

## Helena Strikes

### Telephone Girls, Carmen, Linemen and Electrical Workers Demand Shorter Hours and Longer Pay

This has been a week of strikes in the northwest industrial world. Monday morning at 10 o'clock the telephone girls went out in Helena. Their hours have been long and the work particularly arduous and confining. There were girls that were getting \$16 a month on half time. The best paid received only \$1.20 a day. It takes a dollar a day to live in Helena, and 20 cents must suffice for clothes and laundry. The girls show a good firm spirit are determined, and when the superintendent tried to bulldoze them referred him to their president, Miss Briscoe. No satisfaction has yet been received from the company.

The demands are an increase in wages of \$50 and \$60 per month, and two Sundays off in the month without any reduction in pay.

The linemen of the Helena Light and Railway company have tried for some time to reach an agreement with the company but to no avail, and decided to strike Monday for 50 cents a day increase, and a reduction of hours from nine to eight. The street men had their demands granted previously, but held a meeting at midnight Sunday, concluded they had nothing to lose but their chains, and if the linemen's grievance was not settled that they would strike in sympathy. The superintendent refused to treat with a committee of the union and the strike was called at 10 o'clock A. M. By noon the carmen joined the strike and the street car system was tied up tight and the strike was successfully launched. Two hours later the superintendent sent for the strike committee, conceded all the demands of the union, and at 4 P. M. the strike was called off and the men resumed work with a complete victory for the union and the industrial plan of attack. Had the carmen not gone on

strike with the linemen it is safe to say that the strike would have been of long duration, and in all likelihood would have resulted in defeat of the union, as the company would have brought in scabs and had men ready to take the carmen's place if they went out in sympathy.

We do not favor strikes except as a last resort, but when it comes to strike, strike hard and fast, tie everything up at once on short notice. The only way that decisive victory comes to the workers in a strike is if they are able to paralyze the corporations instantly.

The Workers' Club is the strike headquarters. It is refreshing to see some militant class spirit among Helena workers. The linemen of the telephone company went out with the operators. Their demand is eight hours and fifty cents increase.

Apropos of the situation the Helena Independent has a pious homily on the evils of sympathetic strikes, and declares that such combinations are "plainly illegal." Strikes are not run to suit the pleasure and convenience of employers and unfair sheets that are denied the union label. They are called that the workers may gain material advantages, and they expect to employ the best means that will enable them to do so. When they once get organization properly adjusted the workers will all go out on any grievance, and then they will be strong enough to throw the employers overboard altogether and work for themselves. Industrial organization and the sympathetic strike are the beginnings of this most desirable end. What is hurting the Independent is that it cannot take advantage of the Butte newspaper famine and rush its papers in there because it has not got the label. An injury to one is the concern of all.

## A STUDY OF WYOMING'S SENATE

To the Citizens of the State of Wyoming:

The formers of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, expressing themselves in no uncertain terms, intended that eight hours should constitute a lawful day's work in all coal mines in the State. In accordance with this mandate, an eight-hour law was enacted in 1889, but, on being tested, was found ineffective. Therefore, the miners of northern Wyoming caused to be drafted an eight-hour measure in conformity with the Constitution, and asked that the Ninth Legislature (1907) enact such a law. A bill for this purpose (H. B. No. 19) was introduced by Representative Peter Carroll, of Sheridan county, early in the session, and after considerable opposition, was passed by the House. (Of this opposition in the House we will make more particular mention at an opportune time.) In the Senate, February 4, 1907, the measure was referred to the Committee on Coal Mines—Morgan, of Uinta; Forsyth, of Sweetwater, and Vaughn, of Carbon. The bill remained in the hands of this trio of corporation henchmen for about a week; and then, for fear they might transgress the ethics of railroad or corporation legislation, they consulted with a well known Union Pacific attorney and came to the conclusion that they knew better than the miners themselves what was needed. Hence, "to facilitate matters" for the railroad company, the committee was counselled, or commanded, to report back a substitute bill, with the recommendation that it do pass. This measure known as S. F. No. 39, which is the ingenious product of a corporation attorney, is so evidently worthless and devoid of possible benefit to the toilers, that one wonders it was not turned down as a "freak bill." It was devoid of worth as an eight hour law as most of the Senators are of freedom from corporation shackles. Not even the Union Pacific could object to this harmless joke and travesty on labor legislation. The committee shook its chains, coddled under the fending of its master, and looked with pride upon this work of legislative art—which reflects their fealty to the powers that be, and disavows their integrity and allegiance to the common people of Wyoming. In the course of time this effusion of the railway attorney "came up for consideration" in the Senate—the majority of which body had already received their instructions from the railway's attorney, and were simply awaiting a chance to obey orders. Then it was, in the afternoon of February 14, that the few exceptions to corporation rule became evident, and Senator Dinwiddie, of Sheridan county, moved that the substitute be indefinitely postponed, explaining that the measure was worthless and introduced for the sole purpose of killing H. B. No. 19, the law which 1100 miners of Wyoming desired. This plea, however, was of no avail, for the following Senators, who knew a good corporation measure when they saw it, voted against postponement and for the passage of the worthless proposition.

The only Senators who voted in favor of the miners, and for the postponement of the "freak" bill were, Dinwiddie, of Sheridan; Sullivan, of Natrona; Schwoob, of Big Horn, and Price and Mahoney, of Carbon. This vote killed H. B. No. 19, the eight-hour measure which had passed the House, and is in line with the record of the Senate in killing all measures calculated to subvert the interests of the man who toils. This same servile aggregation refused to remove the \$5,000 limit damages which might be recovered by the family of one killed in a railway accident. This body, the vast majority of which are hirelings of a great corporation, have totally disregarded the Constitution of the State of Wyoming and the will of a large number of their constituents. The fact that every other state in the Union, where coal is mined in any quantity, has an eight-hour law, had no effect on most of the Senators. The undersigned committee of the miners, when hopefully starting upon their mission to secure the passage of this eight-hour law, was informed by prominent citizens of Cheyenne (who evidently knew the caliber of the legislative majority) that were "up against it;" that the brains of most of the members were automatically controlled by wireless telegraphy from the law offices of the Union Pacific Railway Company. Notwithstanding this discouragement, we had hopes, and perhaps misguided faith in the good in the hearts of ordinary men. We have been disillusioned; our faith in human kind has received a set-back; our mission has failed; our course for the future pointed out. In the name of 1100 voting Wyoming Coal Miners, we sincerely thank those who have championed our cause, and we ask every fair-minded citizen of the State to consider the attitude of their representatives on this question. To the many labor and fraternal organizations who have endorsed and are preparing resolutions and records bearing on the actions of the different legislators, we extend our sincere thanks.

The undersigned committee is not leaving Cheyenne immediately upon the issuance of this circular, and will take pleasure in reiterating in person while here any expression herein to any individual who doubts that we entertain any of the opinions advanced. Respectfully submitted to the people, Duncan Carr, Jas. Morgan, Walter Russell, Rees Davis; Legislative Committee of the Miners of District 24, United Mine Workers of America. Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 15, 1907.

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

Here are straws which show that the old parties in Wisconsin are frightened at the growth of Socialist sentiment in the state, and are trying to bid for votes against the Social-Democratic party. Two years ago, our Social-Democratic members of Legislature introduced a bill to allow cities to own and operate public utilities. It was voted down—but this year a Republican has just introduced the same bill in the State Senate. Two years ago, the Social-Democrats introduced in the legislature a bill to allow cities to establish municipal ice plants. This also was voted down—but now a Stalwart Republican senator introduces the self-same bill. Two years ago our men introduced a bill to give the cities of the state the right of recall of officials. This again was voted down—and now another Republican introduces a joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment establishing the recall. This is what our party can achieve as a small minority party. It is true that the recall and municipal ownership are not Socialism, but as our party grows in numbers and in strength, the old parties will be forced to pass more important measures, and especially better labor laws.

Our social-democratic members of the legislature have not yet introduced their most important bills. But in a week or two we shall have something interesting to report from Madison. Last fall, Alderman Melms (Social-

Justice) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

## Butte Strikes

### Pressmen Strike, Printers Locked Out, Hello Girls Refuse to Respond, Communication at Standstill

A seemingly unimportant move on the part of the pressmen at Butte has precipitated an unlooked for crisis in the printing situation. The pressmen demanded 50 cents a day increase, whereupon the printing plants of the city not only refused the demand, but entered into a publishers' association, shut down all the papers of Butte and Anaconda, and declared that they would issue them no more until satisfactory arrangements could be made not only with the pressmen, but with the Typographical union also, issuing the ultimatum that work would not be resumed without a reduction of 50 cents a day. This announcement came as a thunderbolt to the Typographical union. The present scale was adopted nine months ago, and there was no intimation that it was not fully satisfactory to all parties concerned. The daily papers in the publishers' combination are the Anaconda Standard, the Amalgamated organ; The Butte Miner, owned by Grand Chief Briber, United States Senator Clark; Butte Evening News owned by Turncoat Deceiver Heinze; the Intermountain, the republican plutocratic sheet. All of these papers have suspended publication, and these two cities are without a daily press. The job offices in Butte have entered into an agreement with the publishers and will not print a paper for the union to state their side of the situation.

Anaconda, the seat of the largest smelters in the world, belonging to the Amalgamated company, has only one paper—absolute capitalist control. No other would be allowed to stay there. It is the oldest daily in the state, and this is the first time it has ever suspended publication. During the Debs strike of 1894, when the railroads were all tied up, the Standard employed hand-car service, and sent its papers throughout the state on hand-cars. But the public is now

without dailies the publishers say that at the prevailing rate of wages the papers are put out at a loss, and publication will not be resumed until a different scale is adopted: The printers label the suspension a lock-out, say they have no authority to tamper with their scale, and refer the publishers to the Hearst papers for methods of commercial success. The pressmen have offered to arbitrate but the publishers say the whole press outfit have got to come to terms collectively—Another argument for industrial combination in the trades. Printers are said to be leaving Butte. The Helena dailies are getting an enormously increased business, so the workers in Helena will enjoy at least a temporary advantage.

Statements are being put out by the associated press for the sake of prejudicing the public, that the plumbers are about to demand an increase from \$7 to \$8.50. It is needless to say that this is pure fake. The teamsters recently received an advance of 50 cents a day. Last winter the price of coal was \$6 and \$6.50 per ton. This winter the price is from \$7.50 to \$8.50, and now the dealers threaten to advance the price 50 cents a ton owing to the increase being put out by the teamsters.

The Butte Miners' union have under consideration the demand for \$4 a day instead of \$3.75.

#### Bell Telephone Girls

'Simultaneously with the printers' strike at Butte the telephone girls went out, and the confusion in business communication became worse confounded. The girls who were working at \$45 a month and all sorts of hours, demanded \$60 and eight hours. The company met their committee and proceeded to arbitrate. Concessions were made on both sides with the result that the girls went back to work at \$56 a month and eight hours.

## OPPOSE THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

The unions in Livingston are up in arms against the contract system on public work. The reason for this is owing to the fact that contractors who have had contracts for doing work for municipalities have been guilty of working their employees while engaged on city work more than eight hours per day, which is in direct violation of the law.

It has cost the unions of the state considerable money to fight the contractors in the courts, and last summer there were strikes in Billings and Livingston caused by contractors violating the law. The union men of Livingston have come to the conclusion that the best way to fight the contractors is for the city to do the work directly on the day system.

Some time ago the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, Contractors working on public works in the state have violated the eight hour law, and forced organized labor in different cities in Montana to resort to the strike and to the courts to enforce said law and whereas, we are not looking for trouble, but working with all our power to eliminate the cause of strikes and whereas, all advanced city governments and municipalities that have abolished contract work and established the day system work have made a success of same,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston Montana, that it is to the best interests of the people of this city that future work on concrete works and construction of the sewer be done by the city direct. And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Council of the City of Livingston, and members of said council be requested to consider and investigate same.

The matter was presented to the council, but the mayor and old party aldermen wanted to lay the matter on the table. The socialist alderman, C. C. Simpson, championed the cause of the unions and the matter is to be taken under consideration by the city council.

As the city of Livingston is laying a few miles of concrete sidewalks and is about to build a \$25,000 sewer the question will be watched

with interest throughout the state.

The contract system is favored by all the grafters who fatten on any improvements made by a community and as that class of gentry support the old parties liberally it is doubtful whether the old party aldermen will support the measure demanded. One thing was quite evident, that the old party papers of Livingston scarcely paid any attention to the matter. But this is not to be wondered at after the way they treated the violation of the eight hour law and supported the contractors.

The unions are taking an advanced position in demanding the abolition of the contract system, as contractors some times bid too low on the job, and, in order to come out even cut and slash the wages of the men who do the work.

For years organized labor all over the world have tried to abolish the contract system but little has been accomplished as representatives and friends of the contractors and contract system have been elected to office.

It is dollars to doughnuts that the mayor and old party aldermen will ignore the petitions of the Livingston union men and if anything is accomplished it will be through the efforts of the lone socialist alderman.

#### United States.

The socialist party is considering the calling of a conference, representative of all national and international trade and labour unions, and other working-class organizations, to devise some action to be taken on the case of Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone. It is now over ten months since these men were kidnapped from their homes, on a trumped-up charge, and for all that time they have lain in prison, separated from their families, and awaiting trial. They would have been hanged out of hand long ago but for the popular feeling the Socialist Party has excited on their behalf, and that they may be tried and condemned as soon as their case is sufficiently forgotten. An appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus on their behalf has been refused, and only a strong popular agitation will save them from being assassinated.—Justice

Things are going forward in South America pretty well in spite of the opera bouffe revolutions that are sprung about every other day by political grafters. The socialist movement is rapidly becoming a factor in Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile Peru and Argentina. There is already one socialist representative in the Chilian congress.



## Helena Strikes

### Telephone Girls, Carmen, Linemen and Electrical Workers Demand Shorter Hours and Longer Pay

This has been a week of strikes in the northwest industrial world. Monday morning at 10 o'clock the telephone girls went out in Helena. Their hours have been long and the work particularly arduous and confining. There were girls that were getting \$16 a month on half time. The best paid received only \$1.20 a day. It takes a dollar a day to live in Helena, and 20 cents must suffice for clothes and laundry. The girls show a good firm spirit are determined, and when the superintendent tried to bulldoze them referred him to their president, Miss Briscoe. No satisfaction has yet been received from the company.

The demands are an increase in wages of \$50 and \$60 per month, and two Sundays off in the month without any reduction in pay.

The linemen of the Helena Light and Railway company have tried for some time to reach an agreement with the company but to no avail, and decided to strike Monday for 50 cents a day increase, and a reduction of hours from nine to eight. The street men had their demands granted previously, but held a meeting at midnight Sunday, concluded they had nothing to lose but their chains, and if the linemen's grievance was not settled that they would strike in sympathy. The superintendent refused to treat with a committee of the union and the strike was called at 10 o'clock A. M. By noon the carmen joined the strike and the street car system was tied up tight and the strike was successfully launched. Two hours later the superintendent sent for the strike committee, conceded all the demands of the union, and at 4 P. M. the strike was called off and the men resumed work with a complete victory for the union and the industrial plan of attack. Had the carmen not gone on

strike with the linemen it is safe to say that the strike would have been of long duration, and in all likelihood would have resulted in defeat of the union, as the company would have brought in scabs and had men ready to take the carmen's place if they went out in sympathy.

We do not favor strikes except as a last resort, but when it comes to strike, strike hard and fast, tie everything up at once on short notice. The only way that decisive victory comes to the workers in a strike is if they are able to paralyze the corporations instantly.

The Workers' Club is the strike headquarters. It is refreshing to see some militant class spirit among Helena workers. The linemen of the telephone company went out with the operators. Their demand is eight hours and fifty cents increase.

Apropos of the situation the Helena Independent has a pious homily on the evils of sympathetic strikes, and declares that such combinations are "plainly illegal." Strikes are not run to suit the pleasure and convenience of employers and unfair sheets that are denied the union label. They are called that the workers may gain material advantages, and they expect to employ the best means that will enable them to do so. When they once get organization properly adjusted the workers will all go out on any grievance, and then they will be strong enough to throw the employers overboard altogether and work for themselves. Industrial organization and the sympathetic strike are the beginnings of this most desirable end. What is hurting the Independent is that it cannot take advantage of the Butte newspaper famine and rush its papers in there because it has not got the label. An injury to one is the concern of all.

## A STUDY OF WYOMING'S SENATE

To the Citizens of the State of Wyoming:

The formers of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, expressing themselves in no uncertain terms, intended that eight hours should constitute a lawful day's work in all coal mines in the State. In accordance with this mandate, an eight-hour law was enacted in 1889, but, on being tested, was found ineffective. Therefore, the miners of northern Wyoming caused to be drafted an eight-hour measure in conformity with the Constitution, and asked that the Ninth Legislature (1907) enact such a law. A bill for this purpose (H. B. No. 19) was introduced by Representative Peter Carroll, of Sheridan county, early in the session, and after considerable opposition, was passed by the House. (Of this opposition in the House we will make more particular mention at an opportune time.) In the Senate, February 4, 1907, the measure was referred to the Committee on Coal Mines—Morgan, of Uinta; Forsyth, of Sweetwater, and Vaughn, of Carbon. The bill remained in the hands of this trio of corporation henchmen for about a week; and then, for fear they might transgress the ethics of railroad or corporation legislation, they consulted with a well known Union Pacific attorney and came to the conclusion that they knew better than the miners themselves what was needed. Hence, "to facilitate matters" for the railroad company, the committee was counselled, or commanded, to report back a substitute bill, with the recommendation that it do pass. This measure known as S. F. No. 39, which is the ingenious product of a corporation attorney, is so evidently worthless and devoid of possible benefit to the toilers, that one wonders it was not turned down as a "freak bill." It was devoid of worth as an eight hour law as most of the Senators are of freedom from corporation shackles. Not even the Union Pacific could object to this harmless joke and travesty on labor legislation. The committee shook its chains, coddled under the fending of its master, and looked with pride upon this work of legislative art—which reflects their fealty to the powers that be, and disavows their integrity and allegiance to the common people of Wyoming. In the course of time this effusion of the railway attorney "came up for consideration" in the Senate—the majority of which body had already received their instructions from the railway's attorney, and were simply awaiting a chance to obey orders. Then it was, in the afternoon of February 14, that the few exceptions to corporation rule became evident, and Senator Dinwiddie, of Sheridan county, moved that the substitute be indefinitely postponed, explaining that the measure was worthless and introduced for the sole purpose of killing H. B. No. 19, the law which 1100 miners of Wyoming desired. This plea, however, was of no avail, for the following Senators, who knew a good corporation measure when they saw it, voted against postponement and for the passage of the worthless proposition.

The only Senators who voted in favor of the miners, and for the postponement of the "freak" bill were, Dinwiddie, of Sheridan; Sullivan, of Natrona; Schwoob, of Big Horn, and Price and Mahoney, of Carbon. This vote killed H. B. No. 19, the eight-hour measure which had passed the House, and is in line with the record of the Senate in killing all measures calculated to subvert the interests of the man who toils. This same servile aggregation refused to remove the \$5,000 limit damages which might be recovered by the family of one killed in a railway accident. This body, the vast majority of which are hirelings of a great corporation, have totally disregarded the Constitution of the State of Wyoming and the will of a large number of their constituents. The fact that every other state in the Union, where coal is mined in any quantity, has an eight-hour law, had no effect on most of the Senators. The undersigned committee of the miners, when hopefully starting upon their mission to secure the passage of this eight-hour law, was informed by prominent citizens of Cheyenne (who evidently knew the caliber of the legislative majority) that were "up against it;" that the brains of most of the members were automatically controlled by wireless telegraphy from the law offices of the Union Pacific Railway Company. Notwithstanding this discouragement, we had hopes, and perhaps misguided faith in the good in the hearts of ordinary men. We have been disillusioned; our faith in human kind has received a set-back; our mission has failed; our course for the future pointed out. In the name of 1100 voting Wyoming Coal Miners, we sincerely thank those who have championed our cause, and we ask every fair-minded citizen of the State to consider the attitude of their representatives on this question. To the many labor and fraternal organizations who have endorsed and are preparing resolutions and records bearing on the actions of the different legislators, we extend our sincere thanks.

The undersigned committee is not leaving Cheyenne immediately upon the issuance of this circular, and will take pleasure in reiterating in person while here any expression herein to any individual who doubts that we entertain any of the opinions advanced. Respectfully submitted to the people, Duncan Carr, Jas. Morgan, Walter Russell, Rees Davis; Legislative Committee of the Miners of District 24, United Mine Workers of America. Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 15, 1907.

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

Here are straws which show that the old parties in Wisconsin are frightened at the growth of Socialist sentiment in the state, and are trying to bid for votes against the Social-Democratic party. Two years ago, our Social-Democratic members of Legislature introduced a bill to allow cities to own and operate public utilities. It was voted down—but this year a Republican has just introduced the same bill in the State Senate. Two years ago, the Social-Democrats introduced in the legislature a bill to allow cities to establish municipal ice plants. This also was voted down—but now a Stalwart Republican senator introduces the self-same bill. Two years ago our men introduced a bill to give the cities of the state the right of recall of officials. This again was voted down—and now another Republican introduces a joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment establishing the recall. This is what our party can achieve as a small minority party. It is true that the recall and municipal ownership are not Socialism, but as our party grows in numbers and in strength, the old parties will be forced to pass more important measures, and especially better labor laws.

Our social-democratic members of the legislature have not yet introduced their most important bills. But in a week or two we shall have something interesting to report from Madison. Last fall, Alderman Melms (Social-

Justice) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

## Butte Strikes

### Pressmen Strike, Printers Locked Out, Hello Girls Refuse to Respond, Communication at Standstill

A seemingly unimportant move on the part of the pressmen at Butte has precipitated an unlooked for crisis in the printing situation. The pressmen demanded 50 cents a day increase, whereupon the printing plants of the city not only refused the demand, but entered into a publishers' association, shut down all the papers of Butte and Anaconda, and declared that they would issue them no more until satisfactory arrangements could be made not only with the pressmen, but with the Typographical union also, issuing the ultimatum that work would not be resumed without a reduction of 50 cents a day. This announcement came as a thunderbolt to the Typographical union. The present scale was adopted nine months ago, and there was no intimation that it was not fully satisfactory to all parties concerned. The daily papers in the publishers' combination are the Anaconda Standard, the Amalgamated organ; The Butte Miner, owned by Grand Chief Briber, United States Senator Clark; Butte Evening News owned by Turncoat Deceiver Heinze; the Intermountain, the republican plutocratic sheet. All of these papers have suspended publication, and these two cities are without a daily press. The job offices in Butte have entered into an agreement with the publishers and will not print a paper for the union to state their side of the situation.

Anaconda, the seat of the largest smelters in the world, belonging to the Amalgamated company, has only one paper—absolute capitalist control. No other would be allowed to stay there. It is the oldest daily in the state, and this is the first time it has ever suspended publication. During the Debs strike of 1894, when the railroads were all tied up, the Standard employed hand-car service, and sent its papers throughout the state on hand-cars. But the public is now

without dailies the publishers say that at the prevailing rate of wages the papers are put out at a loss, and publication will not be resumed until a different scale is adopted: The printers label the suspension a lock-out, say they have no authority to tamper with their scale, and refer the publishers to the Hearst papers for methods of commercial success. The pressmen have offered to arbitrate but the publishers say the whole press outfit have got to come to terms collectively—Another argument for industrial combination in the trades. Printers are said to be leaving Butte. The Helena dailies are getting an enormously increased business, so the workers in Helena will enjoy at least a temporary advantage.

Statements are being put out by the associated press for the sake of prejudicing the public, that the plumbers are about to demand an increase from \$7 to \$8.50. It is needless to say that this is pure fake. The teamsters recently received an advance of 50 cents a day. Last winter the price of coal was \$6 and \$6.50 per ton. This winter the price is from \$7.50 to \$8.50, and now the dealers threaten to advance the price 50 cents a ton owing to the increase being the teamsters.

The Butte Miners' union have under consideration the demand for \$4 a day instead of \$3.75.

#### Bell Telephone Girls

'Simultaneously with the printers' strike at Butte the telephone girls went out, and the confusion in business communication became worse confounded. The girls who were working at \$45 a month and all sorts of hours, demanded \$60 and eight hours. The company met their committee and proceeded to arbitrate. Concessions were made on both sides with the result that the girls went back to work at \$56 a month and eight hours.

## OPPOSE THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

The unions in Livingston are up in arms against the contract system on public work. The reason for this is owing to the fact that contractors who have had contracts for doing work for municipalities have been guilty of working their employees while engaged on city work more than eight hours per day, which is in direct violation of the law.

It has cost the unions of the state considerable money to fight the contractors in the courts, and last summer there were strikes in Billings and Livingston caused by contractors violating the law. The union men of Livingston have come to the conclusion that the best way to fight the contractors is for the city to do the work directly on the day system.

Some time ago the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, Contractors working on public works in the state have violated the eight hour law, and forced organized labor in different cities in Montana to resort to the strike and to the courts to enforce said law and whereas, we are not looking for trouble, but working with all our power to eliminate the cause of strikes and whereas, all advanced city governments and municipalities that have abolished contract work and established the day system work have made a success of same,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston Montana, that it is to the best interests of the people of this city that future work on concrete works and construction of the sewer be done by the city direct. And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Council of the City of Livingston, and members of said council be requested to consider and investigate same.

The matter was presented to the council, but the mayor and old party aldermen wanted to lay the matter on the table. The socialist alderman, C. C. Simpson, championed the cause of the unions and the matter is to be taken under consideration by the city council.

As the city of Livingston is laying a few miles of concrete sidewalks and is about to build a \$25,000 sewer the question will be watched

with interest throughout the state.

The contract system is favored by all the grafters who fatten on any improvements made by a community and as that class of gentry support the old parties liberally it is doubtful whether the old party aldermen will support the measure demanded. One thing was quite evident, that the old party papers of Livingston scarcely paid any attention to the matter. But this is not to be wondered at after the way they treated the violation of the eight hour law and supported the contractors.

The unions are taking an advanced position in demanding the abolition of the contract system, as contractors some times bid too low on the job, and, in order to come out even cut and slash the wages of the men who do the work.

For years organized labor all over the world have tried to abolish the contract system but little has been accomplished as representatives and friends of the contractors and contract system have been elected to office.

It is dollars to doughnuts that the mayor and old party aldermen will ignore the petitions of the Livingston union men and if anything is accomplished it will be through the efforts of the lone socialist alderman.

#### United States.

The socialist party is considering the calling of a conference, representative of all national and international trade and labour unions, and other working-class organizations, to devise some action to be taken on the case of Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone. It is now over ten months since these men were kidnapped from their homes, on a trumped-up charge, and for all that time they have lain in prison, separated from their families, and awaiting trial. They would have been hanged out of hand long ago but for the popular feeling the Socialist Party has excited on their behalf, and that they may be tried and condemned as soon as their case is sufficiently forgotten. An appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus on their behalf has been refused, and only a strong popular agitation will save them from being assassinated.—Justice

## CONSPIRATORS PERSECUTE ADAMS

Jesse D. Selby, special correspondent of the News is now in Wallace, Idaho, reporting the Steve Adams trial. He sends in the following notes:

The case of Adams on trial here is but a part of the Idaho conspiracy. The last confession of Adams made him useless to the prosecution, and furthermore it acted to their disadvantage by disclosing their diabolical tactics. When Adams made affidavit that his confession of complicity in the Steunenberg case was obtained by force the prosecution was of course bound to release him. But in order that he should not escape their clutches they charged him with the murder of Tyler in this county. The murder was committed two years ago. One man was arrested for the crime but released soon after, and the case was dropped until a few months ago when Adams was arrested just as he was about to be released from the pen after his last confession. The facts prove the whole thing to be a trumped up charge, but another chapter in the Idaho outrage. This is especially conspicuous in view of the fact that many of the witnesses for the defense are from the very place where the murder was committed. The actions of the prosecution in this case throw a great deal of light on the real purpose in view. Having failed to select a jury in the usual way the prosecution moved that its selection should be put into the hands of the sheriff. The former sheriff, Angus Sutherland, was a corporation tool, one of the colleagues of McPartland, Hamley and Gooding. He is known to be a bitter enemy to the Western Federation of Miners, and is generally credited with having made the statement that he would drive all the dynamiters out of Shoshone county meaning by that the members of the Western Federation of Miners. As one of the conspirators Gooding was naturally very much interested in him. There is a law in this state that forbids a sheriff from succeeding himself in office. It was necessary to keep Sutherland in control of the sheriff's office. Gooding is credited with saying that as long as the case was pending against the officials of the Western Federation Sutherland must remain in control of the sheriff's office in Shoshone county. In order to insure this it was arranged

that Sutherland should be made deputy and should in reality be in control the present sheriff having only nominal authority. The defense defeated this move, however, by proving a case of bias. Another instance worthy of note is that when Sutherland had Adams in his custody he forced him into an interview with McPartland in the jail, denying C. S. Darrow, his counsel, admittance till afterwards. It is evident that a great deal of underhanded work is being done. The case will undoubtedly throw a great deal of light on the diabolical methods used by the Idaho conspirators.

The London municipal campaign is now in full blast. Keir Hardie, leader of the labor party in parliament, has prepared a manifesto which, according to a London cable, is "a program of amazing developments of municipal socialism." But really Hardie and his colleagues are very modest. All they ask in their manifesto is that the London council be endowed with the control of public supply of milk, electricity and coal, authorizing the council to buy coal mines and to control the docks, police, hospitals, markets, slaughter houses and transportation, including all the metropolitan railways, whether surface or underground, tramways and omnibuses. It further empowers the council to build gardens in the suburbs around London, and to carry out itself all work now done by contractors. It provides also for the institution of 48 hours labor weekly, all workmen to receive a minimum wage of 30 shillings. That is all. Naturally the privileged class, the capitalists, the landlords, etc., declare that here is "too much socialism" in London town, and that their sacred rights to skin people are ignored.—Cleveland Citizen.

Things are going forward in South America pretty well in spite of the opera bouffe revolutions that are sprung about every other day by political grafters. The socialist movement is rapidly becoming a factor in Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile Peru and Argentina. There is already one socialist representative in the Chilian congress.



## Helena Strikes

### Telephone Girls, Carmen, Linemen and Electrical Workers Demand Shorter Hours and Longer Pay

This has been a week of strikes in the northwest industrial world. Monday morning at 10 o'clock the telephone girls went out in Helena. Their hours have been long and the work particularly arduous and confining. There were girls that were getting \$16 a month on half time. The best paid received only \$1.20 a day. It takes a dollar a day to live in Helena, and 20 cents must suffice for clothes and laundry. The girls show a good firm spirit are determined, and when the superintendent tried to bulldoze them referred him to their president, Miss Briscoe. No satisfaction has yet been received from the company.

The demands are an increase in wages of \$50 and \$60 per month, and two Sundays off in the month without any reduction in pay.

The linemen of the Helena Light and Railway company have tried for some time to reach an agreement with the company but to no avail, and decided to strike Monday for 50 cents a day increase, and a reduction of hours from nine to eight. The street men had their demands granted previously, but held a meeting at midnight Sunday, concluded they had nothing to lose but their chains, and if the linemen's grievance was not settled that they would strike in sympathy. The superintendent refused to treat with a committee of the union and the strike was called at 10 o'clock A. M. By noon the carmen joined the strike and the street car system was tied up tight and the strike was successfully launched. Two hours later the superintendent sent for the strike committee, conceded all the demands of the union, and at 4 P. M. the strike was called off and the men resumed work with a complete victory for the union and the industrial plan of attack. Had the carmen not gone on

strike with the linemen it is safe to say that the strike would have been of long duration, and in all likelihood would have resulted in defeat of the union, as the company would have brought in scabs and had men ready to take the carmen's place if they went out in sympathy.

We do not favor strikes except as a last resort, but when it comes to strike, strike hard and fast, tie everything up at once on short notice. The only way that decisive victory comes to the workers in a strike is if they are able to paralyze the corporations instantly.

The Workers' Club is the strike headquarters. It is refreshing to see some militant class spirit among Helena workers. The linemen of the telephone company went out with the operators. Their demand is eight hours and fifty cents increase.

Apropos of the situation the Helena Independent has a pious homily on the evils of sympathetic strikes, and declares that such combinations are "plainly illegal." Strikes are not run to suit the pleasure and convenience of employers and unfair sheets that are denied the union label. They are called that the workers may gain material advantages, and they expect to employ the best means that will enable them to do so. When they once get organization properly adjusted the workers will all go out on any grievance, and then they will be strong enough to throw the employers overboard altogether and work for themselves. Industrial organization and the sympathetic strike are the beginnings of this most desirable end. What is hurting the Independent is that it cannot take advantage of the Butte newspaper famine and rush its papers in there because it has not got the label. An injury to one is the concern of all.

## OPPOSE THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

The unions in Livingston are up in arms against the contract system on public work. The reason for this is owing to the fact that contractors who have had contracts for doing work for municipalities have been guilty of working their employees while engaged on city work more than eight hours per day, which is in direct violation of the law.

It has cost the unions of the state considerable money to fight the contractors in the courts, and last summer there were strikes in Billings and Livingston caused by contractors violating the law. The union men of Livingston have come to the conclusion that the best way to fight the contractors is for the city to do the work directly on the day system.

Some time ago the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, Contractors working on public works in the state have violated the eight hour law, and forced organized labor in different cities in Montana to resort to the strike and to the courts to enforce said law and whereas, we are not looking for trouble, but working with all our power to eliminate the cause of strikes and whereas, all advanced city governments and municipalities that have abolished contract work and established the day system work have made a success of same,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston Montana, that it is to the best interests of the people of this city that future work on concrete works and construction of the sewer be done by the city direct. And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Council of the City of Livingston, and members of said council be requested to consider and investigate same.

The matter was presented to the council, but the mayor and old party aldermen wanted to lay the matter on the table. The socialist alderman, C. C. Simpson, championed the cause of the unions and the matter is to be taken under consideration by the city council.

As the city of Livingston is laying a few miles of concrete sidewalks and is about to build a \$25,000 sewer the question will be watched

with interest throughout the state.

The contract system is favored by all the grafters who fatten on any improvements made by a community and as that class of gentry support the old parties liberally it is doubtful whether the old party aldermen will support the measure demanded. One thing was quite evident, that the old party papers of Livingston scarcely paid any attention to the matter. But this is not to be wondered at after the way they treated the violation of the eight hour law and supported the contractors.

The unions are taking an advanced position in demanding the abolition of the contract system, as contractors some times bid too low on the job, and, in order to come out even cut and slash the wages of the men who do the work.

For years organized labor all over the world have tried to abolish the contract system but little has been accomplished as representatives and friends of the contractors and contract system have been elected to office.

It is dollars to doughnuts that the mayor and old party aldermen will ignore the petitions of the Livingston union men and if anything is accomplished it will be through the efforts of the lone socialist alderman.

### United States.

The socialist party is considering the calling of a conference, representative of all national and international trade and labour unions, and other working-class organizations, to devise some action to be taken on the case of Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone. It is now over ten months since these men were kidnapped from their homes, on a trumped-up charge, and for all that time they have lain in prison, separated from their families, and awaiting trial. They would have been hanged out of hand long ago but for the popular feeling the Socialist Party has excited on their behalf, and that they may be tried and condemned as soon as their case is sufficiently forgotten. An appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus on their behalf has been refused, and only a strong popular agitation will save them from being assassinated.—Justice

## A STUDY OF WYOMING'S SENATE

To the Citizens of the State of Wyoming:

The formers of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, expressing themselves in no uncertain terms, intended that eight hours should constitute a lawful day's work in all coal mines in the State. In accordance with this mandate, an eight-hour law was enacted in 1889, but, on being tested, was found ineffective. Therefore, the miners of northern Wyoming caused to be drafted an eight-hour measure in conformity with the Constitution, and asked that the Ninth Legislature (1907) enact such a law. A bill for this purpose (H. B. No. 19) was introduced by Representative Peter Carroll, of Sheridan county, early in the session, and after considerable opposition, was passed by the House. (Of this opposition in the House we will make more particular mention at an opportune time.) In the Senate, February 4, 1907, the measure was referred to the Committee on Coal Mines—Morgan, of Uinta; Forsyth, of Sweetwater, and Vaughn, of Carbon. The bill remained in the hands of this trio of corporation henchmen for about a week; and then, for fear they might transgress the ethics of railroad or corporation legislation, they consulted with a well known Union Pacific attorney and came to the conclusion that they knew better than the miners themselves what was needed. Hence, "to facilitate matters" for the railroad company, the committee was counselled, or commanded, to report back a substitute bill, with the recommendation that it do pass. This measure known as S. F. No. 39, which is the ingenious product of a corporation attorney, is so evidently worthless and devoid of possible benefit to the toilers, that one wonders it was not turned down as a "freak bill." It was devoid of worth as an eight hour law as most of the Senators are of freedom from corporation shackles. Not even the Union Pacific could object to this harmless joke and travesty on labor legislation. The committee shook its chains, coddled under the fending of its master, and looked with pride upon this work of legislative art—which reflects their fealty to the powers that be, and disavows their integrity and allegiance to the common people of Wyoming. In the course of time this effusion of the railway attorney "came up for consideration" in the Senate—the majority of which body had already received their instructions from the railway's attorney, and were simply awaiting a chance to obey orders. Then it was, in the afternoon of February 14, that the few exceptions to corporation rule became evident, and Senator Dinwiddie, of Sheridan county, moved that the substitute be indefinitely postponed, explaining that the measure was worthless and introduced for the sole purpose of killing H. B. No. 19, the law which 1100 miners of Wyoming desired. This plea, however, was of no avail, for the following Senators, who knew a good corporation measure when they saw it, voted against postponement and for the passage of the worthless proposition.

The only Senators who voted in favor of the miners, and for the postponement of the "freak" bill were, Dinwiddie, of Sheridan; Sullivan, of Natrona; Schwoob, of Big Horn, and Price and Mahoney, of Carbon. This vote killed H. B. No. 19, the eight-hour measure which had passed the House, and is in line with the record of the Senate in killing all measures calculated to subserve the interests of the man who toils. This same servile aggregation refused to remove the \$5,000 limit damages which might be recovered by the family of one killed in a railway accident.

This body, the vast majority of which are hirelings of a great corporation, have totally disregarded the Constitution of the State of Wyoming and the will of a large number of their constituents. The fact that every other state in the Union, where coal is mined in any quantity, has an eight-hour law, had no effect on most of the Senators.

The undersigned committee of the miners, when hopefully starting upon their mission to secure the passage of this eight-hour law, was informed by prominent citizens of Cheyenne (who evidently knew the caliber of the legislative majority) that were "up against it;" that the brains of most of the members were automatically controlled by wireless telegraphy from the law offices of the Union Pacific Railway Company. Notwithstanding this discouragement, we had hopes, and perhaps misguided faith in the good in the hearts of ordinary men. We have been disillusioned; our faith in human kind has received a set-back; our mission has failed; our course for the future pointed out.

In the name of 1100 voting Wyoming Coal Miners, we sincerely thank those who have championed our cause, and we ask every fair-minded citizen of the State to consider the attitude of their representatives on this question. To the many labor and fraternal organizations who have endorsed and are preparing resolutions and records bearing on the actions of the different legislators, we extend our sincere thanks.

The undersigned committee is not leaving Cheyenne immediately upon the issuance of this circular, and will take pleasure in reiterating in person while here any expression herein to any individual who doubts that we entertain any of the opinions advanced.

Respectfully submitted to the people, Duncan Carr, Jas. Morgan, Walter Russell, Rees Davis; Legislative Committee of the Miners of District 24, United Mine Workers of America. Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 15, 1907.

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

Here are straws which show that the old parties in Wisconsin are frightened at the growth of Socialist sentiment in the state, and are trying to bid for votes against the Social-Democratic party. Two years ago, our Social-Democratic members of Legislature introduced a bill to allow cities to own and operate public utilities. It was voted down—but this year a Republican has just introduced the same bill in the State Senate. Two years ago, the Social-Democrats introduced in the legislature a bill to allow cities to establish municipal ice plants. This also was voted down—but now a Stalwart Republican senator introduces the self-same bill. Two years ago our men introduced a bill to give the cities of the state the right of recall of officials. This again was voted down—and now another Republican introduces a joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment establishing the recall. This is what our party can achieve as a small minority party. It is true that the recall and municipal ownership are not Socialism, but as our party grows in numbers and in strength, the old parties will be forced to pass more important measures, and especially better labor laws.

Our social-democratic members of the legislature have not yet introduced their most important bills. But in a week or two we shall have something interesting to report from Madison. Last fall, Alderman Melms (Social-

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections.

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

## Butte Strikes

### Pressmen Strike, Printers Locked Out, Hello Girls Refuse to Respond, Communication at Standstill

A seemingly unimportant move on the part of the pressmen at Butte has precipitated an unlooked for crisis in the printing situation. The pressmen demanded 50 cents a day increase, whereupon the printing plants of the city not only refused the demand, but entered into a publishers' association, shut down all the papers of Butte and Anaconda, and declared that they would issue them no more until satisfactory arrangements could be made not only with the pressmen, but with the Typographical union also, issuing the ultimatum that work would not be resumed without a reduction of 50 cents a day. This announcement came as a thunderbolt to the Typographical union. The present scale was adopted nine months ago, and there was no intimation that it was not fully satisfactory to all parties concerned. The daily papers in the publishers' combination are the Anaconda Standard, the Amalgamated organ; The Butte Miner, owned by Grand Chief Briber, United States Senator Clark; Butte Evening News owned by Turncoat Deceiver Heinze; the Intermountain, the republican plutocratic sheet. All of these papers have suspended publication, and these two cities are without a daily press. The job offices in Butte have entered into an agreement with the publishers and will not print a paper for the union to state their side of the situation.

Anaconda, the seat of the largest smelters in the world, belonging to the Amalgamated company, has only one paper—absolute capitalist control. No other would be allowed to stay there. It is the oldest daily in the state, and this is the first time it has ever suspended publication. During the Debs strike of 1894, when the railroads were all tied up, the Standard employed hand-car service, and sent its papers throughout the state on hand-cars. But the public is now

without dailies the publishers say that at the prevailing rate of wages the papers are put out at a loss, and publication will not be resumed until a different scale is adopted: The printers label the suspension a lock-out, say they have no authority to tamper with their scale, and refer the publishers to the Hearst papers for methods of commercial success. The pressmen have offered to arbitrate but the publishers say the whole press outfit have got to come to terms collectively—Another argument for industrial combination in the trades. Printers are said to be leaving Butte. The Helena dailies are getting an enormously increased business, so the workers in Helena will enjoy at least a temporary advantage.

Statements are being put out by the associated press for the sake of prejudicing the public, that the plumbers are about to demand an increase from \$7 to \$8.50. It is needless to say that this is pure fake. The teamsters recently received an advance of 50 cents a day. Last winter the price of coal was \$6 and \$6.50 per ton. This winter the price is from \$7.50 to \$8.50, and now the dealers threaten to advance the price 50 cents a ton owing to the increase being the teamsters.

The Butte Miners' union have under consideration the demand for \$4 a day instead of \$3.75.

### Bell Telephone Girls

"Simultaneously with the printers' strike at Butte the telephone girls went out, and the confusion in business communication became worse confounded. The girls who were working at \$45 a month and all sorts of hours, demanded \$60 and eight hours. The company met their committee and proceeded to arbitrate. Concessions were made on both sides with the result that the girls went back to work at \$56 a month and eight hours.

## CONSPIRATORS PERSECUTE ADAMS

Jesse D. Selby, special correspondent of the News is now in Wallace, Idaho, reporting the Steve Adams trial. He sends in the following notes:

The case of Adams on trial here is but a part of the Idaho conspiracy. The last confession of Adams made him useless to the prosecution, and furthermore it acted to their disadvantage by disclosing their diabolical tactics. When Adams made affidavit that his confession of complicity in the Steunenberg case was obtained by force the prosecution was of course bound to release him. But in order that he should not escape their clutches they charged him with the murder of Tyler in this county. The murder was committed two years ago. One man was arrested for the crime but released soon after, and the case was dropped until a few months ago when Adams was arrested just as he was about to be released from the pen after his last confession. The facts prove the whole thing to be a trumped up charge, but another chapter in the Idaho outrage. This is especially conspicuous in view of the fact that many of the witnesses for the defense are from the very place where the murder was committed. The actions of the prosecution in this case throw a great deal of light on the real purpose in view. Having failed to select a jury in the usual way the prosecution moved that its selection should be put into the hands of the sheriff. The former sheriff, Angus Sutherland, was a corporation tool, one of the colleagues of McPartland, Hamley and Gooding. He is known to be a bitter enemy to the Western Federation of Miners, and is generally credited with having made the statement that he would drive all the dynamiters out of Shoshone county meaning by that the members of the Western Federation of Miners. As one of the conspirators Gooding was naturally very much interested in him. There is a law in this state that forbids a sheriff from succeeding himself in office. It was necessary to keep Sutherland in control of the sheriff's office. Gooding is credited with saying that as long as the case was pending against the officials of the Western Federation Sutherland must remain in control of the sheriff's office in Shoshone county. In order to insure this it was arranged

that Sutherland should be made deputy and should in reality be in control the present sheriff having only nominal authority. The defense defeated this move, however, by proving a case of bias. Another instance worthy of note is that when Sutherland had Adams in his custody he forced him into an interview with McPartland in the jail, denying C. S. Darrow, his counsel, admittance till afterwards. It is evident that a great deal of underhanded work is being done. The case will undoubtedly throw a great deal of light on the diabolical methods used by the Idaho conspirators.

The London municipal campaign is now in full blast. Keir Hardie, leader of the labor party in parliament, has prepared a manifesto which, according to a London cable, is "a program of amazing developments of municipal socialism." But really Hardie and his colleagues are very modest. All they ask in their manifesto is that the London council be endowed with the control of public supply of milk, electricity and coal, authorizing the council to buy coal mines and to control the docks, police, hospitals, markets, slaughter houses and transportation, including all the metropolitan railways, whether surface or underground, tramways and omnibuses. It further empowers the council to build gardens in the suburbs around London, and to carry out itself all work now done by contractors. It provides also for the institution of 48 hours labor weekly, all workmen to receive a minimum wage of 30 shillings. That is all. Naturally the privileged class, the capitalists, the landlords, etc., declare that here is "too much socialism" in London town, and that their sacred rights to skin people are ignored.—Cleveland Citizen.

Things are going forward in South America pretty well in spite of the opera bouffe revolutions that are sprung about every other day by political grafters. The socialist movement is rapidly becoming a factor in Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile Peru and Argentina. There is already one socialist representative in the Chilean congress.



## Helena Strikes

### Telephone Girls, Carmen, Linemen and Electrical Workers Demand Shorter Hours and Longer Pay

This has been a week of strikes in the northwest industrial world. Monday morning at 10 o'clock the telephone girls went out in Helena. Their hours have been long and the work particularly arduous and confining. There were girls that were getting \$16 a month on half time. The best paid received only \$1.20 a day. It takes a dollar a day to live in Helena, and 20 cents must suffice for clothes and laundry. The girls show a good firm spirit are determined, and when the superintendent tried to bulldoze them referred him to their president, Miss Briscoe. No satisfaction has yet been received from the company.

The demands are an increase in wages of \$50 and \$60 per month, and two Sundays off in the month without any reduction in pay.

The linemen of the Helena Light and Railway company have tried for some time to reach an agreement with the company but to no avail, and decided to strike Monday for 50 cents a day increase, and a reduction of hours from nine to eight. The street men had their demands granted previously, but held a meeting at midnight Sunday, concluded they had nothing to lose but their chains, and if the linemen's grievance was not settled that they would strike in sympathy. The superintendent refused to treat with a committee of the union and the strike was called at 10 o'clock A. M. By noon the carmen joined the strike and the street car system was tied up tight and the strike was successfully launched. Two hours later the superintendent sent for the strike committee, conceded all the demands of the union, and at 4 P. M. the strike was called off and the men resumed work with a complete victory for the union and the industrial plan of attack. Had the carmen not gone on

strike with the linemen it is safe to say that the strike would have been of long duration, and in all likelihood would have resulted in defeat of the union, as the company would have brought in scabs and had men ready to take the carmen's place if they went out in sympathy.

We do not favor strikes except as a last resort, but when it comes to strike, strike hard and fast, tie everything up at once on short notice. The only way that decisive victory comes to the workers in a strike is if they are able to paralyze the corporations instantly.

The Workers' Club is the strike headquarters. It is refreshing to see some militant class spirit among Helena workers. The linemen of the telephone company went out with the operators. Their demand is eight hours and fifty cents increase.

Apropos of the situation the Helena Independent has a pious homily on the evils of sympathetic strikes, and declares that such combinations are "plainly illegal." Strikes are not run to suit the pleasure and convenience of employers and unfair sheets that are denied the union label. They are called that the workers may gain material advantages, and they expect to employ the best means that will enable them to do so. When they once get organization properly adjusted the workers will all go out on any grievance, and then they will be strong enough to throw the employers overboard altogether and work for themselves. Industrial organization and the sympathetic strike are the beginnings of this most desirable end. What is hurting the Independent is that it cannot take advantage of the Butte newspaper famine and rush its papers in there because it has not got the label. An injury to one is the concern of all.

## A STUDY OF WYOMING'S SENATE

To the Citizens of the State of Wyoming:

The formers of the Constitution of the State of Wyoming, expressing themselves in no uncertain terms, intended that eight hours should constitute a lawful day's work in all coal mines in the State. In accordance with this mandate, an eight-hour law was enacted in 1889, but, on being tested, was found ineffective. Therefore, the miners of northern Wyoming caused to be drafted an eight-hour measure in conformity with the Constitution, and asked that the Ninth Legislature (1907) enact such a law. A bill for this purpose (H. B. No. 19) was introduced by Representative Peter Carroll, of Sheridan county, early in the session, and after considerable opposition, was passed by the House. (Of this opposition in the House we will make more particular mention at an opportune time.) In the Senate, February 4, 1907, the measure was referred to the Committee on Coal Mines—Morgan, of Uinta; Forsyth, of Sweetwater, and Vaughn, of Carbon. The bill remained in the hands of this trio of corporation henchmen for about a week; and then, for fear they might transgress the ethics of railroad or corporation legislation, they consulted with a well known Union Pacific attorney and came to the conclusion that they knew better than the miners themselves what was needed. Hence, "to facilitate matters" for the railroad company, the committee was counselled, or commanded, to report back a substitute bill, with the recommendation that it do pass. This measure known as S. F. No. 39, which is the ingenious product of a corporation attorney, is so evidently worthless and devoid of possible benefit to the toilers, that one wonders it was not turned down as a "freak bill." It was devoid of worth as an eight hour law as most of the Senators are of freedom from corporation shackles. Not even the Union Pacific could object to this harmless joke and travesty on labor legislation. The committee shook its chains, coddled under the fending of its master, and looked with pride upon this work of legislative art—which reflects their fealty to the powers that be, and disavows their integrity and allegiance to the common people of Wyoming. In the course of time this effusion of the railway attorney "came up for consideration" in the Senate—the majority of which body had already received their instructions from the railway's attorney, and were simply awaiting a chance to obey orders. Then it was, in the afternoon of February 14, that the few exceptions to corporation rule became evident, and Senator Dinwiddie, of Sheridan county, moved that the substitute be indefinitely postponed, explaining that the measure was worthless and introduced for the sole purpose of killing H. B. No. 19, the law which 1100 miners of Wyoming desired. This plea, however, was of no avail, for the following Senators, who knew a good corporation measure when they saw it, voted against postponement and for the passage of the worthless proposition.

The only Senators who voted in favor of the miners, and for the postponement of the "freak" bill were, Dinwiddie, of Sheridan; Sullivan, of Natrona; Schwoob, of Big Horn, and Price and Mahoney, of Carbon. This vote killed H. B. No. 19, the eight-hour measure which had passed the House, and is in line with the record of the Senate in killing all measures calculated to subvert the interests of the man who toils. This same servile aggregation refused to remove the \$5,000 limit damages which might be recovered by the family of one killed in a railway accident. This body, the vast majority of which are hirelings of a great corporation, have totally disregarded the Constitution of the State of Wyoming and the will of a large number of their constituents. The fact that every other state in the Union, where coal is mined in any quantity, has an eight-hour law, had no effect on most of the Senators. The undersigned committee of the miners, when hopefully starting upon their mission to secure the passage of this eight-hour law, was informed by prominent citizens of Cheyenne (who evidently knew the caliber of the legislative majority) that were "up against it;" that the brains of most of the members were automatically controlled by wireless telegraphy from the law offices of the Union Pacific Railway Company. Notwithstanding this discouragement, we had hopes, and perhaps misguided faith in the good in the hearts of ordinary men. We have been disillusioned; our faith in human kind has received a set-back; our mission has failed; our course for the future pointed out. In the name of 1100 voting Wyoming Coal Miners, we sincerely thank those who have championed our cause, and we ask every fair-minded citizen of the State to consider the attitude of their representatives on this question. To the many labor and fraternal organizations who have endorsed and are preparing resolutions and records bearing on the actions of the different legislators, we extend our sincere thanks.

The undersigned committee is not leaving Cheyenne immediately upon the issuance of this circular, and will take pleasure in reiterating in person while here any expression herein to any individual who doubts that we entertain any of the opinions advanced. Respectfully submitted to the people, Duncan Carr, Jas. Morgan, Walter Russell, Rees Davis; Legislative Committee of the Miners of District 24, United Mine Workers of America. Cheyenne, Wyo., Feb. 15, 1907.

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATORS

Here are straws which show that the old parties in Wisconsin are frightened at the growth of Socialist sentiment in the state, and are trying to bid for votes against the Social-Democratic party. Two years ago, our Social-Democratic members of Legislature introduced a bill to allow cities to own and operate public utilities. It was voted down—but this year a Republican has just introduced the same bill in the State Senate. Two years ago, the Social-Democrats introduced in the legislature a bill to allow cities to establish municipal ice plants. This also was voted down—but now a Stalwart Republican senator introduces the self-same bill. Two years ago our men introduced a bill to give the cities of the state the right of recall of officials. This again was voted down—and now another Republican introduces a joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment establishing the recall. This is what our party can achieve as a small minority party. It is true that the recall and municipal ownership are not Socialism, but as our party grows in numbers and in strength, the old parties will be forced to pass more important measures, and especially better labor laws.

Our social-democratic members of the legislature have not yet introduced their most important bills. But in a week or two we shall have something interesting to report from Madison. Last fall, Alderman Melms (Social-

Justice) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

The Polish Social-Democrats of Milwaukee have distributed in the last few weeks 27,000 leaflets in the Polish language. The Polish comrades understand the importance of agitation between elections. 106,000 copies of the "coal leaflet" are now being distributed throughout Wisconsin. This will be followed by another leaflet with the catchy title "My Objections to Socialism".

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

Democrat) introduced two resolutions in the Milwaukee City Council, one to prevent overcrowding of street cars and to provide for their proper heating and cleaning, the other to compel public services corporations to report all accidents and injuries within twelve hours to the city clerk and the chief of police. Since these resolutions were not at all pleasing to John I. Beggs, our great street car king, the two resolutions have been safely pigeon-holed in the Railroad committee to this day. Meanwhile the people—especially the working men at the hours when they go to and from work—have been smothered or frozen or poisoned with grip germs in crowded and unsanitary cars, and the street cars have continued to maim and injure unreported victims. At the last meeting of the city council, our Social-Democrats made things so hot for the Beggs-owned alderman that they were obliged to take the matter up and it will be the order of the day at the next session.

## Butte Strikes

### Pressmen Strike, Printers Locked Out, Hello Girls Refuse to Respond, Communication at Standstill

A seemingly unimportant move on the part of the pressmen at Butte has precipitated an unlooked for crisis in the printing situation. The pressmen demanded 50 cents a day increase, whereupon the printing plants of the city not only refused the demand, but entered into a publishers' association, shut down all the papers of Butte and Anaconda, and declared that they would issue them no more until satisfactory arrangements could be made not only with the pressmen, but with the Typographical union also, issuing the ultimatum that work would not be resumed without a reduction of 50 cents a day. This announcement came as a thunderbolt to the Typographical union. The present scale was adopted nine months ago, and there was no intimation that it was not fully satisfactory to all parties concerned. The daily papers in the publishers' combination are the Anaconda Standard, the Amalgamated organ; The Butte Miner, owned by Grand Chief Briber, United States Senator Clark; Butte Evening News owned by Turncoat Deceiver Heinze; the Intermountain, the republican plutocratic sheet. All of these papers have suspended publication, and these two cities are without a daily press. The job offices in Butte have entered into an agreement with the publishers and will not print a paper for the union to state their side of the situation.

Anaconda, the seat of the largest smelters in the world, belonging to the Amalgamated company, has only one paper—absolute capitalist control. No other would be allowed to stay there. It is the oldest daily in the state, and this is the first time it has ever suspended publication. During the Debs strike of 1894, when the railroads were all tied up, the Standard employed hand-car service, and sent its papers throughout the state on hand-cars. But the public is now

without dailies the publishers say that at the prevailing rate of wages the papers are put out at a loss, and publication will not be resumed until a different scale is adopted: The printers label the suspension a lock-out, say they have no authority to tamper with their scale, and refer the publishers to the Hearst papers for methods of commercial success. The pressmen have offered to arbitrate but the publishers say the whole press outfit have got to come to terms collectively—Another argument for industrial combination in the trades. Printers are said to be leaving Butte. The Helena dailies are getting an enormously increased business, so the workers in Helena will enjoy at least a temporary advantage.

Statements are being put out by the associated press for the sake of prejudicing the public, that the plumbers are about to demand an increase from \$7 to \$8.50. It is needless to say that this is pure fake. The teamsters recently received an advance of 50 cents a day. Last winter the price of coal was \$6 and \$6.50 per ton. This winter the price is from \$7.50 to \$8.50, and now the dealers threaten to advance the price 50 cents a ton owing to the increase being the teamsters.

The Butte Miners' union have under consideration the demand for \$4 a day instead of \$3.75.

#### Bell Telephone Girls

'Simultaneously with the printers' strike at Butte the telephone girls went out, and the confusion in business communication became worse confounded. The girls who were working at \$45 a month and all sorts of hours, demanded \$60 and eight hours. The company met their committee and proceeded to arbitrate. Concessions were made on both sides with the result that the girls went back to work at \$56 a month and eight hours.

## OPPOSE THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

The unions in Livingston are up in arms against the contract system on public work. The reason for this is owing to the fact that contractors who have had contracts for doing work for municipalities have been guilty of working their employees while engaged on city work more than eight hours per day, which is in direct violation of the law.

It has cost the unions of the state considerable money to fight the contractors in the courts, and last summer there were strikes in Billings and Livingston caused by contractors violating the law. The union men of Livingston have come to the conclusion that the best way to fight the contractors is for the city to do the work directly on the day system.

Some time ago the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston passed the following resolutions:

Whereas, Contractors working on public works in the state have violated the eight hour law, and forced organized labor in different cities in Montana to resort to the strike and to the courts to enforce said law and whereas, we are not looking for trouble, but working with all our power to eliminate the cause of strikes and whereas, all advanced city governments and municipalities that have abolished contract work and established the day system work have made a success of same,

Therefore, be it resolved by the Trades and Labor Council of Livingston Montana, that it is to the best interests of the people of this city that future work on concrete works and construction of the sewer be done by the city direct. And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Council of the City of Livingston, and members of said council be requested to consider and investigate same.

The matter was presented to the council, but the mayor and old party aldermen wanted to lay the matter on the table. The socialist alderman, C. C. Simpson, championed the cause of the unions and the matter is to be taken under consideration by the city council.

As the city of Livingston is laying a few miles of concrete sidewalks and is about to build a \$25,000 sewer the question will be watched

with interest throughout the state.

The contract system is favored by all the grafters who fatten on any improvements made by a community and as that class of gentry support the old parties liberally it is doubtful whether the old party aldermen will support the measure demanded. One thing was quite evident, that the old party papers of Livingston scarcely paid any attention to the matter. But this is not to be wondered at after the way they treated the violation of the eight hour law and supported the contractors.

The unions are taking an advanced position in demanding the abolition of the contract system, as contractors some times bid too low on the job, and, in order to come out even cut and slash the wages of the men who do the work.

For years organized labor all over the world have tried to abolish the contract system but little has been accomplished as representatives and friends of the contractors and contract system have been elected to office.

It is dollars to doughnuts that the mayor and old party aldermen will ignore the petitions of the Livingston union men and if anything is accomplished it will be through the efforts of the lone socialist alderman.

#### United States.

The socialist party is considering the calling of a conference, representative of all national and international trade and labour unions, and other working-class organizations, to devise some action to be taken on the case of Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone. It is now over ten months since these men were kidnapped from their homes, on a trumped-up charge, and for all that time they have lain in prison, separated from their families, and awaiting trial. They would have been hanged out of hand long ago but for the popular feeling the Socialist Party has excited on their behalf, and that they may be tried and condemned as soon as their case is sufficiently forgotten. An appeal to the Supreme Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus on their behalf has been refused, and only a strong popular agitation will save them from being assassinated.—Justice

## CONSPIRATORS PERSECUTE ADAMS

Jesse D. Selby, special correspondent of the News is now in Wallace, Idaho, reporting the Steve Adams trial. He sends in the following notes:

The case of Adams on trial here is but a part of the Idaho conspiracy. The last confession of Adams made him useless to the prosecution, and furthermore it acted to their disadvantage by disclosing their diabolical tactics. When Adams made affidavit that his confession of complicity in the Steunenberg case was obtained by force the prosecution was of course bound to release him. But in order that he should not escape their clutches they charged him with the murder of Tyler in this county. The murder was committed two years ago. One man was arrested for the crime but released soon after, and the case was dropped until a few months ago when Adams was arrested just as he was about to be released from the pen after his last confession. The facts prove the whole thing to be a trumped up charge, but another chapter in the Idaho outrage. This is especially conspicuous in view of the fact that many of the witnesses for the defense are from the very place where the murder was committed. The actions of the prosecution in this case throw a great deal of light on the real purpose in view. Having failed to select a jury in the usual way the prosecution moved that its selection should be put into the hands of the sheriff. The former sheriff, Angus Sutherland, was a corporation tool, one of the colleagues of McPartland, Hamley and Gooding. He is known to be a bitter enemy to the Western Federation of Miners, and is generally credited with having made the statement that he would drive all the dynamiters out of Shoshone county meaning by that the members of the Western Federation of Miners. As one of the conspirators Gooding was naturally very much interested in him. There is a law in this state that forbids a sheriff from succeeding himself in office. It was necessary to keep Sutherland in control of the sheriff's office. Gooding is credited with saying that as long as the case was pending against the officials of the Western Federation Sutherland must remain in control of the sheriff's office in Shoshone county. In order to insure this it was arranged

that Sutherland should be made deputy and should in reality be in control the present sheriff having only nominal authority. The defense defeated this move, however, by proving a case of bias. Another instance worthy of note is that when Sutherland had Adams in his custody he forced him into an interview with McPartland in the jail, denying C. S. Darrow, his counsel, admittance till afterwards. It is evident that a great deal of underhanded work is being done. The case will undoubtedly throw a great deal of light on the diabolical methods used by the Idaho conspirators.

The London municipal campaign is now in full blast. Keir Hardie, leader of the labor party in parliament, has prepared a manifesto which, according to a London cable, is "a program of amazing developments of municipal socialism." But really Hardie and his colleagues are very modest. All they ask in their manifesto is that the London council be endowed with the control of public supply of milk, electricity and coal, authorizing the council to buy coal mines and to control the docks, police, hospitals, markets, slaughter houses and transportation, including all the metropolitan railways, whether surface or underground, tramways and omnibuses. It further empowers the council to build gardens in the suburbs around London, and to carry out itself all work now done by contractors. It provides also for the institution of 48 hours labor weekly, all workmen to receive a minimum wage of 30 shillings. That is all. Naturally the privileged class, the capitalists, the landlords, etc., declare that here is "too much socialism" in London town, and that their sacred rights to skin people are ignored.—Cleveland Citizen.

Things are going forward in South America pretty well in spite of the opera bouffe revolutions that are sprung about every other day by political grafters. The socialist movement is rapidly becoming a factor in Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile Peru and Argentina. There is already one socialist representative in the Chilian congress.