

Great Falls Labor Unions

Selby Upholds Rights of Working Men to Organize and Thus Benefit Their Condition

"Opportunity knocks once at the door of every man, it is said, and every community. Opportunity knocked at the door of Great Falls last year when the business men of the city were ordered to take out their telephones because of labor trouble. How did you answer that knock? Did you stand up like men and assert your rights? No, you meekly bowed your heads like servile slaves and said 'Yes, me lord,' and the telephones came out. 'You have only yourselves to blame for it all. You have only yourselves to blame that a \$30,000 telephone building is stopped in the building, and an up-to-date exchange is not working in Great Falls. It is you that are to blame with your meekly bowed head, and your humble 'Yes, me lord' to any and all demands made upon you by the laboring men of the city."

"And yet, the laboring men, the unions talk of the 'privileged class.' What is the privileged class in this community? Is it the business men and merchants—the men who have had the brains and ability to build up the large industries and enterprises? No, you know it is not. You are the men who bend your backs and take orders, with your suppliant 'Yes, me lord.' It was the 'privileged' class that stopped the construction of the telephone building and has been doing everything possible to hold Great Falls back for a decade. Why, those people ought to be protected from themselves. They are hurting themselves, as well as the city."

The above quotation is taken from a press report of a speech delivered by G. C. Bowers at a business men's club in Great Falls last week. It is clearly a direct insult to organized labor. No intelligent union man can regard it in any other light. Any one who has studied the middle class will regard these utterances of Mr. Bower as typical of the narrow minded bigotry of that class. The entire absence of any great ideal is its chief characteristic, enwrapped in a robe of sordid egotism, it fails to see anything noble in the movement of the workers through their organizations to maintain for themselves, their wives and babies a somewhat decent standard of living. It utterly fails to see how necessary labor organizations are to the very existence of the working man, that they are his only defense, without them his condition would be deplorable.

By thus securing himself somewhat against the ravages of competition, he maintains in a degree his indepen-

dence which is the basis of manhood. Labor unions have an incalculable value to the American workers. The very resistance they engender prevents the workers from sinking into a state of servility accepting every act of despotism without a protest. But all this the business man fails to see, the whole problem of his life is the profits of his business, and when the labor union interferes in any way with this, he at once sets up a yell about the "tyranny of the unions."

There was an example of this last summer in Great Falls when the unions of that city requested the business men to take out their phones owing to the trouble with the Bell Telephone company. Some of them complied with the request. Mr. Bower refers to this instance and accuses the business men of servility. He told them that they should have asserted their rights in this case and not obeyed the mandate of the union with bended knees. From this gentleman's standpoint it was of no consequence that the union cause was a righteous one. The struggle of the telephone girls and the linemen against a grasping corporation to obtain a decent standard of comfort should have been of no concern to the business men. It was extremely servile of him to inconvenience himself in the least on their behalf. But after all Mr. Bower's idea of the rights of the business men in this case may be incorrect. The Bell company did not give good service. Great Falls business men have admitted this. It would have better served their purpose to have encouraged an independent company to extend its lines to the city, and thus check the Bell's policy of monopolization. That its charges are exorbitant, all agree, and to extend its territory to the exclusion of other companies is only to give it greater powers of exploitation. If Mr. Bower and the others of his class would consider their condition carefully they would discover that they do not preserve their interest by supporting the telephone trust or any other trust, but rather by supporting the cause of the workers. We continually hear the howl of the small business man against the tyranny of the corporations. They realize that chances of the man with small capital to successfully compete against them is rapidly decreasing. Yet they make no organized efforts to resist them, if they organize at all, it is in

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Socialists For Unity

Uniting of Socialist Party of America and Socialist Labor Party Is Persistently Urged

Resolutions of California Local For Consolidation Good After Be- ing Properly Amended

The question of a union between the Socialist Party of America and the Socialist Labor Party is being persistently urged, and the subject is one that demands full consideration and discussion. There are two obstacles to a clear understanding of it in the ranks of the Socialist Party. One is that about nine-tenths of our members have joined since the days when the Socialist Labor Party was the most important socialist organization in this country. The other is that most of the old members are still unconsciously influenced by the bitter feelings growing out of the fight in 1899 for the control of the party organization. My excuse for urging my opinion at this time is that at the time of the fight I was a new convert and an observer, not a combatant at either side, while I am fairly well informed as to the facts which are pertinent to the decision we have to make at this time.

The nature of the decision is well shown by the following resolutions lately adopted by Local Redlands, California, of the Socialist Party of America. I print them in full for the reason that they illustrate better than anything I could say the artless eagerness of our new members who are unfamiliar with the history of the Socialist Labor Party.

Preamble.

We, the Redlands Local, believing that too much stress cannot be put upon the necessity of unity in the Socialist movement, are desirous of bringing about a union of the two socialist political parties, believing as we do, that the reason for their separation are neither permanent or necessary, and that both having been stripped of their errors, remain essential as one in their endeavors.

We also believe that the Haywood incident has taught the working men of America, better than theory can teach, the necessity for the solidarity of the working class, and has forcibly shown its effectiveness. And we further believe that in the face of this event the workers have realized that the end for which they are striving, to wit, industrial emancipation, holds them closer together, than their difference in tactics can hold them apart.

We also believe that the great question before the working class today is the relation of the Industrial Organization to Political Action, Socialism being realized in the social ownership of industries, which at once results in the destruction of the wage system, the workers must be organized on the plan of industrial unionism. It is self-evident that capitalist craft-unionism can offer at best only temporary benefits and never can emancipate the wage-slaves, but that the proletarian must organize on the industrial plan so as to control and direct industrial affairs, when the political party shall be successful on the political field and thus assure to the worker the full product of his toil.

Resolved.

Therefore be it resolved, in view of the above preamble, we, Local Redlands, initiate a National referendum calling for the union of the two Socialist parties of America;—unity to be based on the recognition of industrial unionism as the economic basis of the socialist political movement.

And be it further Resolved, that the official press and means of publication shall be owned and managed by the Socialist Party and that no literature be considered official unless sanctioned by the National Executive Committee.

And be it further Resolved, that no officer of any union shall be elig-

ible as an officer or candidate of the Socialist Party.

And be it further Resolved, that if this referendum be carried and a convention called for the purpose of completing this consolidation, the delegation shall consist of wage workers holding no official position in either party.

H. M. McCOY,
Chairman Committee.
M. SHELLY,
Secretary.

No special comment is necessary on the first two paragraphs. Throughout four fifths of the states, socialist unity has already been reached by the virtual disappearance of the Socialist Labor Party. It is perfectly true, however, that there are still a few hundred tireless, energetic workers who cling to the S. L. P., and that their efforts are now largely wasted in fighting the Socialist Party instead of fighting capitalism. So that if union could be brought about without committing the Socialist Party to unwise tactics, it would be a substantial gain, well worth some trouble.

In the third paragraph, the resolutions call attention to an important fact. It is indeed true that the great question before the working class today is the relation of industrial organization to political action. But directly after stating this fact, the resolutions plunge into a tangle of Utopian speculations that are perfectly futile, and flounder there in a fashion which would make us think that the comrades who prepared them had never heard of Marx's law of economic determinism.

It seems a very simple thing out in California, thousands of miles from the storms centers of the economic fight between capitalists and laborers, to argue theoretically that industrial unions are necessary to help run things when the Socialist Party, years hence, is in control of the government. But to offer such an argument seriously shows a weak grasp of the motives that really make people do things.

Here in Chicago most of the members of the Socialist Party are members of every-day, commonplace trade unions, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. This is not because Chicago Socialists are less revolutionary than the socialists in Redlands, California. The Chicago Socialist, most of them joined these trade unions long ago, and for the very good and very prosaic reason that they wanted better wages and depended on the unions to help get them, or perhaps found that they could not get jobs without carrying union cards. They remain in side these unions today for the most part because there are no industrial unions here in the trades in which they work. If they were to withdraw from the existing unions to join the budding organization of the Industrial Workers of the World, they would stand a very good chance of losing their jobs. Moreover they would seem to their shopmates to be acting like scabs, and they are more sensitive to the opinion of their shopmates, whom they have seen than to the opinion of their comrades of Redlands, California, whom they have not seen.

And there is another reason why they should stay inside the existing unions. If they were to withdraw, would enrage the other members of the union both against the Socialist Party and against the idea of industrial unionism.

There is a far stronger argument for the adoption of the Industrial Union principle than that offered by Local Redlands. The old-time craft unions were the logical form of organization when industry was for the most part carried on by small capital-

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The Strike Still On

Dividend of Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company Declared But Not Forthcoming

A conference between the officials of the Montana Federation of Labor and the Bell Telephone company was held in Butte last Saturday for the purpose of settling the telephone strike, but no agreement was reached.

The Telephone company conceded everything, except the closed shop for the operators, and the union would not stand for the open shop in Butte or elsewhere.

The agents of the scab phone company are busy circulating the report that the strike is settled. They are doing this for the purpose of getting people to apply for work, then refuse to hire anyone who applies.

There are few scabs linemen working in Butte, but the only work they are doing is to remove phones. Over one thousand phones have been taken out of business houses in Butte during the past forty days. The cellar in the basement of the telephone building is full of returned phones and still being added to at the rate of a wagon load a day.

There are only three hundred and fifty phones belonging to the Bell company in commission in Butte, whereas there were twenty six hundred when the boycott commenced, and this in the face of government by injunction. The unions of Butte are working the silent boycott to the finish.

There is considerable talk that the scab phone company will go into receivers hands, the company declared a dividend, but the stockholders have never received it yet. From reliable sources comes hints of graft in high places among the officials of the company. It seems that the company's money is spent on protracted drinks and charged up to maintenance of company property. Then to make good the deficit, the officials raise the price toll rates.

What a deal the citizens' alliance have given the people of Helena by supporting the scab phone company.

Letter of State Secretary Richard Krueger of Washington.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 31, 1908.

Dear Comrade:—I desire to submit the following court decision and facts leading up to the same, and in as much as the same is of vital importance to the socialist party organization and sets up a precedent for the future, I will ask you kindly to publish the same in the Weekly Bulletin.

One Dr. Steiner, a resident of Seat-

tle, had filed papers with the proper city authorities of Seattle as candidate on the socialist ticket as an alderman of the 13th ward of the city, paid his fees of ten dollars and was about to go before the people as such candidate at the approaching primary election. The regular party organization applied for an injunction on the ground that said Dr. Steiner was not a regular party member, because he was one of those former members of the party, who suffered expulsion by the revocation of the charter from Local Seattle. Although he presented to the court a membership book stamped up to date and in every other respect was qualified to be a candidate and waged a bitter contest against granting of injunction. Judge Morris of the superior court declared after the case had been fully presented in all its phases by the introduction of the National constitution as well as state constitution and the party records, that said Dr. Steiner is not a member of the regular party organization and therefore not entitled to have his name appear as a candidate of the socialist party. In granting the injunction asked for, the judge pointed out that in a case of this kind the only remedy is to make new application for membership, the same as others have done, who were expelled from the party when the charter had been revoked.

The National Committee is now voting on Motion No. 6, which provides for the permanent employment of one woman speaker and organizer; Motion No. 7, to defer further action on the Nebraska situation until the National convention; vote will close Feb. 18.

The National Committee is now voting on Motion No. 8, providing for uniform subscription lists to be used by all divisions of the party to raise funds for the presidential campaign; Motion No. 9, to appoint the National Executive committee, a committee on conference with the S. L. P. in accord with the proposition for unity recently submitted by that organization; Motion No. 10, that the National Committee elect seven of its own members for said conference committee; Motion No. 11, that individuals and sections of the S. L. P. be invited to join the Socialist Party, making application to the respective locals of the latter; Motion No. 12, to instruct any conference committee to reject all propositions involving any questions of policy and tactics the settlement of the same to be left to the United Party; vote will close Feb. 25.

SOCIALIST WILL AID UNEMPLOYED

The following resolution was introduced in the city council of Butte by Alderman Ambrose Feb. 5 and has been referred to the judiciary committee:

"Whereas, There exists in the city of Butte at the present time a large number of unemployed of all crafts and trades and apparently no immediate prospect of improvement, and

Whereas, The city council of the city of Butte is desirous of giving employment to as many as possible, therefore,

Be it resolved, that immediate steps be taken toward the preliminary work of the installation of the storm sewer in the second gulch in the western portion of the city with a view to giving employment as much as possible before the actual installation of the said storm sewer."

This is the first move made in Montana to aid the unemployed. The old party office holders are all afraid to do anything for fear it increases the taxes.

Turkey and Revolution.

Revolution amongst subject peoples is infectious. Stimulated by the success of the reformers of Persia, the leaders of the various races subject to the rule of the Grand Turk have decided to unite their forces and work together for the casting off of the Sultan's yoke. In the closing days of last month a congress of "the parties of Opposition of the Ottoman Em-

pire" was held—a congress representing the advance guards of the Turks, Armenians, Arabs, and Jews. The congress agreed to abandon their sectional policies, to work together for the political liberty of the whole empire, and a permanent executive was formed and a common plan of action was decided upon. The chief demands of the congress are the abdication of Abdul Hamid, the present Sultan, and the establishment of a new Constitution. The following are the measures the congress recommends:

1. Armed resistance to authority.
2. Unarmed resistance, by means of the political and economic strike.
3. Refusal to pay taxation.
4. Propaganda in the army (the soldiers will be urged not to march against the people nor against the revolutionaries.)
5. General insurrection.
6. Other methods of action rendered necessary by circumstances.

National Organizer John M. Work reports splendid meetings at Bingham Canyon and Park City, Utah, and Evanston, Wyo. Wm. Thurston Brown has agreed to fill a number of engagements in Utah under the direction of the state committee.

The International Paper Co. has purchased a tract of 550 square miles of New Brunswick forest, in the Dominion of Canada. The land contains 350,000 acres of heavily-wooded spruce-

FRANCHISE GRABBERS DEFEATED

The people of Livingston at a special election have again shown that the work of the socialists at that point was effective.

The Madison River Power company recently applied to the Livingston city council for a forty-years' electric franchise and sent five lawyers to the city council to work for the passage of the ordinance.

The only alderman to fight against the franchise grab was Charles Simpson, socialist, and a rattling good fight he made single handed against the old party aldermen who always favor franchise grabbers. The franchise had to be submitted to a vote of the people at a special election.

The result of the poll showed that only sixty people were in favor of granting the franchise and all the balance of voters by their ballot showed that they endorsed the action of Simpson, the socialist alderman, and opposed to the action of the old party councilmen.

Alderman Simpson, during his entire term of office, has always stood by the interest of the workers. His term of office expires next April and it is safe to say that he will be re-elected by the biggest majority ever given an alderman in Livingston.

The Purpose of Socialism.

Socialism is a theory of a system of human society based on the common ownership of the means of production and the carrying on of the work of production by all for the benefit of all. In other words, socialism means

that the railways, the shipping, the mines, the factories, and all such things as are necessary for the production of the necessities and comforts of life should be public property, just as the public roads, public parks and public libraries are, public property today, so that all these things should be used by the whole people to produce the goods that the whole of the people require.

This is no utopian dream, but the natural outcome of the development of society. The greatest undertakings are those owned by joint stock companies, whereby the whole business is managed and carried on by paid officers, who might just as well be paid by the community to carry on the enterprise in the interest of the general body of the people as to be paid by a few wealthy men to carry it on for their profit.

To-day goods are not produced to satisfy human needs; they are simply produced to provide for the class which owns the means of production. It is only for the sake of profit that the owning class own these means of production, as a consequence we have shoddy and adulterated goods produced.

Under socialism goods would be produced for human need, not for profit, therefore there would be no shoddy or adulterated goods. To-day the workers get less than 17 per cent of the wealth they produce under, socialism they would get the full value of what they produced.

H. P. NEVILLS.

THE MONTANA NEWS.
 Owned and Published by the Socialist Party of Montana.
 ISSUED WEEKLY.
 OFFICE 15 PARK AVE. P. O. BOX 908
 Entered at the Post Office for transmission through the mail at second class rates.
 Address all communications and make all money payable to the Montana News.
 Business Manager, James D. Graham, State Secretary.
IDA CROUCH-BASSETT
 Editor
J. F. MABIE
 Associate Editor
SUBSCRIPTIONS:
 One Year..... 50c
 Six Months..... 25c
 One cent per copy in hand up to 500
 National Headquarters, Mahlon Barnes, Secretary, Room 306-308, Boylston Bldg., Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
 State Headquarters, Jas. D. Graham, Secretary, 15 Park Avenue, Helena, Mont.

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The Full Dinner Pail Versus the Empty Stomach.

When the republican party in the campaign of 1900 adopted the slogan of the "Full Dinner Pail" many socialists said it was an insult to the working class—and it was. Yet many of these same socialists are today appealing to the working class on the same grounds. Even many of our socialist papers have been gloating over the present hard times as if it was a blessing to the socialist movement. The republican says, "Keep the workers' stomach full and he will not think; the philosophy of misery" socialist says, "he will not think so long as his stomach is full." Both assume that a full stomach is the ideal of the working man and that hunger is the only thing that will spur him to action. Then when they get their stomachs empty they organize unemployed parades and thousands of jobless men march in line begging the employing class to give back the full dinner pail, thankful for an intermittent job at shovelling snow, breaking stones or any other disagreeable work.

We do not believe that a strong socialist movement can be built by a hungry mob clamoring for a soup-house. If the socialist movement can have no higher ideal than a full stomach or a full dinner pail then it can be easily side-tracked by a benevolent feudalism. The intelligence that can see victory for the working class only through starvation is not the intelligence that will lead the working class to victory.

The Menace of the Closed Shop.

"There is nothing—nothing but wrong, injustice, oppression and the most infamous of monopolistic methods—in the monstrous attempt of 'organized labor' to control the industries of the country and deprive other laborers, not organized, from exercising their inalienable fundamental, natural right, sanctioned by the constitution and the law, to work, unfettered, where, when and how they may choose, and at what wages they may be able to agree upon with their unfettered employers; the single test being that the work must be lawful and lawfully carried on. We hold to the doctrine that every citizen has the lawful right to pursue, unhampered and undisturbed any lawful occupation of his choice in a lawful way and to be protected in that right by the whole power of the state and of the nation, if need be. It is only thus that industrial liberty can be preserved, perpetuated and maintained in this land of boasted freedom."—Harrison Gray Otis.

The above is placed in a conspicuous frame on the front cover of "The Square Deal" for January. "The Square Deal" is supposed to be "A Magazine Devoted to Industrial Peace. Now, let us turn around and look at the other side of the picture.

There is nothing—nothing but wrong, injustice, oppression and the most infamous of monopolistic methods—in the monstrous attempt of 'organized capital' to control the industries of the country and deprive other capitalists, not organized, from exercising their inalienable, fundamental, natural right, sanctioned by the constitution and the law, to do business, where, when and how they choose, and at what terms they may be able to agree upon with their unfettered customers; the single test being that the business must be lawful and lawfully carried on.

Representative Fowler of New York has introduced a bill which provides for a guaranty fund of \$700,000,000 in the United States treasury to protect the depositors in National banks. He

says: "Unless the relief I advocate is afforded, sooner or later we shall have a postal savings bank in this country, and then the government will have to become a large buyer of bonds to invest the accumulations of the people."

Now wouldn't that be just awful! Too bad if we should lose the proud distinction of being the only civilized county in the world without postal savings banks.

And then it is so much safer to trust the bankers to invest the accumulations of the people.

Group V of the New York State Bankers' Association held their annual meeting and banquet at the Ten Eyck hotel in Albany a few days ago. The guest of honor was Chancellor Day of Syracuse university, who predicted all sorts of dire calamities if the "business men" are interfered with in their ravishment of labor and predatory raids on the wealth that the working class creates. He "denounced those would create class hatred and prejudice and cause distrust and suspicion of business men, whose genius and money turn the wheels which give employment to millions of laboring men and women."

Now that sounds good to the business man. Mr. Day was talking to business men and it was only natural that he should flatter them a little by praising their methods of acquiring wealth and denouncing the methods of those who oppose them—and expose them.

Mr. Day is a retainer of the business men, why shouldn't he boost them? If we could overhear some beneficiary addressing a band of cracksmen we would no doubt hear him denounce the police who interfere with the men whose genius gives employment to thousands of lock and safe makers. Mr. Day would stop all criticism of our business men and business methods and "serve vigorous notices on the men who are defaming our business men and discrediting our trade", etc, and would have the whole people rise up "and insist that no man shall have their votes or their following who defames his country."

That is a good plain notice to those who would seek office on the old party tickets to keep their mouths shut regarding conditions in their (masters) country. He notices "the widening of the chasm between our thrifty men and the restless anarchistic socialists." (That's an awful mix up of words to come from the head of an educational institution.) But the chasm is there between the possessors and the dispossessed. We did not make it, we simply point it out and we are glad to have forced Mr. Day to take notice of it. We don't want "rich and poor to live and work together in harmony" under present conditions. We don't want "peace between master and slave." We don't want to see any man submissive and docile while another man is on his back. We don't want the people who must use the earth to make peace with the owners of the earth on any other terms except equal ownership, and our mission is to teach the dispossessed how to attain that ownership without any of the violence and bloodshed with which Mr. Day threatens us.

Political victory through the Socialist Party is the only peaceful solution of social problems.

Great Falls Labor Unions (Continued from Page 1.)

most cases against the unions and not against the trusts. They see in actual experience the pernicious effect of the trusts upon their class, yet they possess no sense of solidarity, no courage to rush to the assistance of their class members driven to the walls annually by the great industrial combinations. But the labor unionists will and do resist them with a great amount of sacrifice on their part. Morally the workers are far above the small business class, they are in reality slaves, not to the workers but to the trusts. With regard to the Bell Telephone company the working people of Great Falls think it far more important that the have decent conditions of life than that the interests of that grasping corporation should be preserved or that the city should have a new telephone exchange.

The effort put forth by the unions in this case is humanitarian, and its precedence over an effort to support a corporation or to extend a city is unquestionably. Serious minded working people, especially the socialist workers, do not measure prosperity by telephone exchanges and the number of industries, but by the physical, moral and intellectual well being of the whole people. Multiplication of industries have no value if they do not promote human well being.

Such a debased notions of what constitutes progress so characteristic of the business man's view of things is revolting to the intelligence of a thinking person. Socialists understand that the continually developing industries of this country cannot result in any real benefit to the American people until they are the property of the nation. The end of all our industrial activity must be the well being of the entire nation To reach this indus-

trial state, all socialists are systematically working.

Mr. Bowers attributes the growth of the city and its enterprises to the brains and ability of the business men and merchants. In Mr. Bower's opinion the working class are a positive hindrance to the city's progress. We would advice the workers to leave Great Falls for a while. The giant brains and ability of the business class can surely run the city if the gentleman is correct in estimating them.

But we are afraid if they did take this step the supreme self-conceit of Mr. Bower and his kind would be rudely shaken.

We assume that the average business man's ideal of a working man is one that never drinks and smokes, who goes to church every Sunday, if that is possible, who above all never strikes and who is respectful to his employer to a state of servility, but he will never see this ideal realized in the working class. They will continue to resist an injustice when thrust upon them regardless of whether they in so doing interfere with the snug prosperity of the business world

As to the working classes' ability to construct and manage. We have a fine example of that in this country at present. The thousands of unemployed throughout the country, the two to three millions child slaves, the evil of overcrowding in all the great cities, deaths through starvation, and the other innumerable miseries which afflict the working classes does not by any means speak well of it. We would be much nearer the truth if we designated it as the ability to destroy and mismanage. Everything of any real value in the natural life is being destroyed through the pernicious influence of capitalist rule. Capitalism is clearly a failure.

The workers are getting tired of seeing the results of their toil being swallowed up for the most part by a idle and luxurious class. There is a growing intelligence among them which demands that the tenure of the mismanaging capitalist shall end once and for all, and that the people shall come into possession of their own.

The Trial of Plunkett the Anaconda Lineman

In order to give the working people the real facts pertaining to the injunction trials in this state and show the biased decision of the court against organized labor, we print a verbatim report of the trial of the Butte Union men:

The Court: Has service been had on all three of the defendants, Lenihan, Plunkett and Oleson?

By Mr. Mackel: Yes, your honor. They are all here. We enter for each of the defendants a plea of not guilty.

The Court: You may proceed then. Call your first witness.

By Mr. McIntire: To preserve the record, we now offer in evidence the order of injunction in this case made by the United State circuit court of this district in the matter of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company vs. Alexander Fairgrieve, et al., the injunction issued by the clerk of this court, under the seal of the Court, in pursuance of that order, and the marshal's return of the service of this injunction on the accused person Lenihan.

By Mr. Mackel: For the purpose of preserving the record, I at this time enter an objection to the introduction of any evidence, on the ground, first, that the affidavit upon which this order of contempt or order to show cause was issued is not sufficient in this, that it is not stated in that affidavit that the defendants had notice of this injunction, and, second, we enter an objection to the introduction of any evidence on the ground that the facts stated in the affidavit are not sufficient to show that these parties were guilty of contempt. Third, we enter an objection for this reason as to Plunkett—that he was not and is not a party to the action of Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company vs. Fairgrieve, et al., that he never knew of this injunction, and that there is no showing in the affidavit that he was guilty of any contempt of any kind.

I do not care to argue the matter this time. I take it that your Honor will take the whole case into consideration, and rule on the objections at the end of the case.

The Court: Let those objections be overruled for the time being, subject to the development of the case. Call your first witness.

Sam Parrish, called and sworn as a witness on behalf of the complainant herein, testified as follows:

Direct Examination by Mr. McIntire.
 Q. Mr. Parrish, what is your full name?
 A. Sam Parrish.
 Q. Where do you reside?
 A. My home is near Spencer, Indiana.
 Q. Where do you reside at present?
 A. In Anaconda.

Q. How long have you resided in Anaconda?
 A. Since the eighth of October.

Q. Since the eighth of October of this year?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your occupation, Mr. Parrish?
 A. I am an employee of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company.

Q. In what capacity?
 A. As sub-foreman.

Q. How long have you been in the employ of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company?
 A. Since about the 12th of September.

Q. Of what year?
 A. 1907.

Q. At what place did you first work for that company?
 A. At Salt Lake City, Utah.

Q. When did you first go to Anaconda?
 A. We got to Anaconda on the 8th.

Q. Of what month?
 A. Of October.

Q. You were then in the employ of the company, were you?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. And have been in its employ ever since then.
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. In whose employ are you now?
 A. The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company.

Q. Calling your attention, Mr. Parrish, to the date, the 30th of November, or of October, I mean, 1907, I will ask you whether or not you were working for the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company on that date?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you working alone on that date, or were you working with other persons?
 A. With other persons.

Q. In what place, if any, were you working on that date?
 A. In the alley between Main and Oak streets, and between Commercial and Park streets.

Q. In what city?
 A. In Anaconda, Montana.

Q. With reference to the streets, in what part of the alley were you?
 A. We were about 100 feet south of Commercial street.

Q. Was the alley an ordinary thoroughfare, or was it a common city alley?
 A. I would call it a common alley.

Q. Who was working with you then?
 A. Mr. Iles, Mr. Needy, Mr. Boyle, Mr. Farrell and Mr. Wells and myself.

Q. That makes six of you, does it not?
 A. Seven.

Q. What business were you engaged in, Mr. Parrish?
 A. We were installing telephones that day.

Q. For the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were all of your co-workers there on that day employees of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did anything particular happen to you and the other men who were there with you on that day?
 A. About 9:30, or about half past nine o'clock, we were standing there by the wagon, and Mr. Lenihan and Mr. Plunkett came out of the back end of a building there; I think it was Daly's saloon, but I would not be positive about that.

Q. Look over there at those two men. (Counsel indicates two men sitting in the court room.) Are those the two men to whom you refer,—Mr. Lenihan and Mr. Plunkett?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Well, go on with your story.
 A. They came up to the wagon where we were standing; Mr. Lenihan passed on about ten feet beyond us, and Mr. Plunkett stopped at the wagon and commenced calling us G— d— scabs and s— of—, and other language that I would not care to repeat unless you want me to give it.

By Mr. McIntire: The language that was used by the accused in this case upon that occasion, according to the testimony of the witnesses that we will call, I would not like to defoul my mouth with by calling attention to it; unless Your Honor wants to know just what was said and done, I would like to pass it over, but the language that is alleged to have been used is most filthy and obscene in its character.

The Court: I don't care to hear it, of course, but I think in an investigation of this kind that it should be before the court. That is the only reason I think it should be given.

By Mr. Mackel: As far as we are concerned, I will say, if Your Honor please, that our defense will be that the men merely defended themselves.

The Court: I merely wanted the witness to tell me what the language was, so that I might know its nature, as tending to show aggravation. Hereafter, in the examination of other witnesses, you need not particularize as to the language used, merely referring to it as that language.

Mr. Parrish, this was Plunkett?
 A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who used this language that you have just testified to?
 A. Mr. Plunkett.

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Q. State whether or not Mr. Lenihan used any opprobrious language or epithets at that time?
 A. Not at that time.

Q. What occurred after this language was used?
 A. Mr. Plunkett laid hands on Mr. Locher, and kind of pulled him around, and told him to come out there, that he wanted to fight him. Before this, though, he had pulled his coat off, and he was darning us all to fight. He said he could lick all six of us. Then he laid hands on Mr. Locher, and Mr. Locher pulled his pliers out of his belt and told him to stand back. At that time Mr. Needy was coming up the alley from some work that he had been doing, and Mr. Plunkett let go of Locher and went up to meet Needy, and when he came up to Mr. Needy, he made a pass at him with his left hand, and Mr. Needy side-stepped him, and then Mr. Plunkett made a rush at him, and Mr. Needy had five iron steps in his hand that he was using in climbing poles with, and he threw them at Plunkett, and one of them hit him; then he picked up a rock about the size of a fist and threw that at Plunkett. Plunkett had backed off, so he could come at Needy again. When Needy threw the rock at Plunkett, Plunkett picked up the rock to throw it at Needy, and Needy run in on him and hit him a couple of times, and then Plunkett got loose to get squared away to come at him again; they were sparring around there, and then

Q. (interrupting). Just a minute. When Needy struck Plunkett, did Plunkett have the rock you have testified about in his hand?
 A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What was he doing with it?
 A. He was just picking it up.
 Q. You say that the steps that Needy threw at Plunkett before Needy threw the rock hit Plunkett?
 A. One of them hit him.
 Q. In what part of his body did it hit him?
 A. It hit him here (indicating) in the side somewhere.
 Q. Well go on with your story.
 A. While Mr. Needy and Mr. Plunkett were sparring there, Mr. Lenihan said "Let's fight fair," and he walked around and hit Mr. Farrell in the neck here (indicating), or on the back of the head and knocked him senseless, and as soon as he did that he said "It has now begun" and he made a run for Mr. Locher, and called him a scab and used other language that I don't care to repeat.
 Q. What had Farrell done toward either of these two men, Lenihan or Plunkett?
 A. Not a thing.
 Q. Did I understand you to say that Lenihan approached Farrell from behind and struck him in the back of the head?
 A. Well, it was on th side of the head or neck. Yes, sir.
 (To be continued.)

ODE OF THE RED FLAG.

To the Red Flag, the Symbol of International Brotherhood.

We fling thee to the breeze,
O'er land and o'er seas,
Red flag unfurled!
Beneath thy folds so brave,
No man shall be a slave—
In freedom proudly wave
O'er all the world!

You teach no creed or clan,
But brotherhood of man
And power of right!
Beneath thy folds of red—
Is heard no martial tread—
No worker's blood is shed
By tyrant's might!

O! working men, unite
Beneath your banner bright;
Lose every chain!
O! Red Flag, ride the wind
In brotherhood to bind—
Proclaim to all mankind
The world we'll gain!
—Mary F. Merrill.

IDAHO NOTES.

The first to get their donation to us in reply to the call, was Comrade F. R. Fouch, who sends two dollars and says: "One for general fund and one on the typewriter I know you need."

Comrade E. F. Atwater writes that they have perfected a local organization and took in a few new members at last meeting and hope to have 25 members soon.

More dues money was received during January than any other month since July 1906. Begins to look encouraging, so it does.

A mass convention of socialists of Canyon county met at Middleton Sunday, Feb. 2 upon call of Local Emmet, for the purpose of considering plans for better county and state organization. John Chenoweth was chosen chairman and Thos. J. Conrod secretary. A county committee of five was chosen to push the work in the county. Comrade Wm. E. Snodgrass and family, band of six instruments, rendered appropriate music for the occasion. Comrade L. E. Workman of Boise was present and gave a good talk. Many expressed themselves as willing to donate to help clear up the state indebtedness when the call was read.

Motion carried that this body is favorable to the union of the two, Socialist Labor and Socialist parties.

Let February equal January for the payment of dues. The campaign will tax the resources of the state organization.

If you are a socialist and live in Idaho and do not belong to the party, write to T. J. Conrod, Emmett, Ida., for an application card and become a party member.

Now is the time to prepare for the municipal campaign, get into the harness and do not allow any bogus labor parties steal a march on the workers for the purpose of leading them into the democratic party by the fusion route. Get busy, comrades.

A comrade, writing from Pocatello, says, the railroad men are very much interested in socialism and that a big vote will be polled next election and adds that a socialist speaker would have a good audience, should one visit that city.

A letter from Rupert informs us that the socialist sentiment is increasing at a great rate there.

The Socialist plate matter is doing great agitation work. According to the claim of the plate matter company as to the circulations of the papers using the socialist plate, our socialist matter is reaching nearly 400,000 readers every week in the United States. But we can do better still, and it behooves every earnest worker for the cause to try to extend the use of the plate in the capitalist papers. See your local editor and try to get him interested. The socialist plate costs no more than any other plate matter, namely one dollar a page, and as it is issued every three weeks, the weekly papers can run two columns of it each week, so that the weekly expense is small. Where the editor is disinclined, the local comrades could easily offer to themselves foot the bill, providing he will give it space. And generally he is willing because it means added good-will and an inducement for the socialists to take his paper and to urge others to. Remember there is a national election coming on, and agitation now will mean many more ears open to receive our message (as the preachers say) when the campaigning actually opens. Do it now!—S. D. Herald.

"Machine Politics", ten cents each, twelve for \$1.00, fine material for the campaign.

International

Russia.

Now that the Russian government is in a tight corner their good friends the capitalists are advising them to make money by selling the national properties, railways and mineral rights etc., to private exploiters of various kinds. Should the government do this, as is more than probable, as it will be much to the profit of its friends, it will be a good example of how very little value it is to us to have railways and other public services in the hands of an autocratic or any government not controlled by the people, because not only are the people exploited as consumers of the services and the workers sweated just as badly as under private enterprises, but the government is always able to sell them at any moment without asking anyone. And a government which has itself no prospect of living is not likely to be very careful about the future national assets.

The condemned Social-Democratic members of the second Duma were to be sent, not to Siberia, but to do their sentences in Russia itself. And it appears that the transportation was to be carried out under chains, as if they were dangerous prisoners. The government is evidently determined to leave nothing undone to wreak its vengeance on its unhappy victims, whose wives have been refused permission to accompany them, and who suffer in every way from the severity of a climate to which many of them, notably those from the Caucasus, are not used. Moreover, that has happened which has so often rendered the lot of the political prisoner in Russia still more bitter: the prisons are overfull, so that the prisoners have to be put in where they can. It is stated also that the families are in absolute want, as most of the deputies were working men. The Social-Democratic Party tried to get funds together for them, but without much success, as the distress among the rest of the members is great enough as it is. What would we not have heard from the English press had the same things been done by the government of Abdul, the Damned, as have been done by that of the saintly Nicholas!

Expropriation in Poland.

Hitherto the Prussian government has possessed no legal authority to expropriate Poles compulsorily from their lands for the purpose of colonizing them with Germans. So far, this colonizing policy has been carried out by means of a Land Settlement Board, whose function has been the purchasing of estates voluntarily offered for sale in Eastern Prussia, where Poles chiefly predominate. But now a bill, giving the government powers of compulsory expropriation, has passed through the Lower House of the Diet. The administration has now a free hand in the choice of areas for expropriation up to a total of 173,000 acres.

Bohemia.

At the end of February the elections for the new Bohemian diet will take place on the old system of "curies," by which the working class is entirely excluded from the diet. The Bohemian and German Social-Democratic parties, which at the Austrian Reichstag elections based on universal suffrage obtained more than one-third part of all the votes cast, have entered on the struggle with a collective manifesto in which the necessity for an electoral reform of the diet is urged. On Sunday, January 12, a meeting of the Bohemian Social-Democrats was held, which decided to present candidates in every constituency. The list of candidates even contains a woman, named Scheiner, the first woman in Austria to be a candidate for a legislature.

The Bohemian Social-Democratic Party wishes to make use of the omissions in the electoral law affecting the diet so as to reclaim the electoral right of women, which is a point in its programme. The electoral right being based on the payment of a direct tax of 8 Austrian crowns at least, the results of the electoral struggle will naturally be of little importance. The matter is only to give to every elector, by voting for a Social-Democratic candidate, opportunity to protest against the electoral system of curies, which brought the country almost to a financial bankruptcy. The Social-Democratic parties of both nations of Bohemia are determined to obtain electoral reform.

Comrade Sladden, state secretary of Oregon, writes as follows: "I am glad to state that the last month, January, has been the most prosperous that has been encountered in this state. Dues being paid on over eleven hundred members; while every indication would point to February keeping up the same gain."

Finnish locals have been organized at Frederick, S. D., 13 members, and Newport, N. H., 24 members.

National News

Wisconsin Notes.

During the past week eight unions applied to the Social-Democratic headquarters for socialist speakers to address their meetings. Ald. Emil Seidel, the Social-Democratic candidate for mayor, was in especial demand. This shows that in Milwaukee unionism and socialism march hand in hand.

The Social-Democratic campaign committee has decided to put out 500,000 pieces of literature during the spring campaign.

The capitalist politicians having failed to check the growth of the Social-Democratic vote in Milwaukee by other arguments, are now trying to make people believe that the Milwaukee socialists caused the panic! One large employer, recently discharging some of his men, said to them, "Good-bye! If you want work, go to Victor Berger and tell him to give you jobs. He has been agitating and organizing and asking for high wages until we got this panic!" This man is a "reform" republican. But another employer, a "stalwart" republican, recently made the same charge, which shows that all the capitalist politicians are in collusion on this matter. This stuff, however, will not fool the working men. The Milwaukee Journal (capitalistic) recently interviewed large numbers of unemployed working men around the employment agencies, etc., and found that almost every one declared the present panic will have the effect of swelling the Social-Democratic vote next spring. The working men understood "economics" a good deal better than the politicians, for they are studying them from a practical standpoint.

Another millionaire employer in Milwaukee takes this cheerful view of the situation. "I am not kicking at the times," said he, "they're a good thing for the working man. I used to go through my factory because the working men (he employed mostly children) were taking so much time in doing their work. But now they are all afraid of their jobs and it is positive pleasure to me to go through and see them buckle down. When we opened up Jan. 1st, there were a thousand men there crying for jobs." * * * To him... with the working man! If they could not save enough during prosperous times to keep them when they get out of work, they must take the consequences. * * * Let the riots come! If we have riots, I should my gun, as I did in '86, and help put it down!" E. H. THOMAS, State Sec.

National Constitution, Section 5, Ar. 10 "The railroad fare of the delegates, going to and coming from the convention, shall be paid from the national treasury, and such expenses shall be raised by a per capita assessment on the entire membership."

In accordance with the above, National Committee Motions No. 21 and 25, 1907, provides for one assessment of 25 cents to be levied upon each member of the party, the same to be paid during the months of February and March.

The special assessment stamps have been shipped in bulk to the respective state secretaries. It is suggested to the locals that the greatest care be exercised in the handling of these stamps, as the state committees are held responsible for the return of either the stamps of the amount represented thereby.

As a result of recent state referendums, C. C. Ross, of Oklahoma City, and A. S. Loudermilk, of El Reno, were elected members of the National Committee, and O. F. Branstetter, of Norman, was re-elected state secretary of Oklahoma.

Henry R. Keans, Elm street, Arlington, and Wm. Walker, 655 S. Park st., Elizabeth, were elected members of the National Committee, and W. B. Killingbeck, of Orange, was re-elected state secretary of New Jersey.

W. R. Snow of Huntington, has been elected state secretary of Arkansas. J. E. Naah, state secretary of Minnesota, reports the following locals organized since January 1st: London, 6 members; Byron, 9 members; Staple, 9 members; Holdin, 7 members; Saint Hilaire, 7 members; Greenbush, 10 members; Nora, 11 members; Shevlin, 5 members; Goodland, 10 members, and Weme, 10 members; a total of 94 members. In the meantime five locals have renewed activity, and paid up back dues.

Otto Pauls, state secretary of Missouri, writes "Business is getting very lively in Missouri now, and the work is covering me up. Organized a dozen locals in January, and more in sight. The workers act as though someone had stuck a pin into them, and we propose to get them into organized shape, so they will stay put."

The socialist candidate for mayor of Toronto, Canada, received 3,770 votes and two socialist aldermen were elected in Berlin, Ont.

GIRL OR GOLD

Which Has Caused Greater Strife? Mrs. Esou, Wis.—"Resolved, That girls cause more social strife than gold."

Eminent sociologists from every university in the country and some from abroad clashed acrimoniously over this momentous question at the convention of the American Sociological Society.

Professor Thomas N. Carver, of Harvard University, had the gold side and Professor E. A. Ross, of Wisconsin, contended that damsels have been more oftenthe cause of conflict. Harvard's disputant argued as that: "The basis of social conflict lies in economic scarcity, the lack of sufficient food, clothing and shelter to make every member of society as comfortable as every other member."

To this argument Professor Ross raised objection, declaring that "economic scarcity" was only one source of strife. "Men fought for girls before they fought for economic wealth," he said. "Back in the ages when trusts and millionaires never existed men cornered the woman market. Solomon amassed the splendid fortunes of a thousand wives. I suppose he was more envied because of his swollen family than on account of his swollen fortune. Men were criticised then for hogging the women, Harriman is criticised today for hogging the railroads, as Rockefeller is knocked for monopolizing oil."

"The institution of the family has been traced to the antagonism of the interest growing out of scarcity. But unhampered, the economic factor tends to polygamy, the appropriation of numerous women by the rich. Along with economic exploitation has often gone sex exploitation. Beauty and beauty have often been the two spurs pricking the young men of the tribe to the warrior life."

Sixteen locals were chartered in Texas during the month of January, thus adding two hundred and twenty new members to the party organization in that state.

Socialists for Unity (Continued from Page 1.)

ists in small plants, each employing a few men. Under such conditions craft unions served their purpose well. But the growth of the trusts has put them out of date. This is day by day becoming more evident to the rank and file of the unions. Simply as fighting machines to keep up wages, they have grown ineffective. A union that shall enroll in its membership all the workmen of a trust is a necessity if the trust is to be met on anything like equal terms.

Every clear-headed Marxian socialist understands that people's ideas and institutions at a given moment are in the main the result of the former economic environment of the social group in question, and that these ideas and institutions are being continually modified by the changing mode of production. To overlook these social laws discovered by Marx and Engels, and denounce people because all unconsciously they act according to these laws, is to talk like a Utopian, a single taxer, an anarchist or a reformer, but not like a socialist.

Apply these laws to the mass of American trade unionists, those who vote with us and those who vote against us. They are all obliged to make a living if they want to live, and most of us do, whether it is reasonable or not. They find their unions useful in the process of making a living, and unless they have the religious temperament that makes bigots out of the leisure class and revolutionists out of proletarians, they will not give up these practical unions for the sake of theories about the unknown future. Furthermore, if the zealous revolutionists call them names for clinging to their unions, they will probably call equally picturesque names in return, and resist any change in the form of their union organization with a good deal of indignation.

This being the case, the rational thing for us to do is to stay inside the old unions, strengthen them, not disrupt them, but argue calmly and patiently, day in day out, to show the other trade unionists that the craft union is as much of a back number as the stage coach. Let us keep clear heads and not mix our arguments. If we are talking to socialists inside the old unions, we may as well urge the argument offered by Local Redlands in third paragraph. But if we are talking to non-socialists, let us put all our stress on the need of an industrial union as a better fighting machine to keep up wages.

Let us especially avoid mixing the party question and the union question. The Socialist Party needs no endorsement from trade unions as organizations. What it does need is new members and new voters. Industrial unionism needs no resolutions adopted by the Socialist Party. What it needs is a united effort on the part of socialist trade unionists to secure the support of the industrial principle by the existing unions, not to disrupt these by organizing rival unions.

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Help Wanted

Eight Millions Men

to Help Repair the Bottom of the Full Dinner Pail. Apply between the hours of 6 A. M. and 6 P. M. at Your Voting Places the first Tuesday in November 1908.

Yours H. P. N.

The traditional policy of the Socialist Labor Party has been to denounce all officers of the real trade unions, as "fakers" and to encourage the formation of new unions. In the nineteenth century they organized a considerable number of paper unions under the name of the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance. In 1899 when two-thirds of the members withdrew from the Socialist Labor Party to form an organization now included in the Socialist Party, the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance had a nominal membership of possibly thirty thousand, but five years later the organization was practically dead. It remains, however, entered the Workers of the World when that body was organized, and have been the most serious obstacle to its growth.

Another traditional policy of the Socialist Labor Party has been to control its party press through the national executive committee. The practical result of this method has been to place the editor of "The People", wielding the power of the National Executive Committee, in full control of the sources of information of the party membership, so that he has dominated and still dominates the opinions of the rank and file. Personally I do not believe the charges sometimes made that this editor is in the pay of capitalists; on the contrary I think he sincerely believes that his tactics are for the best interest of the working class. But I am decidedly opposed to a system placing such absolute power in the hands of any one man or small group of men.

To sum up the situation briefly, the method of the Socialist Party since its organization in 1900 has been friendly co-operation with existing trade unions and a large measure of local self-government throughout the party organization. The method of the Socialist Labor Party through these years has been one of bitter war on existing trade unions and extreme centralization of power within the organization. During these seven years the Socialist Party has multiplied its membership by five, while the membership of the Socialist Labor Party has declined. The Redlands resolutions propose a consolidation of the parties. So far, so good. But they propose that the larger party should discard its successful methods and adopt the disastrous methods of the smaller party. I am for consolidation, but not on those terms. The sanest official proposition that has yet been made is a National Committee motion by Vernon F. King, of the Socialist Party of Michigan, inviting the Socialist Labor Party to state definitely on what terms they will unite. I hope that this motion will prevail and that it will bring a definite answer from the S. L. P. And if their answer is that they are willing to merge the two organizations, leaving all questions of platform, tactics, organization and party press to be settled by the majority after consolidation, then I am heartily in favor of union. But if they are only willing to consolidate on some such basis as that of the Redlands resolutions, then I think we may safely wait for further developments.

We have been requested to print the above article by Charles H. Kerr, which appeared in the December issue of the International Socialist Review:

FOR SALE

Singer sewing machine. Almost new; will sell cheap. Enquire at Montana News, Office 15 North Park Avenue, Helena, Mont.

State Department

What kind of entertainment is your local going to give March 17?

By the way, the letters are coming into this office relative to organizing, it looks as if we were going to have a genuine socialist revival in Montana. Guess the injunctions are doing their work.

Since the days have begun to lengthen and we are nearing another election there are signs of increasing activity among the locals. That's right, comrades. Now is the time to begin to get results.

F. L. Buzzell had a rousing meeting in the Auditorium in Butte last Thursday night. Eighty copies of the "Catholic Church and Socialism" were sold at the meeting. Comrade Buzzell speaks in Helena at the Workers' Club next Friday night.

Chimney Rock is organized with seventeen members for a starter. When the word came in, the canary perched on the back of Graham's chair and warbled out a challenge to capitalism. Just watch this local grow. These locals that just go at it and organize without any outside help are the ones that you can depend on to deliver the goods.

Mable went over to Butte Sunday morning and attended the local that night. He says we had a good meeting. Butte, the same as other places, seems to realize the importance of getting the organization in shape for the coming campaign, and the old timers are getting in the harness for a good strong pull. A committee was appointed to see about getting up an entertainment for the benefit of the News.

Fridley, Mont, Feb. 4.
J. D. Graham, Helena, Mont.

Dear Comrade:—I regret to hear of your failing health. Sometimes I am most ready to say "Let this problem work itself out, the generations to come might as well suffer in their way as for this one to sacrifice itself and fail," but then I am reminded that we only rise by effort and it narrows down to a selfish interest again. We should despise ourselves if we did not do our best as we see it.

I wish I were in Helena, I am sure there are things I could do in that distracting office. And I possess the happy faculty of forgetting every annoyance, once it is decided it is best to do a thing, and go on to the finish. Here is something I enjoyed
What is a failure? It's only a spur
To a man who receives it right
And it makes the spirit within him stir
To go in once more and fight
If you never have failed it's an even guess
You never have gained a high success.

What is a miss? It's a practice shot
Which we often must make to enter
The list of those who can hit the spot
Of the bull's eye in the center
If you never have sent a bullet wide
You never have put a mark inside.

What is a knock down? A count of ten
Which a man may take for a rest
It will give him a chance to come up again

And do his particular best
If you've never been bumped in a rattling go
You never have come to the scratch I know.

I enclose \$5.00 for dues, there are only a few paid up but they will when I see them.

Regards to the Mrs. and J. F.
Yours fraternally,
EVA M. WELLS,
Secretary Local Fridley.

John C. Chase, National Organizer and Lecturer, reports the largest socialist meeting ever held in Grand Rapids, Mich. collection \$36.00. A good local organized at Muncie, Ind., and a rousing welcome by the striking street car men. On January 29th fourteen new members joined Local Fort Wayne, Ind.

Mable, the Man With Nerve.

During the month of January, Comrade Mable called on me for the purpose of soliciting money to enable the Montana News in its effort toward purchasing a new linotype and press. Drawing conclusions from his nerve, he is well qualified to solicit for anything, if nerve has anything to do with qualifications along that line. He has that in an unlimited quantity. To portray J. F. Mable's unprecedented nerve, I shall have to tell you of a little coincidence, just a small one. I am engaged in the barber business in Great Falls. To make a success at my business I have to buy razors and shears to use on my patrons and receive money in return for the use of them. Comrade Mable came to my place of business and asked me to loan him a pair of shears for the purpose of getting another one of the comrades to cut his (Mable's) hair. Being in my position, there was not anything for me to do but acquiesce under that unbounded nerve. Such nerve, or gall, I don't know how you would designate it, is sufficient to obtain shears from any source. The comrade that cut Mable's hair is now in Fort Benton with the gout, caused from associating with a man with unlimited nerve.

Poor Louis Dilno, he is a very amiable young man, he should have known that something tragic would follow him on account of associating with a comrade that possesses as much nerve as Mable has.

A few more in the cause like Comrade Mable, and the revolution is assured. I am with the comrade anyway, for punishment is dead, there is not anything to stop the trend of my mind. One great reason that I am with you is that you don't believe in a few while going through this ephemeral existence, we call life, being housed up in a band box of flowers with all their fragrance and the great masses turned lose in a world of thorns, where things all chaos and just knowing where the next meal is coming from.

You shall hear from me on a question of more importance in the immediate future.

I remains yours always for the revolution,

J. T. DOWELL,
221 1st Ave So, Great Falls, Mont.

Kalispell, Mont., Feb. 9.
Editor Montana News:

Dear Comrade:—"These are times that try men's souls," and while today paving the way to a higher and better civilization it is well that we study closely events transpiring in the economic and political fields, carefully weighing in the balance all matters pertaining thereto, condemning that which we believe wrong and giving undivided support to that which to us seems right and just.

With this end in view, Local Kalispell at its last meeting inaugurated a new system (at last new to the comrades here) of preparing correspondence for the party press which we hope will be beneficial to the movement. The scheme is very simple, and if not encroaching too much on your space would like to submit outline of same to readers of the News:

At each regular meeting some subject thought to be of vital importance to the socialist movement is to be discussed; after the discussion, and just before closing, the chairman to select one or more of the members to prepare a communication for publication; at next regular meeting same to be submitted to local, read carefully, and if deemed necessary, alterations made until such article shall meet with the approval of all present. This we believe to be far better as a rule than for an individual to shoulder the responsibility, as in many cases the article does not meet with approval. The above system of co-operation in the preparation of correspondence will be an assurance to the state cabinet that it reflects the sentiments of a majority of the membership of local from which it emanated. This system, it is believed, will have a tendency to call out better attendance at meetings and

in many other ways be beneficial to the state organization. Will be glad to learn of any objections to the system through the columns of the News.

At the last regular meeting, Sunday Feb. 2, two subjects came up for discussion in our local—one political, the other economic. The first we assume all comrades in the state have learned about (though we regret not having seen mention of it in the News) was with reference to the resolutions adopted by the N. E. C. of the socialist labor party on the unity question. We believe those resolutions should receive favorable consideration by the N. E. C. of the Socialist Party, and Local Kalispell is unalterably opposed to the tactics of opportunism displayed by many so-called socialists which is keeping the comrades of America divided in two camps. Let our national officers use every honorable endeavor to bring about an amalgamation of the two parties so that the class-conscious, revolutionary socialists of the land may present a solid front to the common enemy with the red flag, the emblem of universal brotherhood, unfurled, and with the slogan, "Workers of the World unite, you have nothing but your chains to lose, you have a world to gain," and "Labor is entitled to all it produces." This we must eventually come to notwithstanding the walls that arise from the reactionary element. Why not now? Be men, comrades of the socialist party, and meet our comrades of the S. L. P. half way.

Under the caption "A Voice from the Other Side" Comrade Oliver Stetson, in a recent issue of the News, takes upon himself the labor of arraigning the Industrial Workers of the World as vaudeville performers and barn stormers; tells the readers of the News that the American Federation of Labor is the best ever. He says: "The A. F. of L. is the permanent organization in America, and when it goes down the entire American movement goes down with it." Then after crossing the pond and dealing with unionism in Britain to the extent of a column or two to show that we are a decade behind our British brothers, he has this to say in the last paragraph of his article: "We as socialists must do nothing to antagonize the union men. We can lead them consciously and direct them and they will unconsciously follow—that is, the ignorant ones." Ye Gods! Comrade Stetson has a far different conception of socialist tactics from those entertained by Kalispell comrades. To lead a man unconsciously, is to deceive. It is the object of all revolutionary socialists to eliminate every form of deception; to teach every worker just what socialism stands for; to educate him to realize that there is a class struggle and that it must be waged to the bitter end; that this struggle is between the workers (the producers of all wealth), and the capitalist class, the parasites, the exploiters of the workers. And when we attain the goal toward which we are now marching, the co-operative commonwealth, it will be but the reflex of action of class conscious, educated workers in the industrial field, transferred to the political field.

Now, to return to the A. F. of L. It is an antiquated, out-of-date labor organization; an organization of crafts so amalgamated that each craft is at liberty (and at times forced under the sacred contract) to scab on other crafts in the same general organization.

And let us see what the A. F. of L. stands for: A fair day's pay for a fair day's work; sacred contracts between employers and employees; princely salaries for its national officers; consciously leading the unconscious workers to become unconscious scabs.

On the other hand the I. W. W. contends that "Labor is entitled to all it produces; it will not allow of contracts being entered into between employer and employee; it says 'an injury to one, is an injury to all,' and above all it does not try to deceive the workers, for the first sentence in its preamble reads: "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common;" the three stars on the emblem stand for "Organization, Education, Emancipation."

Thanking the News in advance for space granted, we would in closing suggest that Comrade Stetson refrain from exercising his reasoning faculties in diagnosing the political situation, lest he be convinced that the democratic party is the "permanent" political organization and find himself blowing a flambeau and howling for Willie the Commoner (!) next November.
A. J. CHAPMAN,
E. G. BJORNEBY,
W. E. AHRENS,
Committee.

The Montana Record of Feb. 10th has a splendid article on how the people of Manitoba by a referendum vote fix the Bell Telephone company across the border. It would be a splendid thing if the people of Idaho, Montana Wyoming and Utah would give the scab concern the same kind of deal as the Canadians have done. Such a course would soon end the strike and put government by injunction out of business.

Incentive.

No, Socialism will not destroy incentive to do one's best.

Capitalism destroys incentive to do one's best. Socialism will destroy incentive to do one's worst. For example, it will destroy the incentive to kill off the people by food adulteration. It will destroy incentive to overreach one's fellow men, and to pinch and cramp and brutalize them by the myriad means now in use.

Under capitalism the best incentives are impossible of universal application, although some of them do crowd to the surface in spite of the discouraging environment.

Since the concentration of capital has progressed to an acute stage, so that it requires enormous capital to conduct a successful business, the average man is condemned by inexorable conditions to work for a small income so long as the present system lasts.

What is his incentive?

Is it the prospect of a liberal income beckoning to him from in front?

No, for he has no such prospect under this system. On the contrary, his incentive is the fear of starvation prodding him in the rear.

Truly, a despicable incentive. No great thought or act ever proceeded from incentive so base.

The incentive of the wealthy few is even more base—the incentive to accumulate immense fortunes.

When that low and mean incentive once possesses a man's mind, he is lost to higher impulses so long as it controls him.

Every delegate to the National convention or candidate for delegate, should be equipped with a copy of the proceedings of the National convention of 1904. This document contains a stenographic report of the proceedings of the entire session, and upon every question which was discussed the entire argument is presented. A number of the same issues will be raised in the coming convention, and the determining factors of the past should be known to the delegates; besides this book will have an historic value equaled by few publications extant. Organizations desiring to instruct delegates, will find it a valuable guide. 50 cents a copy, address the National office of the Socialist Party.

The second ballot by the National committee for the selection of a date for holding the National convention, closed Feb. 4, and resulted in the choice of May 10 by a vote of 23. The combined votes for all other dates numbered 22.

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LOCAL KENDALL

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LOCAL GREAT FALLS, of the Socialist Party.

Meets every Sunday at Union Hall at 8 p. m. FLORENCE WHEELER, Secy. 23 1/2th Street So

LOCAL HELENA, of the Socialist Party

Meets every Wednesday evening at 21 North Park Ave. AUGUST JOHNSON, Secretary

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