

THE POWER OF THE PRESS

(By Robert Hunter.) Have you ever thought of the power of the press? This thing you have in your hands has cost many a precious life. Battles have been fought that you might read it tonight peacefully by your fireside. It is one of "the rights" won by blood and sacrifice. It and the ballot are the two most important rights that mankind has wrung from tyranny. Think of it! This thing you have in your hands—this newspaper. And now ask yourself what use are you making of it? It is one of the greatest powers in the world. It is the hammer of Thor, the sword of Siegfried. With it you can do anything; without it you can do nothing. Mark that. This is no poetry or fine writing. This is "a terrible God's fact." And what use are you making of this mighty instrument? With this in the hands of just men, injustice cannot live. With this in the hands of honest men, dishonesty cannot live. With this in the hands of brave men, tyranny and oppression can never get a foothold. With this in your hands, you have nothing to fear. Your battle against wrong is all but won. But where are YOUR newspapers? Have you them to fight your battles, or is it the enemy that wields these mighty instruments? And if the enemy only has great newspapers, have not your forefathers, who died to win you this means of emancipation, have they not died in vain? Why die to win rights for mankind if mankind will not make use of them when won? "The interests" have great newspapers—some of them one or more in every city, town and hamlet in this great country, but have the people newspapers? This miserable thing you have in your hand is something of that kind. It is anaemic, underfed, half starved. It is ragged and out at the toes. It shuffles along through its childhood, but, my stone-blind friend, it is the promise of everything. Given nourishment it may yet split rails; it may yet become the great emancipator. It was born in a dirty basement, mothered and fathered by hungry parents. It was at birth little more than a shriek, ungainly and hideous, yet Luther in his hovel or Lincoln in his cabin was no more. If anything in this world is great, this thing in your hand is great. It is the beginning of a new world power that will one day shape the destiny of many. Its eyes and ears are social eyes and ears. Its voice is a social voice. The eyes and ears search throughout the world for what you want to know, what you ought to know, and the voice carries to every part of the world the news. Through this thing, and only through this thing, can you know the truth about country politics and business, about science, industry and art, about freedom, justice and democracy. Truth, my friend, the truth that shall make you free. You are now fed on lies. You know only what the enemy want you to know, or what escapes from them when they quarrel among themselves. By controlling this great instrument, they control the sources of our information as John D. Rockefeller controls the sources of oil, and we must buy the kind of product they want to sell and at their price. Think of this thing, more precious, more powerful, more enlightening than all else, owned by the enemy—at least, all but owned by the enemy! You have this poor thing in your hands. It depends upon you whether it will live or die. It depends upon you whether it will become a great instrument for fighting our battles. Poor as it is, it is a symbol of that which is our sole security as a sovereign people. It must be on guard. It must watch out for us. It must report the truth to us. It must warn us of danger, and, when need be, call us to action. Will it fail? That is inconceivable, for if this thing fails, then all else fails. The National Committee resolution proposed by Emil Herman and Arthur Jensen of Washington, first published Jan. 9, has been supported by the following committee members: James McLevy of Connecticut, Thos. L. Bule of Colorado and C. W. Barzee of Oregon.

CIVIL PROTESTS.

government of the United States was formed into three separate departments, to-wit: Legislative to make laws in the name of the people; executive, to enforce the laws, and judicial, to decide when the laws are broken and to inflict punishment for such offenses; and, Whereas, In the constitutional convention, when the fathers framed the constitution of our country, twice over was the effort made to give to the federal judiciary the power to nullify the actions of the congress, by declaring them unconstitutional, and twice was the effort defeated; and, Whereas, For years past certain federal judges have assumed to themselves the power to nullify the acts of the legislative and executive departments of the government by declaring laws, passed by our representatives in congress and signed by our representative in the executive chair, unconstitutional; and, Whereas, Certain federal judges have assumed the power to issue injunctions, thereby destroying the constitutional rights of the people to free speech and freedom of the press and the right of peaceable assembly of the people; and, Whereas, When Americans have desired to exercise those rights for which our fathers fought at Bunker Hill, Concord, Lexington and Brandywine, and suffered for at Valley Forge, they are arrested, denied the right of trial by jury, lectured by some intellectual lightweight and sentenced to jail as though they were criminals; and, Whereas, In the present instance the supreme court of the District of Columbia has seen fit to sentence three of our ablest labor leaders, Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison, to a term in prison for the alleged violation of an injunction; and, Whereas, Such decision involves the destruction of certain fundamental principles in our government, namely, the freedom of speech and of the press as guaranteed to us under the constitution; and, Whereas, This decision appears to be the most brazen of the many recent attempts of our capitalistic-minded public officials to curb the effective protests of our trust-suffering population by depriving us of the age-long liberties held dear to every true American. Therefore, be it Resolved, That the Building Trades Council of Butte, Mont., does most deeply resent this infringement upon our constitutional rights, and we enter a most emphatic protest against the prostitution of our courts to the level of discriminating against the toilers and to the advantage of the money powers; and but it further Resolved, That we express our confidence in the efficiency of the principle of trial by jury and our preference for the constitutional method of dividing the governmental powers into the legislative, executive and judicial, rather than have all these powers vested in or usurped by the judiciary, which is furtherest removed from the direct influence of the public; and be it further Resolved, That we use all the means in our power, including the ballot, for the maintenance of the above convictions, in order that liberty may not perish from the land; and be it further Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to our representatives in congress with an earnest appeal that they use their utmost endeavors to secure an amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law excluding labor unions from the conspiracy clause of that law. E. R. TORREY, Secretary. Adopted by the Butte Building Trades Council, Jan. 27, 1909.

X RAYS

(By John M. Work.) Are you ready now to quit fooling with alleged reform parties and get into a party that stands for something? In every city there are organizations whose object is to provide food, raiment and shelter for those who are in absolute want. In other words, to dole out charity to those whom society ought to guarantee an opportunity to earn a living, instead of compelling them to accept humiliating, degrading charity. Organized charity has become one of our regular institutions. Charity is necessary under the present system. But it always degrades its recipients just the same. In the meantime, the men who do no useful work, the men who have money invested for which they draw

Miners Indorse Socialist Measure

Take Unprecedented Step in Unanimously Declaring for Public Ownership of Public Utilities

Indianapolis, Ind., Jan. 30.—For the first time in the history of the organization, the United Mine Workers of America, at its convention yesterday, passed a resolution unanimously declaring for the public ownership of public utilities. This is considered a victory for the 300 Socialist delegates at the convention. Criticizing the political trend of the convention James Mooney, of Missouri, a member of the national executive board, in a speech opposing a resolution protesting to congress against the repeal of the tariff on coal, said: "The other day you committed this convention to populism when you recommended the issue of currency instead of bonds for payment of the expense of deepening waterways. Now you have committed it to Socialism by adopting a resolution declaring for public ownership of public utilities. If you protest against the removal of the duty on coal, you commit us to republicanism, and if this happens I shall introduce something that shall commit you to Bryanism." The resolution was defeated when finally voted upon. The establishment of miners' examining boards in all the states is the purpose of one of the most discussed resolutions. President John Walker, of Illinois, said that the definition of a miner was one who worked at the face of a mine, and that this should be borne in mind in framing a bill to establish an examining board if union miners were to obtain full benefit from the reform. Mr. Walker was of opinion that the state boards examining candidates and issuing certificates to "competent" miners would necessarily be composed of union miners, and therefore would be able to exercise a strong influence to the advantage of the United Mine Workers of America in strikes. The convention also demanded the repeal of the laws authorizing the present state police. A statement was given out by President Lewis' friends that the count of ballots had proceeded far enough to show that Lewis' majority over John Walker would be from 15,000 to 20,000. incomes, the men who through their invested capital have a suction pump by which they draw into their own coffers the lion's share of the value of the labor of the rest of the people, these men are rolling in the wealth which they did not earn. We find, then, that the reason why not all people have enough to eat or possess the comforts and higher privileges of life, is, not because there is not enough in existence to supply all—for there is an abundance—but because the few possess the good things and the many cannot get them. In this country there has never been a time when there was not enough of the necessities of life in existence for all. It is also true that for several decades after this nation came into being, practically no one in the whole country was in want for the necessities of life. At that time there was a wide domain of idle land. When a man could not get employment working for someone else, the idle land was close by and the tools necessary to till it were simple and inexpensive. So he could go out on the land and work for himself. The land seemed inexhaustible. The people pre-empted vast empires. The government gave away other vast empires, with a prodigal and unrighteous hand, to the railroads. The population increased enormously. The land was steadily taken up, until it is now practically all gone. No sooner had it begun to show signs of exhaustion than extreme poverty and even starvation began to make their appearance. The matter has gone on from bad to worse until now there are a lot of men out of employment and millions of the people suffer constantly from lack of a sufficient quantity of the bare necessities of life. There is no way to create more land. And if we could do so, it would no longer act as an escape, for it now requires a goodly amount of money to get out on the land, on account of the complexity and expensiveness of modern agricultural machinery. Furthermore, even if we could create more land and even if the unemployed had the money to take advantage of it, it would still be merely an escape from starvation, not from exploitation. What we need is the collective ownership and operation of the exploiting industries. In other words, for the whole people to own those industries which they have to use in order to get their living. Then, if there are not jobs enough to go around, we can merely shorten the hours of labor and make all the jobs that are needed. And we can pay ourselves the full value of the product, instead of letting a few capitalists gouge us out of most of us as we do now. That will be Socialism. You all remember how General Grant gradually drew his lines about the enemy, fortifying here, encroaching there, strengthening everywhere, until, upon receiving from the enemy a proposal regarding terms of cap-

automobile banquet Mr. Shaw plead with the assembled capitalists to get down on their knees and pray God to save this country from its prospect; and in spite of the Bible warning that "the prayers of the wicked availeth nothing." The prosperity of which Mr. Shaw complained "folded its tents like the Arabs, and as silently stole away." Now behold Mr. Shaw expressing alarm at the trend toward Socialism, and regretting that the majority of teachers of sociology are Socialists "and the few exceptions are anarchists." He certainly puts Chancellor Day and E. Benjamin Andrews in an unpleasant position. Mr. Shaw also says he would be obliged for the names of any Chautauqua speaker that is not teaching Socialism. There is one notable example to which Mr. Shaw's attention is respectfully called. The Hon. Wm. Jennings Bryan of Lincoln, Neb., who has been so absorbed by his ambition to be president that he has not as yet grasped the meaning of the "Weighed in the balance and found wanting," that is written on the wall of capitalism. Mr. Shaw says: "The public libraries are full of it, the trend of the newspapers is toward socialism, and, I repeat, the trend is dangerous to this country. Wherever we go out to teach that men must succeed equally regardless of aptitude we are pointing toward the rocks of a nation." Mr. Shaw surely has not proven a very apt scholar when all this combination of trained minds have endeavored to teach him socialism, or he certainly would not have fallen into the grievous error of asserting that Socialism taught that all men must succeed equally regardless of aptitude. Socialism does not teach that men must succeed equally. It only teaches that each man shall have an opportunity to work, and that he shall have the full value of his product for his own use. If he produces little he will have little. If he produces much he will have much. Socialism does not teach that there shall be two kinds of idlers—the rich who are idle voluntarily and the poor who are condemned to enforced idleness because they are unable to find a capitalist that is willing to allow them to work, even for one-fifth of what they could produce. Because, in order to make profits the capitalist must be able to sell the laborer's product and the laborer, no matter how sorely he needs products, is unable to buy more than one-fifth of what is produced because of the smallness of his wage and, in cases of unemployment, his capacity to buy is taken away from him altogether and he has no alternative but to beg or starve. A nation which is building monster battleships with which to capture foreign markets while thousands of little children are suffering the pangs of hunger in this land of the free and home of the brave, is certainly perilously near the rocks that Mr. Shaw fears. Those starving school-children will some of them survive by charity, and they will be a part of the citizenship of this nation under the folds of the Star-spangled banner. Will they be free? Can they be brave, when their lives have been one long struggle for existence; when our national anthem is drowned by the diapason of the children's woe? Mr. Shaw is alarmed at the trend toward Socialism; either because Socialism would give him all he produced, or compel him to produce all he got. However, in these days of the new thought, when we are being taught the inevitable victory of mind over matter, it is gratifying to hear it from so high an authority as Mr. Shaw that the majority of the trained minds are Socialists and that they are carrying aloft the torch of enlightenment along the road to industrial freedom. Some day the workers of the world will tire of offering up four-fifths of their product on the altar of capitalism. Then they will investigate socialism and go in and possess the promised land. Certainly the libraries and newspapers (at least subject on which the masses of are full of socialism. It is the one the people desire reliable information, and the public speaker or newspaper that tries to stem the tide by misrepresenting the principles and purposes of socialism is doomed to oblivion and pathetic dust. The daily grist of horrors that are published in any of the great metropolitan dailies, murders, robberies, debaucheries, bread lines, and starving children are each and all eloquent illustrations of the writing on the wall, "Weighed in the balance and found wanting." MELINDA ALEXANDER. Kallispell, Montana. The National Committee motion proposed by James F. Carey of Massachusetts, first published Jan. 16, has been supported by the following committee members: Jos. McLevy of Connecticut, Emil Herman and Arthur Jensen of Washington, and J. W. Perrin of Arkansas.

A SOCIALIST MACHINE

One is quite prone to condemn "machine politics" or "machine politicians," but the Socialists would do well to examine their methods. If a "bad" machine can carry a city its own way, is it because it is "bad" or because it is a machine—a perfect organization? Most assuredly because it is a machine. Machines are necessary to accomplish great tasks, and as we Socialists have the greatest kind of a task to perform, we should have a perfect machine. Tammany, that greatest of all political organizations, contains at least one element that we should emulate. Long before election it knows how the voters intend to vote. Its workers personally know every voter, republican, democratic or Socialist. The organizers of the Socialist party do not have a personal acquaintance with a tenth of our own voters. It is known now that nearly half a million men have withstood all temptations and voted the straight Socialist ticket. Who are they? Who knows? Is there a town in the United States that has a tabulated list of these voters? The membership of the Socialist party is growing by leaps and bounds. In these columns last month I gave the membership at 46,000. Comrade Barnes writes me since that the number has increased to 54,000, and perhaps the type gets cold on this article the number will be 60,000. Good! It ought to be 100,000, and I am sure it will be before the end of 1909. But, there is a difference between 100,000 members and an organization of 100,000 members. What are these 54,000 members doing now? What are YOU doing? Are you working for Socialism? Are you agitating? Are you trying to increase the membership? Are you circulating literature? Are you paying your dues promptly and chipping in for the campaign fund? Do you attend the meetings? After all, it is upon your shoulders that the burden falls. Do you carry your share? Speakers, writers, organizers, all are of no avail unless you provide the material for them to work upon. Let me ask you a few questions. Are you in the party? If not, get in at once, and work with the machine. If you are in the party, do you attend the local meetings? If you attend, do you take part in them? If you take part, what do you do? Do you spend most all your time "purifying the party," quarreling, or even just plain "chewing the rag"? If so, forget it. Get to doing something that counts. Talk over with the boys plans for work, and be sure to work your plans. Here are a few initial things that are necessary to build an effective Socialist-making machine. First of all, get the name of every Socialist voter in your locality. There are various ways of doing this, but they all resolve themselves down to making inquiries. You should by all means ask the publishers of Socialist papers, which you have reason to think are circulated in your vicinity, to send you a list of their subscribers. They will gladly do this. Then divide among your best members the task of visiting those subscribers personally. If you find they are Socialists, grab them quickly! Get them into the party. If only interested, pursue them relentlessly. Supply them lavishly with Socialist literature. And in time you will get them into the party, too. If you have women in your organization get them to call on the wives of the men you are visiting. Thus gradually you will not only increase your membership, but will widen your circle of acquaintances. The trouble with most Socialists is that they limit their acquaintances to ostracise themselves and render in-the-Socialists alone, and consequently effective all of their work. Remember, you have to climb but one step at a time. But be sure to climb. Make your first goal the finding of those Socialist voters. Your second the getting of them into the party. Your fourth goal, the education of every last one of them in the same tasks. Thus you will be perfecting your machine always. Tammany is powerful because it is well organized. When the Socialist party is as well organized it will "do things." Fifty-four thousand members is a magnificent start. We shall be farther along when we have 100,000, but why not get the half million into the harness? We can do it! It all de-

HE SEES THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL

That even the capitalists are commencing to feel the sweep and surge proven by the address delivered by of the onrushing tide of Socialism is Leslie M. Shaw, former secretary of the treasury, before a gathering of the alumni of Dickinson college Dec. 10 in which he appealed to the college men to save the country from Socialism. It will be remembered that only two years ago in a speech at an

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THE GUARDIAN OF DEMOCRACY.

An attempt is emanating from certain quarters to have an extra session of the state committee called to meet in February.

The Montana Socialist party has just gone through an extra amount of caution and pains to adopt a constitution that was deemed sufficiently comprehensive and applicable to cover the needs of action that arise. Two constitutions were drafted, one by the convention and one by the state committee. At an expense of \$30 to the state organization both drafts were submitted to the referendum, and the party now has a constitution adopted by the majority vote of the membership. This organic law of the party provides that the state committee shall meet in regular session annually. It states that "the committee shall be allowed transportation and hotel expenses while in session, out of the state funds."

The attempt to hold a special meeting at this time savors of an attempt, consciously or unconsciously, to violate the spirit of the constitution and to defeat democracy. To hold a special state committee at this time would require over \$300 in transportation alone to get all the committee-men present, especially those from the weak locals and the outlying districts. These component parts of the party have as good a right to representation in party affairs as large locals near the headquarters, and the section in the constitution providing for meeting expenses was adopted in the interest of complete democracy in the party administration. Within the last four months already two large bodies of the party have been called in session, the state convention and a state committee meeting. If the state committee meets again it will call for a large sum of money to be taken out of the state funds when there are no funds, and when the party needs every cent of money it can raise to meet the debt it is already responsible for. If, on the other hand, locals or individuals should pay their own expenses to the meeting the constitution would be violated, democracy would be set aside, and a little picked coterie of committeemen from a few large locals would meet to decide the party affairs. Every local should have a chance to deliberate in the party councils, and this is the mandate of the referendum, the only way to insure democracy in the councils of the party.

The last state committee meeting was unsatisfactory to the membership of the state because thirteen committeemen from thirteen locals were present instead of forty-five. The majority of the thirteen committeemen attempted to legislate for the forty-five locals; hence there was dissatisfaction as can be witnessed by the way the party through referendums turned down the committeemen. After the last committee meeting we were flooded with letters condemning the meeting. While the committee was honest in its deliberations and intentions, it was not representative of the party. If a committee meeting is held without provision being made to meet the expenses of delegates as per constitution, it will result in eight or ten committeemen being present representing the large locals and those near the seat of headquarters, resulting in minority rule. A glance at the referendum will show that it is the small locals that decide the referendum, not the large ones. It is these small locals far distant from headquarters that furnish the dues that run the organization, and not the large city locals. It is these small locals that are doing the real propaganda work in the state; and it is the sections of the state in

which these locals are that rolled up the socialist vote. And it is an injustice to attempt to bar them out of the party councils because they are located a long way from headquarters and their treasuries empty, continually drained by purchasing literature to educate their neighbors. Let us have a state committee meeting but let it be representatives of the party and not of a few locals. Let us make constitutions and let us respect and abide by them or, if we wish to change them let the whole party participate in the change.

It should be remembered that the purpose of the Socialist Party organization is propaganda and the pushing of practical measures in the interest of the working class. The routine work of the party in a well managed organization should be handled in a large part by the executive committee in order that the minimum expense should be expended in the party machinery. Residual authority rests in the state committee and back of them the referendums. So the party principles of democracy are well guarded if they are not upset by too hasty action from a membership uninformed or deceived as to the constitutional method of procedure.

Let every member of the Socialist party in Montana be alert to protect full democratic participation in the organization. And it is well to echo the time-honored slogan, "Put only working men on guard"

The Forsyth Times is having another contortion because, as it says, Anarchist theories are now in practice in southern Italy. It walls because "oppression by the upper crust has merely given way to abuse by the under crust." The Times seems unable to entertain the conception of a government where neither an upper nor a lower crust sought to establish its anarchy, but where rational human beings would co-operate for the good of all in an established system whose dawn the Socialists have brought to the upper world.

SUFFRAGETTES RELEASED.

Miss Christabel Pankhurst and Mrs. Pankhurst were released in London from Holloway jail on the completion of their sentences. They were sentenced October 24 and had the option of a fine or imprisonment. They decided to go to jail.

As anticipated, a great reception awaited them. A procession to celebrate their release took place, starting from Holloway jail and proceeding through the West End.

After a long march the suffragettes had breakfast at which Miss Christabel Pankhurst spoke. She announced that the suffragettes were engaged in civil warfare.

"We are sending our little Davids to meet giant Goliaths," she said, mentioning David Lloyd-George, the chancellor, as an instance of the latter. "Next year," she said in conclusion, "must see the enfranchisement of women."

The procession occupied a quarter of a mile and was composed of members and supporters of the militant faction of the suffragettes. All the paraders were bedecked in banners and other emblems of the enfranchisement cause.

They marched four deep and escorted the triumphant Pankhurst trio, Mrs. Pankhurst and her two daughters, through the crowds of Christmas shoppers.

The French bill on workmen's pensions is based on the triple obligation of the employer, the workman and the state to contribute annually the necessary amounts to constitute for every workman or servant of thirty years' service and who has reached 60 years of age, a life pension of 360 francs (\$69.48). The contribution of the employer is fixed at 2 per cent, that of the workman at a similar amount, while the state makes up the difference, so that the pension after thirty years reaches the fixed minimum of \$69.48. The law provides for the capitalization in the meantime of these threefold contributions. The daily expenses for the employer (of 100 employees) would be \$1.74, or for 350 days, \$609. The total annual charges imposed by these labor laws may be divided up as follows: Accident, \$1,216; weekly rest, \$4,323; illness, \$2,436; pensions, \$609; total, \$8,584, or 4.15 per cent of the capital invested.

About a year ago the Croatian comrades established the "Radnicka Straza," a bi-weekly paper. Since the first of the year it has been issued as a weekly. The management states that many of their compatriots are employed in the coal and iron mines and other large industrial establishments, and they make the request that comrades of other nationalities search out and acquaint them with the fact that a publication is printed in their own language. Sample copies will be mailed upon application, publication office, 606 Coneter avenue, Chicago, Ill.

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VICTOR L. BERGER SAYS

"Every Socialist should know something besides his Karl Marx—which by the way, those who know the least about him quote the most. The mere knowledge of a few Socialist phrases is not sufficient to make a 'scientific' Socialist. "In order to know WHY Socialism is coming, a Socialist should have some idea of the theory of evolution, and some knowledge of history. In order to know WHY it is coming, he must know something of economic development. "We, as Socialists, are vitally interested in the development of civilization. History for us is not a collection of 'shallow village tales,' the story of the coronations, weddings and burials of kings. Nor is it simply an account of battles lost and won, so many thousand killed on either side, and this or that king or general given all the glory. No. For us the true lesson of history is the story of the progress of mankind by gradual steps from brutal savagery to enlightenment, culture and humanity. A great English statesman has wisely said, 'the history of the future is to be read in the pages of the past.' "No one realizes this truth more than the really scientific Socialist. "The manner in which one system has grown out of another, feudalism out of slavery, and capitalism out of feudalism, is most suggestive of the manner by which the Socialist Republic will gradually develop out of the present system. "These are the most instructive lessons of history. "To do this is the aim of a set of books recently published under the title of LIBRARY OF ORIGINAL SOURCES. It gives in ten volumes a history of the various lines of human development. And what is its special advantage, this history is given in the original documents that formed the milestones of the development."

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Poet's Corner

**THE PIONEERS.**  
Oh, comrade! in the days to come,  
When peace and plenty shall abound;  
When Sorrow's cries are dead and dumb,  
And the wheels of life run sweetly round.  
When meadow mounds so green and lush,  
Tell we have laid aside our spears;  
I wonder will they think of us—  
The Pioneers

Yet how we caroled in the fight,  
When loud the slogan pealed on high;  
For Justice, Freedom, Truth and Right—  
That wild, inspiring battle cry.  
We laid about us with a zest,  
With right goodwill that scorned all sneers,  
With swords that stood the staunchest test—  
We Pioneers.

And though the silent Sands of Time  
Run trickling down the slender stem,  
We'll view the Promised Lands sub-line,  
Although we may not enter them.  
We'll strive until our life be done,  
Encouraged by the swelling cheers  
Of larger thousands following on  
The Pioneers.

—Labor Leader.

International

RULE BRITANNIA!

A British labor federation, to include all the economic and political organizations of England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, South Africa, Ceylon, India, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, is not an impossibility. J. Keir Hardie, leader of the labor party in the British parliament, has cherished this dream for some time. During his recent travels Mr. Hardie, who at this moment is addressing mass meetings of labor in New York, held conferences with the most active elements in the labor and socialist movements in the countries named. He says:

"When the British Empire Federation is an accomplished fact, and is powerful in view of its semi-universal character, I shall suggest to the workers abroad that they join with it in a compact of peace and fraternity, not only in words, as hitherto, but upon a fixed and determined plan, capable of reducing the government of any power making a declaration of war to complete impotency. Social war will ensue until the workers have obtained their emancipation, but in the meantime international strife will cease because the workers will know that by it they have nothing to gain and much to lose."

FRANCE.

The eight prisoners who were detained in prison in connection with the Villeneuve strike disturbances after their comrades were released some time ago have now been set at liberty. An immense meeting was held in Paris, some 6,000 persons assembling at the Tivoli, to welcome them back to active participation in the class struggle.

INDIA.

The confiscation of the "Inglab," for urging Indian mothers to breed rebels from the cradle, has been confirmed. Five "seditious" organizations at Dacca, Barisal, Faridpur and Meymensingh have been proclaimed by the terrified authorities.

It would be interesting to know to what extent the revival of religious warfare in India is due to the agents-provocateurs of the government. It is a dangerous card to play, to arouse strong fanatic animosity between two bodies of religionists.

AUSTRALIA.

Tom Mann Arrested.

Notwithstanding the rigid police blockade of the Broken Hill Proprietary mine, the water man was dynamited last week.

On Saturday the police escort of a supply wagon for the blacklegs was stoned and seven arrests were made. In the afternoon Tom Mann marched from the town hall at the head of 4,000 men in the direction of the Proprietary mine. They were met by a large force of police who used their batons freely and eventually arrested Mann and 20 others. A tremendous meeting of protest was held in the evening; and a still larger one on Sunday evening. On Sunday night the provision stores which supply the blacklegs at the mine were dynamited.

ITALY.

In the discussion in the chamber on the government measures to repair the earthquake ravages, Signor de Felice, strongly denounced the proclamation of martial law, which he said had increased the damage done by the earthquake and by the ruffians who flocked there. Had the assistance available been under more intelligent direction than that of the military, he maintained, 20,000 more victims could have been saved. Said he:

"I have seen the heart-breaking sight of victims being abandoned under the ruins though they implored assistance, while parties of volunteer rescuers were driven from the spot as if they had been marauders. The soldiers were willing and anxious to act, but their initiative was crushed by the orders issued from headquarters."

Certain comrades heretofore maintaining an organization known as the "South Slavonian Socialist Association of America," have reorganized under the name of the "Slavonic Socialist Organization of America," with headquarters at 537 South Center avenue, Chicago, Ill. This organization also publishes "Proletareo," which purports to reach natives of the South Slavish (Slavonic) nations.

During the month of January two new Finnish locals were organized with thirty-five members. The receipts for national dues for the month of January of the National Finnish Translator's office amounted to \$593.85. This exceeds by \$94 the record of any previous month. The receipts for the special Finnish dues stamps for January were \$294.30, which breaks the record for any previous month by the amount of \$52.70.

National

National Headquarters, Socialist Party.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 30, 1909.  
RUDOWITZ IS FREE! The fight for the freedom of Christian Ansoff Rudowitz has been won. Secretary of State Root has set aside the ruling of U. S. Commissioner Foote and decided that Rudowitz shall not be returned to Russia to be tortured by the minions of the czar.

Immediately following his release, Rudowitz visited the national headquarters and expressed his heartfelt thanks to the party and the Socialist press for his liberation.

Rudowitz is free. But the fight for the freedom of Janoff Pouden and the liberation of the Mexican patriots, now held in jail in Los Angeles, must go on.

WISCONSIN NOTES.

The Social-Democrats in the Wisconsin legislature have already introduced the following bills and memorials. A memorial to congress for help to the unemployed along the lines indicated in the national platform of the Socialist party of America. A memorial to congress for the collective ownership of all industries which are organized on a national scale and in which competition has virtually ceased to exist, to the end that property involved in these industries may be freely used for the advantage and benefit of the whole people. A petition to the Wisconsin senators to take action to abrogate the extradition treaty with Russia. A memorial to congress for a constitutional convention for revising the national constitution. A memorial to congress to investigate the various forms of public ownership, control and regulation of the liquor traffic now in use in different countries. A bill for county and municipal referendums on all questions of public interest upon the demand of 10 per cent of the electors. A bill making the president, vice president, managers and directors guilty of murder in case of fatal railway accidents which result from the criminal carelessness of the company, or when the company requires its employees to work more than twelve hours on a stretch, thus unfitting them for the careful performance of their duties. A bill requiring the state of Wisconsin to care for the families of convicts.

Of course most of these measures will be turned down by the legislature. Nevertheless, their introduction is part of the Socialists' work of educating the people.

Alderman Helms (Social-Democrat) made a fine speech in the last meeting of the Milwaukee city council. He spoke against Mayor Rose's proposal to cut down the school board appropriation. Comrade Helms took strong ground in defense of the public schools. He called attention to fact that in Milwaukee there are 89 barracks used as school buildings and six basement school rooms, four of which are so dark that the children have to study by artificial light. In the barracks the floors are so cold that the children are obliged to bring carpets to school to wrap around their feet. All these barracks are in workingmen's districts. Comrade Helms contended that we not only needed new school buildings, but up-to-date schoolhouses which could serve as social centers and also play grounds in connection with the school houses.

Comrade Althen, editor of the Two Rivers Reporter, has got into trouble for telling the truth. He exposed a printing graft in the letting of a city contract, and a verdict of criminal libel was rendered against him. The Socialists not only of Two Rivers but also of Manitowoc have taken up the case and do not propose that Comrade Althen shall be sacrificed for doing his duty. The Manitowoc Tribune, our Social-Democratic daily in Manitowoc, published a ringing editorial on the matter. It says: "In this world there are nine millions of people voting the Social-Democratic ticket. Nowhere on the face of the earth can one of these suffer in the fighting of a just cause without the active aid and support of the other eight million, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine. Everywhere Social-Democracy is fighting the same corrupt system. Everywhere it stands for the same principles, everywhere it seeks to establish the brotherhood of man. And we will fight until we win complete victory. -Keep in line."

The proposed National Party Referendum submitted by Local Portland, Ore., and first published December 31, 1908, has been endorsed by the following locals: Hillsdale, St. Johns, Jacksonville, Vale, Klamath, La Grande, Baker City, Cottage Grove, Medford, Ore.; Aberdeen and Arlington, Wash.; Moundville and Wheeling, W. Va.; Park City, Utah.

Women's Clubs

RUSSIAN WOMEN IN CONGRESS.

Christmas week of 1908 will be memorable in Russia as the occasion of the meeting of the first Congress of Russian Women. Nearly 1,000 women delegates from every part of the Russian empire, including Turkestan and Siberia, were present. Dr. Shabanova, one of the chief leaders of the woman's movement in Russia, in an opening speech of immense enthusiasm, spoke of the world-wide awakening of women to a demand for freedom and equality with men. The Congress program was then divided into three sections—educational, economical and political.

The desire of the leaders of the movement seems to have been to form a Women's Social and Political Union on the English lines, which should declare itself independent of all the older men's political parties and work principally for the franchise. But from the outset it was clear that feeling was sharply divided. The majority of the delegates seem to have been drawn from the wealthier classes, and several reporters desecrated on the great personal charm and beauty displayed, as well as the elegance of many of the dresses.

The police supervision of the proceedings throughout was most drastic. It was decided at the opening of the proceedings that but few outsiders other than reporters could be admitted, and thousands of young women and men were turned away from the doors after what came dangerously near a free fight. Later on a paper on the militant suffrage movement in England was vetoed by the authorities.

By Saturday the differences in the congress had come to a head, the women representatives of the working classes declaring that they found themselves unable to combine with the women of the possessing class or bourgeoisie. The decision of the Stuttgart Socialist congress was constantly referred to; and a Jewish lady doctor declared that to sink every question but the franchise at the present crisis in Russia, with a hopelessly reactionary Duma in power, was to be faithless to their chief work.

The economic section of the Congress had terrible revelations of the low wages and long hours endured by women workers to lay before their luxuriously dressed sisters. Twelve shilling to two pounds a month was declared to be the range. ("Our babies die at the rate of 60 per cent!" cried one speaker.) The starvation and general degradation of the peasantry were passionately described, and the difficulty of the peasant's wife to make a common cause with the aristocratic lady who regarded the land-owning rights of her noble husband as part of the divine constitution of things, emerged more and more clearly as the proceedings went forward.

The racial problem also cropped up, and an excited debate followed a statement that Russian women were indifferent to the sufferings of the Jews. Here there was no class division, for many of the wealthiest and most fashionable women in Russia are either Jewesses or of Jewish extraction, and a resolution was ultimately adopted in favor of the abolition of all Jewish disabilities.—Kate Bruce Glazier.

THE SOCIALIST WOMAN'S NEW ACTIVITY FOR SOCIALISM.

The February issue of "The Socialist Woman" is devoted to the child labor problem, and a half dozen valuable articles by prominent writers, including Theresa Malkiel, John Spargo, May Beals, Kate O'Hare, Lida Parce, Agnes Downing and Josephine C. Kaneko, is a fine contribution to the Socialist literature. This number ought to be in the hands of every child-loving parent of this land. From its March issue, "The Socialist Woman" will be known as "The Progressive Woman," and the paper will begin an active propaganda for socialism among non-Socialist people. It is high time that practical and unceasing effort should be taken by Socialists to reach new people. We cannot be satisfied with a handful of converted Socialists, but our energies should be extended to new people and gather them into our ranks. The adoption of a new name for "The Socialist Woman" is a timely and wise one. As its first attempt to reach a new field The Socialist Woman will publish an arousing article entitled "What Is the Woman Question?" The article will occupy at least three pages and it certainly deserves the close attention of every supporter as well as opposer of the cause of woman. The Socialist men especially should read every word of "What Is the Woman Question?" The March issue will be a special suffrage number, prepared for the "Special Suffrage Day" set aside by the National Executive Committee, and will be out by the middle of February.

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