

Montana Labor Unions Victorious

A Business House Has No Property Right in the Trade of Any Particular Person---Labor Unions Have a Right to Declare a Firm Unfair.

In the suit of Lindsay & Co. of Billings against the Montana Federation of Labor, Alex. Fairgrieve and others, the supreme court handed down a decision Monday which is one of the greatest victories ever won by organized labor in America.

The action was begun by Lindsay & Co. to restrain the unions from distributing circulars declaring the firm unfair, and an injunction was issued by the lower court. This injunction is now ordered dissolved and set aside. The opinion was written by Associate Justice Holloway and concurred in by Chief Justice Brantley and Associate Justice Smith. It gives an outline of the cause and quotes the circular as follows:

"UNFAIR.

"All laboring men and those in sympathy with organized labor are requested not to patronize Lindsay & company, who are engaged in the wholesale fruit business, also distributors for cigars and vegetables of all kinds, in Billings and vicinity, as they are unfair. We urge the retail merchants, laboring men and all who are in sympathy with organized labor to place themselves in position to patronize friendly wholesalers. We further desire to call attention to the fact that Lindsay & Company are operating peddling wagons throughout this city, and we ask the people to guard against patronizing these wagons. We ask this for your own protection and the protection of organized labor. (Signed)

"YELLOWSTONE TRADES AND LABOR ASSEMBLY."

That immediately after the adoption of the resolution and the publication of this circular a large number of retail dealers in Billings, who had theretofore purchased goods from the plaintiff company, ceased to do business with the concern, with the result that the business of the company at Billings was practically paralyzed and great financial loss resulted. As stated by the witness Vaughan for plaintiff: "We have lost patronage from these merchants on account of being unfair. There is no other cause." Another witness for the plaintiff testified that at a meeting of the Clerks' union in Billings, early in November, 1907, the defendant Fairgrieve made the statement that "they had Lindsay & Company on the unfair list and they had him where they wanted him, and he believed it was a good thing to leave him there." Fairgrieve testified that he did not remember making any such statement. However, this is immaterial to a consideration of the matter before us. From these facts we are to determine the question: Should the injunction have been dissolved?

It is to be observed that only two acts of any consequence are shown to have been committed by the defendants:

- (1) They declared Lindsay & Company unfair, or, in the language of respondent, boycotted the company; and
- (2) they published the circular set forth above, that is, they caused it to be printed and circulated.

The injunction as modified is very sweeping in its terms, and in that form could not be justified by any possible state of facts; but assuming that it was continued for the purpose of preventing the continuance in force of the boycott, and for the purpose of preventing a repetition of the publication of the circular or a similar one—although there is not any evidence of any threat or purpose on the part of the defendants or any one of them to repeat that act—we may consider the question presented to us by reference to these two principal acts mentioned.

1. Does the continuance in force of the resolution of October 25, 1907, amount to such an invasion of plaintiff's rights as will warrant the intervention of a court of equity by injunction? To determine this question requires a brief reference to the policy pursued by courts and legislative bodies toward labor organizations and the conflicts which have arisen between such organizations and the employers of labor.

If we accept the report in *Rex vs. Journeyman Tailors*, 8 Mod. 11, as correct, it was held in that case that the preconcerted refusal of certain workmen to continue their employment, even though their object was to secure an advance in wages, constituted a criminal conspiracy, which was an indictable offense at common law, although the same act done by only one individual would not have been unlawful. But by Statute 38 and 39, Victoria, Chapter 86, the right of laboring men to organize for their mutual protection and benefit is directly recognized in Great Britain. Whatever may have been the attitude of the courts and legislative bodies in this country toward labor organizations in the past, it is sufficient for our purpose to know that the right of workmen to organize for the improvement of their industrial condition is now generally admitted. The great diversity of opinions among the courts has arisen over a consideration of the question: What means may trade unions employ to further the objects of their organizations? It is well known that the means frequently employed are the strike and the boycott, and, as an incident of each, picketing, the use of banners and the publication of circulars.

It is insisted by the respondent company that the defendants organized a boycott of plaintiff's business by agreeing among themselves and with other members of organized labor, to withhold their patronage from the plaintiff company, and that they undertook by coercion to compel the retail dealers of Billings and others to likewise withdraw their patronage; that the resolution of October 25, 1907, was intended and understood by the defendants to express the object of their preconcerted design, and that the publication of the circular was for the purpose of intimidating the retail dealers and others. We think it may fairly be said to have been shown by the evidence that upon the adoption of the resolution of October 25, and upon the intelligence of that action becoming general among the union men there, it was understood among those men that they would not patronize Lindsay & Company while the interdict was in force, and would not patronize anyone who did patronize that company, and that they expected that all retailers and others in sympathy with their organizations would cease trading with the plaintiff company.

Whether the acts done by the defendants constituted a boycott of course depends entirely upon the definition of that term which may be adopted. The most casual observation will disclose that scarcely any two courts treating of the subject, formulate the same definition. In fact the growth and development of the country, the influence of science and invention on the mode of conducting business, and many other causes have combined to change materially the relation of employer and employee and, as consequent upon it, the meaning of the terms employed at the time Captain Boycott was literally sent to Coventry by the tenants of Conemara. We are referred by respondent to three definitions of the term given in 5 Cyc. 955, as follows: "A combination of many to cause a loss to one person by coercing others, against their will, to withdraw from him their beneficial business intercourse, through threats that, unless others do so, the many will cause similar loss to them; an organized effort to exclude a person from business relations with others by persuasion, intimidation and other acts which tend to violence and thereby coerce him, through fear of resulting injury, to submit to dictation in the management of his affairs; a combination between persons to suspend or discontinue dealings or patronage with another person or persons because of the refusal to comply with a request of him or them."

If we adopt any one of these, the evidence would fail to bring the acts of the defendants within the definition. But we prefer a broader definition, and one we deem more consonant with present-day conditions. We are of the opinion that the evidence shows that these defendants inaugurated a boycott on Lindsay & Company and that it was still in effect at the date of the hearing. We adopt the language of the supreme court of New York in *Mills vs. United States Printing Company*, 91 N. Y. Supp. 185, in which the court, speaking through Justice Jenks, said: "I think that the verb 'to boycott' does not necessarily signify that the doers employ violence, intimidation, or other unlawful coercive means, but that it may be correctly used in the sense of the act of a combination in refusing to have business dealings with another until he removed or ameliorates conditions which are deemed inimical to the welfare of the members of the combination, or some of them, or grants concessions which are deemed to make for that purpose."

But what is there unlawful in the act of the union workmen of Billings in withdrawing their patronage from the plaintiff? Certainly it cannot be said that Lindsay & Company had a property right in the trade of any particular person. In this country patronage depends upon good will, and we do not think that it will be contended by any one that it was wrongful or unlawful, or violated any right of the plaintiff company, for any particular individual in Billings to withdraw his patronage from Lindsay & Company, or from any other concern which might be doing business with that company, and that, too, without regard to his reason for doing so. But there can be found running through our legal literature many remarkable statements that an act perfectly lawful when done by one person, becomes by some sort of legerdemain criminal when done by two or more persons acting in concert, and this upon the theory that the concerted action amounts to a conspiracy. But with this doctrine we do not agree. If an individual is clothed with a right when acting alone, he does not lose such right merely by acting with others, each of whom is clothed with the same right. If the act done is lawful, the combination of several persons to commit it does not render it unlawful. In other words, the mere combination of action is not an element which gives character to the act. It is the illegality of the purpose to be accomplished, or the illegal means used in furtherance of the purpose, which makes the act illegal.

We hold, then, that a labor organization may employ the boycott as herein defined, in furtherance of the objects of its existence. If, however, the means by which it enforces the boycott are illegal, then it may render its members amenable to the processes of the law but if they are not, the courts are powerless to render assistance to the person or firm boycotted, even though financial loss results as the direct consequence of the boycott. It may be true that, speaking generally, no one has the right intentionally to do an act for the purpose of injuring another's business, but injury, however, in its legal significance means damage resulting from the violation of a legal right, and it is the violation of the legal right which renders an act wrongful in the eye of the law and makes it actionable.

If, then, these defendants and their associates did not violate any legal right of the plaintiff in withdrawing their patronage from the company, or in agreeing to withdraw their patronage from any one who might patronize Lindsay & Company, they cannot be enjoined from continuing the boycott in force, so long as the means employed to make the boycott effective are not illegal. The evidence shows that the only means used in this instance was the publication of the circular in question, and this brings us to a consideration of the second proposition involved.

2. (a) May a court of equity enjoin the publication by an individual of a circular of this character? (b) If not, may it enjoin such publication when made by a number of individuals acting collectively?

(a) Article III of our Constitution is entitled: "A declaration of rights of the people of the State of Montana", and Section 10 of that article, so far as applicable here, reads as follows: "No law shall be passed impairing the freedom of speech; every person shall be free to speak, write or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty." The language here employed seems too clear to admit of doubt or argument. The one fundamental idea conveyed by this section is, penalty for a violation of the privilege, not prevention of its abuse. It cannot be said that a citizen of Mon-

tana is free to publish whatever he will on any subject, while an injunction preventing him from publishing a particular item upon a particular subject hangs over his head like a sword of Damocles, ready to fall with all the power which can be invoked in contempt proceedings, if he does the very thing the section of the Constitution says he may do. It is impossible to conceive the idea that the individual has an absolute right to publish what he pleases, subject to the restriction mentioned, and at the same time to entertain the idea that a court may prevent him from doing so. The two ideas cannot possibly coexist.

The language of the section is not susceptible of any other meaning than this. That the individual citizen of Montana cannot be prevented from speaking, writing or publishing whatever he will on any subject. If, however, what he writes or publishes constitutes a criminal libel, he may be held responsible for the abuse of the liberty in a criminal prosecution (Penal Code, Chapter VIII), or, if what he speaks, writes or publishes wrongfully infringes the rights of others, he may be held responsible for the abuse in a civil action for damages. If this is not the meaning of the section, it is because the framers employed language which is impotent as a vehicle for conveying their idea.

But it is suggested by counsel for respondent company that these defendants are insolvent, and that a judgment for damages would be worthless. Even granting this to be so, still the Constitution does not discriminate among men according to the amount of their possessions. The guaranty of this section extends as fully to the poorest as to the wealthiest citizen of the state; and, though an abuse of the liberty so guaranteed may result in loss for which there cannot be any adequate compensation, the framers of our Constitution in preparing it, and the people in adopting it, doubtless concluded that it was better that such results be reached in isolated cases, than that the liberty of speech be subject to the supervision of a censor. To declare that a court may say that an individual shall not publish a particular item, is to say that the court may determine in advance just what the citizen may or may not speak or write upon a given subject—is in fact to say that such court is a censor of speech as well as of the press.

(b) What we have said above, in the first paragraph of this opinion, is likewise applicable here. If any one of these individuals could publish this circular, they may with equal security all join in its publication.

We think the evidence produced at the hearing was insufficient to justify the continuance in force of the injunction, and it should have been dissolved. The order of the court is reversed and the cause is remanded with direction to vacate the order heretofore made and enter an order dissolving the injunction.

RED TAPE vs. REAL MEN.

Comrade Herve has recently been sentenced to two months' confinement in a French prison for anti-militarist utterances. Comrade Liebknecht has already served four months of the eighteen in a German fortress with which he is paying the penalty for his splendid little book against militarism.

Here "the man from Mars" might rub his eyes! What! Is not this the same world in which the Hague Peace Congress was held last summer, attended by delegates of all the civilized powers? Did they not spend tons of paper and yards of red tape to do away with war? Did they not unceremoniously propose taking some real steps towards establishing it?

Or why will Andrew Carnegie spend a fabulous sum to build a big and useless Palace of Peace at the Hague? Would it not have been more to the purpose to have used some of this in defense of the living temples of the peace spirit?

Comrades Liebknecht and Herve will have time behind their bars for some bitter reflections on the hypocrisy of capitalist society.

But a society which has reached such a pitch of cynicism—a society whose words and actions are so shamelessly contradictory—is pretty near the point of moral collapse.—The Vanguard.

SUNDAY EVENING, JUNE 7, 8 P. M.

At the Workers' Educational Club. That is the time and place for the next meeting of the Co-operative Store company. Every working man and working woman in Helena, every farmer in the vicinity of Helena should be interested in this enterprise. Come out on Sunday night, bring your wives and get interested.

Independent Action for Workingmen

Socialism Is the Logical Goal of Unionism--- Trades Unions Are a Means But Not An End.

The "Free Lance", in its last issue, says it has been unable to secure anything on the subject of Socialism from a member of the Socialist Party, so the editor submits an article from his viewpoint.

We are glad to see this. There is nothing Socialists welcome so much as free discussion, for as the "Free Lance" says, "friendly discussion, honest argument and publicity are the surest roads to unity of action and ultimate success". The article in question says:

"Socialism proper is an unknown quantity. It is the outgrowth of an era of dissatisfaction with existing forms of government. It is the party of criticism, of mumbling, rumbling discontent, of tearing down with no foundation, for a building up. That it is a 'world party' is denied, for European and American socialism are alike only in name. As to what it is, it's high priests are disagreed, and its newspapers, pamphlets and 'educational' books find fault, each with the other's theories. No two of its votaries are thoroughly in accord as to the exact remedy, or as to how we are to proceed to obtain it."

Now, let us see how much of this is true and how much is false. We are searching for the truth and whenever any one can convince us that any one of our positions is wrong we are perfectly willing to abandon it.

Socialism proper is NOT an unknown quantity. Socialism is the vehicle to carry the working class into the Co-operative Commonwealth and it is rumbling along at a pretty good rate in every civilized country on earth. Socialism is not the end with the Socialist any more than the trade union is the end with the trade unionist.

That it is the outgrowth of an era of dissatisfaction with existing forms of government we admit. Governments like garments would never change if people were always satisfied with them. Governments are the reflex of economic growth and development and must change accordingly. Law does not go ahead of the people—people go ahead of the law. When a certain people have decided to act in a certain way, they enact laws, frame constitutions—lay down rules, outlining the course of action which they intend to pursue. These laws or rules would last forever if people did not progress, but the world moves and as we outgrow the old laws they act like a straight jacket and bind us, and hinder us, and prevent our further growth and development until we alter them to fit our more advanced economic conditions, or burst them asunder. President Roosevelt, in his first message to congress stated this as clearly as any Socialist could when, in speaking about our tremendous industrial development during the latter half of the 19th century he said, "The old laws and the old customs which had once the binding force of law are no longer sufficient". We hear people talk about going back to Jeffersonian Democracy but we might as well talk about going back to Jeffersonian industry. The United States has outgrown its legal garments quicker than any nation in history because industrial conditions have changed here quicker than they ever did before. Our railroads, telegraph, telephones, all our means of transportation and communication have come into use within the memory of men still living. All these, as well as the mills, factories and other great tools of production have passed into the ownership and control of a

small group of men upon whom the users of these tools are absolutely dependent. And it is the struggle to gain control of these tools by the people who use them that constitutes the "class struggle". This class-struggle has got to be fought out on the political field, and can only be ended by the complete conquest of political power by the working class.

The trade unionist seeks to improve the wage system—the socialist seeks to abolish it. The trade unionist asks for a larger percentage of the product of his labor—the Socialist wants it all. But, as the capitalist truly says, the trade unionist is never long satisfied with any advance he makes in his material conditions. No sooner does he gain one position than he begins to plan for a further advance. Where is he going to end? How long before HE will want it all? Then how is he going to get it? Suppose we have the ideal labor union. Suppose we have every man, woman and child who labors in these United States in one thoroughly organized, compact, industrial union. The angel of discontent would still hover around no matter what they forced from the master class until they would want so much that the owners of the tools of production would refuse to employ them. Then how are they going to employ themselves? Now right here we claim that the Socialists HAVE a plan. And it is the same plan in Europe and America and every other country no matter what the editor of the "Free Lance" says. It is to take possession of the government—the state—that instrument through which the master class maintains its supremacy, and use it in the interest of the working class.

More plainly every day the members of the working class see, or feel, that the interests of the owners and the interests of the users of the tools of production are opposed. The most conservative union man is beginning to see that unionism alone will not protect the interests of the working class. Long and bitter has been the fight of organized labor to gain what little it has in material advancement and now that little is being endangered or swept away by the judicial branch of the government in the hands of the ruling class. It is this that is driving the union man into the Socialist Party, and will continue to do so in spite of all the attempts to keep him divided in the different parties of the ruling class. It is to the unions that the Socialist Party looks for recruits. It is the man who has stood shoulder to shoulder with his brother in the fight for material, betterment, the man who has through organization fought and won something on the economic field who is the most likely to organize on the political field and fight for economic independence. How do we propose to get control of the tools or machines of production and distribution? Legally—just the same as the other class got them. The working class have been legislated out of ownership and they can be legislated into ownership. The laws already on the statute books and the precedents established by the present ruling class in the last two years are ample to obtain collective control of all the public utilities when once the working class gain political control. Workingmen! don't divide your political strength between parties that would keep you forever dependent on a master, even though he might be a GOOD master. Join the party of your class and work and vote for your industrial emancipation.

CHILD LABOR LAW IS A FARCE

Word comes from Washington that "the Senate adopted the conference report on the District child labor bill without a dissenting vote. The report was presented by Senator Dooliver, chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor. The conference report will undoubtedly be acted favorably on by the House, since the bill, as agreed on by the conferees, is largely the house bill, and all the amendments inserted on the floor of the Senate were eliminated with the exception of the Piles amendment."

"Now whenever a bill, supposed to benefit the working class, passes the United States Senate without a dissenting vote, it is safe to say that it

has been so emasculated as to make it impotent for any good to the working class—that there has been a clause inserted somewhere that will destroy the original intent. In this bill we find it in the Piles amendment. Here it is:

"This section shall not apply to children employed in the service of the Senate. The judge of the Juvenile Court of the District may, on the application of the parent, guardian, or next friend of said child issue a permit for the employment of any child between the ages of twelve and fourteen years at any occupation or employment not in his judgment."

(Continued on Page Two, Col. Four.)

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WOMEN AS POLITICAL DELEGATES.

The "Standard", in an editorial of May 29th, deploras the fact that two women of Colorado are likely to sit in the democratic national convention as delegates. It says: "The refined, bright thinking man shudders at the thought of his wife, his daughter, or his sweetheart coming in actual conflict with the rough excitement, the inevitable coarseness, the wild hurly-burly of practical politics, either at the polls or at the convention hall."

Women are not out of place as spectators in the galleries. * * * But to be on the floor of the house, * * * to have, on one side, a gentleman (?) with a whisky flask protruding from his hip pocket, and, on the other, a gentleman who has bitten off more tobacco than he can masticate with any degree of elegance and grace; a woman so situated and conditioned as far from ennobling herself, uplifting her fellow delegates or inspiring the spectators."

That is surely a flattering picture of a democratic national convention. And if it were true we might advise the women to stay away. But we do not believe it is true, or at any rate it would not be true if women delegates sat in the convention. We do not believe that the manhood of this nation, in ANY party has sunk so low as not to have respect for womanhood in a convention hall or anywhere else. At the Socialist national convention just adjourned in Chicago there were eighteen woman delegates and they were a credit to the nation and the party they represent. We know some of these women personally and we do not believe there are any better wives or mothers in the land. We do not believe they have lost any of their womanly grace because they have felt the pulse of the world but rather have gained in experience and enlarged conceptions of life that will enable them the better to fulfill their duties to their children, their husbands and society.

The world is still full of men with knightly ideas of woman's place in the world, who think that woman was made for man, to be his servant or his toy, according to his station in life, and that her place should be set by man, in the kitchen or "in the galleries", where she can serve or applaud her lord and master. Man will never get out of this mental rut himself, woman has got to bring him out. And to the benefit of society she is doing it fast.

We hope the Colorado women will be elected as delegates; we hope they will go, and add strength and dignity to the democratic national convention.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

The bigotry and intolerance displayed by the Grand Army post of Butte in withdrawing their invitation to Mr. Duncan to deliver the memorial address because he proffered Miss Goldman the freedom of his pulpit, ill becomes the defenders of a constitution that guarantees the right of free speech. It is the same spirit shown by the person who wrote the anonymous letter to Mr. Duncan threatening to blow up his house if he allowed Miss Goldman to speak in his pulpit. Surely this fellow don't believe in anarchy.

How many of the members of the Grand Army post in Butte, we wonder, really know what Miss Goldman's views are. If she were to come there under an assumed name and the post were to attend her lecture in a body it is safe to say that half of them would agree with what she said. Socialists do not agree with Miss Goldman's views but they would never think of

denying her the right to express them. In Los Angeles a member of the Socialist Party debated with her. We believe that the American public is capable of deciding what it wants to hear without the interference of any self-appointed guardians, and those who would exercise a censorship over the forum are enemies of free institutions. It is the tying down of the safety valves that causes explosions—let the steam escape and there is no danger. England, the refuge of anarchists, where they can talk all they want to, is free from violent outbreaks.

The action of the Grand Army post in Butte has furnished Miss Goldman with a good advertisement there and deprived its members of an instructive Memorial address.

A press dispatch from Washington, May 30, says: "The president applied a 'pocket veto' to the bill to compensate inventors for inventions used by the government. Refusal to sign it killed the measure upon the adjournment of congress tonight". Another precedent that will be of use when the Socialists gain control of the political power.

In a "corner" in May corn, James A. Patten and his associates, of Chicago, are generally credited with having "made" about \$2,000,000. That ought to make the farmers of Missouri, Illinois and Iowa contented to hop cloids for another year.

A press dispatch from New York says: "Money continues easy in spite of the week's requirement of nearly \$18,000,000 on the New York banks." That makes us feel easier. On the strength of that we shall attend the Family Theatre this week.

Apropos of all the newspaper talk about the Thaw's, Gould's, Castellaine's, ad infinitum, ad nauseum (or something like that), it might be well to again remind our readers that none of these people are Socialists.

Evelyn Nesbit Thaw has withdrawn her suit for divorce because her husband's position now demands her "loyalty". Wouldn't it be well for some one to dump a cargo of lime over this affair and let it go at that.

So Heinze is coming back to "work" in Montana. More competition in the labor market. Its a gloomy outlook for the working class.

What a lot of misdirected energy is represented in the train hold-up by those four boys at Great Falls.

A headline in the morning papers says: "La Folette's plan fails". The common fate of all reformers.

MR. DOOLEY ON HARD TIMES.

"If hard times come ye'll never notice them. That's one good thing about th' station in life to which we have been ealed and locked up without bail. Our peeryods iv hard times are broken now an' then be more hard times. Just as soon as we begin to tire iv hard times with too much work, we have worse hard times with less work."

"What diff'rence does it make to ye how far ye move forward, if ivery thing else moves forward ahead iv ye? Now, as thin, ye are chasin' th' willow-th'wisp iv good groceries. As ye begin to retreat they come back, but there's niver a day whin ye can reach out an' seize them. Th' dinner pail is always full, but not full iv angel cake. Don't ye be throubled be th' end iv prosperity. Ye have nawthin' to fear fr'm hard times that ye havn't suffered durin' th' peeryod so charmingly described in th' Thanksgivin' Day proclamations. I haven't seen ye flittin' by this establishment in no autyomobile or cluckin' to a team iv bay trotters on the Lake Shore drive, or comin' home fr'm th' otry in an electric cab an' handin' yer fur overcoat an plug hat an' cane to th' futman at th' dure, and dhroppin' heavily into a plush lounge while the butler asked ye wud ye be pipin' mint juleps or champagne, while yer wife wint up stairs an' got unharressed fr'm her dimon'tyary be makin' signals to a Fr-rinch lady hired to guard her jools an' her hair. I ain't seen ye often with anny other lady, an' that poshes ye back among the proolootoryan class agin. I won't stand yer complainin' if hard times comes, because ye'll have nawthin' to complain iv. It's been through many peeryods iv hard times; most iv them I caused meself with me neefaryous vote. Two panics I caused be votin' agin' th' tariff that makes yer wages almost enough higher to pay for th' increased cost iv yer pants. At other times th' country was brought to roon be th' fear in high circles that I was goin' to vote agin the tariff agin. In eighteen-ninety-two I managed to land me vote fr' a sound, conservative man that had niver shook his fist at Pierpont Morgan save in the way iv kindness, an' in eighteen-ninety-three hard times begun! An' I cudden't see anny difference in ye. Ye were thrown out iv employment more often an' ye worked less. Ye got less money, but corn beef was tin cents a pound. An' there ye are!"—Exchange.

TRADE UNIONS IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Trades Union congress was held during Easter in Biel. In the two years which have elapsed since the last congress the trade unions have developed enormously, notably the metal-workers have grown from a membership of 11,000 to 20,000. The second largest trade union, the wood-workers, rose from 5,800 to 8,000. The stone-workers increased the number of their branches from 47 to 72. The progress of other unions was equally satisfactory. There has also been a tendency for the unions to amalgamate as much as possible and thus economize their forces. Among these the watch-makers and textile-workers have come closer together. The saddlers and the shoemakers form one Leather Workers' Federation, and so on. Unfortunately, the carpenters or joiners have refused to join the Wood Workers' Federation. The roof workers remain isolated as well as the chimney sweeps. Other trade union remain outside the General Federation of Trades Unions.

At the congress a lively discussion took place on the question of the relation of the trade unions adhering to the General Federation to those outside of it. The executive committee of the General Federation proposed that no help should be given in strikes to those trade unions who did not join. Greulich proposed further that in accordance with the decision of the Christiana International Trades Union congress, trade union federations in other countries were only allowed to make agreements with such trade unions as are affiliated to the Central Federation of Trade unions in their respective countries. At the same time negotiations are to be entered into to induce such trade unions as do not belong to the Swiss General Federation to consider their attitude. Against both these resolutions the objection was made that the German Federation of Swiss Trade unions must be reorganized before it could be possible for certain trade unions to join it, and it was pointed out the Wood Workers were on the point of leaving the General Federation. To this Greulich, who is general secretary practically of the General Federation, pointed out that if the trade unions or federations, as they are called, felt that the organization of the General Federation was defective, they should work for its reformation from within the body, and not by going out of it. It may also be said that if they would get other bodies who do not at present belong they would strengthen the numbers of those in favor of reform, and be doing much more useful work than by isolating themselves. They would also contribute materially to the strength of the Labor movement as a whole, instead of weakening it. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that the General Federation will not content itself with being technically in the right, but do everything to remove all causes of suspicion and disunity from the ranks.

In Zurich the May celebration is reported to have been a great success this year, and it is said that so imposing a procession was never held on the First of May. At least 12 to 14,000 people took part, which is an enormous figure for Zurich.

CO-OPERATORS IN RUSSIA CAN NOT DISCUSS ORGANIZATION.

The Russian police after they had sanctioned the holding of a conference for co-operators demanded that the latter should not discuss the question of a central organization, and as the conference had thus been forbidden to discuss the only subject which was of value to discuss it was dissolved. It is now expected that the Russian government who favored the co-operative movement so long as they thought that it would form a diversion for the labor movement and weaken it by the division of its forces, that the same government having seen from the late conference that they have nothing to hope in this direction will now proceed as vigorously against the co-operative movement as they have hitherto done against the trade unions.

It is said that the number of St. Petersburg workers who this year celebrated the church fasts had sunk to 25 per cent. Nothing could show more clearly the influence of the revolutionary movement on the masses—we are clearly far on the way since the day that a Gapon could lead the workers out to petition the Little Father. The bullets that answered the petition then worked wonders.

In Warsaw at least half the workers struck on the First of May and made holiday, and that despite all the efforts of the employers and the authorities to prevent them. Processions and meetings were impossible since the town was almost nothing else than a military camp, at every street corner were soldiers, and the trams had military escorts. When the government is forced, or thinks itself forced, to take such measures we, on our side, have little need to do anything, since such a government allows that it has no moral authority; in other words, that it has failed.

CHILD LABOR LAW A FARCE

(Continued from Page 1.)

dangerous or injurious to the health or morals of such child, on evidence satisfactory to him that the labor of such child is necessary for its support, or for the assistance of a disabled, ill, or invalid father or mother, or for the support of a younger brother or sister of a widowed mother".

Why not make it plain and just simply say that child slavery shall not be allowed among any except poor people? Are there any children working their lives out in mills and mines except from the necessity of supporting themselves or their brothers or sisters or fathers or mothers AND the capitalists who own the mills and mines? The bill provides that "no child under sixteen years of age shall be permitted to work" etc., etc., etc., etc., "EXCEPT"—of course there would have to be an exception clause in it.

What a glorious civilization we have where little children are "permitted" to sacrifice their lives on the altar of Mammon. How many of the solons who adopted this bill "without a dissenting vote" would permit THEIR children to work in a mill or mine or sweatshop. Any government that could have a claim to being human would PROHIBIT any child under sixteen from working at all except for pleasure and education. In this "land of the free and home of the brave" there are today hundreds of thousands of little children being "permitted" to wear their tender lives out making profit, that some fine lady may deck her lap dog with a diamond necklace. Physicians say that in some of the Southern mills the average life of a child after entering the mills is only four years. Xerxes, standing on an eminence overlooking his splendid army, wept to think that in a hundred years they would all be dead. And these were men, every one of whom had experienced the exhilaration of superb physical manhood. They had lived—they feared not to die, and in one hundred years their work had long since been done.

But what would be the feelings if one could stand on the dome of the capitol at Washington and survey these United States—could see at one glance this vast army of little children, dwarfed of body, stunted of mind, withered of soul—could see their pinched and pallid features and bony hands, and know that in less than ten years they would all be dead—dead before they had ever lived—MURDERED by a system of society for the perpetuation of which every one of us is more or less responsible. And this in a "Christian" nation and one that boasts of "patriotism". A nation that allows the crimson robes of its aristocracy to be dyed in the blood of its little children and thinks more of the sparkle of diamonds than of the brightness of its babies' eyes, might well be silent on the subject of patriotism.

What has all this to do with the child labor bill? This—the bill is a farce; and never was intended to be anything else. You don't believe it? Then listen to this resolution passed by the National Association of Manufacturers at their recent convention in New York:

"We have had excess agitation under the guise of moral crusades, such as child labor, railway reform and similar movements, which are excellent and desirable in reasonable measure, but not so when pressed to the hazard of vested interests and property".

Our whole government today—legislative, judicial and executive, is controlled by the class that profits off child labor and wage slavery in every form, and so long as they do control they will see that there is no legislation "passed to the hazard of vested interests and property". They will see that even any pretended remedial measure that may be passed is left to one judge to enforce, and they will see that his "judgment" on what is "dangerous or injurious to the health or morals of the child" will square itself with vested interests.

Commenting upon the above resolution the Helena Record of Friday last utters some very nice sentiments, but it is going to take something more than sentiment to have any effect upon the National Association of Manufacturers. Child slavery, like prostitution, is deep rooted in the system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution and can only be eradicated by the triumph of Socialism and the complete overthrow of capitalism.

A large number of Italians working for four sand companies at Port Washington, L. I., struck for 25 cents a day more last week. Sheriff Foster, acting on word from one of the firms, had fire apparatus called to suppress the strikers while b-l-o-o-d-y war was predicted by the employers. Port Washington is quiet and "the government at Washington still lives."

Anton Mlekush John Gollmyer THE PARK BEER HALL BEST BEER IN TOWN EIGHT YEAR OLD PANAMA CLUB RYE AND LEXINGTON BELLE SOUR MASH WHISKY Livingston 103 East Park Montana

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IMPRACTICABILITY. No, Socialism is not impracticable. It is not a dream. Capitalism is impracticable. It is a nightmare. Do you think a system which drives thousands of men to suicide is practicable? Do you think a system which drives millions of men to drink is practicable? Do you think a system which drives hundreds of thousands of girls to prostitution is practicable? Do you think that a system which throws hundreds of thousands of children into the industrial mill and grinds the life out of them is practicable? Do you think a system which deliberately manufactures hoboes is practicable? Do you think a system which puts a premium on dishonesty is practicable? Do you think that a system which bars out the masses of the people from the higher things of life is practicable? Do you think that a system which compels everybody to violate the Golden Rule is practicable? Do you think that a system which takes the product of the useful worker away from his hands and hands it over to the useless capitalist is practicable? Capitalism is guilty of all these and many other crimes, and all of them are constantly growing worse. CAPITALISM IS IMPRACTICABLE. It has been a mere makeshift. It is a mere stepping stone to something better. SOCIALISM IS PRACTICABLE. Public ownership has already been demonstrated to be practicable. Of all the institutions now existing, if you want to see the ones that come the nearest to being models of efficiency, take a peep at the publicly owned and operated postoffices, public schools, public fire departments, public water works, tramways, etc. These institutions have been operated under very unfavorable circumstances. They have been operated in the interest of the Capitalist class, and they have been set down in a system reeking with graft and corruption. They have been almost entirely without safeguards from corruption, and yet they are the best models of efficiency now in existence. I do not believe in war except for freedom, but I cannot help noticing the fact that the crews of the publicly owned and operated vessels in the United States Navy are more efficient than those of any privately owned vessel in the world. When the privately owned General Slocum went down burning and drowning a thousand and twenty people, the ill paid and un-drilled crew was altogether unequal to the situation. They did not know how to handle the rafts and life boats. They never had a fire drill. They were panic stricken. They were worse than useless in trying to save passengers. Compare their acts with the marvellous efficiency of the crews of the publicly owned and operated vessels at Manila and Santiago. Public ownership has been proved practicable. If, however, we Socialists were trying to get people to vote for public ownership against their own interests, we would be impractical. We appeal primarily to the interest of the voters. It is absolutely to the interests of the working class to vote for Socialism. The interest of the farmers and some others is practically identical with that of the working class. It is to the interest of at least ninety per cent of the voters of the

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United States to vote for Socialism. We appeal to their interests. If that is not practical, what is? Socialism is the natural solution of all the puzzles of society. It is the natural and only solution of the trust problem. Wealth is now in the hands of the few. The many are serving the few. This has all been brought about by natural development. Natural development now indicates that these centralized industries shall be taken over by the public, so that all the people shall share in the results of this natural development. That is the line of evolution. It is the only way to obey the law of progress. It substitutes system for chaos. It is rational. It is sane. It is the only practical thing that can be done. It does not require angels to accomplish it. All it requires is the concentrated efforts of those to whose interests it is to attain it. All it requires is the application of common sense to common needs. All of the reforms and superficial remedies that are proposed as cures for social evils are mere hopeless floundering. They are attempts to patch a rotten garment. Socialism is common sense. It is natural. It is evolutionary. It is intensely practical. IMPORTING "SCABS" TO ALASKA. Having revolted against the hard conditions that the Guggenheim-Standard Oil interests—which Mr. Thomas W. Lawson has been seeking to boost lately—are attempting to enforce upon the miners in Alaska, and having been supplied with troops by President Roosevelt to carry out their mandate, the agents of the smelter trust have been raking the Pacific coast cities with a fine tooth comb to secure 2,000 scabs at \$5 a day to go to Fairbanks and other affected places to break the strike. Although the coast cities are overcrowded with unemployed men they have not sunk quite so low as to become scabs and the agents are not having much luck in securing traitors. One of the largest department stores in Brockton, Mass., has a metal plate containing these words in a prominent position on the store front: "Union Built. Brockton. Building Trades Council. 1906."

Poet's Corner

THE DAWN OF SOCIALISM.

The light of day is breaking
O'er the eastern hill tops high,
And the shades of night, receding,
Vanish from the morning sky.

And, as the mighty shadows
By the sun are driven far,
So shall greed and wrong and profit
Nevermore earth's pleasures mar.

For the light of love is breaking
O'er the bonds of sin and shame,
And its beams shall fill the nations
With a steady, glorious flame.

It is coming, surely coming!
And the day is close at hand
When, instead of strife and hatred,
Love and truth shall fill the land.

Oh, join the band of workers
Who stand so true and brave,
And fight for the rule of justice
And your fellow men to save.
—DELLA WILSON NICHOLS.

WHAT TO EXPECT UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

It is all one to the capitalist, in the last analysis, what names or terms you have, so long as you leave with him the sources of industrial control. It is all one to the capitalist whether you have a Republican or a Democratic party, whether you have a Protestant or a Catholic faith, whether you are a Jew or a Mohammedan or a Buddhist or an Agnostic, whether you have a republican or a monarchical form of government, whether you have public or private schools, whether you have educated or illiterate ignorance, he will use them all for his own power and increase. Just so long as you have a capitalist class employing a working class, just that long will capitalism reap not only the fruits of the world's labor, but the fruits of its ideals and aspirations as well, and shape its arts and literatures, and give voice to its pulpits and universities. You may have any kind and number of reforms you please, any kind and number of revolutions or revivals you please, any kind and number of new ways of doing good you please, it will not matter to capitalism, so long as it remains at the root of things; the result of all your plans and pains will be gathered into the capitalist granary. There is nothing growing out of the human soul, nothing growing out of the human soul, nothing springing from the human heart, nothing coming from the human hand, not a prayer of sorrow or hope, not a joy that leaps in the blood, not a noble renunciation of an uplifted martyrdom, not a communion of mighty lovers, not a tear of the sweatshop mother over the coffin of her child, that will not add to the capitalist's girth, so long as labor is so directed as to drive the capitalist mill. There is no way of preventing or averting the fact that the whole output of the world's thought, the totality of its line and action, the fruit and fragrance of its blossoming, will but add to the power of the few to despoil the many, so long as the private ownership of the tools and sources of the common labor continues so long as the toil of humanity is but for the profit of the capitalist instead of for humanity's common good and beauty so long as life remains what it now is for the bulk of mankind—a bitter and uncertain struggle for existence, an exhausting and deadening game of chance, a pitched battle from childhood to the grave for the chance to earn or keep one's bread. So long as the sources and means of the people's bread are privately owned, just that long will the minds and bodies of the people be owned. There can never be such a thing as self-ownership of the individual, with the freedom and fellowship that inhere in self-ownership, until there is a common ownership of the world's bread supply. It is upon this socialized economic ownership that the spiritual blossoming of man depends. It ought to be a sufficient indictment of our present kind of civilization that it can stand only upon the degradation of labor, the servility of the intellect, the prostitution of the State, and the hypocrisy of religion. Our present kind of civilization stands only because the people upon whose backs it builds are not yet wise and strong enough to get up. The moment this blind and bound giant of labor begins to feel his rightful power, the moment he begins to see even dimly for himself, the moment he begins to shake from himself the centuries of enslavement and superstition and exploitation, that moment will man come to himself, and shed our civilization as an evil and monstrous disease.—George D. Herron.

The cotton manufacturing business of Canada is at a standstill. The spinners of the Dominion Textile and Montreal Cotton companies' various mills have struck against the 10 per cent reduction in the wage scale. Seven thousand are idle.

International

Fifty thousand peasants in the state of Parma, Italy, have gone on strike in sympathy with the Socialists' demands that the land-owners increase wages or reduce the hours of labor.

As a result of the ship builders' strike on the Northeast coast and the lockout declared by the employers' combination in other yards, it is estimated that fully 50,000 workmen are unemployed in the British ship building industry.

In England the major portion of the disputes in 1907, as in 1906, were in the metal, engineering and ship-building groups of trades. In the transport group they exceeded 1906 in number and in the total persons effected. Considering the state of the building trades, the disputes were few, and the number about a thousand.

Industrial depression and hard times are not confined to the United States. Reports from Scotland state that thousands of men are out of work through the closing of practically all the large ship building yards on the Clyde. The Scotch coal miners are facing a cut of 12½ per cent in wages, and the depression is spreading to every industry.

The London Economist states that England is in the midst of commercial failures and that cotton weaving in England has gone from bad to worse. From Paris comes the report that conditions on the Bourse will not improve until there is some indication that activity is picking up in London. Mexico also reports extreme financial stringency.

Katayama, the Socialist leader, has undertaken to organize the mine workers of Japan. There are 400,000 miners in the Japanese empire. The mine workers' national headquarters have been established in Tokyo. Katayama and Nagaoka are acting as secretaries and organizers. No doubt the new union will have a hard road to travel, because the government is determined to prevent any movement having for its object the amelioration of labor's conditions.

The foreign type setters are well organized in Tokio, Japan, a big majority of them having joined the union which publishes an official paper, the "Oya." The union is also branching out and securing members in other cities.

New Zealand.

The Compulsory Arbitration Law is tottering. It has proven a failure as an experiment to soften the class struggle. A Miners' union now refuses to accept its responsibilities. The last annual meeting of the New Zealand Trade Councils decided to study critically the value of this and kindred experiments.

TO END MONOPOLIES.

Competition is war, and Professor Ross would sanction a permanent war in human affairs. This alert and searching critic points out through many pages the evils of our fifty-year franchise laws, our iniquitous tariff schedule, our excessive railway charges, our grabbing of public mineral lands, our corrupt sale of canals and gas plants, our fake meat inspection, our Niagara grabs, our cynical denial of protection to labor, and yet for all this he has no cure but a public opinion speaking through "a transfigured individualism." Surely Professor Ross is a "dreamer," a man with a plan far more Eutopian than the radicals who demand that the nation shall own the criminal trusts. We have been trying to rule by "transfigured individualism" since the ark was on the stocks. Pleading with the plunderer is a method that has failed ever since Pharaoh, the ancient monopolist, cornered the corn. Dependence upon a "transfigured individualism" has ever been the patriot's bone and his despair. The fact is that individuals, however earnest, are so intent on their private struggle for bread that they have little time for watching thieves who make it their whole business to plunder all the people all the time. I see no way out of this condition of affairs but in the gradual transfer of the great public interests and utilities out of the hands of individuals into the hands of the people. When these great interests become the people's interests, the people will be forced to look after them and direct them in the spirit of the common welfare.—Edwin Markham in Success Magazine.

WORKING WOMEN IN UNITED STATES.

Misa Leonora O'Reilly, organizer of the Women's Trades Union League, estimates that there are between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 working women in the United States. Her work has taken her into every state in the union and into most of the cities of prominence.

National

During June, July, and August the grocers of Youngstown, Ohio, will close their stores Wednesday afternoons. The Clerks' union did it.

Building trades and open shop bosses in Elizabeth, Paterson and Passaic, N. J., have locked horns. The open shop and reduction of wages are the issues.

Mother Jones at the age of 72 is agitating and organizing among the labor unions of Texas. She has promised to write the story of her life when the present campaign is over.

The San Francisco Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union have struck against an attempt on the part of the Schmidt Label and Lithograph Company to introduce the nine-hour day.

Two hundred and fifty carriage and wagon workers in San Francisco are out on a strike. About half of the shops are fair and the others soon will be. The men refused to accept a cut in wages.

Shingle weavers of Humboldt county, Cal., have been on a strike for six weeks against a reduction from seven cents to five and one-half cents per thousand. Not a man has deserted the union, and none will.

The first move toward the settlement of the Denver and Rio Grande shopmen's strike was made when the company signed new contracts with a committee representing the car repairers and inspectors.

The Milwaukee Socialists' campaign, when they came within 2,300 votes of carrying the city, cost them only \$5,371, the greater portion of which was spent for printing and literature.

By a vote of 77,747 to 7,772 the mine workers formally ratified the Toledo agreement to resume work at last year's scale. President Lewis is busy at present adjudicating local differences in districts not represented in the interstate agreement.

All workmen and miners are requested to stay away from the Sumpster district and Bourne, Ore., as there are more men there than can obtain employment. There are only two mines doing any work and they are employing only a very limited number of men.

Strikes are on in the following places, and all miners and others are requested to stay away until a settlement is reached: Fairbanks, Alaska; Cobalt, Ontario; Douglas, Island, Alaska, and Nome, Alaska.

There is a rumor that the shop men of the entire Gould system are likely to go on strike to support the men out on the Denver & Rio Grande railway. The strike would extend almost from the Atlantic to the Pacific. That would mean that Helen Gould would have to cut down her charity doles still more.

George A. Pettibone has returned to Denver from San Diego, Cal., where he went to recover his health after his acquittal at Boise, Idaho. Pettibone's incarceration of nearly two years has left him a physical wreck, but his happy, buoyant nature remains and he still hopes to gain his former strength. He was received with open arms by Denver workers and they are going to assist him to regain his health if it is possible to do so.

Fred S. Hall, secretary of the Philadelphia Child Labor committee, in an address before the Civic club, called to account the report of 1906, recently made by the state factory inspector, stating that results were deduced from an entirely improper and erroneous basis. Mr. Hall finds that instead of decreasing child labor is increasing in eight out of 12 of the large child-using industries. Pennsylvania ranks below all other northern states on the child labor question, being classed with the southern states, and the politicians are undoubtedly padding their figures in order to make a showing. It is an old trick.

In speaking before a Congressional committee in Washington last Saturday, President Gompers, of the A. F. of L., predicted that secret organizations would be formed by the working people if the courts persisted in their warfare against the unions. "Organization of labor will not be driven out of existence by legislation or by the courts," said Mr. Gompers. "If they cannot defend the things they stand for in an open manner with the sunshine of God's protection upon them, I believe they will do the next best thing and do it in secret." The statement created a small-sized sensation among the politicians, and leading dailies are already deploring possible "secret, oath-bound organizations."

Women's Clubs

TO THE WORKING WOMEN.

You work hard.
You work long hours.
You do the best you can.
You do not get the comforts of life in return for your work; you scarcely get the necessities.

You have no home life. If you have a home you are away from it so much that it is a place of confusion. You cannot preserve it in order as you would like to have it.

If you must board you cannot afford to pay a good price so you cannot get a good place. You must be content with a shabby ill-furnished room and poorly prepared meals.

If you have children you cannot do much for them. You can have small hope that they will fare better in the world than you are faring. Should sickness or accident overtake you they may fare worse.

As you think of this you look about you in the busy city and every thing is astir. Inside the factory, shop, or store, wheels whirr, belts buzz, shuttles fly. When you go outside cars rush, levers move, wires tremble, lights gleam. It is a world of wonders.

What does all this mean?
The flying shuttle, the buzzing belt, the whirring wheel, the gleaming light have all come to help mankind.

They have come to make it easier for people to get the comforts of life.

THEY COME FROM THE BRAIN OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WORK. They were discovered, most of those things were, by workers as they worked.

Yet so far the workers are not relieved by them. The lot of many workers in this country today, especially women workers, is harder than it was a hundred and fifty years ago when we had no help from steam or electricity and when we had fewer inventions.

Why is this?

It is not because the workers do not produce enough, for with the aid of those helps they make many times more than was formerly made. IT IS BECAUSE THE WORKERS DO NOT GET THE RESULTS OF THEIR OWN LABOR. It is because the corporation that owns the place where you work gives you barely enough for a poor cheap living and keeps the rest as profits for the stockholders. The profits build up the billionaire fortunes.

This could be stopped if all the workers would unite together and own their own machinery and keep the results of their own labor for themselves and their children. This would be no inconvenience to any one except to those who want to live without working. The hours of work would be shortened, compared with what they are now, or were in a hand machine age, in exact proportion to the degree of help that there is in modern machinery and modern organization.

It would mean rest and dignity and a higher life for all who work.

There is a political party organized to help do this very thing. It has been organized by the workers themselves; it is to be found in all the countries of the world, and it is called THE SOCIALIST PARTY.

The vote of this party is steadily increasing. It is bound to win for it stands for progress, in all that we have that is good, for humanity. It stands for the rights of the workers of the world as against profits for the owners of the world.

The Socialist Party always gives to women the same rights and privileges that it gives to men. Women vote on party matters, work on committees, speak on its platforms, hustle for its success.

It is composed of working men and women united in a comradeship to better the world by making conditions better. They urge you to join them.—Agnes Halpen Downing in The Socialist Woman.

Maine.

The Old Orchard Equal Suffrage Association recently held a most interesting meeting.

Mrs. Thomas had the program in charge. Socialism, Immigration and Hospitality were among the subjects discussed. Mrs. Greenwood, president of Franklin county, added much to the pleasure of the hour.

Mrs. Clark Barker (daughter of ex-Governor Robie) and Mrs. Lizzie H. French have been elected by joint action of Portland Aldermen and Councilmen to the city Board of Overseers of the Poor. The board consists of ten men and two women. It seems as if the most violent opponent of woman suffrage can but feel that this is a proper place for women.

Connecticut.

Senator Brandegee of Connecticut has written the State President, Mrs. Bacon, that he is in favor of the adoption of the sixteenth amendment enfranchising women and will be pleased to introduce such a resolution. The Hon. Mr. Henry, of the same state, says the Woman Suffrage Association ought to have a fair hearing.

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WOMEN DELEGATES AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

The nineteen women delegates who attended the National Socialist convention at Chicago are as follows:

Josephine R. Cole, Mary F. Merrill, Bertha Wilkins Starkweather, California; Milla Hupper Maynard, Colorado; Gertrude Breslau Hunt, May Wood Simons, Illinois; Margaret M. Brown, Iowa; Grace D. Brewer, Kansas; Antoinette Konikow; Harriet D'Orsey, Massachusetts; Mrs. Etta Menton, Michigan; Ester Nieminen, Minnesota; Ida Crouch-Hazlett, Florence Wesleder, Montana; Margaret Prevey, Ohio; Winnie E. Branstetter, Oklahoma; Mrs. Mollie Crabtree, Oregon; Alice McFadin, Laura B. Payne, Texas; Miss F. H. Thomas, Wisconsin.

Marriage is bound to be a failure as long as a corrupt social condition makes it impossible on one hand and a travesty on the other.

Once in a while you meet a woman who can get out in the world, work and forget that she is a woman; things are apt to be doing in her vicinity.

The California Woman Suffrage Association has printed an attractive leaflet containing the Associations which have endorsed our principles in the last three or four years. This includes six political parties, ten State Associations and thirty-five local societies and clubs. We often lose the effect of our work by not reporting it. All states can get at least a few endorsements and all such states ought to print them.

WISCONSIN NOTES.

The fight against the Milwaukee Charter convention still goes on. This is the most important fight in which the Milwaukee Social-Democrats have yet engaged. On its outcome depends whether the Milwaukee Social-Democrats will be able to adopt real Socialist measures under the charter of Milwaukee. The issue is therefore one of far-reaching interest, and the Socialists of this country should watch for the result as eagerly as for the returns of any election. Mayor Rose (democrat) has declared the convention unconstitutional and for a time refused to let it hold its meetings in the City Hall. And he very frankly admits that the reason of his opposition is that the Socialists are too strong in the Charter convention.

"I charge," says Rose, "that the whole scheme is of Social-Democratic origin and that the attempt has been, will be and is being made to engraft Social-Democratic doctrines upon the fundamental law of this municipality." And he declares that he "will not consent that the public monies shall be appropriated to any such use, for I can conceive of no greater injury that could be done to the INTERESTS I HAVE SWORN TO PROTECT than to have a charter framed to accord with the doctrines of that party." Furthermore, Mayor Rose charges that "the charter convention law was framed by Social-Democratic leaders" who have also prepared a charter "to which the members of that party in the convention are committed in advance"; and that Victor L. Berger

tried to get the other members of the convention to promise that they would vote for this charter. To this Comrade Berger replies that the Social-Democrats have no draft of a charter to which they are pledged and that Rose "lies when he says that Victor L. Berger undertook to secure pledges from candidates of other parties to support the charter of the Social-Democratic party". What the Social-Democrats want in the new charter, says Comrade Berger, is "First, home rule. Second, majority rule. Third, we want to secure for the city the right to own and manage its public utilities whenever the city gets ready to do so and the majority of the people so decide. Furthermore, we want a charter that will block the opportunities for graft and grafters". Now these four things are exactly what politicians of Mayor Rose's stripe and "the interests he has sworn to protect" do not want, and since he knows that the 16 Social-Democrats in the Charter convention will stand as a unit for these things, and may force them through, he pronounces the Charter convention "absolutely void". And therefore he refuses to allow any supplies to the convention. The printing and other expenses will have to be covered by private subscription. But this high-handed conduct of the Mayor and his open persecution of the Socialists is only exciting public opinion against him and in our favor. The fight is a fierce one, but we shall win in the end!

Harvey Dee Brown is about to make a lecture tour through Wisconsin. The following are his dates up to the time of the Wisconsin State convention. West Allis, June 1; Milwaukee, 2d; Wilton, 3d; Ontario, 4th; Hustler, 5th; Warren, 6th; Valley Junction, 7th; Blair, 8th; Nokoosa, 9th; Grand Rapids, 10th; Fond du Lac, 12th; Milwaukee, 13th.

A JEWEL OF CONSISTENCY.

The following gem is sent us by Comrade E. Silvin: "As I had ended my daily job hunting route the other day I sat down on a bench on the San Diego Plaza to rest my fatigued limbs. The pale moon peeped through the branches of the cocoa palms and bleached the double neck of a fat gentleman who was sitting next to me. He must have been a gentleman, for he was dressed in black, white and stiff. "Being an arguer like the rest of the 'undesirables,' I asked that stout gentleman for his opinion about the times. 'Hard times!' said he, 'I know of no hard times, nor does anyone else in San Diego.' "At that very moment past us marched the Salvation Army. I remarked that the salvationists were a lot of healthy sluggards. 'You are mistaken,' said he, 'These men and women are doing much good work; they feed the hungry, clothe the naked and give shelter to the shelterless.' "But my dear sir," said I, 'you seem to get mixed up, for but a few minutes ago you said that no one felt hard times here in San Diego, and now you are speaking of the hungry, the naked and the shelterless.' "That settled it. He got up and leaving me thundered that I was a Socialist, and that I did not know what I was talking about."—Common Sense.

State Department

Socialism is the gilt-edged security in which the working class should invest their money.

Hotel & Restaurant Employees' union No. 285, Great Falls, renews for a bundle of 25 copies for another year.

The Basin Miners' union will have a grand celebration on June 13. We have been getting out posters for them.

Livingston Comrades are planning for a grand picnic on the 4th of July. Let the other locals fall in line now and all give some kind of an entertainment and we can raise money to keep a few speakers in the field until after election.

If YOU, Comrade, throw in five dollars now to help get the linotype installed and in working order, do you believe you would be any worse off a year from now? You are not going to get rich off what you save from the Socialist movement.

Comrades Wesleder and Selby came down from Great Falls on Sunday last to investigate the needs of the News plant and inform their local about what has to be done to put us in shape to carry on an aggressive campaign. Comrade Mabie took advantage of their being here to call in Comrade Eidell of Local Helena and have his accounts audited.

Fred Chuning, secretary of Local Missoula, writes of the good work Comrade Burgess has been doing there. "He spoke five nights on the streets. Total collections \$20.15. On Saturday night the meeting was disturbed by a drunken Justice of the Peace, named Captain Phillips. He became abusive and profane and made a swipe at Burgess with his cane. The speaker was not hit but gave the disturber a shove that sent him sprawling. The crowd was all in sympathy with the speaker. The crowd being disturbed on Saturday night spoiled our chance of taking subscriptions to the News, as planned. One is all I was able to sell. There are a good many men broke. The Local turned over to the organizer all moneys collected, as the trip up the Bitter Root was not very remunerative to him.

Robert W. Meisenbach, a member of Local Great Falls, died suddenly at his home in that city May 27th. He was in his usual health on that morning and was working at digging a cellar. His wife, who was getting dinner, heard her husband groaning in the yard and rushing out found him lying face downward, unconscious. A physician, who was hurriedly summoned, arrived too late to afford relief. Comrade Meisenbach was a member of the Meisenbach family who own a number of ranches in Cascade county. They are all Socialists and active in the party work. Comrade Meisenbach leaves a wife and several children. We shall miss you, Comrade.

The editor's desk is adorned with a fine photo of Comrade Rigg, of Idaho, which came with the following letter:

Rupert, Idaho, May 29, 1908.
Dear Comrade Hazlett:—
I have just got back from Chicago. Stopped off in Dakota. Will send you the picture as you requested. Am sorry I had to be so long about it. Expect to have some new ones from Chicago in a week or two.
The frowns and cross look belong to me. You can just say that it is as pleasant as I can look under Capitalism. If the natives want to see how pleased I can look, they will have to wait until we win the national election. It is simply a case of "Before and after taking."

I received notice of expiration. I take this opportunity of renewing. Inclosed find picture and 50 cents.
Yours for Socialism,
E. L. Rigg.

Helena, May 31, 1908.
We, the undersigned, have audited the accounts of Comrade J. F. Mabie and find the following amounts collected on the equipment funds. Total collection on equipment to date and disbursement of same:

Collections	\$838.85
Disbursements—	
Type	\$ 30.00
Linotype	761.00
Bank	47.85
	\$838.85

I. R. EIDELL, Auditor.
GEORGE WESLEDER.
JESSE D. SELBY.

Suggestions from any of the Comrades as to the surest and suddenest way to secure the necessary \$\$\$ to dispel the expense of setting up our new linotype will be very welcome at this office.

Stevensville, Mont., May 26.
Mr. Jas. D. Graham.

Dear Comrade:—Another Comrade joined us in contributing to the fund for the News this month, so you will find enclosed as follows:

Fund for Montana News	\$1.50
Order for Constitutions	.25
Total	\$1.75

Since I wrote you last Comrade Burgess has been here and although I wrote you then that we couldn't stand the expense of an organizer the local has changed its mind and now thinks we cannot afford to do without him.

Comrade Burgess has written Comrade Hames in regard to working Ravalli county the first part of June, and this local has decided to employ him for four or five days but we desire to route him ourselves as we are in a better position to judge local conditions than the State office is.

Hoping this will meet with your approval, I am,
Yours fraternally,
BARTON A. FAUSETT,
Secretary Stevensville Local.

Comrades Graham and Hazlett will both be back on the paper again next week. Comrade Graham has been rustling some of the Dakota and Eastern Montana towns in the interest of the News, and Comrade Hazlett has made dates in Fargo, Miles City, Glendive, Billings and Sheridan, Wyo. They have both been so busy that they have not had time to send in full reports but will tell us something of the trip when they get back.

THE FRANCHISE GRABBER AGAIN BUSY IN LIVINGSTON.

Mr. P. A. Williams of Billings appeared before the City Council of Livingston the forepart of this month and asked them to grant him a special election for a franchise for a heating plant for the city. The council has called the special election for June 16.

Mr. P. A. Williams' record as a friend to organized labor in other places is a little too rank for members of organized labor in Livingston to do anything for him but defeat his franchise scheme. Livingston don't like franchise propositions very well. They defeated one this winter three to one and they will certainly knock P. A. Williams and his franchise both out, for no man with the record that he has in dealing with organized labor need to ask any favors of a union town like Livingston.

Then again, why should a franchise be given to some paid agent of some corporation to sell and speculate on? If the city wants a heating plant, why not build it themselves and cut out the grafters and corporations?

If there is a profit in it for some company there is or would be a profit in it for the city. Why vote to give some rich syndicate, through its paid

agent, something they can sell and speculate on or make a big fat profit on for years?
Oh no! Williams will find out on the evening of June 16 that Livingston has not got any use for him or his franchise either. They don't look good to any union man there.

REPLY TO JOHN A. ROADES, JR.

Editor Montana News:—
I beg space in your paper to reply to the article in your last issue bearing the caption "Changing Meeting Place of the Federation Convention", and signed by Mr. Roades of Lewistown.

To begin with, I will say that the only true statement in Mr. Roades' letter is the one that the convention was changed from Lewistown. And I will prove this by extracts from the official proceedings of the last convention of the State Federation, a copy of which I will be pleased to mail to Mr. Roades if he so desires.

Mr. Roades says the convention was taken from Lewistown without them being consulted. The convention was changed from Lewistown on written request to the executive board signed by the officers of every union in Lewistown that was affiliated with the Federation at that time.

Mr. Roades' union sent a delegate to the convention with charges against President Fairgrieve and Member of the Executive Board S. D. Anderson. These charges were referred to a committee of five and the report of that committee was unanimous to dismiss the charges and recommended that the charter of the Lewistown Federal Labor union be revoked.

The delegate from the said union was seated by the credential committee and answered roll call at nearly every session up to the last day. During the hearing before the committee it developed that the delegate was alleged to be a non-union plumber, and said delegate knowing that the committee would report at the morning session left the evening previous on the midnight train for home. He was not present when the committee made its report, consequently he could not have been denied the floor by the president. It also developed before this committee that the charges against the men mentioned were concocted and prepared in a certain saloon in Lewistown. It also developed that when the common laborers in the Federal union attempted to raise their scale of wages that the men who were in business went to the meeting and voted down the scale, which would be naturally expected of business men, but it seemed rather inconsistent as some of these profess to be socialists, especially Mr. Roades.

Mr. Roades says his union was in good standing. It was not; and the delegate was compelled to pay \$8.80 back per capita tax before his credentials could be accepted. On the 16th of August I received two checks from the union—one for \$2.20 and one for \$8.80. The one for \$8.80 was returned to me by the Helena bank with the notation that there was no funds in the Lewistown bank to the credit of the union to cover the check. This check reached me before the convention met and I turned it over to the delegate, and suppose he took it home with him in order to get his money back. I never could understand why they made out those two checks unless they knew that there was no money in the bank and were trusting to luck that it would not be returned to me until after the convention, realizing that they could not prove their charges and expecting that their charter would be revoked, and it was, and the union so notified.

At the last meeting of the executive board the matter of reorganizing the Lewistown union was left to Brother Anderson, hence President Fairgrieve did not go to Lewistown for that purpose, but he did go there on a call from the Team Owners' union, a loyal organization, and I received this call myself and transmitted it to President Fairgrieve, who was in Billings at the time.

I cannot understand the motive for Mr. Roades writing such a letter unless it was a deliberate attempt to impose upon the Montana News and its readers and in an underhanded way endeavor to injure the Montana Federation of Labor.

Stick to the truth, Mr. Roades; stick to the truth.
HOWARD O. SMITH,
Sec'y. Montana Federation of Labor.

About thirty cigarmakers are on strike at the factory of Solares B Co., Chicago. They are employed on high-grade cigars, but demanded that they be given better stock to work on, claiming that it was impossible to make a living using the poor stock given them.

Denver will soon have a union labor hospital accommodating 350 to 400 patients, and that city is now the headquarters for the National Union Labor Hospital Association, which will proceed with the erection of hospitals for members of labor unions in all large cities.

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WARNING TO MINERS.

Nome, Alaska, March 1, 1908.
To all Wage Workers:

The capitalist press and steamship companies, in order to further exploit the working class, will spread and are now actually spreading false reports as to the conditions at present existing in this country.

They desire to flood Seward Peninsula with unemployed working men in order that they may reduce wages, winter and summer, below outside prices, and are endeavoring to show that work will be plentiful and wages high this coming season. Employment sharks in the states are likewise circulating such reports.

As a matter of fact prospects were never worse and conditions here are an exact counterpart of those outside. But little money has been in circulation since last December; the banks have issued clearing house script which is used instead of U. S. currency; no important discoveries have been made this winter, while some of the largest mines employing the greatest number of men have been worked out. Miners and prospectors returning daily from other diggings report nothing doing, and thus swelling the army of unemployed, which consists of at least seventy-five per cent of the laboring population.

The Western Federation of Miners by thoroughly organizing the camp and strictly enforcing the closed shop, have been thus far partially able to maintain the winter scale of wages. The employers and transportation companies, knowing these facts, are trying to allure working men here, as has been stated, to so reduce wages as to compel them to work for what in reality amounts to their board. To prevent such a calamity to the working class the Western Federation of Miners warns all working men to keep away from this country during the coming summer.

North, east, south and west of the peninsula most unfavorable reports as to the alarming conditions from a miner's point of view are constantly arriving. In fact, every working man who arrives here is one more out of work, and he himself is his passage money out of pocket.

And once here, how are you going to get out? Hundreds here are daily asking themselves the same question. Take heed therefore of this warning, fellow workers; stay away from the Seward Peninsula during 1908. If you have contemplated coming up here, change your mind and stay where you are.

Published by authority of
Local 240 of the Western Federation of Miners.

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Two Doors North of Family Theatre.

There are three things that woman must have to make her free and to make the race free; the first is economic independence, the second is economic independence and the third is economic independence in the superlative degree.

National Association of Manufacturers held annual powwow in New York this week. Among other business transacted was to send a message to Speaker Cannon congratulating that gentleman for his success in preventing action being taken to secure the enactment of an anti-injunction law and requesting him to continue his "good work" in suppressing every proposition calculated to bring relief to the working class.

Local GREAT FALLS, of the Socialist Party.
Meets every Sunday at Union Hall at 8 p. m.
Wm. PALSGROVE, Sec'y.
815 7th Avenue

Local HELENA, of the Socialist Party
Meets every Wednesday evening at 15 North Park Ave. AUGUST JOHNSON, Secretary

Local LIVINGSTON, of the Socialist Party
Meets every second and fourth Monday evening in Trades & Labor Hall, opp. Opera House.
All transient comrade invited to attend.

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Where else can you place five dollars and get an income from it the day you place it?
The above table gives you an idea of what you can do by using our Savings Department.

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