts in the case known to the voters of the city and there is no doubt that the Socialist administration will be overwhelmingly vindicated in the spring elections. If the cases are ever brought to trial it is felt that they will be quickly thrown out of court. These facts may be used free of charge by the Associated Press.

YOU WANT TO SEE a final report on the Dime Fund, don't you? This cannot be done until all outstanding banks are in. Return yours today and ask hat friend of your to return his.

FAVORS MUNICIPAL MARKETS. Municipal markets are favored in a report made to the Minneapolis, Minn., common council by Ald. C. F. Dight, Socialist. As a member of the council Dight has spent several weeks investigating the public market question. After citing figures showing the benefit of such markets in many cities, including Milwaukee, the report concludes: "Let us get such a market as this in Minneapolis and operate it for the benefit of the common people. Call it, if you please, a central city-owned food department store or market. I believe it is what Minneapolis should decide to acquire as a beginning to the solution of the big market question which will increase in importance as the city grows."

Have You Looked about the house to see if that Dime Bank is not laying around. Do it Now. And return it to the office. Murder indictments against seven men and one woman, arrested after a shooting affray in a miner's home during the iron mine strike on Mesaba range, have been dismissed. Three labor leaders among the defendants, who were seven miles away when the shooting took place, are now free—Carlo Treasa, Sam Scarlett and Joe Schmidt. Send five cents for a sample copy of The New World, Lincoln Phifer's Paper-Magazine, Girard, Kansas. Debs says in the Rip Saw: "It is a live and ambitious publication, and will make a place for itself in the modern struggle for democracy and freedom. It is one of the most unique and original publications that come to our table."

THE LAST TIME THAT This Coupon Appears 'Nuff Said! Clip This Coupon SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST DEPARTMENT, THE AMERICAN SOCIALIST, 803 WEST MADISON STREET, CHICAGO, ILL. Dear Comrade: Please enter my name in the race for a Rand School of Social Science Scholarship. I am going in to win. Name..... Street Address..... City..... County..... State..... Age..... Sex..... Previous education.....

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MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

HERE'S PLAN THAT OUGHT TO INTEREST LIVE SOCIALISTS

It has been left to Isadore Levin to spring one of the most enthusiastic plans for party work since the recent election. He does so on behalf of the comrades of Springfield, Ill., in a letter to the Illinois state secretary, John C. Kennedy, as follows: "Dear Comrade:—I want to familiarize you with the big job Local Springfield, Ill., has undertaken. The city is divided into 41 precincts. Each precinct has on an average 300 families (700 men and women voters). It costs \$75 to send The American Socialist to 300 families. To send the paper to every family in Springfield, Ill., will cost \$3,075. And we have undertaken to raise this money. This would give us a weekly circulation of 12,000. In order to make the task easy we have divided the job. We are asking 41 individuals, groups or organizations to pay for the cost of sending the paper to one precinct. Thus far 11 precincts have been pledged. Could we count on the state organization appropriating \$150 (2 precincts) on condition that 39 precincts shall be raised otherwise? We believe that this plan beats everything else for propaganda and organization. In 1918 we shall probably run Comrade Duncan McDonald, secretary-treasurer of the Illinois mine workers, for mayor. With 12,000 circulation we could easily elect him. We are planning several debates, raffles and dances in order to raise money for this scheme."

To which State Secretary Kennedy replied: "Your letter strikes me very favorably and I want to say this—any time you can show me that you have raised sufficient money for Springfield to pay for sending The American Socialist to each of 300 families in 39 precincts, the state office will guarantee to take care of two precincts in accordance with your request. We will dig up the \$150 even if I have to pass the hat for it. This is the biggest thing that has ever been started by the Socialists of Springfield, and if you carry it thru successfully it will be the biggest proposition that has ever been carried by an equal number of Socialists in Illinois. Push the work along and you can depend on us to make good if the comrades in Springfield show that they are really in earnest and begin to send in the subs to the national office."

This ought to give every Socialist local in the United States an inspiration to do likewise!

ROLL OF HONOR

Referring to your article on the increased cost of paper, I favor your raising the price of the subscription accordingly," writes W. Free, of Remer, Minn.

**TOM SMUCK FOUND.** The American Socialist has found Tom Smuck. In the Dec. 2nd issue, we inserted a notice at the request of Mrs. M. Bruner, who sought to locate him in connection with the paper. We have just received the following letter: "Please accept my thanks and appreciation for putting the notice in your paper for Tom Smuck. He saw the notice in your paper while in Detroit, Mich., and sent me a telegram. We locate him in less than three weeks after I wrote you and he had been gone so long. You have my sincere wishes for your success in the future. Sincerely, Mrs. M. Bruner, Metropolitan, Ill."

Comrades J. H. Master, of Palatka, Ark., and R. J. Warm, of Grand Rapids, Mich., order 40 week sub cards before the fatal day, Jan. 1, after which this offer will be withdrawn. Write to me in less than three weeks after I wrote you and he had been gone so long. You have my sincere wishes for your success in the future. Sincerely, Mrs. M. Bruner, Metropolitan, Ill."

Comrade A. L. Schroeder, of St. Louis, Mo., sends in 26 subs. He writes that he secured them for his company with Comrade Oscar E. Lange. They first took the advice of our recent vice presidential candidate, George W. Wilson, who said, "Send in different Socialist books working. The subs came as a result."

"I am sending the old subscription price," writes Comrade John Kruger, of Tulsa, Okla., as he orders six sub cards, and continues, "but if you decide to raise the price, I will not get it. Write to me when you know, as I think the members ought to try and do something to keep the paper going."

"I like The American Socialist and my children like to see Henry Dubb come every week," writes Comrade James V. Krell, of Ellon, Minn.

"I am here with another batch," writes Comrade James W. Booker, of Church Hill, Tenn., as he rushes in with a list of six.

"We are still fighting for Socialism, not the Wilson but through the Socialist Party," is the message that comes from Comrade F. S. Kidwell, of Edgewater, Colo., and he sends along a few more misqu岸ed Woodrow Dubbs.

Here's a message from M. M. Evans, of Alderson, Pa.: "I have been taking four Socialist papers for the last six years. I read them and pass them along. I think this is what every Socialist should do. We should all get busy and work before it is too late to better the conditions of suffering humanity."

Comrade Nels P. L. Peterson wrote a letter on Nov. 1, and it has just arrived. Its journey started at Fort Yukon, in Alaska. He subscribes for a year.

"If the subscription price must be raised I am for it," writes Michael Stevens, of Aurora, Illinois.

**JUST THE BEGINNING.** Read this letter. "My dear Comrades: Enclosed you will find 31 subs for The American Socialist. Will have more later."

"This is the beginning of the 1920 campaign. The expression 'Defeat is a tonic to a brave man' I think is the best in its application to the Socialist Party."

"We cannot renege those who voted for Wilson since they did their best with what light they had."

"In closing beg to quote from the late Jack London—which to me has a more imminent significance."

"You're for the Revolution, W. Thur Finley, Fairmont, W. Va."

**HERE'S ANOTHER LETTER.** "You ask my opinion in regard to increasing the subscription price of the paper. I have let two capitalist papers go because they raised the price on me, but I am going to hang onto The American Socialist at any cost. Enclosed send 50 cents to be used in buying white paper. Wish it was 1,000 times as much."

"Yours for the Revolution, E. L. Bentley, Ontario, Cal."

"Please find enclosed \$1 for which send me the party paper for one year. The paper would be cheap at double the price as an educator, and I don't want to miss a single copy."

"Yours for the Cause, James E. Miller, Hartford, Conn."

Christmas Day In A Dubb World



Hell-Bent For The Iron Yoke

By WM. F. KRUSE.

If I were a member of the National Guard, I would refuse to sign the new oath required by Section 70 of the Hay-Chamberlain Bill! And if any of my friends were members, I would urge them to do the same!

The army heads are sore. After jockeying around for months trying to get across the machinery with which to black-jack American Liberty, and succeeding, they find that one item that they had figured on absolutely slipped away from them. That item is the militia. It is one thing to put into an "Army Reorganization Bill" a section saying that all members of the present militia shall be federalized, and shall take a new oath to that effect, but it is a different thing to get men to do it.

There is no means whereby any man now in the State Militia can be forced to sign the new oath—and his refusal to sign will in a short time release him from even his old enlistment. The men have learned something while they were at the border. So would you, had you been with them. They have had enough of soldiering, and they know their rights now and propose to stand on them. So would you if you were in their shoes. The officers can swear and rant all they like against these "guard house lawyers", as they call the men who know their rights, but the threat that failure to sign the new oath will mean dismissal from the National Guard is greeted with cheers instead of tears. The men have learned a few things, and here is the result.

Reject New Oath.

Some of the commanders of the District of Columbia National Guard, still at the border, have been unable to get a single man to sign the new oath, says the Washington Press on Dec. 3rd. The men tore up the blanks provided instead of signing them. The same thing is true in other sections of the Guard. Out of the ninety-three men in Company E, Second Infantry, Ill. N. G. only eight men signed the new oath. Eight out of ninety-three, quite a good average! In Company F, twelve out of seventy-three signed up. Company H had eight out of sixty-seven. The officers raved and roared but it did them no good, as is evidenced by the above figures taken from the Chicago papers on November 29th, the end of the period allowed by the federal authorities for mustering in the guard.

Anxious to get their revenge in some way they tried to break it on individuals. In Company E, which made the worst showing (or the best, read them and pass them along. I think this is what every Socialist should do. We should all get busy and work before it is too late to better the conditions of suffering humanity."

Some Border Conditions.

Anyone who is familiar with the conditions faced by the guard at the border does not blame them. In spite of the rigorous censorship kept on the camps, sufficient news did leak out to give us a fairly clear idea of what was going on. The Washington Times on its front page of the issue of Dec. 3rd gives the news of a mutiny of five hundred men from the Michigan Militia. These Guardsmen organized a protest parade and marched thru the camps shouting "We Want To Go Home!" They refused to listen to the colonel's exhortations for order and were only driven back to their tents with threats of physical violence. The same issue of that paper reports on an inside page that the guardhouse of the District of Columbia militia was at last "fully equipped." After many efforts the commander there had managed to get two pair of

raised the number of men allowed the army and navy to such a height that there is not a chance in the world of getting enough volunteers to fill it. We could not fill up our old standard in spite of all the rotten falsehood of our poster advertising, and now they increase the standard. The House last summer proposed 100,000 men, the Senate held out for quarter of a million, so they compromised on 140,000. They can't possibly get more than 60,000 volunteers for the land forces and a third of our naval strength is said to be tied up in the ports for want of men. But we are to spend a billion dollars more on our navy in the next five years, that will mean more men wanted. Where will we get them? From volunteers? Never. The American has most hearty contempt for the uniformed murderer, and it's to his everlasting credit that he has. This attitude is well shown by the fact that the recruiting officers of the army and navy only pitch their tents along the streets where the bums and human derelicts hang out. There among the hopeless scum of the earth they hunt their cannon fodder. And the you legislate from now until Doomsday about the 'dignity of the uniform' you will never be able to prevent the average good woman from pulling aside her skirts lest they be contaminated by the contact of a blood-spiller's badge. The average citizen may not quite be able to express it, but deep within his heart he feels that the soldier is at least ten degrees lower in the ladder of social worthiness than is the tramp.

**They Want Conscription.** Not being able to get what they want by the volunteer system—and they wouldn't want to get it that way—there is only one other thing to turn to and that is—Conscription. This has been the aim right along, just this—Conscription. Former Secretary of War Garrison, the man who had to step from his position because he was audacious enough to advocate a standing army of half a million men, offending the take the new oath. Add to this the rotten transportation, the burnt, swollen belly grub, the insane marches in regulation full dress at a faster pace than the regulars would ever hit under any conditions, and that in the hottest sun; add to this the never ending nerve-wrecking drills, the curses heaped upon sick men by their colonel, and you will get a pretty good idea of the militiaman's attitude. He has learned a few things.

**Here Is The Real Reason.** Now you may wonder why the masters should treat these supposed ardent supporters of theirs with so little consideration. That answer is easy. The militia was sent to the border not to "catch Villa" as was ostensibly the reason. We are about to leave the country now (and it's about time) but Villa is as busy as ever. It was not sent there because the regulars could not protect the border so much soldier that the MAN had been entirely wiped out to make room for the beast. Until this is done the job of soldier making is not complete. They were still men and they played the part of men in refusing this servitude to the beasts they had found their overseers to be.

The masters were checked on this point, but they are by no means beaten. The worst of the steal is still here—and ready for use. They lost a few militiamen but they gained millions more by the move. Millions! Sure, according to another section of this bill, that's you and me and all the rest of us—every able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 45. Think it over, friend, and when you part from your wife tomorrow morning, don't say "So long"—make it "Good-bye." Before nightfall approaches His Nobs, the President, may consider that our armed forces are "inadequate" and draft YOU into some regiment of butcher boys.

**Following Up Their Program.** So that's the first big step, now for the others. For one thing they have

of the richest plutes in the land, recently passed a resolution that the government compel every citizen to serve in the army, or contribute financially to its support. Their patriotism does not make it their duty to expose their skins to danger but it will permit them to hire a \$15.00-per-month substitute to take the bullets in their head. So patriotic?

"Universal training must come soon" says the Chicago Evening News, and hundreds of other plute papers echo the cry. "Senator Chamberlain prepares a bill for introduction into every legislature in the country to provide for compulsory military training for school children" says another news dispatch. And so it goes on.

The Yoke Is Ready.

The yoke of Militarism has just about been finished, some of it has already been quietly slipped on the shoulders of Uncle Sam. He still laughs at what he is pleased to call "Prussian Militarism" but seems wholly blind to the danger of out-prussianizing the Kaiser and Tsar combined, right on his own shores. Only a determined protest of the people can save us from the same hell that Europe now wallows in. We must organize for battle, for the war against war. The Socialist Party has always been against this pernicious influence of the munitions profiteers, all right thinking citizens should be on the same side. When the matter comes up before your legislatures, see to it that it is beaten. When the question comes before Congress, and it is before Congress in a hundred different ways right now—write your congressmen and tell them where you stand. Organize and fight for the liberty that our fathers left as the heritage of the people of this land. Fight to preserve here the hope of the world for a free and happy human race.

INTRODUCING JIMMY.

I just want to let you fellows know that Jimmy has come back again. You all know Jimmy? No? Well, Jimmy is just about the brightest, jolliest Ypsel that ever came across the pike. He knows everything about our league, particularly since he's been away a year. Maybe you didn't know he was away, but everybody that belongs to our league knows that he's been away, yes, and is glad to see that he is back too. Jimmy has been away over a year. During that time he has been working at various towns and wherever he went he visited the leagues. He has some stories to tell. He won't mention any names or dates of the places where he's been for he wouldn't want to hurt anybody's feelings, but if any leagues know that his story means them, well the best thing to do is to keep it quiet and mend their ways.

**Section 2 is to made Section 8, and stand as at present.** Proposed by New York State Federation. Seconded by Employment, 17 members; Central West, 35 members; Lynn, 38 members; Northwest Chicago, Ill., 78 members. Time for second expires March 2, 1917. Submitted in accordance with Art. VIII, Nat'l Const., for the second of two other State Committees or of circles aggregating 10 per cent of our entire membership. Y. P. S. L. BLUM DEFENSE FUND. Previous list amounted to: \$94.25 Providence, R. I. 2.00 Passaic, N. J. 1.00 Richmond, Ind. 1.00 Camden, N. J. 2.50 Philadelphia, Pa. 1.00 St. Paul, Minn. 1.75 Sutherland, N. 1.00 Northwest, Chicago, Ill. 2.00 Fellowship, Chicago, Ill. 6.30 Hartford, Conn. 6.30 Brooklyn, N. Y. 9.23 Washington, D. C. 3.00 \$129.25 Check sent 125.00 Balance \$ 4.25

The Million Dime Column

Total number of dimes received up to and including Saturday, December 28: **77,737**

There are still about 1,500 banks outstanding that should be returned at once. This department ought to be closed at an early date and our energy and space devoted to new plans, new ideas and new projects. A number of comrades, who have done some noble work in the MILLION DIME ARMY have written suggesting that the Dime Banks be used continually for the raising of a big national campaign fund for the 1918 Congressional and the 1920 Presidential campaign. This is an excellent idea, but should be discussed thoroughly before it is put into operation. In the mean time, however, it is absolutely necessary that all outstanding dime banks be returned so that this fund may be closed and reported upon.

Table with columns: Bank Name and Address, No. of Dimes. Lists various banks and their contributions, including locations like ALABAMA, ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, CONNECTICUT, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA, IOWA, KANSAS, MASSACHUSETTS, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, MISSISSIPPI, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, NEW YORK, NORTH CAROLINA, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA, TEXAS, VERMONT, VIRGINIA, WISCONSIN, WYOMING.



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