

State Department

Comrade Miller of Havre sends in 6 subs.

Comrade Martell of Red Lodge sends 25 cents for membership cards.

Goebel reports a good meeting at Burke, Idaho, with a collection of \$17.

Rooney writes on the 25th that he put \$3 in the bank for sub cards, making \$30 in all that day.

Great Falls Industrial Union No. 308 sends in \$5 for as many copies of the News as it will pay for for three months.

A comrade from Cascade county sends in 100 cash for the equipment fund. A few more such and something definite could be done without incurring large and risky responsibilities.

The News has printed 500 campaign cards for Comrade George Wesleder, candidate for sheriff of Cascade county. The comrades there are putting up a most vigorous campaign.

Comrade Rooney writes that Local Livingston has placed in the bank to the credit of the secretary \$18 on the day's wage fund, and \$9 more for stamps. "We had a fine night Saturday night, and a rousing good crowd—400 or 500 people. Miller and Burg have both gone nutty. Collection \$8, literature \$4.10, 12 subs sold.

Comrade Hudson writes: "I rode over to Reed's Point the 22nd, and lectured in the hall for two hours and ten minutes to an audience of straight farmers. There were two women present. Took 3 subs for the News. They were intensely interested. Did not take up collection as the stockholders donated the hall."

One young man in Helena, who must be nameless on account of labor conditions in this "free" country, has brought \$2.10 into the office that he has gathered up on the coupon books. Carry a coupon book around with you. You'll pick up lots of stray bits. Sent on application, from the office.

Comrade D. C. Hudson, secretary of Local Mullan, Idaho, writes: "George H. Goebel spoke here on the 19th and 20th to a good audience and took up a collection of \$27.00. He is a good speaker and made at least 25 Socialists. He is in Gem, Idaho, today, Sept. 24th. We have the enemy on the run here and will see that we carry this precinct against both parties."

Comrade Goebel writes from Idaho that he would like to have Cowan in the Coeur d'Alene for awhile. He says things are hot in Wallace now, especially since Steve Adams is confined there. He had a great open air meeting at Mullen, \$19 in collection, and arrangements made to have him speak in Opera House next night, the owner offering the use of it free. He says that the Moyer-Haywood business has certainly gotten the people aroused.

An incident occurred at the Red Lodge convention which gave evidence of a correct and well grounded anchorage in the Socialist position. One comrade moved a resolution against the Northwestern Improvement company through whose criminal neglect the terrible mining fire disaster occurred. The resolution was opposed by another on the ground that the Socialist convention was not against any special corporation, but the system which produced them. Others spoke in the same way, and the result was the withdrawing of the original resolution.

The party activity at present is something enormous. In five days last week Comrade Graham sent out 400 stamps. Livingston is ordering 60 stamps a week. We are simply overwhelmed in the office with correspondence of all sorts, so much so that we cannot begin to attend to it. So if your communications are not attended to properly, we are working to the limit and can't do any better, and will not be able to unless the cabinet can devise some means to get us more help employed in the office. The service the state party has is the best that can be given under the circumstances. If it is better than nothing, that is the most comfort that can be gotten out of it. We are too well aware of its deficiencies.

Comrade Reely in reporting the Cowan meetings at Missoula states, "Comrade Cowan finished here last night and started for St. Regis this morning. He promised to do all in his power to get the comrades there to turn out to the convention, which takes place next Saturday evening, the 29th, and in talking to him last night we think it advisable to have him here for Saturday and Sunday nights, or perhaps we can arrange a meeting for Bonner. In the meantime we will see what can be done at Potomac. He would have to reach there by stage. If the camps are run-

to tell you anything definite about Deborgia and Saltese. There are staunch Socialists in both places, but they are working in the mountains and seldom come to town, so I think it would be impossible to reach them in time. I will see that Comrade Cowan is properly fed and sheltered while with us here. I am enclosing express money order for \$5.50. Five dollars of this is from slips sold from donation books, and 50 cents from the subscription card which Mrs. Hazlett left with Mrs. Rogers. "Our Local is progressing very satisfactorily."

We have a large number of subscriptions that are constantly demanding change of address. If the comrades will kindly take note it costs the office six cents every time a change is set up, so that a change or so rapidly reduces the money paid in on subscriptions to defray the expenses of getting out the paper. Now, if the comrades who are socialists wish to help shove things along, when they write to have their address changed, if they will just send in one or two new subscriptions, we'll appreciate it here at the office, and will cheerfully make the change of address with a light heart.

Comrade Peters of Red Lodge sends \$12 for stamps, which he wants "as quick as possible." Carbon county is doing good work, and standing right up to the battle line. They have reorganized the Finn branch with 50 members. He writes, "I think you can depend on the Finn branch being a go this time. They expect to take in about 50 more members at the next meeting. Comrade Martell is here, an American Finn, and an old time party member from the coast. A couple of these comrades are on our ticket. No other party ever recognizes them."

Comrade Powers of Billings reports: "Yours all O. K. Received 40 due stamps Sunday noon. Comrade George H. Goebel could not fill his date Friday night last, could not get a hall and outdoors too cold and bad night to hold a crowd so he kept to his room writing letters Friday night till late and next morning till train time. At our regular meeting of Sept. 15 the Local ratified the candidates that were elected at the primary election of the city of Billings, held Sept. 4, and also the previous nominations of two justices of the peace and two constables by Billings Local of the Socialist party of America. I will enclose a list of county nominations. Our next regular meeting will be Sept. 29, at the Labor union hall at 8 p. m. Business of importance. All local members to be present."

The following is Comrade Platt's report of the Cowan meetings: "I enclose report by Secretary A. V. Platt of S. P. convention for Ravalli county. I notified you by card that I would meet Comrade Cowan at Hamilton. The service has been performed. I started early enough to get him to Sleeping Child school house by 9:30 a. m. Sunday, where we held a very interesting session on the woodpile. Mr. Cowan evidently gave the few listeners something to talk about, for when our time was up and we left they were still holding down that woodpile and wondering how the big trusts were getting hold of 74.27 per cent. of their earnings without their knowledge and consent. Edgemont for dinner and Darby for 4 p. m., and 40 solid listeners. Comrade Cowan kept their thinking bumps active for an hour and a half and he certainly made a strong case for their consideration. Voluntary subscription \$2.50."

Comrade David Lay, chairman of the Carbon county central committee, says in regard to their ticket: "We have a splendid lot of candidates and have a very good chance of electing the greater part of our ticket, especially the legislative nominee, Mr. John L. Maryott. The candidates have decided to employ a good speaker to make a tour of the county for the party this fall, and have requested me to write you in regard to the matter. Their first choice is Comrade Ben Wilson, provided he can be had. We will do the right thing in regard to compensation for any services rendered. I have just written Comrade Wilson in regard to this matter also. I know that with his assistance we can carry this county this fall, and will feel very grateful to you for any assistance you can render us. The two weeks preceding election will be of sufficient time to answer our purpose."

Sept. 24.—Received your letter this evening, have written Plains and Trout Creek about meetings and will put in five days at Plains, Thompson and Trout Creek, then at Sand Point and Rathdrum.

Have had good meetings in Missoula and so has Comrade Cowan. I would like to see Comrade Cowan remain in the state until election, as he is O. K., and gives the fellows straight Socialist right from the shoulder. The outlook in Montana is bright for a large vote and a splendid working organization if the comrades will only take advantage of the growing discontent and crystallize

it into intelligent propaganda of Socialism. In leaving the state, for the present, I would like to say one word to the comrades and that is to give all possible support to the state secretary and the Montana News, for in Comrade Graham you have what I consider the best State Secretary in the Union, and you have a State paper that is yours and you can make it the most powerful newspaper in the State.

The three months I have spent in Montana have been pleasant ones, and the comrades I have met have been an inspiration to me to keep up the fight against capitalism until we usher in the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Mrs. Lewis writes from Newcastle, Wyo.: "Just why the weather man should have sent rain and cold winds to Sheridan and Dietz when I wanted to hold some big street meetings there is more than I can say. Notwithstanding all the odds were against us, I succeeded in disposing of \$18.55 worth of literature at Sheridan and \$17.55 at Dietz.

"An interesting circumstance occurred at Monarch that will be of interest to the News readers I am sure. After selling a number of copies of Herron's Day of Judgment and Vail's Principles, I made a general announcement of the scientific series and invited them to examine them at close of meeting. Some did and a few bought. Among those who looked over the books was a little boy about 11 or 12 years of age. He scanned through the lot, then picked up the Evolution of Man and looked it carefully through for about ten minutes, then put it on the table and said, 'That's a book I'd like to have.' I said, 'Well, you can have it for fifty cents.' 'Yes,' said the boy, 'but I've only got thirty-five cents.' I said, 'Well, if you'll give me thirty-five cents for that book I'll let you have it at that price.' The little fellow did not seem to understand my offer and replied 'Oh, but it cost 50 cents.' 'Yes, but you can have it for 35.' 'I haven't the money here,' he said, 'but if you'll wait till I run home and get it I'd like to have the book.' So I waited and in about five minutes he returned all out of breath with a quarter a nickel and five pennies.

Trout Creek has been disappointed in not having as effective work done this summer as it had wished. There are a number of good comrades there, but whenever and attempt has been made to put in speakers there has not been sufficient time, or there has been some other disappointing circumstance. With all the activity in Montana we have never got down to thorough county organization yet. The task is stupendous for the means at our command. Here is a letter from Comrade S. R. Allen that tells its own story:

"I am disappointed to tell you that we have had another speaker here and have not got a local organized yet. Comrade Brooks did not come, nor George Mathias on Sunday afternoon, the time Mr. Cowan set, so I guess we will have to give up having any organization now, so I am going to send my membership card with dues. Please fill out the card and send it back and oblige. This will be better than not belonging at all. Send me some blank membership cards, and I will get others to join."

A comrade from Reed, Montana, reports Comrade Hudson's meeting at that point: "Comrade John Hudson spoke to an appreciative audience of about 30 at the hall here on the 22nd. His speech was

well received and given close attention. Many flattering remarks have since been made of the speech. Several voters have announced their intention of voting for Comrade Hudson and Socialism. Many preconceived notions such as "dividing up," "free love," and other fallacies, taught by the old parties to defeat Socialism were ably routed by Comrade Hudson and the good sound logic of Socialism planted in their stead. Such speeches as these are the leaven that will dispell the "gross darkness" that covers the people. When once shown the way, the toiling millions will make short work of the oppressors that now rule with an iron hand.

"Comrade Hudson took several subscriptions for the News and altogether his trip was a splendid success."

Dr. Willett has received the following interesting communication from Comrade Goodson of Stevensville: "Dr. G. A. Willett, Helena, Mont.

"Dear Friend and Comrade:—When I returned and reported the way I was treated while in Helena it was thought that we as a local should show our appreciation in some way, so I will ship you a small box of chickens. Also Comrades Hazlett and Graham come in for a share at your option of dividing with them, or having a dinner with them as guests. "Hoping that you will accept them as a token of our regard for you and yours, I will say that I got a terrible bad fall from my horse bucking on my way home—was pretty badly shaken up, but am getting over it. "Mad a good trip and must say that I hope to be able to repeat it at some future time. "Comrade Cowan was with us. We had a very small crowd. He is a regular old wheel horse of the heavy weight. Made everything so plain that any old wool grower could see it. Respects to yourself and wife; love to little ones. Fraternally yours, J. WORTH GOODSON.

We may add that six plump chickens duly arrived and will be duly sampled.

The following interesting letter has been received from Comrade S. J. Decker of Dean: "If space in the columns of the News permits I would like to tell the comrades of the various locals that Carbon county had a splendid gathering at its mass convention, held at Red Lodge on the 19th. A good representation of law and literature being present from the republican party would indicate that the opposition is well aware that we are not asleep. There was the greatest interest shown by all the members, and a full ticket was named. I am glad to be able to say that the prospects were never better than at present.

"I would also like to call the attention of the different locals of the state to that part of the State Committee's proceedings which says that former article VI of the state constitution shall be stricken out. This, to me, is the most important part of the constitution, and if stricken out the party would become no more or less than a capitalist party. I have written to Comrade Graham, and he agrees with three members of the committee to whom I have spoken that there was no part of article VI to be stricken out except that part of section 6, article VI which refers to officers turning over a portion of their salary to the general fund of the party. This being the case the secretary must have made a mistake in his report." (Secretary's mistake. Only part referring to salary to be stricken out.—Ed.) The following is at hand from Com-

rade Barnes relative to work in Montana:

Chicago, Sept. 19, 1906. "James D. Graham, Box 908, Helena, Mont.

Dear Comrade:—Yours of the 14th to hand with \$20 for due stamps. The stamps have been shipped under separate cover. I enclose receipt.

I was about to write you in reference to Comrade Cowan's letter and his desire to be released from active service for the time being, when I received your opinion on the subject. Glad to know you think he is rendering good service. I wrote him at some length yesterday, and hope that he will take new courage.

Since writing you about routing Comrade Cowan back on the Great Northern matters have shifted somewhat, so that it will be really more convenient for me if you route him back by way of the Northern Pacific, and the 15th or 18th of October will be satisfactory, the 18th if convenient preferred, that is, I should make his first date at Dickinson on October 18th.

MacDonald, whom you connected me with at Bismark, seems to be a hustler. He did the elegant for Comrade Goebel recently, and writes me that other speakers should stop when convenient. I wish to thank you for your earnest co-operation in the work incident to the National Office plans.

With best wishes, Your Comrade, J. MAHLON BARNES, National Secretary."

The following letter comes to us from Highland Place, Berkeley, California: "I write to inform you of the arrival of a new Socialist agitator and genuine all-around revolver in our home last night. Mother and baby doing nicely. The father speechlessly happy. Yours always, BENJ. F. WILSON."

The comrades want to note the doings of Ravalli county as told in Comrade Cowan's report. The organization is up standing there and we may confidently look for substantial results.

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