

MILITARISM AND LESE MAJESTE IN MONTANA

Donahue Militia Bill Russianizes the State. Vicious Legislation Aimed at Organized Labor. Militia Officers Empowered to Arrest Without a Warrant.

NEW STRIKE BREAKING LAW

Corporate Interests in Montana Assembly Ride Rough Shod Over the People.

In the last session of the Montana Legislature a bill known as House Bill No. 229 was introduced by Dr. Donahue of Dawson County, a democrat. Its object was to reorganize the state militia of Montana.

Perhaps not in the history of Anglo-Saxon civilization, since the days of Charles Stuart, has so drastic a measure been introduced in the Legislative halls of any English speaking country. But it was passed by the Legislature of Montana without any opposition except the few members belonging to organized labor.

After the bill was approved by the Governor, it immediately became the military code of Montana. The people of Montana are perhaps not aware of the fact that under House Bill No. 229 the State has been thoroughly Russianized, and that every able-bodied man between the age of 18 and 45 is a militiaman. Nobody is exempt from service under this law except civil and military officers of the United States, State and County civil officers, members of the police and fire departments of cities or towns, and idiots, lunatics or persons convicted of some infamous crime. Practically speaking the only people who are exempt are the professional politicians. Everybody else becomes a tin-soldier, a slave, a serf, a peon, subject to the bugle call of Organized Greed, and ready at a moment's notice to go forth and assassinate his fellowmen.

Men of the law, men of the pulpit, men of the medical profession, men in every walk of life, including tooth-carpenters and lumber-jacks, are now militiamen in Montana. Millions of men from Germany and Scandinavia have left their native lands just because such a military code, as is prescribed by House Bill No. 229, was the prevailing law of their respective countries. It is a fair presumption to make that when young men back East will hear of the Russianization of Montana that they will assert their spirit of independence and refuse to come into the state.

Section b of the bill provides that every assessor in the State of Montana shall become a recruiting agent for the militia. There was a time when the assessor was looked upon as a man of high degree, a man of large and generous impulses, one imbued with the spirit of justice. But alas! How the mighty has fallen! Now he is to become a hireling of oppression, seek-

ing whom he may devour, and ready to slip "the King's shilling" into the hand of his mother's son in order to make a counterfeit Apache out of him.

After "Doc" Donahue had secured the passage of this bill, one can easily imagine the broad smile on the countenance of the Amalgamated Copper Company. Oh what a carnival of revelry there was at 26 Broadway about that fatal hour when Gov. Norris signed away the liberties of the farmer, the artisans, and the workmen of the State of Montana. The signing of that Bill as a law was the most dastardly, the most cowardly and the most treacherous act ever committed by a governor in any civilized land.

The conversion of a free land into a petty military despotism could only be equalled in infamy to the copper-collared gang who fathered the principles of House Bill No. 229.

Section 82 of the Bill provides for a pension for all disabled militiamen. Already a large appropriation has been made to carry out the provisions of "the code." On top of all this extravagance comes the pension fund.

Under our present inadequate plan of taxation the poor man pays more than his share of the burden, and the rich by hook and by crook evade as much of the responsibilities as possible. Of course the Amalgamated Copper Company will pay a few cents more to support the Donahue and Donlon system, but it will save said Company large sums in the way of property protection, because from now on the tin-soldiers of the State will have to perform that function.

Section 103 provides that every active militiaman shall be uniformed, armed and equipped the same as those of the regular army of the U. S. This is smooth work. The African in the cordwood is almost perceptible. The militia (every able-bodied man between 18 and 45) will gradually be schooled into the belief that in order to be real warriors they must assume the same discipline as the "regulars." What does that mean? **THE LOSS OF THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE**, the most important thing of all to Organized Greed. The aim for years of organized capital has been to deprive the workman of his right to vote. Happy idea, wasn't it! The easiest way is to make "a swattle" out of him, and give him a dollar and a half per day as provided for in Section 72.

Section 107, 108 and 109 of House Bill 229 are the sections, that prove the real purport of the bill. Here is where the pig comes out of the bag. Here is where the cloven foot of the Amalgamated is exposed. Here is where the Northern Pacific Railway through a Dawson County dentist strikes the State with a solar plexus. It is the old story—the fight against Organized Labor.

Heretofore it was the general policy of the unions to refuse members of the national guard admittance to their councils. The policy was founded upon the presumption that militia men were spies. It was a good policy, and was the means of complete harmony in the ranks of organized labor. But the above mentioned sections clearly indicate that the object of the Bill was to force spies into the unions. Dr. Donahue a democrat and Edward Donlon are republican, the sponsors of the measure, knew that when they pushed this act of treachery through the Twelfth Legislature.

Read section 108 and see if it is not a bludgeon in the hands of tyrants to force spies into the unions.

It was the unions that made workmen free in America, and it is today the greatest bulwark of Liberty in our nation. As long as unionism lives thieves cannot run this government. The death of unionism would mean victory for the industrial robbers. Force spies into the union, and the bloody deed is done.

If you stand upon the curb and say, "there goes a counterfeit soldier and a union spy," you will be placed under arrest not by civil process but by martial law. Your civil rights—rights for which the Anglo-Saxon race has struggled since the dawn of history—are made subservient to some military bunk.

Every union in Montana should read these sections, and calmly discuss them, and then circulate a protest against this abortive military code. Submit it to the people by referendum. Let the people of Montana say whether they can become slaves or freemen.

The greatest battles of the ages have been fought by freemen and not by serfs, slaves or peons. The people of Montana will never vote to sell their liberties to an organized gang of public looters. If the occasion should ever come to fight for our country it wouldn't require a military code to inspire us. The same spirit that inspired the Greeks at Salamis, the barons at Runnymede and the Americans in 1776 and 1861, would lead us to victory; for the right will always prevail.

All the military poseurs in the world cannot compare with a free people.

This House Bill No. 229 with its 53 articles and 126 sections should be wiped from the law books of a free people. It is all right for adoption on both sides of the Ural mountains, but it has no place in the statutes of constitutional government.

Let us arise in our might and by the ballot of our daddies, vote into oblivion this poisonous anaconda.

A FEW BAD FEATURES.

Section 107. Any person who, either by himself or with another, wilfully deprives a member of the national guard of his employment, or prevents his being employed by himself or another, or obstructs or annoys said member of the national guard or his employer in respect to his trade, business, or employment, because said member of said national guard is such member, or dissuades any person from enlistment in the said national guard by threat of injury to him in case he shall so enlist, in respect to his employment, trade or business, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not less than ten days nor more than six months in the county jail, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 108. No association or corporation, constituted or organized for the purpose of promoting the success of the trade, employment or business of the members thereof, shall by any constitution, rule, by-law, resolution, discriminate against any member of the national guard because of such membership, in respect to the eligibility of such member of the national guard to membership in such association or corporation, or in respect to his right to retain said last mentioned membership; and any person who aids in enforcing any such provision against a member of the said national guard with intent to discriminate against him because of such membership, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor exceeding five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a term of not less than ten days nor more than six months, or both such fine and imprisonment.

Section 109. If any person interrupts, molests or insults, by abusive words or behavior, or obstructs any officer or soldier while on duty or at any parade, drill or meeting for military improvement, he must immediately be put under arrest and kept at the discretion of the commanding officer until the duty, drill or parade or meeting is concluded; and he may commit such person to any police officer, constable or sheriff of the county, wherein such duty, drill or meeting is held, who shall detain him in custody for examination or trial before a court having jurisdiction of the place; and any person found guilty of any of the offenses enumerated in this section or of obstructing or interfering with the United States forces or troops or any part of the national guard shall be punished by a fine of not less than ten dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than ten days nor more than six months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

BIG FIGHT IN MILWAUKEE.

Old Parties Trying to Fix Up Combination in an Attempt to Beat Socialists on Election Day.

The bitterest fight ever waged against the Socialists by the democratic-republican combination in the Milwaukee City Council took place last Monday. The battle lasted six hours. The Anti-Socialists made a savage onslaught, marked with calumny and slander. The Socialists replied with dignity and spirit and on the ground of class-conscious Socialist principle.

When the Socialists assumed control in Milwaukee, the other side was at first rather good-natured. Our opponents had the notion that ours would be a weak administration, and that the Socialists would not take much ground in any direction. But now they see that the Socialists mean business, that they are really doing things, and that this will cut out the profits of the grafters. Consequently, they are growing very bitter. What angers them most is the proposal of the Socialist administration to do away with the contractors and their profits, and to have the city perform its own street work and other work directly.

This seem to them a terrible blow. Up to the time when the Socialists took control, the contractors had their own way in Milwaukee. Under the former administrations, they flourished and grew fat.

Now in their wrath against the Socialists, the contractors and their friends are holding so-called "taxpayers meetings" and forming so-called "taxpayers clubs." They are filling with their complaints the daily papers, which are only too glad to print their side of the story, and entirely suppress our side of it.

This proposition that the city shall do its work directly without the intervention of contractors was one of subjects hotly debated at the last Milwaukee city council meeting.

Another was the Milwaukee River Park project. The establishment of this park carries with it the plan for model workmen's homes. Hence it was bitterly fought by the Anti-Socialists. One corpulent representative of capitalistic interests, who would like to see the river lined with smoky factories pouring their sewage into the river, said that "a city commercial is better than a city beautiful." Victor Berger retorted that better than either is a "city beautiful."

The measure was finally passed, and Milwaukee will have its great park system. The republican-democratic combination insists that there

was a legal flaw in the procedure. Even if this was the case, the flaw can be mended, and the working class will not be cheated out of this great benefit.

Now a curious part of this story is that next day the daily papers of Milwaukee had full reports of what the Anti-Socialists said in the council, but scarcely a word of all the good things in the speeches of Victor Berger and the other Socialists. The Milwaukee daily papers are becoming worse and worse in their attitude towards the Socialists. It appears that the only way in which the Socialists can get the truth before the people will be to get a Socialist daily in Milwaukee, just as soon as they can procure the funds to start it.

The enemies of Socialism have taken another means to block it in Milwaukee, as they hope. They are trying to push through the Wisconsin legislature a bill for non-partisan elections in all city elections. This bill has already passed the Wisconsin state senate. They intend by means of this bill to defeat the Socialists in the next municipal election, and thus recover Milwaukee for the forces of capitalism. But they are reckoning without their host. While this bill, if finally passed, will no doubt make it harder for the Socialists to keep Milwaukee in 1912—why, then they will just work so much the harder, and show the enemy that all their desperate efforts against Socialism were simply hate's labor lost.

This fierce fight against the Socialists is only solidifying the working class. The Federated Trades Council of Milwaukee held a glorious meeting last night. They appointed a special campaign committee of speakers to visit all the unions and address them on the issues of the present campaign, appointed another committee to sell bonds for the Milwaukee Socialist daily, voted to withdraw their label-advertising from the capitalist daily which has most opposed the Socialists, and adopted ringing resolutions endorsing the Socialist administration and defending it against the attacks of the capitalist press. Thus the labor unions are taking up the Socialist fight as their own.

The struggle in Milwaukee gets more and more interesting. It is the conflict between the working class and the capitalistic interests. The lines are drawn more closely every day. But the issue of the fight cannot be doubted.

E. H. Thomas,
State Secretary.

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SCHOOL FOR BUTCHERS.

Goodwin's Weekly, published in Salt Lake City, is another paper that has a bad attack of militariphobia. In a recent issue it advocates the establishing of military schools in the western states, and believes that the Pacific coast states should pass laws compelling all boys of eighteen years of age to attend an army school for at least a year and a half.

Gradually the capitalists are creating a sentiment in favor of compulsory military service through the entire country.

Slowly but surely the people are being educated by the ruling class to demand war.

The British capitalists who wanted to wipe out the Republics of South Africa spent six years in educating the English working men into believing that a war with the Boers was a religious duty they had to perform, and the American ruling class are but following the example of their brother capitalists across the sea. The Standard Oil and Morgan are land hungry, they want to grab beyond the ocean in order to find markets for their surplus wares, to get these markets war must be declared if necessary and working men must be trained to fight. The capitalists never do that, except in the stock exchange.

General Sherman said, "War is hell" and the capitalists want to send the working man to hell.

THE PREACHER'S LABOR LOST.

"War is hell"—General Sherman. "O' war, thou son of hell"—William Shakespeare.

The last session of the Montana Legislature enacted a law to prepare every able bodied male citizen of Montana to go to hell.

Every morning at the opening of the legislature a christian preacher would open the proceedings of the day with a prayer, invoking the divine blessing on the work of the legislature, asking the meek and lowly Nazarene, -who while on earth preached the brotherhood of man- to guide the actions of the legislators. Yet within one hour after the prayer, the Montana legislature passed the infamous military bill.

Perhaps the chaplain as he faced the unwashed mob of the assembly thought of the words of his lowly Master. "I come not to seek the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Anyway the preachers -one in the senate and one in the house- each get \$5.00 a day from the State of Montana for saying a prayer each day for the members of the legislature.

A WORD TO OUR READERS.

You have read in this paper something that the press of the state was silent upon. You have become acquainted with a piece of vicious legislation passed by the recent legislative assembly in the interest of the corporate powers.

Conditions in Montana through the wide and free working of special privileges are rotten. There is a great field for muck raking in Montana. The State, county and municipal governments, with few exceptions, are at the beck and call of corporate interests.

We are living in a good state as far as natural resources and healthful climate are concerned, yet it is only a short time until Montana will be in a deplorable condition as some of the old graft ridden eastern states.

The entire press of the state, with a few exceptions, are controlled in some way or other, subsidized, or dominated by corporate interests. Some of the papers in the state are supporting some local graft and special privileges. These small local grafters and recipients of special privileges must defend the giant corporate interests that operate in the state or the large corporations will put them out of business.

There is no other paper in Montana that has fought so openly and with steadfast persistency against franchise grabbers, and special privileges as the

Montana News. No other paper in this state has exposed the frauds and steals that have been attempted throughout the entire state such as the Montana News has done. The News has fought the battles of the people and will continue to do so as long as it exists.

There is a great work yet to be done, there is an enormous amount of graft, corruption, and steals by corporations, bribery and vote buying at elections taking place in this state that should be exposed.

The News will take up this work as means at its command will admit. The paper is very cheap, only 50 cents a year, the revenue from it is small, and we are not millionaires, or even wealthy, but the opposite, are in debt. Considerable money has been spent to keep the News alive, the writer, a working man, has put all he owned into it, amounting to over \$3,500, and practically lost it. It has taken great personal sacrifices to keep this paper alive, far greater than any of its readers imagine. The existence of this paper has been a source of worry and sleepless nights to those who were running it, yet the work must go on, it must live. It is the only paper in Montana that voices the interests of the workers.

There is a great task before us. Corporations are in the saddle, public abuses are becoming outrageous. Unless the people wake up and work for the Common Good there will come a time in this country when the horrors of the French Revolution will be but a tempest in a tea-pot to what will take place.

The News is attempting to arouse the workers up to the full sense of their citizenship. We are trying to expose corruption in high places, stop franchise grabs and special privileges and bring about a time when the people of Montana and not the corporate interests will own Montana.

If this appeals to you, if you desire to help us in this cause, you can do so by subscribing for the News and getting as many of your friends interested as possible.

We will keep up the fight here as long as we can and hope to have your assistance and co-operation.

IS NOT WAR MURDER?

War is Hell! War is necessary! "Thou shalt not kill!" To kill is murder, and we are told that a murderer cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

What a mental chaos results from these divergent ideas! How to reconcile them puzzles and completely bewilders; the bewilderment becomes dumbfounding when we have the paradoxical situation confronting us of the so-called disciples of the Prince of Peace attached to contending armies, beseeching the Lord of Hosts to give victory to their side. We boast of our enlightenment, but the gift of even a small modicum of the sense of humor ought to make us hold with Puck "What fools these mortals be."

War is Hell, yet war is necessary; but wherefor? In order that foreign markets can be opened. Delightful operation in which bayonets, bullets and other death dispensers are the instruments of surgery. Why must foreign markets be found? Because the producers of the commodities have been fed, clothed and educated to the point of satiety? No! They who have woven woollens are shivering with cold in rags and tatters. They who have builded homes are homeless and penniless! The irony of it!

Today Europe staggers beneath a load of armament and is fast approaching the stage of the Knight of the Middle Ages, who, clad in armor to protect himself, fell into a stream and that which was to protect him, because of its weight became his undoing, and he drowned. So that which is supposedly for protection will ere long result in Europe's undoing as the burden grows heavier year by year and some scheme of international police regulations may be brought into requisition, but any suggestion for the removal of the root cause will be met with the objection that the time is not ripe for such radical change, and it will never be until those whose destiny—the working class of all nations unite and determine that they have suffered long enough and that those who derive the benefits from wholesale murder shall enter the strif, but that they, the workers, shall decide to do their share to write "Finis" to Hell, and obey the command: "Thou shalt not kill."

—Ledger, Fernie, B. C.

LIVINGSTON CAMPAIGN WATER GRAFT

LIVINGSTON SOCIALIST TICKET

Mayor—Chas D. Elliot. Treasurer—J. T. Taylor. Aldermen: First ward—John Lyall. Third ward—Emil Feyder.

A great opportunity is presented to the Socialists of Livingston this year.

The water company franchise expired last summer, and the contract the city has for fire protection with the water company expired nearly a year ago. Yet the present city council are paying bills to the water company on a contract that has ceased to exist and allowing a corporation to do business that has no franchise.

For over ten years both old parties in Livingston have gone before the people with platforms declaring for municipal ownership of water and light, now when an opportunity presents itself to the people, the city council plays into the hands of the water company. The mayor and majority of the council seem to be owned body, soul and breeches by the water company. In fact the business of the city appears to be transacted in the office of Joe Swindiehurst, stock holder of the water company, instead of in the city hall.

Only two republican aldermen have stood by their party platform and fought the water company and they received no support from their party and the republican daily paper in Livingston has taken every opportunity to discredit, and malign them in every thing they do towards opposing the water company.

The republican party this year again adopts a platform calling for municipal ownership of water and to be inconsistent nominates a candidate for mayor that has opposed municipal ownership before and has foreordained giving franchise grabbers special privileges.

The democrats have nominated the mayor to succeed himself and in fact the entire ticket of the democrats appears to be dominated by the water company from top to bottom.

A fine state of affairs exists, nearly one fourth of the revenue of the city treasury finds its way into the treasury of the water company, yet no relief is found, and if there are no socialists elected to the council this year, in all likelihood the city will be bound by another 20 year contract to the water trust.

Six months ago the Livingston Enterprise published an article advocating municipal ownership of water in Livingston.

In this article the Enterprise said that when the question was submitted to the people 12 years ago to purchase the present plant, the merchants and business men voted the proposition down on the grounds that the Socialists were the advocates of the measure and that now the business men were sorry for what they had done as they now realize that the socialists were the only ones that knew what they were talking about and were right on the water question. We agree with the merchants and the Enterprise. The Socialists were right then and they are still right on the subject.

The Enterprise has changed its tune in the past few months and advocates municipal ownership no more. Perhaps the Enterprise is afraid to say anything against the water monopoly for fear that Murray the chief stock

holder of the water company might evict the Enterprise out of the building it now occupies.

A few months ago a resolution was passed by the Livingston city council requesting the mayor of Helena to deliver an address in Livingston on municipal ownership. The lecture was not to be a party affair, but straight municipal ownership. The mayor of Livingston was instructed by the council to make arrangements for the lecture, but as nothing has been done it would appear that the water company has got a string on the Livingston mayor to prevent the lecture taking place until after the city election.

The State of Montana is dominated by the large corporate interests and the people are beginning to rebel but they find that their kicking availith little.

When the large corporations have a fight on their hands against the people they call on the small corporations to help them and if the small corporations do not go to the assistance of the big interests, then the big corporations see to it that the little fellows are put out of business either by litigation, legislation or competitive measures.

The little corporations live only by the grace of the big fellows, in fact they are but little less than subsidiary companies of the large interests.

The people must put these local special privileged corporations out of business by having the people run the business themselves. When they do this the large interests will have to fight their own battles as they wont be able to call on the little fry. When the people have full control of all the water works in this state they will be able to successfully combat the electric trust, alias the Standard Oil, that is devouring up the cities of Montana, and reaping a two thousand per cent profit from lighting and electric power in this state.

The people of Livingston should rise enmasse and put the Socialists into office and then the water company would have no strings on the city hall.

The Livingston water company is only assessed taxes on a \$60,000 valuation. Yet it is reported that the city can't buy the water works for less than \$400,000. There must be something wrong with the present council when it allows the water company to escape paying its just portion of the taxes.

The Socialists of Livingston have an ideal set of candidates before the people.

They are well known in Livingston, and need no introduction to our Livingston readers. They are able and qualified to fill the office to which they are nominated, and if elected there will be no one sorry for it, later, unless it be the water company.

Every Socialist candidate in Livingston if elected will see to it that the abuses that the people of Livingston have suffered from the water company for the past twenty years ceases, by having the city own its own water works system. If the present plant can't be bought at its physical valuation, then, the Socialist mayor and councilmen will proceed to take ways and means to have the city build and install a new and better system than the present plant.

Vote the Socialist ticket straight.

Every democrat legislator from Livingston voted for the militia bill.

Shall a Referendum Be Demanded

Shall the Donahue militia law go to a referendum of the voters?

Five per cent of the voters in eleven counties can demand that the present-military law passed by the last legislature be submitted to a vote of the people, and 15 per cent of the voters in 15 counties by demanding a referendum, can nullify the law until the people of the state by a majority vote decide that they are in favor of the law. If a majority of those voting are opposed to the law, then the militia bill is killed.

If you are in favor of a referendum being demanded write and inform us if you will take a petition and endeavour to secure signatures for a referendum.

Union men are requested to bring this question to the attention of their union and their Trades and Labor Council and endeavour to get their union to appoint a committee to take charge of petition papers and to solicit signatures for a demand for a referendum.

The recent legislature paid no attention to the desires and wishes of the people, but only kept their ear open to the demand of corporate interests, and special privileges.

If the voters of Montana will rise up in their might and demand a referendum on a few of the laws that were passed for the benefit of the few, then the next legislative assembly in Montana will be a little more careful how they act, regarding the wishes and demands of the people of this state.

It is up to you dear reader whether a referendum is called for or not. We will be pleased to hear from you.

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SOCIALIST CANDIDATES.

BILLINGS.

Mayor—M. W. Russell.

HELENA.

Aldermen: First ward—John M. Schopper. Second ward—Louis Arnold. Third ward—Bernard Leopold. Fourth ward—A. Anderson. Fifth ward—Henry Clausen. Sixth ward—Herman Luehman. Seventh ward—John Huseby. Fifth ward—Henry Clausen.

LEWISTOWN.

Mayor—C. W. Cooper. Treasurer—A. Sharp. Police Judge—J. J. Lewis. Aldermen: First ward—Chris Kner. Second ward—Joseph Heaney. Third ward—S. E. Wilson.

LIVINGSTON.

Mayor—Chas D. Elliot. Treasurer—J. T. Taylor. Aldermen: First ward—John Lyall. Third ward—Emil Feyder.

Montana News.

A special tax is put on the people of Montana, to keep up the Montana state militia. The militia tax this year will amount to over \$32,000.00

Four years ago organized labor in Montana defeated a bill appropriating \$5,000, a year for the up keep of the militia, but the Donahue militia law puts a perpetual tax on the people which will give a greater amount of money each year to the militia from taxes as the population of the state increases.

Under the Donahue law the militia is not dependant upon future legislatures for appropriations, the financial end is already fixed.

Subscribe for the Montana News.

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS.

The Anglo-Saxon Christians, with gatling gun and sword In serried ranks are pushing on the gospel of the Lord; On Afric's soil they press the foe in war's terrible scenes, And merrily the hunt goes on throughout the Philippines.

What though the Boers are Christians; the Philippines, too! It is a Christian act to shoot a fellow creature through;

The bombs with dynamite surcharged their deadly missiles fling, And gallly on their fatal work the dum-dum bullets sing.

The dead and mangled bodies, the wounded and the sick, Are multiplied on every hand, on every field are thick;

"O gracious Lord," the prayer goes up, "to us give victory swift!"

The chaplains on opposing sides the same petitions lift.

The mahdis and the sirdars along the great Sudan Are learning at the cannon's mouth the brotherhood of man;

The holy spirit guides aloft the shrieking shot and shell, And Christian people shout with joy at thousands blown to hell.

The pulpits bless the victor arms and praise the bloody work, As after an Armenian raid rejoiced the pious Turk;

The Christian press applauds the use of bayonet and knife, For how can social order last without

The outworn, threadbare precept, to lift the poor and weak, The fallacy that this great earth is for the saintly meek,

Have gone out of fashion; the world is for the strong; That might shall be the lord of right is now the Christian song.

Then onward, Christian soldier, through fields of crimson gore, Behold the trade advantages beyond the open door!

The profits on our ledgers outweigh the heathen loss; Set thou the glorious Stars and Stripes above the ancient cross.

PLAN OF ACTION FOR IDAHO

Comrade, greeting: The campaign being over, its returns gathered in, the results announced, the smoke of the battle field about cleared away we should get busy for 1912.

What we need, what we must have in every state is alive working organization. To effectually bring it about I have proposed the following plan for Idaho, and from present indication I think will be adopted.

Let each local get busy and see that the unorganized territory in its immediate vicinity is organized wherever enough Socialists can be found to obtain and hold a charter. Next, let each comrade in each local pledge himself to turn three dollars each year into his local treasury for two years to be used as campaign funds for 1912. To raise this money, my plan is to let each comrade put a time. Select books that appeal to the economic needs of the people among whom we work. Buy said books through the local secretary at wholesale and get them at about five cents each then sell them for ten cents each and in that way the comrade gets his money back and has a dollar left to turn into the local treasury. Do this three times a year and the work is done.

Then each local turn one third of all money thus raised into the state treasury to enable the state executive committee to commence early campaign and send good speakers all over the state to carry the message to every person in the state. Let locals retain the remaining two thirds of money thus raised to carry on a local literature campaign and back up what is done by state speakers. If 500 comrades in each state can be induced to take up this method in two years we can elect many of our officers.

I am calculating to arrange a speaking tour of Idaho, to more thoroughly organize our forces on the lines. If any of the neighbouring intermountain states wish to adopt the above plan and should desire my services as a speaker to help organize on said plan I will be available for dates or a tour about the later part of the winter.

Any one desiring to take this up may write me and I will take the matter up with their State Secretary. Address all communications to S. W. Motley, 119, 9th. Ave. East, TWIN FALLS, Idaho.

Metal Workers In Convention

The proposition as outlined in this letter is of vital interest to the organizations affiliated with the National Metal Trades Council. We are affiliated and federated but this is not Unionism.

We all stand for the same principles, viz: Shorter hours, better wages, better shop conditions and the closed shop.

We have fought for these principles on craft lines, and have been in many instances defeated.

On the other hand, our opponents, the capitalistic class, the trust they and their fight against organized labor are not divided on craft lines. The National Metal Trades Association, the Citizens' Industrial Alliance and other bodies are well organized. They know that in Union there is strength.

We are divided, let us be united. Let us be united on broad principles for the welfare of the rank and file of the Metal Trades.

Our proposition is to amalgamate the different National and International organizations affiliated with the Metal Trades Council into one organization to be known as the International Metal Workers Union.

How to do this.

We propose that you endorse a demand that our National Metal Trades Council issue a circular to be sent during the month of April, 1911, to each Local Union of all national and International organizations affiliated with the Metal Trades Council. That said circular call for the election of delegates to a Delegate Convention to be held in the City of St. Louis, Mo., during the month of August, 1911, for the purpose of amalgamating the Metal Trades into one organization.

Delegates to this convention shall be elected by the Local Unions of the different organizations during the month of May, 1911.

Local Unions shall be entitled to one vote for the first hundred members or fraction thereof and one with more than 300 members, shall be entitled to two delegates. No local union shall have more than two delegates. Two or more unions of the same craft or of different crafts, located in the same city or district, may unite in sending one delegate. Two or more local unions of the same craft or of different crafts, located on the same railway system, may unite in sending one delegate.

All local unions organized before January the first, 1911, shall be entitled to representation.

Local unions shall be entitled to one vote for the first hundred members or fraction thereof and one additional vote for every additional one hundred members or majority fraction thereof. Where two delegates are sent from one Local, such delegates have to agree on the division of their votes.

Where two or more lodges unite in sending one delegate, the number of votes shall depend upon the total membership of such lodges, one vote for the first hundred members or fraction thereof and one additional vote for each additional one hundred members or majority fraction thereof.

No member shall be eligible to act as a delegate to this convention who has not been a good standing member of his lodge at least three months prior to the election of delegates. Delegates to this convention must be working at the trade and have worked at the same at least six months prior to their nomination. This shall not apply to salaried officers whose time is fully occupied by their organization. Organizers of the A. F. of L. or any State Federation of Labor are not eligible as delegates to this convention.

All expenses in connection with this convention shall be borne by the different National and International organizations of the Metal Trades Council pro rata of membership.

The expenses of the delegates shall be paid by the local sending them. Credential blanks shall be furnished by the General Secretaries of the different organizations to their locals.

Local lodges must fill out credentials in duplicate, signed by the presiding officer and recording secretary, and

attested by the seal of the lodge, also stating the number of members in good standing at their last official report. One copy of the credentials to be sent to their respective General Secretary and the other copy given to their delegate.

Alternates must be chosen at the same meeting when the delegates are elected.

The General President of each organization shall appoint one member of his executive board to act as a member of the credential committee. This credential committee shall meet and organize in St. Louis, Mo., three days before opening of the convention and have in their possession a list of their respective lodges, stating their membership, also the duplicate credential sent to the respective General Secretaries. The chairman of the credential committee shall call convention to order and the first business shall be to elect a permanent chairman and secretary from among the delegates.

This convention shall have full power to adopt a constitution, elect officers and a general executive board.

The general executive board shall consist of members from each organization amalgamating.

The constitution shall provide for the Initiative and Referendum, also for the Recall of officers.

All local unions of the different organizations shall receive new charters free of cost from the new organization.

The constitution shall further provide that now existing local lodges of different crafts may amalgamate into one local union provided that seventy-five per cent of the members of each lodge by referendum vote are in favor of uniting.

The aim of the International Metal Workers' Union shall be to avoid all jurisdiction fights and to put into practice the principles of jurisdiction agreements.

Fraternally yours
Toledo Metal Trades Council,
committee on Organization,
OTTO BRACH, Chairman,
Iron Moulders' Union 172,
CHAS. BANK, Secretary,
Machinists' Union 105,
635 Orchard St. Toledo, Ohio.

President Taft has appointed Wm. Lindsay of Glendive, U. S. Marshall for Montana.

Lindsay is a wealthy sheepman, and banker, and is reported to be worth about a quarter million dollars.

Lindsay is known to be a strong opponent of organized labor. The sheep shearers union have had considerable trouble with him in forcing him to pay the union scale. Lindsay has the reputation of being the first man to cut the wages of range riders (cowboys) in eastern Montana. At a Fourth of July celebration held in an eastern Montana town a few years ago, when Lindsay made the address of the day, he is quoted as saying that the greatest obstacle had was in the demands of the laboring element for high wages, and that wages would have to be reduced before Montana could be developed and exploited as it should be.

This is the kind of man Taft appoints to be U. S. marshal from Montana, at the request of Senator Dixon. The appointment is in keeping with the labor record of both President Taft and Senator Dixon.

Lindsay and Senator Dixon pride themselves as being insurgent republicans. Their insurgency is on a par with the insurgency of Emperor Diaz of old Mexico.

Boilermakers, Beware!
Pay no attention to circulars posted in post offices, advertising for Boilermakers to go to Panama.

The Boilermakers working on the Panama Canal are on strike against unsanitary conditions.

Any Boilermaker accepting a position from the Panama Canal Commission at present, will be used as a strike breaker.

The Montana News will print the Montana militia bill in pamphlet form, the price of which will be 10 cents per copy, postpaid. The same will be ready for mailing April 25th.

WEEKLY LETTERS ON WORLD ROUND LECTURE TOUR.

BY WALTER THOMAS MILLS.
A STRIKING PARTNERSHIP
Kilbirnie, Scotland,
I do not think there is any question at all that the idealism of the future will be devoted above everything else to the promotion of the common good, to the perfection of the race life.

Necessarily so far, all views of life have been more or less limited views. It was a narrow view of life which sought to secure one's own welfare at the expense of all others. This view was widened when it was seen that co-operation in small groups helped in the struggle to survive.

It was still a narrow view of life when small groups of people, co-operating with each other still sought to promote their own welfare at the expense of other groups like their own.

The outlook widened as the groups enlarged. The outlook widened as the interests of each life became more inclusive of the welfare of others.

There are great opportunities for a further enlargement of the range of vision. Devoting oneself to merely securing the means of life or to the control of the means of life and making this the end or object of life can only remain while narrow vision lasts.

But the business of life to mean an improvement of life and that of the race life - maybe that is not the highest life purpose—but great multitudes of men and women are moving in that direction and it is surely in the direction of a wider vision.

These reflections are suggested by an unusual partnership.

It was my privilege to meet and to listen to Mr. Sidney Webb a few days ago in Manchester. He is a member of the firm of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb.

He was a tireless worker. Like so many more of the useful and public-spirited men of Great Britain he was for thirteen years an employee in the civil service.

The other partner was Miss Beatrice Potter, the daughter of a former President of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. She was a favorite student and personal friend of Herbert Spencer.

These two were married in 1892. They not only married each other but their life's tasks were as completely made one as were they themselves. They study together, speak together, write together, publish their writings under their joint names and in every instance, their studies, their speeches, their writings, their books all bear on a better life, not for themselves nor for those to whom they are in any way related, but for the exploited, the submerged, the helpless, the voiceless and most of all for those unborn. It is impossible not to feel that this is more remarkable and yet only to the narrow-minded can those who live like these seem to be other than the most rational of us all.

Just now this partnership is making war on the Poor Laws of the country but unlike the critics of a hundred wars, they make no war of complaint only. They fight for a better way, a carefully worked-out program for doing well what is now so poorly done and for doing much now although left undone.

The British Poor Law is the oldest of the modern poor laws. It was enacted to make poverty disgraceful and to make public relief so hard to get that most people would go hungry rather than ask for or accept the discredited relief. In this it has been a great success. No one can know this better than Americans whose poor relief is modeled after the English poor law. In all countries it is found to encourage shameless beggary and to leave in neglect and to suffer those most needing and most deserving assistance.

The centre, the terror, the most cruel, the most detested part of it is the work-house of England, the poor house of Scotland and of America.

In this country, the helpless old, the diseased, in both mind and body the vicious and disorderly, the innocent the helpless, the old scoundrel and the little child are thrown together with consequences the most disastrous to the innocent and the defenceless. Well may George Bernard Shaw declare the work house worse than hell. He says this because "hell is only a place to punish sinners while the workhouse is the place for their manufacture."

There is no provision in the poor law to help the poor from becoming destitute, only for relieving the destitute and that in no way by which they may be delivered from destitution.

Instead of operating as a remedy under it, the conditions are all the time growing worse. Pauperism is rapidly increasing. Two thirds of all the people are in the cities and towns and of those not in actual want an ever increasing army day by day draws near to the time when public relief or private and undesired distress must follow.

Twenty million pounds a year are expended and only harm is done so far as affecting deliverance is concerned. Six hundred thousand children are helped in one way or another each year. Two hundred and seventy thousand are all the time under poor law care, more than twenty thousand living in the workhouse and the record growing worse rather than better.

The work house is the home for the aged workers, but here is the presence not only of those out-worn in toil, but the vicious, the lazy, the sick, and the incompetent. And the worse the order the institution becomes.

Recently a Royal Commission was appointed to investigate the whole subject of pauperism. George Lawbury, the most useful man in all East London, now a Socialist member of the London County Council and Mrs. Sidney Webb were members of this Commission. The Commission made a minority and a majority report. Both agreed that the workhouse must be abolished but the majority proposed that a new body instead of the present guardians of the poor, with much the same powers and all the old problems should be created.

The Minority Report proposed the abolition entirely of the whole poor law system.

Here is what it proposes instead.

1. The children are to be given into the care of the Education authorities who shall have power to provide relief for all children, including food, clothing and protection, if needed, to those who are members of families, and all these things and personal care besides to the homeless ones.

2. The sick shall go to the Public Health authorities who shall have control, not only of the administration of medicine but of the needed relief in the usual personal necessities.

3. The feeble minded to the institutions prepared for these and thus deliver those who are poor and helpless in mind from the sole care of the discredited workhouse.

4. For the able-bodied, employment through national agencies which shall always be able to provide employment if it exists and if not, then sustenance for those in involuntary idleness.

5. And finally, pensions for the aged and crippled and those otherwise permanently infirm.

One of the most interesting of modern campaigns is now in progress in behalf of these proposals.

In this campaign the whole country is being covered, not by an effort to reach the people but to keep reaching them until the poor law which has been the working model in doing such world wide harm shall be supplanted by a really model law.

In this fight tracts, public meetings, correspondence, the press bureau, the churches, the schools, public bodies of all sorts, especially including the labor parties and the trades unions are being called into service.

As Mr. and Mrs. Webb have been central figures in the long years of preparation, in the tireless and expensive search for exact information, so they are central figures in the more spectacular campaign which day by day is winning certain victory for the Minority Report.

"Socialism," says Professor Ely of the Wisconsin University, "is as strong as the strongest presentation which can be made of it. This must be clearly borne in mind by all students of the subject, for in the course of statement and re-statement Socialism will be made stronger than any presentation of it which has ever yet been given. No impartial person can deny this any more than any such person can deny that it has become stronger in its program as time has gone on, and this program has been elaborated and improved."

Do you know of any other paper in Montana that is as aggressive as the Montana News? What is the matter with you subscribing for it right now?

Have you any printing you desire done, if so, we will be pleased to give you our price on doing it for you. All profit from job work goes to carry on the work of agitation.

Strikers to Scab On Themselves

Another feature of the military bill is that it can be used effectively in breaking railroad strikes, and this feature of the bill is one that must not be lightly passed over or scoffed at.

The inter-state commerce commission has prohibited the railroads from raising freight rates or changing what prices they see fit to do, although the sugar trust or oil trust can charge what they desire for their goods, but railroads are barred.

The wages of railroad men are away below the standard wage in any community and the working hours are much longer and the work more hazardous. The railway unions are all working for improved conditions and increase in pay.

The unions among the railroad workers are either amalgamating or federating, getting closer together and becoming more compact. The unions instead of striking on one railway at a time, are taking all the roads in geographical districts, this is putting the railroad magnates up against it, and when the inter-state commerce commission recently gave an adverse decision to the railroads on the rate question, some of the railroad magnates declared that the employees would have to suffer, some of the magnates even going as far as to hint that if they cut wages and the men went on strike, or threatened to strike, the heads of the railroads would appeal to the inter-state commerce commission for relief, or go into forceful service.

We know what that means. A federal judge would issue an injunction restraining the men from going in strike or ordering them back to work, if they went on strike. Precedents are already established in this respect, such injunctions have been issued before and enforced. Providing the men refused to obey the injunction, then the president of the United States could proceed with the military power of the country to open up the railways or break the strike. This is no theory but has already taken place in the United States.

Under the Donahue militia bill the governor of Montana can use any part of the militia to enforce an injunction and should it become necessary to use the military power to break a strike, as has been done in the past, the governor has the power to draft every striker in to the state militia and use them to break the strike.

Telegraphers could be assigned to the signal corps, shopmen to the commissary department and engine and train crews to the engineering corps. The government has the power to appoint officers of the militia and could appoint the railway managers, superintendents and operating officials to be officers of the various departments, such as train dispatchers to be captains of signal corps, master mechanics to be officers of the commissary department and so on.

Under the militia law now in force in Montana, if any militia man disobeys orders he is liable for court martial and such punishment as the court martial may desire to inflict on him. In case of strikers being drafted into the militia it would be an easy matter to get up some charge against the most aggressive militant union men and have them tried by a court martial consisting of railroad officials, which might result in the court martial ordering a firing squad out to do murder.

The militia law gives the governor power to draft every man in Montana between the ages of 18 and 45 years into the militia and the Dick Military law gives the president of the United States power to order the militia of one state into another for active service, therefore the Montana militia can be used as strike breakers in any part of the United States. While the president of the United States has the power under the Dick Military law, yet the Dick Military law is inoperative, unless such laws are passed by the various states similar to the Donahue Militia bill, which provides ways and means to recruit, organize, mobilize, draft and conscript for the militia.

Some people may be skeptic as to the workings of the Montana Militia law and the possibility of railroad men used to scab on themselves, yet the law is there, and the capitalists have used the troops to break strikes

in the past, now they have an improved, up-to-date law whereby they can draft men into the militia to do the work.

When the great A. R. U. strike took place, the union was on the verge of victory, the railroads were crippled and tied up from Buffalo, N. Y. to the Pacific coast, from the lakes to the gulf. The general managers gave out the statement that they were beat and would have to capitulate to the union, unless they could secure the aid of the federal government. They appealed to the government and Grover Cleveland ordered General Miles, commander in chief of the army to break the strike.

The late Governor Pingree of Michigan in his book "Facts and Opinions" states that General Miles went to Chicago to take charge of the soldiers for breaking the strike and that he did not report to the governor of Illinois or to the mayor of Chicago, but went to a fashionable hotel in Chicago where the General Manager's Association was holding a meeting and reported to that organization for duty. At this meeting of the General Managers of the railroads, General Miles suggested that he order a firing squad take Gene Debs out to the lake front and execute him, and in that way break up the A. R. U.

The General Managers told Miles that if he took such a course and shoot Debs that there were not soldiers enough in the United States to quell his uprising of the people that would follow, and the General Managers certainly knew what they were talking about.

A few years ago when the railroads of Holland were tied up completely by a strike, the government broke the strike by ordering the strikers into the army reserve and the same thing has taken place in Italy.

A few months ago the union of French railway workers, one of the strongest industrial labor organizations in the world, went on strike, the French railroads service was completely tied up and the men were on the eve of a complete and overwhelming victory, but, something happened. Every striker was notified by the government to join the colors, or the army reserve within forty-eight hours. The strikers had to report for military duty and they were immediately put to operating the railroads. They were made to scab on themselves, break their own strike, and they did not get the union rate of pay or time and half for overtime either.

The American capitalists have gone to England and brought the blacklist, the citizen alliance and the fellow servant law to fight labor. When the English courts gave the English railroads a verdict for damages against the union men for daring to strike, and collected the fine and paid the same to the railroads, it was only a few weeks afterwards until the American capitalists were suing American unions for damages and American judges gave decisions against American union men based on the decision of the British law lords.

The capitalists of this country have employed the hated and despised Russian spy system to operate inside the unions of America, and they are working this system for all it is worth. Considering all that the capitalists have secured from European tyrants to fight the workers of America, we are justified in expecting that the methods used by the French capitalists to break the recent French railroad strike will also be used in America. The Donahue militia bill is part of the Montana codes, and when the American trust magnates desire to put it in force, every railroad man can be drafted into the state militia and used to break a railroad strike, or subject himself to court martial and punished accordingly as the whims or malice of those who form or control the military court may dictate. There is no trial by jury in court martial proceedings.

Next week we will endeavour to publish the entire list of those members of the legislature who voted for the Donahue military bill.

Vote the Socialist ticket.

STOP VOTING FOR THE OLD PARTIES

By Anna A. Maley.

Have you union men any reason to trust republican officials or democratic officials? Can you show cause why you should trust the one set more than the other? Have they kept faith with you so often that you still feel you will get something by giving them your support at the polls? (You will "get something" no doubt, but what will it be and where will you get it?)

If the lessons you have had in the Black Hills are not enough, look at some other cases. The street car men in Columbus, Ohio, were recently on strike. Mayor Marshall of Columbus is a republican. Governor Harmon of Ohio is a democrat. By consent of both of these men, gattling guns mounted on automobiles and manned by soldiers, swept the streets of Columbus - not for the purpose of forcing the street car company to pay the men a living wage and work them human hours, but for the purpose of forcing the union men to tamely surrender their jobs to the scabs who were running the cars. There they stood, Marshall a republican and Harmon a democrat, hand in hand in crushing the efforts of the workers to win decent bread for their families.

Thirty-three policemen of Columbus gave up their jobs rather than act as strike-breakers and scab-herders (all honor to their spunk and to their manhood!)

Then came along a square dealer, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, to tell the workmen of Columbus something about "his policies." He said that in his opinion these policemen should be dealt with as deserting soldiers are dealt with - that is, they should be tried by court-marshal and shot. (The Militia Bill of Montana, that passed the recent Montana Legislature, fixes you so that the authorities can easily turn you into soldiers and shoot you if you refuse to fire upon one another.)

No doubt the strikers of Columbus found themselves busy with trying to answer this question - "Which would be easier, to be shot by a bullet fired by the direction of republican Mayor Marshall, or to be shot by orders of democratic Governor Harmon, or would it "help some" to be shot by their joint order? And further, which would be better - to have our strikes broken by the court-marshal policy of Insurgent Roosevelt, or by the injunction policy of Stand-Fat Taft?"

The workmen of Columbus and elsewhere will be puzzling over problems of this kind until they stand as one man in the socialist party and take possession of their jobs and the government as well.

"Come, little chickens," said the cook with an ax in her hand, "which would rather be roasted or fried?"

"Neither," said the chickens promptly.

"But, my dears," said the cook, "you are getting away from the question." The democrat, Cleveland, sent troops into Chicago to prevent the A. R. U. from rescuing the Pullman workers from the clutches of starvation. The republican, McKinley, took like action when the miners of Idaho were battling for existence.

These are facts. Let us try to understand them. The men I have named were and are as bad and no worse than the political platforms upon which their respective parties stand. No matter what the position of these parties may be upon tariff, railroad legislation, the money question or the liquor question, no matter what their differences may be regarding these issues, both parties are agreed that the industries of the nation should be privately owned, and that the owners have the right to control the jobs and to overwork and under pay the men and women who must have the jobs or starve.

Brother, you and I are worse than fools if we vote into the hands of the master the control of the job by which we must live. As well might we vote away our right to drink water or breathe air, and then expect the water boss or the air boss to show us either mercy or justice.

As long as the republican and democratic parties stand for the right of capitalists to control the industries, they must stand for the right of these capitalists to make profit in the in-

dustries. And this profit must come out of you. And in order that this profit may be high, you must be forced to sell yourself cheap on the open market.

If the republicans and democrats stand for the right of the bosses to own the industries and thus make profits out of you, why should not their elected officials send soldiers in time of strike to force you to sell yourself cheap? What do you expect?

The Great Northern Railway would no good to Hill if it did not make him the owner of jobs that men must buy from him - for men do buy these jobs - they give to Hill the cream of profit and luxury while they take the skim-milk of toil and poverty. You are the fellows who make the railroads valuable to Hill and Morgan. Because of their ownership of your bread right, they fleece you when they work you and they turn you out when they do not choose to work you.

If you will vote for socialism, if you will stop voting for the corporations and vote for yourselves, you will get in due time all that you ever got out of these corporations in wages and you will get in addition to that, all that the corporations takes in profits. You are the men who furnish the money with which they buy elections. You are the men who run down every political blind alley to which they point you - vote for their tariff reforms and money reforms, and at the same time you vote to them the ownership of your jobs and give them the right and the power to trade in your labor on the open market, to buy and sell you as they buy and sell mules or potatoes or pig-iron.

The labor question will not down, brother, until we wipe out industrial classes and lace all on equal footing with respect to their right to work. Let's begin to vote for Socialism and stay with the fight until we win it. It may be a long fight but we have it to make. You may tinker up the old order for fifty years and you will still be as far from what you want as you are to-day. The old tub is rotten. We must have a new one. Go after it in earnest and it will not take you the half of fifty years to get it.

The workmen of Milwaukee have "hit the long trail." They have not gained all they want by any means, because they are not yet strong enough to set aside the laws under which private masters own the jobs. But the union men of that great city have a mayor and a council who enforced union conditions on all city labor without any union lobbies; they marched with the union men on Labor Day, - they are not only for labor, they are of it.

What did the Milwaukee workmen gain when they elected a Socialist administration? They will have fine and cheap working class homes as soon as their plans can be carried out; the teeth of poor school children will be taken care of at the city's expense; workshops have been cleaned up and put in sanitary condition, and the workers of Milwaukee know that the police force of the city will not be used against them in case of strike and lock-out. The masters know it, too, and therefore yield many points before they will invite labor troubles.

The Socialists of Milwaukee still preach to the workers: "You must continue to vote with your class until we control, not only in the city councils of the nation, but in the state legislatures and the national congress. You have gained some things in Milwaukee, but you will not be free until the people own the industries. You have served notice on the masters that they will have to get off your backs and earn their bread honestly as you are willing to do. Now hold to your program. Nothing except your own foolish divisions can defeat you. If the workers will hold together at the polls, death and hell cannot stand between them and their right to enjoy what they produce."

The old party politicians of Wisconsin have "smelled a rat." They see that the workers are out after the whole loaf, and so the republicans are offering certain slices like initiative, referendum and right of recall, workmen's indemnity, and other benefits. Do you think that this will stop the growth of Socialism? Not at all!

Why should the workers accept a garden plot when by demanding it, they can have the earth?

How about you, good union man, Will you still try to get something through the parties of your bosses, or will you be wise enough to stand in this and every election, with that party of your class, The International Socialist Party?

MUNICIPAL TRAMWAYS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The annual conference to the Municipal Tramway Association of Great Britain was held at Bradford two months ago. There were gathered the representatives of the 176 British cities having municipal street railways. The president, Manager C. J. Spencer, of the Bradford tramways, reported that to-day \$235,000,000 is invested in municipal tramways by the cities of Great Britain.

Spencer shows the soundness of municipal financing by some interesting comparisons. The gross receipts of the municipal tramways amounted to 48,500,000 for the past year. Out of this sum there was set aside for sinking fund reserve and renewals \$8,220,000, or three and one-half per cent on the total capital. The companies, he states, operating tramways, have a total capital of \$115,870,000 and they have set aside for depreciation and other like funds \$1,217,000 or but 1.05 per cent. Thus, for the safeguarding of the undertakings, municipalities set aside three times as much as the companies.

Reduces Fares One-Half.

The average fare paid by passengers on municipal tramways is 2.18 cents. This is a reduction of about one-half what was charged by the companies that formerly operated British tramways. In the city of Liverpool the saving to passengers because of the reduction in fares amounts to \$2,600,000 per annum.

Besides reducing fares, the municipal tramways have improved the condition of the employees. Alfred Baker, manager of the Birmingham tramways has shown that the reduction in working hours is about 50 per cent, and the wages have been increased more than half. The number of cars operated has been increased, and the lines greatly extended. Many cities have used a portion of the taxes. The total sum used for this purpose last year was \$1,500,000.

Some idea may be gained by Americans of the difficulties under which British municipal tramways labor and the enormity of the exactions of American street railways by a comparison of their receipts. According to the figures given by Spencer the receipts of the British municipal tramways amount to \$3.27 per capita of the total population of all the cities per annum. In San Francisco the people pay in car fares each year a sum equal to \$24 for every man, woman and child in the city. This is nearly eight times more per head than is paid by the people of British cities.

The testimony of Spencer is interesting to the people of San Francisco, who a year ago voted bonds for the construction of a municipal street railway on Geary street. He says: "The fact of the matter is that experience has proved, in the great majority of cases, that the tramway transit facilities are operated and controlled to the best public advantage by the local authorities in whose area the tramways are located."

Benefits of Municipal Ownership.

In California, although there are over 2,000 miles of electric railway in operation and the gross receipts are about \$30,000,000 annually, no reports are made by the companies to any public authority. In fact, the persons controlling them make but meager reports to their stockholders.

We have witnessed the bribery in San Francisco of supervisors by the street railways, gas and electric and two telephone companies. Officials of these companies are now under indictments, charged with this crime, to which supervisors confessed. Similar crimes are being committed through out the United States, wherever franchise and privilege is sought. Such disgrace and degradation of a city is impossible under municipal ownership. British municipal tramway managers and other officials have the respect, confidence and esteem of the people. As Spencer says: "There are no secrets in municipal tramway operation, and our various systems are open to the fullest inspection at all the worse it gets. times."—E. P. Troy in Oakland World.

Do you want to see the Socialist movement advance? Then support Socialist papers and circulate Socialist books. Make a demand at the public library for Socialist books. Most public libraries have books on Socialism, if they have not get all your friends to go to the library and call for books on Socialism, create a demand for them and the books will soon appear in the library catalogue.

LATER NEWS FROM THE COAL FIELD.

Calgary, Mar. 23.—The miners yesterday afternoon in convention with the mine operators in respect to the open and closed shop and the check off system, offered to accept conditions precisely as they stand at the present time, with no change at all, and to proceed with a discussion of the wage scale. Though this is a very reasonable and conciliatory offer, the operators declined to entertain it.

The miners then offered to leave the question in abeyance, and proceed with a discussion of the wage scale, but that, too, without any success, as it was rejected by the operators.

The meeting adjourned to meet again this morning. But if the operators are not in a more conciliatory frame of mind there is little chance of any settlement being arrived at. The miners believe that they have about gone the limit in conciliation.

Though the miners and operators are no nearer settlement now than at any time since negotiations, yet there was some action taken yesterday, and an approach was made to some definite conclusion, the result of which is yet to be seen. From what came out yesterday, the public is in a position to judge for itself regarding the position of the parties, and decide which party is delaying the settlement.

A slight explanation is necessary regarding existing conditions. The miners at present have two kinds of agreements. One is with the Crow's Nest Pass Coal company with mines at Fernie, Coal Creek, and Michel, and one with the other companies in the district. The reason of this is that the coal company in question at the time of the previous negotiations broke away from the Western Coal Operators, and signed up with the miners. They agreed to the closed shop proposition. The miners signed up later with the other companies and the closed shop agreement was not included in the later agreement. But since then the Crow's Nest Pass Company has united once more with the Western Coal Operators and is now working with them in these negotiations. So it is seen that the operators in asking for the open shop really ask the miners not only to continue that system in a portion of the mines, but also for them to relinquish a privilege which they already have in the other mines, in which at least half of their men are employed.

It is upon this question that the difference between the miners and the operators arose, and it is upon this point that they are still in dispute.

At a meeting of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company stock-holders recently held, a report was read showing a net profit for the year amounting to \$34,956.28. This clearly shows that the mine owners are not going behind in their investment.

NOT PEOPLE.

A capitalist mine owner who had not visited his mines for several years went to see them taking his five-year old boy with him.

"Who are those people?" The child asked as he saw the miners for the first time. "They are not people, son, they are miners," explained the father.

Study Course On Socialism.

The Rand School of Social Science offers the following Correspondence Courses for students living outside of New York City.

Course 1. American History. Text book, McMaster's "School History of the United States."

Course 11. American Government. Textbook, Ashley's "American Gov-

Course 111. Socialism. Textbook, Spargo's "Socialism."

Each course will consist of six outlines, sent to the student at intervals of one month, giving a synopsis of the subject and direction for reading. After doing the indicated reading, the student will write an essay each month according to directions given in the outline and send it to the Rand School, where it will be read and returned to the student with criticism and advice.

The fee for either course is \$2.50 if paid in advance, or \$3.00 if paid in monthly installments of fifty cents each.

For full particulars address: The Rand School of Social Science, 112 East 19th Street, New York.

COAL MINERS WILL STRIKE

Unless a change takes place within the next few days the coal miners of British Columbia and Alberta will go on strike April 1st. The present agreement expiring March 31st.

The mine owners appear to be the ones that are forcing the trouble, they are unwilling to concede the miners any thing, although the miners are asking nothing more than what the coal miners have.

The miners are asking for the same agreement that exists between the miners and the mine owners in Montana, but the bosses do not want to grant such a scale of wages.

Another point of dispute is on the time that the agreement expires. The bosses wanting the new agreement to expire March 31st, 1914, the miners want the agreement to exist until August 31st, 1912.

The desire of the miners being to have the agreement between them and the bosses expire at the same time as the Montana, Washington and Wyoming agreements expire, so that in the event of a strike of coal miners in any one state, owing to no new agreement being reached when the old one expired, that the miners of one state would not be placed in a position of scabbing or supplying the coal market of another state. In other words the coal miners are working to the end that all agreements in the northwest must be signed up at the same time, or there will be a strike of coal miners throughout the entire northwest. This is but a fair proposition and gives a fair show to every one, but the bosses don't like such a state of affairs, as under present conditions of agreements expiring at different dates they can play miners of one state against another, as well as take undue advantages against their own competitors in other states.

Another point in dispute is the check-off system, which the miners desire, but the bosses refuse to grant. The check-off is an agreement between the miners and the coal companies whereby the company collects all dues, fines, assessments and initiation fees for the union.

When a man goes to work in a mine, he gives to the secretary or pit committee of the union an order authorizing the company to deduct from his wages all amounts due due the union and pay the same to the treasurer of the union upon demand. This agreement the bosses claim enforces and makes a closed shop as the miners want work with any one who don't sign the check off order on the company.

The check-off exists Montana, Wyoming and Washington and has had the effect of making the coal miners union a solid organization.

There are a large number of so-called radicals who pride themselves in being r-e-v-o-l-u-t-i-o-n-a-r-y especially the I. W. W. who oppose the check-off because it makes the boss collect the union dues. So it is proven now that these professed radicals and the bosses have perfect harmony between them on this point.

Before the check-off was obtained in Montana the miners had to make quite a fight to secure it. The amalgamated coal interests fighting it hard on the ground that it might be extended to the miners of Butte and the mill and smelters in the state and in such an event it would mean the employment of extra clerks, which the company could not afford to employ.

If the check-off system could be secured universally by all the unions in the country, the unions would have a solid organization and hundred of thousands of dollars that now are spent in organizing could be used to better advantage.

We hope that the miners of British Columbia and Alberta secure the check-off system, as it is the first thing that makes a union, there are too many cheap skates in the country that like to take all the benefits and pay for nothing.

MINERS' PROPOSALS.

1. The fixing of contract rate on all new work before the general agreement is discussed. This applies to all long wall work in No. 1 north No. 1, south No. 3, No. 9 Coal Creek. Also to No. 3, Michel. Also to No. 8 south Michel, the latter being in connection with new work. Also to long wall Blairmore mines, Frank mines, and Bankhead mines.

2. The elimination of inequities in prices paid through the district on

timbering, and the contract mining rate at Michel mines No. 3, 4, 5, and 7. Also contract mining rates at Bear Valley, Lille, Lethbridge, A. R. and I., Royal Collieries, Canmore and Hillcrest.

3. The adoption of general provision of the agreement as a basis of negotiations, with amendments to be introduced as the clauses dealt with and addition to be submitted.

4. The same day scale as is provided for in the agreement between the Montana Coal Operators Association and District 27, U. M. W. of A. with proportionate advances on all work not covered by the agreement mentioned, the engineers, and classified.

5. An advance of 5.55 per cent on all contract and dead work after adjustments are made.

6. A uniform price list for supplies.

7. All agreements to expire on the thirty-first day of August 1912.

OPERATORS' PROPOSALS.

In reply to the suggestion of the representatives of District 18, U. M. W. of A., the Scale Committee of the Western Coal Operators' Association would suggest:

1. In regard to the fixing of contract rates on all new work before the general agreement is discussed. These prices are matters of concern under the old individual agreements, and are matters for settlement in the way provided by these agreements, and are questions that this scale committee has no authority to act on, except for the making of rates to govern the same after March 31st, 1911, and will have to come up in the ordinary course of the making of the agreement and not have any special preference over other clauses or rates. We would suggest that all contract rates be dealt with in accordance with provisions that may be provided for in the new agreement.

2. The elimination of inequalities in prices, etc., is a matter that has not any special preference over other clauses, but must be taken up in the ordinary course in the making of a new agreement.

3. We will accept the general provisions of the present agreement as a basis of negotiations, with such amendments as may be agreed to.

4. We cannot accept the Montana scale of wages for the reason that the conditions and hours of work are not the same.

5. The mining rates of this district are already very high, and the present of general increase.

6. We agree to a uniform price list for supplies as far as possible.

7. We see no reason for changing the date of the expiration of the agreement, and suggest the next agreement expires March 31st, 1914.

In view of the suggestion made in Section 3 we are now prepared to take up the general provisions of the present agreement clause by clause.

SOCIALIST VICTORY.

Two Harbors, Minn. March 24—The Socialists of this city have just won the majority election, electing Alex Halliday mayor and putting four aldermen into the city council.

The old parties combined and were defeated.

The Socialists elected to office are: Mayor-Alexander Halliday. City Assessor-Alfred Johnson.

Justice of the Peace-A. P. Overland Aldermen at Large-H. J. Irwin and C. E. Bergen.

Alderman of the Third Ward-Ernest G. Strand.

Alderman of the Fourth Ward-Chas. Esse.

The Socialists now have four aldermen out of a council of seven. This gives them control.

NOTICE TO FARMERS

All classes of labor as well as business and commercial institutions are organized into associations to advance their welfare. The farmers are the class that is not organized for mutual protection. Even the beasts of the field as well as the human that preys on the farmer is organized self protection. It is time that the farmers were organized into unions to secure the benefits and protection that can only be got by force of numbers.

Organize a farmers union in your district. Further particulars can be had by sending a letter of inquiry to Union Farmer, Box 908 Helena Montana