

The PARTY BUILDER

OFFICIAL NATIONAL BUI

IST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

No. 77

Cl

L 25, 1914

50c per year . 25c for 40 weeks
\$1.00 per year outside of U. S.

All Together for The Party Builder and the National Committee Meeting

Dear Comrades:—Will you help your National Organization at no cost to yourselves?

You can help this office, help the Party Builder, help us to make a hot campaign this summer, and it shall cost you nothing.

The National Committee Meeting, a most important function of the party will be held May 10th, and will continue for several days. It will cost about \$4,000.

Here is our plan: Let each individual, or at least each local, purchase 7 or more Subscription Cards to the Party Builder. Seven cards cost you \$1.50 and you sell them for \$1.75, thus paying for your postage, etc. Twenty-five cards cost \$5.00, which sell for \$6.25, thus giving you a little margin. If we borrow money we will have to pay interest, and it will be better to give you the interest if you will make us this little loan, rather than pay it to the banks.

A dollar and a half for 7 cards, three dollars for 14 cards, or five dollars for 25 cards, will be purely in the nature of a loan, as safely secured as U. S. treasury notes. You can sell the cards to any party member and get your money back. Which local cannot raise \$1.50 among its members if they only will?

If 1,000 comrades come across with orders for 25 cards, and each local orders seven cards for

\$1.50, we would have about \$15,000, could pay the expense of the National Committee Meeting, and pay off half our debt. That would be great. And the best of all is that you can always get your money back.

If you believe in the Party Builder, if you want to help it carry out its mission, you should make this effort. In addition to having the money to pay necessary expenses, the subscription list of the Party Builder would grow this summer, instead of dwindling, as is the usual newspaper experience.

More subscribers will help to make a better campaign this summer. It may be the straw that will turn the scale our way in some hopeful congressional district—and let me tell you, there are some hopeful districts.

This paper will reach you about two weeks before the meeting. **Just enough time** if you get busy now.

Be sure to attend your next local meeting and make a motion that the local purchase 7 or more cards. It is not an expenditure. It will be a loan only. Let us see what we can really do when we work together.

Yours fraternally,

Walter Lanfersiek

Executive Secretary.

THE CRYING NEED OF ACTION.

By Robert Westfall.

There are many comrades who seem to think that because they pay their dues regularly and attend a meeting about once or twice in two or three months they are doing all that is required of them as members of the Socialist Party. Some stay away because of personal animosity towards some other comrade, some through lack of interest, some through laziness and some through downright meanness. There are times, perhaps, when their absence is excusable, but when a comrade makes a practice of continually absenting himself there is no excuse whatever.

These comrades have evidently forgotten our party slogan—"Agitate, Educate and Organize." And they apparently fail to realize the fact that it is only according to the amount of activity placed upon these three fundamentals that the party stands or falls. Yet when the local is not accomplishing as much as these comrades think it should, all they do is complain and criticize. They fail to see that whatever mistakes the active comrades may make is as much their fault as it is those who make the mistakes. They leave all the work to a few live comrades, but never get active themselves. As a result of this lack of activity, many of our locals are completely demoralized and exist as locals in name only. Such locals as these spend most of their time and energy quibbling over matters that are not only of no importance, but oftentimes detrimental to the movement. As a consequence, they accomplish nothing and get nowhere.

This is a deplorable fact, comrades, and very much to be regretted. Remember, you are in this movement as comrades and co-workers in the greatest cause that working-class interest was ever called upon to perform. It is your interest. For if the working class is to be free, it must free itself.

Therefore, comrades, get together. Forget all personal feelings. Attend your meetings regularly. Don't shirk any work that you may be called upon to perform. Take an active part in your local. Don't waste time by quibbling and splitting hairs over matters of no importance. Help in making the work of your local constructive and, above all things, persuade your local to concentrate its energy on the systematic distribution of literature, for herein lies the secret of success and the foundation of your movement. This is the constructive policy, and the only way to strengthen the movement, as past experience proves, both in this country and abroad. If your local is large enough, organize in ward branches and cover your ward every Sunday morning with free literature. This can be had from the National Office at the rate of \$1 per 1,000, in five-thousand lots. If every branch would distribute at least a thousand pieces a week, and do it regularly and systematically, there is no question but what we would roll up a class conscious victory in the election soon to come. Therefore, comrades, take heed, take heart, get together, work together, and watch the movement grow.

JAIL 104 UNEMPLOYED.

Los Angeles and the entire Pacific coast has a great unemployed problem on its hands. Men have flocked to the coast in answer to railroad advertisements, hoping to get work on the Frisco or San Diego world fairs. The result is that California is overrun with unemployed men. Recently 104 men who could not secure work and had no place to sleep or eat, went out to the banks of the Los Angeles River and established a camp. They were raided by the police and arrested. In a conference in the chief of police's office, Socialist Councilman Fred C. Wheeler charged the police with acting under the direction of General Otis in raiding the camp of the unemployed and arresting the men. The police chief listened and uttered not a word of denial. It is costing the city at a rate of \$90 a day to try the cases of the men arrested, one man being placed on trial each day.

DEMAND ELECTION BE ANNULLED.

The Socialists and Agrarian members of the Bulgarian parliament have introduced resolutions asking that the late national elections in that nation be declared illegal owing to the violent and coercive measures used by the government. In the newly acquired Turkish districts where they illegally extended the suffrage hoping to secure a number of conservative representatives, the election seems to have gone against the government. The delegates elected are demanding reforms which the government bitterly opposes. It is thought that another election will be ordered within a few months.

HOLLAND MAKES PROGRESS.

The annual report of the Socialist party of Holland shows considerable progress. The membership increased from 15,567 to 25,830 and the number of branches jumped from 284 to 382, an increase of almost 100. Of the new members 3,011 or 13 per cent, are women. During "Red Week," which took place in December, 3,336 new members were secured. The number of Socialists in the national house increased from seven to fifteen during the year; the representatives in provincial councils (similar to our state Legislatures) rose from 24 to 42; while the number of municipal councilmen went from 171 to 247.

(Telegram)

Chicago, Ill., April 22, 1914.

Hon. Woodrow Wilson, Washington, D. C.

I am instructed by the National Executive Committee of the Socialist party, and in behalf of its membership, to protest against the unwarranted invasion of Mexico. The workers of the United States have no quarrel with the workers of Mexico.

WALTER LANFERSIEK,

Executive Secretary, Socialist Party.

PROTEST AGAINST SCAB MINE.

Some mine owners near Huntington, Ark., have been trying to run a mine with scab labor. The people of the district don't seem to like the idea and 1,500 of them marched to a school house located about 150 yards from the mouth of the mine and held a protest meeting. The mine owners are trying to bring in the militia but it is hardly thought possible that they will be able to do so. Arkansas is not eager for the sort of advertising Michigan secured.

WIN IN ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Seven Socialists have been elected to the Argentina Chamber of Deputies. The total Socialist vote in Buenos Aires is said to exceed 100,000. In 1898 only 52 Socialist votes were cast in the entire country. Among those elected are Enrique Dickman, editor of La Vanguardia, the Socialist daily, and Antonio De Tomaso, national secretary of the party.

CELEBRATE TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY.

The Independent Labor party, the largest Socialist party of England, is twenty-one years old this month. A big conference and celebration will be held at Bradford where the first conference of the party was held. It is expected to be the greatest affair in the history of the English working class.

BELGIAN PARTY GROWS.

The report of the Belgian Socialist party for 1913 shows considerable growth. In 1910 the total membership was 202,584 in; 1912 it increased to 232,821, and in 1913 climbed to 269,830. Over 126,000 members belong to trade unions.

TWO COUNCILMEN IN BURLINGTON

Burlington, Iowa, joins the column with two Socialist councilmen. They also came within 224 votes of electing the mayor.

BRING SUIT FOR LIBEL.

During the Milwaukee campaign Mayor Bading charged the Socialists during the Seidel administration with having received a bribe from a local merchandise house and that the money had gone into the Socialist campaign funds. The Free Press and the Germania Herald published the story and Victor Berger and Emil Seidel immediately started suit against these two papers for libel. The matter is now in the courts.

BIG GAIN IN NEW JERSEY.

Gordon Demarest, Socialist, was not elected congressman from the Patterson, N. J., district, but he gave the old parties such a great scare that they will know hereafter the Socialists are a factor to be considered. The Democrats sent some of the ablest speakers they have in the country into the district. The final vote stood: Republican, 10,620; Democrats, 5,240; Socialist, 5,053; Progressives, 618.

JAMESTOWN GETS ALDERMAN.

The Socialists succeeded in electing one alderman in Jamestown, New York, though the Republicans carried the rest of the city.

BULGARIAN REDS LOSE.

The exact figures of the latest Bulgarian elections are now at hand. They show that the Socialists elected 20 members of the national house, equally divided between the Constructive and Radical parties. The Constructive Socialist vote dropped from 54,369 to 47,107 and the Radical Socialist vote from 52,777 to 38,382. The Democratic party polled 75,000 votes, capturing 28 seats, while the two Socialist parties with a combined vote of 85,000 secured but 20 seats.

The loss in the Socialist vote is attributed to three causes: some voters could not agree with the Socialist agitation for a republic; others were dissatisfied because the party refused to join the other opposition parties in the formation of a coalition government; while the terrorist tactics of the government frightened many from voting the Socialist ticket.

The government has only a majority of eleven members out of 245 in the national chamber. It is thought the opposition is so strong that they will force another election in the near future.

The Open Forum

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE STATE COMMITTEE, SOCIALIST PARTY OF CONNECTICUT,

At Its Meeting in Socialist Party Hall, 129 George St., New Haven, Conn., Sunday, March 29, 1914.

Resolution on Rand School Study Course.

Resolved, That locals and branches in this state be recommended to take up the Rand school study courses, in either (1) Scientific Socialism, or (2) Municipal Program, or both; that all members of the party and especially the newer members may be better instructed in Socialist program and principles.

Resolution on Contest for Rand School Scholarship.

Resolved, That the Socialist locals and branches that take up the Rand School's method of instruction or other methods enter into Congressional District contests, either in oratorical or essay contest. A committee chosen by the state committee to be judges as to the winner of the same who shall enter into a state contest, the winner of which shall be entitled to a course in the Rand School to fit him for the lecture field.

Resolution on Party-Owned Press.

Resolved, That we, the State Committee of the Socialist party, in meeting assembled, instruct the Connecticut member of the National Committee of our party to work for the making of The Party Builder, a regular newspaper expounding the cause of the working class.

RESOLUTION ON LOCATION OF NATIONAL OFFICE.

Resolved, That Comrade S. E. Beardsley be instructed to bring before the next meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist party the advisability of removing the National Office of the party from Chicago to some smaller city, nearer the geographical center of the United States, and of buying a building suitable for headquarters, it being a fact that the amount paid for rent yearly in Chicago would be sufficient to pay the interest on a mortgage of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).

WHAT IS DOING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The National Office has had to be very economical in what it has done in the way of help to weak states. What it could do, it has done.

Recently an appeal for free literature came for help from South Carolina. We sent five thousand leaflets and put each local on the P. B. list for a free bundle of papers. This contribution on our part brought the following letter from Comrade Walter M. Cook:

Columbia, S. C., April 13, 1914.

Dear Comrades:

Comrade Eberhard received the 5,000 free leaflets, and I am going down to work with them right away. Will personally direct the work for Local Columbia for the next three or four weeks. The other locals both Eberhard and I will follow up. I am positive you will find you have not made a mistake in sending these and the Party Builders. You need not worry about our not writing the secretaries; that is the main reason I wanted some help, to show them that you were behind the movement here with more than sympathy.

I was in Union the day before I landed in Columbia. Several mills around there. I spoke to something like 250 people in the open air at Buffalo Mill (four miles from Union). That is a mill employing about 1,500 people. We usually can count on about 15 or 20 Socialists out of such a mill. Hope to some day be able to myself or have another go in there and teach the most of them how to read and write, and then they can learn to read our literature. Can you grasp from that what our work here means? Well, I can't say it is quite that bad but our illiterates form 26 per cent of our people.

Columbia has now thirty-two members on her rolls. I expect to see about ten come in the next meeting. You may count on us.

Well, comrades, I can never tell you how much this act on the part of the National Office cheers me, and I believe it will be the means of getting a great deal more enthusiasm among the fellows over the state—they are such fine-hearted people and try to do what is right. Comrade Eberhard works sometimes until 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning to keep things right and following up my work. Fraternally yours,

WALTER M. COOK.

VICTORIOUS IN GRAND RAPIDS.

Charles G. Taylor, Socialist, has been elected member of the Grand Rapids, Mich., school board. He received a plurality of 6,565, which is the largest given any candidate elected. Taylor was formerly a school teacher and is now a laborer in a furniture factory.

ALMOST ELECT MAYOR.

Socialists of Sioux City, Iowa, succeeded in electing Fred Martin to the City Council. They also came within 27 votes of capturing the mayor's office. The Socialists gave the old gang politicians a close race throughout the city and it is only a short time before Sioux City will surely join the red column.

COURTS AID CORPORATION.

R. A. Henning, the Socialist mayor of Brainard, Minn., is waging a great fight against the local gas company. The City Council, of which the non-Socialists have a majority, gave a franchise to an official gas company. Mayor Henning vetoed it. The gas company then took the case to the courts on a technicality and the court has decided against Henning. Henning is a machinist working in the railroad shops. The city clerk handed the franchise to him for signature but Henning requested that he hand it to him officially on the following day, as a five-day limitation rule would force him to take action on the matter before Sunday and he wanted that day to write out his veto. The court has now ordered the clerk to change the notation of delivery to one day earlier and proceed to have the franchise published as required by law. Henning is now preparing an appeal to the higher courts and promises to take it to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Executive Department

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

VICTOR L. BERGER, 980 First St., Milwaukee, Wis.
ADOLPH GERMER, 505 Farmer's Bank Building, Springfield, Ill.
GEORGE H. GOEBEL, 14 Bridge St., Newark, N. J.
JAMES H. MAURER, 1355 N. Eleventh St., Reading, Pa.
J. STITT WILSON, Ridge Road, Berkeley, Cal.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
WALTER LANFERSIEK

Address all mail to departments and not to individuals. Make remittances payable to the Socialist Party.

Address all communications to
SOCIALIST PARTY, 803 West Madison Street, Chicago, Illinois

April 25, 1914.

Official Business

PROPOSED NATIONAL REFERENDUM.

By the State Committee of New Mexico.

That Article V, Sec. 9, of the National Constitution be amended by striking out the following words:

"The election of the Executive Committee, the Woman's National Committee, the Executive Secretary, General Correspondent of the Woman's National Committee and the submission of proposed amendments to this constitution, and all other affirmative actions of the committee shall be taken at its regular or special meetings. Between such meetings the National Committee shall initiate no motions or resolutions except hereinafter provided, and except motions to recall members of the subcommittees, or officials elected by it, or to fill vacancies in such committees and offices."

That Article XVI, Sec. 1, of the National Constitution be amended by striking out the words "in session" in two places, where they follow the words "National Committee."

Comment.

The proposed referendum by the State Executive Board of California, published in The Party Builder March 14, has the same effect as this as to the elections to be held by the National Committee, but leaves the hands of the committee tied as to all other acts, and effectively prevents any work for the party that the National Committee might be able to do. Doubtless many important matters would be brought before the party in the coming meeting of the National Committee that will never gain expression should this handicap remain. There seems to have been small reason for such a restriction in the first place and it becomes a source of great harm since the committee is likely not to meet during this year.

Submitted for seconds April 25, 1914.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MOTION.

By McCrillis of Iowa.

Under instructions of the State Committee.

"That the action of the National Executive Committee in suspending the operation of Referendum 'B' be annulled."

Comment.

"The action of the National Executive Committee is clearly a usurpation of power and a violation of Article XV of the National Constitution.

"Referendum 'B' was properly initiated and sufficiently seconded, as provided in Article XV. The party membership has delegated to no executive or committee the power to nullify their referendums."

Submitted for seconds April 25, 1914.

NATIONAL REFERENDUM, PROPOSED BY THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF NEBRASKA.

This proposed referendum has been seconded by the State Executive Committee of Indiana, Delaware, Montana, Michigan, and the District Committee of the District of Columbia. It has received sufficient seconds to send to a vote of the membership. However, the ninety-day period provided by the National Constitution, during which proposals for national referenda shall remain open after first date of publication before ballots are sent to the membership, does not close until May 8. The National Office has submitted to the mover and seconds the question of delaying the ballots until after the National Committee meeting of May 10. There will undoubtedly be a number of questions to be sent to referendum after this meeting and by submitting all together a saving of two or three hundred dollars to this office and to the state offices also would be effected.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE.

Motion by Germer, Submitted March 30.

That if satisfactory arrangements can be made with Comrade Benson and Pearson's, the National Office have one million copies of the article "The Bombshell That Henry Ford Fired" printed.

Voting Yes: Wilson, Germer and Berger.

Not Voting: Maurer and Goebel.

Carried.

Motion by Wilson, Submitted April 6.

MOTION 1. That a committee of two of the National Executive Committee be appointed to prepare a brief but comprehensive report for the National Committee during the past year, "giving an account of our stewardship."

MOTION 2. That we request the National Executive Secretary to prepare for the National Committee a special supplementary report of the finances of the party since assuming the duties of the office, June 1, 1913, the report to show particularly the following:

(1) The Lyceum debt as of June 1, 1913, and the total amounts since paid thereon, showing balance due May 1, 1914.

(2) The amounts due to organizers and speakers June 1, 1913, from the Lyceum and the total amount paid and present indebtedness.

(3) The amounts due to National Committeemen June 1, 1913, amount paid and present indebtedness.

(4) The general indebtedness of the party to "sundry creditors" June 1, 1913, purchases since and present indebtedness.

(5) A comparison of the actual assets of the party, June 1, 1913, and May 1, 1914, placing all doubtful assets to "profit and loss."

MOTION 3. That the heads of the (1) Information Department, (2) Woman's Department, (3) Young Peoples Department, be requested to prepare brief but comprehensive reports of their various offices, such reports as can be read before the annual National Committee meeting, and that the reading of such reports in the order stated be a definite order of business at the National Committee meeting.

MOTION 4. That the head of the Literature Department also present a very definite report (1) of the literature on hand June 1, purchases since, sales and stock on hand, eliminating all comparative worthless stock, or estimating it at saleable value; (2) a definite financial report of The Party Builder, showing entire cost of the period, total income, total surplus of indebtedness, showing exactly the status of The Party Builder and the estimate of the possible saving to the National Office by the substitution of the same for the former bulletin.

Voting Yes: Goebel, Wilson, Berger, Maurer and Germer.

Carried.

A majority of the committee has signified approval of Comrades Wilson and Goebel as committee to prepare report for the Executive Committee to the National Committee.

Chicago, Ill., April 14, 1914.

Dear Comrades:

As the National Committee meeting will be held on May 10, as provided by the National Constitution, the matter of a suitable place for the meeting is of some importance in order that the committee's deliberations may be made under quiet and favorable conditions.

First of all, last year Comrade Work engaged rooms at the Briggs House a month ahead and found then that the place was not suitable. I have undertaken sufficiently far in advance to secure better and more suitable quarters. You will undoubtedly agree that the Briggs House is not a good place for the meeting, so I eliminated that. I consulted with Comrade Larson, County Secretary of Cook County, and asked him to suggest a place, but after several days' thinking over the matter he informed me that he knew of no place other than the down-town hotels. I thereupon visited the La Salle and the Sherman. The La Salle was unable to give us accommodations. At the time of my inquiry, the Sherman House had seven engagements for the week of our meeting for the hall, but they were able to transfer to other quarters all engagements for the meeting room except Monday night, May 1, and if a night session is desired on that occasion, which will probably not be necessary, other quarters can be found.

The meeting hall is not on the street and is absolutely quiet and will seat two hundred. In addition to the assembly room I have engaged a room for the Woman's Committee meeting, a room for stenographers and a room for committees. All of the rooms are scientifically ventilated, and in my opinion the meeting place will be satisfactory in all respects. The cost will be \$20.00 per day for all these facilities. The cost of the meeting at the Briggs House was \$110.00 for five days.

The Sherman House is on the corner of Clark and Randolph streets, in the heart of the down-town district. A room with bath, for one person, may be had for \$2.00; for two persons, \$3.00.

Fraternally submitted,

WALTER LANFERSIEK,
Executive Secretary.

April 16, 1914.

To the Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades: I am enclosing you herewith a Plan of Work which has been adopted by the Woman's National Committee. This was written by Anna A. Maley and is based upon her work of organization among women. It is particularly adapted

for special work among women in cities. The following action was taken by the Woman's National Committee:

"Moved that Comrade Anna A. Maley's Plan of Work be printed in pamphlet form and that it be distributed by means of the state and local women's committees and correspondents throughout the United States." Carried.

An edition of 10,000 copies is recommended. The question of publishing this as a leaflet has been submitted to the National Office by the General Correspondent. It should come before your committee at the next meeting and I am sending you the Plan in order that you may give it your consideration beforehand. I am also enclosing a copy of the Plan of Work as adopted by the Woman's National Committee in 1912.

Yours fraternally,
WALTER LANFERSIEK,
Executive Secretary.

(Telegram.)

Los Angeles, Cal., April 15, 1914.

Walter Lanfersiek, Madison and Halsted Streets, Chicago.

California Socialists request anti-war protest meetings throughout America and Europe. Capitalists combining to force intervention. Workers must refuse to pay cost of war in life and money. Will you solicit European co-operation? Have called California mass meetings for April 19. Let the workers refuse to avenge insult to the flag by Huerta so long as the flag in the hands of the workers is desecrated by American constabulary in the interests of American capitalists.

THOMAS W. WILLIAMS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

(Telegram.)

April 16, 1914.

To the Executive Committee:

California demands party protest against Mexican war.

WALTER LANFERSIEK,
Executive Secretary.

(Telegram.)

Peoria, Ill., April 20, 1914.

Walter Lanfersiek, Chicago.

Move that Executive Committee in name of Socialist party send protest against war with Mexico to President Wilson.

ADOLPH GERMER.

This office is in receipt of numerous other telegrams and letters requesting action by the national organization.

Officials elected for Colorado for the term beginning May 1, 1914:

National Committeeman, J. C. Griffith, Boulder; State Secretary, Emma F. Langdon, 1395 Lowell boulevard, Denver; Woman's Correspondent, Mrs. Jennie McGehe, Fort Collins.

The National Office is notified by O. A. Venjum, Brookings, S. D., secretary of a special committee appointed to conduct election of state party officials, of the following elections:

O. S. Leeland, Mitchell, National Committeeman; E. F. Atwood, Sisseton, State Secretary; Mrs. E. F. Atwood, Sisseton, State Woman's Correspondent.

John Canright, of North Platte, Neb., is Acting State Secretary of Nebraska until further notice.

Otto Vierling, State Secretary of Missouri, notifies this office of the expulsion from the party of H. G. Cupples and C. A. Bryant from Local Wellston, Mo., for unbecoming conduct and actions detrimental to the welfare of the Socialist party.

Chicago, Ill., April 20, 1914.

Walter Lanfersiek, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade: At a special meeting of the State Executive Committee, held on April 11, they rescinded the action of April 7 in regard to National Committeemen, and by motion declared Adolph Germer elected.

I am sending to a second ballot the four next highest.

Fraternally yours,
GUY UNDERWOOD,
Acting State Secretary of Illinois.

Aku Rissanen, Smithville, Minn., has been elected National Committeeman for Minnesota, to take the place of Morris Kaplan, resigned.

John W. Brown has resigned as National Committeeman for West Virginia. Edward H. Kintzer, State Secretary, will fill out the unexpired term.

NOTICE FROM STATE OFFICE OF KENTUCKY.

At the last meeting of the State Executive Committee THE PARTY BUILDER was declared the official organ of the state of Kentucky. The National Office is requested to arrange for space in THE PARTY BUILDER for Kentucky state official matter.

Seven PARTY BUILDER sub cards for \$1.50.

Information Department

CARL D. THOMPSON, Director

PURPOSE—To collect, classify and make available all data and information on economic, political and social problems. To assist elected officials with such information as they may need in the discharge of their duties. Address all communications to

SOCIALIST PARTY, Information Department
803 West Madison Street Chicago, Illinois

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The American consulate at Birmingham, England, sent a communication to the secretary of state at Washington in December, 1913, containing some significant enclosures on "British Municipal Trading Undertakings," which have been printed as House document 710, 63rd Congress, 2nd session. The substance of the document is as follows:

Throughout the United Kingdom there is a growing tendency on the part of the municipal authorities to acquire the ownership and control of all kinds of public utilities.

The city of Birmingham, which already owned the street car lines, took over their management four or five years ago and added a number of new routes. It now owns also one line of motor busses, and is seeking authority from Parliament to run such busses generally, and when that authority is granted, the city will monopolize all street traction, except taxicabs and cabs.

Labor Conditions Under Municipal Ownership.

It is admitted that employes of city business undertakings do incline to bring political pressure to bear, and their votes, if cast in concert, are most effective. Theoretically this political power is potentially dangerous, but so far no really serious and objectionable results appear to have followed. City employes do show an increasing tendency to co-operate to better their conditions and now have higher wages and shorter hours than the majority of workmen. The possibility that such employes might use their political power to overturn a city council or local authority has doubtless assisted them in securing their favored positions, but so far as can be observed the improved conditions obtained have not unfavorably affected the success of well-managed municipal productive enterprises. There have been strikes on the part of men employed in city business enterprises, the latest, that in Leeds, being the most serious. Advocates of municipal trading note, however, that such services when undertaken by private companies have not been free from labor troubles, and when carried on by cities have been more free from them. To this the reply is often made that the city authorities yield more quickly to labor demands.

Objections Offered.

Among the objections made to municipal ownership are the following:

1. The demand from many citizens and smaller tax-payers for reduced rates for gas, electricity, car fares, etc., it is claimed, reduces profits. Statistics show, however, that in general there has not been such an effect.

2. It is asserted that in order to show profits, insufficient allowances are made for depreciation. This is dealt with in a subsequent paragraph, in speaking of the retirement of capital.

3. Municipal undertakings are charged with competing unfairly with tax-payers. Street car service is the most usual example offered. Publicly-owned suburban electric lines lessen the suburban traffic of the railways and reduce the earnings of the railways, which are large tax-payers. Likewise, publicly owned motor busses would compete with privately owned busses, and reduce the earnings and taxes paid by private companies. On the other hand, advocates of such municipal undertakings say that motor busses are responsible for great wear of the streets, without paying for such damage. They maintain that the city that must pay for street repair and construction should be able to earn some profit to offset that cost from an undertaking that makes repairs more frequently necessary.

Municipalities are required under English law to pay into the treasury the regular tax on their incomes. Therefore municipal undertakings pay income tax in the same way as would private undertakings if they were performing the same semi-public service. The municipalities have, then, no advantage over the private companies in the matter of tax exemption.

Payment of Loans, Depreciation, Etc.

When a private company undertakes the operation of a public utility, the money to construct buildings, buy and install plant, lay pipes, conduits, or track, string wires, purchase cars, etc., is regarded as capital expenditure that does not have to be repaid unless the company goes into liquidation, unless, of course, this is secured from the issuance of bonds. When a British municipality makes these necessary provisions for manufacturing gas, electricity, or running street cars, or purchases a plant and its good will from a private company, after arbitration, the municipality must borrow, government sanction being secured, at the best rate of interest possible, the amount needed to obtain such

facilities. Under the law it must within a specified period, which varies according to the estimated life of the purpose for which it is raised, repay the money borrowed and pay the interest upon the same. In most cases this period is in length from five to sixty years. The local authority thus borrowing money must make provisions not only for paying interest, but for redeeming the loan when due, with stringent provisions for an adequate sinking fund. The amount to be set aside each year for sinking fund purposes necessarily depends upon the size of the loans and their duration. With trading undertakings, interest and sinking fund are provided for out of earnings.

Then provision is almost invariably made for depreciation, and when the agreed sum has been provided, any profit remaining is available for the relief of taxation. Thus, money is only assigned to that purpose after the necessary financial obligations have been met. Consequently, where the sum allotted for the relief of taxation might amount to 2 per cent of the capital invested, the actual net earnings or profit, if based on ordinary business practice, would be very much larger. Therefore, the profitable character of a municipal undertaking does not fully appear from the amount contributed to the city's revenues. However, in comparatively few cases where municipalities make small or almost no allowance for depreciation from their earnings before turning them over to the city treasurer for revenue purposes, they differ from most well-conducted business concerns. Then their earnings applied to the relief of tax rates more nearly approach the dividends declared by the latter, and where the private business makes allowance for depreciation, the municipal business must provide for redeeming capital.

Provision for new plant to meet enlarged demands is generally made through the issuance of new loans authorized by the proper government authority. To replace worn out plant, sums set aside for depreciation are employed.

Municipal Housing.

Workmen's dwellings do not constitute a charge on the rates in Birmingham, or, as a rule, it is said, in other cities. Nevertheless, this is partially a sanitary provision. In the late seventies, the city of Birmingham purchased a slum area and constructed a business street through it, retaining the freehold of the same. For this purpose money was borrowed. The loans have not become due, so the interest charged on them and the necessity of providing for their redemption when due constitute a charge on the revenues of the city. However, the construction of this business street, which is now one of the most important in the city, created a ratable or taxable value from which is obtained more than enough in rates and taxes to pay the interest and sinking charges. In the accounts this does not show, so the scheme is made to appear a loss. When the leases fall in, the buildings erected under those leases will become property of the city and a very valuable asset, the revenues from which will equal at least \$486,650 a year. In these circumstances it is not wholly just to charge the interest and loan redemption expenses of this striking city undertaking—one of the finest examples of town planning—against profits from the gas, electricity, street railway, and markets undertakings.

Water rates are generally higher in England than in the United States. On the contrary, those for gas are generally much lower. For short distances in England street car fares, which are based on the distance traveled, are much cheaper; but for long distances considerably higher. Municipal gas and electricity departments show much enterprise. Street car services are good, but on the whole the cars are not as good and the services sometimes not up to the American standard.

In some cases municipal undertakings have been managed unsuccessfully and shown a loss. In these cases a profit should have been made under careful management; but there has been slackness in management, waste or unbusinesslike practices. Such instances have been characteristic only of small undertakings and in localities where it was difficult to get capable experts to conduct them, or where the managing committees seem to have been inefficient. Real failures are strikingly fewer than the successes, and cases of resale to private companies do not equal those where undertakings have been recently purchased by local authorities.

Effect on Tax Rates.

Tables are appended, showing the undertakings managed by 121 different municipalities, the profits or losses, and the consequent decrease or increase in the tax rates. In explanation of the tax rate, it may be said that what are called rates in England

would in the United States be termed local taxes. Such taxes are not levied upon the actual value of the property taxed—there is also no taxation of household effects, watches, jewelry, etc.—but on the rent a hypothetical tenant would pay for the property taxed. As far as dwelling houses, business properties, factories, etc., are concerned, the taxable or ratable value is the actual rent paid, or the rent that would be paid, for the property, less an allowance that is in general 15 to 20 per cent. The rate is then so much for every pound (\$4.86) of this rent value.

In the 121 cases mentioned, 26 cities showed losses from the undertakings, and the rates were increased. These increases for the most part varied from 1/2 to 6 cents. In a very few exceptional cases, the increase was a great deal larger; for instance:

| City | Population | Total deficit | Increase in rate |
|---------|------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bacup | 22,500 | \$27,788 | \$0.36 1/2 |
| Heywood | 27,000 | 48,981 | .45 |
| Preston | 118,070 | 99,763 | .24 1/2 |

On the other hand, 95 of the cities showed considerable profits, and a corresponding decrease in the tax rate. A few instances are as follows:

| City | Population | Total profit | Decrease in rate |
|------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Barnsley | 52,879 | \$ 30,659 | \$0.19 1/2 |
| Belfast | 396,000 | 219,868 | .16 |
| Birmingham | 859,644 | 349,799 | .09 1/2 |
| Bolton | 183,879 | 226,813 | .28 1/2 |
| Darlington | 58,000 | 101,676 | .39 |
| Hull | 287,032 | 253,905 | .22 |
| Leeds | 457,295 | 640,748 | .29 1/2 |
| Leicester | 230,970 | 276,354 | .28 1/2 |
| Liverpool | 756,553 | 930,017 | .23 1/2 |
| Manchester | 730,976 | 976,979 | .22 |
| Nottingham | 264,736 | 394,722 | .34 1/2 |

PROFITS OF BANKS.

George E. Brittain.

Illustrating the enormous profits of the banking business, largely secured by dealing in "investment securities," in addition to the regular every-day banking activities, I give below a statement based upon the reports of a number of banks to the government officials for the period of five years, beginning January 1, 1906 and ending December 31, 1910:

| | Total gains for 5 years. Per cent. | Average per year. Per cent. |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| First National Bank, Chicago | 153.25 | 30.65 |
| First National Bank, Wheeling, W. Va. | 212.50 | 42.50 |
| First National Bank of Richmond, Va. | 217.25 | 43.45 |
| First National Bank, New York City | 211.28 | 43.45 |
| National Bank of Commerce, Norfolk, Va. | 235 | 48 |
| The National Bank of Virginia, Richmond | 256.30 | 51.26 |
| The Rhode Island Hospital & Trust Co., Providence (Doing a banking business) | 264 | 52.80 |
| Springfield National Bank, Springfield, Mass. | 275 | 55 |
| First National Bank, Boston, Mass. | 355 | 71.10 |
| The Northern National Bank, Toledo, Ohio | 379.10 | 75.82 |
| The Norfolk National Bank, Norfolk, Va. | 394.51 | 78.90 |
| The Lowry National Bank, Atlanta, Ga. | 420 | 84 |
| The Corn Exchange National Bank, Philadelphia, Pa. | 437.50 | 87.50 |
| Traders' National Bank, Spokane, Wash. | 500 | 100 |
| The Nassau National Bank of Brooklyn, N. Y. | 556.65 | 111.33 |
| The National Bank of Syracuse, N. Y. | 559.60 | 111.92 |

BOOK REVIEW.

"Militant and Triumphant Socialism," by Charles H. Vaill. Published by The Co-Operative Printing Co., 5457 Drexel avenue, Chicago. Cloth, 144 pp. Price, 50 cents.

This book is a boiled down essence of the whole field of scientific Socialism. The entire range of the subject of Socialism is thoroughly and fairly covered.

Part I, Militant Socialism, discusses the chief factor in social evolution, economic determinism; the economic basis of slavery; climax of social evolution in collective ownership; surplus value and the class struggle; scientific versus utopian Socialism; propaganda tactics.

Part II, Triumphant Socialism, takes up the abolishment of exploitation; industrial depression to cease; prosperity for all; proper incentive; political corruption to disappear; right to liberty; social evils to vanish; home and family to be preserved; Socialism to realize a nobler humanity; a new social spirit; conclusion.

A worth while feature of the book is in the discussion of tactics. Here the reader will get sound direction and clear exposition of the difference between the revolutionist and the reformer. It will cheer the heart of the militant Socialist to read the conclusive arguments showing the difference between the scientific Socialist's demand for the possession of the powers of government to the end of public ownership and the middle class cry from the depths of economic blight for government ownership.

SOCIALIST PAPER IN THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE.

The Information Department has had inquiries as to whether there is a Socialist paper published in the Ukrainian language in the United States. We have just discovered that there is such a paper, and for the benefit of those who are interested will say that it is called "Robitnyk" (The Worker), and is published by T. Potchynok at 1745 Michigan avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Woman's Department

WINNIE E. BRANSTETTER, Director

WOMAN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Gertrude Breslau Fuller, 209 E. Reliance St., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Alma M. Kriger, 403 S. Main St., Butte, Mont.
Lena Morrow Lewis, Fairbanks, Alaska, Gen. Delivery.
Bertha Howell Mally, 140 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y.
Anna A. Maley, 140 E. 19th St., New York, N. Y.
Gertrude Reilly, 306 Shippen St., West Hoboken, N. J.
May Wood-Simons, 115 Auer Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.

This department has charge of propoganda and organization among women. Its purpose is to make Socialists, unionists, and intelligent voters of women, and to secure their active membership in the Socialist party.

Address all communications to

SOCIALIST PARTY, 803 WEST MADISON STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Since reporting vote upon motion by Mally that, "500,000 copies of Malkiel's Naturalization leaflet be printed by the National Office without delay, and that the language federation be requested to print and circulate this leaflet in their respective languages," Comrade Anna Maley requests her vote recorded as Yes.

Comment.

"The original ballot failed to reach me, due to doubt to the fact that I was on the road at the time of its being mailed."

ANNA MALEY.

The result, upon motion, now stands as follows: Voting Yes: Kriger, Reilly, Maley and Mally. Not voting: Simons, Fuller and Lewis. Motion carried.

In accordance therewith I am submitting the Malkiel manuscript and motion to the executive secretary for action by the Executive Committee.

WINNIE E. BRANSTETTER,

General Cor. Woman's National Committee.

SUPREME COURT DECISION IN INTEREST OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Dear Comrade: Unless it has already been brought to your attention, you will be interested to hear about a case recently decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, which affects the labor of women.

The state of Massachusetts has a statute providing that no minor or woman of any age shall work in any manufacturing establishment more than ten hours a day. Sometime ago the Supreme Court of the state held the act valid as not in arbitrary or unreasonable interference with the liberty of contract, but a reasonable regulation to compel people to refrain from entering into contracts which were detrimental to the public health and the general welfare of all parties concerned and the state at large.

This law required a manufacturing establishment to keep posted in a conspicuous place the exact hours of labor adopted by the establishment.

The recent case arose out of the fact that a cotton mill, the Davol Mills, required women employes to work during hours other than those posted. The validity of the entire statute was attacked on the ground that it infringed the liberty of contract as assured by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The case went to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that court decided that the statute is valid as a whole. It also upheld the particular section which requires the hours of labor to be stipulated in advance and then to be followed until a change is made.

The law does not establish a schedule of hours. This is left to the parties concerned. It does make imperative the strict observance of any table of hours, not more than ten per day, while it remains posted.

The title of the case is Riley vs. Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Justice McKenna delivered the opinion of the court, which was filed March 23, 1914.

The case is significant, not so much for its intrinsic importance, as for the fact that it marks a tendency. As time goes on, the old interpretations of the constitution, insofar as they impede the progress of the race, are doomed to pass away.

I trust that the Woman's Department is booming as usual. With best wishes.

Faternally yours,

JOHN M. WORK,

Secretary Socialist Legal Department,
La Salle Extension University.

SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE REPORTS FAVORABLE.

Washington.

The Bristow amendment was favorably reported to the Senate today, every member of Woman Suffrage Committee except Catron, New Mexico, voting for it. The Susan B. Anthony resolution is therefore again before the Senate. This resolution was introduced one year ago today by Senator Chamberlain, favorably reported, received majority vote, re-introduced, and again favorably reported in one year. No action has been taken on the Shafroth resolution.

Colliers, West Virginia, to Benefit by Strike Children's Relief Fund.

The National Office is this week forwarding 100 girls' dresses and 75 pair boys' pants to the Colliers, West Virginia, strike district.

OKLAHOMA INITIATES SUFFRAGE PETITION.

For the second time the question of woman suffrage is to be submitted to the voters of Oklahoma. At the former submission of this question the forces for suffrage were the American Federation of Labor, United Mine Workers, The Farmers' Union and the Socialist party. It was defeated because of an unfair provision in the initiative and referendum clause of Oklahoma, which provides that a referendum submitted at a regular election shall receive a majority of the votes at that election.

The suffrage petition was submitted in Oklahoma early in 1911 in order that it might be submitted to vote at the special election. It was held up because of a fake charge that signatures were illegal and was not submitted until the regular election. It was defeated because of the above provision.

This unfair provision still holds, but again the forces behind the suffrage movement in Oklahoma hope to secure submission of this question at the special election, under which condition it will be required only that the amendment shall secure a majority of votes cast upon that measure.

The political line-up upon this question has changed, due no doubt to a desire upon the part of the old party politicians to gain favor with potential women voters. They are well aware of the fact that if suffrage does not carry through a state amendment that within a very short time they will be forced to concede this demand through an amendment to the federal constitution.

The Progressive party and the Socialist party as organizations are behind the suffrage movement and the Democratic governor has declared a change of heart during the past three years.

MASSACHUSETTS MARCHES ON.

On March 27 the Massachusetts House of Representatives, by 164 votes to 39, concurred with the Senate in adopting an amendment to the state constitution by which the word "male" will be stricken out from the provision describing the qualifications of a voter. The Senate had passed the same amendments a fortnight before by 34 votes to 2. The amendment has now to be submitted to a vote of the existing male electorate.

A REPLY

To Editor Compers and "Windmill Fabrication"

(Gompers' latest folly—a vicious assault upon teachings of Marx—greatest thinker labor ever had.)

By G. A. HOEHN, Editor ST. LOUIS LABOR

(Reprint from St. Louis Labor)

In the April number of the "American Federationist" Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, in his capacity as editor and under the guise of refuting Novelist Upton Sinclair's embryonic views of the American labor movement, makes a general assault upon the world-wide Socialist movement. Mr. Gompers offends the intelligence of every thinking trade unionist who has read enough of the history of the international trade union movement to know the service that teachers like Karl Marx and other early Socialists rendered to make the enduring organization of the modern labor movement. Of Karl Marx, who with intense human interest described the process of growth and development of labor organizations, culminating in powerful national and international federations, forty years before the A. F. of L. was even organized—of this wonderful student and master's work Mr. Gompers writes, "What sorcery is to surgery, alchemy to chemistry, astrology to astronomy, Marxology is to economics and sociology." You must read the masterly reply made by Comrade G. A. Hoehn, which we have reprinted from ST. LOUIS LABOR, if you would appreciate the limitations of Mr. Gompers on the fundamentals of the great labor and Socialist movement. The reply has been printed in folder form and can be had at the prices below. It has been prepared especially for mass distribution, and the price pays only for the cost of printing and delivery, prepaid. Send your order to the

Labor Publishing Company,
966 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

Prices for the 8-page Folder:

10 for 10c; 100 for 50c; 1000 for \$4; 10M for \$20
(Free list of Socialist and Trade Union literature)

CONGRESS PASSES BILL FOR WOMEN'S EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Washington.—The House of Representatives today passed a bill prescribing an eight-hour day for women employed in department stores, mercantile establishments and other institutions in the city of Washington.

This bill, should it become an act, would aid a large number of women employed in the local stores. It is the result of agitation waged by Socialists and unionists.

WOMAN'S LABOR LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN PROTESTS AGAINST MILITIA.

"That this conference of the Women's Labour League protests against the use of military force against the strikers and labour leaders in South Africa, and urges the Labour Party in Parliament to use every effort to secure that full information be given as to the part played in the recent crises in that country by Lord Gladstone as governor-general and the Imperial troops quartered in the South African Union."

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Sincere comrades, for a proposition that is for the welfare of the cause and yourself.

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No. 3

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J. A. ROGERS, Jr., Director

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SOCIALIST PARTY, Young Peoples Dept. 803 West Madison Street Chicago, Illinois

In That Future Lies Socialism

GETTING RESULTS WITH LETTERS.

Letter writing is a very important factor in the commercial world. Business houses pay big salaries to expert letter writers, for the character of a letter sent out by any concern may determine the success or failure of that institution.

The same thing applies to Socialist organizations as to business houses. We must apply business methods in our work.

If a good letter is sent to members to attend a meeting, or to sympathizers to be present at a lecture or social affair it will get results and a big crowd will turn out.

On the other hand if the letter is written in a poor style, the person receiving it will consider it a joke, believing it can not be much of an organization if such a letter is indicative of its intelligence.

Some league secretaries write practically the same letter every time they send out a communication. They use stereotyped and worn out phrases which make no impression upon the reader.

An exceedingly poor example of a letter sent out by a league secretary is the following:

"Dear Comrade: We now take pleasure in announcing a business meeting of the ... League, Friday night, April 17. As this is a very important meeting you should not delay the matter but appear there.

You will notice that this letter not only has a very poor form and makes no appeal to the reader but fails to tell where the meeting is to be held.

It is also signed "Y. P. S. L." A letter signed in that manner will never get the results that one signing the personal signature of the secretary will secure.

The writer of the above letter would have done far better work if the letter had been written in the following manner.

"An exceedingly important meeting of the ... League will be held Friday evening, April 17, at 8 o'clock, at Socialist Headquarters, 1222 Brown street. Several vital matters will be up for discussion.

"I am enclosing some advertising of our coming big debate with the high school. We want to pack the hall for this affair. We mean to win. Final arrangements will be made at Friday night's meeting. Be there.

"Fraternally yours, FLORENCE WILSON, Secretary."

Following is a sample of a letter that was sure to accomplish its aim. It was written by the organizer of one of the Chicago Leagues in preparation for the debate between the Chicago and Milwaukee Y. P. S. L.

"Dear Comrade: Socialism and sociability are twin sisters. Let the North Side Y. P. S. L. prove this by going to the debate in one big jolly bunch.

"Expecting to see you Sunday at 12:30, I remain Yours for a memorable time, FRANK DAWSON, Organizer Y. P. S. L.

The person reading that letter will certainly want to be with that crowd. He can almost imagine himself mixing with the Milwaukee comrades as he reads it. You will also notice how he impresses the time of meeting upon the reader.

Every letter ought to be written in a manner similar to this one. Impress the importance of the thing upon the person you wish to reach and write in such a way that he will enjoy reading your letter. That brings results.

Seven PARTY BUILDER Sub. Cards for \$1.50.

Table showing status of the society at end of years stated, in 5 year periods. WORKMEN'S SICK & DEATH BENEFIT FUND OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Columns include: At End of Year, Number of Members (Men, Women), Sick and Accident, Death, Amount of Benefits Paid Since Organization, Amount Saved in Cash Reserve.

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Cal.—J. Stitt Wilson, Ridge Rd., Berkeley.
Colo.—J. C. Griffiths, Boulder.
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Wash.—Frans Bostrom, Box 491, Everett.
Wash.—Kate Sadler, Bx. W. Brandon and California Ave., Seattle.
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Mont.—Albert F. Meissner, 403 S. Main St., Butte.
Neb.—John Canright, Act. S. S., Box 344, North Platte.
Nev.—Thos. Fagan, Box 132, Tonopah.
N. H.—John P. Burke, Memorial St., Franklin.
N. J.—W. B. Killingbeck, 62 William St., Orange.
N. M.—M. R. Jones, Clayton.
N. Y.—U. Solomon, 444 Pearl St., New York City.
N. C.—Percy L. Gardner, Lakeview.
N. D.—Henry G. Teigan, Box 17, Minot.
Ohio—O. G. Van Schoyck, 101 N. High St., R. 68, Columbus.
Okla.—H. M. Sinclair, 116 S. Harvey St., Oklahoma City.
Ore.—E. L. Cannon, 1868 Ferry St., Salem.
Penn.—Robert B. Ringler, P. O. Box 285, Reading.
R. I.—Fred Hurst, 1310 Cranston St., Cranston.
S. C.—Wm. Eberhard, 257 King St., Charleston.
S. D.—E. F. Atwood, Sisseton.
Tenn.—J. E. Voss, 778 Eastern Ave., Jackson.
Texas—T. A. Hickey, Hallettsville.
Utah—Peter J. Holt, Box 477, Salt Lake City.
Vt.—Mabel Folland, 114 Branch St., Bennington.
Va.—I. L. Burgess, 3613 Huntington Ave., Newport News.
Wash.—Frans Bostrom, Box 491, Everett.
W. Va.—Edward H. Kintzer, Clarksburg.
Wis.—F. W. Rehfeld, Brisbane Hall, Milwaukee.
Wyo.—A. Carlson, Box 236, Sheridan.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY.

Kate Richards O'Hare, 411 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo.

Seven PARTY BUILDER Sub. Cards for \$1.50.

The Literature Department

The big order for the week is from Charles Lewis, Pittsburg, Kans. and is for 700 copies of "The Truth About Socialism." Comrade Lewis says: "We have covered the city of Pittsburgh with Benson's books ordered during the winter and now the county executive committee has instructed me to put the books out in the smaller towns of Crawford County. We are doing this before the campaign opens so that the "truth" will have time to soak in before party prejudice is aroused."

This is the right method. If you are figuring on carrying your city, county or congressional district this fall, begin your work NOW. It is a little hard, of course, to arouse your workers and collect money at this time of the year, but what you do now will count far more than what you do in October.

This is especially true with your use of the new Benson pamphlet, "The Bombshell that Henry Ford Fired." This pamphlet I expect will be used in the fall campaigns more than was the "Growing Grocery Bill" in 1912, but you can get the most effective results from it right now while people are talking about Ford.

The Scripps' daily papers have been running a feature story lately, comparing Ford's employes since the minimum wage of \$5.00 a day was established with those of the International Harvester Company where the wage is \$2.00 per day. The story from a newspaper standpoint is well told and when I read it, the thought came, "If we could put a copy of Benson's pamphlet in the hands of every man and woman who reads this, how could that person resist being a Socialist."

Something over 50,000 copies of "The Bombshell" were spoken for before they were printed. Many letters from enthusiastic workers say, "We will discuss the size of our order at the next meeting of the local." Others say, "We will use it May Day, Red Week, etc." Our German comrades are strong on doing special propaganda work simultaneously all over the nation. It is a good plan. It starts everybody's mind running in the same channel and it encourages many to work who would not otherwise, because they know others are doing the same thing.

By using the express service, we can get the Benson pamphlets to all parts of the nation for distribution the first week in May, but you will have to order immediately.

If you will give us the orders, we will promise to pack and ship the whole of the half million edition for Red Week. We dare you to try us out on this promise.

LITERATURE PURCHASERS.

- One Library of Classics to Ben Levy, Schenectady, N. Y.
- Four Failure of Regulation to W. A. Anderson, Madison, Wis.
- Twelve Truth About Socialism to W. M. Doyle, Mobile, Ala.
- Twelve Public Ownership of Railways to W. A. King, Springfield, Mass.
- Five hundred The Bombshell that Henry Ford Fired to Walter Cope, Owosso, Mich.
- Fifty Pocket Library and P. B. to John S. Coleman, Hattiesburg, Miss.
- One hundred Where You Get Off to A. A. Sather, Moline, Ill.
- Ten thousand Regulation to Al. Siepman, St. Louis, Mo.
- Five thousand New Leaflets to Wilbur Fowles, Melrose, Mass.
- One hundred Wasting Human Life to Chas. Davison, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

ORDERS NOT FILLED OWING TO INCOMPLETE ADDRESS.

- One sub card from Lindsborg, Kans., no name given.
- One sub card from Morganton, N. C., no name given.
- An order for literature from Fort Rock, Oregon, no name signed to letter.

LATEST AND BEST.

"Questions Answered, No. 1," by Fred Hurst.

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THE PARTY BUILDER

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY
OF THE UNITED STATES.

WALTER LANFERSIEK,
Managing Editor and Business Manager.
A. W. RICKER, Circulation Manager.

Published every Saturday by the Socialist Party National
Office, 803 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Entered as second-class matter, November 20, 1912, at
the Postoffice, Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March
3, 1879.

Advertising Rates: 75c per inch, column wide.

No. 77 Chicago, April 25, 1914

CIRCULATION REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1914.

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Last week | 18,807 |
| Taken off | 107 |
| | 18,700 |
| New subs | 356 |
| | 19,056 |

Another milestone has been passed. The circulation is now over the nineteen thousand mark and subscriptions coming in warrant the belief that we will be able to present the National Committee with a twenty thousand circulation periodical. It will then be up to that committee to deal with the P. B. This paper has lost money. We expected it would and so informed the Executive Committee in our first report to that body.

It has not lost more money than the bulletin would have cost as our May report will show. But it has lost money. If the comrades in each local had taken hold of the circulation and urged all party members to subscribe for it, we would have made money instead of lost.

That, however, is another matter. No one is obliged to subscribe for this paper and therein lies its strength. A paper that does not have to struggle for existence is likely to be of little value. The Party Builder ought to be made to succeed on its merits, solely, and not by official decree.

The National Committee may, by official action, recognize the paper as an important asset of the party and give it such moral support as to raise it to the position of one of the principal functions of the National Office. That will be of great value. The rest is a matter of good live stuff in its columns and persistent circulation work.

But, dear comrades out in the nation at large, there is much that you may do to help the National Committee to take this action.

Last week we sent your local a special letter. So much concerned about this letter were we, that we placed in the envelope only a letter, a blank and a return envelope. We were tempted to put in a blank for the new Benson pamphlet, but we did not. We wanted your undivided attention to the matter of appointing, from your membership, a Party Builder sub agent, and the purchase of seven sub cards.

This letter was sent to six thousand locals, not one of which is so poor that its members cannot together raise one dollar and a half. Six thousand locals each buying seven sub cards should mean NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH. That amount of money would finance the National Committee meeting and the expense of the international delegates, and then some. It would put this office in splendid financial shape. It would insure a paying circulation for this paper. It would start the party on the congressional campaign with a whoop and it would make the National Committee meeting a CELEBRATION.

The letter sent out last week is now in the hands of practically every local secretary in the United States. It will doubtless be read at your next meeting.

It is up to you who are subscribers to this paper and who appreciate it to see that action is taken.

If, for any reason, your local does not meet, then we appeal to you personally. If you believe this little paper is useful—if you want to see it grow in value—then invest a dollar and a half in sub cards on your own account. You can lose nothing, for a sub card is as good as an order on the treasury of the party for twenty-five cents.

SUB HUSTLERS.

Earl Lamont, Desmet, S. D., 14 subs.
Perry Shipman, Rock Island, Ill., 10 subs.
J. Victor, Brockton, Mass., 9 subs.
Arthur Witherow, Mandan, N. D., 6 subs.
J. F. Mabre, Butte, Mont., 6 subs.
L. G. Pope, Fort Myers, Fla., 5 subs.

"I think the Party Builder is doing the best work yet and is filling the right place, long vacant, and we are now, in my judgment, beginning to do the work that will last. Push the Party Builder until we have every red card member on the list."—L. G. Pope, Fort Myers, Fla.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

If interested write

J. S. LEHMAN, HUMBOLDT, KANSAS.

(76-79)

THE BOMB-SHELL THAT HENRY FORD FIRED

The Socialist movement of the world claims many of the great writers. Many honored names are on the list, but the man whose name has been attached to more pieces of propaganda literature than any other is Allan L. Benson.

The National Office sold in 1912 two millions of his pamphlet, THE GROWING GROCERY BILL, which created a sensation, being one of the cleverest and most timely pieces of literature ever written.

He also wrote THE USURPED POWER OF THE COURTS, a stinging indictment, much needed at the time, and no less valuable now. The National Office has distributed 200,000 of this pamphlet.

Last summer THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIALISM came out; one of the clearest and most readable expositions of Socialism ever written. More than 50,000 of this twenty-five-cent book have been sold, and it is still a steady seller and will be for years.

Recently Pearson's Magazine printed an article by Benson, called THE BOMB-SHELL THAT HENRY FORD FIRED, a piece of work as monumental as The Growing Grocery Bill. It will appeal to the farmer as well as the city wage worker; to the business man, big or little; to the professional man, to the wife and mother. Just as The Growing Grocery Bill was the biggest stunt in 1912, so this will be the big thing in the coming congressional campaign.

Benson shows that Henry Ford proves most of the Socialist claims. We have said that the worker under Socialism could have a living equivalent to what a \$2,000 income could give him under capitalism. Ford, the automobile maker, gives his floor sweepers \$5.00 a day, and his more skilled workmen more than that, and yet he is giving back to them, in increased wages, only half his profits. Benson shows how the trusts and all big business COULD AFFORD to do what Ford has done, and PROVES IT. So our claims have not been dreams. We have been practical, we have been awake, and it is up to you to awaken the other fellow.

You must read this pamphlet. You must distribute a million this summer. I assure you it is the "goods" and you need not hesitate. We believe enough in this pamphlet to print a half million of them right off the bat, and we know that will not be enough. One little request in The Party Builder has brought advance orders for more than 50,000, even before its printing was assured. We cannot promise another edition, so if you want to use this in your district, you had better get your order in. You will not find another piece of printed matter with such a general appeal and at such a cheap price.

Benson has generously agreed to waive his royalty, and Pearson's and Huebsch (who have the book rights) have given permission to use it, so we can sell you this 16-page booklet at the dirt cheap price of \$2.50 per 1,000, if you buy 10,000. Four copies, 64 pages, for one cent. Can you beat it? It will be the same size and style as The Growing Grocery Bill.

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