

# WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE MONTANA PRISON BOARD?

## Do Governor Norris, Attorney General Galen and Secretary of State Yoder Know that Convict Labor Exists in Montana in Spite of Assurances Given to Organized Labor?

### STRIKING SWITCHMEN

#### APPEAL FOR HELP

**Every Local and Every Craft of Organized Labor Should Send Immediate Aid to the Railroad Workers on Strike**

St. Paul, Minn., Jan. 7, 1910  
 TO ALL ORGANIZED LABOR:

On October 15, 1909, the Switchmen's Union through its authorized representatives in the Northwest territory, served notice on the railroads, that a conference was desired for the purpose of discussing a wage increase and improvement in working conditions.

On October 19th the Switchmen's Union Committee and certain railroad officials met in conference and for several days deliberated on the issue. All arguments and influence which could be produced were submitted to the railroad companies to grant an increase in wages and relief from deplorable working conditions, but to no avail. The companies finally offered to submit the entire question to arbitration under the Erdman act. This the switchmen refused, because it would bring no relief, particularly to the working conditions, as under the act, a decision could be withheld for at least two years. Failing therefore, to obtain any benefit by every other honorable means, a strike of the switchmen was inaugurated November 30, 1909, tying up every yard from the head of the lakes to Puget Sound. Never has there been a more complete strike in the history of organized labor and never one more orderly. All switchmen in the territory responded to the call to strike and they have been standing firm by their demands since. Traffic is paralyzed, mills, smelters, and shops closed and machinery is idle. Business interests, state and city governments have appealed to the railroads to settle the controversy and thus put an end to the great financial loss sustained by the farmer, merchant, manufacturer and mine owner, but they were not successful. The railroad department of the American Federation of Labor called a special convention in St. Paul and co-operated with Minnesota's Governor for more than a week, endeavoring to induce the railroad companies to accept fair terms of settlement, but failed. Then the department appealed to the Federal government for its intervention, but in view of the

stubborn position maintained by the railroads thus far, it is expected that this movement will also fail. We are waging war against one of the most gigantic and relentless combines of capital in existence. One railroad official has stated, that he will starve the strikers into submission, and this they seem to have adopted as a sure course to defeat the strikers. They are resorting to all the tactics conceivable in the human mind in order to defeat the Switchmen's Union, thus depriving the yard men of the Northwest of any protection whatever. In this case, they are aiming to defeat the organizations one at a time, for they have boasted of defeating the telegraphers, machinists and boiler-makers separately and now intend to exterminate the Switchmen's Union. This will be impossible if the strikers remain firm and they will remain firm if they are financially supported by kindred organizations. In the interest then of humanity and for the sake of the homes and families of the wage earners in the Northwest territory, we appeal to you for such financial assistance as you can promptly render, so that we may win this fight, which means as much to you as to the switchmen. The Switchmen's Union never before appealed for assistance, but in this case, we are compelled to do so and we therefore come to you for the first time in our history asking you to give this appeal earnest and prompt consideration, and that you donate as much as you can consistently spare towards our assistance. Kindly forward same to D. A. Harshberger, Vice President, Switchmen's Union of North America, Hotel Foley, St. Paul, Minn.

Assuring you that such contributions in our favor will never be forgotten, but will be returned ten-fold, we beg to submit ourselves,  
 Fraternally yours,  
 F. T. HAWLEY,  
 President.  
 D. A. HARSHBERGER,  
 Vice President.  
 Approved by Grand Board of Directors, Switchmen's Union of North America in regular session in Buffalo, January 6, 1910.  
 ROE J. MARTIN,  
 Chairman.  
 W. A. TITIS, Secy.  
 H. W. DULY,  
 M. J. BOYLE,  
 HARRY NOLAN.

Deer Lodge, Mont., Jan. 28, 1910.

I have been informed that convicts have been used to excavate the basement in the rooming house that is being built for Conley & McTague, and that three men are ready to affirm same, these men say that last week there were about fifteen convicts working on the excavation.

Convict Labor is still being utilized in Deer Lodge, regardless of the promises given to representatives of organized labor over a year ago by the members of the Montana Prison Board at the State Capital in Helena.

Governor Norris, Attorney General Galen, and Secretary of State Yoder form the Board of Prison Commissioners.

The labor unions of Montana should send a communication to the Secretary of the Prison Board, Helena, Mont., inquiring if they sanction the convicts working in Deer Lodge to create wealth for the firm of Conley & McTague.

JAMES D. GRAHAM.

Warden Conley of the Montana State Prison is quoted as saying— one day last week, that he would put organized labor out of business in Deer Lodge or that he would control the unions, and further intimated that he got everything he went after in Deer Lodge and that it was only a matter of time until he would be master of the situation.

A Trades & Labor Council has been organized in Deer Lodge and the Bartenders have applied for a charter. An effort is being made to organize the car repairers—such is the rapid growth of organized labor in Conley's town.



Mrs. M. Bennefeld,  
 Vice President of the Silver Bow  
 Trades & Labor Assembly.

Mrs. M. Bennefeld, a member of the Butte Retail Clerks' Union, is the first woman to be elected an executive officer of the Silver Bow Trades & Labor Assembly, she having been elected vice president for the ensuing term.

This is an epoch in the labor movement of Montana for women, as the Silver Bow Trades & Labor Assembly is the largest, most powerful influential labor body in the Northwest.

Mrs. Bennefeld has always been an aggressive advocate of unionism in Butte, and has done considerable to advance the interests of the workers. She was a delegate to the last conven-

tion of the Montana Federation of Labor, which convention passed resolutions in favor of woman's suffrage. The principal arguments used in favor of the foregoing resolution were, that the working women of Montana were rapidly organizing into unions and becoming a factor in the labor movement and it was only justice that they have the right of suffrage in order that they have a chance to secure some labor legislation for themselves.

It is to be hoped that when the women of Montana get the suffrage that Mrs. Bennefeld will be the first woman to represent Silver Bow County in the legislature.

### HOMESTAKE RESORT

#### TO PEONAGE

**William R. Hearst Properties in the Black Hills Throw Men in Jail when They Refuse to Become Scabs**

The Homestake company is not only importing men to take the places of its locked-out employees, but it or its agents are resorting to misrepresentation to lure workers to the Black Hills and then if the dupes refuse to work they are to be thrown into jail.

Among the men imported was Carl Kraus of Victor, Colorado, who was hired by a man named Milt Arthur, also of Victor. When asked to come to the Hills, Kraus replied that he had heard something about there being trouble between the Homestake company and its employees. Arthur replied that all the trouble had been settled; that all the English-speaking people had gone back to work and the company was refusing to hire foreigners. This made it necessary to bring men into the Hills to fill vacancies. With this understanding, Mr. Kraus came to Lead, his fare having been paid by some one other than himself. When the party arrived in Lead yesterday afternoon, he saw a number of idle men on the streets who looked to him like they could speak English and came to the conclusion that he had been lied to. He was hustled to the company's office along with his companions, where he signed the scab list, but he said he made a mental reservation that even if he signed he would not work under such conditions

as he had previously belonged to the Amalgamated Steel Workers and had always been able to make a living without scabbing on his fellowmen.

After signing, he came up town, where he met some union men and told them he would not take their jobs. Shortly afterward he was accosted by what he termed a "Pink" and told his presence was wanted at the company office. He accompanied his guide to the Homestake office, in the Hearst building, where he was asked why he refused to work. He replied that conditions were not what they had been represented to him and he did not propose to become a scab. The guard was at once informed by somebody who seemed to be in charge of this feature of the work to throw the fellow into jail and he was bundled off to the city's "black hole", where he remained for about an hour, when he was released by orders of Time-keeper Irwin.

Jim Kirwan had engaged a lawyer to get Kraus out of jail, if possible, and it is quite probable that Kraus was released to prevent a charge of peonage being lodged against the company. While he was in jail Kraus learned, in conversation with one of the company men, that those who come here to work are expected to allow the carfare from their starting point to be taken out of their wages.

### The Housefly and Socialism.

By J. W. Kohl.

When the battle cry of freedom will be "down with the housefly" count on us as after them in an airship. It seems it takes a summer time for these pests to get thoroughly acquainted and about this time of the year they take more liberties than a female pick pocket. Flies always remind us of socialists. They have no sense of right, wrong, or decency. Sunday in the quietude of our office we tried to write an inspired message on the discovery of the north pole. It is a serious thing to be disturbed when embracing a brilliant thought. To execute the manual of arms and keep your mind on a subject and your pencil on the paper with a fly tickling your nose is more of a trick than

making love to two girls at once. A fly at th's time of the year is a very saucy flirt and will light anywhere to be mean. England has started a crusade against the housefly and America should do the same after it finds out who discovered the north pole. The only time we like the home team at the bat and the bases full.

A View of Mr. Kohl and his Article on "Houseflies and Socialism".  
 By Edwin S. Dew.

I wish to call attention to an article which appeared in the Carbon Count News of October 7, 1909. In this article the editor refers to houseflies as reminding him of Socialists, he says, because they have no sense of right, wrong, or decency. It is not



THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

OFFICE 19 PARK AV. P. O. BOX 908

Entered at the Post Office for transmission through the mail at second-class rates.

GRAHAM & HAZLETT, Publishers.

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT Editor and Manager.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

One Year ..... 50c Six Months ..... 25c One cent per copy in bundles up to 500

National Headquarters, J. Mahlon Barnes, Secretary, 180 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.



WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIGH PRICES?

As an example of the bosh and claptrap upon which the capitalist class is feeding the country the Anaconda Standard prints a cartoon which is supposed to indicate the cause of high prices. The legend reads, "Who is responsible for high prices?" And we see the well-fed and well-dressed butcher, packer, and manufacturer who have got hold of the consumer and are pointing viciously toward a well-dressed farmer, who is bowling jauntily along the highway in an automobile and saying to himself, "What are they pointing at me for?"

In other words the capitalist press tries to make the public believe that the farmer, the actual laboring producer, is absorbing all the wealth extorted from the suffering consumer, and that the great army of intermediaries who form the vast trust interests of the country, are also helpless victims of the farmer magnate.

The trusts think the public, the American people, are ignorant and stupid, and they can tell them anything. And the trust is right. Anyone who will examine the condition of the farmer, even superficially, knows that he is exploited on farm machinery, transportation, food stuff he does not raise, leather, steel, interest and rent to such an extent that mortgages are increasing at a tremendous rate, farms are being lost at a steady percent of gain, and great tracts of country are passing into the ownership of the banks. One farmer now and then has an automobile. He is the capitalist farmer, who does not do his work himself, but lives off the labor of others.

Where the high prices of food stuffs is going, is into the pockets of the trust-organized industries, that are so completely organized and controlled that they can demand a monopoly price. The high prices are on trust-controlled goods, and the killing rates that the consumers pay go to build marble palaces, buy yachts, keep the dainty mistresses, the expensive dogs and horses, and numberless luxuries of those who control the nation's food.

All this jabber of causes by the capitalist press, and the superficial reformers like the "insurgent republicans" is silly—a cry of "stop thief", to draw the attention from the real robbers. The socialists are the only ones who put their finger on the cause. Take the food of the nation out of the hands of the trusts. Abolish private enterprise in the things of life. Give the control of the nation's food into the hands of the nation. Vote the socialist program; put socialists in congress; and we will see a rattling among the trust leaders and their prices. In the meanwhile the people will be robbed blind till they get some sense.

CAUSES OF CRIME.

The work the Montana News is now doing will be felt in the next legislature, and moreover there is liable to be a grand jury investigation before it is all over. Governor Norris has got busy investigating methods of penal reform. Books on criminality ought to be in demand in Montana. Read Clarence Darrow's little book on "Crime and Criminals". You can

get it from the Kerr Publishing Co. Chicago for 10 Cents. You will get some ideas on scientific methods of dealing with crime.

If you wish to really study the subject understandingly get Enrico Ferri's "Positive School of Criminology" from the same place. You will learn that confining men in dungeons and starving them is not considered an up-to-date way of reforming a human being. Neither is reducing them to peonage to make fortunes for capitalists by plundering the public.

Crime is the result of conditions. Society is the great criminal. Reform society and crime will disappear; or if it remains, will remain as a pathological condition of the individual to be treated as any other disease.

BEN HANFORD DEAD.

Ben Hanford, twice the standard bearer of the socialist party for second place on the presidential ticket, died at his home in Brooklyn, Jan. 24.

He was 50 years old. For twenty years he had devoted his life to the socialist movement. He was an active organizer of the "Big Six" of New York, the typographical union that conducted the big strike. He was devoted in the last year of his life to the establishment of a powerful socialist press. This he considered the most essential movement at present. He grieved in his last days that he must be taken before this object had been accomplished.

Our Comrade Hanford will be remembered as one of the most devoted and powerful factors of the formative period of the socialist party in America.

FOR GREATER THINGS.

At the time that four of the greatest names in British Social Democracy resigned from the Administrative Committee of the Independent Labor Party, Ramsey MacDonald, Snowden, Keir Hardie and Bruce Glasier, and the latter resigned as editor of the "Labor Leader", it was natural for socialists to view the apparent change of front with dismay. But these valiant warriors of the militant Labor Party knew what they were doing. At one stroke they silenced all dissatisfaction arising within the party, removed from themselves the accusation of arbitrary bossism, placed upon others the burden of learning the value of administrative work, and at the same time freed themselves so as to be able to handle the greater problems coming up so rapidly before the British Socialist Party.

One of the immediate results is a large and well elaborated plan for the establishment of a national labor press. The purpose is, bring into being a printing press for handling the publishing business of the party, thus keeping the work within the party circle, and withdrawing all profits from the capitalist side of the proposition. The enterprise will be capitalized with \$35,000. It is the intention that the "Labor Leader" pass from the control of the private company to the ownership and control by the party. The new labor press will then have as a basis on which to commence business, the "Labor Leader", "The Socialist Review", (a handsome monthly) the Socialist Library Series, books, pamphlets, leaflets and general printing, the production of which amounts annually to about \$40,000.

This, however, is but a moderate proportion of the printing work of the party as a whole. There are 900 branches of the party, a large part of whose printing is at the present given to outside printers. The close association of the Labor Party and the trade union movement makes it extremely probable that a large volume of the printing of the latter would be obtained.

The "Vorwaerts" printing press in Berlin employs 300 workers, and makes yearly for the party an average of \$35,000.

Published by Request.

Comrade Editor: Even the "Appeal" has at last been drawn into saying something about the party situation. That is not bad

—we understand the "Appeal" a little better.

Now the "Appeal" is a dandy agitator. But it has shown in several cases that it has poor judgment facilities in the organization of anything but the "Appeal Army". In that matter it is a hummer. And we are all glad of that. However, that is one thing, and political action and organization is quite a different thing. Some day we shall have a real political Socialist party in America. Then perhaps the various and sundry independent and individual propaganda wings will not be going out to the Philippines in the middle of a campaign and dragging in by the hair things which are not issues at all, to the distraction of the party from the real issues.

The "Appeal" believes in "rotation in office", otherwise, the well-known American capitalist political principle of "Give every good man a chance at the Pie Counter".

We might learn a few things from the European Socialists—since they have been pretty successful. When they have found and tested their servants, and found them efficient, they do not believe in "rotation in office". Perhaps they ought to have its value explained to them—in which case we will delegate the "Appeal Army" to do the explaining.

Of course the European Socialists also make the sad mistake of accepting with perfect calmness the services of plumbers for plumbing, carpenters for carpentering, printers for printing, and writers and speakers for their respective tasks. They have enough others of these respective crafts inside their party so that there is no lack of intelligent critics and cheerful knockers. But really, they ought to put some blacksmiths at their book-keeping; then they would have real proletarian movement. Now it is only a party of intellectuals—about three millions of them in Germany.

What foolishness!

In France, Jaures has had official position in the party for years. In Belgium, Vandervelde has long been a party official. In Germany, Babel, Singer and Kautsky have long years held party offices; while in Austria also, Victor Adler has had opportunity to prove his merit by long service. But these are "foreign ideas", I suppose.

"The little ole Appeal" would have Comrade Adler—just about the time when he had learned enough of the working class political situation to be of some use to discover the most effective methods of organization—step down and out in favor of another equally honest comrade, that the latter might also have an opportunity to pry open the mysteries of administrative process as they must be carried on under present conditions—only to give way in his turn about the time that he discovers himself too unfitted for the job.

The "Appeal" says that "The true mission of the party is to develop the

intellectual capacity of the units (party members) all of them, and fit them for industrial and social self control." Well, then the socialist party has the same mission for its members that Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute has for the negro race. Wow! I had thought that the socialist party was a political organization, constituted for the purpose of political action by the working class. And all of a sudden I learn from the "Appeal" that its mission is to serve as a kindergarten for intellectuals. Perhaps the "Appeal" will modify that a little, if we give it time.

Meanwhile, of course, if a comrade has served with advantage to the party as a member of any committee, for three or eight terms, that is proof positive that it is time for him to leave "the pie counter"!

And above all: the editors are disqualified for intelligent and resourceful action. They study the party situation too much! They know too much and they might use what they know. They are intellectuals, and therefore are liable to have influence. We want no one with influence or any intellectuals in a position where they can use their knowledge directly. They might unify the party too much.

All of which, also proves—well, let us say that it proves that the "little ole Appeal" is not an intellectual! We don't really mean that, but want to pay some sort of an acceptable compliment.

Here is what I believe:

The socialist party, like any great movement, must have strong leadership. And it must trust its leaders, holding them responsible for results.

For the development of such leadership, men who have proven their qualities must be kept on the job. "Rotation in office" develops politicians, not capable party servants.

Therefore, vote for the old members of the Committee, under whose efficient guidance the national office has at least been kept from making any serious mistakes.

WINFELD R. GAYLORD.

Socialist State Senator of Wisconsin. Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 31, 1909.

If you believe in unionism you should join the union and help to advance the interests of the workers on the economic field.

Join the union! Organize, agitate, educate, work for industrial solidarity. Have your union affiliate with the local and state central bodies.

Subscribe for

The Little Socialist Magazine

and teach your children properly from the cradle up.

50 CENTS A YEAR

15 Spruce Street, NEW YORK.

Woman Under Socialism

By AUGUST BEBEL, One of the Greatest Leaders of the German Socialist Movement.

The Greatest Work Ever Written on the Woman Question.

THIS IS THE BOOK THAT BISHOP CARROLL ATTACKED IN HIS MISSOULA SERMON.

Cloth, 400 Pages,

PRICE ONE DOLLAR

Order from the Montana News

Montana News JOB OFFICE

Get your Printing done on a Working Class Press

UNION MEN, SOCIALISTS, ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE PROGRESS OF LABOR THROW YOUR PROFITS TO SUSTAIN THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE.

All Kinds of First-Class J Work at the Montana News Office.

Bills, Letterheads, Visiting Cards, Envelopes, Folders Posters, Statements, and anything you want in the Printing Line. We make a Specialty of Constitutions and By-Laws for Unions, and all Sorts of Printing that Organized Labor has to pay for.—You want our Paper to defend your Principles... We want your Work to help on the Fight. A fair Exchange is no Robbery.

WE PAY THE EXPRESS.

ORDER YOUR JOB WORK

at the

MONTANA NEWS

Helena, Box 908 Montana

BOOKS TO READ ON SOCIALISM

To be Obtained from Montana News

TEN CENTS BOOKS

- Blatchford—Merrie England. Connolly—Socialism Made Easy. Deville—The State and Socialism; Socialism, Revolution and Internationalism. Engels—Socialism, Utopian and Scientific. Liebknecht—Socialism, What It Is. Marx—Value, Price and Profit. Marx and Engels—The Communist Manifesto. Morris and Others—Socialist Songs with Music. Spargo—The Socialists.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS BOOKS

- Lewis—The Art of Lecturing. Spargo—The Common Sense of Socialism. Vail—Modern Socialism. Principles of Scientific Socialism, 35 Cents.

FIFTY CENTS BOOKS

- Boelsche—The Evolution of Man; The Triumph of Life. Engels—Origin of the Family; Socialism, Utopian and Scientific. Ferri—Positive School of Criminology. France—Germs of Mind in Plants. Kautsky—Ethics and the Materialist Conception; The Social Revolution. Lafargue—The Right to Be Lazy; The Industrial Evolution. La Monte—Socialism, Positive and Negative. Lewis—Evolution, Social and Organic; Ten Blind Leaders of the Blind; Vital Problems in Social Evolution. Liebknecht—Memoirs of Karl Marx. Marx—Value, Price and Profit. Marx and Engels—The Communist Manifesto.

FIFTY CENTS BOOKS

- Meyer.—The End of the World, The Making of the World. Morris and Bax — Socialism, its Growth and Outcome. Spargo—The Socialists. Teichman—Life and Death. Untermann—Science and Revolution. Blind; Vital Problems in Social Evolution. Vandervelde—Collectivism and Industrial Evolution. Work—What's so and What Isn't.

ONE DOLLAR BOOKS

- Blatchford—God and my Neighbor. Carpenter—Loves Coming of Age. Engels—Landmarks of Scientific Socialism. Ferri—Socialism and Modern Science. Fitch—Physical Basis of Mind and Matter. Labriola—Essays on Historical Materialism, Socialism and Philosophy. Lafargue—The Evolution of Property. Lewis—The Rise of the American Proletarian. Universal Kinship. Moore—Better World Philosophy, The Rappaport—Looking Forward. Spargo—The Common Sense of Socialism. Triggs—The Changing Order. Untermann—Marxian Economics. Vail—Principles of Scientific Socialism.

ONE & ONE-HALF DOLLAR BOOKS

- Morgan—Ancient Society.

TWO DOLLAR BOOKS

- Franklin—The Socialization of Humanity. Marx—Capital, Volume I. Capital, Volume II. Capital, Volume III. Ward—The Ancient Lowly, Vol. I. The Ancient Lowly, Vol. II.

Don't you want some socialist envelopes? The Montana News prints them in red ink—only 65 cents a hundred. Make Uncle Sam distribute your socialist propaganda.

Do you know of any job work, or any printing of any kind that you could just as well get for a worker's print shop as for a capitalist shop? If so send it in to the News.

Remember, the "Mills of Mammon" for 10 subs. Try this deal and see if you don't say you are well paid for your work. Send the champion of the working class leaping skyward, and get a book free that you can give to benighted workers and teach them the horrors produced by the system they are voting for, and the remedy.

Order your Job Work NOW.



Poet's Corner

THE VOICES OF WOMEN.

"The woman's cause is man's; they rise or sink Together, dwarfed or godlike; bond or free."

There are voices that call from the mountain, And voices that cry from the plain; That rise from the valleys of sorrow, As the prayer of the desert for rain;

That sob through the gloom of the midnight, And wake with the earliest dawn— The heart-breaking voices of women With hope and with happiness gone.

They are crushed by the arm of oppression, And cursed by the weight of the years; Their young babes are torn from their bosoms; Their eyes have grown dim with their tears.

They stretch empty arms to the twilight For the clasp of a little, soft hand; And the cry from their myriad voices Breaks forth from al over the land.

"Oh, give us our children, our children! To hold them once more to our heart. Oh, give us the homes you have ravaged And sold in the world's wicked mart.

Oh, let us come forth from the shadow And dwell in the sunshine of life, Oh, give us the power to honor The dear name of mother and wife.

And out from the heart of the nation, From the midst of a vast, busy throng, Comes an army of strong, earnest women Who battle to vanquish the wrong.

They say, "We are coming, our sisters, The day of deliverance draws near. No more shall the famished affections Make the mother's heart tremble with fear.

No more shall the black night of terror Throw over the future its blight For what is the world's shall be ours And justice shall gird us with might.

And women, when freed from their bondage To custom and nation and king, Shall lift from their slave-chains their lovers; And nature and freedom shall sing."

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT.

WEEKLY LESSON FOR SOCIALIST LOCALS AND MEMBERS.

Authorized by the National Executive Committee—Prepared by Rand School.

STUDY COURSE OF SOCIALISM

The Economics of Capitalism.

The Theory of Economic Crises.—The process of capitalist development does not go on smoothly and steadily, but by a series of alternating phases—periods of prosperity, marked chiefly by accumulation of capital; periods of industrial depression (economic crises, hard times) marked chiefly by concentration of capitalist ownership.

These crises are peculiar to the capitalist system, and differ widely from which have occurred in all ages, periods of general suffering due to crop failures, insect plagues, epidemic diseases, or devastating wars. Their regularity in time and character shows that they are normal results of causes inherent in the capitalist system. Attempts to explain crises by "lack of confidence", rash speculation, or plots of financiers do not explain their periodicity. Capitalists cannot cause a crisis unless conditions are ripe for it, nor prevent one

National

The State Convention of the Socialist Party of Minnesota will be held at McElroy's Hall, Minneapolis, beginning at 10 a. m., Sunday, February 20th.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Otto Erber, formerly of Danville, Ill., last heard from in Indianapolis, Ind., please notify the National Office of the Socialist Party.

By a recent referendum W. Lanfersick, 505 Washington Ave., Newport, and Chas. Dobbs, c/o Insurance Field, Louisville, have been re-elected State Secretary and National Committee member, respectively, of Kentucky.

The Homestake Mining Co. of Lead, S. D., said to be owned by the Hearst estate, and which locked out its miners on Thanksgiving Day, has induced all other operators in the district to declare for the open shop. The well known card system of the bosses (I will belong to no union and always be good) is now required to be signed by the miners in that district.

Jose M. Rangel, one of the Mexican political refugees held in jail, has been declared guilty of violating the neutrality laws by a jury at San Antonio, Texas. The verdict was a great surprise as the judge favorably charged the jury and the newspapers and the people generally looked for acquittal. An appeal has been taken.

Guillermo Adan, one of the Mexican revolutionists in the Las Vacas fight, was freed after being held in jail seventeen months awaiting a hearing. Tomas Sarabia, editor of "Reforma Libertad y Justicia", the Mexican revolutionary organ published in Texas, has been given his liberty after being held five months in jail awaiting trial.

The secretary of the Political Refugee Defense League, John Murray is at San Antonio looking after the interests of the cases of those who are still held in jail.

The question whether crises are due to overproduction or to underproduction is a mere dispute about words, for the two phrases mean the same thing. We must understand why production periodically outruns consumption, or why consumption periodically lags behind production.

It must be borne in mind: (a) That production is controlled by competing capitalists, whose motive is to realize surplus-value by the sale of goods produced for them; (b) that the capitalists' share of the value produced tends to increase and the workers share to diminish with the accumulation of capital and improvement of methods of production; (c) that prices of goods rise with increase of demand or diminution of supply and fall with diminution of demand or increase of supply.

We now take up the workings of the capitalist system at the beginning of a period of prosperity and follow them out.

1. Prosperity.—Demand is brisk and prices high enough to give the capitalists a large surplus. The productive plant is running at full capacity. Comparatively few workers are unemployed, many work over time, a part are able to do something from their wages, generally depositing it in savings banks, through which it is transformed into capital.

Of the goods produced, the workers buy an amount limited by the proportion which their total wages bear to the total value of the goods produced. The rest must be purchased by the capitalists, either in the form of articles for consumption or else as machinery, etc., to be added to the productive plant.

If the existing ratio could be maintained, this sort of prosperity might continue indefinitely, but it cannot.

Encouraged by quick sales and large returns, owners of mines, mills, etc., speed up machinery and enlarge and improve plant as fast as they can, each seeking to increase his gains regardless of ultimate and general effects; any who fail to do so are overpowered by more enterprising competitors. To a great extent merchants and industrial capitalists expand their capital or credit, anticipating future returns.

But the increase of the productive plant increases the product more than it increases wages—i. e., reduces the workers' proportional share of value produced; speeding machinery does the same in an even higher degree. As production expands in a period of prosperity, the workers' purchasing power does not grow in proportion to the growing supply of goods, and the workers' purchasing power constitutes a large part of the effective demand for goods. Supply tends to outrun demand. This is not wholly counteracted by the capitalists' increased purchasing power; their purchase for consumption are limited by their comparatively small number and by the desire of each of them, stimulated by high returns, to reinvest as much as possible of his income—i. e., to turn it into additional capital. This again aggravates the tendency of supply to outrun demand.

2. The Crisis.—After several years of prosperity and expansion comes a time when goods are pouring into the market faster than they can be sold. Prices begin to fall and profits shrink. Merchants and manufacturers who have expanded largely on credit are unable to meet their obligations. Their failure to pay drags them down, and large number of banks, commercial houses, and industrial enterprises go into bankruptcy. Many mines, mills, and factories shut down or reduce force. This checks the increase in the supply of goods, but in still larger measures it reduces effective demand—(a) by cutting off wages of unemployed workers; (b) by reducing wages of those still employed, who cannot resist wage-cut when many are unemployed; (c) by causing others to cut down expenditures in fear of want.

In consequence of declining purchasing power, prices continue to fall, inducing or compelling capitalists to curtail production still more; what comes to the same thing, they curtail production to prevent the fall of prices. In either case, unemployment increases and wages decline, purchasing power is further diminished, which leads to further curtailment, and so on. This reciprocal action continues through several years of hard times.

3. Recovery.—Depression can end and prosperity return only by demand being readjusted to supply, disposing of the surplus of unsold goods. This may come through opening of new disposed of and fresh demand is liable live war; lacking this, it comes at last normally. As prosperity has caused depression, depression in turn causes a revival of prosperity. It is this form of recovery we must examine. How is the surplus disposed of and the glut cured? Is the question we must answer.

In order to live through the hard times, workingmen and also many small business men, professionals, and farmers have to spend all they had saved and even run into debt. Savings bank deposits are withdrawn, stocks and bonds held by small investors sold at a loss, farms and houses mortgaged or those already mortgaged are lost. The savings of the workingmen and a large part of the wealth of the middle classes pass into the hands of the capitalists who survive the crisis, in payment for necessities of life. Thus the surplus is disposed of and fresh demand is able to balance fresh supply. This done the phase of expansion begins again and another period of prosperity ensues.

The Function of Crises.—The periodic crisis is not only a necessary result of capitalist development, but is also a necessary condition to the further development of capitalism. Its functions in this respect are twofold: (a) Periodically to restore the working class to the propertyless condition which has always been noted as necessary to the operation of the capitalist system; (b) Periodically to concentrate the ownership and control of the capital expanded during the preceding period of prosperity, transferring large quantities of wealth and economic power from the hands of small capitalists and members of the middle classes into those of the great capitalists.

In doing these things, it also periodically intensifies the exploitation of the workers, either by reducing their standard of living, or by enlisting more women and children along with men as wage workers, or by setting a higher speed-pace for their work, or by doing all of these things together; it periodically increases the

number of wage workers, diminishes the number of capitalists and of independent middle-class persons, and increases the number of the dependents who minister to the personal or business needs of the capitalists; and it periodically raises the standard of luxury-consumption among the capitalists and their retainers.

References:

Hyndman, "The Economics of Socialism", Chapter V.

Questions for Review.

- 1. In what country and in what industries did capitalism first arise? In what countries is it now most fully developed?
2. Why is capitalism able to crowd out older systems of production and distribution?
3. Why does competition become impracticable whenever combination becomes practicable?
4. In what way does the concentration of the control of capital outrun the concentration of its ownership?
5. What recent tendencies have we described under the term "the integration of capitalism?"

The Housefly and Socialism. (Continued from Page 1.)

because Mr. Kohl does not know better than this but it is because he is running his paper in the interests of the capitalists who pay him for such warblings. If he should write the truth and give the socialists a fair deal, he would lose his job and then poor little Johnny's bread basket would begin to wrinkle and may be, if such should happen, he would begin to get some ideas into that thing on his shoulders which we hang his hat on and calls a head.

However, he knows, if he has got as much sense as a six year old bird's nest, that the socialists have just as much respect for the right; that it is the right that they are fighting for and the wrong which they are fighting against. And as far as decency is concerned, I will wager that they are as decent as any set of republicans, democrats, or any other set of men or women that Johnny can trot out.

He says that last Sunday he tried to write an inspired message on the discovery of the north pole. It would have to be inspired if he ever wrote anything fit to read on that or anything else. Why, if an idea struck him he would take to running over the hills so fast that it would take 'steep cowboys with lariats to catch him. Yes, yes, Mr. Kohl, it is a very serious thing to be disturbed when embracing a serious thought. But I don't believe, nor does anyone else who has read very much of your tommyrot, that you ever had a brilliant thought nor any kind of one. You need never worry, if you are only bothered when embracing brilliant thought you will lead a very quiet and peaceful life.

"To execute the manual of arms and keep your mind on he subject and your pencil on the paper with a fly tickling your nose is more of a trick than making love to two girls at once, says Mr. Kohl. Well, now, who'd a think it. Everything aside while the gentleman executes the manual of arms, if that pesky fly would only let him alone while he got both of those many arms around those two girls he would have a fine time and would not rack that vacuum above his shoulders for brilliant thoughts, but he would undoubtedly keep his mind on the subject suggested by that "manual of arms", which he claims is so difficult to execute.

But as to that fly which lit upon the gentleman's nose, if it had been a socialist bee, it would not only have tickled but it would have stung and he would have found it much more difficult to keep his pencil on the paper and furthermore, he would not have wanted to about that time. Socialists have been after him before and he was too much of a coward to print both views of the case. He printed his side of the proposition and when the socialist view was presented for publication, he refused and went on thinking he was the smartest man in the Clarke's Fork valley.

All together now, till little Johnny finds out who discovered the north pole and then we will see some fun for he is going to bet an airship and an argon, for that is his calibre, and start a crusade against the house fly. He will be alright as long as he stays with it, but as soon as he starts on the socialists he will think he has run into a nest of bumble bees of the largest size, with a sting six inches long. And, oh! The way he will wish he was back at his old stand, executing the "manual of arms".

Certainly he likes to see a fly when the home team is at the bat and the bases full, but I would remind the gentleman that the socialists have a whole lot of mighty good fielders and the fly is pretty apt to get pulled down and that would mean that your home team was OUT.

The Mills of Mammon

Red Light District of Chicago Exposed

Creastest American Novel from a Socialist Pen

THRILLING AND REALISTIC By James H. Brower, Popular Chicago Orator.

Takes the Lid off Politics! Graft, White Slave Traffic, Crimes of Rich Men's Sons, Stealing Inventions, and the Horrors that Capitalistic Production inflicts upon the Workers

THIS IS WHAT WILL GET YOUR NEIGHBOR FOR SOCIALISM.

The Second Edition was commenced on the 20th day after it came out.

Price One Dollar

FOR SALE BY THE Montana News, Helena, Montana.

POCKET LIBRARY OF SOCIALISM

- 1. Women and the Social Problem, May Wood Simons.
2. The Evolution of the Class Struggle, W. H. Noyes.
3. Incomplete Marriage, Robert Blatchford.
4. Packagewares, A. M. Simons.
5. Realism in Literature and Art, Clarence S. Darrow.
6. Single Tax vs. Socialism, A. M. Simons.
7. Wage Labor and Capital, Karl Marx.
8. The Man Under the Machine, A. M. Simons.
9. The Mission of the Working Class, Charles H. Vail.
10. Socialism and Socialism, Charles H. Vail.
11. Socialist Songs, Compiled by Charles H. Kerr.
12. After Capitalism, What? Wm. Thurston Brown.
13. National Production, Walter L. Toud.
14. Socialism and Farmers, A. M. Simons.
15. How I Acquired My Millions, W. A. Corey.
16. A Christian View of Socialism, D. H. Stoddell.
17. You Railroad Men, Eugene V. Debs.
18. Fables of the Water Tank, Edward Bellamy.
19. The Red Religion of Today, Wm. Thurston Brown.
20. Why I Am a Socialist, George D. Herron.
21. The Trust Question, Charles H. Vail.
22. Science and Socialism, Robert Rives La Monte.
23. The Age at the Rock, William Thurston Brown.
24. What the Socialists Would Do, A. M. Simons.
25. The Folly of Being "Good," Charles H. Kerr.
26. Intemperance and Poverty, T. Twining.
27. The Relation of Religion to Social Ethics, Brown.
28. Socialism and the Home, May Walden.
29. Trusts and Imperialism, Gaylord Wilshire.
30. A Sketch of Social Evolution, H. W. Boyd & Hucker.
31. Socialism vs. Anarchy, A. M. Simons.
32. You and Your Job, Charles Sandberg.
33. The Socialist Party of America, Platform, etc.
34. The Fruits of Intellectual, Franklin H. Rowenorth.
35. The Philosophy of Socialism, A. M. Simons.
36. An Appeal to the Young, Peter Knopke.
37. The Kingdom of God and Socialism, R. M. Webster.
38. Easy Lessons in Socialism, W. H. Luffingwell.
39. Socialism and Organized Labor, May Wood Simons.
40. Industrial Unionism, William E. Troutman.
41. A Socialist Catechism, Charles E. Clive.
42. Over Eris, or Money and Social Ethics, C. H. Reed.
43. Our Bourgeois Literature, Upton Sinclair.
44. The Book, Jack London.
45. Confessions of a Drunk, Joseph Merrill Patterson.
46. Women and Socialism, May Walden.
47. The Economic Foundations of Art, A. M. Simons.
48. Useful Works in English, William Morris.
49. A Socialist View of Mr. Rockefeller, John Spargo.
50. Marx on Chateaux, translated by R. R. LaMonte.
51. From Revolution to Revolution, George D. Herron.
52. Where We Stand, John Spargo.
53. History and Economics, A. E. Sinclair.
54. Industry and Democracy, Lewis J. Duncanson.
55. Socialism and Slavery, H. M. Hyndman.
56. Economic Evolution, Paul Lafargue.
57. What to Read on Socialism, Charles H. Kerr.
58. Shows, Pigs and Problems, Eugene Gladys.
59. Why a Workingman Should be a Socialist, Wilshire.
60. Forces that Make for Socialism in America, Spargo.
Price five cents each. The sixty books complete in a strong box, or sixty books assorted as desired, sent postpaid for \$1.00.

Order From The Montana News.

A Union Man

BUCKS

at

SCAB STOVES

because they

ARE

UNFAIR

THE PROGRESSIVE WOMAN

The only Periodical in America devoted exclusively to developing the Spirit of Revolutionary Thought.

AMONG WOMEN

Clean, Strong and Scholarly. Josephine Conger-Kaneko, Editor. Every Local should subscribe for a Dozen to Distribute among the Wives of its Members.

Published at Girard, Kansas. ONE DOLLAR A YEAR



LOCAL DEPARTMENT

To you Lovers and Workers for Liberty

The Montana News is again being published, although not a party owned paper, yet the News will work to the interests of the party in every way and will in no wise hinder the development of the movement, but in every possible way work with all the forces at its command to make our party a success in the political field without making any compromise of principle.

To start the publication of the News again is an undertaking that is full of difficulties, and heavy handicaps. The debts of the past are facing us and the creditors of the News when it was a party owned paper are still looking to us for payments, and this is very embarrassing in a business.

While waiting on the postoffice to grant the Montana News mailing privileges we had to deposit \$20.00 as a guarantee each week before the paper could go to its readers. A consignment of paper amounting to \$100 plus freight is now in transit from the east and this, with the spending of \$1,500.00 in paying party debts in the seven months, together with legal expenses that we incurred while protecting ourselves in the courts where we were dragged by creditors and wreckers of the Old Montana News, has our present available cash on hand rather low.

We do not ask for donations, but we want your good will, and your assistance in building up our circulation to 10,000. At present our circulation is only 3,550, a reduction of sixty per cent since last August. However, the circulation is on the increase as one hundred and eighty new names were added to the mailing list last week, and present indications are that one hundred new names will be added this week, over and above the number expiring.

Letters of encouragement are coming to us each day, especially from labor unions and men active in the ranks of organized labor. Orders and promises of job work have come to us from three states outside Montana during the present week. The aggressive forces in the Labor Movement recognize that a paper that will fight the battles of organized labor is necessary and are willing to give all their support to the Montana News as it has been tried and not found wanting in the hour of need.

Before the Socialist Party can be a factor in Montana politics there must be at least 15,000 subscribers to socialist papers. At present the subscribers to socialist papers in Montana do not reach 5,000 or about seven and a half per cent of the voters. Therefore the greatest need of the socialist movement at the present moment is subscribers to socialist papers and until the people are reading socialist papers we cannot expect them to vote the socialist ticket.

The Montana News is going to take prominent part in organizing, educating and marshalling the press of the working class in the Northwest for political and economic action to the end that a constructive movement be built up that will bring immediate benefit to the working class and combat the aggressions of the non-producing class on the workers.

Believing that you are in favor of a paper being firmly and securely established in the Northwest that will represent the interests of the toilers in the age-long struggle of liberty, we hope that you will give all the assistance in your power to maintain such a paper.

We need two hundred new subscriptions each week. Will you help to secure the same? We need your help. The cause is yours as well as ours. All our time is given to the cause. Will you give a little of your time? Yours for Working Class Freedom

MONTANA NEWS.

Debt of Honor

There still remains a debt of \$700 contracted by the Socialist Party of Montana while it owned and was publishing the Montana News. The State Committee has done nothing to liquidate this debt, and the creditors are looking to those who are at present running the News for their money.

To pay the debt is an exceedingly heavy task and is handicapping and worrying us considerably. \$500 must be paid as soon as possible, and we are asking individual socialists and locals to loan the Montana News any sum that they may feel disposed and able to advance.

The response has been as follows:

Local Lima	\$20.00
J. E. Bush	5.00
Edwin Dew	5.00
Wm. Dew	5.00
C. Anderson	1.00
C. Felck	1.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37.00</b>
<b>To be raised</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>Balance to get</b>	<b>\$463.00</b>

Bee Hive

By Tryem Helper.

Talk about your talk abouts, Comrade Leopold of Helena does things brown by ordering 1,000 envelopes.

Herbert Martin is in the educational business. He sends in two subs and bundle order for 50 copies from Miles City. Some one is going to get wised up.

The Deer Lodge Radicals never quit. Do you? Lee Vorge is another repeater. He sends in 50cts donation and a sub.

North Dakota comes to the front again. Comrade Melander of Mondak orders 100 Socialist envelopes. They are great. Try a hundred yourself at 65 cts.

F. C. Hall of Missoula sends in \$3 for three subs and a bundle order. Anaconda believes that she must do something each week. The teamsters send in a bundle order of twenty and the Central Labor Council sends for a bundle of 50 copies.

Butte shaketherself, wakes up, and decides that the Plumbers and Steam

Fitters Union must have a bundle of 25 copies.

Alex Fairgrieve remembers us with five subs from Roundup, also a job order for posters, tickets and tags.

Job work is good this week. Deer Lodge Federal Union sends an order for letterheads and envelopes. The East Helena Scandinavian Brotherhood of America brought in their Washington Birthday dance order of printing. Another order in from the Carneyville coal miners; 1,000 milk tickets from Great Falls. These orders keep the News office humming and necessitated putting on an extra man part of the time this week. If you are in sympathy with the cause of the workers remember class-conscious, and turn all means of printing support into the News.

The capitalist press is giving considerable publicity to Comrade De Lara's visit in Montana. He speaks in Butte Feb. 11th, and arrangements are under way for other points in the state. Any ambitious local would be amply awarded by arranging a public mass meeting for him in co-operation with the local unions. Address M. M. Lournes, state secretary, Butte, Mon., for dates.

The Montana News is going to be a factor in helping to advance the labor movement of the Northwest. See that you fellow workers, both union and non-union, subscribe for the News. By reading the News each week the union man will become more active and aggressive in advancing the interests of his class and the non-union man will leave the ranks of the unorganized and become a union man.

Organized Labor of Montana is outraged over Warden Conley bringing convict labor in such heavy competition against them, and is responding with tremendous orders for the News. Order a bundle and spread the report of this dastradly crime against free labor throughout your union.

If you are a true socialist you will know that it is your duty to help strengthen a working class press. You can get two subs to-day if you try.

Send in your job work NOW.

Comrade Graham has done much the last few weeks in arousing organized labor to a sense of the dangers that are menacing it from the competition of convict labor that is being unloaded on the state; also the importance of a press in the possession of the workers to defend their rights with. A man who had fought the capitalist class and its encroachments on labor for twenty years in Montana comes pretty nearly knowing the problems that confront Montana workers. Comrade Graham has ever been courageous and outspoken in his defense for the workers. His talks in union halls inspire new life and action in the organized workers. They begin to see what the solidarity of mutual interest means, to see that they must be armed with a press and solid ranks. He is having calls from all over the state for union meetings. If he visits your union you will have a talk you will remember.

From Deer Lodge: "The Montana News has stirred this town as very few towns have been stirred, and if we could have every community in the state the same way, socialism would sweep the state. The local is planning its spring election campaign. The socialists are getting names of farmers in the county to send the News to. One man sold his copy of the News here for twenty-five cents. Hewas offered that much for a copy by a man who did not know where to get a copy."

The Finnish Local in Hamilton has organized a holding company and purchased a lot at \$112.00 and are going to commence operations in erecting a Finnish socialist hall.

The Finnish local also holds night school three nights a week for the purpose of giving their members an education in the English language.

Butte, Mont., Jan. 28, 1910.

From Local Union No. 65, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Butte, please find enclosed check for \$50.00 for the Montana News for one year. It is the best paper in the state of Montana for the working class.

Butte Electrical Workers.

Any books advertised in the News will be sent postpaid on receipt of price. We are going to make a specialty of our book department. The larger socialist papers are all cutting out their commercial advertising. The News has always advocated this as a correct policy, and it was only the need of shekels that caused us to vary at times. We would rather give the space to advertising literature. If you buy enough books, we will not need to take the other advertising.

Letters from Comrade L. De Lara, who is being pursued by the dogs of Mexico, state that he will be in Montana shortly. He is lecturing on Mexico and its barbarous conditions, on his way to Washington. With proper arrangements Comrade De Lara should have a splendid hearing in Montan. Those desirous of securing dates should write M. M. Lournes, Butte, Mont.

There are a large number of scab cigars sold in Montana; if you smoke, always demand a union made cigar from a union made box. Union cigar makers are generally socialists. See to it that you employ only socialists by demanding an union made cigar.

Order your Job Worw NOW.

A Matter of Vital Importance.

A dangerous attempt is now being made to capture the socialist party for the impossibilists. This effort first started from outside the party. And the fact that it originated on the outside makes this attempt very suspicious.

Such an attack from without, however, will do little harm. But now comes the "Appeal to Reason" and joins the fight.

The "Appeal" admits that the "party is in a more healthy and active condition than ever before in its history". Yet it urges the comrades to vote against those who have done more than others to make it so.

The only reason for this given by the "Appeal" is that there ought to be "rotation in office."

Now "rotation in office" is no part of the socialist ideas. It is not an international socialist principle. The socialists of Germany have kept such

If the socialists in every town would take as much interest in exposing the evils of capitalism as the Deer Lodge socialists do, we would have a socialist movement in Montana that would make the hosts of capitalism tremble worse than the House of Lords. And we should have a socialist press in Montana large and powerful enough to combat every oppression.

Socialists, you must assume responsibilities and do something, do something real vital and practical if you want to help forward a system by which a workingman is a human being, and not a slave.

We must have good socialist papers good supporters for the working class. What are you doing to help make one?

A socialist who pouts and quits when things don't go just his way has never been really in earnest. He was simply looking out for some mild form of amusement. Are you a quitter? Are you shirking anything that would be of the utmost benefit to changing things. If so get busy. Boost the Socialist paper in Montana. We are waiting for a year's subscription.

Are you trying to get subs for the News? Only 50 cents, and you will help save all the good work that has been done here.

SOCIALISTS WANT A FARM.

A couple of socialists who wish to better their condition would like to locate a homestead or get hold of some cheap land in Idaho, Montana or Washington. They would be pleased to hear from any socialist who knows of any good land open for settlement, and are willing to pay for the trouble in securing the information. Address:

Homesteader,  
care Montana News,  
Helena, Mont.

CALL FOR THE BEST

In Bread and Pastry made by the MISSOULA BAKERY  
A. F. Luedke, Prop.  
Corner Locust & Jackson.  
Telephone 354 Bk, Missoula, Mont.



CAN YOU make me other ma see just why it is that he can not get all he produces under the wage system? If not, read Value, Price and Profit, and then try again. Marx is easier reading and better read than most of his interpreters. Study him for yourself! Cloth 50c, paper 10c, postpaid Socialist Box Bulletin free Special Offer: Mention this paper and in 10c we will send the International Socialist Review, 6 mos. and a paper copy each of Value, Price and Profit, the Communist Manifesto, Engels' Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, Spargo's The Socialists, and Simons' Class Struggle in America. If you prefer, we will substitute 1 of these in cloth for the 6 in paper Address Charles H. Kerr & Company, 153 East Kinzie St., Chicago.

Books for Study Course

(Recommended by the National Executive Committee.)

THEORY—

Socialism in Theory and Practice.—Hilquit	\$1.50
Social Revolution.—Kautsky	.50
Economic Foundations of Society.—Loria	1.25
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM—	
Socialism, Utopian and Scientific.—Engels	.50
ECONOMICS—	
The People's Marx.—Deville	1.00
Socialism.—Spargo	1.50
SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF SOCIALISM—	
Woman.—Bebel	1.00
The American Farmer.—Simons	.50
The City for the People.—Parsons	1.50
Collectivism and Industrial Evolution.—anderveide	.50
...TACTICS AND METHODS—	
Socialists at Work.—Hunter	1.50
Constructive Socialism.—Thompson	.15
...HISTORY—	
History of Socialism.—Kirkup	2.25
History of Socialism in the United States.—Hilquit	1.50
<b>\$15.15</b>	

COMPLETE SET \$11.00, DELIVERED FREE.

Letter of Comrade Simons, Dated January 6th, 1910.

"I vote 'Yes', on both the motions submitted by the National Secretary in regard to methods of conducting the referendum on the National Executive Committee. I do this, because I see no other method of interpretation possible in regard to the second question, although I believe that this interpretation may easily vitiate the entire election by throwing out thousands of votes and thus rendering this 'preferential system' even more of a farce. But to do anything else would be to lay the National office open to the charge of violating the constitution and in such a heated election as is now on this would certainly be construed as having been done for the benefit of some set of candidates.

"I vote 'Yes' upon the first of Comrade Work's motions, and most emphatically 'No' on the second and third motion.

"However much Comrade Work may love his pet method of voting I believe that it is the sentiment of a very large majority of the membership that it is one of the most pernicious that could be devised. Because of the discussion it has aroused I think it worth while to enumerate some of its most glaring defects.

"First.—It compels the voter to declare an unfair preference among those whom he is equally anxious to see elected. I do not wish to vote for ONE person, but for SEVEN on a National Executive Committee. Nor do I want one man seven times as much as I want another. Yet, by this system I am compelled to vote Against Six men whom I wish to see elected. Any fair sort of a preferential system would permit the voter to cast one vote of equal value for the seven whom he wished and then one vote of less value for the seven whom he next preferred. With our present system the voter casts one vote for his preference and then casts 377 votes against the other candidates.

"Second.—The fact that the over-

whelming majority of the votes are cast Against rather than For candidates makes it essentially an instrument for the venting of grudges rather than the expression of desires. That this is true is borne out by the fact, in hundreds of conversations that I have heard concerning this ballot the question always raised was not 'For whom shall I cast the ONE vote', but 'Whom shall I hit with my 27'. It would be hard to devise a system more fitted to encourage dissension and put a premium on petty jealousies and hatreds. The proof of this is the numerous little conspiracies that are being hatched all over the country, culminating in the broad scheme to capture the party for the impossibilist, 'direct actionist' element.

"Third.—In spite of Comrade Work's assertion, which would lead me to believe he had not studied his own system, it is an excellent plan for defeating the will of the majority and I have seen several ballots, worked out by different persons, showing how it is possible to defeat a candidate having eighty percent of the first choices. His example of the election of an International delegate is far-fetched, since the number of candidates and of voters was too small to show anything, to say nothing of the fact that Comrade Berger was so overwhelmingly the choice that his defeat was impossible and the election little more than a form.

"Fourth.—The work of tabulation of such a complex ballot is unreasonable for men as already overworked as our State and National Secretaries, and requires a technical training not possessed by many of these, and which there is no reason for them to acquire. On this point I need only refer to the circular recently sent out by the National Secretary giving instructions to party officials.

"For these reasons I believe that instead of extending the scope of this method of election, every effort should be made to get rid of it as quickly as possible."

Order your Job Work NOW.

capitalist practice.

In the capitalist parties the "outs" are always clamoring to get "in". They want "rotation" because they want to get to the "pie counter". Their only idea of a party is to give offices to all the "faithful".

But the socialist party does not exist for the purpose of giving every man in turn an office. It is a militant party. Its purpose is to fight for socialism. When we have found certain comrades to be tried and true and especially capable and efficient, we ought to keep them where they can serve us. It would be foolish to dismiss such men just for the childish idea of giving somebody else a chance to experiment and learn at the expense of the party—these in turn to be dismissed, as soon as they have learned, for other greenhorns.

And besides, the only result of following the "Appeal's" advice in this

case would be to assist the scheme of the impossibilists who are just now trying to capture the National Committee.

No! Let us keep on the committee themen who have done the work so well in the past.

Comrade Berger has labored untiringly and with the utmost self-sacrifice to build up the socialist party in America. Comrades Hunter, Simons, Hilquit and Spargo have proven themselves valuable men. Comrade Thompson did good service for one term on the National Executive Committee, and since Comrade Floaten has resigned, can be put in his place without crowding off any of the present members.

Comrades, this is no time to experiment with the party. We want tried and true veterans at the helm in the present crisis. Preserve the Socialist Party!

E. H. THOMAS.  
Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 31, 1909.