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**Appeal to Reason**

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**FRED D. WARREN**  
 Managing Editor

Girard, Kansas, U. S. A., April 15, 1911  
 This is Number 802

This paper bears a Yellow Label and following your name is a number. If it's 803 your subscription expires with the next issue and YOU SHOULD SEND NEW SUBSCRIPTION AT ONCE.

**THE APPEAL EDITORIAL STAFF**

J. A. WAYLAND  
 FRED D. WARREN  
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**Socialist Victories and Splendid Gains**

Socialists are coming into their own. The municipal elections this spring witness a number of victories.

The full report is not yet in, but there is already enough to show a greater victory and a larger gain than have ever before been registered in America. The number of Socialist officials now run up in America into the hundreds. Even where there was no official elected, in local contests the gain was such as to surprise Socialists and astound and confuse our enemies. The vote of six months ago has been doubled or tripled. In many cases it was multiplied eight and tenfold. It can mean nothing else than that the people are coming our way.

The mere fact that a union of forces in Milwaukee defeated the Socialist nominees for school board counts for but little. Mayor Siedel will hold over until next spring, and the Socialist county officers longer. Before another election the comrades will have been able to demonstrate more perfectly the superiority of their methods and the people of Milwaukee will awaken to the full danger of the combination that defeated the Socialists in a minor way this time, and will rally to working class rule.

In Wichita, in Fort Worth and elsewhere the master class was fully aroused and the workers fought with a vim and wisdom that presages final victory. In fact, there has been no loss, anywhere. "We have nothing to lose

**SOME SOCIALIST GAINS.**

Snyder, Okla.	1011	1910
Blair, Neb.	102	25
Iola, Kans.	68	30
Ann Arbor, Mich.	371	132
Reubel, Mich.	77	21
Kalamazoo, Mich.	1,592	51
Endicott, N. Y.	165	97
Scio, N. Y.	100	3
Mechanics Falls, Me.	24,700	11,000
Chicago	340	197
Hudson, Mich.	1,297	120
Fort Worth, Texas	767	350
Jackson, Mich.	24	4
Bennett, Wis.	55	1

**In Pollock's Balliwick.**  
 Fort Scott, Kan., April 5.—After a very exciting campaign in which the city was all wrought up over the prospect of a Socialist victory, the Socialists polled 1,350 votes for E. E. Dangberry for mayor, the citizens' ticket polling 1,224 and the republicans 527. A. T. Woodward, Socialist, a boiler maker, was elected city attorney. He was one of the Missouri school strikers who is pending against him, and will have the privilege of dismissing all these cases. Three councilmen were elected by the Socialists—Charles K. Scott and J. C. Wilson. For Scott is the town where the Warren trial took place.

**Billar Fight at Wichita.**  
 Wichita, Kans., April 5.—After an unusually bitter campaign in which Socialism was the only issue and which all parties united against them, Socialists lost. Over 12,000 votes were polled for the winning largely against the Socialists. The victorious candidates are all business men, two being retired capitalists. The comrades made a spirited campaign, and paved the way for future victory.

**Sweeping Things at Arma.**  
 Arma, Kans., April 5.—Evan Morgan was elected mayor by the Socialists. Charles C. Ruffin was chosen by the Socialists. The fifth councilman lost by one vote. Socialists elected police judge also.

**Mayor at Curranville.**  
 Curranville, Kan., April 5.—James Perkins, Socialist, was elected mayor over George Counts, labor candidate, by a majority of five.

**One Councilman.**  
 Rosedale, Kan.—Joseph Watson, Socialist, was elected councilman from the Fourth ward.

**Alderman at Columbus.**  
 Columbus, Kans., April 5.—Socialists elected an alderman in the fifth ward.

**Girard Elects Mayor.**  
 Girard, the home of the APPEAL, elected a Socialist mayor this year. H. P. Hoaghton, a carpenter. He had been endorsed by the labor council. He polled 325 votes, to the "citizens' 253 and the "independents' 226. Socialists made a good showing in the contest for school directors, but failing to get the majority, they will be glad to learn that Girard has been even partially redeemed.

**Stitt Wins.**  
 Berkeley, Cal., April 4.—J. Stitt Wilson was elected mayor of Berkeley by a majority of 255 votes. His competitors were elected to support him. Berkeley is seat of the University of California, and President Wheeler opposed Wilson, while Theodore Roosevelt has an influence against the Socialists. Wilson won. Last fall Comrade Wilson was the Socialist candidate for governor, and made one of the most remarkable campaigns ever made in any state. The victory in the university city is the cause of rejoicing among Socialists along the entire coast.

**Mayor in Pasadena.**  
 Pasadena, Cal., April 4.—William Thum, millionaire inventor of sticky fly paper, was elected mayor by the Socialists. He over two other candidates and a plurality of 541 over E. L. Metcalf, his leading opponent. Thum is a Socialist. He limits himself to the expenditure of \$2,500 a year, and keeps no servants because he says it is not democratic to do so. He spends most of his income in philanthropic educational work.

**Nearly a Clean Sweep.**  
 Nederland, California, April 6.—Nederland elected a complete Socialist ticket, except one man, a near-Socialist, running on an independent ticket, who will co-operate with our comrades. Last year there were but eighty votes cast in the entire district. Disgrat at bootlegging in defiance of law in a dry town did the business. The Socialists were elected to clean out the whiskey gang.

**Elected Alderman.**  
 Boyne City, Mich., April 6.—The first ward was carried by the Socialists. The republicans and laborites united against the Socialists and defeated them in the other wards.

**Won in a Large City.**  
 Flint, Mich., April 6.—John A. Merton was elected mayor of Flint on a Socialist ticket by a vote of over 7,700 and a

**Socialist Makes Good Run.**  
 Galesburg, Ill., April 4.—One surprise of the election was the strength John J. Sjudine, Socialist candidate for mayor, displayed against Mayor Sanderson, up for reelection. The Socialist vote in this city usually is about 150 but today it ran up to 1,200 for Sjudine. Sanderson was elected by 500 plurality.

**Elected Three.**  
 Devils Lake, N. D., April 3.—Three Socialist aldermen were elected here today: Third ward, P. G. Miller, 78 to 76 for opponent; Fourth ward, Charles W. Harris, 46 to 18; Calahann, 45 to 11. There was a gain in three precincts over last year's vote. Campaign for next election started today.

**Victory in Krebs.**  
 McAlester, Okla., April 5.—At Krebs Socialists elected three aldermen, and lost

**Near Victory in Arkansas.**  
 Leslie, Ark., April 6.—John Clark, Socialist, came within three votes of being elected mayor.

**Victory at Victor.**  
 Victor, Colo., April 6.—A full city ticket, including mayor, was elected by Socialists in this mining town.

**Elected Police Judge.**  
 Altoona, Kans., April 6.—A Socialist police judge was elected by a vote of 229.

**Scared at Waco.**  
 Grafters at Waco, Tex., a city of 30,000, recently aroused from lethargy by a speech from Debs, had the scare of their lives this spring. The following is a dispatch printed in the Fort Worth Record, Joe Bailey's paper.

**Waco, March 26.**—An appeal has been made to all Democrats here to vote in the general election next Tuesday, by reason of the fact that the Socialists have not

been elected in the past, it is not unlikely that one or more of the Socialist candidates will be elected, it having been ascertained that all members of the party who can vote will exercise the right of suffrage here April 4th.

**Gains in Many Places.**  
 Strong City, Kan.—Out of a total vote of 180, we cast 58, just what Stallard got in the whole county in 1910. We are feeling fine.—W. S. A.

**Hudson, Mich.**—Socialist vote, 23; last fall, 12.—J. E. B.

**Poplar Bluff, Mo.**—Vote for mayor, 349; last fall in whole county, 197.—C. Knecht.

**Fort Worth, Tex.**—Socialist vote, 1,207; vote last November, 120. We are organizing tonight for campaign of 1912. Will carry city sure in 1913. We had democrats scared to death this time.—Milton C. Chandler.

**Another by only two votes.** Republicans and democrats combined against us. Council now stands, democrats, four; Socialists, four.  
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**Plea for the Wounded Industrial Soldier**

THE New York supreme court has declared the workingmen's compensation act unconstitutional, on the broad general grounds that it would take from the employer the rights guaranteed to him under the United States constitution, quoting the 14th amendment, which provides "that no state shall deprive any person of . . . property without due process of law." The judges composing the supreme court of New York, following the lead of the nine autocrats in Washington, have arrogated to themselves the power to veto a law made by the legislature and signed by the governor.

This has been done before by other judges and by other courts and on the same ground and in response to a demand from the same source—from the employing class.

Neither the supreme court of the state of New York nor of the United States has the authority to veto legislation enacted by a legally constituted law-making body. This has been said before by the APPEAL—it will be repeated until the American people wake up to the fact that this is no longer a republic—but a judicial oligarchy, run in the interests of and for the protection of the industrial masters of the United States.

I repeat: The nine judges composing the supreme court of the United States are not clothed with the authority to veto legislation. If this court has not this authority it follows that no inferior court has such authority.

Chief Justice Toney of the United States supreme court in 1846, reported on page 119. 5 Howard, says: "By the constitution of the United States, the supreme court possesses no appellate power in any case, unless conferred upon it by act of congress; nor can it, when conferred, be exercised in any form or by any other mode of proceeding than that which the law prescribes."

In later and everyday language, Chief Justice Clark, of North Carolina, who was among the first to call attention to this usurpation of power by the federal judiciary, puts it this way: "The action of the supreme court in assuming the power to declare acts of congress unconstitutional is without a line in the constitution to authorize it."

That is plain enough for even a republican partisan to understand. The judge does not possess the right nor the authority, but he has the POWER to veto legislation, and this power he uses to declare those laws unconstitutional which are designed to give to the working class some slight consideration.

The judge possesses that power because you supinely permit him to nullify your will without protest. You may plead that you did not know—but you can plead ignorance as an excuse no longer. The APPEAL has told you and given you the proof for its statement that the judge does not have the authority to veto legislation.

If what the APPEAL has said is not enough to arouse you to protest, the following dictum of the New York supreme court in its opinion vetoing the workingmen's compensation act, should prompt you to immediate and decisive action:

"The right of property rests on the common law, and not upon philosophical or scientific speculations, not upon commendable impulses of benevolence, or charity, nor yet upon the dictates of natural justice." There you have capitalism in all its hideousness—without any frills or patriotic furbelows. This dictum is not the enactment of legislature or congress or of a referendum of the common people—but is the word of the judge, and the judge's word is law!

The constitution provides that "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property." The judge, ignoring life and liberty, sees only property rights. The working class has nothing but its life and its liberty to lose. The capitalist has only his property to lose, for without property he would not be a capitalist. The time has come when judges should hand down decisions in accordance with the constitutional provision that no man shall be deprived of his life and his liberty!

Six hundred thousand men, women and children of the working class are deprived of their lives and their liberties in the work shops of the United States every year. Most of these lives are snuffed out in the darkness of the mine; amid the noise and confusion of the shop or the clatter and clang of the freight car. The taking off of these brothers of ours causes no more comment than does the falling of the rain drop. It is only occasionally that the indifferent public—which is YOU—pauses for a brief second in the struggle to live to drop a tear on the bier of the unfortunate victims of a holocaust such as occurred in New York City a few days ago. Under this decision of the New York supreme court, which now becomes a precedent to be followed by the supreme court of Kansas and all other states, these victims of New York greed and avarice and those who were dependent upon them have no recourse. They assumed the risk of their employment. Therefore, they plead in vain at the door of justice.

What is to be done? Our New York comrades have very promptly called a monster meeting to protest against this decision. This action should be followed by every Socialist local and every trade union local in the United States. It is our only means of reaching the judges at this time. That these masters of society—the judges—are amenable to public opinion, we have had ample proof in a dozen instances within the past five years. We are now beginning to understand the power of this club in the hands of the working class.

To use it right and at the proper time will win for our slain and wounded comrades some semblance of justice at the hands of the courts.

To protest after a court decision is well enough—but the decision stands—and becomes the law. The victim is still a victim.

**BUT TO PROTEST BEFORE THE DECISION AND THUS PREVENT THE OUTRAGE IS WHAT WE MUST DO.**

This is what the APPEAL wants you to do. That is what the APPEAL calls upon the APPEAL Army to do.

You are now familiar with the facts in the sad case of our comrade, Frank Lane. You know that this 18-year-old victim of criminal carelessness on the part of two great corporations lies on a little cot in a ward in the hospital at Pittsburg, Kan., from which he will never rise. While obeying orders at the Sheridan coal mine, a few miles east of Girard, this boy was ground beneath the wheels of a Frisco coal car, and his spine broken in two places, paralyzing the lower limbs—making of this once vigorous young man a helpless cripple, racked with pain, devoid of hope.

The APPEAL has taken this boy's case to the local district court, where a suit for \$25,000 has been filed. This case will come up for hearing at the May term of the court—one year, lacking a few days, from the time Frank was injured. One year of waiting, and nothing yet done for this wounded soldier save what you have done through the APPEAL. You are paying, through the APPEAL, his hospital and doctor fees, and you are paying Frank's attorney for his services. This case, no matter what the outcome in the district court, will be taken to the supreme court of Kansas. To carry this case to that tribunal means the expenditure of a good many dollars—it cost \$12,000 to fight my case through the federal court. But no matter what it costs, the money must be raised! On the outcome of this case depends the welfare of thousands of our brothers. The winning of this \$25,000 suit for Frank Lane will establish a precedent which will enable the APPEAL's Legal Defense League to take other cases to the courts, not only in Kansas, but in every state in the union. The winning of these cases will bring about the enactment of workingmen's compensation laws in every state in the union. Not makeshifts such as the last Kansas legislature passed, which must yet run the gauntlet of the courts.

The Socialists of Kansas are already preparing to hold twenty-five monster meetings in this state during the time the Frank Lane case is pending in the state supreme court—not in protest, but meetings demanding that this victim shall be compensated for his injuries, so far as dollars can compensate a man for the loss of his liberty and his very life!

If you want to help in this work, join the APPEAL's Legal Defense League. Funds are raised for this purpose from the profits accruing from the publication of our new magazine, the *Coming Nation*. The circulation of the *Coming Nation* is now 25,000 and it is just about meeting its expenses. A circulation of 50,000 will yield, so we estimate, a profit of \$10,000, which will carry the Frank Lane case through all the courts. A circulation of 100,000 will yield a profit of \$25,000, with which we can carry on several cases at the same time. It is our plan, as perhaps those of you who have followed the case know, to make the fighting of these cases in the courts so unprofitable to the corporations that they will withdraw their opposition to the workingmen's compensation act which will be prepared and presented to the next Kansas legislature by the APPEAL's Legal Defense department. This law will provide that when a workingman is killed or totally disabled his family shall be compensated at once with an income sufficient to provide the necessities of life, a home and education for the children. Under the operation of this law there will be no long waits, no delay, and there will be NO APPEAL TO ANY COURT SAVE THE COURT OF PUBLIC OPINION!

**Crimes and Horrors in a Federal Prison**

The federal prison is to the federal judge what the policeman's club is to the policeman—an instrument of torture.

When I learned that Federal Judge Pollock had agreed before my trial with Harry Bone, the federal district attorney, to send me to the federal prison, the commission of a "crime" that later on President Taft said had damaged the United States to the extent of \$100,000, "to be collected by civil process only," I concluded to make an investigation of the bastille at Leavenworth, Kan. Geo. H. Shoaf, with whose work in bringing to light facts damaging to capitalism most of our readers are familiar, was detailed to look into affairs in connection with Warden McClaughry's model "reformatory."

For many years Robert W. McClaughry has written and lectured about federal prisons, and prisoners, and in all of his printed and spoken words he has held up the institution over which he presides as the model prison-house of the world. In the Leavenworth penitentiary, he avers, there is no graft, no ill treatment of prisoners, no favors shown, and no departure in practice from the principles of truth and justice and morality. Prisoners are received in the Leavenworth institution, he says, not to punish them or to inflict on them, but to reform and Christianize them. Under his management, he declares, genuine democracy in prison life obtains, and the plutocrat with a bank account is given recognition no greater than that bestowed upon the working man with not a dollar to his name.

This story is the natural outgrowth of the investigation of the federal judiciary. The inquiry into the crooked processes of the corrupt judges led inevitably to the penal institutions to which the victims of judicial displeasure were consigned.

The mass of material dug up in the investigation is appalling. I had thought since the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah and that the art of torturing human beings had perished with the Spanish Inquisition. In the federal prison at Leavenworth, however, if I accept as true the evidence gathered by Shoaf, and backed by the sworn testimony of credible witnesses, unnatural practices are indulged frequently, not only by prisoners, but by one of the most prominent officials of the prison, and men are thrown into solitary dungeons and beaten until death ends their agony.

According to the evidence, the institution is an enormous pork-barrel out of which rotten politicians are waxing fat at the people's expense. On an acre of land in the Leavenworth suburbs the penitentiary rests, like a white marble slab, beautiful and secure. Beneath that slab, however, according to the correspondent's investigations, corruption festers and death abounds. It is the mission of the APPEAL to lift the cover and let the people see what lies beneath.

For more than one year this investigation has been under way. No one not thoroughly familiar with work of this character, can realize the stupendous task we have undertaken. Behind these grim prison walls exists an oligarchy that finds its counterpart no place in all the world's history. The unfortunate victims of the wrath of the federal judge is turned over to men who have become debased and morally degenerate by reason of the unbridled power vested in their hands. The warden's word is law. In this particular instance the law is interpreted and administered by a man whose unbridled passions have reduced him to the level of the beast. This is a strong statement, but we shall at the proper time submit proof that cannot be disputed. Those of you who have followed the APPEAL's exposures in connection with the federal judiciary, know that this paper cannot afford to make statement's that it cannot prove. When I tell you that what has appeared before will read like Sunday school literature compared to what is to follow, you may gather some idea of what will be printed.

The APPEAL does not relish digging into this muck of filth and degeneracy, but we honestly believe it is a duty we owe to the victims of corrupt federal judges to tell this story in all its hideousness in order to shock the American people into demanding of congress the

**They Are Desperate**  
 In spite of an effort to create a war scare the enlistments are surprisingly low. The master class is advertising liberally, in places where the unemployment is great and still there is no response. The toilers do not like to hire themselves out as assassins for Wall Street.

But the masters have it in their power to make people enter the army. You may therefore expect the following clause of the Dick Military law to be enforced before long:

That the militia shall consist of every able-bodied male citizen of the respective states and territories and the District of Columbia, and every able bodied male of foreign birth who has declared his intention of becoming a citizen, who is more than eighteen and less than forty-five years of age.

What are you going to do about it? Why, if they force you into the army, you can agitate as never before, and, being armed, will have full command of the situation. Keep out of it if you can, but remember that civilization cannot be crushed by the killers and reactionaries, no matter what they do.

**School Children**  
 I am receiving hundreds of letters from boys and girls for information concerning subjects for debate or papers. These are always answered if possible. Nearly all these subjects pertain to the question of whether the collective ownership of railroads is desirable or not. "A General Freight and Passenger Post," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York City, fifty cents, gives the best data that I know of. If you will call attention of your high school students to this you will be doing them and the nation a real service. The student that reads it will knock the spots off any opponent to the common ownership of public utilities.

CALIFORNIA, following the largest vote ever cast by the Socialists, has through its recent legislature, passed many labor laws and submitted to the people provisions calling for the initiative, referendum and recall, even of the judiciary. When the people even threaten to arouse in their might, the masters take to the woods.

WOMAN is learning to use the ballot now. When she learns she will vote Socialist. Let the agitation for suffrage go on.

**AGITATION** is the beginning of emancipation. Education is the foundation of emancipation.

Keep your eye on the Socialists. "Every little movement has a meaning of its own."

It is only a little bit of what we are going to do later on.



The Wage Workers and the Law

One of the most important rights guaranteed the individual by our constitution, a right which is supposed to be imprescriptible, is the right of trial by jury. With respect to civil action the constitution guarantees this right in the following terms: In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law. Such trials as constitutional guarantees, however, have little weight with judges whenever they conceive it to be necessary to overturn such rights in the interests of proprietors. As was said by Justice Harlan in his opinion in the case of the Monongahela Bridge Co. vs. the United States, decided by the supreme court of the United States on February 21, 1910: The courts have rarely, if ever, felt themselves so restrained by technicalities that they could not find some remedy, consistent with the law, for acts, whether done by government or by individuals, which violated fundamental principles of justice, for the protection of the essential rights of property. The rules which are relied upon by judges in personal injury cases are developments from the so-called principles of the common law. They represent judicial applications of broad common law theories to particular cases; in short, they are purely arbitrary creation of law. Having announced these arbitrary rules, and having applied them without encountering effective protest from their victims, the judges eventually succeeded in securing their recognition as law to a much greater extent even than the actually written statutes enacted by legislators elected by the people. Statute law, for example, is subject to judicial construction; we never know what a law means until after the judges have had their say about it. And this judicial construction is always made in the light of common law principles, leading almost invariably to the absurd result that the statute defeats the very purpose it was designed to accomplish, or, at best, affords but scant relief from the evil it was directed against. Practically all statute laws are enacted to remedy evils which the common law has proved itself powerless to cope with. Statutes are designed to rectify common law wrongs. But having recognized the wrongs and legislated to correct them, we are then so absurdly impractical and illogical as to turn our statutes over to the judges to be construed so as to make them harmonize with the very principles they were designed to supplant! Thus have safety appliance laws, liability laws, factory acts, truck acts, and such like statutes enacted for the benefit of the workers, failed to accomplish their purpose. Through their application of these common law rules in abolishing practically all laws for the workers, questions of law are for the courts. Negligence, and particularly "contributory negligence," is actually always a question of fact. When a maimed worker is charged with having deliberately chosen the more laborious method of performing a dangerous duty, and is denied a right of recovery upon proof that he did so, it is his right to have all the facts and circumstances connected with the alleged negligence passed upon by a jury. The law cannot apply until the fact is established. This was formerly a well-recognized principle. But contributory negligence, like its companion, assumed risk, has common employment, has gradually been removed from the domain of fact to that of law by judicial usurpation, until now nothing is more common than for judges to direct verdicts against workers on this ground, or for the higher courts to reverse judgements in favor of workers because the judges

A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS.

If our agricultural colleges are maintained at public expense and the horticultural department is a part of the institution and is maintained in the same manner, would it not be simply a matter of "good business" (this is a very popular slogan with our capitalist friends, you know) for every state where an agricultural college is maintained to buy a tract of land large enough to grow all the trees, plants, vines and shrubs that could be used by the people of the commonwealth and that at just as near cost of production as possible. We think this would be "good business" and then place this "Professor of Horticulture" in direct charge of this "state nursery" with plenty of competent help to grow and furnish such stock to the actual tree planter. If you should get to worrying as to the what will become of the nurserymen under such a system allow us to enlighten you. If the writer or any other "nurserymen" is of any earthly account in the world he should be worth more to the state than any one else. He could obtain a situation with the "state nursery" (under civil service rules) where nothing could remove him except for cause and thus be sure of something to protect his head when it becomes as white as a snow ball; whereas, under the present system no one engaged in the business has an assurance that when such a time does come he would have as much as a tax title to a lot in a cemetery. Under the present system all is waste—waste in needless work and expense; whereas under the state nursery plan, Socialism; all would receive just what is coming to him. Don't you think so? Think it over. Under the "state nursery" plan this whole country could be made a paradise. It never will be made hardly fit for a gentleman to live in under the present regime. D. F. HARRINGTON, Nurseryman. Sioux Falls, S. D. "In Current Funds." Those who deposit money in the banks and receive certificates of deposit in exchange for their money should look closely at the reading of the certificates. Certificates of deposits are now frequently made payable to order or bearer, as the case may be, "in current funds." There are but few people who will not accept this evidence of indebtedness without question; but the words "in current funds," innocent as they appear, have a significant meaning that should not be overlooked. The phrase simply means that the banks have taken your good legal tender money and promised to pay in any kind of paper in general circulation at the time of payment. Quoting from Tiedeman, a legal writer and authority of high rank on commercial paper: "The claim is made that when paper is payable in currency, in current funds, etc., the parties meant the legal tender of the country. But this would seem to be a violent presumption and not at all supported by the history of the question; for, if no other currency but legal tender was intended, the express stipulation was unnecessary, and would serve no purpose." Commercial paper is payable in legal tender independent of any express provision. The majority of the court decisions hold that commercial paper made payable in "current funds" is not negotiable for the reason that such paper is payable in funds other than money or legal tender. In view of the fact that the country is flooded with emergency currency based on government bonds or other securities and Aldrich and his followers propose to "reform the currency" in the near future, it is good business policy on the part of the banks to make their certificates of deposit payable in "current funds." But how about the depositor? Is it not well for him to take heed and see that his certificates demand payment in money by leaving out the "in current funds" joker? The courts have already held as above stated. And the banks know that they can pay their depositors off in any old rag currency and be sustained by the courts if it becomes necessary, providing they have the three little words "in current funds" printed on their paper. L. MICHELL. Waubits, Iowa. Could Be Done. The question is often asked, what would you Socialists do in case you should get control of the government of the United States? No one knows just what the party would do. We can only judge by the party platform. The intention is merely to suggest a few things which the party could do. They could take possession of the railroads by right of eminent domain, ascertain their value by a commission, and issue non-interest-bearing bonds, payable four per cent each year for twenty-five years. The railroads would be run direct by the government. They could do the same with the express, telegraph, steamboat, telephone, street railroads, banking, coal mining, meat packing, sugar refining oil refining, rubber manufacturing, and every other business which tended to become a robbing monopoly. A certain small profit would have to be made on each of these industries to meet the yearly bond indebtedness of four per cent of the purchase price. In other words, each industry would have to pay for itself. They could purchase any tract of farming land, voluntarily offered for sale at a reasonable price, using for that purpose some of the money now spent on the army and navy. Such tracts of land could be subdivided into twenty-acre farms and suitable buildings erected on each farm. These farms could be leased to poor families at a nominal sum, say ten cents an acre yearly. These farm leases could be transferable and subject to renewal. The government banks under Socialism could guarantee all deposits and loan money without interest direct to poor families to purchase farming equipment and for other useful purposes. That would be a nice beginning for Socialism. It is only a part of what is possible. JOHN J. LASSON. Winlock, Wash. Didn't Need Drains. The incident I shall relate is said to be true. Perhaps it is and perhaps it isn't. I don't know; I tell it as I heard it. A working man—carrying a

card—was hit by a train. His head was badly cut and his brains fell out. A doctor was called and he sewed up the man's head but forgot to put his brains back. One of the men who was assisting the doctor noticed the oversight. "You forgot to put his brains back," he excitedly told the doctor. "It doesn't matter," replied the doctor, "I know him, he'll never miss 'em, he votes an old party ticket." E. N. RICHARDSON. THE POSTOFFICE AND "BUSINESS." Hon. William M. Sulzer, of Pennsylvania, in the House of Representatives. The cursus publicus of imperial Rome—the postoffice of the Roman Caesars—covered their entire business of transportation and transmission, and with its splendid fast-roads, swift post-horses, and ox post-wagons the Roman postoffice was a mechanism far wider in its scope than that of our modern postoffice; and except for the use of mechanical power, the old Roman post was far more efficient in its service of the Roman rulers than is our modern postoffice in the service of the American citizen. The evil of the Roman postoffice and of the royal postal services that succeeded it was their common restriction to the enrichment of the ruling powers. They were the prototypes of our modern private railway and express companies, which have for their chief end the enrichment of their managers rather than the promotion of the public welfare. Unhappily, the postoffice, whether at home or abroad, has been from the beginning little more than a taxing machine, a contrivance to make money, and do as little for the people as possible. In England it was at times farmed out to the speculator, and then it was charged with the support of a royal mistress or favorite. For its profits only was it regarded and not for its agency in the concerns of life. In other respects it was not unlike the government, which was simply a usurpation for the benefit of a few. All this is much changed now, for the people know that government is a mere agency for their good. Instead of a taxing machine, a contrivance for making money, the postoffice should be an agency for good, reaching out its ubiquitous hands with help and comfort into all the homes in our widespread land. Let me call attention to the following discriminations of our private express companies in favor of the foreign citizen against the American citizen. Under the English post-American express arrangement English postal parcels now come to the United States as follows: Three pounds for 60 cents, 7 pounds for 84 cents, 11 pounds for \$1.08, and the express company transports these parcels from New York City at a common rate for the whole country of 24 cents a parcel. Meantime the express company taxes domestic merchandise of the same weights from 25 cents to \$3.20, according to the distance traversed, while congress taxes the public for a similar domestic service on a 3-pound parcel 48 cents, 7-pound in two parcels \$1.12, 11 pounds in three parcels \$1.76. A Doctor's Experience. Tonight I was called on the phone to come at once to the edge of town to see an old lady, said to have the grip. I responded at once, as all true physicians do, not knowing anything about the people. I did not know whether I would get any pay or not. I examined the woman, made up medicines suitable for the case, took up my hat to go, but as the man there did not say anything to me about pay I said, "One dollar, please." "Here, doctor," came a slow, from him, "times and I cannot have been out of work and you cannot pay you now." I asked firmly, "Have you applied for that \$5 a day position?" "Why, no," says he, "I have not heard of it." I answered, "You have been living in this country all your life. I believe, and surely you must have heard of it. I do not believe you want a position of that kind or you would have applied for it." "Well, doctor," he said, "I have heard nothing of it." "Well," said I, "You have heard of Socialism?" He drawled "Yes." "Well," replied I, "a vote for Socialism is an application for work which will guarantee you \$5 a day, and until you make application by voting that ticket you are making your family out of the difference of \$5 a day and what you are earning now, and until you vote for Socialism, you have no right to ask help from others, and I bade him good night. GEO. B. KLINE, M. D. SOCIALIST PLATE SERVICE. THE APPEAL is arranging to furnish in plate form, ready for printing in newspapers, a page of six columns of Socialist matter. The cost in the plate will be \$1.25, plus 25c express. The plates are to be mounted on bases making them type high. Let me suggest that you take this up with your local newspaper at once. Many editors buy this plate matter as matter of economy and business. Where he uses the ordinary plate matter, perhaps you can get him to use this up-to-date Socialist material, written by the best writers in the movement, and prepared with the old party voter in mind. Where you cannot get him to buy this on his own responsibility, you can do no better propaganda work than to agree to pay for the six columns of matter yourself, or take up a collection among the local comrades. The page is furnished every six weeks—making a column every week for six weeks. This reduces the cost to 25c per week. It is worth that much to you to have a column of Socialist reading matter in your local paper. By this means millions of new readers will be reached in the course of a year. Take this up at once, and let the APPEAL hear from you. Write about this on a postal card and full particulars will be mailed you. Socializing the Lakes. From an Undated Exchange. Private lakes or ponds are now things of the past in Maine. The state supreme court has just decided that owners of such waters cannot close them to those citizens who seek fishing privileges. The verdict is of considerable importance to the many sporting clubs which have grown up on the shores of Maine's beautiful lakes. The case probably is not yet closed; the highest court in the land will be asked to review the evidence.

CHILD AND SOCIALIST STATE

Two billion dollars are invested in manufacturing enterprises in Pennsylvania. The number of workers engaged in these industries is approximated at one million people. Of this number of wage slaves, the chief factory inspector reported, in 1905, that over forty-eight thousand were children, which, compared with the thirty-two thousand, in 1903, means an increase of sixteen thousand in two years. Today, the official report will probably show that from eighty to ninety thousand children are enriching the barons of the Keystone state. These are official figures, and since it is permissible to add fifty more thousand of working children, whose bodies are ground into dollars and cents in countless sweatshops throughout the state, which manage to evade the surveillance of our rather lax factory department, the state of Old Penn may boast of an army of one hundred and thirty thousand child slaves, i. e., as many as New York, Illinois and Massachusetts, taken together. The writer is informed that children five years of age are employed rolling "Pittsburg Stogies," in the Smöky City. The silk mills of the Lackawanna valley are worked day and night—girls clad in knee dresses being allowed twenty minutes for supper in a night of twelve hours. Readers of Philadelphia capitalist sheets never think of the fact that their papers are being served them by little boys whose ages range from five to twelve years, who get up at two a. m., hustle about the streets eighteen to twenty hours in succession, "living," eating and even sleeping on the street; for after being upon their feet until eleven p. m., and on Saturdays, until midnight, these little sufferers retire to "res," huddled up under the back stairway of a rich man's hotel, in close proximity to the Central News Company's distributing office. Girls of ten and twelve have been found working in Philadelphia paper factories from seven a. m. until nine p. m., with half an hour for lunch and ten minutes for supper. Boys of ten and eleven are employed in the coal breaks of the hard coal region, and many of them are employed inside the mines in the soft coal regions. The laws of Pennsylvania prohibit the employment of children under the age of sixteen "longer than twelve hours in any one day," while in many states of the union laws have been passed making eight hours the maximum efficient work for grown men. Generally, children under the legal age are not permitted to work at night, but where "the material in process of manufacture requires night work, in order to prevent waste or destruction of said material, boys of fourteen may legally be employed at night." It is needless to say that by means of false affidavits as to the child's age this whole piece of legislation is virtually nullified. And of what use are these laws, anyway, when our system of exploitation drives the able-bodied fathers out of, and harnesses the helpless children into the perfected industrial machines, and the jobless, poverty-stricken parents have no other alternative but that of hiring out the little ones to a factory boss for a pittance. And yet the workers have an easy, feasible, cheap, convenient, and practical way of solving this horrible problem of child labor. All they have to do, is to register their overwhelming large vote in protest against private ownership of socially necessary property, and, in the twinkling of the eye, the plutes will begin to make concession after concession, for fear lest the awakened proletariat demand complete surrender of all wealth they have been robbed of from the first day men commenced to live off the toil of others. Brutal, immoral, degrading exploitation of helpless little children, and with them, the enslavement of men and women, will be eradicated only with the triumph of the Socialist state. Philadelphia. De Merican Caserees. My boy Jingo dat am gwine to de high school showed me a essay dat he wrote, in de literary society. Jingo am a studiny hard so's he can get an 'emulshun. Golly, I wish de high school had a college in it. Seems to me Uncle Sam ought to be good nut to give all his childun a real 'emulshun. Ef we can have a high school, don't see why we couldn't have a college in it. Think Uncle Sam might print de school books fo' us anyhow, so's we wouldn't have to do 'tious meat to 'a month when school begins. De bauff tells me dat de State o' 'Ho am printin' de new statutes dis year fo' four dollahs and fifty cents, and dat dey used to cos' eighteen dollahs. Golly, I don't see why de state couldn't make school books cheap like dat. De state am runnin' de schools; seems to me it'd run de printin' o' de school books. But I want to tell yo' bout dat essay; dis am what Jingo wrote: 'De Merican caserees am 'posed o' three parts; de lobby, de house o' representatives an' de sinaters. De lobby am de most influential an' capable body, an' makes all de new laws an' changes all de old ones. De lobby am 'pinted by de capitalists on account o' dere special fitness fo' de wurk 'spectet o' em. De lobby am 'subject' to de initiative, de referendum an' de recall. By de initiative we mean dat de capitalists tell de lobby befo' han' what new laws dey want passed, an' what ole ones dey want changed an' bow. By de referendum we mean dat de lobby mus show de laws to de capitalists dat 'pint em, befo' de laws am submitted to de representatives an' de sinaters, an' ef dey don't sut de capitalists, why dey make suggestions dat am follered by de lobby. By de recall we mean, dat when de lobby don't do jest what de capitalists 'pint em to do, why dey lose dere job an' another lobby am 'pinted. "By dis means de capitalists keep complete control o' de lobby an' get de laws passed dat dey want. De representatives an' de sinaters don't propose any laws; dey simply vote

on de laws dat am proposed by de lobby; 'cause de lobby am furnished wid plenty o' collateral an' know how to divert it 'round.' Ef dere am plenty o' votin' on de laws proposed by de lobby, dere am plenty o' collateral, an' ef dere am no votin' dere am no collateral.' 'Well, aif I read dat essay o' Jingo's, I see to myself, Golly, ef de wurking men could jes git rid o' dat lobby tan Jingo tells me dat his school teacher ses dat in an uncouth way, de sinaters jes like de capitalists an' de lobby, den de wurkin' men could sho' get jes de kind o' laws dat dey want. Ashland, Ohio. R. H. GWINNER. The Vanderbilt Fortune. From Gustavus Meyer's History of Great American Fortunes. The astonished reader who has been trained by capitalist teachings to look up reverently to the masters of the wealth of the country will no doubt be shocked by these terrible details, dug up from indisputable public records. "But," he may say, "that is only one instance. You cannot say that the Vanderbilt fortune is the product of fraud. Commodore Vanderbilt was a great patriotic constructive genius who did much to build up the country, and his descendants are able, public-spirited and philanthropic. Their fortune surely came from legitimate sources." Did it? Hundreds of rhetorical writers have said that same thing, adroitly disseminating a myth which large numbers of people believe; but obviously neither sweeping statement nor rhetoric is fact. Government, legislative and court records are doubtless dry enough documents, yet they are at least authentic facts. It is disagreeable, no doubt, to spoil a pleasant fiction, but facts are facts. Without question, Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, the founder of the great Vanderbilt fortune, was an exceedingly able man—in his way. Beginning with nothing, he left a fortune of \$105,000,000. How did he get it? His first millions, the records show, he obtained by blackmail. Unquestionably, he was the biggest and most daring commercial blackmailer of his day, and possibly of any time. Very simple were his methods. Originally he ran steamships. When gold was discovered in California in 1847 there were no overland railroad lines. Two steamship lines, the United States Mail Steamship company and the Pacific Mail Steamship company, bribed congress to award them a total mail subsidy amounting for years to \$900,000 a year. Vanderbilt succeeded in compelling the owners of those lines to hand over to him at first \$480,000 a year of that \$900,000, and later \$612,000 a year. This was an astounding transaction; how did he manage it? He blackmailed the two lines by the effective expedient of running a competitive line, compelling them to reduce their passenger and freight rates to a lower point, and threatening their mail-subsidy operations with exposure. He compelled them to come to terms. After they had yielded to his blackmailing demands, he withdrew his ships, and the two subsidized lines which had bought him off raised their rates to nearly four times what they were before. For years, Vanderbilt received this \$612,000 a year in blackmail; he leisurely sat back in his chair and had to do nothing more than receive the blackmail millions and bank or invest them. Not until 1858 was Vanderbilt's blackmailing transaction exposed in congress; in both houses honest men denounced him as an arch-runder and made public the details of his huge blackmailing operations. Two years later, in 1860, congress appointed an investigating committee to probe into the matter. One official after another of the blackmailed steamship lines was summoned to testify. And one after another testified that Vanderbilt had blackmailed them of immense sums; and the word blackmail occurs over and over again in their testimony. A glorious patriot, Commodore Vanderbilt was. When the civil war broke out, the government needed vessels for transport service badly. Despite his record, Vanderbilt contrived to be appointed the government agent to buy or lease vessels. Presently there was a great scandal. Vessels that Vanderbilt had bought or leased for the government were found to be so worthless or rotten that the lives of the soldiers were imperiled. Congress appointed an investigating committee. The testimony disclosed many horrors. It showed that Vanderbilt, through a go-between, one T. J. Southard, bought an old vessel offered, provided the owner paid Southard a certain sum. The full specific facts, all cited from the public records, as to these transactions and others are related at length in "The History of the Great American Fortunes." There, in many chapters, the further story is told how Commodore Vanderbilt and his son, William H. Vanderbilt, with the plunder thus amassed, went into the railroad business; how they bribed legislators and common councils, either for public franchises, special laws and other extraordinary privileges as to prevent the passage of laws interfering with their loot. All of this is described, as well as the methods of the descendants in committing those activities down to the very present. Now that they have their hundreds of millions of dollars intact, the Vanderbilts are, of course, supremely respectable. And they enjoy high caste; they are allied with European titled nobility. One of the Vanderbilt girls became the Duchess of Marlborough—a fitting alliance, by which the great granddaughter of a monumental blackmailer shared the title of a man descended from Jack Churchill, who obtained his title by methods which propriety forbids mentioning here. Another Vanderbilt bud has become a Hungarian countess. It was easy to purchase these titles with a few of the hundreds of millions plundered from the American people. The prisoners, as we all know, are always full of petty criminals. But the Vanderbilts are of the cream of American aristocracy; they have magnificent places; and what is more to the point, own a considerable part of the railroad systems of the United States.

STORIES OF THE ROAD.

At Garden City, Kansas, in November, 1909, one of the brightest and sturdiest little comrades I ever knew, Paul Oakford, age five years, resided in his introductory speech consuming about six minutes. He said among other things in closing: "But it is not for me upon this occasion to analyze the Socialist philosophy. You gathered in this great hall tonight to hear one who is recognized as the greatest American authority upon this most paramount of all subjects that agitates a civilized world today. I swell with pride and smile with pleasure to be privileged to introduce Eugene V. Debs, the other great orator, who will now address you." A Bad Example. From Kansas City Star. Already the Panama railroad has yielded a net profit of one and one-half million dollars. That's the trouble with government ownership—it set the other railroads a bad example.

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