

Timely Topics

By Norman Thomas

Problems Hoover Dodged—Speeches Do Not Halt
Wage Cuts—Another Capitalist Contradiction
—Textile Speeds Up—Philadel-
phia Transit Muddle

HOOVER'S SPEECH PROMPTS QUESTIONS

SO had been President Hoover's speeches and statements on public affairs that his outspoken address to the International Chamber of Commerce was amazing. It is good that he called attention to the terrific wastes of expenditures on armaments and their bearing on world peace. But there are several questions that arise:

1. Was the President trying to forestall discussion of debts and reparations by reminding European business men that their nations could pay debts if they would reduce armaments? This may be true or partly true but it by no means goes to the heart of the debt and reparations question. European armaments do not excuse American refusal to take the initiative in wiping clean the slate of debts and reparations, which act in itself would facilitate disarmament.
2. Will the President back up his speech by seeing to it that America takes a real lead in the forthcoming disarmament conference, or will he let our admirals insist on keeping the big battleships and our generals continue to oppose budgetary limitation while our War Department seeks to militarize schools and colleges?
3. The President has recognized the effect of war and armament upon business depression. When will he recognize that the economic competition of strong nations makes for war? World depression increases the danger of war. Farmers without markets and workers without jobs offer less resistance to the war spirit. At the same time business depression increases the unscrupulous competition for markets in backward countries. If the President had properly rounded out his speech he would have said these things. But if he had said them he would have made some very dangerous admissions concerning that capitalist system of which he is so ardent a defender.

ANDY MELLON AND WAGE CUTS
SOCIALISTS and labor unionists may get some valuable information and admissions out of the mouths of the plutocrats, Babbitts and politicians now assembled in Washington. Here, for instance, is old Andy Mellon himself talking against wage cuts. I'll bet my last nickel that Andy's corporations haven't practiced what he preaches. There is a lot of wage cutting that never gets written down. For instance, I heard the other day of a meeting of a group of working girls from cities in upstate New York, every single one of whom had received cuts running from 6% to 20%, and they represented many different lines of industry from the making of optical goods to textiles.

CAPITALISM'S NEWEST INSANITY
THE essential insanity of capitalism is beautifully shown by some of its present dilemmas. Most big employers admit that prosperity depends upon the purchasing power of the masses of workers. Yet even of the big employers under capitalism can or will resist the temptation to cut wages in hard times. What they want is for other employers to pay high wages so that other employees can buy their products. They themselves want to cut the wages of their own employees in order to get competitive advantage. I said last week that the textile industry would be prosperous if Southern workers and peasants could afford to buy underclothes. But the hosiery mills which have escaped to the South can't sell enough stockings to their own employees to compensate them for paying high wages. Hence the hypocrisy in action of most of this high wage talk from capitalists.

NIGHT WORK IN TEXTILES
HERE'S another illustration of a characteristic capitalist dilemma. Most textile manufacturers have agreed repeatedly in their conventions that they should try to stabilize their work and abolish night work. This week I was driven at night from the admirable Institute of Human Relations at the University of North Carolina to Greensboro some fifty miles away. We passed numerous textile mills, most of them, I think, hosiery mills, working at night. The textile industry is picking up a little and in the fierce competition for jobs the bosses run night and day whenever they can get a contract. Never mind health or long hours or the unemployment that follows the finished job. The man who turns out the contract in shortest time wins. I wish some of these enlightened capitalists who talk economic planning in a capitalist world would tell us how it can be imposed on so crazy a system. Even the amelioration of working conditions requires the pressure of organized labor on all of industry both on the economic and political side.

THE BANKERS AND PHILADELPHIA TRANSIT
A CORRESPONDENT writes me that in W. Jett Lauck's book, "Political and Industrial Democracy," he had read a eulogy of the good conditions of the workers under the Mitten Men and Management plan in the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. Now he has seen that the Mitten management has been savagely denounced by a Philadelphia judge who has ordered the company put under a receivership. He wants to know what about it.

So far as I know the facts, I should say that several things are true: (1) Mr. Lauck was always a little too enthusiastic about Mitten Men and Management even from the standpoint of the workers. (2) The position of the workers under this plan changed for the worst when they were cajoled into exchanging the stocks their association held in the transit company for stocks in one of Mitten's holding companies. This happened during the speculative boom. (3) While Mitten got along pretty well with the men who worked in the company he took advantage of the people of Philadelphia like the other public utility magnates. He drove sharp bargains on franchises, paid extortionate prices for acquiring a monopoly of taxicabs and other means of transportation and in general robbed the users of his service by the prices he charged—all of which goes to show that so-called industrial democracy in which men and management make a truce but in which the management still robs the public is a long way from the real industrial democracy or Socialism that we want. (4) While the sins of the Mitten management have been real enough their enemies, the Philadelphia bankers, with whom the elder Mitten quarreled, are no saints. These bankers are represented on the commission which was supposed to take over the company. As I understand it matters are at present in suspense. But Philadelphia has little to hope from bankers' control of its transit companies.

THANKS
I HAVE received some very fine letters about the subject of agriculture and its difficulties, concerning which I expressed some opinion on which I asked comment a few weeks ago. I intend to quote some of these letters at considerable length, but I shall probably wait until my return from South Dakota. Meanwhile I should like to take this public occasion to thank my correspondents. May I add my thanks and my apologies to a great many correspondents, who write me letters, send me manuscripts, etc., which I simply have no time to answer promptly, if at all. The amount of traveling and speaking I have to do and the pressure of office and other work here in New York are so great that I am behind in some of these matters, for which I can only ask the generous forgiveness of my friends.

Illinois Senators Dodge Old Age Relief

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (FP)—Hope for an old age pension law in Illinois this year faded despite a vigorous effort of organized labor and welfare groups when the senate judiciary committee side-tracked the bill.

Piously, the committee decided to postpone action until a committee can make a study to determine "the causes of old age dependency." The committee was instructed not to hurry, but to make its report to the legislature in 1933. The committee was supplied just such data—if "causes of old age dependency" need to be studied—by the Old Age Security League and similar groups.

Federation Sees Wage Cuts Primary Danger

WASHINGTON, D. C. (FP)—Announcing that business "is showing more resistance to depression forces," and that there was no decline in employment in April, the American Federation of Labor's Monthly Survey of Business, for May, says the possibility of improvement in economic conditions for the workers next fall. It warns that "Purchasing power of farmers and wage-earners is low, and wage-cuts threaten."

"Wage reductions now would be most dangerous," it argues. "They would add a disorganizing element just when conditions are beginning to stabilize."

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10,000 Rally On May Day In New York

Two Big Parades Add to Inspiring Union Square Demonstration

THE Socialist movement of New York City proved its strength to itself and its followers this May Day, by staging the largest open-air rally held in more than ten years. Two long parades of Socialists and trade unionists merged in Union Square, there to join with thousands of other workers. The square to the north of the park was a solid mass of cheering, eager men and women, young and old. The most conservative estimate of the size of the audience placed it at 10,000. Other estimates ran up to 18,000.

Ringed by an unnecessary army of 1,000 police and plain clothesmen, the audience cheered Socialist and union leaders as they voiced their indictment of capitalism and urged the workers to fight on for Socialism. Norman Thomas closed the meeting with a stirring attack on the evil of unemployment. He preceded his address by reading a telegram from Tom Mooney. By a roaring vote of "ayes," the throng voted to send a reply to the famous frame-up victim, pledging a continued fight for his freedom and for Warren K. Billings.

The Socialist rally followed one held earlier in the day by a super-patriotic aggregation of veteran's societies, politicians and assorted red-baiters. Some 2,000 attended this rally, fully half of them, Socialists who had come to be present early for the Socialist demonstration. Following the Socialist rally, which lasted from 1 p. m. to 4 p. m., the Communists made a noisy entrance on the square and celebrated May Day with their usual attacks on other sections of the working-class. Despite the discordant aims of the three groups, the day passed without any untoward incidents. Communist threats loudly repeated that they would attempt to "capture" the square from the Socialists, faded out.

The largest parade was a spontaneous affair which started from in front of the Rand School, at 7 East 15th street. Here members of the Socialist party, of the International Pocketbook Workers' Union, and other groups formed the nucleus of a procession which paraded, some 4,000 strong, into the square in a body. The parade went west to Sixth avenue, north to Sixteenth street, and then east to Union Square. The arrival of paraders, as the arrival of the Socialist youth and trade union processions, was greeted with great applause.

The Bakers union, locals 505, 507 and 509, led a parade of many trade unionists through the east side, which arrived on the square within ten minutes after the arrival of the Socialist parade from the Rand School. The parade was led by a band of music and a huge 500-pound loaf of union made bread, said to be the largest loaf of bread ever made. Banners and circulars distributed by the bakers urged support for their union label. The bakers' parade started at Ludlow, between Grand and Broome streets, at 11 a. m. Members of the Workmen's Circle, Women's Clubs of the Workmen's Circle, congregated at the Forward building, at Rutgers Square, and (Continued on Page Two)

New Leader Plans To Be Discussed at Meeting of Branches

An invitation on behalf of the Board of Directors of the New Leader has been extended to all Socialist party branches in the city of New York to attend a conference to discuss methods of increasing the circulation and influence of the Party organ on the evening of Wednesday, May 20 at the People's House, 7 E. 15th Street, New York City.

The growing realization that Party building goes hand in hand with the development of the Party press gives assurance that this will be a well attended conference.

Socialist Mass Meeting On Spanish Revolution In Rand School May 13

A meeting has been arranged under the auspices of the educational committee of the Socialist Party, Local New York City, dealing with the revolution in Spain, its character and significance, for Wednesday evening, May 13, in the auditorium of the People's House, 7 East 15th street, at 8:30 p. m.

The speakers, who will discuss the various phases of the recent development in Spain, are Morris Hillquit, International Secretary, Socialist Party, Algernon Lee, Educational Director of the Rand School, Jaime Menendez, Spanish Publicist, S. Romauldi, Journalist connected with the Il Nuovo Mondo.

Admission is free. All Socialists and sympathizers are urged to be present to hear an analysis of the recent events in Spain and their significance in the Socialist movement in that country and the international situation.

Thomas at Chicago Rally for Peace on Monday May 18th

(By A New Leader Correspondent)
CHICAGO.—A mass meeting, at which Norman Thomas will be one of the principal speakers, will celebrate International Good Will Day, May 18th, in Chicago at the New Masonic Hall, 32 W. Randolph St., fourteenth floor. The day is the anniversary of the founding of the Hague Tribunal. Among the organizations planning this project are the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association, the Y. M. C. A., the League for Industrial Democracy, the Socialist Party, and the Chicago Church Federation. A peace program is also being carried into the churches and schools on May 17 and 18, respectively. On Wednesday, May 20, the Cinema Art Guild Theatre will present an anti-war program with "All Quiet on the Western Front" as the feature picture.

Political Gains Scored By Kenosha Unionists

KENOSHA, Wis.—(FP)—Eric Tillman, active leader in the hosiery strike of a few years ago, has been elected to the county board, thus keeping control in the hands of the workers. He had been defeated at the previous election by a narrow margin. A. G. Sharpe, member of the typographical union, was elected to the city council. This was a distinct gain as labor had no representative there. Sharpe aided the hosiery workers in their strike and his printing shop was riddled with the shot-gun and rifle fire as a result.

New Leader Contest Grows Hotter As Contestants Enter Last Stretch

By The Contest Editor

WITH little more than three weeks to go before The New Leader's circulation contest ends, Minnie Weisberg still has a slight lead over Gertrude Weil Klein. From now on these two contestants are expected to run neck and neck until the exciting close. Whether anyone will succeed in wresting the lead from them is problematical, although this is not beyond the realm of possibility, as Comrade Klein has shown what can be done through concentrated effort.

From present indications, if anyone does step forward to the front it will be either Bernard Schub or Gertrude Green. The former is a delegate to the Workmen's Circle convention now being held in Washington, D. C., where he is busy buttonholing delegates asking them to become subscribers. His task is made easier by the fact that James O'neal, editor of The New Leader, in addressing the convention, pointed out that a long standing problem among the German Socialists in this country

has been the drifting away of the youth from the radical faith of their fathers. The Finnish comrades have been faced with the same problem and now Jewish Socialists are considering ways of meeting it also. The answer according to the speaker is to have a Socialist paper, published in the English language, come into the home, where the youngsters could pick it up and get acquainted with the Socialist message in the language they like to read.

Gertrude Green, an active member of the 8th A. D. Local New York branch as well as of the Women's Committee is another who is sure to roll up a good many points in the score, as she is known as a result-getter.

L. I. P. Invites Winner
Another who is expected to get a good many subs is Ville Salmi, a Finnish comrade, in Fitchburg, Mass., who, according to W. N. Reivo, secretary of the Finnish Socialist Federation, expects to get the help of some young people in his drive for New Leader subs. The third country to be heard

from with assurances of a cordial reception for the contest winner is England. John Paton, secretary of the Independent Labor Party, writes:

"I am interested to hear about your circulation contest and will be very glad indeed to receive at my office here the fortunate winner and to give him any information that will be helpful."

"I trust your circulation contest will be completely successful in extending the influence of The New Leader."

New Leader representatives from a number of branches were invited to sit in at a Board of Directors' meeting last Monday evening. The eight who were present offered a number of valuable suggestions and criticisms, and it was decided that more should be invited to attend other meetings. In addition, the Board voted to call a conference of branch representatives in the near future to discuss methods of increasing the circulation of The New Leader. This is likely to develop into a

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Workers' Rights Amendment Proposed By Socialist Party Gets 79 Votes In Penn. House

N. Y. Socialists Will Outline City Policies

Convention Will Meet in Rand School Saturday Afternoon

ALL arrangements have been made for the city convention of the Socialist Party of New York City, which will meet in the Rand School of Social Science, 7 East 15th street, Saturday, May 9th, at 2 p. m. About 150 delegates will be called to order at this hour to take up matters of interest to the party in all the boroughs of the greater city.

How long the convention will be in session is undetermined, but it is likely to complete its work in shorter time than the last city convention did. The main matters to be considered are organization, including a revision of the by-laws, and consideration of the proper Socialist policy towards the investigation of Tammany graft.

The branches in all five boroughs of the city will be represented and the thing in order will be the calling of the roll of delegates which will be followed by electing officers of the convention.

Agenda Drawn Up
What will probably prove of most interest to the delegates and members is a report of a sub-committee regarding the policy of the party towards the investigation of Tammany corruption. The committee consists of Morris Hillquit, Norman Thomas, Leonard Bright and James O'neal.

The statement is intended carefully to define the Socialist's view and it will be followed with intense interest by the delegates. It will consider the crimes attributed to Tammany, the relation of the Republican Party to the local political regime, the background of politics and administration in relation to labor interests, and formulation of a Socialist policy.

Suggested changes in the by-laws will be taken up first and it is expected that this will not take up much time. Some changes are made necessary because of the character of the yearly dues system which has made it difficult to apportion delegates to city conventions.

The statement regarding party policy is second on the agenda. After this is disposed of Algernon Lee will report on plans for an intensive campaign for the Socialist Party's unemployment insurance bill. It is believed that with more systematic work, several hundred thousand signatures can be obtained on petitions for this bill and that an impressive demonstration can be made before the next legislative session in behalf of the bill.

August Claessens, organizer, will also submit a general report of the finances, membership, and other aspects of the party organization which may require some action. Julius Gerber will call the convention to order and after the roll call and seating of delegates, officers of the convention will be elected. Every delegate is urged to be present at 2 p. m.

What the Workers' Rights Amendment Proposes

THE WORKERS RIGHTS AMENDMENT proposes a sweeping enlargement of the powers of the Federal Government in the matter of social legislation. Under the present limited powers of Congress, one can never know in advance what conservative judges will do when such legislation is before them. A bill adapted to modern conditions might be interpreted in terms of nineteenth century individualism as unconstitutional. Or its most important features might be emasculated by court decisions, leaving the law a butchered and useless piece of legislation. The Clayton Act went through this experience, the most important sections being ripped out by judicial decisions till there was nothing of value left.

The Workers Rights Amendment specifically gives the power to Congress to build up an entire code of social and labor legislation for "the social and economic welfare of the workers of the United States." It immediately removes from the domain of argument the issue whether the Federal Government has such power. The amendment grants this power.

The amendment also leaves no "twilight zone" between Federal and State power into which attorneys for corporations often retreat when opposing such legislation. The second section of the amendment clearly leaves the powers of the States "unimpaired," the only reservation being that state legislation should not "supersede, abridge, or conflict with any act of Congress."

In other words, the Workers Rights Amendment makes possible a wide cooperation on two fronts, between Federal and State governments in the enactment of comprehensive social legislation in this country and deprives reactionary judges of the customary arguments for striking down such legislation. The proposed Workers Rights Amendment was drawn up by the national executive committee of the Socialist Party.

Vets' Journal Lays Down Fire On Wall Street

"National Tribune" attacks Congress as Tool of Big Business

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Another Hoover sector is in danger of crumbling and no trouble appears to await Hoover in the next session of Congress. The National Tribune, founded in 1877, and now the weekly publication of the veterans of three wars, runs a blistering editorial, attacking big business and Congress.

This soldiers' journal has been among the most conservative publications in the United States, but the editorial shows that the limit has been reached in the soldiers' patience with the niggardly policy of the politicians towards the veterans. It charges that Wall Street is in cahoots with big capitalists to oppose needed legislation for the soldiers on the grounds of economy.

"The zero hour is at hand," declares the Tribune.

The preliminary barrage has opened. It will increase in intensity as the time for the convening of Congress nears.

"Orders have gone out from Wall Street, G. H. Q. of Big Business, not only for defensive action but also for an attack."

"All new legislation suggested for the relief of veterans and their dependents must be defeated and existing laws must be modified. The objective is to include a needy or 'pauper' provision in all statutes to aid veterans. Charity will take the place of justice, if Big Business has its way."

"By means of advertising contracts, Big Business controls three-fourths of the metropolitan newspapers and magazines. These publications have already opened their barrage of propaganda against adequate relief for veterans. Between the press and the time Congress meets again their columns will be filled with misinformation on this subject. One exaggeration will follow upon another until the readers, unless they know the motive, will get the idea that the veterans are trying to loot the Treasury and bankrupt the Government."

The indictment of the Tribune is the same as critics bring against the Hoover Administration in its treatment of the millions of wretched farmers. The farmer must confess to beggary to get aid and this attitude toward the soldiers makes the Tribune see red.

"The industrial and financial interests of the country go in for extremes," declares the Tribune. "Their scheme is to frighten the average citizen by exaggerated statements. If they can make the people believe that the country is on the brink of bankruptcy, they can step in and garner for themselves such loot as they desire."

This is unusually plain speaking for the Tribune. It is language which for the first time has been used against big finance and capital in this publication. The

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Phila. Ends Pittances for The Jobless

150,000 Men, Women and Children Facing Starvation in City

(By A New Leader Correspondent)
PHILADELPHIA.—The unemployed of Philadelphia are no longer to have even the bitter bread of charity. Both the city's Public Welfare Department and the Emergency Relief Committee are broke.

Director Dugan of the Welfare Department has announced that he has had to suspend payments to 6,600 families and admits his act means 30,000 people will starve. The Emergency Relief Committee has laid off 14,000 men who were on "made-work" projects and will within two weeks suspend direct relief it is now giving to 24,000 families. That means another 150,000 starving workers and workers' kids. Not one single large contribution has been made to the Relief Committee in over a month.

In the meantime politicians play political football with the starving workers getting all the kicks. Governor Pinchot is willing to sign a bill extending the city's borrowing power by three millions providing all the money is used for unemployment relief. The Vire gang having run the city into bankruptcy with their graft demand that the loan limit be extended by \$6,000,000 so that they can balance their budget and will not have to face the voters this fall with an empty treasury. Pinchot is anxious to put them into a serious predicament so that his "reform" gang can win the city elections. And in the meantime unemployed workers starve.

The city has also helped the jobless problem by laying off 70 men in the Recorder of Deeds office, thus cutting its payroll 140,000 dollars yearly.

In Beautiful Hawaii

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1930 made a study of the commercial, industrial, social, and sanitary conditions of the working classes in Hawaii. The principal industries of the islands are the growing of sugar cane and the making of sugar, and the growing and canning of pineapples, but there are many other industries of less importance. It was found that the average full-time weekly earnings of the male workers ranged from \$7.86 in the manufacture of overalls and shirts to \$40.26 in the printing industry. Those of females ranged from \$6.96 on the pineapple plantations to \$16.63 in the printing industry.

Mrs. Wilson Demands Constitutional Safeguard for Labor Legislation of the Future

BILL IS STRONGEST SOCIALIST EFFORT

Hoopes Asks Legislature Petition Rolph to Free Mooney and Billings

By Arthur McDowell

(By A New Leader Correspondent)
HARRISBURG, Pa.—The resolution asking the Pennsylvania General Assembly to memorialize Congress in favor of a "Workers' Rights Amendment" to the Federal Constitution, was defeated by a vote of 120 to 79 when called up by its sponsor, Lillith Wilson, Socialist Representative of Berks. A motion to table, was overwhelmingly defeated and the unfavorable vote was cast directly against the proposed resolution, which Mrs. Wilson introduced on behalf of the National Socialist Party.

Speaking on the resolution, Mrs. Wilson said:

"It would be to the best interests of the people of this country—and particularly to the best interests of the great masses of working people—to include in the Constitution a new amendment, which would empower Congress to enact legislation for the regulation of child labor; to provide assistance in the form of monetary compensation for the aged, for sick, injured and unemployed workers or employees; and in general for the social and economic welfare of the workers."

Would Protect Labor Laws
"The proposed amendment would give Congress power to enact labor legislation along the lines I have indicated, without, however, impairing the power of the several States to enact welfare legislation if they see fit to do so. Such an amendment to the Constitution would enable our national law-making body legally to cope with a situation such as now confronts us, with six or more millions of unemployed, and to do so without the danger of having laws designed for the relief of the victims of our economic system, declared unconstitutional."

"Such legislation being national in scope, would not handicap the economic life and activities of the States farthest advanced in social and labor legislation. On the other hand it would stabilize industry by stabilizing working conditions throughout the entire country and everywhere improving the material welfare of the masses and making their livelihood more secure."

Assails Court Tyranny
"Workers are entitled to legislative protection not subject to judicial review or the nullification of, any court," Rep. Wilson declared wrathfully, referring to the constant defeat of labor legislation through the courts' use of the autocratic weapon of veto under guise of declaring measures finally passed by State and national bodies "unconstitutional." "The right to this protection, set forth in definite and specific terms, should be written into the Federal Constitution. I trust that this will be done before it is too late to avert a national calamity during the present or some future depression. I move the adoption of the resolution."

The seventy-nine votes cast for the resolution as compared with the bare score of votes cast for Socialist sponsored proposals earlier in the session, indicates not only that many more representatives are reading the signs of the times but that many others are awakening to the significance of the roll calls that are regularly and insistently being called for by the Socialist members.

Mooney Case Resolution
The Mooney-Billings case will soon be forced upon official attention at the capitol under a resolution introduced by Darlington Hoopes, Socialist member of the House. Calling for the assurance of justice in the administration of justice in the courts, the resolution would be directed to Governor Rolph of California and to the two men.

Sweeping amendment of the Pennsylvania Workmen's Compensation Act along the advanced lines of the Federal Longshoremen's Act is proposed in a bill introduced by Hoopes. The new provisions would raise Pennsylvania to the front rank in its protection

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N. Y. Socialists and Trade Unionists Rally for May Day



10,000 Rally in N.Y.C. On First of May

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fell in behind the bakers' parade as it passed. The dressmakers affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union joined the parade at Second avenue and Ninth street, where they had assembled in the Stuyvesant Casino. The capmakers met at their headquarters, 135 Second avenue, and also fell in line. At this point, members of the Poole-Zion Group and the Zukunft, the Jewish National Workers' Alliance, the Pioneer Women's Organization and the Young Poole Zion also joined the procession. The Socialist Youth parade merged with the bakers and others at Second avenue. Over 500 members of the Young People's Socialist League carried banners denouncing war and exhorting the young to join under the Socialist banner.

The Socialist parade, in which trade unionists also predominated, had in line members of the Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, children's clothing workers, shirt makers, pocketbook makers, butchers and grocery clerks and millinery workers.

Striking slogans and cartoons dotted both lines of march. Socialist and trade unions brought out their red flags for the occasion and unfurled them to the breeze. The anti-red flag law seemed to be a dead letter. Of course, unemployment was the main theme of the slogans of protest and demand, but war, nationalism, wage cuts, Mooney and Billings received their due share of attention.

At Union Square, the speakers spoke through an electric amplifying system supplied by The Department of Plants and Structures of the City of New York. The anti-Socialist rally had been given the use of these facilities, and the Socialist party thereupon insisted on a similar courtesy. The loud-speaking apparatus was placed on especially constructed speakers' stand in front of the old cottage at the north end of the square. The speakers, surrounded by red banners and slogan placards, faced a crowd that filled the Square from Fourth avenue to Broadway.

Algeron Lee opened the rally and continued as chairman. He introduced J. Baskin, of the Workmen's Circle; N. Chanin, of the Jewish Socialist Verband; Esther Friedman, of the Socialist Party; William Karlin, B. Locker, of the Poole Zion; James O'Neal; Jacob Finken, Minnie Olmstead, A. I. Shipple, Julius Umanetsky, Bruno Wagner, and Ernest Wolf, manager of the Pocketbook-makers' Union.

The demonstration was in charge of Julius Gerber, executive secretary of the Socialist party, who was aided by a committee representing the unions and the Socialist party. The huge audience, its enthusiasm, and the inspiring parades have given the New York Socialists a new sense of their power. The May Day demonstration of 1931, should mark the beginning of a series of more daring and effective working-class affairs than have been seen in New York, in many years.

Maurer and Roewer At Boston Meeting

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

Boston.—The celebration of May Day by the Boston Socialists proved to be one of the best indoor meetings that the local Socialists have held in years. The size of the audience and program showed definitely a rising Socialist tide.

The May Day meeting of the Boston Socialist was held at Lormer Hall, with "Jim" Maurer, of

Reading, as the guest speaker. Music was provided by the orchestra of the Young People of the Workmen's Circle, which also accompanied the singing of the "Internationale" and other revolutionary songs by the audience. George E. Roewer, former member of the N. E. C., was chairman.

Chairman Roewer briefly spoke on the significance of May Day, to the workers of the world. He emphasized the fact that despite the common notions held by Americans, May Day is not a foreign importation but actually of American origin. The two most important problems facing the American workers on this May Day, he said, are the break down of our capitalist system with the captains of industry utterly unable to understand or to know what to do, and the problem of gaining mastery of the machine through collective ownership of the means of production for the benefit of the whole of society.

Maurer, in a speech that lasted over an hour, spoke on unemployment. Maurer traced our present depression to 1913, and showed how the war, the development of the automobile industry, and installment plan of buying, each in their turn help to keep industry going, but that finally a balancing had to come. Today, he said, we have from 7 to 10 millions of workers, either out of a job or on part-time.

Maurer said that unemployment insurance must be adopted in order to fix the responsibility of unemployment on industry. As radical as it may sound, we must reduce our hours of labor to four hours a day and keep up the standard of wages, and even increase wages, in order to provide work for all. In the last analysis, the establishment of socialism, the collective ownership of the means of production and their democratic management, is the only real solution to the unemployment problem, Maurer said.

Unionists Address Rally In Atlanta, Georgia

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

ATLANTA, Ga.—May Day was celebrated at 473 Capitol avenue, S. W., by 207 Workmen's Circle, Branch 1008 Workmen's Circle, Branch 207B Workmen's Circle, Jewish Local Socialist Party, English-speaking Socialist Local.

The meeting was opened by the children, who gave short talks followed by the singing of the "Internationale." T. L. Elder, business agent of Local 84, L. B. of E. W., talked on the electrical industry and the necessity of public ownership. W. E. Washburn, Secretary of Local 84, L. B. of E. W., spoke on the necessity of the workers having their own political party.

Washburn was followed by Mr. L. La Savin, teacher of the children of the Workmen's Circle.

The meeting was brought to a close by the passing of resolutions to the following effect: 1—That Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings be granted a new trial at once; 2—That we view with abhorrence the continued imprisonment of political prisoners in Soviet Russia. And we urge on those in power, a policy more in conformity with human rights; 3—That we demand a special session of Congress be called by the President of the United States, for the purpose of definitely dealing with measures of relief in the present unemployment crisis; 4—We urge the immediate adoption of the five-day week; also the adoption of old age pensions by all the States and the Federal Government; 5—That we urge Mayor Key and the City Council of Atlanta, to redouble their efforts to bring the Electrical Workers' strike to a settlement satisfactory to the parties involved.

Va. Socialist Convention Debates Russia

George Predicts Great Political Growth for Party in the State

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

RICHMOND, Va.—The Socialist Party of Virginia concluded the most successful Convention in its history Sunday night in the Workmen's Circle Center. Attendance ranged from 30 to 40 delegates.

Saturday the convention elected David G. George permanent secretary of the convention, and J. P. Rice, of Hopewell, chairman. In the afternoon Richard L. Johnson, of Chesterfield, presided.

Mary Winsor of Pennsylvania then spoke on disarmament. Later the delegates went to Hopewell, where a May Day Demonstration was staged at 7 P. M. on "Red Square." A large crowd vigorously applauded the speakers, George, Dr. E. Siblakoffsky, Secretary of Local Monroe, Miss Winsor, Alexander D. Walker of New Jersey and Scotland, and G. August Gerber of New York.

Sunday at 2 p. m. the main session was called to order by State Secretary George, Herman R. Ansell of Richmond was Chairman. The Committee on Resolutions reported through its Chairman, Winston F. Dawson. Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Convention included greetings to the Comrades of Racine, Wisconsin, the Socialists of Spain; a resolution demanding the release of Mooney and Billings, another demanding the release of all political prisoners in the U. S., and a resolution protesting the revocation of the license of radio station WEVD.

Resolution on Russia

The Committee, consisting of Winston F. Dawson, J. Lofton Johnson, Andrew S. Letich, J. P. Rice and George, reported unanimously in favor of a resolution presented by Local Hopewell, on Soviet Russia. The resolution resembled somewhat the "militant" resolution at the recent New York City Convention, but was more strongly worded, and included a demand that "the Socialist Party in America, and the Labor and Socialist International, give no 'aid or comfort' to Professional anti-Soviet lecturers, writers, dogmatists, or hirelings of the capitalist class, and that such aid and cooperation as is now given by the Socialist parties to these enemies of Socialism be immediately stopped."

Recognizing Russia as a "Socialist commonwealth," and assuring that the Soviet has passed the experimental stage, the resolution continued: "Socialism as it exists today in Russia, the 5 Year Plan, or any and all other phases of their Socialist construction and development towards a complete realization of the ideal, should have the support of all Socialists. We cannot permit the actions of the 'Communists' in this country to drive us into an alliance with the reactionary enemies of Socialism. In the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics the first attempt is being made to build a Socialist society in a brief span of years. All power to our Russian comrades in their noble struggle!"

When finally a vote was taken, the Resolution was carried by a vote of 19 to 5. The convention then sent "earnest congratulations to the United Socialist Republics of Russia, the first Red Republic of the Proletariat."

By a vote of 24 to 4 the Convention approved the Constitutional Amendment making war illegal. George reported that we will probably be able to contest 25 of the 100 seats in the House of Delegates, and 12 of the 40 seats in the State Senate, besides some minor county offices. Membership has increased over 500 per cent since June, 1930. He predicted a great year of growth; several electoral victories this fall, and called upon all comrades to exert themselves to the limit to establish the Party in Virginia. A collection netted over \$100.

Socialist Locals Urged to Speed Contributions to Drive

"Raivaaja," Finnish Daily, Sends \$50 Donation—Other Groups Act

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

CHICAGO.—The slow stream of contributions coming from party and sympathetic organizations to the Socialist Forward Drive must be speeded up by all possible means, if the sum set for the Drive, and necessary for the work of the party organizations this year is to be raised.

During the past week, some of the organizations reporting contributions are: Raivaaja Publishing Co., Fitchburg, Mass., \$50; Local 39, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Chicago, \$10; Associated Silk Workers, Paterson, N. J., \$5; Debs Branch, Workmen's Circle, Springfield, Mass., \$10; Pinsker Br. 210, Bronx, \$1; Zamoscher Progressive Br. 375, New York City, Branch 63, Kansas City, Mo., \$3; Bialystoker Br. 127, Chicago, \$3; and Branches 278, 39, and 288 of New York City; Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund, Branch 278, New Rochelle, N. Y., \$5; Jewish Branch, S. P., Kansas City, \$10; and Local Denver, \$10.

The only Drive meeting held during the week was in Albany, where almost two hundred persons attended. The collection and the pledges amounted to approximately one dollar per person. The New York State Drive Director, Harold Corvill, reports an intensive campaign to get at least one dollar from each member and sympathizer on the lists.

Finn Federation Active

W. N. Reivo, secretary of the always faithful Finnish Federation, reports not only a large increase in dues, stamp sales for the month, but that all the branches are circulating the subscription lists sent out by National Drive Headquarters. He has sent several appeals for action to his branches, and the Federation's daily, Raivaaja, has set a good example by contributing \$50.

Stanley Rogers, state secretary of California, has just sent a letter to all persons on the lists in that state, and the Pennsylvania comrades are receiving a follow-up letter from Norman Thomas. Los Angeles has just started personal solicitation of subscriptions.

The urgency of the Drive is well put by Norman Thomas, when he says, "The limit to what the Socialists can do is largely financial. In the fight for unemployment insurance and the whole organizing campaign, NOW IS THE TIME. The anguish of millions of unemployed, partially employed, and tragically underpaid workers can be turned into constructive Socialist action if we are on the job. Help the Socialism Forward Drive, and do it now!"

Contributors This Week

The persons and organizations contributing or pledging during the past week are listed below:

Henry Everding	\$3.00
O. Olsen	1.00
Anna Abramson	5.00
Morris Zinkin	1.00
H. Droppin	5.00
I. B. Karlin	2.00
Mrs. Diana Meimeth	1.00
Rev. and Mrs. Elliot White	2.00
Collection Albany Meeting	15.62
Janet Sablot	1.00
Robert H. Ritchey	50.00
Philip Lettner	15.00
C. S. McNew	1.00
B. O. Gifford	1.00
Leo Lipner	2.00
Workmen's Circle Br. 39	5.00
Workmen's Circle Br. 288	1.00
O. Guerlac	3.00
Charlotte Tuttle	4.00
Gilbert L. Forbes	2.00
W. M. Weatherly	1.00
P. O. Stephens	1.00
M. Larena	2.00
J. L. Stark	1.00
Henry Hoffman	1.00
C. S. McNew	1.00
Jerome M. Ullman	10.00
W. O. Bockelwitz	3.00
Boston Br. and YPSL	35.00
Ruth Biddle	1.00
Henry Hauser	2.00
James Payer	1.00
John E. Pearson	1.00
Anton Zornik	10.00
David Heino	2.00
Renne Worrell	5.00
Robert W. Davis	10.00
Hattie E. Beane	1.00
A. C. Bruce	2.00
M. H. Smith	5.00
E. M. Morton	5.00
A. B. Morton	1.00

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Richmond Has First May Rally in Years

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

RICHMOND, Conn.—On Friday, May 1, Richmond Socialists celebrated May Day in the Workmen's Circle Center, at 8 p. m. Despite bad weather and a heavy rain, over one hundred people turned out to hear a concert of Socialist music, singing the Internationale, Marseillaise, Red Flag, etc., and listening to excellent addresses in several languages, delivered by Herman R. Ansell, Alexander D. Walker and Dr. E. Siblakoffsky. David G. George presided at the gathering, which was the first May Day meeting in Richmond, since the World War.

Roosevelt Man Loses Fight For Senate Seat

Miller, Who Stole Socialist Designation, Loses in Utica Election

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

UTICA, N. Y.—Samuel H. Miller, Democrat, although supported by Governor Roosevelt in the special election, was defeated for State Senator in the special election, Tuesday. Miller had been ousted from the Assembly, on the charge that he had been supported in the primaries by Socialists. Miller had accepted the Socialist nomination, it was charged, when he knew that the nomination was fraudulent. Registered Socialists who were reported as voting for Miller had not voted at all.

Although Miller had been elected mainly as a Democrat and by Democratic voters the Socialists challenged the election with the result that Miller was ousted and a special election was held. Governor Roosevelt sent a special telegram to Miller for use in the special election and the defeat of Miller is regarded as a blow to Roosevelt as well.

Ray Newkirk was the Socialist candidate in the special election. He received 456 votes. Horton, Republican and successful candidate in the election this week, received 19,370 votes, and Miller, Democrat, 18,433.

Last year the specialists attended the primary and cast sufficient ballots for each of their candidates to constitute each and every one the nominee of that party for public office. But not one single vote legally cast for a Socialist in the First, Fifth, Eighth, Thirteenth or Fourteenth Wards of Utica, was counted. Fictitious ballots, with the names of the Democratic candidates for nomination for Assembly, Senate and Congress written in, were stuffed into the Socialist ballot boxes, without enrollment to support them, in the First, Third, Fifth, Eighth and Thirteenth Wards of Utica. In the First Ward, not only were votes, which had been legally cast for the Socialist candidates, thrown out and not counted, but a total of Socialist votes larger than the total Socialist enrollment in that ward was counted for the Democratic candidates for nomination.

In spite of this record of fraud "progressive" Governor Roosevelt went out of his way to support Miller in the special election. Democratic theft of the Socialist nomination for state senator was characterized as a "cowardly thing and desperate," by Fred B. Adams, Republican attorney, who volunteered to aid the Socialists in their court fight, when he presided last week at the Socialist meeting at which he introduced Norman Thomas.

Thomas spoke to an audience which nearly filled the New Century Auditorium, and presented a picture of conditions throughout the country and the barren results of voting for either of the capitalist parties. He concluded by saying that the Socialist Party is the only one offering an efficient and practical program.

Thomas was also entertained at dinner by the Women's Civic Club by a group including non-Socialists, and made a half-hour address over Station WIBX, at 7:15 p. m.

As a result of the work of the local party organization has more than doubled. It has increased from 35 to 75 members. The local has its own club room, and this week a Yippee Circle will be organized. The local Socialists hope to make Utica the first Socialist city in the State, in the next few years.

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Unions and Fraternal Organizations Are Cordially Invited to Investigate the Many Advantages We Offer, Including Our Moderate Terms.

As in former years, the Socialist Party will hold its 1931 picnic in Ulmer Park.

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DEBATE

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Policies and Tactics of Trade Union Unity League vs. those of Conference for Progressive Labor Action

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Cheap, Comfortable, Safe

Canada Backs Employment Insurance

Labor M.P.'s Win Government to Support of Relief System

(By A New Leader Correspondent)
OTTAWA, Canada.—Unemployment insurance, a proposal which Canadian workers have been arguing upon Parliament for years, has become the policy of the Bennett Government. Three Labor members of Parliament and the years of agitation by Labor have brought this victory.

Premier Bennett has accepted the resolution of A. A. Heaps, Labor member for North Winnipeg, and it now is a matter of working out the details of the legislation. It is understood that the bill will provide that the employer, the employee, and the state will contribute to the unemployment insurance fund.

Speaking for the proposal, Mr. Heaps declared that he and his colleague, Mr. Woodsworth, Labor member, had for the last six years on innumerable occasions raised the same question. "We of the Labor group," he declared, "make the claim that within the confines of capitalism unemployment cannot be eradicated. It is not because the industrialist desires unemployment, but because it is an inherent effect of the economic structure. Cycles of so-called prosperity are always followed by periods of depression and in those periods there are wholesale dismissals in our factories, our work-shops, and our warehouses with the result that vast numbers of men and women all of a sudden are deprived of their livelihood. During recent years the unemployment problem has been considerably aggravated. The ever-increasing use of machinery and the progress of speeding up has tended to make the labor factor in industry a diminishing ratio. Statistics all go to prove this contention.

Wealth Must Disgorge
"Therefore, it is quite obvious that if the productive element in production is receiving a lesser return the non-productive element is receiving an ever-increasing return. In other words, profits in industry is taking a large toll whilst wages are present in a relatively diminishing quantity. In this category I must include finance, because in this age of finance in industry, the two factors are inseparably interlocked and the profits of the former naturally springs from those of the latter. Today many people are of the opinion that conditions as they exist at the present time cannot continue indefinitely. Our economic structure has become so one-sided that it is on the verge of toppling over.

"The enormous aggregation of wealth in a few hands resulting from the conditions just referred to has created a problem demanding the immediate attention of Parliament. After all, wealth has not been created by a few; it has been created by many. To allow wealth to be concentrated in the hands of a few to the detriment of the many is a task for Parliament and statesmen to remedy. The concentration of wealth in a few hands has given to some an undreamed of power. I believe that the time has arrived when the owners of this wealth should realize that it must be used for the common weal. Instead of wealth being a blessing to mankind, in many instances it has become a curse.

Pensions Already Won
"We of the Labor party believe that the human element in industry should have first claim, and that the favored position now enjoyed by financiers and industrialists must be superseded by a system under which men and women employed in industry shall be reasonably provided for during the life of themselves and their dependents."

The success of the small labor group in Parliament in winning this important measure in a period when it is so vital for the relief of the unemployed will stimulate the whole Labor movement of Canada. With an old-age pension act also won a few years ago, Canada has entered the list of nations with modern legislation that will eventually lead to the socialization in many fields and the liberation of the workers from capitalism itself.

"It is a sad thing that men should hate each other, but it is far worse that they should contract the habit of cutting one another's throats without hatred.—Macaulay."

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For information, apply to
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Socialists to Honor Riley, Veteran Socialist Printer

A HAPPY gathering of Socialists will take place Sunday evening, May 10, at 8:30 p. m. in the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, 219 Sackman Street, Brooklyn. The occasion will be the celebration of Bernard J. Riley's 70th anniversary. Not only will every Brooklyn branch of the party be represented at this gathering. There will also be Socialists from other counties. The affair will be in the nature of a luncheon, dance and social evening, with a few speeches to grace the event and to pay tribute to our grand old comrade.

Bernard J. Riley is and has been for several years the official County Chairman of the Socialist Party of Kings County. He is a proof-reader by trade. Barney, as his comrades and shop-mates so lovingly call him, is one of the finest examples of loyal devotion to a cause. His many years of service to the Socialist movement has endeared him to every comrade.

It was about 40 years ago that Riley first had his interest aroused in Socialism. He was then told that its objective was "dividing up." The foolishness and impracticability of the idea must have fascinated Barney, for he began to hunt for a closer acquaintance and first-hand contact with these "queer" Socialists. As he tells the story: "Later on I made several unsuccessful efforts to locate a Socialist organization. No mention of Socialism in any newspaper of those times! The rule, it seems, was to ignore the movement! Later on I heard of Socialist meetings being held in a back room of a saloon at Fulton and Buffalo Avenues. I called there on several meeting nights, but met only two or three persons. The meeting would have to be postponed. So getting nowhere, I gave up the effort.

His First Meeting
"In 1895 or 1896, having heard that Socialist lectures were given every Sunday evening at Fulton Street, two doors west of Bridge Street, I made my way there and was quite impressed. Among the speakers were Comrade Matchett and Tom Hickey, who later, I believe, moved to Texas. I loaded up with literature at these meetings and always carried some leaflets to distribute.

"During all those years, even though floundering around, I became sincerely interested in the Socialist movement. I came to believe it was the only economic

Atlanta Unions Urge Public Power Plant

Anti-Union Stand Adds to Resentment Against Electric Company

(By A New Leader Correspondent)
ATLANTA.—The Atlanta Federation of Trades supported by the officers of its affiliated organizations, and delegates of the Railroad Organizations, has voted unanimously to begin a campaign for a county owned and operated electric, power and light plant. Atlanta labor leaders at the same meeting went on record as favoring a municipal gas plant. They also gave their full endorsement to the ordinance now pending before the City Council, prohibiting the operation of one-man street cars in the City of Atlanta. A committee is to be appointed by A. Steve Nance, President of the Atlanta Federation, to present to the City Council and the County Commissioners the desirability of a county-owned power plant.

There has been growing sentiment against the Georgia Power Company for some time. About a year ago Crisp County, Georgia, built and is now operating their own county-owned power plant. The Georgia Power Company slashed rates approximately fifty per cent in an effort to undersell the public-owned plant. The people of Crisp County, however, continued to patronize their own plant with the result that it is now returning a profit to Crisp County, and is insuring the people against the mulcting of the power plant.

The sentiment in Atlanta and Fulton County was crystallized into action by the unfair treatment accorded the Electrical Workers' Union in Atlanta. The Electrical Workers, Local 84, are on strike. The power company has brought in strike-breakers. The company has refused to heed the efforts of Mayor James L. Key, the City Council, and labor leaders to arbitrate. P. S. Arkwright, President of the company, refuses to deal with the union.

The electrical workers were forced to strike or give up their union. The company had adopted a policy of firing union men on one pretext or another and filling the vacancies with non-union men. The power company was also cutting wages by transferring men from one branch of work to another with a consequent reduction of wages each time.

Widespread interest has been aroused by the proposals of the Atlanta Federation of Trades and favorable action is anticipated.

It faces the land, to hastening its prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.
—Goldsmith.

remedy for the ills—and all ills for that matter—of the working class—my class.

"My joining the Socialist Party happened in an unexpected moment. One evening I chanced upon a gathering of embryo politicians of every faith, each rooting for 'his' party. I also was approached. To the pleadings of both the Democrats and Republicans to support their tickets I gave a cold and decided 'no.' I said: 'I am a Socialist and intended to stick to the party of my class—the workers of the world.' At that moment, Peter J. Flanagan came on the scene, and hearing my declaration, said: 'Such being the case, it is your duty to join the party and aid the party,' and then there I filled out an application for membership. While doing so the Democrat asked me was I the lone Socialist voter during the last few years in the district in which I lived. To which I pleaded guilty.

"Since my induction into Socialist thought and action, I have always tried to be a firm believer in the cause. I have endeavored to be an uncompromising Socialist. This attitude, upheld by an earnest and sincere desire to reach our Socialist goal, has been undoubtedly instrumental in my reaching—with a frail physique in my younger days—three score years and ten. Socialism, my ideal, has been kind to me."

Often On Party Ticket
Comrade Riley has been a candidate for every office in New York State but that of State Treasurer, and although he has never been elected by the public at large, he has always been an inspiring example of faithfulness, loyalty and fine service to our ideal. Had it depended solely upon his comrades no public office in the land would have been too high for him to honor and serve. Bernard J. Riley has spoken at innumerable Socialist meetings in halls and at street corners and he is always active at Socialist gatherings and conventions.

Tickets for the birthday party can be obtained at every Brooklyn branch, the Brownsville Labor Lyceum, and at the City office. The charge is 75 cents per plate. Those who may not obtain tickets are urged to come along, nevertheless, and report at the Brownsville Labor Lyceum this Sunday evening and join with the rest of us in showing our affection to Comrade Riley.

Movie House Operators Ask Aid for Strike

Fight Carried On Against Theatres in Three New York Boroughs

MOVING picture operators, members of local 306, N.Y.C., affiliated with the A. F. of L., have been waging a determined strike for several weeks against a chain of theatres in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. The men were locked out when the union refused to accept a reduction of wages, as well as a reduction in the number of men necessary to operate a "movie booth."

The union is waging its fight in the belief that it is essentially a test fight on the part of the employers in the entire industry to reduce the standards achieved by the workers over a period of many years of struggle. Appeals are being circulated among the people in the neighborhoods of these theatres, some of them having been issued by the Women's Union Label Club of The Bronx. Other strike activities include open air meetings almost every evening.

The union feels confident of winning this fight. It is counting on the sympathetic co-operation of other trade unionists and sympathizers living in the neighborhoods of these theatres, who are urged to patronize only union theatres. The following theatres have locked out their workers:

Mosholu, 204th St. & Perry Ave. Manhattan, 109th St. & Manhattan Ave., N. Y.
Ogden, Ogden & University Aves.
Kingsbridge, Jerome Ave., east of Kingsbridge Rd.
U. S., 195th St. & Webster Ave. Tuxedo, Gun Hill Rd. & 208th St.
Arcade, 64th St. & Broadway. Cannon, 112 Cannon St.
Miracle, 156th St. & Melrose Ave.

The following Brooklyn theatres have locked out their operators and the owners have secured a sweeping injunction which prevents the union from carrying on strike activities, including picketing.

Avon, 289 9th Ave.
Eden, 409 5th Ave.
Bluebird, 781 Saratoga Ave.
Kismet, 779 DeKalb Ave.
State, 504 DeKalb Ave.
Summer, 265 Summer Ave.
The Union is now appealing this injunction in the higher courts. Sympathizers in Brooklyn are urged to patronize only union theatres.

Life must fashion education, not educated fashion life. Life is fluid and ever changeable, and no most education be.—L. Dechaux Hobart.

Leather Union Confers With Employers

Workers' Representatives Refuse to Grant Bosses "Re-organization" Privilege

CONFERENCES this week between the International Pocketbook Workers Union and the Industrial Council of the Associated Leather Goods Manufacturers have failed Wednesday to bring the organizations closer to reaching an agreement to replace that which expired on May 1st. It was agreed by the Union, whose delegation was headed by Barnett Wolff, manager, that a third conference will be held on Monday evening between sub-committees of the two groups.

The main difference developed on the demand of the manufacturers for the right to discharge 20 per cent of their workers annually without conferring with the union or giving the workers a right to have their cases reviewed. The employers asked for this "re-organization" right on the alleged ground that incompetence or "soldiering on the job" by workers could not be eliminated in any other way.

Wolff and the union representatives said that such problems, when they arose, must be met. They opposed, however, granting employers the right to discharge workers as constituting a club they might use to intimidate and speed-up workers. In the past, complaints against the quality or quantity of work performed by an employee could be submitted to the impartial chairman who then had the right to use his discretion in the matter. As a concession to their desire to continue peaceful industrial relations, union representatives at the conference offered to replace incompetent workers but only after the case against them had been proven before a joint grievance committee presided over by the impartial chairman.

Wolff Explains Issue

"The union is fully aware of its responsibilities," Mr. Wolff said. "We are therefore prepared to meet every problem that arises. If it appears to us that some method must be worked out to grant employers relief against incompetent employees, we are ready to work out such a method, as our proposal at the joint conferences indicates. We are not ready, however, to surrender the job of each and every worker to the employers to be disposed of by them without review by a joint committee or by the impartial chairman. We are not ready to allow the employers to be judge, jury and executioner. If we did, unscrupulous employers could constantly terrorize their workers by dangling before them the threat of discharge for any reason or for none at all. "The union will make every effort to continue to seek a means of reaching an agreement over the conference table. We will forego any demands which can be proven unjustified. We will insist on any demands which we are convinced are just. We will meet the employers' demands in the same spirit. In that way we will serve the best interests of the workers and the industry. We want peace. If the industry is plunged into a costly industrial struggle in which many firms may go down as well as thousands of workers suffer, it will not be through the fault of the union. But if such remains the only course, the union will fight as it has on previous occasions."

Panken on WPAP

James O'neal, editor of The New Leader, Allan Broms, management engineer, and Harry Weinberger, lawyer, will speak in a University Forum symposium at Station WPAP, on Sunday, May 10, at One P. M. The subject will be, "World-Wide Depression—The Way Out."

The snake which cannot change its skin perishes. So the mind which is hindered from changing its opinion ceases to be a mind.—Nietzsche.

Workmen's Furniture Fire Insurance Society

INCORPORATED
Main Office
227 East 84th Street
New York City

Notice is hereby given to all the members that the assessments for 1931 amount to 10 cents for each hundred dollars of insurance. Assessments will be received at the following places:

MANHATTAN—Main office, 227 East 84th Street, April 13 to May 22, inclusive.

BROOKLYN—Labor Lyceum, 949 Wilkesbury Avenue, April 31 to May 23, inclusive.

LONG ISLAND CITY—In the hall of the Long Island City Turnverein, Broadway and 44th Street; May 14, 15, 16 and 18.

BRONX—At 4215 Third Avenue, corner Tremont Avenue, May 19 to May 23, inclusive.

Payments may be made in all offices mentioned above except Manhattan, from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. Saturday up to 1 P. M.

The Main Office, Manhattan, 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. Saturday till 1 P. M. Open Monday night until 9 o'clock.

N. MARQUEZ, Executive Sec'y.

There's Still Time to Win!

It is not too late to enter The New Leader Circulation Contest. In less than a week one contestant obtained enough subscriptions to place her second in running. Why not get into the contest NOW?

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Leave New York July 8 on the S. S. Majestic—the world's largest ship—See London, Antwerp, Brussels, Berlin, Prague, Paris and Red Vienna, and the Socialist International Congress—a six weeks' trip with all expenses paid from the moment you board ship in New York until you return.

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Your choice of 25 volumes to be selected from a list furnished by the Rand Book Store. An opportunity either to start a library of Socialist Classics or to fill in the books you need to make your present collection more complete.

6th Prize—Norman Thomas' New Book

"America's Way Out—A Program for Democracy," by Norman Thomas, published by the Macmillan Co. An autographed copy will go to all contestants who score 50 points or more.

List Your Name with These Contestants

HERE'S HOW THEY STAND:

4. Harry Lichtenberg	16. J. Kutler	29. M. Plotzker	42. C. R. Walker	55. James H. Diskant
5. Fred Gendral	17. J. F. Mincher	30. Hyman Selman	43. Bernard Schub	56. George Field
6. Samuel Richman	18. J. D. Ortlip	31. J. E. Stake	44. Max Lewis	57. Simon Wolf
7. Charles R. Bradford	19. Irving Wolf Salert	32. J. Steinsaltz	45. Gertrude Green	58. Ida Sondack
8. A. F. Frazer	20. Abe Belsky	33. Fred E. Stevens, Sr.	46. Vernon Smith	59. Max Schecter
9. Ben Senitzer	21. Pierre De Nio	34. S. Totten	47. Jules Umansky	60. Wilho Hedman
10. Daniel F. Gage	22. M. N. Coutts	35. F. H. White	48. Hy Fish	61. Robert Delson
11. Henry Koeltzer	23. F. Hostettler	36. M. E. Edson	49. J. D. Price	62. Oscar Clausen
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14. Sol Berman	26. G. Lane	39. William C. Stone	52. Ville Salmi	65. Esther Milgram
15. Harry Havorth	27. A. Levin	40. J. D. Sweet	53. Selma Sachs	66. Sol Larks
	28. H. Mack	41. Sarah Volovick	54. Sol Nyberg	

Rules of The New Leader's Circulation Contest

The contest score will be reckoned in points. Each six months' subscription to The New Leader will count 5 points—each yearly subscription 10 points. The contestant having the greatest number of points will secure the first prize—the next highest, second prize—next the third, then fourth and fifth. All contestants making 50 points will be rewarded with a copy of Norman Thomas' new book. A minimum of 2,000 points will be needed to qualify for the first prize. Send in names and addresses printed clearly. Write only on one side of the paper and do not forget to sign your name and address to each list you send in. Send in your lists once a week addressed to Contest Editor, The New Leader, 7 East 15th St., New York. Accompany lists with check or money order. Scores will appear in The New Leader weekly.

Remember, you should collect \$1.00 for a six months' subscription and \$2.00 for a yearly subscription. All subscriptions must be NEW and start not later than June 8, 1931. In case of a tie all tying contestants will receive the same prizes. All entries must be postmarked before midnight of June 1, 1931. Any mailed after that will not be counted.

The count will be certified by Henry Halpern Co., Certified Public Accountants. The contest is open to all except employees of The New Leader.

CONTEST CLOSING MIDNIGHT, JUNE 1, 1931
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I wish to register my name in The New Leader Circulation Contest. I agree to abide by the rules as stated.

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LINCOLN STEFFENS' BIOGRAPHY TRACES THE CORRUPTION OF GOVERNMENT TO THE MACHINATIONS OF ORGANIZED BIG BUSINESS

(Continues from page One)

Tribune has a long history of conservative action and views on this attack on the ruling powers of the nation is indicative of the perils which face the old, capitalistic politics.

Meantime, the Hoover Administration faces a billion dollar deficit and the only groups that can stand heavier taxes are the ruling powers which the Tribune attacks. These groups have money and the soldiers have votes. The G. O. P. wants both, but how to serve both is the problem that confronts the Great Engineer.

About Acts Of God

ONE alleviating feature of the present depression is the fact that it is being explained by capitalist orators to the out of work workers in such high, wide and fancy language.

In other depressions when a man got fired he just put it down to hard times and let it go at that. Today when the foreman tells Mike that he needn't come around on Monday, Mike goes home and says to the wife:

"Ruby, I ain't got no job."
And Ruby says: "How come you ain't got no job?"
And then Mike says: "You are just plumb ignorant. Don't you know that I have been kicked in the pants by the oscillation of the business pendulum?"
"Yeah?" says Ruby, "well get an earful of this. I got canned out of the canning factory today because the boss said that we were in the grip of a world-wide depression and that we were being socked in the jaw by the down-stroke of the business cycle."

So feeling quite set up by the fact that they are playing such important parts in the present crisis, the two go down to the City Hall and give three loud cheers for King Prajadhipok of Siam and Westchester and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool, whose sartorial grandeur makes Mayor Walker look like a Third Avenue bum, what with the Mayor of Liverpool's kneepants and his trick mace and all.

I see that President Hoover has made a speech to Julius Barnes, the prominent rug manufacturer, and his boy friends of the United States Chamber of Commerce. Herbert says that it is just too bad that the world is blowing in five billion bucks a year to keep a lot of sojer boys sitting around barracks sharpening up their bayonets for the next war. For once we are in agreement with Herbert, but we don't quite understand what we are all to do about it.

I may have told you boys and girls about this before, but as a matter of fact, I was a pretty prominent soldier myself during the late unpleasantness. To be very frank with you all, and now that it can be told, it was I who really won the great war. I was working in the kitchen of Company A of the Third U. S. Engineers Training Corps at the time. I was opening a can of salmon, commonly known as tin willy, when a courier came riding at full speed into our company street.

"I am Paul Revere," he shouted, "the British are coming!"
I explained to him that he was all mixed up and had gotten into the wrong war. No sooner had he grasped this fact and ridden off in a high dudgeon and a cloud of dust, then up came a dignified old gentleman with a beard, wearing his union suit.

"Now who the hell are you?" said I in my peevish manner.

"I am Ulysses S. Grant," he responded, "and I have just taken Richmond."

It was beginning to get ridiculous, all these people going around in the middle of the wrong wars. I decided to take things in my own hands so I sat right down and sent a cablegram to the Kaiser saying: "Great confusion reigns here. I am being surrounded by admirals, generals and Paul Revere, all of whom are suffering under the impression that this is the Russo-Japanese War. You had better surrender at once. I will accept no terms except unconditional surrender. Grant tells me he has taken Richmond and you can have it. Wire your resignation to me, collect."

The next day, while I was having lunch with Lloyd George and Marshall Foch, in came a despatch bearer with the following cable from the Kaiser: "Dear Mac: I did not know that you were in this war. That changes everything. Of course I will surrender. Please see my attorneys, Max Steuer and Dudley Field Malone about the terms. And use your influence in calling off the City Affairs Committee. Yours for the revolution, Wilhelm ex-Kaiser."

I then called up Pershing and told him to go on home and start writing his book.

Now that this important matter has been cleared up, I turn to an item telling us that Robert H. Lucas, executive director of the Republican National Committee, is all lathered up about the shocking state of affairs in our colleges. The papers say: "At a banquet of the men's division of the Young Republicans, at which were representatives from every Republican State, Mr. Lucas declared that the colleges and universities even go to the extent of encouraging free trade and public ownership of private industry. Each year, he said, about 2,000,000 young men and women become of voting age."

This is pretty hot stuff. We are deeply shocked to think of all these young revolutionists becoming of voting age every year with such wild notions as free trade firmly embedded in them by "radical instructors."

What is this country coming to? Whether are we drifting? Why, even General Atterbury of the Pennsylvania Railroad has been casting dirty aspersions at high tariffs and the General has been of voting age for many, many years. Lucas is going to take steps. He is going to form young Republican clubs in all the colleges since he says it is impossible to get the professors to give up their "Socialism and other radical theories." I wonder exactly what you do in a young Republican club. I suppose the proceedings start with a selected reading from the works of Calvin Coolidge. Everybody stands up with heads bowed while the president of the club reads off something like this:

"Charitable and devout persons have made gifts to provide our youth with an opportunity for education. The government has contributed taxes. Parents send their children to colleges often at considerable sacrifice. Some of our best men and women give their services as trustees. The result is a great charity for the benefit of young people. When they are through college, many of them can spell out my pieces on the front page of the New York Herald Tribune. Others can read the speeches of Andrew Mellon explaining how this depression is an Act of God. They can then learn that depressions, droughts, tornadoes, earthquakes and Democratic victories are all Acts of God. This makes the students very devout. They have faith in America. America is sound. Just now it may sound a bit hollow in spots but have faith in the devout and charitable men who are trustees of our universities. Like me at Amherst."

The audience then spells it out for Hoover and Lucas and tea and cookies are served to all hands. It is all good, clean fun and the horrid idea of free trade is not even mentioned.

McAlister Coleman.

Senator Couzens has asked capitalists to take a stand on wage cuts. They have. They not only stand for but they thrive on wage cuts.

Scanning the New Books

Edited by LAWRENCE ROGIN

The Next War, Its Possible Causes

An Army Officer's Warning

IT has long been a platitude that whenever a problem is bothering the world, or any part of it, a flood of literature descends on the heads of the poor unfortunates who make some attempt to "keep up." Recent examples of this phenomenon are the many books that have been published in the last few months dealing with two of the most important problems facing mankind today, the problem of war or peace, and the problem of economic reorganization, especially as exemplified by the Soviet experiment. One of the many, and in some ways the best, of the war or peace books recently published is a translation from the Swedish. It is "That Next War" (Harcourt, Brace, \$2.50) by Major K. A. Bratt, a Swedish army officer.

I have said that the book is in some ways the best of the lot, not because I am in sympathy with everything that the author says or because I agree with his conclusions, but because Major Bratt gives in his book a complete story of the whole issue facing us. Most of the books dealing with the problem of the method for settlement of international disputes deal with but one phase of the problem. Some discuss the forces tending towards war; others the forces tending toward peace; some advocate one pet scheme for preventing war, some another; but in no other book on the subject has every aspect of the problem been treated in such great detail and with such authority as they are here.

The book treats, first, of the nature of modern warfare and of the necessary conclusion that the next war will lead to the annihilation of civilization. Major Bratt speaks with the authority of both a student of and participant in the machinations of the army general staffs in their preparations for the next war, and his conclusions sound quite right to the layman. He thinks that the World War has proven the poor strategy behind trench warfare, and that in the next war the strategy will be to get behind the front by means of aircraft and destroy the industries, the centers of population and the other mainstays of the army. Therefore, two conclusions must be drawn; first that the country with the best air force will con-

quer; and second, that the results of the war will be annihilation. Another important corollary will be that countries will have to defend themselves against such air attack and we have the picture before us of cities with large underground vaults to protect its population, with the entire population trained to use gas masks, etc.

After painting such a dire picture of the future, Major Bratt goes on to point out those forces which are leading the world in the direction of war. Among them he lists the desire for revenge, Fascism, Communism, the Asian question, and imperialism. Nothing said here is startlingly new and some of the conclusions must be questioned. For example, admitting that war cannot be prevented so long as capitalism continues unbridled, Major Bratt says that the alternative is not Socialism, but some sort of controlled capitalism. He says that there would be national conflicts under Socialism but does not explain how these would be gotten rid of or

why they would not be worse under any form of modified capitalism. His conclusions in regard to Socialism are quite weak. An interesting conclusion which cannot but be agreed with is the one in regard to Soviet Russia. The author says that as great a menace as Communism is to world peace, its collapse would create a menace to world peace one hundred times worse.

Major Bratt closes his book with a discussion of methods of bringing about peace. His own solution is the creation of a world federation of peoples. He insists that what is needed is "power for peace." He believes that by no other means can war be prevented. Otherwise nations would not peacefully settle their disputes. As it is, he sees only one method to prevent war from starting in case of the beginning of a conflict. That is by the organized power of the international working class. For Major Bratt says that it is only through general strike in all the countries involved that immediate outbreak of hostilities could be avoided. The American working class should remember the lesson he preaches when the next threat of hostilities occur.

L. R.

This Is Called Progress



Tammany Hall and Labor's Pay

By Louis Stanley

WHEN the New York City Board of Estimate meeting in Committee of the Whole laid over the prevailing rate of wages question for another week, following repeated postponements of action over a period of several months, it added another revealing chapter to the history of the prevailing rate controversy in New York City. Organized labor has had to fight every inch of the way first to obtain adequate legislation requiring the city and its contractors to pay the prevailing rate of wages on public works and then to secure the enforcement of the law. The recognized alliance of certain labor leaders with Tammany Hall has not obtained for the workers the simple justice that should be derived from such an arrangement, although laws dealing with the prevailing rate of wages have been on the statute books for more than three decades.

The hearing before the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate on May 5 followed conferences between trade union officials and Budget Director Kohler who, it seems, has been playing the game for Tammany Hall by first neglecting entirely to make a report on prevailing rates of wages and then appearing with one so inadequate and so unfair that it required supplementing and negotiating to settle disputed points. At the hearing on April 28 Kohler even went so far as to deny that he had reported on the painters at all. Secretary Zauner of the Painters' District Council No. 9, who has been among the most vigorous in his criticisms of the Budget Director's estimates, denied this. President Ryan of the Central Trades and Labor Council, who is close to Tammany, agreed without comment to the proposal of Mayor Walker that the prevailing rate matter be postponed for another week while Kohler and the labor representatives meet to settle controversial items. These conferences have not been completed.

Beginning of Legislation
The first legal provision for the prevailing rate of wages on public works in New York State goes back to 1897. In that year in connection with the law establishing eight hours as a legal day's work, it was also enacted that "The wages for such public work shall be not less than the prevailing rate for a legal day's work in the same trade or calling in the locality where the work is performed."

In 1899 the provision was made to extend to "any material to be used upon or in connection" with the public work.

Walker Administration Accords Unionists' Leading Demand Contemptuous Treatment

In 1900 there were exempt from the operations of the law persons regularly employed in state institutions and engineers, electricians and elevator men in the department of public buildings during the annual session of the legislature. Instead of the state's being required to be a model employer it took the lead in cutting wages. This is an illustration of the weakness of the prevailing rate of wages principle as compared with the strength of the position that the government should pay model wages irrespective of conditions in the private employment field.

At this point the courts began to take a hand. They had held in 1894 that the legislature might determine the compensation of state employees on public works. (Clark v. State, 142 N. Y. 101.) Now the highest court in the state, the Court of Appeals, ruled in 1901 that the prevailing rate of wages law of 1897 as amended was unconstitutional because it was a violation of the rights of liberty and property of the city and of the contractor. (People ex. rel. Rodgers v. Coler, 166 N. Y. 1.) Another decision three years later limited the application of the prevailing rate requirement to employees directly engaged by the city but still freed contractors from the provision of the law. (Ryan v. City of New York, 177 N. Y. 271.) Nevertheless, in a later decision the same year it was held that "no man has a right to a contract for work except on just such terms and conditions as the other contracting party prescribes." (People ex. rel. Cossey v. Groat, 179 N. Y. 417.)

Constitutional Amendment

The reactionary stand taken by the state courts was all the more exasperating since the United States Supreme Court had held in 1903 that the city was but the creature of the State in making contracts and that the State might dictate the conditions under which such contracts might be made. (Atkins v. Kansas, 191 U. S. 207.) To clarify matters the voters were asked to pass on an amendment adopted in 1905, which specifically states that:

"... The Legislature may regulate and fix the wages or salaries, the hours of work or labor, and make provision for the protection, welfare and safety of persons employed by the State or by any county, city, town, village or other civil division of the State, or by any contractor or subcontractor performing work, labor or service for the State, or for any county,

city, town, village or other civil division thereof."

Following the adoption of this amendment the legislature re-enacted the former prevailing rate provisions in 1906. The constitutionality of the new law was upheld two years later. (People ex. rel. Williams Engineering and Construction Company v. Metz, 193 N. Y. 148.) Since then the prevailing rate has not been attacked in principle. Its application has been the center of controversy. The courts have ruled that the provision does not apply to the manufacture of materials purchased by a contractor for public work (Bohnen v. Metz, 193 N. Y. 673), nor to work done outside of the state for a New York contractor. (Ewen v. Thompson-Stratton Co., 208 N. Y. 205.)

Tammany Machinations

Various amendments were made to the 1906 law in 1909, 1913, 1916 and 1921. Disputes revolved chiefly about the failure of the New York City authorities to pay the prevailing rate of wages, which the unions interpreted to mean the union scale of wages. A decision by the United States Supreme Court in 1926 involving an Oklahoma prevailing rate of wages statute gave the Tammany officials in New York City an easy opportunity to defy their labor "allies." The Supreme Court held the Oklahoma law was not valid because of the indefiniteness of the terms "current rate of wages" and "locality" as applied in the cases under review. (Connally v. General Construction Company, 269 U. S. 385.) There was much reason for this interpretation since in the sparsely populated section of Oklahoma where the contractor was constructing bridges it was difficult to determine statistically what was the prevailing, current or going rate of wages. In New York City the situation was entirely different. There was a definite locality and there were enough employees of each occupation to make possible a computation of prevailing rates. Particularly was this true when the trade was unionized. In spite of this distinction between the Oklahoma and the New York situations the Tammany administration fought the payment of the prevailing rate of wages under the law. The Court of Appeals of New York State, speaking through Judge Cardozo, denied the contentions of the city's lawyers. (Campbell v. City of N. Y., 244 N. Y. 317.) The United States Supreme Court in 1928 dismissed an appeal from this decision, seeing no violation of the

power of the state over municipal corporations. (City of N. Y. v. Campbell, 277 U. S. 573.) Meanwhile, many workers had gone to the expense of fighting the legal rulings of the Tammany officials, some losing the additional pay they had been robbed of over many months because they had failed to protest in writing when they accepted payment.

Defining Prevailing Rate

The scare over the Supreme Court decision led to the amendment of the law in 1927 to make unmistakable what is meant by the "prevailing rate of wage" and by "locality." The prevailing rate of wages under the present law may be determined in three ways:

1. It is the rate paid in the locality to the majority of workmen, laborers or mechanics in the same trade or occupation, or
 2. It is the rate paid to at least 40 per cent of such workers in any trade or occupation, or
 3. It is the average rate, where less than 40 per cent receive the same rate.
- "Locality" is defined as the town, city, village or other civil division of the state wherein the physical work is being performed. The law makes the financial officer of the government responsible for determining the prevailing rate of wages and gives him powers to aid him in carrying on his investigation.

In New York City the prevailing rate question has not subsided by virtue of all the splendid laws and court decisions. The Tammany administrations have sabotaged the enforcement of the law with respect to workers employed both by the city and by the contractors. Technical controversies over what is the prevailing rate have been a plague to wage earners on public works. Many labor officials friendly

to the people themselves. Impachment is usually started by another set that seeks power; even the removal of mad monarchs (Nero of Rome, Paul I of Russia) was a matter within the royal household. Aside from an explanation of the term "Breakages, Limited" used in the play, the preface ends with the warning that governments will always depend on the consciences of the governors, and that we had better start teaching our children to be better citizens than ourselves. Outside of a few sporadic schools, Shaw does not mention, he declares "we are not doing that at present. The Russians are. That is my last word. Think it over." (Only, being Irish, he says, "Think over it.") And there is much food for thought in the statement.

Joseph T. Shipley.

A Famous Negro

ALTHOUGH the vogue of biographic works appears to be on the wane, the life stories of more or less interesting personalities continue to occupy the time and pens of numerous authors. It is not surprising, therefore, that this year's crop of biographies should include a study of Haiti's famous hero, Toussaint Louverture. (The Black Napoleon By Percy Waxman. N. Y., Harcourt, Brace.)

The volume, whose author is editor of the Pictorial Review, entertainingly chronicles the life and adventures of this "Black Napoleon." The work is based upon a number of fairly familiar accounts of Louverture's life and contains nothing that is new or hitherto unpublished. Occasionally, for the sake of a well-turned phrase or dramatic incident, historical accuracy is sacrificed. In addition, there are a number of rather odd statements and illusions. Thus, on page 190, Napoleon Bonaparte is said to have relieved General Dumas of his military command "for no other reason than his mulatto appearance." This, of course, is preposterous. And again, on page 293, it is implied that the French tricolor consisted of red, white, and black stripes! Nevertheless, the book affords a few hours' interesting reading matter, and should prove a popular companion volume to Vandercook's Black Majesty, dealing with one of Louverture's successors, Jean-Christophe.

W.C.L.

to Tammany Hall have warded off or blunted attacks on Tammany administrations again and again.

The Ultimate Aim

Organized labor should change its demands from a prevailing rate of wages to a model living wage on public works to be paid by the government and its contractors. This will not only be a direct expression of what the workers want but it will also serve to strengthen the trade union demands made upon private employers performing private work. To carry on effectively a campaign for model living wages on public works requires the organization of the workers on the industrial and the political field. Begging crumbs from employers and Tammany or other politicians is futile.

Wage Cut for Md. Miners

FROSTBURG, Md.—(FP)—Notice that a wage cut of 8 to 10 per cent, effective immediately, had been ordered by the Consolidation Coal Co., was delivered April 30 to a mass meeting of its coal miners, 900 of whom are employed in the Frostburg mines.

EXPOSED!

Russia's Plot to Overthrow the United States; to pull down the Stars and Stripes and run up the Red Flag of Communism.

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"THE COMMUNIST SHAKES HIS FIST" "We would fight the Battles of Moscow on the Streets of New York" by BRUCE REYNOLDS

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For further information apply at the Main Office, William Spahr, National Secretary, or to the Financial Secretaries of the Branches

The Chatterbox

Song for the Worker

I HAVE nothing to tell but my body and brain,
And yet I demand more than handfuls of grain;
For the hordes of the rich guard the herds of the rich,
And by twiddling my thumbs I have nothing to gain.
Then gather, my comrades, and into the ditch
With Babbitts and systems of terror and pain!

The lords of the lowlands, the lords of the highlands,
The high lords of all lands are bad lords of bad lands,
Then gather, my comrades, and make of this earth
A planet of freedom, a planet of good lands,
Of peace and of plenty—of music and mirth.
S. G. SOBIN.

Idle Thoughts of a Busy Fellow

The capacity of the poor for suffering is astounding. Equally, wonderful to contemplate is the little that makes them happy.

Socialism is a dream to them, much too good to be true. That makes the task of teaching it to them so terrific. They are like pupils who feel themselves too grown-up to bother with fairy tales about a heaven on earth. Especially when they have learned long ago all the nursery rhymes about a heaven in hereafter. Our task is then to emulate the parochial system of the Roman Church.

Teach the young the full catechism of Heaven on Earth.

Socialists rarely ever give up in despair and commit self-murder. No matter how hard life bears upon them, they still find a great deal left to live for.

The happiness of mankind is always a little higher to them than their own appetites or ambitions. Always a little more than money in the bank. It is heartening to see the light flash up in a comrade's eyes when news of a victory in a Wisconsin city comes in. You would imagine he had just heard the great tidings of a million dollars sent to him by a long-forgotten uncle, or some such event. It is still more stimulating to think of how he persists in the hard work of organization, coming to committee meetings, attending branch gatherings, taking up the thousand and one unending duties of the party's carrying on.

Out of these come the ultimate victory. Out of these come the way to the High End.

Why go to Europe? Everybody here in these states has a desire some day to make the trip. Many sacrifices are made to gain that goal. Except for the architectural differences, what else can one see across the sea that makes any difference? People are people, grass is grass, stones are stones, and the same stars and sun shine in the same skies, here or there. You might say culture is something. Perhaps. Life walks to a more leisurely measure. Europeans take hours for lunch. They have no madness to get there or anywhere. There are no traffic problems. The buildings are not arrogant and aloof. There is a humanity even in their heaps of stone. Again perhaps.

The desire probably springs from our own boredom. Boredom usually comes from lack of interest in what we are doing. Lack of interest comes from lack of result; and that is not always measured by substance. The spirit has its scale as well. We must be a very tired lot at that. So off to Europe for renewed interest in ourselves as well as life. Perhaps all we will find there will be what we bring there. Our own empty faces and lives.

Unless we go there as Socialists, to see how our comrades are faring with their greater strength and responsibilities. That's a fine reason to go. There is a purpose in that. We could learn much at Vienna for instance, this July. Gee, I'd like to go there, and there only.

There cannot be much in Paris, except for food. There cannot be much in London, except for Socialists who are satisfied to just gain office and hold on under capitalism. Rome must be stifling. Berlin holds little lure except for a tall stein of cooling suds on a hot day. Moscow is still in the throes of construction chaos, and needs even the food you would consume as a visitor. Unless you can pitch in and lay bricks or run a metal working machine, you are really parasitic there.

Vienna has a purpose in the International Labor and Socialist Conference to be held there this summer. It would be wise and useful to go there then. There is much to be done there. It would be good to be helpful in its decisions.

Otherwise, Europe holds no lure. There is enough of her here in New York City to satisfy any curious person.

If it weren't for the fact that New Leader staff folks are exempt from the circulation prize awards, I'd pitch in and try to steal the trip to Vienna for myself. I don't know where the time would come from. But the ticket is something anyhow.

Too hot to bother much about politics these days. Except the thought of how impossible it is to clean up any graft-ridden city with the silk-gloved hand of reform.

The last episode of the City Affairs Committee with the robber barons of Wall street should be a definite lesson.

Governor Roosevelt is slated to be the Democratic nominee for the White House in 1932. He will be elected if the disgruntled Republicans, and the hungry Democrats have their way.

Why expect a man so burdened with ambition and responsibility to "do the right thing" by righteous and indignant citizens, who are in the political arena for honest government?

The slim hope was that Roosevelt had liberal leanings. Again the old fallacy of depending upon an individual for a square deal.

Thank heavens all of the folks who appeared responsible for the charges against Mayor Walker openly disavowed their connections with the Socialist Party. At least none of us felt the full toe that booted them out of the State Capital. We had enough of that in 1920.

The days of Dr. Parkhurst are gone. All the vituperation, and all the sermonizing of a hundred like him will do nothing to change the utter rottenness of capitalist municipal government of our day.

The graft is spread over too wide a territory now. Boss Tweed has taught the bosses not to hog it. There will be no falling out among the thieves this time.

And only a Socialist indictment along our traditional lines, made by men and women thoroughly proud to be Socialists—will mean anything. And the day for change is not so far away.

S. A. deWitt.

The editor of the Duluth Labor World press this analysis of the 1929 income of 504 millionaires. These 504 millionaires paid taxes on net income of \$1,183,135,330. This is equal to the wheat and cotton crops owned by 2,333,000 wheat growers and cotton planters. And these 504 millionaires received, through the parties they finance, a majority of the votes cast by those 2,333,000 farmers!

THE SOCIALIST PARTY WORK

UNION DIRECTORY

The National Office of the Socialist Party is located at 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

NEW Flier Ready
A small "throwaway" flier giving facts on wages and dividends for 1930, and stressing the necessity for unemployment insurance, is now being distributed from national headquarters. It is 3"x5" in size, printed attractively on var-coated paper. The price is \$1.50 per thousand, \$10 per ten thousand, postpaid from national headquarters, 2653 Washington boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

Colorado

CROSSWAITH RETURNS TO DENVER
So enthusiastic were Denver comrades over the work of Frank Crosswaith, that they have arranged with national headquarters to route him back through that city in spite of considerable extra expense. Crosswaith will be in Denver from May 20 to 26. Before the 20th, he will be in the Pacific Northwest, Montana and Wyoming. From Denver he will go into Minnesota for several days.

In addition to his ability as an organizer, Crosswaith is a master of oratory and an authority on race relations and the labor movement, which equips him to speak before any kind of a group interested in such subjects. For further information, address Socialist Party, national headquarters, 2653 Washington boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

LOUISVILLE
Louisville, a small coal camp, has an active local of over 20 members, including the only judge in town. George Dierden, who is the party treasurer and secretary, and "Dode" Thompson, the night marshal. The other three officials of the town are not yet in. Lafayette, three miles away, just as small, formed a local of eight members and decided that since they all had autos they would merge with the Louisville crowd. We therefore have a strong local of over 20 members in Louisville, 22 miles north of Denver.

California

Thirty-five people, mostly non-party members, attended a lecture in Palo Alto by William R. Snow, former state secretary for Illinois, on "Why Are Millions in Poverty in a Land of Plenty?"

Illinois

CHICAGO
Plans for the annual picnic of Local Cook County are under way. It will be held at Riverside Park on June 14. Tickets, which sell for 30 cents, can be secured from county headquarters or any branch. Among the speakers will be Oscar Ameringer, editor of the American Guardian, and William J. Swoboda, new Socialist Mayor of Rockford.

Activity of Socialists on Chicago's South Side are increasing so fast that the members are sometimes bewildered. The past year has seen the organization of two Vipsel circles and a new party branch, and the establishment of the Jackson Park forum under Edward Loewenthal, which is meeting weekly. Other activities include the holding of street meetings in the Negro districts, cooperation with the League for Industrial Democracy.

German Picture of Gay and Romantic University Life
Stays on at Little Carnegie
"Student Sein, wenn die Vellchen Blühen," or "Student Days" (When Violets Bloom), the German picture of gay and romantic university life, is now in its second week at Leo Brecher's Little Carnegie Playhouse where capacity audiences assure this latest foreign importation of a prolonged run. Based on student activities at the famous old University of Würzburg, the beautiful background, the melodious songs, the exciting displays of swordsmanship, the thirst-arousing drinking scenes and the genuine atmosphere of the picture are bringing it enthusiastic comments from patrons.

Francis Baumann, popular German lyric tenor who is starred in the picture, is appearing in person twice daily at Little Carnegie and sings several of the songs featured in the film. Others in the cast are Rita Dorris and Fred Louis Lerch, the "Gaynor and Farrell" screen combination of Germany, Fritz Alberti, Edith Schollwer, Elise Reval, Paul Binsfeld and Ernst Behmer.

"The Public Enemy" Draws Heavy Patronage to Strand

"The Public Enemy" will be held over at the New York Strand Theatre for a third week, it was announced today. A fourth week is considered more than probable in view of the sensational business which the picture has done. "The Public Enemy" came very close to "Little Caesar's" all-time record in its first week at the Strand, and over a period of weeks may break that record. While "Little Caesar" was a sensational box-office "draw," it nevertheless did not fill up at every performance as has "The Public Enemy."

Scores of persons have seen it at least twice, according to George Verbeck, veteran ticket-taker. The percentage of women who have seen this picture is surprisingly large, too.

George Arliss in "The Millionaire" Doing Big Business at W. Garden

Entering its fifth week at the Winter Garden, "The Millionaire," starring George Arliss and featuring David Manners, Evelyn Knapp and James Cagney, continues at a box-office pace so swift that two to three weeks more at the least seem assured for it. "The Millionaire" is current also at the Brooklyn Strand, where it will go into its second week Wednesday night.

After four weeks, standing room only continues to be the rule rather than the exception at the Winter Garden.

ocracy in speaking to labor, church and student groups, and the establishment of a class in international folk singing and dancing at Lincoln Center. In these activities they have had the cooperation of the Socialist Club at the University of Chicago, which now has 100 members.

Indiana

A group of Socialists in Richmond have organized a School of Political Philosophy, under the leadership of Riley Hubbard, which is conducting forums at which as many as 300 people attend.

Fred Warren has been engaged by the Marion Socialists for a meeting at the auditorium on Sunday, May 17 at 2:30 p. m. Some other Indiana city will have Warren on Saturday and Sunday evening.

Missouri

A soapbox and organization tour of the state will be made starting June 15 by W. L. Garver, state secretary. Garver's tour has been asked to contribute to an initial organization fund for the tour, and with this fund, plus collections and literature sales, a three-day tour will be possible. Comrade Garver's mail address is 104 S. Taosoma, Tulsa, Okla.

New York State

STATE NOTES
State Secretary Merrill reports that prospects are that the principal cities of the state are being organized. Schenectady will put on the L. I. D. course of eight lectures next winter. Miss Mary Hillier, who is promoting this course, was a visitor to the state office in New York and reported good success all along the line. It is expected that the course will be given in Schenectady under the auspices of the central labor body of that city.

The state secretary advises that lists of enrolled Socialist voters are being compiled as fast as the election returns come in. Socialists in unorganized sections, who are interested in having locals of the Socialist Party chartered in their communities, are urged to get in touch with the state office immediately. The address of the state office is 467 Broadway, Albany, N. Y. Rooms 213-214.

State Secretary Merrill announces that three residents of Rockland County are now in the field in the endeavor to organize locals in that county, and that it is hoped that the same success will be achieved in other unorganized sections.

Utica

Local Utica will hereafter meet in How Hall, 241 Bleeker street. About 80 attended the meeting of the local on the evening of May Day last week.

Buffalo

Local Buffalo will hold an important business meeting Thursday, May 14, at 8:15 p. m., at Carpenters' Hall, 475 Franklin street. Robert A. Hoffmann, secretary, will review two recent books by Socialist authors, "America's Way Out," by Norman Thomas, and "The Struggle of the People," by Herman J. Hahn of Buffalo.

Nassau County

Nassau County, New York, will hold a good supper and good fellowship. Thanks to Mrs. Norton for the former, and Comrade Franklin, whose brief address was most appropriate. Proceeds will go to the Socialist Forward Drive.

New York City

CITY CONVENTION
The annual city convention of the Socialist Party of Local New York City will convene on Saturday, May 9, in the People's House, 7 East 15th street, at 2 p. m.

Manhattan

Chelsea Branch
At a conference of members last Tuesday, a plan of campaign for street meetings was outlined. For May street meetings will be held twice a week.

Free Youth is publication of the Young Socialist League. It aims to present the program of the Young Socialist League to the youth of the city.

National Notes

Likens, Pa., a small town in the heart of the anthracite coal district, had our message brought to them by a Socialist. Reading, Pa. Socialists took a trip on Friday, May 1. Unemployment, its cause and cure was discussed from every angle by Emanuel Switkes, Reading, Pa. chairman. A good batch of literature including copies of Free Youth was distributed and the basis of a party branch was laid. A delegation of unemployed miners from Reading were present at the demonstration staged by the Socialist Party for Hoopes' unemployment insurance bill at the state capitol, Harrisburg, Pa. The national office sent fraternal greetings to the Workers' Circle, now holding its national convention at Washington, D. C.

York, Pa.

On Friday, May 8, National Secretary Switkes, accompanied by E. C. Member Selbert will be at the new circle to officially induct them into the ranks of Yipselism. It is expected that a good crowd will be present.

Allegheny, Pa.

Socialist Party members of Allegheny are heartily cooperating to give the new circle a good start by urging their children to join the movement. On Friday, May 8, Abe Belsky of the Y. P. S. L. will present an outline of the workings of the organization to the newcomers. Literature and other material has been shipped by the national office.

Reading, Pa.

The Yipsels, in addition to having a meeting of their own at How Hall, helped to make the gathering arranged by the Socialist Party successful. The members also participated in the demonstration staged at the State Legislature on May 5. At the next meeting Tuesday, May 12, a talk on "Socialism and Religion" will be given by James Richards, an active party member and an Yipsel.

Racine, Wis.

"At the first baseball game between Circle Racine and the South Side of Milwaukee, our circle came out second best," writes Secretary Christensen. "But we're just getting started; wait until the season is over." At our next meeting we'll make arrangements for sending a troupe to the national jamboree. Our dance in honor of Mayor Milwaukee will be held on May 25.

Milwaukee, Wis.

The May Day mass meeting at Jefferson Hall, was jammed. Our next city event is a debate with the crack Chicago team that will be staged shortly. The Yipsels are continually cooperating with the party in all their endeavors writes the city organizer.

Fridays and Saturdays. The first will be held this Saturday at Seventh avenue and Perry street. Comrades who want to help in the distribution of literature will please meet at headquarters at 8 p. m.

Specific assignments for you of ten names or so will be ready for canvassing among the enrolled voters when you come to our next meeting Tuesday, May 5, at 8:15 p. m. Report for this duty.

Thanks are due to Fred Spitz for his generous contribution of flowers for our May Day dinner.

Comrade Porter was elected fourth delegate to the city convention. Paul Porter and May Harris Mainland have volunteered to conduct noon day meetings at the factory streets in our district. Members who are free for such work should communicate with either of these two. You may send mail care of Chelsea Branch, 8 Van Nest place.

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A branch meeting is scheduled for Friday evening, May 8, at the headquarters, 327 East Ninth street. Hilda Claessens will take on problems confronting Socialists organizations on the South Side. Preparation for the grand opening dance and celebration on May 16, which will mark the official opening of the branch headquarters. Comrades of other branches are invited to attend. We have established a well-functioning circle of Yipsels, as well as the same in other unorganized sections.

Amalgamated Cooperative

A splendid social and get-together will take place Saturday, May 9, at 8 p. m. The committee in charge under the experienced leadership of Sarah Volovick, has made all preparations to make this a complete success, and give everybody a real enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be served free, there will be more than plenty for all guests, there will be music, dancing, recitals of humor, a violin solo, piano solo, fun, friendship, humor, good will, genuine comradeship. The social will be held in the Shalom Aleichem Cooperative House, 100 West 11th street, at the door or get them in advance from Mrs. Volovick, Heller, Sander, Sophie Lipman, Goldman, Weinstein, Rosen, M. Victor.

Washington Heights

Sunday evening, May 10, at 8:30 p. m., Rev. Eliot White, formerly pastor of Grace Church, will speak on "The People's House of God." Discussion will follow. Come early as our capacity is limited and we expect an overflow.

West Side

The May Day dinner was highly successful. It brought out a good number of members and it raised a sum of money which will go far toward removing our deficit. Our thanks are due to Louis Waldman and William Karlin for their excellent speeches. This is the last call for the Norman Thomas meeting to be held at our forum May 8. Comrade Thomas' subject is "The Necessity of the Socialist Party."

We have bought out the Provincetown Playhouse for the evening of Wednesday, May 20. The production, of course, "Frederick," the Moon-Billings play, tickets are now being sold at our headquarters. Tickets are \$1.50 and \$2.00. Any one interested is requested to get in touch with either Comrade Chalken or Comrade Golempak at 100 West 72nd street.

BRONX

The May Day banquet was a huge success both from the point of view of attendance, the spirit that prevailed and the excellent collection obtained. Some 300 Socialists gathered in the Hollywood Gardens. Immediately following the strenuous May Day afternoon, the attendance was quite gratifying because of the fact that there were so many other affairs on that evening. Dr. Louis Hendin presided at the dinner.

2nd A. D.

A meeting will be held Tuesday, May 12, at 8:30 p. m., in the Paradise Manor, Mt. Eden and Jerome avenues. An interesting report will be submitted relative to the work of several committees. There will be a discussion on Norman Thomas' new book, "America's Way Out." Comrade Molin will lead this discussion.

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Assistant Editor: Edw. Levinson
Contributing Editors:
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Abraham Cahen, Al-
bert Kahn, Harry
W. Ladd, Norman
Thomson, Joseph E.
Cohen, Joseph Wal-
lace Hargan, Wm.
M. Feigenbaum, John
H. Work, McAllister
Coleman, Joseph T.
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ley, Louis Waldman.



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SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1931

Two Labor Armies

WITHIN six years the workers of Canada through independent political action have won an old age pension act and have now won the battle for unemployment insurance. With only three Labor members of Parliament this small minority has been able to accomplish these notable achievements. We congratulate our comrades across the northern border for their success.

In the meantime American workers, with a labor movement much older than our Canadian brothers, have no such achievements to which they can point. Here capitalism is supreme in our legislative halls except for Wisconsin and Pennsylvania where groups of Socialists fight the battles of the workers. In Washington there is not one man to whom the voting millions of workers can point and say, "He represents our class."

Politically, the labor movement of the United States is the most backward of any nation in the world. It is helpless and voiceless in our legislative chambers. All power is in the hands of its enemies. The American labor movement is a hundred years old and it has no more political power today than it had a century ago, if we except the two states mentioned.

In the meantime millions of workers are unemployed, wage scales are going down, workers in many cities are mortgaging their remaining resources to pay rent, and organization is at a standstill. Bill Green reports the casualties on the labor front each month while the labor army faces a hopeless future. These reports butter no bread and bring no power. The labor commanders formulate no program while the labor army faces depleted food supplies and a defeatist morale.

Canada goes ahead. Labor here goes backward. The suffering members should stir their organizations to life and action. When the army moves the commanders will either go along or be left behind to be replaced by generals who have vision, knowledge and the will to act.

The Curse of Capitalism

CAPITALISM, according to the New York Herald Tribune, "is simply an adaptation of private initiative to the machine age." With power machinery "it became impossible for the individual to own the means of production; their cost required group ownership." The machine has been "throwing men out of work faster than they can be re-employed." This has reduced consumption capacity and increased productive capacity.

"The result is the present stalemate, with all its tragic consequences of unemployment, bankruptcy and unrest."

Written almost like a Socialist if we except the leading sentence. Capitalism has not adapted "private initiative to the machine age;" it has throttled this initiative. Even the powerful bankers and capitalists who are enthroned on their empires of capital have little initiative in guiding or controlling the system. They are tossed in the air by its convulsions just as workers are buried in the wreckage when it collapses.

The fact is that private initiative and the old "individualism" are today as dead as an Egyptian mummy. Instead of these alleged virtues being adapted to capitalism the latter has destroyed them. Meantime, by the transformation of the hand tool into the power-driven machine the worker has been transformed into a dependent serf of the owners of the machines. He is a commodity, a living commodity compelled to peddle himself from owner to owner in the hope of finding a buyer.

Given these fundamental conditions, the displacement of the worker by the machine, reduction of consumption power and increase of production power, logically follow. The result is that capitalism is typical of capitalistic production, general distress in the midst of plenty. To end the curse is the mission of Socialism by making the means of production the collective possession of the people.

A Great Man Passes

PASSING into oblivion, George F. Baker, the banker, received columns of eulogy in the press. He was a member of the Morgan empire which rules a vast network of banking and business corporations. He was rated as the possessor of a half-billion dollars at his death. His eulogists observe him as a poor boy sitting on his uncle John's porch while others were working. Inquiry by George brought out the fact that uncle did not have to work as he lived on interest money. George determined to live on interest.

When the Civil War broke out George was 25 years old but he had no yearning for martial glory. His yearning was for interest. In this respect he was like the elder Morgan, Rockefeller and a few others of their kind. While the war was raging in 1863 George as a bank clerk read an announcement by Secretary of the Treasury Chase which interested him. Chase proposed that the banks should become the only important agents for the sale of government bonds and should be allowed to pledge them as a basis for their circulation up to 90 per cent of their value.

Jay Cooke, another gentleman with no desire for a corporal's stripes, read that statement. In later years when he owned Congressmen, railroads and banks, Cooke published a pamphlet entitled "A National Debt A National Blessing." Baker, like Cook, got on the inside of this financing of the war and both realized the interest that exempts one from work.

Baker had saved \$3,000 when he read that interesting announcement by Secretary Chase. Visions of uncle John sitting on the porch watching human pack-horses at work still charmed George. His boss organized a national bank and George purchased thirty shares with his \$3,000. From that time George worried little about work and thought much about interest.

George and other bankers ventured into a fairy land of dollars. Hoover's "Umpire of Fairness," the government, was doing a noble thing for them. They deposited their bonds with the government and drew interest upon those bonds. The government then handed them 90 per cent of the value of those bonds in the form of national bank notes for circulation upon which they also drew interest. At one stroke a capital of \$100 was transformed into a capital of \$190. Wasn't that a kind Umpire for the bankers? And do you wonder that George never forgot uncle John sitting on his porch and enjoying life? And meantime the workers and farmers were working like pack-horses to insure that Baker, Cooke and others received what was their due.

Naturally, George by his "own unaided efforts," according to his eulogists, rose to eminence and accumulated an empire of dollars. Hoover's impartial Umpire stood by in all the ensuing years to see that the laborer in the ditch and George should enjoy their respective kinds of individualism. And when our thrifty banker died millions of workers and farmers were in want while George's empire of cash was increasing despite his having passed on.

George had even become a magician with his First National Bank. One day in July, 1929, his holdings increased \$11,000,000. That was about twelve weeks before the market collapsed and hundreds of thousands of small investors became bankrupt. Their misery was George's happiness. Some of what they put into the market flowed into his money wats and the Hooverian epic of individualism went to the hospital.

So there is the story of the poor boy watching uncle John on his front porch many years ago. Isn't it a glorious land of opportunity for George and his class?

IN A NUTSHELL

Governor Roosevelt wired his support of Samuel H. Miller, Democrat, in the special election in Oneida County. Miller was ousted on charges of fraudulent practices, reporting Socialists having voted for him at the primary although they did not vote. Roosevelt is "progressive," like Tammany, progressively appropriating other people's votes.

First Jimmie Walker and then Police Commissioner Mulrooney discourses at the common breakfasts on Tammany politics. We may yet be told that Tammany is wholly holy in its intentions.

The World's Jobless

Unemployment throughout the world in the last week of January was greater by far in the United States, Germany and Great Britain than in any other country, according to figures published by World's Press News of London, England.

The number of unemployed compared with population of the various countries shows that there was one person unemployed in every 15% in Germany, one in every 18 in the United States and one in every 19% in Britain.

The complete table follows:

	Number of unemployed	Population	Inhabitants for one unemployed
Great Britain	2,608,406	46,000,000	19%
Germany	3,960,000	63,000,000	15%
U. S. A.	7,000,000*	120,000,000	18
Austria	280,000	6,600,000	23
Belgium	120,000	7,600,000	62%
Denmark	25,000	3,435,000	137
Holland	48,000	7,500,000	156
Ireland	21,000	3,000,000	142%
Norway	8,500	2,800,000	330
Rumania	38,000	18,000,000	473
Sweden	45,000	6,000,000	200
Switzerland	20,000	4,000,000	200
Czechoslovakia	65,000	14,500,000	223
Jugo-Slavia	5,000	13,000,000	3,500
France	49,000	40,000,000	816
Japan	345,000	84,000,000	243
Australia	90,000	6,000,000	66
Italy	550,000	42,000,000	76
Canada	22,000	9,900,000	450
Palestine	2,000	1,000,000	500

*Estimated.

"Guaranteed Employment"

TEN years ago the Crocker-McElwain Chemical Paper Company, large non-union paper producers of Holyoke, Mass., widely heralded a plan which would eliminate unemployment from their factories. On elaborately engraved sheets they certified to each employee of five years' standing that a full year's work would be forthcoming, though the employee might be called upon in slack periods to do other jobs than those to which he was regularly assigned. Tucked in the contract, however, was a clause that the agreement might be abrogated "by fire, flood or other act of God."

Recently, Elmer C. Tucker, vice-president of the company announced that the old plan was being abandoned—apparently considering that the present circumstances constituted an "act of God" which was beyond the company's control.

Under the new arrangement the five-year employees are to have a guarantee of only 36 weeks of work a year. A representative of the Federated Press had the good fortune to speak with Tucker on the day preceding the announcement. At that time he elaborated the success with which the old plan was operating, the satisfaction of the employees, and the great burden that was being borne by the company. He gave assurance that the "act of God" clause applied only to natural phenomena.

The next day, acting apparently on orders from higher-ups, the old plan was set aside.

Employees of the company, not being organized, have no recourse since they are under individual contract to the company. Interviews with them reveal a great deal of bitterness. Each employee has been summoned to the company's office, to be asked whether he is willing to have the contract changed. Needless to say none has dared to risk discharge by a non-compliance with the company's wishes.

This experience seems to indicate that voluntary plans of employers are not likely to be effective in a period of long depression and, moreover, that when coupled with lack of union organization, they cannot be enforced.

Sherwood Eddy at The Group

Sherwood Eddy, who recently resigned his position as director of Y. M. C. A. activities and has been devoting his time to lecturing to aid Socialist Party work, will speak under the auspices of The Group in the Auditorium, 150 West 85th Street, Tuesday, May 12th, at 8:30 p. m. Mr. Eddy's subject will be "The Challenge of Soviet Russia." In recent years Mr. Eddy has made no less than ten trips to Russia and he has a comprehensive knowledge of his subject.

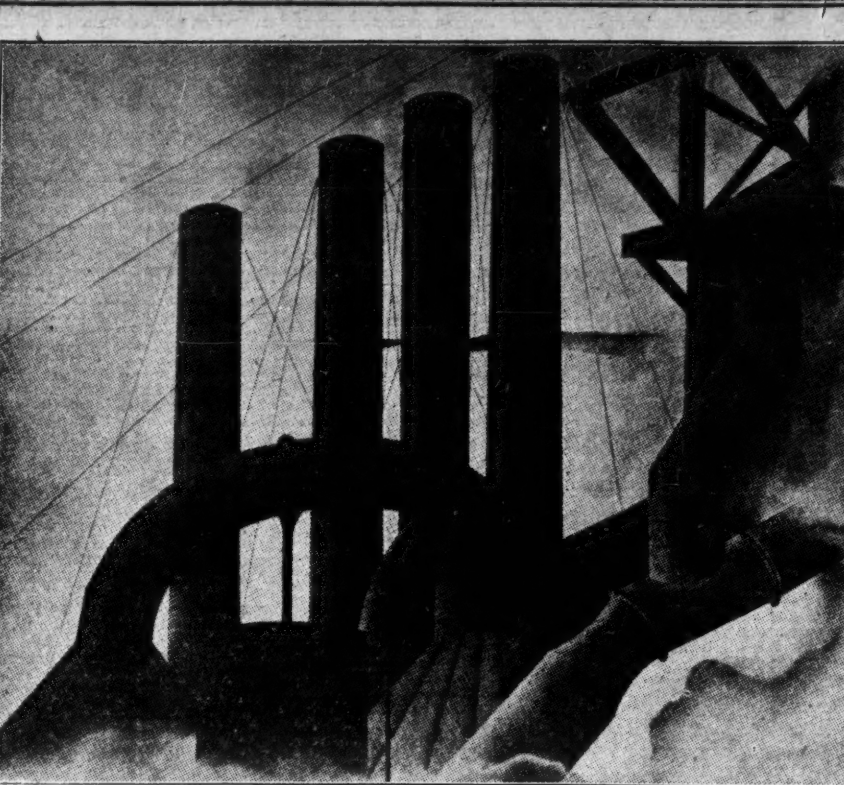
The New Leader Mail-bag

TAMMANY CORRUPTION
Editor, The New Leader:
The front page article entitled "Smash Tammany—Don't Reform It," is a sample of Socialist Party tactics that has deprived the Party from having a voice in the conduct of the city government. Norman Thomson saw the light and for that reason has had a respectful hearing. He has asked the police to remove the public questions. Just as workers are consumers as well as producers, so are workers taxpayers as well as voters. The Socialist Party was successful in Milwaukee and in Reading on the plea for an honest and clean government and not on the struggle between labor and capital. It is about time that the Party understand the victory at the polls does not mean an inauguration of Socialism.

It is absolutely necessary to break the strangle hold which Tammany has upon the city. Intimidation at the polls, the use of sample voting machines with the Socialist Party left out, the graft and dishonesty in every city department affect the entire city body. Tammany Hall feeds upon the city treasury and a good house cleaning with the City Affairs Committee on guard would help the political end of the Socialist Party greatly.

Peter Grimm, a prominent real estate man once said that the city pays \$150,000,000 in waste. If the Socialist Party and the City Affairs Committee could work out a budget like the one proposed by Mr. Grimm the people would be glad to listen to you. Milwaukee has done it. The Socialist Party of New York City see the light? SIMON FRUCHT, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Our correspondent does not question the history of the reform movements which we presented in the editorial he criticizes or the analysis we gave of the Committee of One Thousand. On the other hand he is mistaken regarding the policies of the Socialist Party in Milwaukee and Reading. In the former city the Socialists had to meet a group like the Committee of One Thousand years ago which they dubbed the "Goo Goo." It was by basing their appeal upon the welfare of the working people that the party was able to bare the real character of the "reform" elements through the years it has controlled. If our correspondent had done the excerpts from the speeches by Mayor Daniel W. Hoan and Al Benson at the big mass meeting held in Racine, which The New Leader reported two weeks ago, he will have observed that the appeals were made direct to the working people. As for Reading, the party there also went direct to the working masses in all the meetings it held and the literature it distributed. Either the Socialist movement is a labor movement or it is not, and we contend that it is. When it is a labor movement it is not a party of the working class. It is a party of the working class. The fact that it is a party of the working class does not make it responsible for it to fight all the evils our correspondent



THE NEXT EMANCIPATION

IV.—Marcus Garvey's Program

By James O'Neal

This is the fourth instalment of a revised booklet, "The Next Emancipation." It has been published to sell at cost, 10 cents postpaid, by the Negro Labor News Service, P. O. Box 66, College Station, New York City, or 2653 Washington boulevard, Chicago, Ill.

MARCUS GARVEY claimed to have a program that means the liberation of the Negroes of the world. Somebody may again advance his views so we will consider them. It was his idea to create a black Africa ruled by the Negroes. He would drive out the whites and create an Africa for Africans.

Now, it is true that the whites in Africa have practically stolen the territory which they possess. They have acquired their holdings by force, fraud, invasion, war and conquest. They have enslaved Africans and established white mastery in Africa. They have established governments in violation of self-determination. They have exploited and robbed the Africans, and continue to do so unmercifully.

Exploitation in Africa. But the Negro worker should not forget this: The white masters in Africa have also mercilessly robbed the white workers

who have gone to that country. Only a few years ago (March, 1929) there was a strike of miners on the Rand. In dealing with that strike the white masters were just as brutal and ferocious in suppressing the aspirations of white wage workers as they have been in suppressing the aspirations of the native blacks.

Here again there is no color line in exploiting wage labor. Suppose Garvey had succeeded in his program of driving out the whites and creating an Africa for Africans. What would this mean for Negro wage workers who go to Africa? It means that Negro capitalists would own the mines, ranches, railroads, factories and other forms of producing wealth. The Negro workers who go to Africa would have to sell their labor power to Negro capitalists, just as they now sell labor power to white capitalists. In other words, Garvey would have had the Negro aid in establishing a Negro capitalism in Africa instead of the white capitalism which now rules there!

What advantage would this be for the Negro worker? None at all. He would simply change the color of the skin of the men who skin him, that is all. The program does not even have the merit of the Colonization Society in the old days of slavery in the South.

In those days Liberia was established in Africa as a home for Negroes who became free in the South. When the Negro went to Liberia he did not go from one chattel slavery to another. But Marcus Garvey urged the American Negro to leave American white capitalism for a black capitalism in Africa! Quar way to emancipate the Negro worker!

Consider further: With Negro capitalists owning the mines, railroads, ranches, factories and plants of production, the Negro wage workers would be dependent on those Negro capitalists for a chance to live. The Negro workers would have to organize their trade unions to raise wages and reduce the hours of labor.

Suppose a strike occurs. Would the Negro capitalists, controlling the government, use the courts and military powers against the Negro workers as white capitalists use the courts and military powers against white workers here? Of course they would. The mere fact that the African capitalists' skins were black would not change matters. Capitalists act the same way in all countries, no matter what the color of their skin may be.

Strikes and struggles of Negro workers in an Africa for Africans would be dealt with in about the same way that they are dealt with in all other countries. There would be a Negro mastery over Negro wage workers. The class lines would be the same in all other capitalist countries. The Garvey program would have had Negro workers help to establish another capitalist mastery on this earth instead of abolishing one.

American Action Needed

It is much better for Negro workers to stay in America and join with white wage workers in abolishing capitalism here rather than helping to establish a black aristocracy of capital in Africa. The first has some promise of hope; the second none at all. Negro capitalists might well favor a Garvey program, but Negro wage workers have everything to lose by supporting it and nothing to gain.

Suppose Africa does become an Africa for Africans. Garvey did not carry with his program any solution of the problems of black wage workers. Why should the Negro travel many thousands of miles to live under a black capitalism? Is the journey worth the trouble? If he is a wage worker under a white capitalism here, he would be a wage worker under a black capitalism there.

A black capitalism in Africa would produce for Negro wage workers the same conditions that all wage workers face in the United States. Negro wage workers would have to organize to abolish a black capitalism that sustains a Negro capitalist class. They would have to organize their labor unions and these unions would be bitterly fought by black capitalists. Courts would be used by Negro capitalists and against Negro workers. The military and police powers would also be used against Negro workers when the masters thought necessary.

(To Be Continued)

44,190,525 Trade Unionists

At the end of 1928, there were according to data compiled by the International Federation of Trade Unions, 44,190,525 trade-unionists in seventy-six countries of the world. Although these figures cover seventy-six countries compared with only sixty-two countries covered in 1927, the number of workers organized into trade-unions showed a decline from 46,187,060 at the end of 1927. Of the total trade-unionists, 13,800,567 were in membership with the International Federation of Trade Unions at the end of 1929. The American trade-union movement is not affiliated.

The Pluck-Me Stores

One of the worst form of exploitation of the coal diggers in West Virginia is the "pluck-me store," as the miners call it. It is a common practice here for the operator to charge outrageous prices at his store and compel his employees to trade all of their earnings at the company store and thereby further reduce their wages.

The Kelly Creek Coal Co. at Ward, near Charleston, discharged several miners because they had not purchased all their commodities at the company store and issued orders to every other employee that he, too, would be dismissed if he ventured into the independent market to buy his supplies.

Prices Compared

On the day of the discharges a comparison of the prices at the Ward store and the nearest independent market was made by Hugh Talley of Brookwood Labor College. The comparative prices follow:

Valley-Camp Store, owned by the Kelly Creek Coal Co., Ward, W. Va.: Lard, per lb., 18c; Coffee, cheapest, 30c; Coffee, better, 50c; Coffee, grades, 55c; Butter, creamery, 45c; Butter, oleo, 25c; Bacon, smoked, 35c; Bacon, white salt, 25c; Steak, 40c; Pork chops, 30c; Sugar, per lb., 9c; Corn meal, 10 lbs., 35c; Flour, 24 lbs., 95c; Beans, pinto, 3 lbs., 25c; Beans, navy, per lb., 10c; Lettuce, per lb., 25c; Salt, 1 1/2 lbs., 5c; Peaches, dried per lb., 20c; Prunes, dried per lb., 15c; Apricots, dried per lb., 25c; Eggs, per doz., 30c; Potatoes, per pk., 45c; Bread, twin loaf, 15c. CANNED GOODS—Milk, large can, 10c; Salmon, pink, 25c; Tomatoes, 15c and 25c.

Sheed's Store, privately owned at Mammoth, W. Va., one mile from Ward: Lard, per lb., 12 1/2c; Coffee, cheapest, bulk, 17c; Coffee, best grades, 30c; Butter creamery, 38c; Butter, oleo, 17c; Bacon, smoked, 22c; Bacon, white salt, 15c; Steak, 25c; Pork chops, 25c and 25c; Sugar, 2 lbs., 14c; Corn meal, 10 lbs., 30c; Flour, 24 lbs., 75c; Beans, pinto, 4 lbs., 35c; Beans, navy, 4 lbs., 25c; Lettuce, per lb., 15c; Salt, 1 1/2 lbs., 5c; Peaches, dried, per lb., 12 1/2c; Prunes, dried, per lb., 10c; Apricots, dried, per lb., 18c; Eggs, per doz., 25c; Potatoes, per pk., 40c; Bread, twin loaf, 10c. CANNED GOODS—Milk, 3 cans for 25c; Salmon, pink, 15c; Tomatoes, 12 1/2c and 15c.

Make the Next Spring Bonnet a Union Hat; Adams Will Supply You

There is one thing that readers of The New Leader can do that will help their paper, that costs them nothing and that requires no extra exertion. They can patronize New Leader advertisers. Many readers do.

There are also readers who patronize our advertisers but neglect to mention having seen the ad in The New Leader, when making purchases. This is important. It should not be neglected.

A few weeks ago The New Leader carried an ad of Adams hats, all made by union labor, in conjunction with Station WEVD. Reports indicate that this union firm received inquiries from many localities from union men and the results were all that could be expected. This firm is now on Station WEVD every midnight from 12 to 12:30, except Monday, broadcasting a program of Russian music, and this program will be a feature for months to come.

Socialist Women to Discuss Vienna Congress on Monday

The Womens Section of the Socialist Party is holding a Vienna conference rally for the Socialist women, Monday, May 11th, at 3 p. m., at the Rand School. Esther Friedman is sailing for Europe, May 13th, on the Von Steuben, and will attend the International Congress of Women, in Vienna, July 23. She will also attend the Congress of Socialist and Labor International, in Vienna, immediately following.

Mrs. Minnie Weinstein, sailing also May 19th, will attend the Congress. Jessie Wallace and Evelyn Hargan are our women delegates to the Socialist Congress. Comrades Friedman and Hargan will speak Monday. Julius Guerber will address the meeting on the relationship of the Women's Section to the Socialist Party. All women of the party are urged to attend this important meeting.

Sacco and Vanzetti To Live in Bronze

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—(FP)—Gutzon Borglum, famous sculptor, has completed a beautiful bronze plaque, 7 ft. by 4 ft., commemorating the death of Sacco and Vanzetti.

The commission to do this was refused by Borglum, when first offered, because he believed the men had been electrocuted for murdering a paymaster. Then he went to Boston, himself and made a careful investigation. He became convinced that they were innocent victims of prejudice and undertook the task, which has taken him nearly a year to complete. The plaque shows the two men at one end; at the other is an arm holding scales in which archaic law is over-balancing justice.