

SOCIALIST WORLD

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THE SOCIALIST PARTY AND MAY DAY

By Eugene V. Debs

This year the Socialist Party and May Day greet each other with peculiar fitness and under circumstances evoking mutual congratulation. Both the Party and the Day have been under the ban of capitalism, subjected during the fierce ordeal of the Satanic Slaughter to the most savage persecution in the desperate attempt of the war crazed masters to destroy the Party and blot the Day from the calendar, and now both the Party and the Day emerge triumphant in all their perennial glory, hailing the workers with their hope-inspiring battle-cry and marshalling with renewed energy and enthusiasm the revolutionary hosts of labor for the conquest of capitalism and the emancipation of the race.

Never has a political party been as desperately assailed and as relentlessly persecuted as has been the Socialist Party of the United States during the past five years. Every attempt that malignancy could conceive was made to discredit and destroy it. From within as well as from without the Party was attacked with insane fury and the ranks beaten to the earth by the vicious forces of disruption and destruction.

But the Socialist Party, reduced to its naked principles and its barest sinews, did not perish in the ravages of its implacable enemies: but withstood them all for the reason that it was built upon the rock and therefore indestructible. Its membership was decimated, its resources depleted and the activities of the remaining few all but paralyzed,

yet it stood the test of fire and vindicated its right to live, and today it stands forth, clad in the shining robe of resurrection, the dauntless champion, the tried and trusted party of the American workers in their struggle for industrial freedom.

Once again the battle-cry of the Socialist Party goes ringing down the line and once again the ranks are swelling with the intrepid young warriors of the social revolution.

The Socialist Party, emerging unscathed from the fiery furnace, rejoicing in its flaming baptism and its triumphant re-birth and rejuvenation, issues its May Day salutation to the workers of the nation and to all the workers of the world.

It sends its greetings to the Soviet Republic of Russia, battling bravely to achieve the freedom and establish the rule of the working class; and sends like greetings to its proletarian comrades in England, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Australia, South Africa, India, Canada, Mexico, and all other nations throughout the world.

The Socialist Party does not forget the brave comrades who are still chained in the dungeons of capitalism for their loyalty to their class, and it sends them all comradely salutation, honoring them for their steadfast devotion to the cause, and renewing its pledge to them that the Socialist Party will never cease its activities in their behalf until the last of them is restored to freedom.

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by the
SOCIALIST PARTY OF AMERICA
OTTO F. BRANSTETTER Bus. Mgr.

DEBS' MADISON MEETING

The meeting in Madison, Wisconsin on April 18th, was one of the most momentous ever held in that city, and certainly the most remarkable meeting so far held on Debs' present tour of the Central States. It is the first time in American history that a State legislature has welcomed and praised a Socialist speaker. This occurred on the morning of the meeting, when the lower house passed a resolution praising Debs as "An outstanding, consistent Christian figure, who has preached and lived the Religion of Christ all the long years of his useful life," and pledging the members to attend the lecture in a body.

The lecture under the auspices of the Social Science Club, a student organization, was held in the University Gym, which has a seating capacity of several thousand. The hall was packed to the doors and hundreds turned away. Lieutenant-Governor Comings, the Secretary of State, a large number of legislators, and members of the University faculty, were seated on the platform and joined with the immense audience in giving Debs an enthusiastic reception. Considerable delay and confusion were caused at the opening of the meeting by trouble with the lighting system, which plunged the hall in darkness. Candles were hastily procured and arrangements made for proceeding with the meeting. However, when it was announced from the stage that a committee of legislators had started for the home of the President of the University to demand an explanation of the darkness, the trouble was miraculously remedied and the lights turned on.

Debs was in particularly fine form, and delivered a lecture which apparently met the approval of one of the largest and most representative audiences ever gathered in Madison. He scathingly arraigned the existing system, and fixed upon it the responsibility for the social ills from which we suffer. Debs paid his respects to Chief Justice Taft, and commented upon the reports published in that day's papers of the ten thousand dollar annuity which he receives from the Carnegie Corporation. "Taft," Debs said, "Has been in the public service, with the exception of one short interval, all his life, and as a public official has invariably served the in-

terests of the exploiting class. The annuity which he receives was bestowed upon him as a reward for services rendered. His acceptance of this annuity after his appointment to the Supreme Court is unethical beyond description, and in itself marks him as a person unfitted to occupy this high and responsible position." Debs expressed the opinion that the Socialist Party would undoubtedly further a campaign to insure his resignation or impeachment.

While the meeting at Madison was remarkable in many respects, it is by no means unusual, or the most successful meeting which Comrade Debs has had on his present tour. Everywhere the largest halls in the cities are filled to overflowing and he receives most cordial and enthusiastic receptions.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912

Of The Socialist World, published monthly, at Chicago Illinois,

For Apr. 1, 1923.

State of Illinois
County of Cook

ss. Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Otto Branstetter who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the editor of "The Socialist World" and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, require by the Act of August 24, 1920, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:

Publisher: Socialist Party of the United States, 2418 W. Madison St., Chicago.

Editor and Business Manager: Otto Branstetter, 2418 West Madison St., Chicago.

2. That the owners are:

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James H. Maurer Rooms 1, 2 and 3, Commonwealth Trust Co. Building, Harrisburg, Pa.

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Otto F. Branstetter, Executive Secretary, 2418 West Madison St., Chicago.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other security are: NONE.

OTTO BRANSTETTER Editor

Sworn to and subscribed before me this Apr. 3, 1923.

(SEAL)

SWAN JOHNSON

(My commission expires April 29, 1923).

Notary Public.

(Continued from page 1)

MAY DAY 1923!

What may this day of proletarian inspiration and significance hold, what does it promise, what shall it achieve for the working class and the social revolution?

It is for ourselves to say, for we have the power if we but choose to exercise it, to make this the greatest year in our Party's history.

Shall it be done? Let us resolve this day that it shall and set ourselves to work at once with all our united energy, all our pent up enthusiasm, and all the determination at our command to rebuild, renew and revivify the Socialist Party and to celebrate its achievement on May Day 1924 as the powerful exponent and the recognized champion of the American workers in the international struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and the emancipation of humanity.

AN UNCONSIDERED PHASE OF THE AMNESTY QUESTION

By Emil Herman.

The restoration of civil and political rights for Political Prisoners is, in my opinion, of a vital importance, to felon and public alike, as is the release from prison itself.

Being convicted of a felony carries with it the loss of citizenship rights and places the person so convicted in the same status as an alien.

He loses his right to hold civil service positions.

He loses his right to vote.

He loses his right to hold elective office.

He loses his right to homestead Government land.

To those who lack faith in the potency of the ballot box as a means for revolutionary change the loss of these rights are of little or no importance.

To those of us who realize the far reaching and revolutionary possibilities connected with the organized and intelligent use of the ballot, this question takes on a more serious aspect.

It affects the individual directly concerned and involves all society by virtue of the fact that there are deprived from participation in public and governmental affairs some of the highest minded and most intelligent members of society.

Due, no doubt to the fact that newspapers use the term pardon and commutation interchangeably, the general public are under the impression that they are one and the same.

Such, however, is not the fact.

A pardon restores a felon to the status he occupied before conviction. A commutation does not, it shortens the prison sentence but leaves him a felon still.

Therefore, a commutation of sentence granted a political prisoner leaves him in precisely the same position, on release, as it does a felon who has served his entire sentence. Furthermore, there is, here and elsewhere, in the rules of the Department of

(In) Justice, no differentiation between the treatment accorded politicals and that meted out to murderers, sodomists, rapists, narcotic fiends, white-slavers, etc.

To say that there is no intellectual, moral and spiritual difference between these latter and politicals is, I am certain, a contention for which not even the Republican and Democratic Lawyer-Politicians, who misgovern us today, will be willing to accept responsibility even through President Harding did say, in effect, in reply to a question asked him at a meeting in Omaha during the last Presidential campaign, "There is no more justification for a general grant of Amnesty for political prisoners than in a general grant of Amnesty for yegg-men."

Now then, to what humiliation are politicals expected to subject themselves, by our Department of (In) Justice, in order to be transformed from felons to men. Precisely the same as that of the most vicious, desperate and degenerate criminal whose sentence has expired, or may have been commuted.

No political will stoop to those depths of infamy because: They respect themselves, love their fellow-men and have a high concept of their duty to society—were it not so they would not have followed truth to prison to uphold the principle of right-living.

There are yet fifty of our best and noblest men in Federal Prisons and a few hundred in State Penitentiaries for political offenses, and for the same reason that these refuse to plead for executive clemency to obtain their release so will the vast majority of politicals refuse to submit to the degrading humiliation of appealing for a restoration to their status before conviction.

While people, generally, may do so—politicals will not forget that Jesus of Nazareth died nailed to a cross, as a felon, because of his devotion to a cause for the relief of suffering humanity; that Bruno roasted at a stake, as a felon because he preferred to die bravely with the truth rather than to live a coward and give lip service to the lie that the earth is flat when he knew it to be spherical: that Elija Lovejoy was mobbed and killed, in our own country, less than a century ago because he courageously proclaimed that it is inhuman, unjust, immoral and irreligious for men to own other men as private property—nor will they forget that all the way up the blood be-spattered path of human history a few outstanding and courageous men and women have blazed the trail of progress which humanity have followed—sometimes far in the rear—up to the dawn of civilization, the present time; and that most of these pioneers of freedom were racked, thumbscrewed, broken on the wheel, mobbed, lynched, crucified, shot, imprisoned, burned at the stake or hung, many of them after first having been stigmatized as felons.

They are quite willing to rest their case and leave the verdict to the judgment of posterity.

The political felons of today stand unafraid, with heads erect and are not ashamed to keep company with Jesus, Bruno and the many other political felons of former times.

But how about you, who read this? Can you afford, without losing self-respect and forgetting your own best interest, continue to permit the lie to go forth that these men and women who protested the slaughter of the flower of our young manhood for the private gain of predatory interests are unworthy to have the standing of citizens among you?

If you agree with me—and I know most of you do, because the great heart of mankind is sound and beats in unison for the common good to the extent that the collective mind understands and intelligently directs—then let your demand for justice for class-war prisoners center upon the proposition of AMNESTY and not merely the release of those who are still behind prison bars.

Civilization In Non-Unionized Territory

By Norman Thomas

If the wise old Greek who said that he did not care who made his country's laws if he could write its songs had lived in this modern age of jazz, he would have modified his statement. He would have said: "I care not who writes my country's laws, so long as I write the Saturday Evening Post." It is not merely the circulation of the Post that counts, but its authority among thousands of Americans who when they think on public affairs at all are apt to think very much as some article in The Post has instructed them.

All of which is a preface to introducing the Post's expert Albert W. Atwood as witness in the case of labor against company owned towns. He is writing about mining towns in Arizona in the Saturday Evening Post, March 24.

"It is not the function of this article to discuss the closed or open shop, the activities of unions, union recognition, or any such subject. . . . But once granting the copper industry's policy of nonrecognition, much of the criticism of the company town and its institutions falls to the ground, for they are the only institutions the companies can employ under the circumstances.

"It is said the companies employ guards, detectives, spies and gunmen, and that people

who are not liked are quickly railroaded out of town. Now, it must be recognized that the copper companies are determined not only against union recognition but against strikes, and their towns are run absolutely on that basis. The guards and detectives are used against organizers, strikers and anyone the company considers an agitator. Except perhaps during the mob hysteria of big strikes, it would be hard to point to anyone run out of these towns, except for good cause, who was not agitating for either union recognition or a strike."

These are precious words, men and brethren, for those who love American liberties. How great is the beneficence of the employers! If you want to sell Mennen's shaving cream or Camel cigarettes, you are perfectly free to go into their towns, and so long as you don't drink too much of the local hootch, you can look any company guard in the face. But suppose instead of selling talcum powder you have ideas that you want to impart to your fellow workers. Well, that's another matter.

If Americans really loved liberty they would have cried out against such a travesty of that democracy for which our nation was alleged to have fought. They did not cry out because Mr. Atwood is right. "Once granting the copper industry's policy of non-

recognition" company towns and company guards are logical and free speech a luxury, not a right. Admit that absentee owners, many of whom never saw a copper mine—and for copper read coal or iron or anything else that you please—have complete ownership over that which they did not make and which all society needs; admit that these absentee owners are not obliged to bargain collectively with their employees or to give their employees even such moderate voice in industry as unionization would assure them, and the tyranny and oppression of company towns and company guards follow as a matter of course.

Mr. Atwood's confession as to the autocracy to which non-recognition of unions leads is in refreshing contrast to the bunk of the open shop movement with its talk of liberty. How that "liberty" works I was reminded the other day in Pittsburgh, when a lawyer told me a conversation he had overheard in a train in the non-unionized coal regions. A mine superintendent was boasting how he had conducted strip operations during the coal strike. He said, "I just got ten coal and iron police and one squire (justice of the peace) and paid them each \$10 a day. I had the guns and the law, and any agitators that came around, we ran out." The boast is characteristic of conditions in non-unionized territory. It is a denial of freedom scarcely less complete than chattel slavery. That denial of freedom has always characterized our industrial civilization, except when labor was strong enough to organize and force some measure of justice from bosses and absentee owners. So long as anybody believes that freedom matters, the condition that Mr. Atwood discusses so calmly is intolerable.

Freedom for the working class can only be attained at the price of organization. Mr. Atwood himself confesses in the article to which I have referred that improvements in company towns of Arizona have come only after labor strikes and disturbances.

The first step in dealing with this problem of the autocracy of the absentee owner is labor organization, but it is not the last. After a while intelligent workers are bound to ask: What have these men who own the coal, the iron, the copper, ever done to deserve profits which enable them to live at ease in pleasant places of the earth while we live in huts and toil in the darkness and danger of great pits and holes in the earth? Did they make the natural resources which are the heritage of mankind? Is it their brains or lack of brains which is responsible for the waste and ugliness of our industrial processes? Why may not engineers and workers serve society rather than absentee owners? These are questions which are becoming more and more insistent. They

will never be settled until they are settled right. To settle them requires more than a verbal formula. It requires a reasonable plan, organization, and intelligence. But it is a fair prophesy that in the end the settlement will come along the lines of social ownership of these natural resources with democratic administration of the processes by which they are made available to society. On that basis we may build a finer civilization than the autocracy of company towns. — Editorial Service - League for Industrial Democracy.

Greeting from America

To the Hon. Arthur M. Henderson—London.

Your cablegram and I reached Chicago at about the same time and it is with real pleasure that I comply with your request. We have just concluded a most interesting municipal campaign in which the vote cast for Socialism was more than doubled. The war hysteria has now subsided to a considerable extent although we still have some fifty political prisoners serving sentences of twenty years and more for holding opinions adverse to the late international slaughter, a fact that disgraces the plutocratic United States Government before the world.

It is with special satisfaction that I advise our British comrades that the Socialist Party which was all but destroyed during the war is now rapidly reorganizing upon a more secure foundation and I feel justified in predicting that within a twelvemonth the Party will be stronger and more efficiently organized in every way that ever before.

We have noted with deep interest and full appreciation the splendid progress made by the Socialist movement in Great Britain, especially since the recent election and the surprising increase in the Socialist representation in the House of Commons. From now on Socialism is the one commanding issue before the people, and whatever may be the result of the immediate contentions between Socialists and their adversaries, it is certain that the final victory will be achieved in the not remote future and that England will soon be transformed into a Socialist commonwealth.

In behalf of the the Socialists of America I beg to send cordial May Day greetings to our British comrades with the ardent hope that the splendid efforts they are now putting forth in behalf of the working class may soon be crowned with complete victory.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) EUGENE V. DEBS

Chicago, April 16, 1923.

PROGRESSIVE WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE VOTES RESOLUTION PRAISING DEBS

Eugene V. Debs spoke in Madison, Wisconsin on Wednesday, April 18th, in the University Gym. under the auspices of the Social Science Club. On the morning of that day the Wisconsin Assembly passed a resolution in which Debs was commended for —

“His long life of unselfish service in the interests of humanity.”

The resolution was introduced by Assemblyman Julius Kiesner of Milwaukee, Socialist member. It eulogized Mr. Debs as “An outstanding American, in that he had the courage during the hysteria and war madness to stand up and defend the ideals and splendid traditions of the founders of this republic regarding equality of opportunity and the rights of freedom, Religion, free press, free speech and peaceable assemblage, the keystone and guaranty of free institutions.”

At the same session a joint resolution was adopted by the Assembly, demanding the recall of public officials and judges “Who have violated their oath of office, usurped power, deprived sovereign citizens of their Constitutional rights of liberty, and have thus done violence to free government.” The Resolution demands that such “Officials and judges be held up to the scorn of all law-abiding men and that wherever possible they be impeached, removed from office and punished according to law.”

The Senate adjourned without acting on the Assembly Resolution praising the activities of Debs. The measure came to the upper house as a privileged resolution, and an unsuccessful attempt to have it considered was made by Socialist members. To escape being placed on record, the majority members of the Senate moved an adjournment, thus postponing action until after Mr. Debs' meeting.

DEBS RESOLUTION PASSED BY WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY

Relating to an address by Eugene V. Debs

WHEREAS, Eugene V. Debs is an outstanding, consistent Christian figure in that he has preached and lived the religion of Christ all the long years of his useful life; and

WHEREAS, He has also proved himself to be an outstanding American in that he had the courage during the hysteria and war-madness to stand up and defend the ideals and splendid traditions of the founders of this republic regarding equality of opportunity and the rights of freedom

of Religion, free press, free speech and peaceable assemblage, the keystone and guarantee of free institutions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, that we herewith express our appreciation and gratitude to Eugene V. Debs for his long life of unselfish service in the interests of humanity and that the legislature insofar as possible go in a body to listen to his lecture on Socialism and freedom in the University Gymnasium this evening.

WISCONSIN RESOLUTION DEMANDING RECALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

Relating to usurpation, and the violation of Constitutional guarantees by public officials.

WHEREAS, The pathway of the centuries is strewn with the wrecks of republics destroyed by usurpation and by the indifference of the people who are prone to permit usurpation and forget that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty; and

WHEREAS, During the late war, which was waged under the pretense of making the world safe for democracy, the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech, press and peaceable assemblage were flagrantly violated by certain officials and judges; and

WHEREAS, A republic cannot survive if usurpation of power, contempt for the constitution and invasion of the rights of sovereign citizens are permitted to go unpunished. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That we demand that public officials and judges who have violated their oath of office, usurped power, deprived sovereign citizens of their constitutional rights and their liberty and have thus done violence to free government, be held up to the scorn of all law-abiding men and that wherever possible they be impeached, removed from office and punished according to law.

EUGENE V. DEBS

*Editorial in The Capital Times, Madison, Wis.
April 18, 1923*

“While there is a lower class, I am in it. While there is a soul in jail, I am not free.”

A simple creed, simple to spin into words, hard to live up to.

A handful of axioms, easy for the forensic juggling of an orator, hard to lay down as a basis for actual life.

They were written by Eugene V. Debs. And, so far as it lies in the power of one to guide his destiny by an unwavering purpose, they were lived by Eugene V. Debs.

You may disagree with his views; yet you cannot dislike the courage that suffered all for them.

You may loathe his politics; yet you cannot be incensed over his humor and tolerance, which recognizes your loathing and forgives it, with a touch of irony, perhaps.

You may applaud his imprisonment, yet you must, once you see and hear him, applaud also the fine fibre of him that no prison could warp, and the fine heart of him that returned to the world beyond the walls without rancor.

If you hate the man's policies, you admire the man. If you admire the man's policies, you love the man.

That is Debs.

In prison, where the spirit of a man is tested—and often broken—he carried with him sunlight and the free out-of-door which he would not, could not shed with his citizen's clothes. It is said—by the warden himself—that the prisoners turned to him

for leadership and guidance. It is hard, it must be hard, to guide by gentleness in prison, where force is enthroned.

He is out again—the “Old Agitator.” At nearly three score and ten, heedless of his health, perhaps, he is again at war. And his weapons are words, and a smile that lights up his lean face, and a lean hand that reaches out over his audience to draw them perforce to the truth as he sees it.

Madison—all of Madison—should welcome Debs. And Madison—a great part of Madison—should pack the University Gymnasium to let him visualize and sense that welcome.

It seems cruel that a man of Debs' fibre and character can be misrepresented before the American people as he has been. It only serves to show a man who has the courage to fight the economic forces that are in control of this country must suffer for doing the unorthodox thing. Could any man treasure more the words of friendship and neighborliness that were given to Debs by James Whitcomb Riley and the lamented Gene Field? Both loved Debs. The men, women and children of Terre Haute, where Debs lives, love the old rebel. Madison, then, need have no fear of hearing the man who has so abundantly won the love of those who know him.

CAPITALISM CRACKS UP

Feeble Defence Against Labor's Commons Attack

Press Service of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party—London.

Mr. Philip Snowden is a pacifist of the pacifists, but only military metaphor can adequately describe the devastating attack he made on capitalism. He raked it fore and aft, and when he had discharged his last broadside there was nothing left but a sorry heap of jumbled wreckage.

He spoke to a tense House. Strangers in the crowded galleries leaned forward to catch every word. The Tories were demonstrative, and at times unruly, but on the whole they listened with courtesy and restraint. Mr. Lloyd George appeared to appreciate as much as his Labour opponents some of Mr. Snowden's direct hits, and at least one cronical shot at Sir Alfred Mond convulsed him with merriment.

“It is capitalism, not Socialism, which is on its trial,” declared Mr. Snowden, amid crashing Labour cheers.

He would apply to capitalism the test of Mr. Hartley Withers: Did it give people a good world in which to live? Capitalism had not only failed in

that, but it had failed to utilise natural resources and productive power.

Quoting from Henry George the famous passage about the seventeenth century scientist visualising in imagination the wonderful mechanical and scientific improvements of the nineteenth century, Mr. Snowden went on to show that, in spite of inechanical progress, there were the destitute at one end of the social scale, and at the other end people so rich that even imagination could not devise means for spending the super-abundant wealth.

TORY COMMOTION

The spending power of a very large class was exercised in the maintenance of unremunerative and unproductive labour. Four-elevenths of the workers were so employed.

Capitalism had assumed the function of managing industry. It had failed to do that adequately or efficiently.

“We have to-day,” declared Mr. Snowden, “at

least one million and a half of would-be workers out of employment. How can you defend the system?"

This direct question caused some commotion on the Ministerial Benches, and interrupters were sharply rebuked by the Labour Members.

Anticipating the argument that although the capitalist system might be defective, things were on the mend, the Member for Colne Valley pointed out that the present so-called abnormal position was the result of capitalism, for the war in its final analysis was due to the financial and international system of capitalism.

He mentioned the plight of the agricultural labourers, who were having imposed on them a wage of 25s. (equal to 14s. in pre-war value), and recalled the fact that in 1913 some 100,000 railwaymen were earning less than £1 a week.

CHILD VICTIMS

Capitalism had failed to keep harmony between employers and employed.

A chorus of approval from his Labour colleagues greeted Mr. Snowden's reference to housing conditions. He drew a scathing comparison between the wonders of wireless and the failure of modern society to provide for every family a decent habitation.

Much industrial inefficiency, and a great part of the sickness with which the National Health Insurance Act is designed to cope, he ascribed to the failure of capitalism to provide fundamental human needs.

Touching briefly on the distribution of wealth, he pointed out that 88 per cent. of the wealth of the country was in the hands of 2½ per cent. of the population.

In 1918 the number of persons assessed to income tax was twelve times as great as in 1854, while there had been very little improvement during those years in the income of the wage-earning class.

Referring to the exploitation of child labour in the last century, Mr. Snowden mentioned that in some factories tubs of water were kept for dipping the children when they fell asleep. This evoked some dissent from the Tory benches, and Labour members assured them that it was quite true.

In his early experience as a Socialist agitator. Mr. Snowden constantly met, he said, with the type of critic who praised the virtues of competition. Now capitalism was abandoning competition. Trusts could produce more cheaply than the individual capitalist, but the benefits of this method of production did not go to the community.

Turning to Sir Alfred Mond, he asked what chance a clerical worker who had saved £200 had to start business as a chemical manufacturer in

competition with Brunned Mond. The laughter that greeted this sally was redoubled when it was noticed that Sir Alfred Mond was furiously scribbling a reply.

Mr. Snowden turned the edge of an inevitable criticism by declaring that there was no analogy between Socialism and Bolshevism.

"Bolshevism, both in its political theories and its ideals of dictatorship, is not Socialism but die-hard Toryism," he declared amid loud laughter.

NO CONFISCATION

Mr. Snowden made it clear that neither he nor his colleagues stood for confiscation. He wanted no further step forward towards Socialism until the previous step had been justified by results.

Some of the newspapers appeared to think that by tabling the motion under discussion the Labour Party had appeared in their true colours.

It was thirty years since the Trades Union Congress had declared for Socialisation. A statement almost identical with the motion appeared in the Labour Party's election manifesto, and it appeared in the written constitution of the Party.

Mr. Tom Johnston, who seconded, was rather unfortunate in having to follow Mr. Snowden, who had apparently anticipated some of the points the editor of *Forward* intended to make. He drove a series of Socialist war points with great emphasis.

Big blocks of British capitalism had been invested in enemy countries, he said. Torpedoes manufactured with British capital had sent British sailors to their death in the Mediterranean.

There were 4,000,000 tons of coal which could not be worked because it was under land held by private interests.

Under capitalism our production was bad and low, and our distribution infinitely worse.

MOND IN A MUDDLE

Sir Alfred Mond's contribution to the debate was less a speech than a harlequinade. Some of the humour was conscious, and a great deal of it unconscious, as when he remarked that some people are beautiful and some are not.

"Look at yourself in the glass!" said the irrepressible Jack Jones.

His speech abounded in puerilities, of which the following are a few sample sentences:—

What will your wives say when they have to buy the only State-made pattern blouse that exists?

A co-operative society is one of the finest capitalist things in the world, because it consists of a multitude of small capitalists.

Socialism has been tried in China and abandoned.

These were greatly cheered by the Tories, who were delighted with a speech which, whatever its demerits, was superior to any that could be made from their benches.

No effective answer was made either to Mr. Snowden or Mr. Johnston. The debate marks an epoch in the advance of Socialist propaganda.

In 1901 Keir Hardie moved a motion similar to that of Mr. Snowden before a thin House at midnight. It passed almost unnoticed, except in the Labour Press.

What a change has come over the scene with the increase in the strength of the Labour Party to 144!

The capitalists who once despised Socialism now fear it.

W. H. S.

THE CASE AGAINST CAPITALISM

If any of Labour's opponents expected that Mr. Snowden would offer any apology for his motion in Parliament challenging the capitalist system, they will have been disappointed. Mr. Snowden is not the type of man to apologise for being in the right. Nor is he a man who would shirk a difficult task because he foresaw the certainty of a "united front" being presented to him by a combination of all the other parties. For, after all, his motion represented the official policy of the Labour Movement—a policy which the Movement has not been "tricked" into accepting but has voluntarily, deliberately, and determinedly set itself to give effect to. It is fashionable for candidates belonging to other parties to emphasise at elections the measure of general agreement that may exist between those parties and Labour, and often to gloss over the fundamental differences which differentiate them from Labour, in order to entice working-class electors to vote for the "friends of Labour" in preference to Labour candidates. The plain truth of the matter is that if there was no difference in substance, but only in form, there would be no special reason whatsoever for the existence of a Labour Party. One of the principal objects of Labour is "the gradual supersession of the capitalist system by an industrial and social order based on the public ownership and democratic control of the instruments of production and distribution," and Labour is not to be turned aside either by prejudice, opposition, or misrepresentation. Nor is it to be cajoled into changing its mind. Labour stands for a new social order, for a new spirit, for new motives. It will not be satisfied merely by the patching up of the pre-

sent system, or content simply to alleviate the admittedly harsh effects which are to be seen on every hand. Nothing more than this is to be expected from the policy outlined in the Independent Liberal Party amendment. It is generally the policy for which all the non-Labour elements and parties stand. No one will doubt that it represents a genuine desire to improve conditions, but it fails hopelessly in that it does not get down to the root causes of most of our troubles. We have got to face facts, and one of the facts of the present day is that the capitalist system, highly organised though it be, is not adequate to modern requirements. With all the wealth at its disposal, with all the knowledge, trained ability, executive experience, and scientific improvements in its service, it has shown itself to be incapable of solving the problems which it has created. In the mining industry, the building industry, the agricultural industry, the conditions of the workers are far from being satisfactory, and there seems little prospect of them undergoing any substantial improvement. A million and a half persons still remain out of work; enormous reductions in wages have taken place during the last two years; and the cost of living continues 76 per cent. above the level of July, 1914. Throughout industry there is a spirit of discontent and in some branches signs of impending conflicts. No fair-minded person will deny that these grave conditions have been aggravated by the international unsettlement which has continued since the end of the war and for which the Allied Governments are largely responsible. But these problems are not new: they are only more intense; and while ameliorative measures may reduce their intensity, they will not suffice to abolish them. They can only be solved by resorting to new measures, for they are inherent in, and not merely growths on, the capitalist system. They cannot be eradicated except by transforming that system, by changing the motive from that of gain to one of service. The Liberals and the Conservatives may be right in urging that the desire for gain cannot be suppressed by legislation, but what they seem to overlook is that the opportunity to indulge the desire for selfish gain can be gradually restricted by Parliament. This is what the Labour Party seeks to ensure by demanding the gradual supersession of the capitalist system, whose driving motive is that of selfish gain, and which "confers unfair privileges on the few and underserved hardships on the many," by an industrial and social order under which there will be a greater opportunity to promote human happiness and well-being and less scope for selfish exploitation.

International Working Union of Socialist Parties

In accordance with the resolution passed by the Vienna Executive meeting in Francfort-on-the-Main on December 8th, the Vienna Union will discuss the resolutions which will be submitted to the Hamburg Congress in an

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

to be held immediately before this Congress. Besides, this Conference according to the rules and regulations will decide upon the consent to attend a Congress embracing also other international organizations.

This International Conference will probably be held on May 18th in Hamburg. The definite statements concerning the date and the agenda will be discussed in the next Executive meeting of the Vienna Union; they will be published afterwards.

THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR AND SOCIALIST CONGRESS

On January 5th and 6th 1923 there were discussed the preliminaries of the organization of the International Socialist Congress to be held in Hamburg on May 21st 1923. The Committee appointed by the London and Vienna International Executives was complete in number, with the exception of Henderson (England) who was prevented from coming by a by-election. There were present on behalf of the London Executive: Tom Shaw (England), Stauning (Denmark), Vanderveld (Belgium), Wels (Germany); on behalf of the Vienna Executive: Abramowitsch (Russia), Adler (Austria), Bracke (France), Crispian (Germany), Wallhead (England).

The main result of the discussion was summarized in a manifesto to the Socialist Labour Parties of all countries which, after an exhaustive discussion was carried unanimously. This manifesto contains the conditions of representation, the provisional agenda and shows the considerations which make the calling of the Congress an urgent necessity. The proposals to appear on the agenda will be decided by the organizing Committee at a meeting to be held on March 17th in Cologne and published at the end of March.

At the meeting it was decided unanimously that in the Rules for the new International which will be submitted to the Hamburg Congress the following proposition should appear:

The Labour and Socialist International can only

become a reality if its decisions are binding on its affiliated bodies.

The resolutions of the International will therefore imply a selfimposed limitation of the autonomy of the affiliated organizations.

In conflicts between nations the International will be recognized as the highest authority.

The Socialist Women's Organizations of Austria and Belgium made written suggestions that a Socialist Women's Conference should take place in connection with the Hamburg Congress. The Committee took note of these suggestions and also of that of the International Young Socialists' Organizations which also desired to hold a Conference of their own. The Committee decided that the organization of these special Conferences was the work of the Socialist Women and Young Socialists themselves.

In the course of the discussion the Committee dealt with the international political situation which has resulted from the failure of the Conference of the Governments in Paris. A detailed report was given by Wels (Germany) on the conditions existing in the occupied area. The following resolution was adopted unanimously:

The Committee of Action heard with great interest the information given by comrade Wels on the abuses to which the people of the occupied areas are exposed and asks the Labour and Socialist press to take immediate steps for the publication of the facts.

The Committee urgently draws the attention of the workers to the great danger to the peace of the world resulting from the failure of the Paris Conference. It emphatically confirms the resolutions of Frankfort and the Hague on the necessity to end the military occupation as quickly as possible by the withdrawal of all allied troops and to assure the restoration of the devastated areas on the lines suggested by the Workers' Organizations.

The Committee of Action strongly protests against a policy, which, under pretext of seizing guarantees threatens Germany, and especially the valley of the Ruhr, with measures of force. The Committee urges all Labour and Socialist parties to oppose this policy with all their strength.

OPINIONS OF PARTIES CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

With regard to the resolutions of the Executive Committee in Francfort and the results of the deliberations with the Second International in the

Hague the following opinions reached our secretary from the parties affiliated to the Vienna Union:

The Executive of the Socialist Democratic Party of Switzerland in a meeting on December 20th passed the following resolution with 7 against 3 votes:

The Executive of the Socialist Democratic Party of Switzerland after having taken cognizance of the resolutions of the Executive Committee of the Vienna Union of December 8th about the calling of an International Labour Congress of Socialist Parties and an eventual fusion of the International Working Union of Socialist Parties with the Second International repeats its declaration of August 29th in which it is emphatically underlined that international unity of the working class is a thing to be wished for

(1) that the presupposition of a unification with either the Second or the Third International is the common fundamental conception with regard to Class Struggle and Social Revolution

(2) that the fusion of German Independent and Majority Socialists by no means involves the unification in the international field; that, on the contrary, the Vienna Union as independent international group of parties aiming at the creation of a Labour International based on common principles, now as before, has to fulfill an important mission of international Labour policy.

(3) that, however, this independence does not exclude joint Action with other international class organizations as far as international struggle is concerned tending to the socialist final aim and representing the first step towards a subsequent unification of the working class on the lines of the principles of the Vienna Conference 1921.

In accordance with this declaration the Executive of the Social Democratic Labour Party of Switzerland agrees with the calling of an International Labour Congress as it was resolved in the Hague by the representatives of the Vienna and London Executives provided that this Congress will set itself the task to call the workers to international Actions against the policy of the ruling classes and thereby will promote the unification of the proletariat.

Should beyond this the International Labour Congress have the task to realize an organizational fusion of the International Working Union of Socialist Parties and the Second International, the Executive of the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland considers the approval of the principles laid down in the resolutions of the Vienna Conference of February 1921 both by the international organization to be created and its affiliated parties as indispensable premise of such a fusion. In the first place the binding obligation

(1) to refuse imperialist national defence and its means,

(2) to refuse truce policy both in times of war and peace,

(3) to carry through proletarian actions in the sense of revolutionary class struggle,

(4) to recognize and to realize the resolutions of the international organization by the affiliated parties.

The Executive of the Social Democratic Party of Switzerland, at the same time, considers these demands as a basis for the calling of the intended International Labour Congress and trusts that the conditions of representation to this Congress will be worded on these lines.

* * *

The foreign delegation of the Russian Socialist Revolutionaries (left wing) issued the following declaration:

The Executive Committee of the International Working Union of Socialist Parties resolved to enter into close connections with the Executive of the Second International for the purpose of calling an International Labour Congress composed only of such parties as are affiliated to the above mentioned international organizations and explicitly excluding the Communists.

For over two years our party has been following a policy which was in direct opposit on to this opportunist attitude. We endeavoured to unite the whole working class and always appealed to all Labour organizations without any exception.

We feel sure that only this idea of a complete unification can be conducive to the development of the revolutionary agencies.

The calling of a Congress without the Communists with a view to solemnize the fusion with the Second International seems to us to be in opposition to all the principles of the Vienna Union.

Our Party can no longer take the responsibility for what the majority of the Executive of Vienna Union does.

Our Party will, therefore, attend the Congress of the International Working Union of Socialist Parties but for the sake of trying to defend for the last time its views which it considers to be the only ones answering the revolutionary tactics of Socialism.

* * *

Viewing the aggravation of the political situation of the world the German Social Democratic Party of Czecho-Slovakia, after the resolutions of Cologne had fixed the date of the calling of the Congress on May 21st, advanced its opinion in the following resolution:

The Executive of the National Council of the German Social Democratic Party of the Czecho-

Slovakian Republic discussed in its last meeting the military occupation of the Ruhr valley which means an attempt of the French and Belgian Governments on Germany. The debate showed that all comrades considered the military occupation of Germany's coal-hole to be a violation of the peace treaty tantamount to its being broken; everybody was of opinion that this occupation means an unwarranted interference with the independence of Germany and besides a further convulsion of the economic situation of Europe and an imminent and most dangerous threatening of Peace.

The Executive unanimously protested against this arbitrary act. It declared that the irresponsible measures of the French and Belgian Governments must bring on for all states and so for the Czecho-Slovakian Republic the worst damage to its economic situation and a further aggravation of the crisis with its awful consequences for the working class hardly afflicted as it is.

The Executive resolved to express their heartfelt sympathy with the workers of Germany who will

have to suffer more distress and increased sorrows by the frantic measures of French Imperialism.

In protesting against this the German Social Democratic workers of the Czecho-Slovakian Republic feel at one with the working classes of England, France, Belgium, and other states. They cordially welcome the fact that the workers of these countries opened the campaign against this attempt on the peace of the world. The action for maintaining the peace of the world must be organized internationally. At the moment, when Nationalism and Imperialism again threaten to set the world on fire, at a moment when there is every appearance that the European workers will again be the victim of the machination of Capitalism the international working class must rally to join action.

For all these reasons the Executive of the German Social Democratic Party of the Czecho-Slovakian Republic resolves to demand the immediate calling of the International Labour Congress intended to be held in the month of May in Hamburg.

To The Socialist and Labour Youth Organizations of All Countries

The International Union of Young Socialists organization, founded in Stuttgart in 1907, was broken up by the War and by the differences of opinion which then sprang up within the Labour Movement. Even in the earlier part of the post-war period, it was impossible to overcome these differences, and the diversity of outlook found expression in the formation of several international Youth Associations. Attempts to bring about an understanding between all shades of opinion always came to grief for this reason that the Communist Young Peoples' International placed itself in the service of the Communist International for the carrying out of the latter's policy which did serious harm to the International Labour Movement. On the other hand, the cooperation of the Labour Youth International and the International Working Union of Young Socialists organizations led to entire agreement in all practical questions.

The increasing misery of the working-class Youth, the intensified attacks of reaction and the constantly growing danger of war, however, demand a still closer union of all the forces of the proletarian Young Peoples' Movement. The Socialist Youth organisations were at all times willing to support an all-inclusive International Union, but the sabotage of the Communist Youth International still makes

fruitful cooperation with the Young Communists impossible. In these circumstances, the undersigned Committee, appointed by the Executives of the Labour Youth International and the International Working Union of Young Socialists organisations, following the example of the Socialist and Labour Parties and of the German Socialist Youth organisations find it necessary to call an

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST YOUTH CONGRESS

in *Hamburg* on the 23rd May, 1923. The proposed Agenda is as follows:

- 1) The Economic struggles of the Young Workers.
- 2) The Educational Task of Socialist Youth organizations.
- 3) The Political Education of Proletarian Youth.
- 4) Working-class Youth and the War against War.
- 5) The Foundation of a Socialist Youth International.
- 6) Proposals and Miscellaneous.

All Young Peoples' organizations taking their stand on the ground of the class struggle, who have as their aim the training of proletarian Young

People to take their part in the fight for Socialist ideals, who, moreover, are striving for improved economic conditions of working-class Youth in accordance with the principles of the Amsterdam International, and who are in agreement with the Resolutions of the Hague World Peace Congress as regards combating war, are eligible for admission.

Notice of attendance at the Congress, with indication of the probable number of delegates, is to be addressed by at latest 20 March, to: *Erich Ollenhauer*, Berlin SW .68, Lindenstrasse 3, or *Karl Heinz*, Vienne V, Rechte Weinzelle .97. Each association has the right to send two delegates for every 10,000 members, and one further delegate for every further 10,000 members.

We hope to be able to welcome in Hamburg all the proletarian Youth organisations who are willing to cooperate in the reconstruction of the Socialist Youth International in accordance with the above-mentioned principles.

Leipzig, February 4, 1923.

The Unity Committee of the Labor Youth International and the International Working Union of Young Socialists organizations:

August Albrecht, Berlin. *Otto Schroeter*, Leipzig. *Ernst Paul*, Teplitz-Schonau. *Erich Ollenhauer*, Berlin. *Karl Heinz*, Vienna. *Leopold Thaller*, Vienna. *Piet Voogd*, Laren (Holland).

VERBAND DER ARBEITERJUGEND VEREINE DEUTSCHLANDS

Berlin, March 22, 1923.

Herrn Albert Weisbord
64 Pemberton Sq., Boston, Mass

Dear Comrade,

We received your letter of February 23rd from which we see with pleasure that in America also the Socialist movement of the young people is moving and striving to strengthen the organization inside and outside. It is in America, the land of future great social and political struggles, where a Socialist organization of the young people has big problems to settle in order to acquaint in time the young workers with the doctrine of the Socialist movement. When you in the future will undertake to grapple energetically with the problem, we on our side are ready as far as it lies in our power, to give you our support.

We have asked some Comrades to write articles on the Socialist work of the young people in Germany which you can have published in your press. We will also send you next time one article on our own Union and its work, another on the international unity of the Socialist organizations of the young people, and thirdly one of the secretaries of

the workers was asked to describe the work and the upbuilding of the groups of the young workers. If you wish for further work in this field, let us know and we will try to do it for you.

We will especially let you have a collection of our printed material. It is to be regretted our financial need prevents us from sending the material free of charge. Whenever you decide to get it kindly send us the money for the cost of the materials, also for postage and packing. Owing to the present rate of exchange it will not fall hard on you, while with us the condition is different, — every mark counts.

We also expect at the same time to hear your opinion.

We will try to send the afore-mentioned articles as soon as possible.

Wishing you the best progress in your work, we remain

With "Young Socialist Regards"
Verband der Sozialistischen Arbeiterjugend
Deutschlands

LABOR AS PEACEMAKER

*Press Service of the Trades Union Congress
and the Labour Party—London*

Decisions of great importance were taken by the Inter-Allied Labour and Socialist Conference held in Paris on Good Friday. It is now known that the delegation of four, including Mr. Tom Shaw, M. P., appointed at the first session of the Conference a week earlier to confer with the German Socialist Party, had arranged the terms of a draft agreement covering the various issues which are the principal cause of Europe's present unsettlement. The Conference, therefore, though composed only of inter-Allied Labour and Socialist representatives, was in possession of the views of the German Movement, as well as of the latest information concerning the position in the Ruhr, where the British Parliamentary Labour Party delegation had been conducting inquiries for several days. The latest news from the Ruhr clearly indicates how threatening the situation under French occupation has become and how precarious is the state of peace in Europe to-day. The most valuable constructive contribution that can come from any quarter is one that provides an honourable and just composition of the differences which exist between the Allies and Germany on the one hand, and between France and her allies on the other hand. To provide just such a plan was the aim of the Inter-Allied Labour and Socialist Parliamentary Conference, and in its efforts to formulate it considerable attention was

paid to all points of view, all legitimate special interests, and to all dangers and difficulties. Chief among the latter is the deeply-rooted and general fear in France of a possible attack by a recuperated and re-armed Germany. It is perhaps not unjust to assert that this fear is at the bottom of France's insistence on the ruthless application of the impossible terms of the Versailles Treaty; and while outsiders may be convinced that the economic disintegration and territorial dismemberment of Germany are measures the least likely to give security to France, it is not sufficient to convince the French of this; it is necessary that any plan for economic restoration of Europe must provide reasonable protection for France, as for other nations, against possible aggressive wars. Herr Hilferding, the German Socialist leader, addressing the Belgian Socialist Congress, declared: "We wish to guarantee the security of France and Belgium, but the integrity of German territory must be respected." In broad outline, the plans agreed upon at the Inter-Allied Labour and Socialist Parliamentary Conference provide for the fixing of reparations by an impartial tribunal; for the reconstruction of the devastated

areas by German labour; for the evacuation of the occupied territory by progressive stages; and for the security of France's frontiers to be guaranteed by a treaty between the Allies and United States. International Labour has pointed the way to a real settlement of Europe's problems. Unfortunately, the various Governments which have the power to give effect to this great reconstruction plan are not Socialist Governments. But past experience has shown that the wise policies advocated by Labour to-day become the official policies of Governments to-morrow; and the plans agreed upon in Paris will be submitted to each of the national movements concerned, each of which will be left free to adopt its parliamentary policy and public actions accordingly. By parliamentary action and public propaganda it is hoped so to influence Government policy and public opinion as will assist in securing the speedy adoption of this great scheme of peace and reconstruction which carries with it the approval and support of the working-class parties in the European countries that will be affected by it. When this is done Europe will have entered upon the final stage of liquidating the war.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Reading, Pa.
March 24, 1923

Dear Comrade Branstetter:

Since the same old question of party dues is to come before the convention again this year, what do you think of a plan similar to the following as a substitute for the agenda proposition:

That the party constitution be amended to provide for two kinds of membership: (1) regular dues-paying members as at present, who carry a card and receive dues stamps, for which they pay a price determined by themselves, but not less than 15 cents monthly, of which the national, state and local organization each receive one-third; and (2) sustaining members who help to support the party financially but take no active part in the affairs of the organization, all contributions received from such members to be divided as follows: to the national and state organizations 25 per cent. each, and to the local or branch, 50 per cent, the latter to decide for themselves the amount each is to receive.

This plan would keep the control of the party where it is today: in the hands of the regular dues-paying members. The voluntary feature of allowing each member to determine for himself the amount of dues he is willing to pay beyond a small

minimum would, I believe, result in an income to the organization as a whole greatly in excess of that now received by the party. There are, no doubt, many persons in the party who knowing its needs would volutarily pay more for their stamps than they pay under the present system. The state organization must do on a larger scale what the local does, and the national organization must do on a still larger scale what the state does, and this is taken into consideration in the above division of the revenue from the sale of stamps. This plan also meets the objection that high dues keeps many persons from joining the party and it also gives those who can better afford to pay the opportunity of doing so to the extent of their ability or inclination. It recognizes the inability of all to pay like amounts and embodies the principle of "From each according to his ability to pay".

As to the sustaining members. If we provided in our party laws for this class of members we could solicit sympathizers with more success than at present. Many such persons would no doubt be willing to help the movement in a financial way if relieved of any further obligations, such as devolve upon regular party members, and yet at the same time they would feel themselves to be an organic

(Continued on page 16)

The Socialist Party

Executive Secretary,
OTTO BRANSTETTER,
2418 West Madison Street
Chicago

National Executive Committee:
Edmund T. Melms, 579 8th Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wis.
Wm. H. Henry, 709 East 13th St.,
Indianapolis, Ind.
James H. Maurer, Rooms 1, 2 and 3,
Commonwealth Trust Co. Building, Har-
risburg, Pa.
Morris Hillquit, 19 W. 44th St., New
York City.
B. Charney Vladeck, 175 E. Broadway,
New York City.
George E. Roewer, Jr., 20 Pemberton
Sq., Boston, Mass.
Victor L. Berger, 528 Chestnut St.,
Milwaukee, Wis.

Official Business

April 13, 1923

To the National Executive Committee

Dear Comrades:

I beg to report as follows:

National Executive Committee

Motion No. 13

EXECUTIVE QUESTION.

Submitted March 24th. Vote Closed
April 5th.

"Shall the National Office issue cred-
entials to Comrades Mrs. Berger and
Mrs. Hillquit as delegates to the Inter-
national Socialist Women's Congress to
be held in Hamburg immediately pre-
ceding the World Congress to which
Comrades Berger and Hillquit are going
as delegates representing the Socialist
Party of America?"

All members voted. Unanimously
adopted.

National Executive Committee

Motion No. 14

EXECUTIVE QUESTION

Submitted March 24th. Vote Closed,
April 5th.

"Shall the books and records of the
Information Department of the National
office be donated to the Labor Research
Department of the Rand School?"

.. *Voting Yes:* Henry, Hillquit, Maurer,
Melms, Roewer, Vladek
(6).

Voting No: Berger (1)

Motion adopted.

Comment by Berger: "The Party
will get on its feet some time in the near
future."

We are in receipt of the official call

**DEBS
Meetings**

May 4
Buffalo

May 6
Indianapolis

May 8
Reading

May 11
Boston

May 13
Newark

May 15
Baltimore

May 17
Detroit

May 19
Rochester

May 22
New York

May 26
Philadelphia

May 27
New Haven

May 28
Providence

May 30
Pittsburgh

of the National Executive Committee of
the Farmer-Labor Party for their national
convention to convene in Chicago on July
3rd. and also of an invitation to send
fraternal delegates to their convention.
The official call for their convention
reads as follows:

"That the National convention of the
Farmer-Labor Party recently voted by
the National Committee to be held in
Chicago, Illinois, beginning July 3rd.
1923, and remain in session until the
business of the convention shall have been
completed. Also that the National
Secretary be authorized to invite all labor,
farm and political groups to send re-
presentatives to the said National Con-
vention of the Farmer-Labor Party with
the authority to take such steps as may
be necessary to bring about complete unity
of the political forces of the entire work-
ing class."

The invitation is quite lengthy and ex-
planatory of the purpose of the conven-
tion and contains the following:

"An earnest effort is being made by
the Farmer-Labor Party to bring together
the various groups and organizations, in-
dustrial, agricultural and political, with
a view to trying to work out a method
for uniting the workers of hand and brain
of farm and factory, on the political field
—a method that will be acceptable and
secure the allegiance of the great body
of workers in the country * * * * *
To this end, your organization is invited
to send representatives to the National
Convention of the Farmer-Labor Party,
to be held in Chicago, Illinois, beginning
July 3rd. 1923, clothed with the author-
ity to take such steps as may be necessary
to accomplish the ends indicated.

"It should be understood, however,
that in sending delegates your organization
commits itself to nothing. If plans can
be worked out that will meet the approval
of your organization, time will be saved
if authority is had to express such ap-
proval and join officially in such further
steps as may appear proper and feasible."

It is quite evident from the wording
both of the call and the invitation that
the purpose of this convention is to pro-
ceed if possible with the organization of
a National labor party.

Unless otherwise instructed by vote
of your Committee, the invitation will be
placed upon the Agenda and referred
to our National Convention.

Fraternally submitted,

Otto Branstetter

Executive Secretary

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT (Continued from page 14)

part of the movement and as such under financial obligations at least.

The plan on the whole I believe could be worked out satisfactorily. It would mean that at the end of each month the locals would have to forward to the state office two-thirds of the amount taken in from the sales of dues stamps and one-half the amount taken in from sustaining members. The state office in turn would forward to the national office the latter's share. Printed forms would be provided for the purpose of sending in reports and remittances; and, to safeguard the interests of all organizations concerned, a provision could be added to the effect that any local, branch or state organization failing to send in a report or remittance within 30 (or more) days after due shall stand suspended until such report and remittance is received by the state or national office, as the case may be.

For all contributions received from sustaining members a uniform, official receipt, provided by the national organization should be issued, said receipt however to be given by the organization receiving the contribution.

A provision making it compulsory for organizations to make monthly reports on penalty of being automatically suspended for failure to do so, would enable us to keep closer tabs on locals and branches, and would probably result in the selection of the more capable comrades to fill some of the offices as the failure of an incapable officer to send in his reports would be more the concern of the whole organization.

What applies to state and local organizations would also apply to the language federations with this exception: that the translator-secretaries would receive the dues as at present and remit a percentage to be determined to the state and local organizations through the national office.

Of course the figures used above are arbitrary and would be subject to change; but I believe the principle is a sound one and for my part I'd rather take a chance on the payment of voluntary dues and contributions from sustaining members than to go on even as we are at present, to say nothing of further cutting into the party revenue by decreasing the set dues still further.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

Birch Wilson, State Secretary

INTERESTING PROPAGANDA

The Technical Bureau Socialist Party connected with the State organization of New York has prepared two illustrated lectures suitable for use in labor forums, Union meetings, Party study clubs, etc.

First — Co-operative Housing,

Second—The Jews in America.

These are both popular educational lectures and have met with good success. They would appeal to any working class audience, whether conservative or radical. Locals interested in securing one of these lectures can do so by communicating with the State Secretary of New York, Comrade Herbert M. Merrill, 467 Broadway, Albany, N. Y.

DO YOU WANT AN ORGANIZER

Comrades Leo M. Harkins of Philadelphia and C. Wm. Thompson of Camden, New Jersey have volunteered their services as National Organizers in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware. Locals in these States or comrades in unorganized towns desiring the service of an organizer should write to Comrade Leo M. Harkins at 1325 Arch St. Philadelphia.

A CORRECTION

Through an unfortunate error two articles were published last month under one heading. The article "Capitalism Exposed" by Comrade M. A. Smith should have ended in the second column on page eleven. What appears to be a continuation of this article under the sub-heading "The Workers' Insecurity of Livelihood" is an entirely separate article written by Comrade Alfred Baker Lewis of Philadelphia to whom we are indebted for a large number of excellent articles published in the Socialist World during the past year.

CONVENTION DELEGATES ATTENTION

The proposition outlined in the letter from Comrade Birch Wilson will be placed on the agenda of the convention. It deserves serious consideration by the delegates and the whole party membership. So does the invitation of the Farmer-Labor party to their national convention in July for the purpose of organizing a new national labor party, which is mentioned in the N. E. C. correspondence in this issue and which would also be on the convention agenda.

The National Convention and Conference of the Socialist Party will meet in Finnish Hall, 2056 Fifth Ave., New York City, at 10:00 A. M., Saturday, May 19th.