BUNDLE ORDERS, 50c per 100.

Address all communications to The Rebel, Hallettsville, Texas.

TOTAL SUBS
For Week Ending Nov. 11, 1911
10,938
Total edition this week...11,500

THE REBEL

The great appear great to us only because we are on our knees—LET US ARISE.

T. A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner
Entered as second-class matter July 1, 1911, at the post-office at Hallettsville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879.
50c pr yr; clubs of 4 (40 wks) 25c
THIS IS NO. 20

Successor to Farmers Journal, established June 22, 1904.

HALLETTSVILLE, TEX., NOVEMBER 11, 1911.

Issued Weekly.

"THE USE OF THE LAND THE ONLY TITLE!"

(By Taylor McRae, Editor the Cooperator.)

[The Rebel takes much pleasure in presenting to his readers the famous Farmers Union editor—Taylor McRae. Pay particular attention to the paragraph dealing with Alberta. There is brains and character enough in Texas to do as well as our Canadian cousins and do it now.—Ed.]

To The Rebel:

I read with much interest and delight the proceedings of the convention of renters, or rather tenant farmers and am certainly pleased that a movement has at last been put forth to bring relief to that much oppressed body of men, the tenant farmer of Texas and the South, in fact of the whole nation.

The doctrine that the use of the land should be the only title to the possession of the earth, is the correct one, and is one that no just thinking man who believes that man was given the land in the beginning for his use and not for the use of any one individual or set of individuals will dare deny. The result of the contrary doctrine can be seen on all sides of us in the misery and discomfort that has come to the tiller of the soil, who has to pay a landlord a portion of the results of his toil and that of his dear ones.

How any man can look upon the hard life of the tenant farmer, and then dare to declare that he is a follower of the Lord God, is a paradox that it is hard for an honest man to understand, and certainly it leads one to believe that such a man prays to God at night for the power to prey upon his fellow man during the coming day.

We all admit that the use of land should be the only title but what is to be done to bring about the practical application of that doctrine, true though it is? The land has already passed into the possession of individuals and corporations of one kind and another and under our present system it seems impossible to realize the grip that has fastened itself upon the title to it. Of course it has got to be done and it should be done as soon as possible and in a peaceful manner. Now I notice that application is to be made to the legislature for a constitutional amendment authorizing a tax on land values to the limit, and that use and occupancy be the sole title to land.

Does this include all lands that of the small holder and of the speculator as well? There is a principle here that should be understood. To my mind, proper distinction is to be made between the actual holder and user of the land and the man who holds only to earn a profit from the hard labor of another, without laboring or using his land himself. It does not seem to be a fair proposition that the man who toils and improves his holding of land should be taxed to the same extent as the man who does neither. What do you propose as a solution of this difficulty? Some definite ideas should be set forth when application is made to the legislature so that what the people want can be gotten through their legal minds. Now, of course this is a new subject, and probably but few have thought about it, but I am going to give my view and then let others do the same, and probably out of all our brains something good may result.

Now taking the claim that to the user should the land belong, it logically follows that he who holds his land in this manner should have the benefits. This being so then to my mind the thing to do in this matter of taxation is to place the greater tax upon the man who gets his profits from the unearned increment that comes to him from the toil and sweat of the man who uses his land for the good of himself, his family and the world, and not as now upon the user of the land.

The custom is in this country, as we all know, for the tax assessor to raise the user of lands assessment every time he makes any kind of improvement, even when he turns the sod of new ground with his plow. Is not that so? Then if the reverse rule is adopted and the man who does not work and does nothing for the good of himself and his country with his land, but holds it for the profit he unjustly gets from the labor of his fellow man, is made to pay the larger tax, who can complain and say it is not fair? Has not the burden been borne by the other lo, during the many years, and has any one claimed that this was unjust and that it should not be so? "What is fair for the goose is fair for the gander" is very appropriate in this connection, it seems to me.

In this connection I would like to say that this idea is already in force, not in this great republic of socalled freemen, but in a province of Canada, which as you know, is under the jurisdiction of a king, from whom we are always rejoicing that we are free. The province of Alberta, one of the states we might call it, of the Dominion of Canada, has set the pace in this matter. They declare that in the first place, there is not an acre of land for sale at any price for others than the actual settler and user of the land. They have in addition to this placed a law upon their statute books that the speculator in lands or one who holds any part of his land for gain by higher prices without use, shall pay EIGHT TIMES as much tax as the man who uses his land for his and the public good. What do you think of that for a system under a monarchy? The result of this has been that speculation in land has ceased and men who have held for the unearned increment, have hastened to place their lands upon the market, finding buyers among the users of land.

Now my idea is to ask the legislature to do as Alberta Province has done, make the speculator pay eight times or ten times the tax that the user does in Texas and then get behind this demand and with all our power force them to give the law to us.

It is going to take time, my brethren, but it has taken time to build up the present condition of things, and it is only with an awakened conscience and a determined people that any thing is gained for the user of land or any other great principle.

I trust that The Rebel will pardon me for taking up so much of its space as an unknown man, but if it will just ask friend Meitzen, for whom I voted in the last election, he will tell you who I am and how long I have stood as I do

Taylor McRae.

WILL THEY DARE.

Written for The Rebel by J. Edward Morgan, Oakland Cal.

Will they hang the McNamaras?
That depends on you and me—
Can jackal judge or servile jury
Set aside the king's decree?
Justice? she's a two faced harlot
Mistress to the Lords of power—
Damned the cause that pins its faith on
Shylock's gold-bought paramour.

In cave of Cyclops gagged and pinioned
With the holy court in awe—
Judge and jury, priest and headsman
Faithful to their master's law,
Wolves without a yelp to whetten
Judges rage and headsman's knife,
Doomed the helpless, fettered captive
Trusting Justice for his life.

Damned and doomed the McNamaras
If no Comrades from without
Storm the Cyclops cannoned fortress
King and judge and headsman rout.
POWER be labor's God forever,
Might 'gainst might her battle cry,
Hail quick bolt that sends thrones crashing
When labor hurls a man's defy.

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If you are a Socialist, don't let the fatal first of February find you without a poll tax receipt. You can't afford not to qualify as a voter. Next year is presidential year. Do it now!

Renters Union of America.

GREAT ORGANIZATION SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED TWENTY-TWO COUNTIES REPRESENTED.

It is difficult to write about the First Convention of the Land Renters of Texas in a calm, matter-of-fact way. The occasion was so big, so fraught with promise of good or evil, according as statesmanship or blundering guided the councils of the delegates that now, when the convention has ended, and success has been achieved, greater than the most hopeful expectations, the desire is to shout in our enthusiasm and overlook some of the fine points in the story. Accordingly I shall put the brakes on and tell the story from the record without flounces or frills.

On Friday, November 3, the advance guard of delegates commenced to arrive at the headquarters in the Bristol Hotel. By midnight delegates from twelve counties had arrived and we all knew that the convention would be a numerical success at least. Rumors been flying around for some days that various political parties would seek to capture the convention and that landlords would make a determined attempt to break it up in a riot or at least cause disorder. The best posted men scoffed at this and determined that in so far as their power lay that partizan politics should be kept out of our councils. In this laudable move the delegates agreed unanimously, the politician was relegated to the rear and thus one great stumbling block to the success of the convention was removed by the good sense and wisdom of the delegates.

At the stroke of 9 a. m., Saturday, November 4, A. G. Maxey, of Lorena, secretary of Falls county Union No. 1, called the convention to order. From one to four delegates from the following counties presented credentials: Collin, Fayette, Mitchel, Kaufman, McCullough, Navarro, Tarrant, Dallas, Haskell, Ellis, McLennan, Bell, Falls, Wharton, Lavaca, Milam, Val Verde, Williamson, Erath, Eastland, Palo Pinto, Parker, Cherokee and Limestone. There was also a fraternal delegate from Oklahoma. C. M. Pressley of O'Brien, Haskell county, was elected chairman, and J. C. Smith of El Campo, Wharton county, was elected secretary. The two most important committee, that of constitution and resolutions were then elected by the convention. The constitutional committee were Van Norman, Perkins, Mitchell, Moore, La Grone. To this were added Edwards of Dallas and Hickey of Lavaca in an advisory capacity. Nat L. Hardy of Mitchell was chairman of the committee on resolutions. The constitutional committee worked with great swiftness and unanimously agreed to preamble and purposes of the new organization: Hickey read the preamble and purpose to the convention which by this time had every delegate in his seat with over one hundred outside visitors gaily decorated with red badges; local sympathizers filled the big hall. When Hickey closed the reading of the preamble the chairman called for its adoption by a rising vote. The vast audience among which were many charming ladies arose as one and then broke out such a storm of pent-up enthusiasm cheering and hand clapping as is rarely witnessed in a convention.

This is the preamble:

"As modern industry develops and the spread of commerce covers the nation, it becomes apparent that land, the source of all wealth, is going into fewer hands; speculation in the gift of God to all His children increases and thus we find that each year it is harder to secure a place to build a home. We believe that the home is the foundation of our civilization and that any causes that operate to prevent honest, indusrious men from building a home should be promptly removed in a lawful manner through the organized efforts of those most affected.

"We regard the bonus system, the increased crop shares, cash rent, the credit system, the holding of land for speculation, out of cultivation, and subrenting, unjust, inequitable and can have no other result than that of the destruction of the home. We realize that the logical working out of the above mentioned fruits of landlordism has resulted in a steady and continuous increase in tenantry, with no relief in sight. To grapple with these evils we bind ourselves to promote our common interests, in the Land Renters' Union of North America and declare the following purposes:

"To secure equity, establish justice and apply the Golden Rule we shall always struggle with all our power against unlimited ownership of land.

"To destroy the bonus and cash system and refuse to rent for more than a third in grain and fourth in cotton.

"To assist our members in securing places and refuse to compete for the same.

"To educate ourselves in science of government; to establish reading clubs and learn the methods of our exploiters.

"To maintain our organization without sectarian or partisan bias.

"To promote co-operative farming as far as possible, realizing that the machinery needed to farm in the modern style, is beyond the reach of the individual renter.

To promote in every honorable way the initiative, referendum and recall, believing that the nearer the govrnment is brought to the people the better it is for the people.

"To bind ourselves together in one great army of emancipation from landlordism and all its attending evils so that the American home may be builded on rock, that the teachings of the Bible be lived up to in our daily lives, to the end that we shall live under our own vine and fig tree and raise our children to that they may receive a thorough education as befits the sons and daughters of the producers of wealth.

"Finally, we believe with the good book that the land is mine and shall not be sold forever, for ye are strangers and sojourners with me."

lines.

Resolution.

The committee on resolution then reported with two resolutions that will make history in the near future. The first resolution sets forth clearly the reasons that underlay the calling of the convention. The two concluding paragraphs were wildly cheered. The resolution reads:

Whereas, the acreage of cultivated farming in Texas has decreased from 125,000,000 in 1900 to 109,000,000 in 1910.

Whereas, white tenants have increased from 165,000 in 1900 to 209,000 in 1910, and the number of negro and Mexican tenants and farm laborers have greatly increased.

Whereas, the cost of machinery necessary to obtain the best results in farming has greatly increased.

Whereas, many landlords demand contracts that interfere with the political and personal liberty of the tenant as well as the manner in which he cultivates his crops.

Whereas, the present tenant system, through lack of proper improvements, overcropping and single cropping is causing the soil

(Continued to Page 2.)

THESE PERNICIOUS PARVENUES.

As the tide of revolt against unrestricted representative government grows apace and the Initiative, Referendum and Recall sentiment rises steadily from day to day all sorts and conditions of men arise to protest against the "rule of the mob." To a well posted man the capers these worthies cut are truly laughable, particularly so when we examine the family tree of these parvenues who profess to fear the people.

In Texas we have Governor Colquitt, who says that I andR would mean mobocracy. Why should Oscar Budweiser fear the common folks? It is not so long ago since he was as poor as a church mouse; had one pair of shoes in two years; and came near getting sun stroke on the fourth of July because the condition of his pantaloons was such that he had to wear an overcoat to keep from getting locked up.

Another shining statesman is Senator "B." Popular government is a stench in his nostrils and yet his honest father peddled booze at a Mississippi cross roads joint and the only harm popular government could do the Bailey clan would be when a U. S. revenue officer came sniffing around the dump.

Comes now a third democratic dignitary, Governor O'Neal of Alabama. He is fearful of the "mob." It would undoubtedly destroy all property rights he thinks. Let us see about him. One of his neighbors tells us about this worthy man as follows:

Phenix, Ala., Oct. 26, 1911

T. A. Hickey, Editor Rebel, Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade: I have just read your article: "O'Neal of Alabama" and enjoyed it very much. As I happen to know the governor, the power that elected him and the methods used. It is said by his home town people that, previous to his last plunge into politics, he couldn't buy a sack of flour on credit.

I would like to have a bundle of the Oct. 14, issue, containing the O'Neal article. Can you furnish them? If so, at what price.

J. P. Marchant.

And these are typical examples of the gentry who while masquerading as democrats hate the very name of democracy. Fortunately the type is well known. We have them in all countries. The Germans have a couplet to describe the scurvy tribe:

"Der Emporkömmling kann es
nie lassen
Seinen früheren Stand zu hassen."

Meaning: The parvenu never can quit hating his former station.

But the waves of democracy beat ever higher on the shores of time and they will ultimately submerge the pernicious parvenu.

◆

REFERENDUM L.

Now that we are getting under a full head of steam and the dawn of the Socialist republic is in sight we face but one danger as an organization. That danger does not "lie across the Alps" but is within our organization. It consists in the plotting, planning and maneuvering of a few big brows who to gain their shoe string ends would invade a State and throw other States in endless turmoil. In proportion as the membership realize its power it is going to make these pseudo statesmen look like a jelly fish on an ironclad. So tell the boys in Missouri they must settle their scrap without DeLeonistic interference from on top. Eternally swat that fly called Referendum D.

◆

BUNDLE ORDERS.

Make a special drive on bundle orders for this issue—No 20.. We would like to print an extra edition of several thousand copies because of the report of the Renters Convention.

THE CONFLICT OF THE AGES

(M. M. Mangasarian.)

In my mind's eye, I see a wonderful building, something like the Coliseum of ancient Rome. The galleries are black with people; tier upon tier rise like waves the multitude of spectators who have come to see a great contest. A great contest indeed! A contest in which the world and all the centuries are interested. It is the contest—the fight to death—between Truth and Error.

The door opens, and a slight, small, shy and insignificant looking thing steps into the arena. It is Truth. The vast audience bursts into hilarous and derisive laughter. Is this Truth? This shuddering thing in tattered clothes, and almost naked? And the house shakes again with mocking and hisses.

The door opens again, and Error enters—clad in cloth of gold, imposing in appearance, tall of stature, glittering with gems, sleek and huge and ponderous, causing the building to tremble with the thud of its steps. The audience is for a moment dazzled into silence, then it breaks into applause, long and deafening. "Welcome!" "Welcome!" is the greeting from the multitude. "Welcome!" shout ten thousand

The two contestants face each other. Error, in full armor—backed by the sympathies of the audience, greeted by the clamorous chering of the spectators; and Truth, scorned, scoffed at, and hated. "The issue is a foregone conclusion," murmurs the vast audience. "Error will trample Truth under is big feet."

The battle begins. The two clinch, separate, and clinch again. Truth holds its own. The spectators are alarmed. Anxiety appears in their faces. Their voices grow faint. Is it possible? Look! See! There! Error recedes! It fears the gaze of Truth! It shuns its beauteous eyes! Hear it shriek and scream as it feels Truth's grip. It is making for the door. It is gone.

The spectators are mute. Every tongue is smitten with the palsy. The people bite their lips until they bleed. They cannot explain what they have seen. "Who would have believed it?" "Is it possible?" they exclaim. But they cannot doubt what their eyes have seen. That puny and insignificant looking thing called Truth has put ancient and entrenched Error, backed by the throne, the altar, the army, the press, the people, and the gods—to rout.

The pursuit of truth! Is not that worth living for? To seek the truth, to love the truth, to live the truth? Can any religion offer more?

◆

McNAMARA.

The McNamara case drags wearily on. It commenced on October 11; now on November 11 there are only four men in the jury box, all of whom may be challenged. Darrow and his associates are making a desperate effort to impeach hostile jury men for cause so as to save their peremptory challenges. The judge is undoubtedly hostile and has caused Darrow and Davis, McNamara's attorneys, to bitterly attack him at times. One of the main reasons why Darrow is seeking to save his challenges to the last line is the fact that the laws of California prevent all persons from sitting on a jury who are not property owners. The property owners are splendidly organized in Los Angeles which makes it almost impossible to secure a fair jury. This is one of the chief reasons for the kidnaping to Los Angeles. In the present time one of McNamara's counsel has carried the city primary for the Socialist ticket elected largely by non-property owners. Incidentally Carnegie, the man behind the kidnaping remains in seclusion and we are all watching his partner in the crime, the Men and Religion Forward Movement, leader, J. Pierpont Morgan.

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Under old-party rule the negroes are organizing a bank at Fort Worth. Under Socialism the white folks won't organize banks, much less [illegible]

THE STORY OF A GREAT POEM.

To my desk this morning came the Oakland World proudly displaying on its front page a great poem entitled—Mike Devine. It is one of the classics of Socialist literature. As I had something to do with the making of this poem and as the attending circumstances have played no small part in the struggles of our time, I think a short sketch as to how it came to be written would be appropriate.

In 1899 the Rebel was national organizer of the Socialist Labor Party. Socialists at that time, so far as organization was concerned, were as scarce as hen's teeh. In the course of an organizing tour that covered the country from New York City to San Diego, Cal., and from there to Butte, Mont., and back to New York, that took eleven months and two weeks to make, I found that the main topic of discussion among thinking people was the establishing of the first bull pen in America by the mining plutocracy. This blot on civilization was erected at the little town of Wardner, in the northern promontory of Idaho, on the 6th day of May, 1899. Eight days earlier—the 29th of April—Harry Orchard and his assiates, the agents procacateur of the mine owners, had blown up a concentrator in that town. The blame was placed on the union miners who belonged to the Western Federation. Governor Stenuenberg declared martial law and President McKinley sent the federal troops including the 9th colcred cavalry from Spokane to the seat of the trouble. Then ensued scenes of savagery such as can only take place where civil law is suspended and the rule of the day is marked by the bayonet The bull pen just mentioned was simply an inclosure formed of heavy timber, in a naked field covering two acres, with a board roof over part of it where the men slept in bunks set in tiers like those in an old emigrant ship. The miners were arrested in their beds and as they came off shift in their wet clothes they were hustled down to this pen without warrants or hearing or any other process of civil law. To get out of this pen the miners had to sign a permit that provided that they One of those arrested was an old should not belong to any union. Irish miner named Mike Devine. He was a stalwart union man. He was in the hospital when Harry Orchard committed his crime. After coming out of the hospital he was jostled off the sidewalk by a negro soldier. He struck the negro and was bull penned for the offense. With his constitution sapped from the illness he was stricken with pneumonia in the pull pen. As he lay dying on the straw he asked for a priest. Captain Bachellor, the white officer in command of the negroes refused the request—something that never occurred even on the battle field in a war between civilized nations. This act stirred the old soul. Rising on one arm in the straw of the bull pen, his eyes with the death glare in them and the death rattle in his throat he cried out to his comrades surrounding him:

"Boys. God damn these murderers. DON'T SIGN THE PERMIT.

Then he dropped over, dead.

I went into the wild country to investigate the bull pen. I wrote the story; over 150,000 copies of which were sold in papers and pamphlets. I mentioned the incident to a young Irishman, W. S. Dalton, who wrote under the pen name—Stanisland Cullen. It affected him deeply whereupon he wrote the following beautiful poem that is now generally recognized as one of the classics of the modern labor movement:

MIKE DEVINE.

Crispus Attucks, murdered by British soldiers, Boston, Mass., 1770.

John Brown, hanged by slave-holder, 1859.

Mike Devine, murdered by the ruling class in the bull pen at Wardner, Idaho, 1899.

Revolutions have their Baptists.
"Make straight the way," they cry.
Crispus Attucks was our first one,
"Come on, boys. let's do or die."
Then John Brown cried "Death to slavery," now we hear the words, "Don't sign,"
And we answer back class-conscious, "You're our Baptist, Mike Devine."

Shall we build him a monument, comrades, shall we carve on granite his name?
This man of our class who died as he lived, a martyr, a hero, whose fame
Will resound when we've passed from this life and our class slaves no more in the plutocrat mine,
When free men will lay wreaths on his grave and repeat the words of the hero, "Don't sign."

Seventeen hundred and seventy saw Yankee men shot dead.
In fifty-nine John Brown was hanged—read ye the omen red,
King George went down; black slavery died, ye capitalists, mark the sign;
Ye tolled the knell of our system's rule when you murdered Mike Devine.

Listen, O, workers, and answer, how shall we best serve the Cause
He was murdered for defending; how best change the brutal laws
That they tortured him to death, heed the words of Mike Devine,
Vote to own the mine and workshop; for the robber class "don't sign."

Death to the rule of the robber; raise ye the Socialist flag.
From Germany, Belgium and France they cry, "Why do our comrades lag?"
Give the world this message: "We are building a monument fine
With the broken chains of the wage-slave, in memory of Mike Devine.

• • •

The memory of Mike Devine lives in the hearts of the men of today. Let us hope that the workers will soon take up his dying words and when looking at a capitalist ballot they will say: "Don't Sign."

FIVE MINUTE SERMON.

"He came unto his own and his own received him not."—John 1:11.

'Twere ingratitude enough for one's friends to quietly turn away from him: but for those of his household to withdraw and join with his persecutors it would wound to the death, it would seem, every noble aspiration of the human heart.

Divine love alone can live under such abuse. This is why "the sweet old story of God and his love" is so dear to every Christian heart.

The people referred to in this verse were the children of Abraham, the people God had chosen through whom to bless all nations: "A peculiar people." They were taught of God by his holy prophets about Christ's coming, the time, place of birth, and power of his life. His coming was their consolation in defeat, the burden of their prayers, and joy in their songs.

But, lo, "As many were astonied at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man." Isa. 52:14. "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him." Isa. 53:12. "He came unto his own and his own received him not." Christian, do you wonder at the treatment Christ received at the hands of "his own?"

It was his severe opposition to their religion which made them cry out, "crucify him!"

"Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men." Mat. 23:13. "Is it not written, my house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves." Mat. 11:17. Christians before you reject Socialism think over the Jews' mistake. You will find Socialism to be in perfect harmony with the teachings of Christ. That of all people you are the ones who could the most logically accept it. Don't say it is against your holy institutions; for if you say the truth then your holy institutions will go as did the temple worship at Jerusalem. God and justice shall reign on this earth. "Trust ye not in lying words, saying the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, are these. For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor; if ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt, then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, forever and ever." Jer. 7:4-7. Accept Christ for the remission of your sins and Socialism for a reign of righteousness, peace and plenty.

Dan Gandy.

RENTER'S UNION OF AMERICA.

(Continued from Page 1.)

to lose its fertility and yield unsatisfactory returns.

Whereas, the increase in land values has made it impossible for the tenant, under ordinary conditions, to buy and pay for land.

Whereas, these conditions are forcing the landless farmer to live in miserable shacks and keeping the women and children in the fields to such an extent as to be exceedingly detrimental to the mental and physical well being of our people and a menace to the homes and social institutions of our state. Therefore, be it,

Resolved, That we, the renters of Texas, in convention assembled, protest against the evils of increased rents, bonuses and money rents and pledge ourselves to use all our strength to abolish them.

That we advocate a tax on land value up to the limit.

To the end that tenantry and its attendant evils may be abolished, we declare for use and occupancy as the only just title to land.

The report was received and adopted unanimously, by a rising vote.

The next resolution was a fitting accompaniment to what preceded. It drew the line tant and will separate the sheep from the goats. It not only puts every political party in Texas on record but every candidate from dog catcher to governor has to fish or cut bait. No fooling goes. This resolution adopted with a whoop, the rebel yell and a rising vote reads:

Whereas, this movement is seeking the good of all the people and we propose to carry out our program by orderly and lawful methods. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we present our demands to the platform committees of all political conventions held in Texas in 1912 and to all candidates for political offices regardless of party.

2. That we pledge opposition to all parties and candidates that decline to advocate our demands.

3. That the officials of our organization prepare and present to the citizens of our state for signatures a blank petition demanding of the legislature which convenes in January, 1913, to submit to the people a constitutional amendment authorizing a tax on land values to the limit, and use and occupancy to be the sole title to land.

There were frequent cries of "amen" as the above were read.

Mr. Hickey said he gathered from the resolutions that it was desired to put members of all political parties on record.

This remark was greeted with a roar of "You bet we do." "Put 'em all on record." "They are either with us or against us." A petition will be circulated under the auspices of the Renters Union It is expected to carry 300,000 signatures of earnest determined men who have pledge themselves to annihilate any political party or individual that will not agree to stand for use and occupancy as the title to land and taxation to the limit on all lands held for speculation purposes. 1912 promises to be a fighting year in Texas.

The constitutional committee then reported at the close of the day that it would take another day at least to complete their labors. A motion was then made and carried unanimously that the committtee be given power to draft the constitution; that it be sent to a referendum vote of all the delegates for adoption. Then M. A. Smith sang "We all must have a home," a motion to adjourn followed and amidst roars of cheers and much enthusiasm the convention adjourned.

• • •

While we are not at liberty to say what the committee on constitution will finally decide upon, yet a majority of the committee expressed themselves as favoring the following essential provisions:

Condemning the bonus system, cash rnts, increase in crop shares, the credit system, the holding of land for speculative purposes, renting land for more than a third in grain and a fourth in cotton; to assist members in securing and refusing to compete for places; to eschew sectarian or partisan questions, though "to establish reading clubs and learn the methods of our exploiters;" to promote co-operative farming as far as possible realizing that the machinery needed to farm in modern style is beyond the reach of the individual renter.

Membership is limited to "all white persons over 16 years of age who are farm renters and farm laborers; provided that land owners who have no renters and cultivate their own land are eligible. No one who holds land for speculative purposes, or who subrents or who rents more than a reasonable amount of land or who employs more than a reasonable amount of laborers necessary in an emergncy, shall be eligible.

Dues to be 15 cents per quater and initiation fees 50 cents per member.

The organization is styled "Renters Union of America, State Division No. 1." "It shall issue charters to other State organizations as soon as the latter have as many as forty locals." It is provided, however, that each State organization shall have absolute control over its own affairs. Under no pretext shall any member of the union interfere in the affairs of another State union.

"State conventions shall be held the first Tuesday in June, 1912, at Waco, and every year thereafter at such places as the convention may devide."

There will be no useless national officials.

Thus in a business like way that carried the respect and admiration of friend and foe the first convention of land renters ended. It was a historic gathering. The mission before it to supply homes by destroying landlordism to 5,000,000 renters, is one that that is almost sublime. Let us all get together and work as never before and build up the Renters Union of America until it grapples with landlordism and destroys it. Then we can all say at the close of the battle: The land is mine and shall not be sold forever, saith the Lord.

Let the day dawn soon.

Rebel Lecture Bureau.

The Lecture Bureau idea with Hickey and Hamilton as the lecturers has caught on with the comrades. The first one to hear from was the irrepressible Ed Green of Rockdale who writes us: "I will take 250 cards. They sell like hot cakes and we want to hear Hickey lecture on "Law and Land" with Hamilton's sledge hammer blows."

Charley Davidson of Waco is the man who was chiefly responsible for the big Debs lecture success. He says he and his comrales can easily get rid of 250 cards. West Texas is also in line with one date in Stonewall county.

County Secretary J. M. Haggard expects to land a date for Gainesville.

Quite a number of locals in central and north Texas are preparing to "come through."

Now comrades the time is short. We want to make this the biggest propaganda tour ever undertaken in Texas. Get busy at once. Bring it up at the next meeting of your local. Write us a card for particulars. Remember—your local sells 250 25c cards good for 40 weeks each and you get two of the strongest platform men in the South who pay all their expenses and we supply ten dollars worth of advertising as well, in the form of posters, window hangers, circulars and cards—WRITE US NOW—and boost your local movement for the 1912 campaign.

DAN GANDY,
Circulation Manager The Rebel.

GET THE MUN.

"I am sick of all your kicking about the kale and how impossible it is for us small fellows to get where the long green grows;" remarked the small business man to the wise one as they met in the cotton market.

"What's troubling you now? Some politician been stuffing you; eh?" remarked the wise one.

"No sir, it is President Taft I have in mind. I just read his thanksgiving proclamation. He declares 'We are rich in the priceless possessions and unbounded resources wherewith the unstinted bounty of God has endowed us.' Rich! Get that? We are rich in endowment given by God."

"Then I suppose that the children working in the cotton mills for 25c a night are deeply thankful for their prosperity, What?"

"Well, I didn't think of that. Say tell me how you have this whole national mun game doped out?"

"All right, son, it's like this. I got the latest national size up of the getting the mun game from two great authorities—Dr. Spahr of Chicago University, and Professor Brooks of Columbia College, New York. They say that there are at present 18,000,000 families in theh United States and that if all the wealth were equally divided that each family would have $6,500.

I thought you Socialists did not believe in dividing up."

"Of course not. It is this dividing up business I am going to explain to you now. The authorities I mentioned a minute ago tell us that one per cent of the population own fifty per cent of the wealth and ten per cent of the population owns 90 per cent, leaving 90 per cent of the people with ten per cent of the wealth. They then go and divide the people into four divisions according to their wealth. The richest division in wealth and the smallest in numbers include all who have from $50,000 to one billion; they number 125,000 families less than one per cent of the total or one family in every 144, or one family out of every 720 people. The next division own money and property of from $5,000 to $50,000 or one in sixteen families or one family to every 80.

"Then comes a big division that owns from $500 to $5,000. Included in this are widows with small houses and persons with furniture and hen coops or an acre of ground with 500 or more dollars. They number 30,000,000, Then comes the largest division of all—the miserables—crushed under the divide up load. They number 35,000,000 in 6,000,000 families and own "wealth" from nothing up to $500. Their food is coarse and adulterated, their pay is pitiably small, they own no homes; their wives and little children have to work out to help the family purse. Education is impossible, culture is unknown, refinement is unthought of and vice flourishes in their midst. Theirs but to work and slave and die without a hope under the present capitalist system of dividing up.

"Now remember," the wise one concluded, "the last division is the greatest in numbers. They must be lifted up or they will inevitably pull us down. So, for God's sake get busy, join the Socialist party and help lift these submerged ones up and then we will all have a genuine thanksgiving and will get the mun."

THE NOBLE WORK OF NOBLE

Lufkin, Texas, Nov. 3, 1911

Editor The Rebel: Comrade W. S. Noble has just finished a ten days lecture in this, Angelina county. He organized seven locals with eighty-two members. This gives us eleven locals in the county. Prospects are good to double membership in these new rade Noble wound up his lecture locals at their next meeting. Comtour at Lufkin Saturday with a big street meeting where he spoke to about 400 people. The Socialists of the county were represented at the meeting by 125 delegates all wearing red badges. That was a big day for the Socialists of Angelina county. Comrade Noble, notwithstanding his thirty days tour through the piney woods of Nacogdoches and Angelina counties, seemed to be at his best. The 125 delegates from different parts of the county seemed to enthuse him and cause him to forget the fatigue of his tour through the piney brush. Every body is feeling good. Even the democrats who know enough to want to know something went away happy and fully intending to investigate Socialism. One big fellow put it this way: "We've got to meet it and I'm going to read up on it and see what them fellows want. They can't make it much worse."

Comrade Noble is certainly doing a noble work and at a great disadvantage. He is greatly bothered with a growth on his lip which the physicians say must be removed. We sincerely hope all the locals in Texas will get up and act favorably on the suggestions sent out by E. R. Meitzen and T. A. Hickey, just a few dollars from each local will put Comrade Noble on his feet again ready to renew the fight for suffering humanity.

Yours for action,
Ben F. Evans.

OUR BEES.

This has been a strenuous week for The Rebel. We were down to Waco and took part in the great gathering that is destined to make history on that ever fresh glowing and burning question—the land. As you read about it in this issue I am sure you will feel as we do that we ought to have a six figure circulation to do justice to this great subject and other great subjects that are crowding on us now. I have a hunch that if The Rebel had over one hunrded thousand subs in Texas with a 7 column paper and the extra talent that we could hire then it would be only a question of time until we would Milwaukeeize every city in the State and land a governor in Austin with a legislature behind him that would settle landlordism in a great big hurry. We are putting on over a hundred a day, but will have to do better than that to reach the 30,000 by Jan. 1. I would suggest that all rebs get in on that lecture bureau plan and at once. Any live local can order 250 cards. They will be sent free of charge with lots of time to sell them before you pay us a cent. Just try it and see.

The big chief this week is M. P McKesky of Deport, Texas, with 31 patients that we promise to take good care of. Amongst others sending in clubs we notice:

Harvey Kelly Tifton, Ga., 9; T. J. McKnight, Kingsville, 5; L. C. Smith, Clinton, 8; W. A. Simpson, Jewett, 10; R. A. Spoonts, London, 14; S. C. French, San Angelo, 4; J. W. Felts, Brownsboro, 8; C. B. Stephens, Farmersville, 6; R. P. McKinley, DeKalb, 4; H. H. Boydston, Ginsite, 5; G. W. Thompson, Crowell, 6; E. W. Hookings, Nash., 4; W. H. Minton, Cameron, 4; Mrs. S. A. Pilley, Groesbeck, 5; V. I. Cannon, Conshatta, La., 5; G. W. Thompson, Crowell, 4; G. M. Vanzant, Taylor, 11; J. N. Flood, Foster, Okla., 14; J. B. Dully, Carey, 15; Lenard Ried, Vester, Okla., 4; F. Farrell, Longworth, 6; J. R. McMillan, Woodson, 5; S. A. Thompson, Denton, 4; W. A. Knight, Coleman, 10; T. M. Hinley, Flint, 10; E. J. Persons, Mineola, 6; M. H. Walden, Lake Victor, 5; J. T. Reed, Hamilton, 4; B. W. McIntosh, Gatesville, 5; A. C. Eason, Lindsay, Okla., 9; Robt. H. Austin, Jacksboro, 10; K. Davis, La Prior, 4; J. N. Isbell, Newbern, Tenn., 7; H. H. Loggins, Valley Mills, 4; Dr. J. A. Presley, O'Brien, 8; T. Lewis, Memphis, 5; M. A. Drinkard, Snyder, 5; J. D. Bowen, Shamrock, 8; Mrs. Aggie Huffman, Marlo, Okla., 14; Dan C. Crider, Rising Star, 7; H. C. Meyer, DeLeon, 5; Annie Eschler, House, N. Mex., 4; H. C. Harris, Macon, Ga., 4; David Mosley, Roswell, N. Mex., 4; E. Daft, Klondike, Texas, 4; G. S. Yocom, Hope, Ark., 9; A. S. Bradford, Peacock, 17; W. A. Wood, Glenrose 4; Van Tease, Jacksboro 19; Ross Crain, McGregor, 4; Mrs. DeWitt Owens, Athens, 10; W. E. Willbanks, Poteet, 7; W. E. Blake, Poteet, 4; W. W. Haney, Halsell, 6; Joe Childress, Joaquin, 4.

THOUGHT BY A REBEL.

Our social order is but the anarchy of the jungle—the sign that man is not yet human, not yet evolved from the beast. There can be no peace, not the first basis for peace to build upon, until there is but one class in the world, one made of progress, and one human worth—the class, the progress, the worth, that associates all men as common workers, to whom all leisure, all culture, all beauty and immortality belong. Then shall prevail, when this one social earth has come to be, and not till then, the peace of good-will among men.

Professor George D. Herron.

TATE MOVEMENT.

Meitzen, State Sec., Hallettsville, Texas.

teen locals were chartered the past three days: Half in the organized counties. Organize your county.

ty Secretary W. C. Barnes aring to get Robertson in line for 1912. After a literature campaign that is ing kept up, he has secured Thompson for a several county campaign.

many Texas locals have ed the Rockdale motion ing for the direct nomina- presidential candidates. n your seconds now to the ational secretary stating any members are in good g.

Hamilton has dates as s: Nov. 12-13 Beeville; 14 is; 15-16 Stringtown (de- 17 Eddy. He will be rout- me to Mineola after this. plans are not definite we t able to say just how much he will remain in the state.

idea is being advanced by comrades that it would be a way of getting the women sted in the movement to ex- them from the payment of county and local dues. It is ter well worth discussion. nderstand that a motion for ndum is contemplated with hat end in view.

din Andrews will speak as s: Nov. 15-16, Richards; 17 ity; beginning Nov. 18 for l weeks in Hardin county, ion of County Secretary L. gby. After this he will speak county mass meeting to be n Groveton, Trinity Co., on 2, and for sometime thereafnder direction of Secretary Harrot.

have the following letter W. S. Noble: "Am at home nger, doing fine. Cancer nd place sloughed out. Will dy for work as soon as you t to get me out. Expense r heavy but not so much as ught, due to liberality of ade (Dr.) B. F. Bell who l make no charge. My grat- to all the comrades who stood by me is beyond s."

L. Bright writes from Hamilounty: "Rev. J. J. Moy, a prominent preacher of the tian church, known all over tate has declared for Social- nd joined our local at Eid- his week. He made his first h in favor of Socialism and s an able effort. He has of- his valuable services to help nize Hamilton county and lecture at various places ."

exander Irvine, who is at nt managing the Los Ange- ampaign, has promised to to Texas for two or three s this fall, on his return home Los Angeles. Further par- lars next week. There are y speakers that are advertis- s "next to Debs," but from ccounts Irvine is the only one is "next" and he will put a lwind finish to the great cam- n that has been waged in as this year.

aylor local, with Hooper, Wil- on and Nicodemus as chief ners, is doing splendid con- ctive work. They are devel- g a number of able young kers, they have meetings with nite programs, they are study- thoroughly propaganda and nization problems; they are mere theorists either, but are ding up the organization by d practical work which in- s systematic distribution of rature.

his office has sent out over hundred thousand pieces of rature free of charge to those ing to distribute but not able ay for it. One result can be n in the immense gain in the ty membership which has ped from about 2000 in Aug- to 3900 in October as evi- ced by the total sum of $195 l to the national office for dues mps. Another result is that the ut fund has a deficit. We are ding out coin cards this week very Scout in the hope of se- ing enough funds to cover the cit and further extend the k.

he Socialists of Eastland county have called a mass meeting to be held at the courthouse in Eastland Saturday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a. m. The purpose is to elect a county secretary and a chairman and to lay plans for carrying the county in 1912. County Organizer W. L. Cagle will begin a several weeks' campaign November 13, for the purpose of "shaking every bush in the county." He writes that even the big landlords are "walking the strets, talking Socialism."

Ballots for National Referendum D have been forwarded to all local and county secretaries. Those failing to receive ballots or enough of them will notify this office at once. Those who believe in letting the states run their own affairs and settle their own "scraps" without dragging the entire national organization into the trouble will vote "No" on this meddling referendum.

Now that you have organized that local don't stop the work. The biggest job you have now is to keep it alive. The way to do it is to attend the meetings, make them interesting, have regular programs, let everybody say something, though not too long a "piece;" organize "literaries" in connection, thereby getting the young folks interested. But above all be sure to come to every meeting, see that every referendum is discussed thoroughly and voted upon. Do all these things and more things that you can think of and we will have the greatest state organization in the nation. We are not far from that even now, with our haphazard way of doing things. We have now reached the stage where we must begin to do more constructive organization work.

THE FULL COTTON PATCH AND THE EMPTY SCHOOL HOUSE.

The following letter was read by The Rebel to the Renters Convention. It produced bitter feelings against landlordism and added to our determination to kill the institution that puts a premium on illiteracy:

Marlin, Texas, Oct. 23, 1911.
Mr. A. G. Maxey, Lorena, Tex

Dear Albert: I have read carefully the discussions going on in the "press" of the state regarding the Renters Union, and noted also your call for a meeting at Waco.

After a careful reading I am writing to remind you that there is one very strong point in this matter that you are overlooking. While all you say is true and even more, still it seems to me that one of the most serious problems the tenant farmer has to solve in Falls county, is the problem of educating his children. The present condition of things make it seem impossible to get along without keeping the children in the cotton fields as long as there is a single lock to scrap. The result is our children are not getting even what the state is providing for their education.

Last year there were in Falls county over three hundred white children within scholastic age that were not enrolled in any school. The average daily attendance for the year, is less than seventy-five per cent of the enrollment. The average length of the school term was 123 days, yet the average child attended school about 80 days. But it is useless for me to enumerate these facts to you, you know as well as I whose children are not getting their birthright, and lest you forget, I am writing to remind you that if this condition continues long in Texas, the tenant farmer and his children must sink to a level equal with and corresponding to "the Peasant" class in the "Old Country."

The great problems before us can only be worked out by people who are trained to think for themselves. Education is one of the strong factors in the solution of the problem, and I am pleading that you use your influence to persuade the Waco meeting to write a strong educational plank in their constitution and to urge your organization to take high progressive ground in the fields of education.

I feel the need of help from the parents themselves, and will gladly cooperate with you in any plan that will help us to get these children in the schools.

Hoping I have not intruded nor in any way interfered with your plans, and assuring you that, "always and everywhere," I am doing all I can to help these Falls county children come into their own, I remain, with best wishes,

Your servant,
A. W. Eddins.
School Superintendent, Falls Co.

Rebels Victorious.

MANY IMPORTANT CITIES FALL INTO OUR HANDS.

The past week has been one of fierce fighting in eighteen different states in the union. In seventeen of these states the rebels against the present regime fought on the political battefield; in the 18th state first regiments were drilled and a plan of campaign prepared for a terrific assault on the ramparts of landlordism in every state in the union.

From meagre reports received the big political battles of Tuesday, Nov. 7, we learn that the greatest old party slaughter occurred in Ohio and New York, although it looked up to 2 a. m. Wednesday like the Socialist Rebels had stormed the capital at Jackson, Miss.

In New York we captured a seat in Mr. Morgan's legislaure for the first time in its rotten history. This legislature is nearly as reactionary as Austin. The lone fighter who is now entrenched inside the lines of capitalist boodlers is Comrade Herbert E. Merril from Schenectady. This town has fallen completely into our hands. The Rebels laid siege early and after terrific fighting succeeded in placing enormous charges of intellectual dynamite and exposure nitro-glycerine all around the intrenchments of the elephant and the donk. After terrific hand to hand fighting the indomitable Socialist veterans and raw recruits, led by General George R. Lunn, captured the city hall and court house while heavy firing in the distance announced the breaking into the legislature which is eighteen miles away from Schenectady on the Albany interurban line.

The following press dispatch from the scene of the carnage will give our readers some idea of the fight:

Socialists' Heavy Vote.

> Schenectady, N. Y., Nov. 7.—For the first time in the history of the county the Socialists have polled a counting vote, electing a mayor, all but one city official and the majority of the county officials, which will make the common council and probably the county board of supervisors Socialistic.
>
> Rev. Dr. George R. Lunn, pastor of the United People's Church and editor of the Citizen, a Socialist weekly was elected mayor by a plurality of 1,999, or practically two-thirds the total vote.
>
> Early returns indicated that Herbert M. Merril, Socialist, will represent this county in the assembly, as he carried the city by a plurality of about 1,000.
>
> The platform of Dr. Lunn called for thorough reforms, chief among which was a municipal paving plant to "bust" the so-called paving trust; cheaper gas and a cut in the city pay roll by eliminating useless officeholders.
>
> Dr. Lunn began his career as pastor of the First Reform Church, the oldest and most aristocratic in the city. About three years ago he was compelled to resign because of his socialistic preachings, and then organized the United People's congregation.

It is well to remember the significance of this victory when we realize that Schenectady is the home of the largest factory in America, the General Electric Works, employing 18,00 wage slaves and is controlled by the commander-in-chief of the capitalists forces —J. Pierpont Morgan of Wall street and the power behind the throne of the Men and Religion Forward Movement.

In Rochester the dems had been carrying on a sham battle for some time with the rapscallion reps. The dems fled the field and the Socialist forces under command of Colonel Joe Moses fought a desperate engagement. The wires must have been cut because this is all that reached us of the final battle:

> Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 7.—Mayor Egerton, republican, was re-elected by more than 6,000.

Across the line in the Buckeye state the fighting was fast, fierce and furious from sun up. The Rebel forces seized eleven big cities and gave no quarter except in Canton, the home of the late martyred President McKinley. We learn of the victories from the Dallas News as follows:

> Marked socialistic strength has developed at various points, notably in several of the municipal contests of Ohio where ten cities elected Socialist mayors.

The New York Call tells us what these cities were that are now held as outposts before the grand united march on the capital at Washington. They are Loraine, the great steel city; St. Mary's, Martins Ferry; Fostoria, Mount Vernon, Salem, Barberton, Mansfield, Cuyahoga Falls and Canton.

In Pennsylvania, the fight was desperate, particularly in Newcastle where the Socialist rebels routed the enemy with terrific losses. This is the grat stronghold of the United States Steel Corporation where the octopus had our Irish editors,Colonel McKeever and Major McCarthy held as prisoners of war for some time. They were rescued from confinement. The wires were not down at this point, so we read in the New York Call:

> New Castle, Pa., Nov. 7.—Early returns indicate an overwhelming Socialist victory, the Socialists having a majority in three of the eight wards, and a plurality in another which will give complete control of the city even if the remaining wards are lost.
>
> The Socialists have fought a straight class fight, the capitalist press bombarding the party with charges of "free love," anarchy and all the usual rank lies. In addition, barrels of money were spent by the old party politicians, but nothing availed to stem the irresistible sweep of the Socialists tide.
>
> The next mayor is Walter V. Tyler, a brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad. The ticket is working class from top to bottom.

Reports of other successful engagements in the East indicate that the rebels advanced until they say the whites of the enemy's eyes and gained victories in Auburn, N. Y., Bridgeport, Conn., and Elizabeth, New Jersey. Heavy drawn battles with immense gains for the Socialists were also fought in Missouri and Kansas. In California the rebels finished with tremendous victory in Los Angeles, made a determined attempt to capture the capitol at Sacramento. The dems were whipped early and went over to the reps; the rebels engaged both forces and at sundown it was like the close of the first day at Gettysburg.

Coming South but one great battle was fought. This was in Mississippi. Not since the siege of Vicksburg was there such collosal carnage. The following despatch by courier and telegraph to the Houston Post gives some idea of the fighting:

> Jackson, Miss., Nov. 7.—As was accepted at a certainty before the election, Mississippi voters elected the entire democratic state ticket today. The strength shown by the Socialist candidates, however, was an extraordinary incident.
>
> In the presidential election of 1908 Socialist voters polled 978; in 1910, at the congressional election, 1,500. Today James T. Lester, candidate for lieutenant governor in opposition to Theodore G. Bilbo, democratic nominee, if the ratio shown by meager figures at hand at midnight is maintained, will have in excess of 6,000. Lester led his ticket, which was the only opposition to the democratic nominees.

Later we learn from the News:

> Jackson, Miss., Nov. 8.—at 2 o'clock this morning the claim is made at Socialist headquarters here that their candidate for lieutenant governor, James Lester of Jackson, has been elected over the democratic nominee, Theo. G. Bilbo.

The whole South is ablaze with excitement. The vicious guerilla warfare carried on by Jno. H. Kirby and similar democratic commanders on defenceless non-combatants—women and children has aroused all the fighting spirit of the old South. Other and greater victories than those mentioned above will occur with increasing frequency.

General Debs, the commander-in-chief of the revolutionary forces, was seen at the close of the nation wide battles at his headquarters on the banks of Wabash at Terre Haute, Ind. Our fearless commander had passed through the various battles unscathed. Asked what were the prospects of the rebels and when the war would end he said: "This is a fight to a finish. It is nation-wide and world-wide. It is the great decisive fight for human freedom. I am overjoyed at the tremendous victories we have won in all parts of the country. We must without a moments delay prepare for the great general engagement of 1912. We must storm the capitol of the nation where the enemy is entrenched. Our recruiting is going on magnificently, the flying squadrons in all the cities are doing wonderful work while the Scouts of Texas and Oklahoma are shelling the woods in splendid style; the commissary is in good condition, the heavy artillery of the Appeal and the cavalry of the Rebel, with the great bodies of the infantry in the Leader Call and Socialist with 10,000 other divisions that are hurling intellectual dynamite into the ranks of the enemy fills us with hope that the great battle against tyranny, oppression, poverty, vice and ignorance will be successfully fought out by election day 1912.

Since the above was written we learn that the following additional cities were stormed by the fighting Socialists.

Crookston, Minn.; Reading, Pa.; Eureka, Utah; Murray, Utah; Manti, Utah; Stockton, Utah; Tintee, Utah.

Many Socialists Chosen.

The following cities elected Socialist officials:

Haverhill, Mass., one state legislator.
Dayton, Ohio, four councilmen.
Toledo, Ohio, one alderman.
Kalamazoo, Mich., one councilman.
Newport, Kentucky, one commissioner.
Auburn, N. Y., one alderman.
Findley, Ohio, one alderman.
Akron, Ohio, one alderman, two assessors.
Bridgeport, Conn., one alderman.
Columbus, Ohio, four aldermen.
Everett, Wash., three councilmen.

Bulletins.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 8.—The Socialists elected four councilmen by large pluralities and A. C. Eby, Socialist candidate for mayor, is running even with Mayor Marshall for second honors. The election of the Socialist aldermen was without precedent. They will hold the balance of power in the council.

Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 8.—One Socialist councilman was elected, the first to be chosen in Toledo.

LAW AND LAND.

The Rebel knows that the Bailey bunkum is dead and is as odorous as its principal; that the pro piffle is played out as a political issue and would not deceive a sickly peon in a Yucatan swamp; that the tariff joke has run its course and the great over shadowing question that will never down until it is settled is the land. In order to get down to a clear understanding of this vital question The Rebel has asked its readers to secure the opinions of eminent lawyers on two vital questions. First: Can use and occupancy be made the title to land? and second: Can land held for speculative purposes have a confiscatory tax placed on it. Comrade R. W. Kirkpatrick of Normangee, Texas, wrote to a friend of his, who is a brilliant lawyer, on the subject. This is the gentleman's reply:

Centerville, Texas, Oct. 27, 1911.
Mr. R. W. Kirkpatrick, Normangee, Texas.

My Dear Sir and Friend: Replying to your two recent questions on limitations; 1st. Can a law be passed by the next Texas legislature placing a confiscatory tax on lands held for speculative purposes? and second: Can land holdings be restricted to say 250 acres, as was done under Gov. Oglethorpe in Georgia?

I can answer both of these questions in one, and that is this: Our legislature can pass such laws—but they would both be unconstitutional and void upon contest which would surely follow the enactment of such laws. Neither our State or national constitutions authorize the enactment of such laws.

Trusting the above will be clear, I remain,

Your friend,
Jas. T. Ryan.

"It is nonsense," says the Fort Worth Union Banner, "to talk of over-production of anything we eat or wear. Why, right here in Fort Worth there is a demand for clothing of the cotton kind, that, if filled, would empty every shelf of every store in the city wkithin twenty-four hours." Now, who can say that Fort Worth is not typical in this respect of every city and town in the United States? Yet, our great big old fat president says in his Thanksgiving proclamation, "Our industries have thrived far beyond our domestic needs."

DID TAFT TELL THE TRUTH?

If President Taft told the truth in his proclamation calling upon the people to set apart November 30 as a day of thanksgiving and prayer and praise to Almighty God, then the families of the nation over which he presides have all they need, and more too, in the way of food, clothing, shelter, fuel, and all the necessaries, comforts and conveniences capable of being produced by American industry,

If he told the truth, there are no little children in the United States in need of warm clothes this winter, none in need of shoes, none who ever leave the dining table unsatisfied, none who shiver with cold for want of plenty of heavy bed covers while the blizzards howl throughout the long winter nights.

All are supplied abundantly, and there is no suffering nor fear of suffering, if Taft told the truth What did Taft Say?

He said: "OUR INDUSTRIES HAVE THRIVED FAR BEYOND OUR DOMESTIC NEEDS."

LATEST ELECTION NEWS.

We captured an assembly seat in Rhode Island. Berger predicts two million votes in 1912 and twenty congressmen. Vice mayor and 20 councilmen elected in Hamilton, O. Socialist councils elected at Carleton, Wadsworth and Conneatut, Ohio, Pottstown, Pa., elects three councilmen. Twenty commissioners in Saginaw, Mich., elected. This is the start of the landslide,

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The editor of the Baird Star says: "I would a thousand times rather be poor and live hard, and have, than have the government support me." Maybe so; but if my memory serves me right you made a mighty strenuous campaign some years back against Judge Munroe for a government job at Austin, and got it. And that reminds me—haven't you got some sort of a little old government job now?

GILLILAND'S GOOSE-GABBLE

State Press of the Dallas News and J. L. Hicks, who edits a page in The Rebel, a Socialist paper, have been having a little tilt as to who owns the land, which explains the following:

"In a recent issue of the Rebel I asked for an ethical, equitable, sensible, honest, clean and decent reason why the homeless tillers of land should not have free access to idle land. 'State Press,' of the Dallas News, make answer (?) by saying: 'Possibly the reason why landless men should not help themselves to this untilled land is because it doesn't belong to them.' Now, right there comes up a question of veracity between State Press and me. I say it does belong to them. Of course those who have monopolized it have a sort of title, but King George had a sort of title, too."

The theory of the Socialist seems to be that no one should own land.—Baird (Tex.) Star.

Then the Star goes on and fills more than a column of his precious anti-pro space with his ideas of Socialism, which are the ideas that prevailed ten years ago down in the forks of Goose Creek and Boggy Bayou. He musst have gotten them from the Arkansas Baptist before the Baptist got baptized with the baptism of Dick Maple. The Star man actually says that under Socialism a man can't own land or anything else, when the Socilist platform actually says he can. He says that "the world does not owe any man land," when the Bible, which he professes to believe, says: "The land shall not be sold forever." He says that "every honest, industrious man has plenty of opportunities to make a living," and that "all this howl about a poor man having no chance these days is pure rot." This, notwithstanding a Republican president says we must go back to competition or go on to Socialism, for there is no way between, and a Democrat in seeking the presidency (Woodrow Wilson) says: "things can't go on as they are." If the Star is right about there being nothing the matter, why are these men talking to the people of the nation this way? Gilliland has no idea how far he is behind a large percentage of his subscribers in the knowledge and understanding of Socialist principles and the Socialist program. I have not yet heard an ethical, equitable sensible honest, clean and decent reason why any man should have to pay another man for the use of land that nature has provided in abundance, free for all.

"The worker as a class does not pay the taxes. Taxes are paid by the property owners," says a writer in the Houston Labor Journal. That is true only in a SECONDARY sense. The man on a horse with a sack of corn on his shoulder is carrying the corn in a secondary sense. Primarily the horse is carrying the corn, and PRIMARILY the workers pay the taxes and all other bills. The money that Rockefellers pays in taxes is made by the workers while he plays golf. In like manner the money that an idle farmlord pays in taxes is made by the workers on that farm. Every time you leave out the actual productive worker when you are talking about who pays things I am going to call you down.

George W. Perkins, famous financier, says: "Some corporations with far-sighted wisdom adopted publicity several years ago, with the result that they are having less trouble with their labor and the public than other enterprises." "Their labor!" "THEIR LABOR!" And just think—laboring men (except Socialists and Perkins and all the corporations vote the old-party corporation tickets! "THEIR LABOR!"

SOMETHING GOMPERS SAID

The speech of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, at Los Angeles some weeks back deserves to be catalogued among the events of great significance. He is loved by millions of workingmen who ought to be Socialists, whose only logical political home is in the Socialist party. When he speaks they listen. And after a man in labor's war sees and says what Gompers has seen and said, he seldom retracts or retreats. Here is part of what Gompers said at Los Angeles:

"Never again can we return to old, petty competition, for the big machine and the social method of production have taken the place of hand tool and individual effort. A few are in possession of the machines and the resources. The masses are dependent on these for a livelihood. The few know not how to manage the gigantic powers they possess. You are getting hungry. There is plenty to take from and you are willing to work, but still you are kept hungry. The few masters are getting ready to shoot you down. They ask for recruits to the army and navy. They drill the forces of destruction on land and sea. There is only one hope of salvation from total destruction. Only one hope. It is the Socialist movement—for the Socialist movement is the only force that seeks to organize the masses and educate them, so they may act with reason in the big breakdown of capitalism. If the masses can take over in a sane and organized manner the industries and own them collectively and run them democratically, there is hope. For there is plenty for all, so that all may have enough and to spare".

To Socialist Editors: Some of you have dropped the Farmers Journal of Abilene, Tex., from your mailing lists since it was succeeded by The Rebel of Hallettsville, Tex. I need your papers in my work on The Rebel just the same as when I was running the Farmers Journal, but my name isn't Rockefeller and I can't subscribe for all of them. If not asking too much, please put on your mailing list "J. L. Hicks, Abilene, Texas. X." This applies to some Demorepublican and Republicratic editors also.

Would you be willing for one man to own enough land so that he could put ALL other persons under tribute to him? If you say NO, then I'll ask why you are willing for that same man to own land enough to put ONE other person under tribute to him? I would certainly hate to have to work at the degraded old-party editorial job of trying to keep people from seeing the iniquity, injustice of land monopoly.

"Gov. Colquitt and Hon. Clarence Ousley have returned to their homes from New Orleans confident that they have saved the farmers of the South several million dollars. In the meantime cotton prices continue to soar downward and the boll weevil seeks winter quarters. Lots of politics and grand-stand plays in that New Orleans aggregation of politicians."—Comanche Exponent. You said something then.

When the first census of the United States was taken, ninety-seven out of every hundred lived on farms. The census of last year shows that less than thirty-five people out of every hundred now live on the farms. If the theory of the ruling class in this country is true, namely: that the more people there are in the towns the better for those who remain on the farms, then all the millionaires ought to be on the farms and all the "pore devils" in town. But is it that way?

HICKS' PAGE

Edited by J. L. HICKS,
ABILENE, TEXAS.

Young man, if you and your sweetheart are competitors for the same job, better mind how you settle it by forming a trust. Taft and Wickerham are abroad in the land.

Rev. Charles Stelzle, in his "Men and Religion" address at Dallas November 5, said: "The horizon is dark with social unrest. In it are concerned twenty-five million Socialists of the world, together with nine million trade unionists."

When a farm renter goes through town and passes by residences that cost thousands of dollars each, how can he help asking himself the question, what good things have these men done, that their families should be so much better housed than mine?

At the New Orleans cotton conference Clarence Ousley made a long speech which was irrigated with tears—briny tears that boiled up from the great ocean of his deep solicitude for the poor downtrodden farmers of the south. But he didn't cry one single cry over the rent bill.

A few citizens of Fort Worth gathered one evening lately to celebrate the founding of the Carnegie public library in that city. The Record said they were "representative citizens." If I live to see the day when things made by work will be owned by people who work, I am going to offer a motion that the name "Carnegie" be disassociated from the libraries now bearing that name, and that they be called the "Iron Workers Libraries."

We are told by the anti-Socialists, and especially the anti-Socialist preachers, that we can't make the mass of men better until we make the individual men better. To which I would reply that the specific purpose in Socialism is not to make men better, but to arrange industrial and economic affairs so that working people may get all that's coming to them. If that should make them better, why, so much the better. And why shouldn't it?

Years ago I heard of a doctor who gave a man a package of dope, saying: "Use this according to directions, and if it doesn't cure you, come back and I'll fix you up something that will." It must have been Dr. Colquitt. A few days ago a governor by that name said at New Orleans: 'If the address issued to the people of the South doesn't cause the price of cotton to go up, one or two others plans are being held in reserve as cards up the sleeve."

That all Christian people should pray for the success of Italy in its war with Turkey over the possession of Tripoli, was the statement of Bishop J T. Hartzell during the conclave of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church held at Oklahoma City recently, according to a special to the Dallas News. On that same day the Associated Press cabled from London that the bodies of more than 500 women and children had been found in mosques and other buildings in Tripoli, horribly mutilated and mangled by Italian soldiers. It might pay you to stay away from church one whole Sunday, if necessary, and put in the day reading that marvelous book, "War—What For?" by George R. Kirkpatrick. It will make you hate the religion that looks with tolerance upon bloodshed, and will draw you closer to your brother man.

The Baird Star says that the Socialist agitators ought to encourage the people to secure homes and become independent. That's the job we are on, bud, and the headway we're making here lately is astonishing.

At Pittsburg, Pa., a few days ago Taft again reminded the people of the United States that the power of men in control of great corporations is liable to be transferred to the government; "and then," said he, "we will have State Socialism."

The efforts of the great (?) Democratic and Republican statesmen (? to force the trusts back to competition is exactly like a lot of boys trying to make two dogs fight when they don't want to fight—except that the boys don't draw salaries and fees for their fun.

Under Socialism no man can hope to become a millionaire, because he can't produce that much and can't make anybody else divide up with him. Under Socialism no man will fear that he may become a pauper, for he will have opportunity to produce an abundant living and won't have to divide up with any individual for granting him the opportunity. "Socialism is Christianity applied."

While reading the Commonwealth, of Everett, Wash., I noticed this: "Just now there are 586 vacant houses in Everett. The Commonwealth has street and number on file for those who care to inspect them. The whilom occupants of these houses have gone hence—looking for jobs. In Everett, as in all the big world, the worker has no right to life and love at home. He is a wanderer on the face of the earth. Workingmen come daily to the Commonwealth office have this story: 'I don't know where to have my paper sent—I don't know where I'll be.' "

Louis J. Wortham, editor of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, and incidentally a member of the Texas legislature, was interviewed in New York the other day by a representative of the Sun. In that interview he let one of the cats out of the wallet by saying: "We are trying to vote on a $1,600,000 bond issue for good roads. I venture to say that in the country northwest of Fort Worth there is a greater demand for automobiles now than in any other part of the country similarly populated." How's that? What's the automobile got to do with the question of good roads? All you want with good roads is to save wear and tear on the wagons and teams of the "poor down-trodden." How came you to mention automobiles?

MISTLETOE AND MESQUITE

A man drawing wealth in the form of interest, rent or profit bears exactly the same relation to the tree of society that a bunch of mistletoe on a mesquite tree does to the tree. He is drawing from society without returning any thing to society, just as the mistletoe draws from the tree without returning anything to the tree. The man who draws interest, rent or profit draws the substance that another man has drawn from the ground, just as the mistletoe draws from the tree the sap that the tree has drawn from the ground. The man is not at fault for doing this; society is at fault for letting him do it. The tree cannot shake off its parasites; society can. With this idea fixed in your mind read the following, which a writer recently contributed to Farm and Ranch:

"One of the foes of the mesquite tree is the mistletoe. In many regions it is nearly impossible to find a mesquite tree on which mistletoe is not growing, and in the imperial and Coahella valleys of California hundreds of mesquite trees may be seen that have been killed by this destructive parasitic plant. As soon as numerous bunches of mistletoe begin to flourish on a mesquite tree, the tree ceases to mature its pods. That is a sure indication that the tree is succumbing to the attacks of the parasite; which thrives upon the sap that is essential to the growth of its host. The tree may continue to live for several years longer, but its decline from year to year is evident, and sooner or later it becomes but a dead skeleton; and the parasite that killed it then dies also."

"PARADOX."

In his speech at his cotton conference at New Orleans Clarence Ousley, editor of the Fort Worth Record, said:

"It is an amazing paradox that with an increasing urban population to consume the products of the farm, the profits of production are diminishing."

In corn-field language, Editor Ousley is plum dumfoundered because the more folks there are in town, the richer the farmers ain't. It is hard for a Socialist to comprehend how a Democrat can be ignorant enough to call that a "paradox."

The heavy editor of the Dallas News says that President Taft is apparently so enraptured with the Sherman anti-trust law as to regard it as sacrosanct. I guess "sacrosanct" is the right word. Webster says it is not in use. The Sherman law is not much used, either, except by office seekers.

"Gov. Colquitt seems to be looking for a second term via the Cotton Patch Route," says the Dallas Democrat. Do you suppose a private citizen—a Fort Worth editor, for instance—could hope to reach the United Sates senate via that route?

STELZLE AND HIS IDEAL

While the team of experts the Men and Religion Forw movement were at Dallas, Charles Stelzle the social serv expert, said in his address: "fore you can have an ideal so system you must have id men."

That's the point where many good man, groping in the da stumbles and falls. It is one the most plausible fallacies t the Socialists have to meet expose. But it is a fallacy, nev the less, and one of the most f lacious. If you will think a ment you will see that it is em ty and meaningless, and rea absurd as applied to our econo affairs.

Go back a few years. See th two men on the creek bank, ne the bridge. They are fussing a quarreling over the bridge t Do you suppose men are m more "ideal" today than th were then? Would not men f and quarrel over tolls today, t same as they did a few yea back, if we had the un-ide bridge system now that was i vogue then? It is doubtful wheth er two men have ever disagree concerning the right of passag over a bridge since the brid ceased to be PRIVATE propert and became PUBLIC property.

So we see that, while ideal me did not make our present ide social bridge system, yet this s cial bridge system has made ide men—that is, men who u bridges without fussing and qua reling over them.

Complaining of the high price demanded by cotton pickers i Georgia, the Farmers Union New says: "What is the remedy There is but one answer: Th farmers must thoroughly, orga ize and stay organized, that th may be in a position to handle a such problems." Now, Brothe Farmers Union News, if yo were to look at it from the cotto pickers' standpoint what would be your remedy? Evidently th same: organize and stay organi ed, that you may be in a position to handle all such problems. S there you are, at the point of no where, just where we all arriv when we ignore the only rea remedy, which is Socialism.

If some big Democrat—Clar ence Ousley, f'rinstance—were t accuse the Socialists of wanting the tax payers of Texas to dig up nearly a million and a half dollars a year to send nigger kids to school, he could put whole congregations of the ignorant devotees of the donk into a state of inflammatory delirium. But Texas, under Democratic rule, appropriates the sum of $1,359,422 for the education of negro children. Yet these ruling Democrats howl "Nigger equality" whenever they hear the word Socialism.

"Hicks and the Socialist Rebel would revolutionize and make useless the teachings and experiences of all nations that evolved from savagery to civilized nations."—Baird Star.

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