

MONTANA NEWS

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No. 9

Notes From National Headquarters

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, Chicago, Ill., Dec. 8, 1908.

To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades:

Herewith is transmitted a National Committee motion submitted by Comrade A. M. Simons.

Fraternally yours,

J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

MOTION.

"I wish to move as a member of the National Executive Committee that the national office proceed at once to the preparation of a circular to be sent to every local in the United States, calling for the holding of meetings, circulation of petitions, raising of money, and such other measures as may be thought necessary to prevent the expulsion of Jan Janoff Pouden and Christian Rudowitz, and to preserve the right of asylum in America."

COMMENT.

"It seems to me that this is one of the great occasions when it is worth while to set in motion every bit of machinery that the Socialists possess. If these men are returned there are at least 50,000 more, many of whom are most active workers in the Socialist party, who can also be taken. Furthermore, it is impossible to expect new victories unless we can hold the grounds we have already gained. A working class movement cannot permit any backward steps in progress without thereby endangering its own existence."

The Jewish Agitation Bureau has had the pamphlet entitled "The Socialist Party," by Chas. H. Vail, translated. Orders for the same should be sent to the secretary of the Jewish Agitation Bureau, address 444 South Halstead Street, Chicago, Ill.

The state committee of Indiana has issued a call for a state convention to be held at Indianapolis, Saturday, February 27, 1909. The committee has also adopted the following course of reading for the locals during the winter months: "Commonsense of Socialism," John Spargo; "The Spiritual Significance of Modern Socialism," John Spargo; "Value, Price and Profit," Marx; "Woman and the Social Problem," May Wood-Simons; "Socialism and the Home," May Walden.

RUSSIAN WORKERS REORGANIZING

Berlin, Nov. 28.—The current issue of the "Russian Bulletin" contains the following interesting account of the revival of Socialist activity in Russia:

great masses of the Social-Democratic party of Russia is that the period of inactivity and stagnation is over at last. And, indeed, notwithstanding the obstruction placed in the way of the revolutionists by the reign of the gallows and the white terror, it is easy to see that the chaos that prevailed during the past eighteen months is clearing up and the masses of the people have thrown aside their apathy and are filled with new courage.

The greatest difficulty for the party was the transition period from a legal or half legal status to an illegal one, which carried with it the necessity for concentration in a secret organization and the renouncing of all open propaganda.

This process of reorganization is being rapidly perfected with the help of a few semi-legal bodies, such as a few trade unions, fraternal organizations, educational clubs, and, above all, the Social-Democratic part of the duma. That these partially legal parties must be used to build up the "underground" organization is being generally recognized and much work is being done in that direction.

The activity of the party has more than technical difficulties to contend with. The tasks which present themselves are much more difficult than in the days before the revolution. The proletariat has become riper politically and is not satisfied to confine its work within the limits of a secret organization. Consequently the task of agitation and propaganda is a mighty one and is rendered especially severe by the fact that just at this moment of reconstruction a great number of the most intelligent members have deserted the party.

It can be easily understood that considerable difference of opinion exists regarding the immediate work to be done. Certainly, the general idea is that the party organization must be strengthened, the existing half legal institutions made use of and the activity of the members of the duma used for the intensification of political activity; but the different tendencies in the party are not united as to which of these methods is the most important.

This is particularly noticeable regarding the position toward the Social-Democratic members of the duma. Some Socialists declare that they should be withdrawn from the duma, as their presence there has no object, while on the other hand

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908, Helena, Mont.

A. W. HARRACK, Manager.



TO OUR READERS

By A. W. Harrack.

This will positively be the last issue
of the Montana News unless the state
committee or state cabinet intercedes
and acts immediately.

The only reason that the Montana
News is issued this week in its present
form is because I personally obligated
myself to pay the expenses of this
publication. Otherwise even this issue
would not have been published for our
creditor absolutely refuse to give us
any more credit, and the printers can
no longer afford to work without their
wages.

We had all been in hopes that the
One Thousand Dollar Fund would be
a success, but up to date only one
hundred and thirty-five signers have
responded, amounting to \$675.00 in
pledges. But even this amount ceased
as an obligation to its signers Dec. 15.
If any of it should be sent it comes
merely because the donor believes in
helping to pay the debts of the paper.
We must pay our debts. The workers
have wages coming, are nearly all of
them without a dollar and most of
them will spend a pretty gloomy
Christmas.

I am sending out letters to the state
committee and state cabinet informing
them of the necessity of meeting and
acting immediately. If this is not
done the Montana News will positively
be forced to suspend business with
this as its last issue.

This statement is sent out because I
considered it my duty to the readers
and comrades of the Montana News to
make a final explanation as to the
Montana News' desperate condition.
If something is not done every dollar
of property will be lost. Over \$1,500
has been paid on the linotype alone.
If some definite action is not taken be-
tween Christmas and New Years all
these payments will be lost, but re-
member, our debts will be with us just
the same. We as Socialists, will want
to pay our debts whether the Montana
News lives or dies.

May the state committee arrange to
meet at once. May every earnest So-
cialist help to urge his comrades to
bring the Montana News out of this
dilemma. What we need now is not
words or worry, but action, strong, im-
mediate action. To the rescue, com-
rades! To the rescue!

NOTICE:

Since last issue the following pledges
on the One Thousand Dollar Fund
have reached this office:

E. G. Bjornby, Andrew Benson, J.
H. Sippert, J. J. Lewis, A. J. Chap-
man. Total 6.

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RUSSIAN WORKERS REORGANIZING

(Continued from Page 1)

many propose to make the duma group the very center of party activity.

The discussions over these points clearly show, however, that the differences of opinion will vanish as soon as the duma members take up their work in the duma with more vigor and intelligence and as fast as the work of the local organization spreads out.

This expectation is justified by the fact that, as the party propaganda grows, a livelier interest in the doings of the Socialist members of the duma is shown by the masses of the workers. This is regarded as a sign that the proletariat is taking more interest in politics and that the people are beginning to move. The natural consequences will be the constant growth of the Social Democracy.

It is hard to say in exactly what manner this forward movement will develop, but one thing is certain, the bloody counter revolution has not been able to break the power of the Social-Democracy of Russia. Although the number of actual members is small at present, the party has the sympathy of practically the entire working class, and it will yet be the deciding factor in bringing about the final overthrow of the regime of the czar.

Standing firm upon that class conscious part of the proletariat that has never deserted it, the Social-Democratic Labor party of Russia moves forward with confidence to new battles and new victories.—Daily Call.

Germany's Army of Unemployed

Molkenbuhr, Socialist, in the course of an interpellation of the government regarding measures for the unemployed, declared that there were 420,000 workmen out of employment in Prussia alone, according to the statistics of the bulletin issued by the government. Molkenbuhr declared that it was the duty of the empire to establish an insurance department which would guarantee living to men out of work, and the 230,000,000 marks which would be necessary for this fund could be much better spent in this manner than in providing for a new navy. Stressmann, (national liberal) declared that the present proportions of the unemployed part of the population were due directly to the false prosperity created by the government program for the fleet and the army.

ALVA MAYNE

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- 20c quality Children's Good Ribbed Black Hose, spliced heel and toes, special, per pair.....10c
- 20c quality Children's Good Fleece Lined Black Hose, all sizes, double heel and toes, special, pair....12½c
- 35c quality Women's Good Fleece Lined Vests or Pants, gray only, special, choice.....25c
- 75c value Women's Good Fleece Lined Union Suits, cream or gray, all sizes, special per suit.....50c
- 75c value Women's Jersey Ribbed Vests or Pants, extra fine, white only, silk taped vests, all sizes, special, each.....50c
- 15c quality Women's Plain Black Hose spliced heel and double sole, all sizes, special 8 1-3c; 3 pairs for...25c
- 35c quality Women's Black Hose, lace boot effect, spliced heel and double sole, spliced seam, all sizes, special, per pair.....35c
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FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

By a recent referendum Charles Dobbs, care Insurance Field, Louisville, Ky., has been re-elected a member of the national committee, and Walter Lanfersiek, 508 Washington Ave., Newport, has been elected state secretary for the unexpired term vice F. H. Streine, resigned, and for the following full term of one year beginning Jan. 1, 1909.

The ballots for the election of national officers will be shipped in bulk to state secretaries in organized states and to local secretaries in unorganized and members at large on Thursday, Dec. 17th. If a sufficient number of endorsements of the Tyler, Tex.—Milwaukee, Wis. constitutional amendment will have been received, ballots for the same, with designation "National Referendum "C" 1908," will be shipped at the same time and in the same manner. Party officers are requested to notify headquarters if they do not receive these documents in a reasonable time.

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