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Congress Drifting Toward A Capital Levy

REFLECTIONS

By the Editor

IF I WERE dictator of these United States I would issue an edict regulating the use of the word "taxpayer." Those who rushed to the defense of that mythical person would be asked to show that their interests were the interests of taxpayers. If they succeeded in establishing themselves as of the class which pays the costs of government I'd pat them on the back and congratulate them upon their ability to pay. If, however, they were found to be members of that rapidly-increasing number who simply can't pay anything except the bare costs of bed and board, then I'd prescribe a stiff draft of castor oil.

AT THE PRESENT time human-kind, like ancient Gaul, can be divided into three parts. One part is the unemployed whose only hope of life is their ability to continue receiving food vouchers which somebody else pays for. Certainly they are not taxpayers. And just as certainly their interests are not going to be served by economies which will lighten the burden of those ladies and gentlemen who do pay the taxes. What they need is more of everything, more food, more clothing, more fuel, better houses, a cash allowance which will enable them to buy cigarettes, chewing gum, movie tickets and flippers. They need these things and ought to be willing to accept them regardless of the effect which such high living standards have upon the people who are able to do the paying. The logical watchword of the jobless appears to be "The Taxpayer Be Damned."

THE SECOND GROUP is the working group, men and women who are permitted to serve the owners of industry and who are being paid just as little cash as the owners can induce the workers to accept.

Most members of this group THINK they are taxpayers and most of them are in error. Their mistake is a hangover from the olden times when home ownership was considered a rightful portion for wage-earners. However conditions have changed. Workers are not being paid on a home-owning basis anymore and are rapidly losing possession.

Furthermore, the amount of money which workers receive is based upon the cost of living, not upon the value of a worker's products. Workers really know that, if they stop to think (which too few of them ever do). They have learned it by hearing the reasons advanced for wage cut after wage cut. "Living costs have gone down, therefore lower wages are in order."

And so, when the taxpayers' interests are served by economies in government, the next step always is to lower wages still farther, leaving the worker as poor—or poorer—than he was before the real taxpayers were so well served.

THE THIRD GROUP is the owning group. And it is in that group that the real taxpayers can be found.

If any doubt it, let them consider who are at the bottom of all this economy talk. Who wants to cut appropriations for hospitals, for schools, for streets, for parks, for unemployment relief? The taxpayers; those ladies and gentlemen who are rapidly accumulating everything there is to own and who soon will be

POVERTY OF THE MASSES KILLS PROPERTY SYSTEM; MERE OWNERSHIP FUTILE

With Growing Masses of People Unable to Pay Debts, Profit and Interest Takers See End of Unearned Income—Economists See Collapse of Private Ownership In Period of From Six Months to Two Years

WASHINGTON (FP).—Congress is drifting toward a capital levy.

Financial disaster, which has overtaken one by one the various lower levels of income, has in the past two months knocked the props from beneath the multi-millionaire class. Profits from investment have shrunk to a dangerously low point, as the public's buying power has disappeared. There is no longer mere talk of a moratorium on private debts; in every direction, the bankers know, creditors are finding collection of debts impossible. Foreclosures have thrown into the hands of banks and insurance companies a vast amount of real property which is not earning its maintenance charges and taxes.

Factories, apartment buildings, hotels, stores, farms—the solid property of the nation is becoming worthless as a producer of revenue. Buying power among the people is lacking. Something drastic must be done to restore buying power in millions of families. There must be a redistribution of wealth, and it must come soon. Otherwise the greatest banks and insurance companies in the United States will crumble, and what the politicians fearfully speak of as the "big crash" will arrive in the form of general and chaotic bankruptcy.

Big Financiers Failing. Sen. Norbeck's subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, which has had investigators at work examining the causes

(Continued on Page Two)

T. P. L. ORGANIZES COUNTY JOBLESS

New Groups Formed in West Reading, Pennwyn and Mt. Laurel — Elect County Organizer

Organization of the unemployed was extended into the county this week by the installation of branches of the Taxpayers' Protective League in West Reading, Pennwyn and Mt. Laurel. The latter organization was perfected last night after the Advocate went to press. In the other localities, the following officers were elected:

West Reading: Chairman, Charles Peffley; secretary, Mark Seltzer; investigating committee, John Latshaw, Harvey Swisher, Charles Peffley, John Zimmerman, Alvin Griffith, William Moyer.

Pennwyn: Chairman, Clarence Eisenbise; secretary, Warren Pennypacker; investigating committee, Richard Boyd, Howard Mill, Elmer Bitler, Alfred Eckert.

County Organizer Named

In line with the League's plan to extend its activities into every section of Berks County, Harry Alexander has been named county organizer. Alexander invites communications from all citizens on the subject of unemployment relief at his residence, 131 N. 10th street.

"With the utter collapse of the relief system threatening it is more important than ever before that the jobless citizens of Berks County get together and prepare to protect their interests," Alexander said yesterday. "Our public officials must be made to understand that so-called 'economy' in the interest of taxpayers dare not be carried to the point of neglecting the welfare of the men, women and children who are suffering from poverty through no fault of their own. To receive relief is not a privilege, but a right. Furthermore, the relief should be adequate to meet the proper needs of the jobless and their families. The only way in which we can get adequate relief is to organize and make insistent demands for it."

REBUILD CITIES TO AVERT CHAOS, HOOPES URGES

Socialist Representative's Bill Would Enable Municipalities To Build and Rent Houses To Workers

WARNS OF SOCIAL COLLAPSE

Socialist Lawmaker Declares Housing Problem Must be Solved Before the World Can Move Forward

HARRISBURG, Pa.—A bill to authorize Pennsylvania cities to enter upon vast construction programs to rehouse their workers is the burden of the bill introduced by Darlington Hoopes in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

The bill would permit cities to appropriate land both within and without their borders, to build homes and to own, operate and manage them, charging only those rents necessary to retire the cost of the building and administration.

Funds that could be raised only with the greatest difficulty for the general kind of non-income producing public works to which private business has deemed government shall limit itself, could be found readily at the present time for such a genuinely self-liquidating project as housing. Socialist Representative Hoopes pointed out that the virtual dictatorship of the bankers over the finances of most large cities would be ineffective in the face of a housing program which would offer a perfectly irresistible outlet for unemployed capital now locked in many bankers' vaults.

The bill specifically provides that cities may acquire nearby areas not at the present moment within the particular city limits, thus enabling the municipality to evade the greedy exactions of real estate speculators where it is not possible to crush these social criminals. In many cases the immense problems of destruction of the slum areas would be first moved upon by the creation of practically new modern cities, planned and scientifically ordered for

(Continued on Page Five)

HOMELESS IDLE KEPT ON MOVE

City Authorities, Lacking Funds to Give Relief, Keep Wanderers Everlastingly On The Way

WASHINGTON (FP).—Answers received by Sen. LaFollette to 2,200 questionnaires sent out, for the third successive year, to mayors of American cities, as to how they deal with the homeless unemployed, show that the standard treatment is a night in jail or in a lodging house and an order from the police to "Move on!"

Work is provided in far fewer instances than one or two years ago. Local funds are slight, and are reserved for local residents. Applications to the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, through the State governments, grow week by week. Transient unemployed men and boys are looked upon as a burden which the city should not be asked to bear. Hence they are treated as undesirable strangers, if not as criminal suspects.

Relief Needs Heavy

Benjamin C. Marsh, executive secretary of the People's Lobby, testifying January 5 before the LaFollette-Costigan sub-committee of the Senate Manufacturers Committee in

(Continued on Page Four)

SMITH'S PURCHASES MAKE PART-TIME MEN THINK OF "ECONOMY"

City workers who have had their incomes cut in half in the sacred name of "economy" are wondering whether Councilman Bill Smith could not practice a bit of saving in his own office.

Smith bought himself a new desk for \$125 and a typewriter for \$110 in November. This week the bills were approved for payment.

Laborers who are receiving the princely sum of 50 cents per hour and who work "week-about" are getting along on \$10 or \$11 per week. Smith's nice new office equipment would have paid the wages of an extra man for almost half a year.

"Just a case to show that common labor must stand the brunt of economy," is the comment of one of Smith's half-time hirelings.

GEORGE SAYS CITY FINANCES ARE 'ON ROCKS'

Socialist Councilman Shows That Reading Is Heading Toward a Crash as Taxpayers Face Ruin

DISCUSSES WATER FUNDS

Sees No Hope of Repaying "Temporary" Loans Made to Pay City General Expenses

"Never in the history of the city has Reading been so deeply in debt as at the present time and we're going to continue going in that direction until municipal finances crash." That was the gloomy prediction of Councilman Jesse George this week in discussing recent financing operations which the Fusion administration has negotiated.

George declared that on January 2 the city was \$505,000 "in the hole."

"We owed the banks \$300,000, the water department \$140,000, and had unpaid bills amounting to \$65,000," the Socialist councilman pointed out. "This week we arranged to take another \$100,000 from the water funds, which will not be repaid from the general revenue."

The Socialist councilman predicted that the city would be \$750,000 short by the end of the year.

"To speak of reimbursing the water department is a ghastly joke," he declared. "It will not be done for the simple reason that the municipal income will not permit us to meet the necessary expenses of administration."

Taxes Not Being Paid

George pointed out that the collapse of Capitalist industry is placing more and more people in a position where they simply can not pay their taxes.

"To plan expenditures on the basis of the 9-mill tax rate is merely to fool ourselves," he declared. "In 1932 the amount of taxes uncollected amounted to 22 1/2 per cent of the total. I feel that it is safe to predict that at least 35 per cent of this year's taxes will not be paid. How can the city hope to keep going under such conditions?"

George scored the item of \$60,000, which was placed in this year's budget as an "unencumbered balance."

"How can there be an unencumbered balance when the city has so many outstanding liabilities?" he asked.

Pointing to the recent financing operation of the city as evidence of the desperate straits in which the

(Continued on Page Five)

PARISH WORKERS GAIN JOBS BY LOSING WAGES

How Workers Are Forced to Compete Against Each Other Revealed by Reading Firm's Policy

TOOK JOB FROM R. R. SHOP

With Capitalist Industry Collapsing, Only Cheapest Orders to Firms

How workers in Reading's industry are forced to compete against the lowest paid workers in their line in an effort to get such jobs as are available was demonstrated in a notice posted recently by the Parish Pressed Steel Company.

Under the plea of getting orders and thus keeping their employees working for longer periods of time, the Parish managers have reduced the time allowed on a number of jobs to far less than the most ardent worker can meet. As a consequence of this wage-cutting program keen satisfaction has developed among the force.

It was in an effort to stem what seemed like a spirit of revolt that the following notice was posted by Superintendent H. S. Lewis shortly before Christmas:

Invigil Against "Radicals"
"It has always surprised me, that a few men making radical statements, can carry and control the actions of the others, who refuse to think for themselves, but are continually being lead or influenced like so many sheep. This is the situation that has existed in this plant for the past several months."

"I have known a great majority of our employees personally, and have worked with them for years, and therefore naturally have their best interests at heart. With this in mind I have done everything humanly possible to get all of the work into this shop that we could get. It has always been the practice in the stamping business, to make the customers pay for tools to produce any new part. In order to make employ-

(Continued on Page Four)

N. Y. NEGLECTING 30,000 FAMILIES

Welfare Executive Tells Senate Committee of Inadequate Relief in Nation's Richest City

WASHINGTON (FP).—That New York City contains at least 30,000 destitute families that are getting no relief from the public authorities, although 250,000 families are being cared for, was the testimony of William Hodson, executive director of the Welfare Council of that city, before the Costigan-LaFollette subcommittee of the Senate Manufacturers Committee, January 4.

Samuel Goldsmith of the Jewish Charities of Chicago had testified that no families in Chicago, willing to apply for relief, are now without help.

Sen. Costigan, presiding at the hearing, said that New York seemed less efficient than Chicago in handling the hunger problem. He also brought out the fact that while Illinois has applied for and received over \$20,000,000 from the hunger relief funds of the federal government, New York has not applied for anything.

The point of this contrast was that both Costigan and LaFollette

(Continued on Page Two)

What Reading Folks Are Talking About

THE MAURER VERDICT

The verdict of the jury in the Maurer-McSparran case was the surprise of the week to those who knew more about the case than they did about juries.

James H. Maurer charged Elwood W. McSparran with slander and had a number of witnesses to testify that the latter had made character-killing remarks about him. Against the testimony of Maurer's witnesses was the unsupported denial of Mr. McSparran himself.

In effect, all that McSparran testified was: "I did not say the things the witnesses say I said."

And the jury decided that McSparran was telling the truth while Maurer's witnesses were "talking through their hats."

Well, juries decide cases, but they have little to do with public opinion. What the public thinks was probably best expressed by a citizen who ironically remarked: "It wouldn't have done to take the word of a worker against the testimony of a banker."

POLICE RAIDS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

This week's Advocate records the complaint of a woman who declares that the Fusion police authorities persecuted her and unjustly sentenced three of her roomers to jail on a "disorderly house" charge.

We permitted the woman to tell her story in the Advocate because it sounded reasonable and in order to call attention to the development of the "rooming house" evil within our city.

Regardless of the merits of this particular case, the fact remains that, with the growth of hard times, an epidemic of free-lance prostitution has come to Reading. This is so, not because womankind is more immoral than formerly, but because the pressure of hard times is driving unemployed and underpaid female workers to such sordid devices as a means of making a living.

Mayor Ermentrout and Police Commissioner Giles may be perfectly sincere in their determination to drive traffic in sex from our city. But merely to arrest and imprison the unfortunate who ply the oldest trade in history is not going to eradicate the cause of the trouble.

Ermentrout, Giles and their Democratic and Republican associates stand for the system which drives girls to prostitution and men to prostitutes. When the former find it impossible to earn a living by honest work and the latter are unable to support a family in decency, then the business begins.

It's just too bad that police can not be used to raid stores and factories which pay girls pauper wages and imprison industrial magnates which pay men less than family wages. If the evil were attacked from that end the whole horrid business might be wiped out in America, as it has been in Russia, by making useful workers the most-privileged group.

Socialists deplore prostitution in all its forms, if for no other reason than because workers are the victims. But anyone who understands the cause of the evil will have infinitely more respect for the girl who sells her body than for the labor exploiter who drives her to that extremity and the politician who helps to maintain a system which breeds poverty, prostitution and war.

HOLDING FIREMEN'S FUNDS

An attempt by the Fusion city officials to use money which does not belong to them was nipped in the bud this week by the vigilance of Reading's firemen.

The sum involved was a matter of about \$11,000, which was sent to the city officials by the state for the benefit of the Volunteer Firemen's Relief Association.

When an official of the Association called upon the city controller to surrender the money the latter is said to have replied: "Indeed not."

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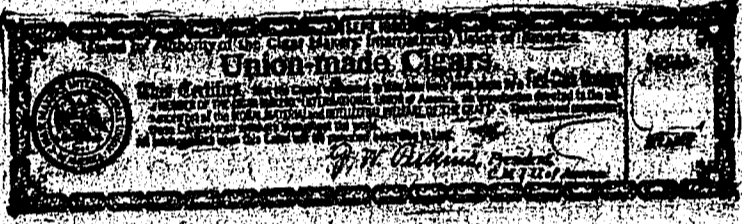
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LABOR COLLEGE NEWS
By STEPHEN H. ELY

Mr. Mark Starr, a representative from the Brookwood Labor College, located at Katonah, New York, gave a short but interesting talk to the students of the Reading Labor College during the Monday night class session. He outlined briefly the work being accomplished at the Brookwood school to equip workers with the knowledge necessary for intelligent activity in the militant labor movement.

Mr. Starr has traveled extensively, having visited Germany, Russia, and various other countries. This week he is speaking at Philadelphia, Allentown, Mt. Carmel, Shenandoah, Pottstown and Reading. It is sincerely hoped by all who heard him that he will favor us with another visit in the very near future.

It may seem strange to many people, but nevertheless it is a deplorable fact, that we workers must establish our own institutions of learning if we expect to sweep aside the orthodox views, pertaining to the present economic system, which have been instilled in the minds of the great majority of our class. With the aid of such institutions we will supply the antidote for Capitalism's poison which has corrupted the minds of the toilers.

Next Monday and Wednesday night we will study the monetary system; perhaps it will be revealed to us why money is so coy at the present time, or should I say—"at all times."

"Pep" night has been postponed from January 15 to Sunday, February 6. The place for holding this affair has also been changed from the Labor Lyceum to the Knights of the Golden Eagles hall on North Sixth street.

There will be another committee meeting on Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock in the headquarters of Southern Branch, located in the basement of the old school building at Peach and Franklin streets. All those participating in the sketch to be given on "Pep" night are requested to be there.

POVERTY OF THE MASSES
(Continued from First Page)

for the Krueger & Toll and Lee, Higginson & Co. collapse, is about to resume open hearings. Norbeck has hesitated at again digging into the false fronts of big financial structures, but is convinced that further delay of exposure of vast frauds against the investing public is useless and injurious. Great pressure has been exerted upon him to protect the secrets of empty treasuries of supposedly powerful concerns, but he has determined that the country must stand a new series of shocks to its complacency. Not half of the draining off of wealth from the American middle-class public has yet been disclosed.

This same committee, and the House Banking and Currency Committee, will soon hold hearings on currency inflation bills. Many members of Congress are urging that silver be remonetized, or that fiat money be issued, or that the gold content of the dollar be reduced. Others argue for a commodity dollar. Reduction of the number of grains of gold in the dollar will not solve the inflation problem, since Morgan & Co. and some other big financial houses have long pursued the policy of making their bonds payable in a certain number of grains or ounces of gold. There are proposals that a tax be laid on gold, in order to force the use of gold as a basis for issuance of gold notes or other paper money.

However, none of these inflation measures touches the fundamental problem of getting a huge sum of buying power, quickly, into the hands of the 22,000,000 unemployed or partly employed, and into the hands of the destitute farmers. In some way the federal government must either employ these people or buy their products or give them maintenance funds with which they will buy the goods that the industries should be producing.

Capital Levy Necessary
A capital levy, economists point out to members of the Senate and House who dare to listen, would be the simplest, surest, and quickest way of raising the money needed to start the home market into new activity. An exemption of \$25,000 or \$50,000 could be provided, and a graduated scale of levy be placed on all property above the exemption line. Government bonds, corporate bonds and stocks and other property could be taken, in this way, to the extent of \$10,000,000,000 or even \$40,000,000,000, without impoverishing anyone. Unproductive lands and plants could be retired from competition, scattered small properties could be grouped under a con-

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solidated management, and economic planning could at last be begun. Against these properties the government could issue currency with which it could give employment on the one hand, and pay unemployment maintenance on the other.

Democrats and Republicans alike are shying away from any discussion of a capital levy. But they find no other road of escape from the utter collapse of revenues for private as well as public purposes. That collapse is estimated to be all the way from two years to only six months distant — unless powerful owners of property combine to surrender part of their holdings in order that they may retain a livelihood from the rest.

poor held at the lowest possible existence levels and the rich shouting for cheaper government in order that they may keep a larger share of the wealth which they have ground from the bodies of their fellow men.

REFLECTIONS
(Continued from First Page)

the only ones who will be able to pay taxes on anything.

Members of that group are the ones who would be permitted to use the word "taxpayer" if I were dictator. Because they ARE the taxpayers. They are the crowd which has been so successful in taking everything that the rest of us have produced that the chief function of government is that of defending their claims to the earth.

I WISH THAT groups numbers one and two would be as sincerely concerned about their interests as the taxpayer group is just now.

I would like to see the jobless demanding more and more taxes—until enough money would be extracted from the taxpayers to keep every person in decency.

And I would like to see the employed fighting for the abolition of the real tax which they pay—the tax of profits, interest and dividends which is collected by the small group of industrialists and bankers who are the taxpayers.

I would like to see the exploiting owners ground between the two groups, deprived of their right to profit from the labor of workers and taxed for the support of non-workers, until in sheer desperation they help to make industry a social asset instead of a matter of private profit.

When that is done all men and women will be producers and all will be taxpayers. And until it is done this conflict will go on—with the

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Come to the Store Where Your
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\$10 \$12.50 \$15 \$17.50 \$20
For the Real All-Wool Clothes

THE STORE WITH THOUSANDS
OF PANTS
EPSTEIN BROS.
829 Penn Street

Activities of the Reading Socialists

PARTY SPEAKERS AND SUBJECTS

Following is a list of speakers who have thus far volunteered to address party branches:

Bernard Bortz—Psychology and Sex.
Albert Hartman—What Is Happening to the New Generation?
Jacob Hiestand—1933 In the Light of 1776.
William C. Hoover—Current Events.
Raymond S. Hofses—Current Events.
Steve Lawrence—Scouting and Proselyting.
Amos Leshner—Our Machine Age and the Worker.
Cleve Long—Technocracy.
James H. Maurer—The New Day in the Making.
Fred Merkel—The Impending Crisis and Its Solution.
Charles W. Miller—Soviet Russia.
Howard Moser—The Transition Period.
Mary Nelson—Birth Control.
George M. Rhodes—Power of the Press.
V. James Roslin—Socialism Among the Foreign Born in U. S.
Walter Scheerer—A Summary of the Accumulation of Great American Fortunes.
William Schwenen—Revolution and Evolution.
George W. Snyder—Public Ownership and Unemployment.
Stewart Tomlinson—Building a New Society.
Max Putney—The Concentration of Wealth in American Industry.
James Wesner—Capitalist Crisis, and Their Way Out.
Miles Williams—The Kind of Government We Now Have.
Any other members desiring to take part in branch lectures, should select their subject and hand name and subject to organizer or lecture committee.

CARD PARTY TONIGHT AT GIBRALTAR
All card players are invited to attend a hassenpfeffer party tonight (Friday) at 8 o'clock in the Gibraltar Fire Co. hall, under the auspices of the Gibraltar branch. Valuable prizes and good lunch will be there; to make the event enjoyable. In connection with the party will be an address by Stewart Tomlinson.

CARD PARTY TONIGHT AT LAURELDALE
Another enjoyable card party will be held tonight at the headquarters of the Laureldale branch in Yerger's store building. All players are invited. Fine prizes and good lunch are assured.

A HAT SOCIAL AND CARD PARTY
At the Southern Women's branch tonight will follow the regular business meeting. If you're looking for plenty of fun, and a good time, bring an old hat with you, kind of queer trimmings and join the party. Card playing will follow and will cost you nothing. Everybody is invited to spend the evening with us. We'll be looking for you, ladies!

LABOR COLLEGE STUDENTS
Another rehearsal of the play will take place in the Southern branch tonight.

SOCIAL NIGHT THURSDAY BY WOMEN'S SOCIALIST LEAGUE
This is to issue a special call to all members of the Women's Socialist League for a full attendance on the third floor of Labor Lyceum next Thursday night.

STOP!
WHERE THERE IS PLenty OF PARKING
Buy quality Work Clothes at reasonable prices and be assured of service and satisfaction with every purchase.
It's Our Business TO PLEASE YOU
YOU MUST BE SATISFIED!
B. S. LONGENECKER
"For the Man Who Works"
227 Penn — 1019 N. 9th
OPEN EVENINGS

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE
The Women's Committee reorganized into a representative body. The elected officers for the year are Mrs. Emma Sands, secretary, and Mrs. Lucy Ramsey, treasurer. Each group of women is requested to send two delegates to represent them. The meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday at Labor Lyceum at 7:30 sharp.

KENHORST SOCIALISTS HOLD DANCE JAN. 27
An event of interest to all dancers will be a hoe-down and city dance under the auspices of Kenhorst Socialists on Friday, Jan. 27, in the fire hall in Angelica on New Holland road.

This event will be for the benefit of the Kenhorst Socialist Baseball Club and Athletic Association. Tickets are now being sold at 25 cents each.

WOMEN'S CHORUS WILL REHEARSE SUNDAY
Members of the Socialist Women's Chorus are urged to attend a rehearsal at Labor Lyceum Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock.

SOCIALIST BAND AND ORCHESTRA
Appeal to any comrade or friend: The Socialist Band and Orchestra needs two bass drums and two tenor drums. Any comrade or friend having such drums, get in touch with Gordon McLean at the Labor Lyceum.

Orchestra rehearsal tonight at the Lyceum. Musicians that wish to take part please report for practice. Next Wednesday, Jan. 18th, the Band will have rehearsal at the Lyceum at 8:15 p. m. The rehearsal of Wednesday, Jan. 11th, was well attended.

SUNDAY OPEN FORUM
The American Hosiery Workers
... by ...
Mrs. Anna Geisinger
Singing by Socialist Male Chorus
January 15th, 1933
7:30 P. M.
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Franklin Street above Fourth

KEYSTONE MEAT MARKET

38-40 S. 7th St. 818 PENN ST. 400 Schuylkill Ave. 12th & Robeson Sts.

HOME DRESSED LONG CUT PORK SHOULDERS 8 ^c LB 8 to 10-Lb Average	Allentown Sugar-Cured HAMS 10 ^c LB Whole or Shank Half 16 to 18-Lb Average	Small Lean PORK LOINS 10 ^c LB Whole or Rib Half—Cut From 10 to 12-Lb Pork Loins
SLICES OF ALLENTOWN SUGAR-CURED HAMS	19 ^c LB	SUGAR-CURED BOSTON BUTTS 12 1/2 ^c LB
Bacon . . . 10c lb Allentown Sugar-Cured	SWIFT PREMIUM Hams . . . 14c lb	R A C O Hams . . . 12 1/2c lb
OUR OWN MAKE FRESH and SMOKED Sausage . . 12 1/2c lb	HICKORY BAG Bologna 15 ^c LB	OUR OWN MAKE LIVER PUDDING 12 ^c LB SCRAPPLE 8 ^c LB At
Our Own Make Ring Bologna 16 ^c LB	LEAN Pressed Ham 15 ^c LB	Allentown Sliced BACON 2 Packages 15 ^c LB
	Mince Bologna 15 ^c LB	Fresh PORK LIVER 9 ^c LB
	WEAVER'S LEBANON BEEF AND PORK BOLOGNA . . . 14^c LB	Fresh PORK BRAINS 9 ^c LB
CLEARBROOK BUTTER 50c 2-LB ROLLS	GROCERY SPECIALS BROOKFIELD BUTTER 51c 2-LB ROLLS	FANCY SWISS CHEESE 31 ^c LB

RANK AND FILE VETS INSTALL OFFICERS

At a well attended meeting of Liberty Post, Rank and File Veterans, on Tuesday night in Labor

Lyceum, the following officers were installed: Commander, O. D. Nordby; senior vice-commander, Edward Arnold; junior vice-commander, Geo. Gault; sergeant-at-arms, Angelo Carabot.

"Pawling Will Do Your Hauling"
George Pawling
ICE COAL HAULING
Coal Fresh From the Mines
2,000 lbs. to the ton
Buckwheat . . . \$5.75 per ton
Pea . . . \$7.65 per ton
Nut and Egg . . . \$9.50 per ton
Stove . . . \$9.75 per ton
One Ton or More
1225 Fidelity Street
Dial 2-2709

The post adopted resolutions favoring the enactment of legislation for a 30-hour work-week and endorsing the one-cent poll tax, as advocated by Rep. Darlington Hoopes at the last session of the State Legislature.

Communications were sent to Penna's representatives in Washington condemning proposed cuts in pensions until after similar cuts had been made in the pensions received by certain high officials. Committees on entertainment and membership were appointed.

There Is No Way To Pack Coffee
AND KEEP IT AS FRESH AS WHEN
IT LEFT THE ROASTER

At Heroy's you see coffee coming fresh from the Roaster.
Buy it—put it in screw top jars, and
SAVE THE EXPENSE OF CANS AND RADIO TALK

Heroy's Strong Coffee . . . 25c lb.
Java Blend . . . 35c lb.
Mandehling Java and Arabian Mocha . . . 50c lb.

HEROY TEA STORES
841 PENN ST. Phone—We Deliver
ESTABLISHED OVER 35 YEARS IN READING



\$1.00 and
One Minute
Is All That Is Required To
Open a Savings Account
**PENN NATIONAL BANK
and TRUST COMPANY**
OF READING
EIGHTH and PENN

Friday, Jan. 20th
Berkshire Heights: James Roslin.
Exeter: William C. Hooverter.
West Lawn: George W. Snyder.
Shillington: Miles Williams.

What a world! It jalls the dumb driver who does \$50 worth of damage, and does nothing to the official whose ignorance costs the people millions.

OAK HILL WHITE ASH
FRESH MINED COAL
Stove . . . \$9.75
Egg and Nut . . . \$9.50
Pea . . . \$7.65
Buckwheat . . . \$5.75
PRUTZMAN
916 PERRY Phone 3-1060
We serve over 2,000 customers

—FOR—
LINOLEUM
WINDOW SHADES and AWNINGS
DIAL 2-3481
419 SCHUYLKILL AVE. F. A. SANDO

You know

It's good business and good economy these days, to sell only one or two leading brands of bread—with the quality loaf, sunshine vitamin-D Bond Bread, right on the front of the counter.



sunshine vitamin-D
Bond Bread

FOR STRONGER BONES
AND SOUNDER TEETH

GENERAL BAKING COMPANY

W. A. ANGLES
DENTIST
Announces a Reduction on
Plate Work and All
Dental Work
During these strenuous times I
feel it a duty to those wishing
Dental Work.
907 PENN ST.
READING, PA.
(Good, Honest Work; No Fakeing.
In Reading Many Years.)

**BRANCH MEETINGS FOR THE
WEEK OF JAN. 16TH**
Tonight:
Berkshire Heights: Albert Hartman.
Gibraltar: Card party and Stewart Tomlinson.
Northwest: James Wesner.
West Lawn: Fred Merkel.

JOSEPH'S January Clearance Sale

We are including in our Clearance Sale 475 Overcoats just purchased at an unbelievable price from the manufacturers. Made to sell for double what we are asking for them makes it a wise plan to buy your Overcoat now for next Winter. You will never see such quality sold at the prices you can buy them for at Joseph's. A glance at them will convince you of the truth of that statement. Remember, our money-back guarantee if purchase is not as represented.

475 OVERCOATS

That Were Made to Sell For \$15, \$20 and \$25, NOW:

\$8.75 \$10.75 \$12.75

Overcoats are quarter lined with the finest quality celanese. Many of them are plaid-back models, including our new Double-breasted Box Coats, Polo Coats, belt all around, with a fine assortment of colors. Plenty of plain blues, gray, tan and brown. Sizes 33 to 46.

75c Men's Broadcloth SHIRTS, Plain 44c | 75c Men's Heavy Ribbed UNION 48c | \$1.00 Men's Part Wool SWEATERS, 58c
colors and fancy patterns, all sizes. SUITS, All sizes.

ENTIRE STOCK OF BOYS' CLOTHING AND FURNISHINGS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

<p>\$2.50 Men's Corduroy Pants, all new shades, 1.78</p> <p>75c Men's Overalls, heavy blue denim, 47c</p> <p>\$3.00 Men's Heavy Shaker Knit Coat Sweaters, in navy or black, with large shawl collar, 1.68</p>	<p>\$1.50 Wool Flannel Shirts, blue, grey or khaki, 98c</p> <p>25c Men's Wool Mixed HOSE, at 13c</p> <p>25c Leather Fabric Gloves, with or without cuffs, 13c</p>	<p>\$2.50 Men's Heavy Suede Cloth Lumberjacks, grey or tan, at 1.48</p> <p>10c U. S. Mixed HOSE, at 6c</p> <p>75c Big Yank Work Shirts, blue or grey, 49c</p>	<p>\$5.50 Men's Genuine Suede Jackets, button style, 3.98</p> <p>65c Heavy All-Wool Hose, with red or green top, 38c</p> <p>75c Men's Knockabout Caps, tweeds and mixtures, 49c</p>
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Pants for Work or Dress. Largest Variety in Reading at the Lowest Prices. For Other Prices See Our Window Display.

75c
Flannelette
WORK
SHIRTS
48c

JOSEPH'S
410 PENN STREET

50c Blue
Chambray
WORK
SHIRTS
29c

"WE SELL FOR LESS—ALWAYS!"

PARISH WORKERS

(Continued from First Page)

ment, we have made in the past six months, a great many set of dies without the customer paying for same, and entirely at the company's expense in order to get work for our employees. In addition to making the dies without cost, we have taken

quite a few items without figuring profit, and estimated on a basis of the highest possible rate of production. This has all been done with the absolutely sound conviction that our employees are far better off over this trying period, if we can keep them working to full time or nearly full time, rather than allow them a larger percentage of bonus on piece-work and to have only 10% employment. A very few of our employees

have not been able to grasp this policy of our management, but unfortunately, this small majority who in a great many cases are men that cannot hold up their end, are influencing the attitude of the great majority of good workers.

Work Cheap To Get Jobs

"I am sure that the majority of our employees realize what the management has done to keep them employed, and thoroughly realize that, even though they cannot earn a bonus, they are far better off than only having 10% employment.

"Kindly tell these radicals who have in the past been doing your thinking for you, that the management of this company must sell your services in competition with other concerns who in a great many cases, have cut wages to a far greater percentage than they have been cut here. Most of the short-sighted criticism of our policy is in the tool-room, but I feel it well at this time to explain our position to all of our employees with a hope that they will give us their fullest co-operation so that we may be able to continue to offer a greater percentage of employment than any other concern in the metal working industry in our city.

"If you don't make out one day, don't get discouraged, but use your head, and see where you can save the next day to make it up. No jobs are rated lower than 10% allowance or in other words, on the basis that if you worked steadily 10 hours you would be paid for 11 hours. When we can again take work on a basis that will allow us to pay you more, we will be glad to do so."

Never-Ending Cuts

The Parish employees point to a job upon which they declare the company under-estimated the time by 300 hours and then obliged the workers to accept a cut of 150 hours.

They declare that this manner of getting jobs is continually depressing working standards to a point where only the very cheapest workers will ever be able to find employment.

Some time ago, they declare, the company took work away from the Reading Railroad shops by doing it

cheaper than the shopmen could have done. In this manner unemployment was increased for shop workers and wages were reduced for Parish workers by the same transaction.

"With capitalist industry collapsing only the very lowest prices will get what few orders there are to be had. As a result, the workers of every industry are pitted against each other in a dog-eat-dog competition.

The consequence of this scramble for orders on the part of private industry is that the workers are given the choice of being jobless or working for wages which will not support family life. This condition prevails in every industry, and wherever there are orders it will be found that wages are lower than elsewhere in that line of work.

Cases are now on record of workers receiving less than the value of the food orders which are allowed to the unemployed and other instances are cited where workers, in order to hold their jobs, are forced to give a certain number of hours without pay.

The story told by the Parish Co. is the universal story. Everywhere the bosses are competing for an opportunity to make what profit there is to be made. But with idle mills in every industry the buyers are able to dictate terms. In order to get the machinery running the owners are now meeting cut-throat prices and making their workers bear the burden of long series of wage cuts. In some cases the firms place the matter squarely before their employees and admit their helplessness. In others, as at the Parish, the old cry of "radical" is raised when employees murmur against wages which simply won't reach.

HOMELESS

(Continued from First Page)

hearings on their \$500,000,000 appropriation bill for relief of destitution, said that the federal government will have to pay at least \$1,000,000,000 a year for relief work, for a year or two, to avoid a heavier bill later. He estimated that 8,000,000 families, including farm families, are in dire distress.

"Probably half of the 2,350,000 children 17 years of age and under, and 2,240,000 aged over 65, gainfully employed in 1930, will have to be maintained by taxation," he asserted.

"As a solution, unemployment insurance cannot be made practical for several years. Public works cannot be gotten under way in time. A billion dollars, raised by taxation of capital savings, should be provided now. It is less than \$80 per unemployed person."

WHAT READING FOLKS ARE TALKING ABOUT

(Continued from First Page)

\$11,000 looks mighty good to the city just now."

However, the high-handed attitude of the city officials brought them in conflict with the law, which states that the money must be "forthwith" turned over to the Relief Association. And so the firemen had their attorney take the matter up with the Fusionists. The result was that Bertolet's boys decided to desist from being near-embroiders and turn the cash over to the firemen.

The episode has caused both frowns and smiles in the ranks of the fire fighters, and citizens generally are laughing right out loud when they recall how Ermentrout began the new year by publicly announcing that the city's finances are in good shape.

FALLING IN LINE

It is interesting to note newspaper reports to the effect that all but one of Berks County's representatives at Harrisburg are now in favor of a 30-hour work week.

In this attitude we have a splendid example of what Socialism in a community means. The Socialists of the entire nation long ago declared themselves in favor of a progressive reduction in the length of the working week. But until the people of this community terrified the old party politicians by electing Socialists to office did the old gang think it worth while to consider such things.

It is now clear that politicians of both old parties may be induced to fall in line with the Socialists if the people make it plain that they want the things for which the Socialists have been fighting.

The willingness of Berks County's legislators to "go along" with the idea of a shorter week recalls the advice which Dr. Jesse Holmes gave to a group of voters during the recent campaign: "If you want the old parties to do something for you," Holmes advised, "vote Socialist."

CONDEMNED TO DEATH

No worker can afford to be indifferent to the statement made in Reading this week by Dr. Edgar S. Byers, of Norristown.

Dr. Byers pointed to the fact that, while no increase of diphtheria has been noted as a result of the depression, the number of deaths from the disease has increased 30 per cent.

That statement can mean but one thing, namely, that hundreds of men, women and children are being condemned to death by poverty in the richest land on earth.

There can be no doubt that what is true in the case of diphtheria is equally true of many other diseases. People get ill. If they have well nourished bodies and care-free minds they get well again. But if their resistance has been lowered by undernourishment and worry they die.

In the face of such conditions, how can workers help but resent the so-called "economies" which save the dollars of the rich and deprive the poor a chance in life. "Economies" such as the old line politicians are advocating will reduce hospital service for the sick and destroy job opportunities as well. They lessen the opportunity of life and increase the possibility of death—merely that the profit-takers may be able to keep a larger share of what they have taken from the workers in years gone by.

SPENDING SCHOOL FUNDS

In the light of disclosures at the last meeting of the Reading School Board the report of "savings" made by the property committee is in line for revision. It now appears that a number of bills, running into thousands of dollars, have been permitted to accumulate by that committee for several years. Furthermore, it is charged that some thousands of dollars worth of work has been done without authorization and in a manner which flouted the law governing expenditures.

It is easy to make "savings" when bills are not paid. Dead beats save money in just that way, but it is unusual for public bodies to resort to such measures in order to make glowing reports of "good management."

As to the manner in which the bills were incurred, that is a matter

ARTHUR SCHWEMMER

Optometrist

Eyes examined by the most modern method

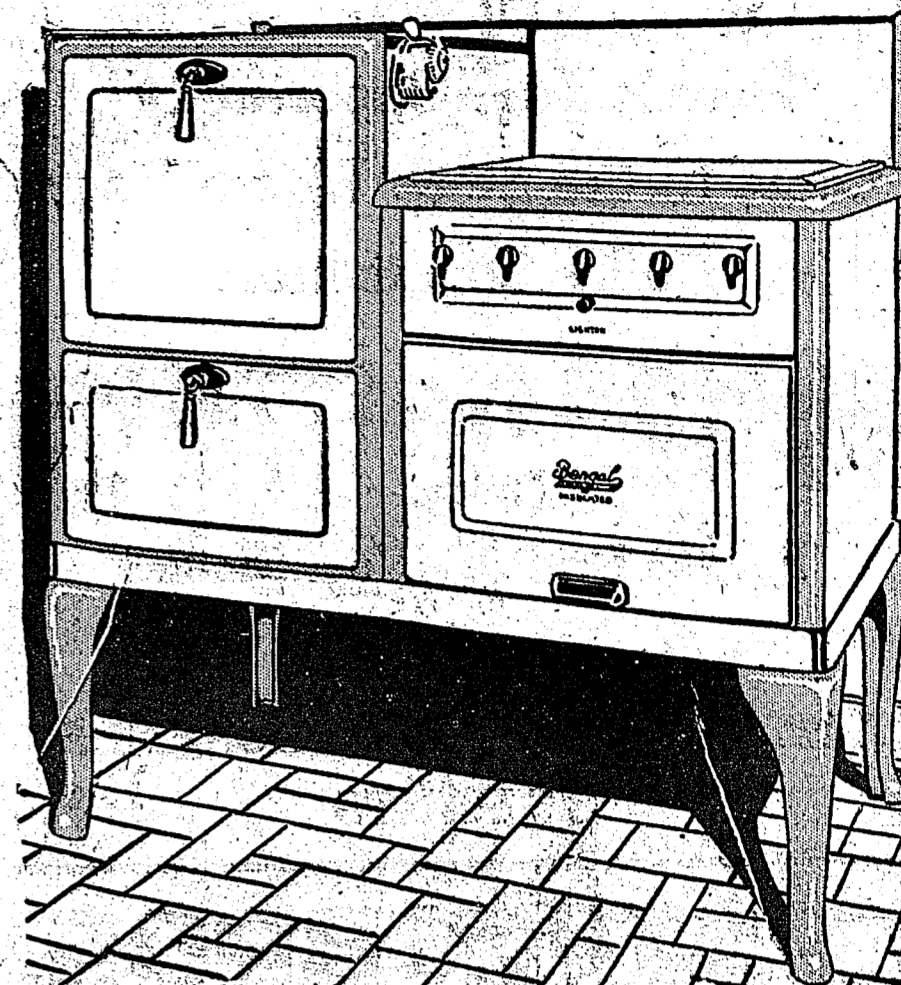
GLASSES FITTED

Prices Reasonable

218 NORTH NINTH ST.

TO OUR THOUSANDS OF CONSUMERS

Do you know that we are offering to you, our consumers, an all-enameled porcelain enamel gas range with oven-heat control, safety top lighter, with large insulated baking and roasting oven, and a large broiling oven at just half the price of this range in 1931.



FORMER PRICE
\$100.00

PRESENT PRICE
\$50.00

This is only made possible because we purchased all the remaining models of these ranges at a price unheard of and we are passing it on to you.

\$2.00 places one of these beautiful modern gas ranges in your home—while they last

Balance Easy Monthly Payments

Consumers Gas Company

441 PENN ST.

DIAL 4-1181

Or Your Neighborhood Plumber or Dealer

which will interest not only the citizens in general, but more particularly, the vendors of goods and services who appear to have been deprived of an opportunity to compete for School Board business.

Public officials should act at all times in such a manner that their motives will not be questioned. Precautions along that line are particularly desirable in this racketeering day and age. The official or executive who repeatedly lays himself open to suspicion should either produce an iron clad alibi or make way for someone whose mistakes will be less questionable.

Cut Subway Workers' Wages To Pay Bond Interest

NEW YORK.—In order that bondholders may get their interest, employees of the Interborough Rapid Transit Co., which operates one of New York's subway systems, must take a wage cut ranging from 10% to 30%, Victor J. Dowling and Thomas E. Murray, the company's

receivers, have announced. The receivers congratulated the Brotherhood of Interborough Employees, company union, on its co-operation. Federal Judge Manton signed an order authorizing directing the receivers to pay \$5,683,925 on Jan. 1, representing six months' interest on I. R. T. bonds, and \$80,460 interest on Manhattan Railway Co. bonds. The wage cut, taking \$3,500,000 out of the workers' pockets, followed.

When Japan gets enough, she also will protest against land grabbing.

Try It!

Leuella

The Finest Sweet Cream
Butter in America!

AMERICAN
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AMERICAN

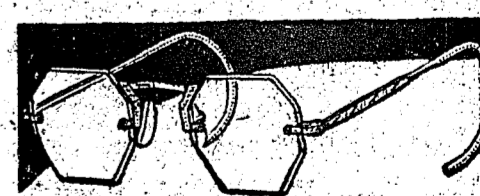
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19 Years on the Square

Home is the Only Competitor
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Eyes Carefully Examined
Glasses Accurately
Ground and Fitted

NO DRUGS—NO DROPS



FRAMES, \$2.50 up

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You are invited to inspect our shop where glasses are ground and compare our quality and prices.

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30 Years Experience

128 North Ninth Street.
PHONE 4-5462

The New
**BERKS COUNTY
TRUST COMPANY**
READING

**WILLYS-KNIGHT
and WILLYS**
SIXES and EIGHTS

Sales and Service

General Repairing on
All Makes

Hertzog's Garage
EPHRATA, PA.



If you needed
ready cash tomorrow
Where would you get it?



Create a Financial Reserve

By depositing small amounts regularly in an account with us you will soon create a reserve fund of hundreds of dollars, available in any emergency, and earning compound interest all the while.

READY money is often an urgent necessity. It may be a serious problem if you have no financial reserve.

Are you prepared for such an emergency?

A few hundred dollars in the bank gives you the assurance of financial security.

Start your account now with a small first deposit.

The Reading National Bank and Trust Co.

Lancaster Ave. and Noble St. 615 Penn St.
9th and Bingham Sts. Centre Ave. and Bern St.
4th & Bingham Sts. Moss & Exeter Sts.
DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT
RESOURCES \$15,500,000.00

REBUILD CITIES

(Continued from First Page)

human occupation. The old areas would in some cases be merely vacated and left standing as a combination of ruins and museum.

Social Chaos Imminent
"So far have the rulers of capitalist society gone on the road to bankrupting the richest and most promising country on earth," said Hoopes, "that we are within a stone's throw of the social chaos and collapse into which four years of modern international warfare had plunged large sections of Europe in 1918. In the face of the chaos and nearly complete ruin prevailing, Socialist Vienna turned to recreating the city in which its workers dwell and by so doing put constructive forces to work which have sufficed not only to again make life endurable but to actually raise the standard of living of its people while most other parts of Europe continued on an almost uninterrupted decline.

"The housing bill will be the very heart and center of the Socialist program around which proposals for public ownership and management of the vital public utilities, and the production of necessities by unemployed workers for unemployed workers through the use of unemployed machinery. If those in power persist in all their greed and stupidity in pushing the nation as a whole into the abyss of complete social disaster, and if in the meantime the workers fail to organize their strength for the taking over of the power of the administration of government and industry, and society in its entirety for the planned welfare of the masses of humanity, even then, civilization would have to be fanned to life by the reconstruction of the shambles that would be our cities. But now it is an immediate, a hopeful, a constructive program for the staying of the forces of disintegration in time to save the immense heritage that is already humanity's if labor will but organize to claim it."

Scornful of the power of the as yet puny working-class party that Socialist Hoopes represents, the extreme wing of conservative capitalist forces now in control of the Pennsylvania legislature have assented to his request that he be appointed to the Committee on Cities to which the bill will likely go for consideration. There the first fight will be waged, and if defeated, the two Socialist members of the House will stage a fight on the floor to attempt to stir some legislators and mass opinion to the strategic importance and necessity of this Socialist program.

BRANDS RAID

(Continued from First Page)

inside and do their watching, and was promised that I would be let alone if I did not permit girls to bring men there. I haven't been doing that and did not deserve to be raided."

Calls Hearing a Farce

Mrs. Yohn stated that at the hearing on the day after the raid the stage was all set to send her and her lodgers to jail. "The cards were all made out and the hearing was a farce," she insisted.

The woman declares that she is being hounded. As a result of her experience in the city lockdown she is suffering from a severe cold and one of her roomers has lost a position in a local industry.

"I explained the circumstances to Mayor Ermentrout, but he said the matter was in Giles' hands. Giles refuses to do anything except let the case stand. As a result, I am penalized \$76.25 and three people are spending 60 days in jail on a charge of which they are not guilty."

New German Socialist Weekly Appears

NEW YORK — "Neue Volks-Zeitung" has just been issued in New York as a German language Socialist weekly, successor to the "Daily Volkszeitung" which was suspended several months ago. The first issue of the new weekly is 32 pages, tabloid size. A staff of seven, all workers and Marxian Socialists, will publish and edit the paper. The subscription price is \$3.00 a year. Publication office is at 47 Walker street, New York City.

How To Care For Varicose Veins

Apply a generous amount of Emerald Oil to the swollen veins and sores. Let it penetrate. Feel the magic relief! Now bind your leg with a bandage three inches wide and long enough to give the necessary support, winding it upward from the ankle to the knee, the way the blood flows in the veins. Stops the pain. Begins at once to heal the ulcers and broken veins. Just follow the simple directions and you are sure to be helped. Your druggist won't keep your money unless you are,

CLASSIFIED SECTION

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Attorney-at-Law
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Office 3-4497 —Phones— Res. 7880

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R. B. FRITZ
Automobile Repairing of All Kinds
Wrecks Our Specialty
Dial 2-8233 Rear 235-37 Cedar St.
Official Inspection Station
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WINDSOR MOTOR CO.
NEW CARS USED CARS
Sales and Service
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DIAL 5989 FOR ESTIMATE
ACME AWNING AND UPHOLSTERING CO.
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Barber
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Bigony Battery Service
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Phone 2-9019
Batteries Recharged—50c
Extr 13-Plate Battery, \$6.95 up
Dependable Battery and Electrical Repairs
Radiators Cleaned by High Pressure System
We prepare your car now for Winter

BATTERIES RECHARGED, 50c

New EXIDE batteries \$3.95, and your old battery. We call and deliver batteries—25c each trip. Day or night.

We Sell and Repair Generators and Starters for all makes of Machines. We also take care of Home Lighting Plants.
Day or Night, Dial 2-8544
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Battery and Electric Service
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CANDY AND CIGARS

MAURER'S
Confectionery and Novelties
1135 N. 9th St.



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WM. G. HINTZ, INC.
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Good, Clean Anthracite Coal
Summer Prices — Fill Your Cellar
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Coal and Flour
Dial 3-4663 for Quality and Service
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Anthracite and Bituminous Coal
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Order Your Flowers From
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FLORIST
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Estate of John W. Eyrich, late of the City of Reading, deceased.
Letters testamentary on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same, without delay, to
138 West Elm Street,
JOHN H. EYRICH,
Reading, Pa.
or to his attorney, Darlington Hoopes, 26 N. 6th street, Reading, Pa.

Estate of Andrew F. Carlson, late of the City of Reading, deceased.
Letters of administration c. t. a. on the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims to present the same, without delay, to
ELLEN A. FITZ,
543 Tulpehocken street,
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GEORGE SAYS

(Continued from First Page)

city government is finding itself George explained that the \$300,000 bond issue which must be floated in March for the retirement of a similar short term loan from the Philadelphia bankers will add a yearly burden to the city budget for the next ten years. "However," he added, "that will not be the last piece of financing which this and other cities will have to undertake in order to maintain even a semblance of activity."

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1933

EDITORIALS

By Norman Thomas

SLAVERY IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

As far back as March, 1913, the American Federationist published a report on Mississippi River Slavery. The report contained this striking sentence: "Labor in its most trying days was mild compared with the reign of terror inflicted upon these simple river folk." The simple river folks in question are colored workers who are employed by contractors on building the flood control levees in the lower valley of the Mississippi. All these contractors are employed by the government and work under the direction of the War Department. Heretofore the War Department has successfully blocked any effective investigation of conditions in the work camps.

Senator Wagner has introduced a bill calling for a Senatorial investigation. Nothing less will turn the light on horrible conditions and make possible their remedy. A great many powerful interests, including race prejudice and the general low estate of the Negroes in the South, tend to block this resolution. Friends of justice must demand its passage.

HE WAS A FUGITIVE

It is somewhat to the credit of the United States that to an almost universal chorus of approval Governor Moore of New Jersey refused to return Mr. Burns, hero of two escapes from a Georgia chain gang which have been celebrated in a book and in a famous picture, to the horrors of the chain gang camps of Georgia. The other day I heard Mr. Burns admit quite candidly in conversation that one reason for preserving the life of the chain gang was that 80 per cent of the convicts were Negroes and that sentiment in Georgia supported that treatment of Negroes. Mr. Burns seemed to think that something might be done for white prisoners but very little for Negroes. What a commentary that is on race prejudice!

SELF-HELP PROGRAMS

Because so-called self-help projects for the unemployed need to be examined carefully lest they prove to be schemes for diverting energy from more fundamental cures and plans for stabilizing the capitalist system, it by no means follows that all self-help plans are bad. Indeed, when the unemployed themselves, as in Seattle, set up a simple system of labor exchange, when one group goes out to chop wood, another to dig potatoes, another to pick strawberries and then they exchange at their own commissaries the products of their toil, that is decidedly to the good. It cultivates the spirit of co-operation. It is an example of working-class solidarity in action, and by no means does it prevent the unemployed workers from demanding more adequate relief from governmental agencies.

The particular governmental agency, it must not be forgotten, to which we must now look is the federal government. We are coming pretty near to the end of the power of cities, counties, or even states to expand that program on any practicable basis. Some states like New York are more fortunate in their economic situation and in their laws. They could and should do more than they are doing, but in the end it must be

the federal government which should come to our relief. It alone can control currency and equitably impose over the whole country uniform income and inheritance taxes.

A NEW SPIRIT IN THE PARTY

One of the encouraging things to be observed in the Socialist Party is the zeal with which comrades in many parts of the country are taking up the question of making local meetings of party branches more interesting. Our great problem, I am tempted to think, is not winning Socialists but keeping them as active members. Not everybody is interested in the routine business of a branch meeting. That ought to be crowded into definite limits of time. As much as possible of it should be referred to committees. There should be variety in meetings and, above all, there should be a variety of activity. Our real task is to find out whether a great social ideal in a period of revolutionary change can make Socialists do the sort of organization work which Tammany Hall and other political machine workers do for the sake of the loaves and fishes which they get out of it.

WARS EVERYWHERE

War in South America; more serious war in Asia. Unemployment and a near approach to economic paralysis everywhere. There's not much to make this a happy New Year. The only thing I can notice to applaud is the fact that at last the marines are being taken out of Nicaragua. How long will they be kept out? Certainly nothing substantial has been accomplished.

General Smedley Butler in a debate, with me the other night admitted that to keep the marines in Nicaragua these years had cost more than twice the value of all the debts claimed by American interests in Nicaragua. Carleton Beals and others have conclusively demonstrated that we have, if anything, set backward and not forward the social progress of Nicaragua. What has been done in Nicaragua; that is to say, what has been now in taking the marines out of Nicaragua, should be done in Haiti and done speedily.

But I began to talk about a happy New Year and the point I really wanted to make was that if there is to be happiness this year it will be because of a great, determined intelligent effort, workers with hand and brain, employed and unemployed, unite in effective organization to bring about such control of physical energy and machinery and social institutions that we can achieve that abundance and that peace which we have a right to expect.

AS I SEE IT

As I see it, the times call for the production of three masterpieces, in paintings, to tell the story of American history of our period.

One of the pictures should feature 12,000,000 jobless men, with their wives and children crucified on a cross of gold.

Another should depict a great banquet hall filled with bloated millionaires enjoying a great feast of all the good things of earth, while millions of starving men, women and children are at their feet scrambling for the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table.

The third picture should show millions of "saps"—workers—the "sovereign citizens of the United States"—marching to the polls on election day carrying banners inscribed "We want Hoover"—"We want Roosevelt"—"We enjoy the hell of capitalism"—"Long live the breadlines"—"We are satisfied with our misery and want"—"We are content with mere crumbs."—Frank F. Cherdron.

THE IMPOSSIBLE SPREAD

It has been pointed out for years by the American Federation of Labor, and of late years by economists of all schools, and in the immediate past by many industrialists, that purchasing power on the part of the masses of the workers of this country is the key to prosperity. Purchasing power, of course, is closely related to the cost of articles to be purchased. In the spread between the cost and selling price to which the purchasing power is to be applied is found the reason for our industrial collapse, and there also will be found the key to prosperity.

Had foresight been used by our industrial leaders and economic experts, the industrial collapse would not have been permitted. However, their minds were centered on one thing only, and that was to increase the spread between the cost and selling price solely to the advantage of the group profiting by the overhead portion of that spread. The cost of labor being the most basic and important of all costs was totally ignored in relation to what effect on sales the reduction of wages would bring. The cost of distribution, the cost of the so-called "middlemen," the unconscionable profits and the criminal inflation of security values all contributed to the impossible spread. The further and greater contribution to the impossible spread was caused by the constant reduction of wages going on throughout the country. The resultant decreases in the purchasing power of the people and the falling volume of sales gave further impetus to the desire of those interested in production for profit alone to further reduce wages and thus spiral viciously downward to the point of almost utter collapse.

False values are being corrected. "Watered" stock is "going through the wringer," and unnecessary middlemen are

being squeezed out. However, had these things been done prior to reductions in wages, the economic collapse might possibly have been averted. In many instances that fact is being recognized.

Now that the elections are over and the Democratic party is given full power to act, many people assume that there will be a quick return to prosperity. Inasmuch as it costs nothing to hope, we can all sincerely hope so, but what are the economic factors that give rise to the reasonableness of that hope? So far as can be determined, the same economic factors will be present when the Democrats assume power as were present when the Republicans were in office.—The Typographical Journal.

A FAMILIAR SOUND

When you hear some wise-cracker charging the Socialists with trying to destroy every institution which men hold dear, just remember that the first proposal to establish free public schools in the United States met with exactly the same sort of an argument—if it can be called an argument.

The present public school system came into existence in this country as a result of the agitation of weavers, tailors and mechanics in Philadelphia, New York and Boston. These men organized a working men's party in 1829, with "free public schools where the children of rich and poor alike can attend on an equal footing," as its chief platform plank. A public meeting called to discuss the proposition in Philadelphia at the old city hall was broken up by police and the speaker dragged off to jail. The newspapers of that day called on "the bankers, the preachers, the merchants and other respectable members of society" to organize to put down this pernicious agitation which threatens to undermine the very foundations of society.

Sounds rather familiar, even to this day!—The American Freeman.

THE PHILIPPINES

The independence of the Philippine Islands is a good thing which Socialists have long demanded, but it is sorry business to grant independence chiefly out of desire to treat Filipinos as we now treat Japanese and Chinese in the matter of immigration and to exclude Philippine sugar from the American market for the benefit of a beet sugar industry which is one of the worst exploiters of labor in the country.

It is not the fault of the Filipinos that we dragged them by the hair of their heads into the American economic order and virtually forced them by tariff arrangements to trade with us and to make trade with the rest of the world difficult. The economic terms of the bill which may, if not vetoed, eventually free the Philippine Islands are anything but just or handsome.

Of course, this would be the case. They could not be given their independence simply because they should have it, and the fact that they were dragged in against their wishes could not be taken into consideration—not by a Democratic and Republican congress. They are lucky to get their independence on any conditions from such sources.—Milwaukee Leader.

STATEMENT BY HOOPES ON PUBLIC HOUSING BILL

The bill introduced by myself in the House of Representatives this morning authorizing cities of the Commonwealth to enter upon extensive dwelling construction programs is the most important measure introduced or to be introduced by Socialists in this session of the General Assembly.

The bill would authorize any city to acquire land and erect dwelling houses and own and manage them, retiring their cost from the rentals which would be sufficient only to cover costs of construction, financing and administration. Funds would be provided either from public funds or from bond issues bearing a maximum of 6 per cent return. Land could be acquired either within, or if necessary to evade hold-ups by real estate speculators, without the limits of the particular city. This latter provision is also in accord with the opinion of such scientists as Julian Huxley who look to the abandonment of whole areas of our slum-ridden cities in favor of modern planned, ventilated and scientifically constructed new cities, avoiding the complications of slum clearance by ending human habitation of it and leaving it as a combination of ruin and museum.

All the sound objections to vast public works of the usual non-income producing type drop away in the case of public housing for the low income workers' group. Private-profit housing construction has not taken care of these low income groups as slums indicate to our eyes and the unbroken testimony of experts from the Rockefeller foundation down proves to our reason. Even should the bankers' groups which have dictated policy on financial matters to all our large cities in the last year desire to do so they could not stop the flow of unemployed capital into bonds for self-retriving public housing.

"Families have been reduced, to the basis of prowling alley cats in Philadelphia," say Director of Jewish Charities Billikopf of that city. The Community Council of Philadelphia announces that the city will have to spend \$6,000,000 more for relief in 1933 than in 1932 without raising the lamentably low standard.

Philadelphia is matched by every considerable city in the United States and in Pennsylvania. Not the Governor's twenty million dollars to feed two million unemployed for two years, not the Federation of Labor's \$100,000,000, not even the proposed unemployment insurance bills introduced by Socialist members of the House for the fourth time, will save the situation. The present tragedy is comparable only to the condition obtaining in the war devastated countries of Europe in 1918-19.

Not mere relief but the unleashing of vast new productive forces alone can save us from complete social chaos. In 1919 the state and city of Vienna in Austria, its currency worthless, its industries impoverished and almost completely closed and its markets torn away by the peace treaties, authorized a massive program of recreation of its workers' city. That program has been continued and added to until the present day until Austria is today unmatched in all the world for its dwelling houses for the poorest of its citizens. While all Europe was in intermittent decline, this little poverty-stricken city-state in a dismembered empire has actually raised the general standard of living. Be it noted also that although the city has instituted countless public welfare activities at municipal cost it has raised its per capita of taxation less than a dollar in all the years since 1919 and from a completely bankrupt city has arisen to completely establish its credit with the world.

First as a member of the House Committee on Cities and later on the floor of the House I will fight for this bill as an immediate program, confident that it is practical now as it would be were we compelled to fan civilization alive on the shambles once our present day cities.

Socialist Party Directory

Local Berks: First Thursday at Labor Lyceum, 8 p. m.

Labor Lyceum: First Thursday of each month immediately preceding the meeting of Local Berks.

Executive Committee: Second Thursday night of each month and at the call of the chair or any three members of the committee.

County Committee: Third Thursday night of each month.

Picnic Committee: Second and fourth Fridays at 8 p. m., at Labor Lyceum.

Central Branch: Each Monday night at 8 o'clock at 600 North Ninth street.

Northeast Branch: Each Monday night at 1311 North Ninth street.

Northwest Branch: Every Friday at 8 p. m. at Green and Gordon streets.

Southern Branch: Meets each Tuesday night at 829 Franklin street.

18th Ward: Meets each Tuesday night at 481 Summit avenue.

Berkshire Heights: Each Friday night in basement of Peterson's barber shop, Seventh and Oley streets.

Birdsboro: Second and Fourth Tuesday at 8 p. m. at 622 West Second street.

Exeter Twp.: Second District, first and third Fridays at 8 p. m., at the home of Thomas Moser, Pershing Blvd.

Fairview: First Tuesday at 8 p. m., at the home of Thomas Moser, Pershing Blvd.

Gibralter: Second and fourth Friday at 8 p. m., at Gibraltar Fire House.

Muhlenberg: Every Tuesday at 8 p. m. at the Good Will Fire Co. Hall.

Jacksonwald: Meets every Second and fourth Tuesday at 8 p. m.

Kenhorst: Every Tuesday or each month until further notice, at 8 p. m., 1014 Broadway Blvd.

Laureldale: Every Tuesday night at Yeager's Hall, Elizabeth and Marion streets, Rosedale.

Newmanstown: Meets first and third Wednesday of the month in Band Hall at 8 p. m.

Shillington: First and Third Fridays at 8 p. m. in the I. O. of A. Hall.

Sinking Spring: At call of organizer.

Vinemont: First and Third Tuesday at 8 p. m. in Vinemont Hotel.

West Lawn: Meets every Friday at 8 p. m. at 2022 Spring street.

West Reading: Each Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, 233 Kline street.

West Side Women: Every Thursday, 8 p. m. at 2022 Spring street, West Lawn.

Womelsdorf: First and third Tuesday at 118 Franklin street, at 8 p. m.

Women's Socialist League: Meets each Thursday night at Labor Lyceum.

Central Women: Every Friday night at Labor Lyceum.

Exeter Women: Meets every Second and Fourth Thursday at 8 p. m. at Lincoln Homestead.

Northeast Women: Every Tuesday evening, 8 o'clock, at 1311 North Ninth street.

Northwest Women: Tuesday night at Green and Gordon streets.

Southern Women: Every Friday, 8 p. m., at 829 Franklin street.

Womelsdorf Women: Every Wednesday at 117 Franklin St., at 8:30 p. m.

Women's Committee: Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 at Labor Lyceum.

18th Ward Women: Meets second and fourth Thursdays at 8 o'clock at 431 Summit Ave.

Male Chorus: Rehearsal and meeting every Wednesday, 8 p. m. at 1311 North Ninth street.

Y. P. S. L.

Circle 1, Sr., meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 240 Linden St.

Circle 2, Jr., meets every Friday, 8 p. m., at 1311 N. 9th St.

Circle 3, Sr., meets every Monday, 8 p. m., at 233 Kline St., W. Reading.

Circle 4, Sr., meets every Thursday, 8 p. m., at 1311 N. 9th St.

Circle 6, Sr., meets every Wednesday, 9 p. m., at Gordon and Green Streets.

Circle 7, Jr., meets every Wednesday, 7 p. m., at Gordon and Green Streets.

Circle 8, Jr., meets first and third Friday, 8 p. m., at Lincoln Homestead, during Branch meetings.

Circle 9, Sr., meets every Thursday, 8:30 p. m., at 1127 Muhlenberg Street.

Circle 10, Jr., meets every Thursday, 7:15 p. m., at 1127 Muhlenberg Street.

County Executive Committee meets every Sunday morning 8:30, at Labor Lyceum.

STATE SOCIALISTS

Allentown—Central Branch—Every Friday night at Labor Temple, 120 North Sixth street.

Eric—Every Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at the Workmen's Circle Hall, 133 East 23d street.

Lebanon Branch meets every Tuesday, 8 p. m., at Red Men's Hall.

Pottstown—Every Wednesday night at 8 o'clock at Labor Lyceum, 24 South Charlotte street.

Rank and File Veterans' Association: Meets second Tuesday of each month, at 8 o'clock, at Labor Lyceum.

floor of the House I will fight for this bill as an immediate program, confident that it is practical now as it would be were we compelled to fan civilization alive on the shambles once our present day cities.

(Signed)

DARLINGTON HOOPES.

REG'LAR FELLERS

Only A Matter Of A Few Tools

By Gene Byrnes

