ers should read this paper. Keep your Advocate in continuous circulation.

READING LABOR ADVOCATE

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL

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Legislative Action Freezes Bank Deposits

By the Editor

I AM INDEBTED to a panhandler for a bit of philosophy.

and mooched a dime. When he made his wants known he looked me in the eye and smiled.

"You're a happy panhandler,"] said, as I did the Rockefeller act. "I try to be," he returned, still

"How do you manage it?" I asked. thinking the thing out. I don't like to panhandle, but it's the order of the day so I do it. It's my job. The reason it don't throw me is because You see, it's pity that makes a person give. Then the reaction of the panhandler is likely to be that of gratitude. That makes him feel inferior to the giver and pretty soon he is convinced that he's no good. Then it's only a matter of time until he is sitting on the curb with his head in his hands. I can smile because I have convinced myself that as long as society won't permit me to earn my living I have a perfect right to bum it."

IT STRIKES me that the most dangerous thing a man can do is to peaceably suffer a wrong. The natural reaction should be to fight back Just HOW he fights depends upon the degree of intelligent understanding with which he views the situation which confronts him. But fight he should if he wants to retain his selfrespect and his morate."

My panhandler visitor was fighting his way. There is little danger that he will turn to either suicide or of dollars in their possession is one crime—as long as he retains his philosophy and is able to trade upon human sympathy.

THE MANY SUICIDES which have occurred since the Capitalist system took its nose-dive indicates the sense of the legislation at some the fate of individuals who have lost later date. their fighting spirit. They die. They may die physically or they may only nore the constitutional procedure for die morally. In the latter case there the passing of any legislation, but i is just as much tragedy as in the legislation is passed at a later time former. The present social system it will directly impair the sanctity of might just as well break a man's contract which is the very foundaneck as his spirit.

WHAT I'VE BEEN leading up to is a suggestion that there is hope for the jobless man who joins in the struggle for a better social order. If I were to prescribe the proper medicine for souls which have been sickened by adversity, I'd order a good dose of activity in one of the movements which have attracted militant

There's little danger that a man's spirit will be broken if he takes an active part in an organization of the unemployed. He's fighting and busy Or if he joins the Socialist Party and captures the spirit of the challenge which the party is constantly hurling at the injustices of Capitalism he'll discover that he has something for which to work and fight and live.

JUST TWO DAYS ago I met a man who ought to get into a movement which will give him an oppor tunity to fight. He happens to be a college man. He once was the son of a rich man and is now almost pauper-poor. He earns what he can as a door-to-door salesman. And his spirit is broken.

He knows what is wrong with him but he doesn't know what to do about it. When I asked him whether his training has not fitted him to (Continued on Page Four)

SOCIALIST

Radio Program **EVERY SUNDAY**

at 12:15 P. M. over

WEEU 361.4M 830K

Mar. 5-Lilith M. Wilson. Mar. 12-Mark Starr.

TELL YOUR FRIENDS

REFLECTIONS ACTION SEEN NECESSARY TO AVERT CRISIS CAUSED BY BIG BANKS' ACTIVITIES

He came into my office this week Socialist Members "Go Along" With Plan But Warn Old Party Lawmakers That State Relief For Banks Would Be Example For Workers to Follow—Decay Of Security Values and Drastic Price Reductions Seen As Forcing Extraordinary Action

The wreckage of deflation, now in its fourth year, came to "Well," he said, "it's a matter of the surface last Monday night in the Pennsylvania Legislature when, less than three hours after convening for the week's session, a resolution was rushed through both House and Senate and signed by the Governor which partly freezes the savings I never permit myself to be grateful. of the workers of the State. Under the terms of the resolution all banks are authorized to remain open even though they might at the same time refuse to pay more than 1 per cent of their money to depositors.

Would Urge Federal Con-

gress to Socialize Finance

And Production

The Few Owners

the state bankers defied the

bankers against their deposit-

tion to memorialize Congress

to condemn idle industries and place

them in the hands of the unemployed

for the production of their neces-

The resolution, which was laid

aside for printing while the Socialist

members prepare the debate to ac-

company their fight for the measure,

points out that the highest duty of

government is to protect the lives

and safety of its citizens and de-

mands that Congress declare an

emergency and use its power of emi-

(Continued on Page Four)

out bonds with them.

Reading banks took advantage of the powers given them and, last Tuesday limited the amount of withdrawals to \$50 plus 5% of balances on record at closing time Monday. This action applied to checking as well as savings accounts, although only the Farmers National Bank placed restrictions upon checking balances. It is now understood that the banks will honor all checks to cover payrolls and necessary business expenses.

Bankers May Dictate With the consent of the Secretary of Banking any bank can remain open while stringently limiting the amount of money depositors may withdraw. This authorization banks to freeze hundreds of millions of the most amazing cases of ignoring of legal procedure that is on record. the resolution giving this tremendous power to banks being accompanied merely by a promise to put through legislation backing up

Not only did the Legislature ig tion stone of the private property

(Continued on Page Five)

STATE LARDRHAD HITS

HARRISBURG, Pa.-It is admitted that the future of civilization depends to a great extent on the character of the quality of present-day primary education but meanwhile politicians want to create sweatshop and speed-up conditions in the Pennsylvania school system.

This charge was made by John Phillips, president of the State Federation of Labor, testifying against the proposed reduction in the \$100a-month minimum pay scale for rural teachers. A flat 10% cut in all minimum rate for teachers is proposed in revisions to the Educational

"Better salaries for teachers raised standards of public education in this State to the level of other modern states," Phillips said. "We now want to destroy educational standards along with economic standards. Teachers are not in a competitive industry.

"Today, no one with any economic intelligence could cut wages except

"The school teachers have been better police for young people in eople are roaming hungry and des- overhead of the many private com-

George Forced to Quit Improvements Which Would Eliminate Filth in Workingclass Districts

PUBLIC ENDANGERED

Socialist Councilman Declares Greater Expense Will Result From Delay In Repair Work

Householders who live in hose sections of Reading which have recently been sewered will be obliged to stay in the mud several months longer as a result of Mayor Ermentrout's order forbidding Councilman
Jesse George to cover soft spots
on the streets with a paving of on the streets with a paving of cold mix. Ermentrout issued MARA ARA his edict late last week in language George was showing bad economy and favoring the contractor who is Reading's Woman Lawmaker charged with the duty of keeping the streets in passable condition for a period of six months.

In a statement yesterday George declared that the householders in the sewered areas will the losers and denies that poor economy was shown.

"I have stopped the work because recognize the mayor as the superior Socialist Representatives officer of council and because the Would Use Government law gives him jurisdictionary powers Power to End Privileges of over all departments," George said "However, I do not agree with him that bad economy was shown."

Delay Fore Expensive HARRISBURG, Pa. — The . Declaring that he started the pay morning after the Pennsylvania ing in response to numerous requests Legislature at the command of for relief which came from house holders, pedestrians and motorists. state constitution to pass emer- the paving costs are likely to be George insisted that, in the long run gency legislation protecting the higher if the work is delayed.

"It is true." George stated, "that ors, Rep. Lilith Wilson. Berks the contract requires the contractor Socialist, introduced a resolu- to keep the streets in passable condition for a period of six months. However, he can use any material (Continued on Page Two)

Workers of Farm and Labor Demand Levy on All Who Receive \$5,000 Per Year

HARRISBURG, PA. (FP). — A 5% income tax on all incomes over \$5,000 to provide for jobless relief and lightening burden of local home owner will have the united backing in the Penna. Legislature of the HARRISBURG, Pa. - Rep. Dar- Penna. Federation of Labor, the lington Hoopes, Berks Socialist, has Railroad Union Brotherhoods, the introduced a bill for a state insur- State Farmers' Grange and the Pennance system through which local gov-sylvania Security League. The new ernments could bond their tax col- tax would have to be a flat per cent Federation of Labor which would third year. From this amount 25 lecting officers. The private surety but the exemption would be secured strike at the vicious industrial spy cents was deducted for class dues companies who have hitherto handled by a rebate of enough for prompt system of Pennsylvania employers. this are either so crippled by bank- payment to except the smaller inruptcy as to be unable to care for comes. Estimating the income of agency or operative in the private the needs of the many local gov- Pennsylvania receiving over \$5,000 detective business to be licensed ernment units or have raised the for 1933 at half of that of 1932, the under penalty of \$100 to \$500 fine workingclass families and this latest to meet an immediate competitive costs to such a point that municipal tax is estimated to bring an annual and a year in jail. Licenses on the "economy" move at their expense is sub-divisions cannot afford to take sum of \$30,000,000 which would be other hand could only be secured a hard blow. Realizing that some of The Socialist proposal would re- ment relief and aid to localities for of quarter sessions where the integ- their course unless cash is made this depression than the police. duce the costs by trimming out the their school system to lighten burden rity and competence of the person available, the executive committee of

giving way to decay and dissolution, wealthy Senators wanted.

You and All Your Friends Are Cordially Invited to attend the

International Woman's Day Pageant SUNDAY, MARCH 5th

ST. CASIMIR'S HALL Bingaman and Orange Sts.

7:30 P. M. sharp

Free Admission

MRS. CHAS. SANDS, Chairman There will be an interesting program including Songs. Speeches and Historic Sketches. Many in costume.

Sponsored by the Women's Committee of Berks See Page 2 for Further Details

his edict late last week in language which created the impression that l'axpayers' Protective League

> Broad Taxing Program Submitted by State Federation As Basis of Raising Cash For Relief

Unemployment Relief Committee of the Pennsylvania Federa- League follows: : tion of Labor, in a letter to every member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, advocates an appropriation by the dependent of any contribution from the Federal government. for jobless relief.

A broad system of new taxation is set forth by the Federation commit- HEADING HIGHTAL NUR

A 5% income tax on all incomes over \$5,000 per year estimated to raise about \$30,000,-000 which would be evenly divided between unemployment re-(Continued on Page Five)

has drafted and introduced in the to be \$5 for the first year, \$7.25 for Pennsylvania House a bill for the the second year and \$10 for the

The measure would force every breakage. divided evenly between unemploy after public hearing before the court the nurses will be unable to continue Nevertheless, thousands of young outrageous profits and the heavy of farmer and worker home owner. would have to be proven as well as the institution announced that the The united front of farm and la- the public necessity of the operative nurses can now borrow for their perate throughout Pennsylvania as in panies, eventually repaying the State bor organizations will also vigorous or agency. Fees would be charged most pressing needs to an amount other states. A wise state would for the small outlay necessary to ly support a constitutional amend- both for agencies and each individual not exceeding \$60. This amount is provide better educational facilities, launch the system. Persistently and ment to permit a graduated state in- operative and bonds would have to to be paid after graduation by servto occupy the idle jobless child, but consistently the two Socialist mem-come tax. Such an amendment be posted against possible injury or ice at the rate of \$30 per month. teachers' salaries and you will in- bers of the Pennsylvania House are passed the Pennsylvania House in the damage to persons or property. Ap- Nurses are feeling the effects of and their movements.

Voice Resentment of G. O. P. Lawmaker's Vote Against The people of this wealthy land Cash Relief

In a resolution which amounted to a declaration of war against the future political aspirations of Assemblyman Chester A. Mohn. Republican of the second Berks district, the unemployed workers in the Taxpayers' Protective League con-Unionists Condemn As Inade- demned Mohn's opposition to the quate Relief Measures Now Hoopes resolution providing for the Proposed by Old Party Law- payment of cash relief to the jobless instead of the present food voucher ing the past week there have been system. Mohn was the only Berks HARRISBURG, Pa. — The representative to vote against the payment of cash relief.

The resolution adopted by the

Proposed by Hoopes "Whereas, The Taxpayers' Protective League has requested Mr. Darlington Hoopes, Assemblyman from the first district, Reading, Pa., State of one hundred million in- to submit to the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, Pa., a (Continued on Page Four)

Student nurses at the Reading Hospital learned last week that the contracts under which they entered training have become mere scraps of paper, so far as cash allowances are concerned. An announcement posted at the hospital conveyed the information that all allowances would stop for nurses who entered training after January 1, 1932.

Under the arrangements which HARRISBURG, Pa. - Rep. Dar- prevailed prior to that time the lington Hoopes, Reading Socialist, monthly allowances to nurses were and charges were assessed for

> May Borrow \$60 Most of the nurses come from

evitably affect the morale of the edu-pointing out on the floor and in the special, session of 1932 but was plications would have to be filed two capitalism's collapse no less than cational system so that thousands of measures they introduce that the smothered in the Senate because So- weeks in advance and notice of the other workers. Many of them are youngsters who now stay in school only possible course out of present cialist members of the House had hearing given by official newspaper now unemployed and the free servbecause they have no work, will drift chaos is collectivism, Socialist con-amended the bill to strike out a crip- notice each week which would enable ice which they are giving as stuout and swell the army of the un-struction where Capitalism is fast pling 2% maximum which the organized labor to mark out its foes dents no longer places them in line for well-paid service.

What Reading Folks Are Talking About

SAVE READING FROM RIDICULE"

That section of the public which still has some money to worry about ought to try to get themselves in the same frame of mind which caused some of them to vote against Socialism in 1931.

Then it was "Save Reading From Ridicule" and "Keep the Industries in Reading" by defeating the Socialists. The Socialists were defeated, but during the past week we have seen more ridiculous carryingson than ever before in the history of our city.

One bank, the Farmers National, refuses to pay out any money which had been deposited prior to Tuesday. The others are honoring checks but limiting the amounts which may be drawn by the thrifty owners of sayings accounts.

The ridiculous part of it is that thousands of people are worrying about the safety of their savings in a land which abounds with every resource which society needs to produce abundantly.

Why don't we use those resources and make the things we need. Because they are not ours. Why don't we make them ours? Because we have saved not only Reading but the entire nation from ridicule by voting against Socialism.

have voted to permit the wealth of the nation to remain in a few hands. They have voted to be idle and hungry when the lew owners don't find t profitable to permit the masses to work. They have voted for Capitalism—and they are getting what they

MORE LAY-OFFS

Yes, the industries are still here. but the jobs have disappeared. Durmore lay-offs at the Reading Railroad shops. Also a number of store clerks have been sent out into the cruel world to grieve for their alltoo-slim pay envelopes.

Jobs are scarce and times are hard. But times needn't be hard. They're only hard because people have consented to let everything up to a few people and refused to use their government for their own ben-

The American people could end hard times forever by taking over the industries and operating them for the use of the people instead of for the profit of a few owners. But that would be Socialism and too many people would rather starve than vote the political power of the nation into the hands of the Socialist Party. Well, the threat of starvation is growing.

WHEN THIEVES FALL OUT

"When thieves fall out honest men get their due."

That old maxim came to us this (Continued on Page Four)

Mass Meeting

Wendell Phillips Memorial

City Hall Auditorium Sunday, March 5

> 2 P. M. SPEAKERS:

J. HENRY STUMP Former Mayor

EMIL RIEVE President Full Fashioned Hosi-

ery Workers and Chairman of

National Labor Committee for Thomas and Maurer GEORGE M. RHODES President Federated Trades

Council Everybody Welcome

No Admission or Collection