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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

MARCH LEAFLET

It Deals With
The War Crisis
Rush In Your
ORDERS NOW!

VOL. III. No. 37.

304

CHICAGO, SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917

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The Convention.

Planters Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., will be the scene of the Emergency National Convention of the Socialist Party, which has been called for Saturday, April 7.

Developments in the war situation make the necessity for holding the convention more important than ever.

As we go to press the jingo newspapers are again shrieking about the latest "overt act" declaring the country is now at war with Germany. The sinking by German U-boats of the three American-owned ships, the City of Memphis, Illinois and Vigilancia does not seem to raise any new question. The jingo press is seeking to make a great deal out of the fact that two of the ships were bound for America and carried no cargoes.

The successful revolution in Russia should give added zest to any working class gathering in this country.

Every state should have a full representation at the St. Louis convention, called "for the purpose of determining the policy of the party in case this country should be drawn into the war and for the transaction of all other business which may come before the convention", including the revision of the party platform and the party constitution.

On to St. Louis!

Good News From Russia.

The news which has come from Russia is without question the best news which has reached us from Europe since the outbreak of the war. It is news about which every Socialist should rejoice.

Altho, as reported, the red flag is floating above Petrograd, it should not be imagined that a Socialist Republic has been established in Russia, but it would not be at all surprising to see Russia change from the most backward to the most advanced nation in the development of social reform.

Economically Russia is perhaps least prepared of all the great powers for the advent of Socialism. Russia is still largely an agricultural nation. The factory system, which some say is necessary for the establishment of a Socialist Republic is still in its infancy. The agrarian situation in Russia, is, however, considerably different from what it is in the United States for example. Russia already has a kind of Agrarian Socialism or rather Communism. The land in Russia is not owned by the individual peasants but by the peasant organizations called "Zemstvos". This agrarian communism has proven successful in Russia.

There are three things which have kept the Russian peasantry poor. First, lack of education and ignorance of modern methods of agriculture; second, lack of modern agricultural machinery; third, insufficient land. If the new government can remedy these conditions which it undoubtedly will attempt to do, and if at the same time the Zemstvo system can be preserved, Russia may yet give the world the first demonstration of a great nation living under practically socialistic conditions.

Situation In Russia.

The executive committee of the British Socialist Party has decided to hold an informal party conference on April 4 to consider the situation in Russia and for the discussion of subjects arising in connection therewith.

The recent speeches of Socialist members in the Prussian diet in which sensational attacks were made on the government have caused considerable discussion as to the possibility of a revolutionary outbreak in Germany. In reference to this Henry M. Hyndman, leader of the British Socialists, said:

"While the situation in Germany grows more hopeful from our point of view, we can not see much prospect yet of a revolution there. Yet it must be admitted that forces are at work in Germany very similar to those in Russia. In Russia the people found that their efforts were nullified by a clique of pro-German bureaucrats, while in Germany starvation and privation are being actually aided and abetted by the junkers.

"The recent pronouncements by Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg promising suffrage reform indicated that the Hohenzollerns are breaking with the junkers who brought on the war and are endeavoring to get on better terms with the people.

"Revolution in Germany and the fall of the dynasty seems the only way to the reconstruction of Europe on a stable basis."

The Berlin Vorwaerts, German Socialist daily, comparing the situation in Russia with that in Germany, asks: "Shall the world say that all the nations on earth are free except Germany?"

The newspaper compares the declaration of the Russian provisional government with the declaration of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg in the Prussian diet to the discredit of the latter. It comments: "How much longer? The king should straightway give back to the Prussian people their franchise, which was taken away in 1848."

Better a pacifist than a mailed fist.

If America is starving before the war begins, what will it do after?

The war is not big enough; so editors and preachers are seeking to extend it to America.

And don't forget that all this is happening because Socialism did not happen, and for no other reason.

Watch out! Capitalism is reaching out for your boy and threatening to break up your home.

If a bond issue is necessary now, what will be the indebtedness of America after the plutocratic war ends?

How many editors and how many preachers are in their talk going contrary to the direct commandment, "Thou shalt not kill," and thus helping to destroy religion?

We shall pay too much for good roads if we have to corduroy them with the bodies of our sons and brothers.

It is said to cost more than five thousand dollars to kill a worker in war. That is a blame sight more than he is worth in industry.

Do you know what enterprise means? It is to enter for a prize, or to become a pirate for purposes of loot. Suppose the workers should become enterprising!

They can have a food dictator in case of war or starvation, but not government control of industry in order to save us from both war and starvation.

How much of the loot that England says she means to conquer will the American capitalists get out of the war into which they are forcing this country.

Capitalists are determined that America shall have as many cripples and ruins as Europe has. That is enterprise for you.

Have you noticed how the housewives are boycotting dealers in order to lower prices? Call in the federal judge, quick. He said the boycott was criminal.

Mr. Wilson proposes to insure vessels that carry war munitions. Socialism would insure peace. That is the difference between Socialism and the man that some Socialists voted for.

Mr. Wilson permitted the profit mongers to send food out of the country because it made them rich. Now the workers are starving because there is no food here.

"Remember the Maine." That was a worse conspiracy to force war than is the alleged conspiracy of Germany now. And it did force a war over a question that could have been settled without war.

Perhaps one reason for war is that Morgan has got ahead of Rockefeller in the English deal, and Oily John wishes another chance as he may catch up.

The paper makers who held up the country were criminals. Now a commission is to be selected to fix prices for them, and they can hold up the country legally.

Oh, no, the boy scouts are not a military body. And the public schools of America are not becoming monarchial rather than socialized. It merely looks that way—but it ain't.

An official count taken by St. Louis, Mo., shows that in the first week's operation of the free bridge across the Mississippi River, the public saved \$6717 in tolls. In all, there were 15,929 vehicles that crossed the structure, and 108,312 pedestrians.

Several millions are now being spent to enable legislators and congressmen to have a good time while "investigating" issues that the people understand without investigation. Reports will not be brought in until after the people forget, and then a new robbery will be under way.

When Sherman said, "War is hell," he was burning homes and destroying non-combatants in his march to the sea. That was his excuse for ruthlessness. Now we, who were the most ruthless people the world ever saw, contrary to international law too, are sniffing over ruthless warfare and planning some of our own.

The eight-hour day plan for female workers in stores, laundries and other industrial establishments in the State won out in the Montana House of Representatives in the first real contest on that measure, and it is now up for third reading, when it is thought likely to pass. It will then be transmitted to the Senate, where its proponents expect it will receive favorable consideration.

The April Leaflet!

Our April leaflet is entitled "The High Cost of Living". It was written by Scott Nearing and appears on this page.

This leaflet should be distributed by the hundreds of thousands. You can get these leaflets from the National Office, Socialist Party, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago, Ill., at 10 cents per 100; 75 cents per 1,000.

The cost of living is going up! Let the workers of the nation know the reason why!

The High Cost of Living

Our April Leaflet.

By SCOTT NEARING.

Professor of Social Science in Toledo University.

WE COMPLAIN, lament, protest, against the high cost of living. Why? We are starving in the midst of the greatest period of "prosperity" that the United States has ever known. Why? Why is it so hard to live in an age of unparalleled productivity?

The producer must secure labor, capital and land. Without these three elements no productive operation can take place.

The cost of labor, according to the figures published by the United States Department of Labor, and by various state labor departments has risen from 30 to 60 per cent during the last twenty years. This does not mean the cost of labor per unit of product, but the cost of labor per hour of labor. In many cases these increased wages have been more than offset by the increased efficiency of the worker and the machinery.

THE COST of capital has not varied much during the past twenty years. Economists are agreed that the interest rate is rising slowly. It certainly has not increased during that period more than 20 or 30 per cent.

Land, the third element in production tells a very different story. The figures show that the value of mineral land, timber land, farm land and city land has increased during the last twenty years hundreds and in some cases thousands of per cent.

The relation of the increase in land values to the cost of living may perhaps best be seen in the land values of one group of states upon which the United States depends largely for its food supply. The North Central States (Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas) contain only a third of the population of the United States, yet they produce three fifths of the corn, three fourths of the wheat, three fourths of the oats, three fourths of the barley and two thirds of the rye grown in the United States. The country is therefore dependent for three quarters of its cereal foods on these twelve states.

The land values in this "granary of America" increased stupendously between 1900 and 1910. During that decade, the rural population of the North Central States increased 2.7 per cent. During the same decade the total number of acres in all farms increased ten per cent; and the total number of acres of improved land in farms rose thirteen per cent. Here is an increase in population and in acreage of about a tenth during the ten year period.

A COMPARISON between this increase in products and in land values is astonishing. The value of all farm property in these states rose between 1900 and 1910 from 11½ to 23½ billions of dollars. Land alone increased from 7,866 to 17,825 million dollars. The value of buildings almost exactly doubled during the period, while the value of implements and machinery increased by about four-fifths. While the population and area in farms remained practically stationary, farm land values more than doubled.

Those who are prosperous now—when prices are high—are the owners of land, franchises, tools, credit and the other basic life necessities. They own for profit and they profit handsomely from their ownership.

Many an ardent reformer has broken a lance on the trusts during recent years. Indeed there was a time, not so long ago, when all of the economic and social ills of the country were blamed on the trusts.

PEOPLE ARE growing wiser.

During the past few months eggs have moved with startling rapidity along the upward price curve. Here and there a fortunate commission merchant or egg buyer would state with pride that he had cleaned up hundreds of thousands on his buyings and sellings of this life staple. The housewives of some cities boycotted eggs. Housewives in other cities protested to the authorities, demanding protection against the "egg trust". The egg dealers replied with the statement that the war was responsible; that there was a scarcity of the eggs, and that freight congestion rendered it impossible to supply the market. These and many equally unconvincing arguments were advanced to justify the price increase.

No one denied that the hens were laying about as usual. No one could prove that there was a particular shortage of eggs in any part of the country.

NOW THERE comes to the surface an even more startling situation. Ohio grown onions were selling at \$12 to \$14 a hundred-weight in New York. They were bringing about the same price in the leading cities of Ohio. The women of New York, rioting as a protest against the impossibly high cost of the ordinary life necessities, frightened the New York City government and the New York produce dealers, so that the price of Ohio grown onions dropped from \$12 to \$7 a hundred-weight. At the same time in the city of Toledo, the same onions were bringing \$12.00.

There is not an onion trust any more than there is an egg trust, a potato trust, or a trust in any of the other commodities that are grown by the millions of competing farmers all over the country.

The prices of eggs, onions, and potatoes are high because those who grow them, those who buy them and those who handle them have seen an opportunity to make huge returns by holding back the supply until the price should be many times that normally received.

Forget the trusts!

THE TRUSTS are an incident in modern business development. The people of the United States are being robbed by a system of organized industry which gives its greatest rewards to those who make it hardest for their fellow men to live.

Business for profit! The profit system! Look there, worthy citizen, if you would know where to begin on the reduction of the high cost of living.

You want redress from the conditions described above, but what are you willing to do to get it? Surely you do not think those conditions will be changed by those who profit by them. You know that the only way to deal with problems of that kind is by unity of action—all working together for the common good.

If these are your sentiments, your place is in the Socialist Party. It is organized and exists for the purpose of abolishing the profit system. Ask Socialists about the Socialist. Watch for the May leaflet.

Making The Fur Fly

Eugene V. Debs is making the fur fly in his speech-making tour thru the eastern states. The press generally is giving him considerable attention. In reporting his speech at Canton, Ohio, The Canton Daily News said:

Debs was forcible in his denunciation of class rule as opposed to a rule of the people. This condition, he told his hearers was a survival of middle age serfdom, and the source of existing industrial evils including war. War, said Debs, was the product of capitalistic oppression of the masses and the expression of capitalistic greed divided into different camps and fighting for mastery. America, he said, stood on the threshold of a world in travail. He warned his auditors against the toxin of war, which he said was being "sounded by the ruling class for private gain and continued subjugation of the workers," and that this propaganda was "urging itself in the guise of patriotism."

Debs said in part:

"War is always dictated by the ruling classes, for they have nothing to lose and everything to gain; but the battles are fought by the working class. They have everything to lose, even their lives.

"There is much talk at the present time of standing by the president. I am willing to stand by the president if he stands for the things I want, but when I look at the gang that stands behind the president, I know it isn't my crowd.

Too Cowardly To Murder. Debs said every tyrant in history had wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism or religion or both. Patriots, he said, were usually patriotic at long range. The people, Debs said, had too long been lulled by the siren voice of the statesman who moved them to unreasoning frenzy by shaking the folds of his nation's flag and inciting them to organized murder on each other." Preparedness, said the speaker, was the first stage of war.

"I just wish for one coward nation," Debs declared, "a nation too cowardly to commit murder."

The Socialist party, Debs told his audience, was the only bona fide peace movement on earth.

"This peace movement knows no boundaries; it is international and its followers are moving toward a world wide democracy," he said.

The speaker touched on the high cost of living and cited statistics in his contention that there was an ample quantity of food but that it was being shipped overseas for purposes of private gain.

Debs told his audience that the workers were strong only when they learned to think and that they were now beginning to use their brains as well as their hands. This awakening of class consciousness, said Debs, was mounting in an ever increasing tide and foreshadowed the dawn of Socialism as the accepted political creed of the world.

The speaker compared present day Socialist leaders with the rebel leaders of revolutionary days and the abolitionists who fought public opinion on slavery before the civil war.

Sees Victory.

"The capitalists oppose the Socialists today, but their grand-children will place flowers on the grave of Socialists," said Debs.

The old order of society, Debs said, could survive but little longer and that Socialism would be then in order. The continued growth of the Socialist party, he said, sounded the warning of impending change. This swelling minority, the speaker told his hearers, will soon become the majority and with it would come the co-operative commonwealth.

Debs continued:

"Classes and class rule and their attendant evils of poverty, misery, turmoil and strife are inherent in the capitalistic system. This is because one set of men owns the tools with which wealth is produced, while another set uses them, and there is an irrepressible conflict over the division of the profit. The capitalist owns the tools he does not use; the worker uses the tools he does not own.

"The working class alone made the tools; the working class alone can use them, and the working class must, therefore, own them," said Debs.

On the face of the returns the radicals, among them Meyer London, hold the balance of power in the House. Hence this get-together movement to oust the radicals.

Glance At The Russian Events.

By SAMUEL H. HOLLAND.

Like a rainbow after a long, heavy rain; like an awakening after a terrible nightmare come the cablegrams about a Revolution in Russia. It appears to be a miracle to all those who have not followed the development of events in Russia for the last ten—twelve years. The Duma, this Russian imitation of the European Parliament, the institution which is supposed to be the House of Representatives of the Russian People, but which actually is the representative of the nobility and landowners, except for the few working-class deputies, this Duma, the servile tool of the Czar, had suddenly defied its master, and neatly declared a Republic. It decided not to follow the Imperial decree to adjourn in the critical period of the country, and had, furthermore, issued a manifesto to the people, told the Czar to step out, assumed all the reins of government and had embarked upon a course of democratizing Russia and liberating the people.

It almost seems as if the present Duma leaders are re-enacting the famous scene of May 5th, 1789 in the French States-General, when, under similar circumstances, a decree of Louis the XVI. was read calling upon the French Commons to retire and Mirabeau had made his famous declaration: "Go, tell those who sent you that we are here by the command of the people and here we shall stay until driven out at the point of the bayonet!" And the States-General has subsequently become the Constituent Assembly. The flight of Louis XIV. (Nicolas II.), the storming of the Bastille (the fortress of Peter and Paul, and other dungeons) so vividly remind us of the striking similarity of the present Russian Revolution to that of 1789; but it appears that we will not be compelled to see the flow of blood and death that followed the first declaration of the French Republic.

Press Deaf And Blind.

It seems that doubt and lack of faith in the truthfulness of what is reported to have taken place, the suddenness and speed with which the great change has come about interfere with our complete understanding of the tremendous historical event. But this Russian Revolution came unexpectedly only to Americans, whose press was deaf and blind to the important political events in Russia for the last year or two. Those that have read the Russian newspapers that occasionally reach this country, long realized that Russia is on the threshold of great events. We must therefore make clear a few facts: The Duma has not made the Revolution, which is credited to it by the American press; the revolt was begun by the workers of Petrograd, led by those employed in the Government munition factories, which, however strange it may sound to an American, have always been the vanguard of the labor movement in Russia. While under ordinary circumstances they would be powerless, the logical course of events gave them an opportunity, for which they had been ready long before.

The Duma only took advantage of the revolutionary movement, and supported by it they have set out to accomplish what the necessity of events demanded. The majority of the Duma are landed aristocrats, capitalists and college professors, elements ordinarily not of a revolutionary caliber. Perhaps in times of peace they would rather consent to the abolition of the Duma, and full restoration of autocracy, than to a democratic Republic. But during the war they were driven into a union with more liberal minded groups of people for the purpose of the successful conduct of the war. In order to assure victory they demanded efficiency and honesty from the government in its handling of the munitions, transportation and food problems. In order to inspire confidence in the people they wanted more popular rule and freedom of nationality and religion. They have been frustrated, however, in all their efforts by the government, while the Russian armies have been suffering crushing blows on the battlefields. It was soon discovered that the clique surrounding the Czar was insincere in its carrying on of the war. One war minister after the other was accused of corruptness, graft, connection with spies, negotiation with the enemy, etc. Sukhomlinov, Beljaiev and others of this type were not even punished by the government. The Czar and his friends, have evidently discovered that a fight against (Continued On Page Two)

Railroad Workers Win.

The railroad workers have won! They have secured a favorable eight-hour decision from that bulwark of reaction—the United States Supreme Court. They have forced the railroad barons to surrender to their demands for an eight-hour day, even before the supreme court decision had been made known.

Let the railroad owners get what consolation they can from their statement that they capitulated in the face of a threatening war. This is merely an attempt to minimize the victory won by the 400,000 men belonging to the four railroad brotherhoods.

Now for the next step! Let the four railroad brotherhoods, with the increased power given them, aid the other, less fortunate railroad workers win the eight-hour day, the right to organize and the best possible conditions that can be secured.

Let the watchword be, "Forward!" to greater victories.

Anti-War Poster! Greatest Ever! Selling Fast! Order Now! 25 cents each—\$2 per dozen—\$12 per 100. National Office, Socialist Party, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Women Issue Manifesto

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Socialist Suffrage Committee of Greater New York recently adopted a manifesto to be sent to all the women of belligerent Europe...

We, the Socialist women of Greater New York, in mass conference assembled, extend to you, our sisters of all lands and nations, our fraternal greetings...

International Bonds Broken. When, in August, 1914, the leading nations of Europe entered upon that horrible conflict that is still in progress...

The only ray of light in that period of utter darkness was the consistent, courageous attitude of individual Socialist men, and of practically all the Socialist women of Europe...

Tragedy Confronts Country. Today we are confronted by the same tragedy that engulfed Europe in August, 1914. The United States, until now had not been involved in the gigantic struggle...

on the side of the allies against the central powers, just because American capital and American business interests desire the victory of the allies. The American people do not want war...

Therefore, we wish to speak to you, our Socialist sisters of all lands, now, while still we may. We wish to tell you that the Socialist women of greater New York, organized to work for Socialism and the winning of women's suffrage...

PROPAGANDA WORK IN SCHOOLS. The members of the Young People's Socialist League are often making the most of their opportunities for spreading the Socialist propaganda in the High Schools of this country...

Tragedy Confronts Country. Today we are confronted by the same tragedy that engulfed Europe in August, 1914. The United States, until now had not been involved in the gigantic struggle...

Scott Nearing Resigns.

The jingo newspapers, and manufacturers, and Chamber of Commerce stars, and tin soldiers, and swash-buckling priests of Toledo, Ohio, have long been sore because they were obliged to put up with two fellow citizens whom they didn't like a bit...

The indignation of these plutes did not do very much good, for the common people have stood loyally by their champions. In the last election the congressman made his campaign clear-cut and straight on an anti-war issue...

Sherwood Refuses to Quit. "I have no idea of resigning," said the Congressman when he saw the jingoes' telegram. "Why, their telegram wasn't even signed. Whoever wrote it must have been ashamed of it..."

The two mass meetings referred to were those arranged by the Socialists and trade-unionists of Toledo, and at the first Scott Nearing was the principal speaker, and at the other he presided as chairman...

Note The Difference!



Glance At The Russian Events.

(Continued From Page One)

Prussian militarism and the Kaiser, is also a fight against the Russian imitation of Prussian militarism, and the Russian offspring of the Kaisers. They gradually have become bored by an alliance with Republican France and Democratic England...

Workers Are Aroused.

The Constitutional Democrats, the liberals of Russia and representatives of the developing capitalist class, and the Octobrists, the conservatives, have long been looking for an opportunity to assert their influence in the government...

not true. The people have been spurred to do some quiet thinking ever since, and this explained why the army joined the revolutionaries...

Let us now hope that the long suffering, infinitely patient mass of the great Russian people will not allow itself to be betrayed by any present or future leaders...

Unexpected Happened

By MICHAEL ALTSCHULER. THE UNEXPECTED happened. The Russian Revolution, considered not only by its enemies but also by friends as dead, is alive, and in one successful stroke succeeded in overthrowing the government...

The Carpenters

By A. M. SIMONS.

Carpenters created and named the political caucus and made up a majority of the mob that pitched the tea into Boston harbor. It was in the hall of a fore-runner of a carpenters' union that the Continental Congress met...

THE PARTY IN CONVENTION.

From The New York Call.

It is good news that the Socialist party proposes to meet in special national convention within a very short time. It is especially good news, in view of the fact that the party mistakenly dispensed with the 1916 convention in a burst of would-be economy...

Unexpected Happened

By MICHAEL ALTSCHULER.

THE UNEXPECTED happened. The Russian Revolution, considered not only by its enemies but also by friends as dead, is alive, and in one successful stroke succeeded in overthrowing the government...

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AMERICAN SOCIALIST

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of the United States. J. L. ENGBAHL, Editor. 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: 12 copies, \$1; 24 copies, \$2; 36 copies, \$3; 48 copies, \$4; 60 copies, \$5; 72 copies, \$6; 84 copies, \$7; 96 copies, \$8; 108 copies, \$9; 120 copies, \$10; 132 copies, \$11; 144 copies, \$12; 156 copies, \$13; 168 copies, \$14; 180 copies, \$15; 192 copies, \$16; 204 copies, \$17; 216 copies, \$18; 228 copies, \$19; 240 copies, \$20.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1917.

The Million Dime Column

Total Number Of Dimes Received Since February 8th, 1917.

Table with columns: No., Name and Address, Dimes. Lists names and addresses of donors and the number of dimes received from each.

The statement cabled to American newspapers several weeks ago, by Carl Ackerman, United Press correspondent in Berlin, that the Socialists of Germany were responsible for the peace proposals made by the Kaiser, is verified by actually accurate publications in Switzerland. The story goes that the majority faction of Socialists, who have supported the government throughout the war, have become keenly aware of the fact that the minority (or anti-war) group have been growing in numbers and influence...

Delegates from the minority faction of the Socialist party in Germany met in Leipzig, and they plan to continue their propaganda for true internationalism and to secure control of the party machinery. The conference endorsed President Wilson's peace proposals in which there shall be neither conqueror or conquered.

FREE FORD AUTO TO AGENTS. Here's an opportunity to earn big money—\$6 to \$12 a day, with easy work, all your time or spare time and obtain a Ford Automobile free besides a straight-from-the-shoulder business proposition. No voting or guessing contest. We want wide-awake men and women to sell into your home our famous ZANOL Pure Food Products, Non-Alcoholic Food Flavors in tubes, Toilet Preparations, Perfumes and Soap; 25 other light weight household necessities.

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Organization Column.

NOTE.—We want the best brains in the Socialist movement to contribute ideas to this "Organization Column." We feel that the best organization ideas come from those who really do the work of organization, the rank and file of the membership who are always on the job. Let us hear from you. Send all communications to the Organization Column Editor, The American Socialist, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

BENSON LEAFLETS HELPED.

Comrade Klingler, of Newberry, Pa., tells of a 75 per cent increase in the Socialist vote at the last election, due to the use of the Benson leaflets. I can also say that we have experienced great results from the use of the Benson leaflets together with a small pamphlet known as the "Fancy Pamphlets," published by Comrade Jack Pansy, of Grand Rapids, Mich. At the last election Benson received 81 votes, while Debs in 1912 had but 71. The Benson increase was in the face of strong opposition, too, as this is a railroad town and "Wilson's 8-hour law" looked good to the railroad voter.

And, largely owing to the Benson and Pansy literature, we have since election built our Branch membership up from a paltry 7 members to 71, and I already know of 5 applicants to be considered at our next meeting. In this large membership growth we have had, of course, good ripe material to work upon, but we have ripened it by a judicious distribution of good propaganda matter.

Yours in the Cause,
G. C. JOHNSON,
Branch Secretary, Blairsville, Pa.

OKLAHOMA ENCAMPMENTS.

Perhaps the greatest factor in the Oklahoma Socialist movement is the encampments. This year they are to be continued with added features. In the past it has sometimes been difficult to secure a list of entertainers (Socialists if possible) to travel with us so that we will be sure of some music and other amusement features at each point. It is my hope to organize something like a Carnival company to make our entire list of entertainers. We will be glad to hear from entertainers, show people and concession men. State just what you have, or what you can do in the way of entertaining. Have you a tent and what would be your means of travel?

Comrades in other states especially in the south can do well to begin the encampments the coming summer. They can be made self-supporting by laying your plans early and selling concessions. They bring the crowds as nothing else will.

THOMAS L. BUIE, Farry, Okla.

ABANDON ALLIED CONFERENCE.

The conference of Socialists of the allied countries, which was to have taken place in Paris from March 15 to 18, has been abandoned as the result of the refusal of the British labor party and a great part of the Russian and Italian Socialists to participate.

Better a filibuster in the senate than a glut of graves and a busted nation.

Spanish Leaflets

Four leaflets in Spanish have just been issued by the National Socialist Party as follows:

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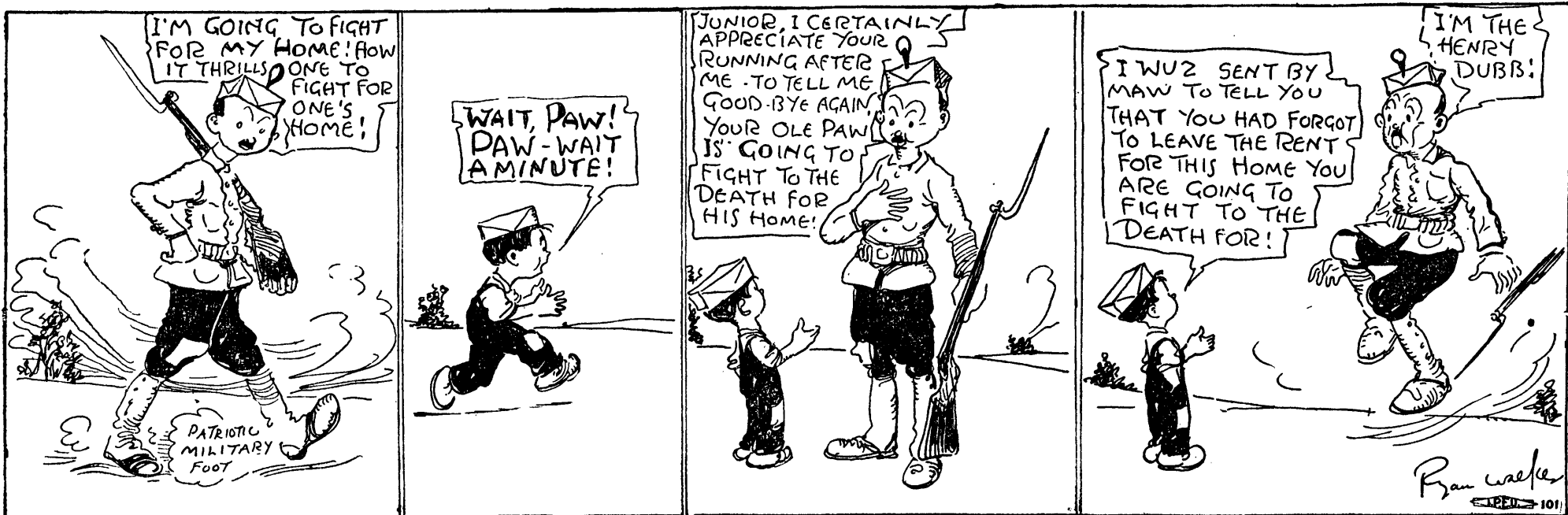
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YIPSEL NATIONAL CHAMPS.

- Following herewith is a statement of the standing in the Y. P. S. L. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONTEST, March 1, 1917. The name of the league and the points scored are given in the order of their standing. 1. Peoria, Ill. 37 1/2 2. Hartford, Conn. 33 1/2 3. Newark, N. J. 33 1/2 4. Buffalo, N. Y. 33 1/2 5. Trenton, N. J. 32 1/2 6. Chicago, Ill. 32 1/2 7. Paterson, N. J. 29 8. Providence, R. I. 28 9. Omaha, Neb. 27 10. Jamestown, N. Y. 27 11. Lawrence, Mass. 25 12. St. Louis, Mo. (Eng.) 25 13. New Britain, Conn. 24 14. Cleveland, O. (Eng.) 24 15. Washington, D. C. (Eng.) 23 16. Rochester, N. Y. 23 17. Decatur, Ill. 22 18. Worcester, Mass. 22 19. Milwaukee, Wis. 22 20. Lafayette, Ind. 22 21. Washington, D. C. 22 22. Syracuse, N. Y. 22 23. Watertown, N. Y. 22 24. Cleveland, O. 21 25. Reading, Pa. 21 26. Chicago, Ill. (Eng.) 20 27. Dayton, O. 20 28. San Francisco, Cal. 20 29. New Haven, Conn. 17 1/2 30. Ansonia, Conn. 15 1/2 31. Chicago, Ill. (C.) 15 1/2 32. Troy, N. Y. 15 1/2 33. Brooklyn, N. Y. 15 1/2 34. New York, N. Y. 15 1/2 35. McKeesport, Pa. 10 36. Lynn, Mass. 4 37. St. Louis, Mo. 3 1/2

WHAT THE LEAGUES ARE DOING.

New Britain, Conn., reports an interesting debate on the subject of the "Prohibition" which was won by five new members were admitted. New Haven, Conn., has put out the March edition of its mimeographed paper, "The Young Rebel." They also debated on the merits of the Immigration Bill recently passed by Congress.

Hartford, Conn., debated the American Branch, S. P., on the subject "Resolved, that Socialism is the best way down the road."

Next week the subject will be "Resolved, that the Socialist Party should advocate immediate reforms," the league taking the affirmative. Prof. George Spiess, Jr., is the judge of these debates, and they are always hotly contested.

Lawrence, Mass., members of the league acted as arrangements committee of a big anti-war protest meeting, and their work helped along mightily to its success.

Newark, N. J., No. 2, held a debate on "Prohibition" which was followed by questions to the debaters. "Have one on me" was not listed among those asked. This circle is now doing very good work.

Trenton, N. J., reports that its anniversary celebration at which a sketch written by a member of the league was produced, was a great success. They are debating their High School debating team on the subject of "Socialism" and the Superintendent is giving a series of talks on "Political Economy" to which the Yipsels have been specially invited.

The invitation has, of course, been accepted. Wilkes-Barre, Pa., is only a newcomer, but it is coming fast. They have held two very successful lectures, and now that they are in new headquarters their advancement will be even more rapid.

A new league has been organized at Woonsocket, R. I., with 14 charter members.

Socialists At Work

NOTE.—What are the Socialists doing in your city county or state? The editor of this column wants to know. Send in the news about your activities. We will make especially to local secretaries, state secretaries and other officials of the party. Send all communications to the Editor, "Socialists At Work" Column, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

BOOKS AT COST, DEMAND OF SOCIALISTS AT DUBUQUE, IA.

The following school platform has been adopted by the Socialist party of Dubuque, Iowa, in the campaign for the election of members to the school board of that city:

1. If our candidates are elected their immediate demands will be to have text books and school supplies furnished to children at cost thru the board of education.

2. We favor the use of all school buildings as civic centers for the discussion of social and political questions, and also as polling places for school elections, thus providing more polling places. We would favor a change in the law permitting female as well as male teachers, to act as judges and clerks of elections for school directors.

3. We favor building in connection with the new high school of suitable quarters for offices for the board of education, thereby saving the cost of rented offices.

4. To introduce more democracy in our school system, we favor the formation of a teachers' council, to consist of representatives chosen by the teachers and principals, thus giving the teachers and principals an opportunity to discuss freely the various questions of education.

5. We are opposed to all efforts to introduce more or so-called "public schools," but we favor the introduction into our public school system of a thoro and progressive course in physical culture.

WESTINGHOUSE STRIKERS SEEK PARDON FOR ALL OR NONE.

All six of the Westinghouse strikers who were sentenced to from one to three years in the penitentiary for their activities on behalf of labor in the Braddock, Pa., strikes last Spring have to serve their sentences behind the bars. This is the decision of the Superior Court, rendered during the last week.

One of the defendants is a little Jewish girl, Anna Goldberg, small, frail, and nervous. She is sentenced to one year, yet it is felt that if she stands it for three months she will be doing well. The others are all men, one of them being Rudolph Blum, secretary and charter member of the North Side, Pittsburgh, Young People's Socialist League. His comrades of the Y. P. S. L. raised over \$150 for his defense, and they have made up their minds to do their best to encourage him during his 18 months stay in jail.

The only recourse for these workers now is the pardon and they have pledged themselves to stand together as a unit in their application for the same—no one will accept leniency unless the same treatment is shown to all.

PLAN ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

The 1917 Northwest Pennsylvania Socialist Encampment will be larger and better in every way than the two previous camps if the plans of those in charge of the affair indicate anything. This is the third annual camp conducted by the Socialists of this vicinity. These encampments are really one big grand rally and revival of the Socialist forces from far and near and one has to attend in order to know and appreciate these gatherings. The date of the 1917 camp is from June 23rd to July 2nd inclusive. The camp will be held at Exposition Park on Conneaut Lake, Pa., an ideal spot for the occasion. Tents for the entire ten days can be had for \$3. For further information or tents address, J. H. Browning, Secretary of the Encampment Association, 616 Mahoning Ave., Youngstown, Ohio.

BATTLE IN INDIANAPOLIS.

Indianapolis Socialists have held by far the best and biggest convention in the history of the local party, and for once the comrades are ready for a real campaign. Political Committee reaching every section of the city working and the slogan of the Comrades here is, make Indianapolis a Socialist twin to Minneapolis. There will be seven tickets in the field and believe me the Socialists will come down the middle like a house afire.—Wm. H. Henry, State Secretary.

Scholarship Contest News

Table with columns: Name, Address, Points. Lists names like M. K. Freidman, B. J. S., M. Maginsky, R. H. Lane, etc.

MINISTER FORCED OUT.

Some few months ago there appeared in these columns an account of the courageous fight being waged by a minister in a Steel Trust town. The Lackawanna Steel Co. at that time sought exemption from the New York "one day's rest in seven" law, so that it might make death-dealing murder machinery on Sunday as well as any other. Only one of the local spiritual "leaders" dared oppose the Trust in this move. This note is simply to record that the Trust has won the fight and that the resignation of the minister, Mr. Coale, is now in the hands of the vestrymen of his church. The Trust does not pay the minister's salary to have him preach profit-hurting doctrines, and that only one in the whole city should have the courage to oppose the feeding hand does not speak very well for the others.

The Company recently made up its mind to have its men send a petition to the President calling for universal military training. The introduction of this measure would mean more business, therefore it was a good thing. A notice was posted thruout the shops informing the men that they were to sign this petition in the office on a certain Monday night after working hours. And they did—most of them. One rebel refused—and quoted Scripture to back up his stand. The superintendent laughed at him. Why not, when he could quote better authorities for his side from the company's ledger?

PROGRESSIVE PARTY ASKS AID OF SOCIALIST PARTY

An invitation has been extended to the Socialist Party to send delegates to the National Progressive Party convention to be held at the Planter's Hotel, St. Louis, Mo., April 12-14. The progressives say they want to detach a program or platform on which the radical elements in all parties can agree, "and for which the several parties or groups, while maintaining their own identity, can work together."

It has not yet been determined what part the Socialist Party will take in this gathering.

MAINE FOR SUBMISSION.

North and south the votes for the woman cause is spreading. Maine women have succeeded in securing a referendum on woman suffrage. This action required thirty-six years of agitation, pleading and supplication from the women. The first positive move for equal suffrage in Maine was made in 1881, and the question has been before every legislature since then. Several times it passed one branch, only to be defeated in the other. In 1911 the measure secured a majority vote, but lacked the necessary two-thirds vote for submission. The voters will pass upon the question at the November election.

England has navalism before the war began. Now it has copied from Germany and has militarism as big as Prussia. The United States has already agreed to take on both militarism and navalism.

The 1 And Now

By SARAH WORMER.

It was at a meeting of the "Rosebuds," a name given in tender fun by a grand daughter of one of the members of the club, who was even then in the rosebud time of life herself.

These old ladies had been children together, in a certain town of the Southland—had grown up together—loved and suffered together; and now in the shadow days, when they were facing the west, they still came together in spend-the-day parties in their children's or grand-children's homes.

There was a lull in the conversation. It had been of the war of their youth, which the war talk of the day brought back close to them again, as tho the old tragedy were but a thing of yesterday. The silence was broken by the entrance of a maid, who poked the grate fire into leaping flames, and piled much coal thereon. The added cheer dispersed the spell of olden days, and soon a silvery voice exclaimed—in tones a bit diffident, a bit defiant:

"Well, Girls, what do you think of this matter of birth-control?"

There was an instant of abashed stillness, and then the "girls" spoke. Those who fancy that only a few obnoxious people of extreme views, political and otherwise, have any tolerance or sympathy with this new teaching, would have been surprised at the opinions frankly given, after the first moment of embarrassment, by these old "Rosebuds" of the conservative South. One mother-of- eleven confessed that she had received some literature on the subject and she had read it—and had forwarded it to two of her grand-nieces who "were so poor, and whose babies were coming so fast." She naively explained that she had had the addresses typewritten, when she sent the pamphlets to Mary-Ellen and Ida-May. Not yet could she boldly stand by this amazing idea of "thwarting Nature."

Among those present on this particular day was a guest, an Austrian woman, daughter and grand-daughter of officers in the Austrian Army, under the old regime. Questioned as to her attitude, she replied that she had been inculcated with the teaching of her race and country—that woman's work was to bear children and more children. She had never doubted the "ultimate good" of this policy, and had lived accordingly, being the mother of six sons and two daughters. Then she, too, acknowledged that in the later years of retrospection and introspection, she had grown to wonder if there were not perhaps some fallacy in the old reasoning—was it not rather, unreasoning? She felt that under the stress of the present civilization pressures it might not be for the best.

War And Crime

By WILLIS ANDREWS.

Veraschagin, the great Russian painter, was once asked by a patron of art to paint a picture of what he considered the worst evil in the world. Whereupon the artist portrayed upon canvas a scene of war in its most hideous aspect, and named it "Crime."

This has added interest in view of the statement recently made by a prominent eastern clergyman, who says that war is simply God's plan to work out perfection in the human race. The thought has been taken up and reiterated by lesser lights of the cloth all over the land. This attempt to place the responsibility for the worst of all crimes upon the shoulders of the Almighty naturally leads one to wonder what is really the province of the devil himself, for it makes of Satan an aimless wanderer over the face of the earth without any known occupation.

Every warring nation assures the world that it is in close partnership with the Ruler of the Universe, and already in this country the prayers are being offered up asking that divine guidance be given to the work of slaying fellow-Christians across the seas.

Tennyson wrote of the soldier:

"Theirs but to do and die,
Theirs not to reason why."

It is high time that every man should begin to "reason why" when it is asked of him to pierce the quivering flesh of some man of whom he knows nothing and against whom he has no grievance.

Los Angeles Socialists are trying to secure the adoption of the following proposal by their State organization with a view to having it ultimately incorporated in the National Constitution:

"Any labor union, farmers' organization or co-operative enterprise, or any number of members thereof, shall be permitted to become Socialist party locals, without regard to political subdivisions or geographical boundaries."

A dispatch from Ottawa says conscription is looming in Canada and "may be anticipated before the end of the winter unless some unforeseen development in the war situation should arise."

Here's our letter for this week:

Erie, Pa., March 3, 1917. The American Socialist, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrades:—I wish to tell you how much I admire the spirit of our paper in regard to the present international situation. May this uncompromising spirit of loyalty to our class interests continue, in spite of all efforts of the "Bought And Paid For" press to influence us. I notice that some of our Socialist publications are still tirelessly demanding a referendum vote on the question of war and "armed neutrality." Now, if such vote had been taken six months ago, it would undoubtedly have reflected the real interests of the people. But now, after the jingo press has got in so much of its deadly work, such a vote, altho perhaps a good thing as a matter of democratic principle, would not in the least alter the situation. The vote, I fear, would be overwhelmingly in favor of arming American ships, if not an open declaration of war, so easily are the people lead and so subtly are their minds poisoned. Now is our party going to be influenced by a popular vote in favor of war? And remember the sentiment already created is but a "drop in the bucket" to what will be created in the near future. It will be ruse after ruse and "plot" after "plot" until the American people, an overwhelming majority of them, will DEMAND war as an act of "self defense." Just as Pres. Wilson wishes to be strengthened in his stand by the approval of congress, just so will the ruling jingo class seek by every means in their power the approval of the masses. This will be their excuse, their extenuation, their greatest protection. Great as may be our efforts to destroy their pernicious influence, no matter if we increase it tenfold—their efforts thru press and pulpit will OUTWEIGH OURS 100 TO 1. Let us face the facts squarely: let us not overestimate our own power or underestimate the power of the enemy.

Now, how is the Socialist Party of America going to act in the midst of all this? Will we do as the so-called Socialists of Germany did? Or will we be a party of Karl Liebknecht? The only class-conscious man worthy of the name of Socialist in the German Reichstag at the outbreak of war was Liebknecht. May every mothers son of us be ready to take the same stand, tho he stand alone! Let every Socialist who votes for war or has any connection with a capitalist class army be branded by the party as a traitor to his class and to the cause of humanity!

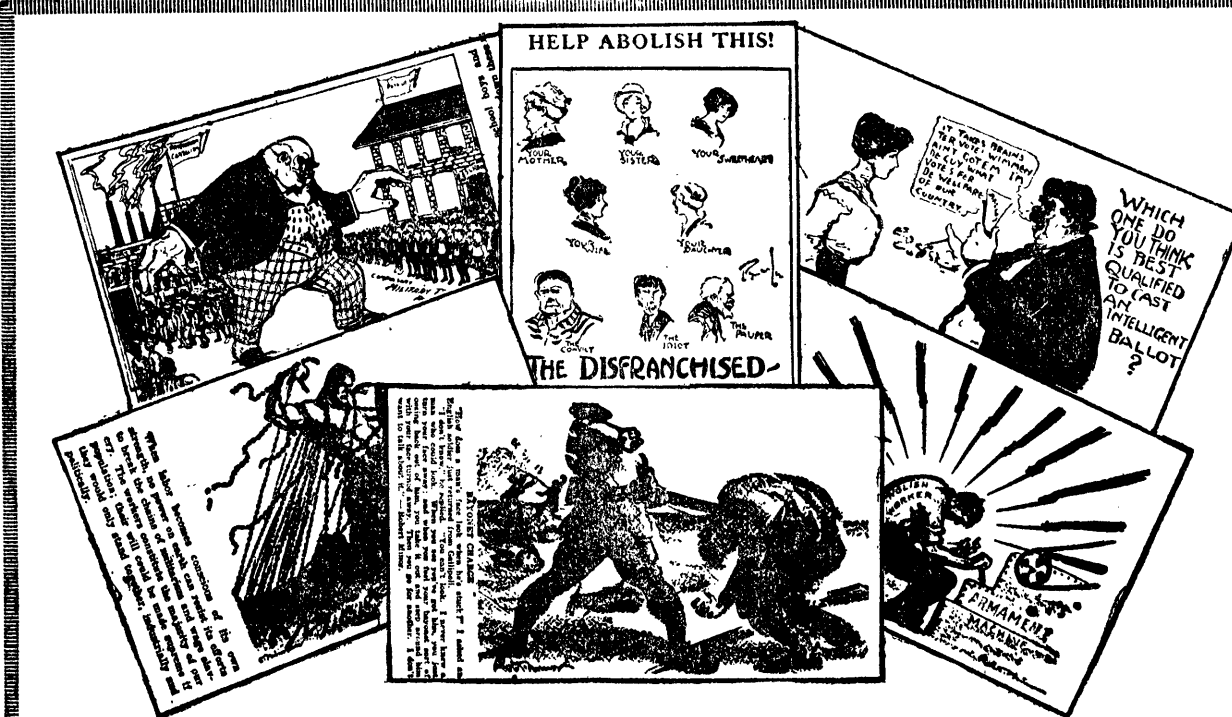
Hoping the party will prepare thoro against such a time and such an extremity, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

H. L. BUCK.

A discussion relating to conditions after the war took place at Harvard College, and Harry Laidler, secretary of the Intercollegiate Society, explained that socialism is coming into its own. "Since the beginning of the war," declared Laidler, "the government of Great Britain has taken control of its railroads; has secured coal mines in South Wales; has obtained a monopoly over its sugar supply; has gone extensively into insurance business and in many ways has increased its control over industry. Fifty-five per cent of the German people are now employed in governmental industries. In all the belligerent countries there has been a remarkable increase in collective administration. If such public ownership makes a people more efficient in war, it should also make it more efficient in peace. I am inclined to the belief of H. G. Wells that out of the ruins of the nineteenth century system of capitalism that this war has smashed forever there will arise the framework of a new economic and social order based on national ownership and national service."

If press censorship has already begun, how much will you be permitted to say or think after the war really begins?



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