PRONE upon the earth, condemned as inadequate, unreliable, shuttered beyond redemption, lies all that remains of the Best Financial System that competitive society has been able to produce. At the very height of the busiest and most prosperous times this nation has ever seen—at the very time its services are most critically needed—the financial machinery, through its own inherent weakness and incapacity, breaks down, utterly collapses, closing mills, factories and mines, and stopping the wheels of industry from sea to sea, while the banks of the nation are compelled to openly acknowledge that they cannot return to their depositors the money that has been entrusted to their custody. The papers have produced no more pathetic economic spectacle than that now presented to the country. . . .

In the past it has been the privilege of few (and those few the despised agitators) to see the trend and understand the portent of social crises, but in the present the spectacles of the breakdown of the old system are heightened by the fact that thousands of the Common People knew it was coming, predicted it for years, and poured out their time and money unlimitedly to prepare their followers for the inevitable.

The hour predicted by Socialists for over a decade past is TODAY HERE.

And by reason of having put in these many years past in the work of educating the masses, the great citizenship of the strongest and richest nation of ancient or modern times is slowly but surely turning its enormous bulk into the paths pointed out by these same Socialists as the only road to salvation. The militant plutocracy—excruciatingly wringing among themselves as to the causes—engaged in violent criminations, attacks, and counter-attacks as to "who is to blame," sees with eyes abashed with terror, the power slipping from its grasp, the scientific Socialist having thus verified itself, the public is leaning toward and embracing its philosophy and for the first time in the history of the world, we find ourselves with an audience unabashed and in fact disdainful to talk back.

The result of ceaseless work and agitation on the part of thousands of men and women, many of whom are now sleeping their last sleep in the Silent Cities of the Dead, but who did their work so effectively as to leave an immortal heritage to the present generation. The opportunity costs millions in actual money, it costs immeasurably more in suffering, persecution and in labor and time freely given.

The sum total finds the Socialists readily and fairly equipped to grapple with and make the most of their dearly bought Fighting Chance.

As you read these lines, hundreds of thousands of others are also reading them. This result has been brought about by the unremitting labor of those who believe in Socialism. As you now read, men and women are taking subscriptions for this paper, throughout the length and breadth of the land at the rate of 1,000 per day, and as each subscription form is mailed in, the Scientific Socialist, the only road to salvation is making its way, which amount to almost as many more.

The time is here for every Socialist to work. The goods have been delivered: no longer is there any doubt or question as to what the competitive system is, what its logical fruits are and must be.

Others now comprehend what you have known for years. We can spare no worker now: the educational field must be thoroughly cowered and the Appeal confidently expects to hear from YOU by return mail with an order for the Panic Edition, which will put in readable shape the very thoughts that have been seething in your brain and which you have longed to communicate to those you meet day by day.

Let your order for the "Panic Edition" be sufficient to cover your voting precinct, your ward, your town or county. Organize the local comrades into a Flying Squadron and work as you have never worked before to the good end that this undesirable system of labor exploitation and price, ruin and suicide may be brought to a speedy end, and in its place reared the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Listen: Socialism is an actuality today as it will be one thousand years from now. The only— THE ONLY —obstacle in the way is the ignorance and ignorance, you—and YOU AGAIN will have to dispel. No one else can do your work—it depends on YOU.

And the material in the PANIC EDITION will help you. Every line will be filled with information and bristle with arguments—the best the Appeal has at its command.

The order blank in the lower right hand corner invites you to cut it out and return it at once. I'm listening!
YOUR HELP

is needed at this time to enable the Appeal to send the following:

1,000,000 small business men;
100,000 lawyers in small towns;
20,000 newspaper editors;
30,000 cities of local unions.

This is a Big Job—but Socialism is a Big Movement, built by aBig Army of men and women. 

Gentlemen has given us a Big Opportunity to make a Big Strike for Socialism. 

Are you Big Enough to grasp its significance? 

If so, send a copy of the "Gentlemen's Appeal" to the Agitation League Fund, which is undertaking to send a copy of the Small Businessmen's Appeal to 1,000,000 names in the above lists. Others will help you.

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Roosevelt's Message.

[Extended address of President Roosevelt, as quoted in the Appeal.]

"If there be any purpose any more fixed than another in the mind of the people of this country, it is to deliver our country from the government of bilious politicians, who are accustomed to be represented among the people as the leaders of a dangerous element of abolitionism, under whatever guise it may be presented. That purpose is to be reached by an administration of common sense and intelligence."

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THOMAS GURNEY.

By ROBERT E. BURNS.

It has been the habit of the latter to observe the former with interest and respect, and to follow his career with admiration. 

"Mr. Gurney is a lawyer of the highest standing. He is a man of profound learning, and of the highest character. He has been a faithful public servant, and has done much for his country."

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The War in the West.

The war is over, but the peace is not yet. The people of the West are still at war. The spirit of the West has not yet been subdued. The West is a land of conflict, and the people of the West are a people of war.

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Your Practical Way.

You must do your part. You must do your part in the war. You must do your part in the peace. You must do your part in the reconstruction of the country.

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The Gold Famine.

It is now the time to consider what the gold famine means and what is to be done about it. The gold famine is the result of the war, and it is necessary to deal with it.

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A HUNDRED is GOOD.

[Letter from a reader, as quoted in the Appeal.]