

Poet's Corner

HOW EARNED AND SPENT.

My lady goes to the opera, In her velvet, silk and lace, With her coronet of diamonds, And a rouged and powdered face.

The roses she wears at her bosom, Are as red as human gore, They were bought with the wage of a harlot,

She had earned the night before. She was one of the poor lost creatures—No home, no friends, no name;

Money like hers bought the jewels, Paid for the velvet and lace, Paid for the costly roses

Wealth was his one ambition, What cared he, for a woman's life? Let her die; there are plenty of others

Oh, women, with womanly virtues! Fall down on your knees and pray! To your much vaunted God in Heaven

But ye know not mercy nor pity; It is wealth and its POWER ye adore, Ye are no wiser no better

Lewistown, Mont. W. E. HANSON.

BURGESS' REPORT.

Lothrop, Mont., May 1, 1908. I left Idaho on the morning of the 26th of April and, crossing the mountains, landed in St. Regis, where I found a group of socialists.

There is not a hall in this little village, but Comrade Longley allowed the socialists to use one of the rooms in his place of business.

Socialism was the subject of conversation on the streets the next morning, and all the local politicians are indignant.

On the evening of the 29th of April, I held a meeting at Blackfoot, and organized a local there. I found no one at this place to oppose the teachings of socialism.

I replied, "The rich man does not hesitate to take this wealth from us without compensation. It is ours when we create it; it is ours until we get it."

These people seem to be proud of the fact that they are helping to create the wealth that is used to purchase a place in the U. S. senate for their master.

Dear Comrade Graham—I had a small meeting last night with the result that an organization was formed of 12 members, and an assurance that as many more will belong within a week.

International

Events in Italy.

The Parliamentary Socialist group have raised the question of the immunity of deputies from prosecution during the Session, and are moving for a discussion of the point.

In Rome there occurred last week another of those scenes which from time to time disgrace most capitalist governments. On Thursday week a worker who had been killed by capitalist greed was to be buried.

Another point on which I hesitated is the fact that a sub-tenant has no legal rights against the owner of a building or even the owner of the ground.

The first issue of the "Volksten", a socialist monthly, printed in the Holland language, will appear in May.

The Chicago branch of the Italian Socialist Federation has recently started a weekly paper entitled "La Propaganda."

The decision of Judge King of the civil district court of Louisiana recently reported, and which declared unconstitutional the burdensome primary law of that state, has just been reversed by a decision of the state supreme court.

The distribution of the mileage to delegates will in general be handled as follows: The delegates wherever possible will pay their own fare to the convention, and by Tuesday noon, May 12, will be reimbursed by the National Office.

Dear Comrade Graham—I have just heard from the comrades in Seattle, and they say that I have been elected as a delegate to the National convention, and they insist that I go.

Will it disarrange your plans for me to go? I have not heard from Saltene, and shall start towards Missoula tomorrow, and expect to reach that city by May 1 or 2.

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National

FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

To the National Executive Committee. Dear Comrades:—Since reporting on April 9 the lack of action by your committee on the proposition submitted by the Workers Publishing society

Considering the limited time before the expiration of our present lease and the search that has been made, I have deemed it advisable to secure the space offered by the Chicago Daily Socialist, the same being still available.

As a matter of information it might here be stated that Comrade Simons did not vote at any time when this subject was submitted to the National Executive committee, properly taking the view, in my judgment, that he might be considered an interested party.

After the close of the last vote and on April the 16th, Comrade Simons wished to have a National Committee motion on this subject submitted by wire which I declined to submit, unless accompanied, as I informed him it would be, by a statement of the position in which the National office found itself negotiating with other parties.

Another point on which I hesitated is the fact that a sub-tenant has no legal rights against the owner of a building or even the owner of the ground. However, ground rent is the rule in the business district of this city and a lessee is not protected unless dealing direct with the owner of both building and ground.

I should also state a renewal of the same motion is at hand from National Executive committee member, Comrade Work.

Fraternally submitted, J. MAHLON BARNES, National Secretary.

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Dates for National Organizers.

- Stanley J. Clark—May 3, Pine Bluff, Ark.; 4th, Gillett; 5th, 6th and 7th, Blythesville. George H. Goebel—May 3, Newark, N. J.; 4th, Utaea; 5th, Rome; 6th, Auburn; 7th, Ithica; 8th, Corning; 9th, enroute. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick—Connecticut, under directions of State Committee. Clarence H. Taylor—May 4th, 5th, Elkton, Md.; 6th, 7th, New Castle, Del.; 8th and 9th, Smyrna. M. W. Wilkins—May 3, Albion, Mich.; 4th, 5th, 6th, Battle Creek; 7th, Otsego; 8th, Allegan; 9th, Benton Harbor.

Women's Clubs

OUR WOMEN'S OUTLOOK.

(By Iona, in The Labour Leader.) There is a difficult bit of work for me to do this week. A strong—I had almost said fierce—letter from a woman poor-law guardian lies by my side.

"What are we doing as a nation?" she asks me. "In my workhouse, only last week, for the third time in five years a young woman came in to bring a baby to the birth. There was no word as to the father; only contemptuous shrugs of the shoulder.

"In the workhouse this poor creature had a fortnight's absolute rest before her baby was born—every kind of skill and care and nourishment while she was in bed. Her baby was made as clean and sweet and wholesome as baby could be.

"It isn't that, of course, that I complain of, though I couldn't help thinking it would have been better for the poor little baby (it was a girl) to die than go back with its mother to learn her ways of life.

"The laborers' wages in this place are shamefully low. A good wife gets to feel she must go out to work if there is to be anything like a home; even in the home, if there are several children, the mother's work is never done.

The neighbor who told me about her said she was 'a saint if ever there was one.' I ask you, What are we doing, when we help the sinners to live and thrive and allow the saints to die—to be worked and worried to death, rather?"

That is my Guardian friend's letter. The question is "up to" all of us now for answer, and a stern one it is, too. Moreover, it isn't only the sinners in the conventional sense of that term.

All of us mothers who are socialists see clearly that here we are confronted with one of the grimmest phases of the problem of poverty. How different the birth time can be in a real home, where the mother has the help she needs and all preparations made, only those who have experienced it can ever tell.

And here let me say (for several letters have reached me asking what "Iona" thinks of the controversy raised in our "Letter-Box" by Mr. H. G. Wells and Mr. Haldane Smith) to those of us who have known such a home—and thanks be there are tens of thousands of us—expressions like "State maintenance of mothers," "Wife and mother an unpaid slave," "The age-long war of the sexes," sound strangely in our ears.

(Continued on Page 4.)

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Publishers of the DELINEATOR and the DESIGNER, and the NEW IDEA, the STANDARD, MARTHA DEAN, and LA BELLE Patterns, has instituted proceedings in the Federal Court at Helena, asking for an injunction against certain Labor Organizations in Montana, and also asking for \$10,000 damages, sustained by reason of an alleged boycott levied against the publications of the aforesaid Butterick Company—

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BURGESS' REPORT FOR APRIL.

Table with columns for date, item, and amount. Includes entries for Socialist Party of Montana in Account With D. Burgess, April 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and a Totals row.

