Railway Strike Edition.

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THE REBEL

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

T. A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner
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THE SAN ANTONIO EXPLOSION.

"This is a story of official turpitude and political corruption resulting in criminal negligence that produced wholesale destruction of human life and bids fair before its last chapter is written to produce a veritable holocaust.

Through every tangled skein of this story can be traced the cunning hand of political and journalistic perverts with their legal advisers whose smooth hands are greased by the masters of bread who are masters because they own the means of producing the means of life.

It is more than all this. It is a proof branded with the charred, blackened and dismembered bodies of 26 men that mere reforms are but political porous plasters on social cancers and that to remove them, the cause—capitalism—must be removed if civilization is to be maintained.

Let us dig down to the admitted facts and then we may be able to diagnose the disease, find a remedy and save the wholesale destruction of life that is coming as sure as tomorrow's sun will rise.

In 1892 Democratic Governor Hogg fought a memorable three-cornered fight against a reactionary democrat, George Clark of Waco and a progressive populist named Nugent.

Nugent stood for the government ownership of railroads and proclaimed this living truth: that either the government must own the railroads or the railroads will own the government. Clark stated that to develop the railroads they should have as free a hand as possible. He asserted that: "That form of government is best that governs least." This was the laissez faire doctrine of early capitalism in both England and America and approached the ideal of the anarchist who, whether of the utopian or propaganda deed type would abolish all government.

Governor Hogg stood for a railroad commission that would regulate the railroads and thus, while occupying the middle ground, he won the battle of the ballots in 1892.

In the regular order of things, the railroad commission was established through an amendment to the state constitution and how hopelessly wrong was Hogg, can be read in the flash of the explosion in San Antonio on Monday morning, March 18, 8:56 a. m.

During the years that have intervened since Hogg's railroad commission was born the position has been one of the great political prizes of the state, ranking next to the governorship and in the more recent years, logically became the steppingstone to the gubernatorial chair. It was his position as railroad commissioner that put Colquitt within a stone's throw of the governor's chair in the 1906 convention and was only deprived of the prize because Tom Campbell, a railroad attorney and receiver for the I. & G. N. beat him to it with the assistance of another railroad attorney, Joe Bailey, who uttered the historic cry in the Dallas convention: "The Campbells are comin'." Did Senator Bailey have due regard for the dramatic fitness of the occasion he would have swung a switch light into the delegates faces and cried: "The allied railroads are comin'," as indeed they were. Verily, verily, Nugent was right, "the railroads owned the government."

Four years later in 1910 the railroad and express companies marched side by side with the liquor interests in a fake pro-fight. Railway Attorney Jake Wolters attributed it to the financial backing of railroad king, Rockefeller, who triumpantly sent his railroad commissioner, Colquitt, into the governor's chair ! ! !

While the campaign was on, Colquitt steadily refused to resign as railroad commissioner because he had, to carry on the railroad's plans properly, appoint a railroad commissioner on whose neck would be gracefully worn the collar of the railroads of Texas. Thereupon he appointed **THE NOW THOROUGHLY DISCREDITED JOHN L. WORTHAM.**

With these facts clearly in our minds we can move to an examination of the events that led up to the **WHOLESALE MURDER AT SAN ANTONIO ON MARCH 18, 8:56 A. M.**

* * *

For many years the mechanics employed in the railroad shops of the nation have from time to time had serious disagreements with the railroad managers. Sometimes it would be the machinists, again the boilermakers, the blacksmiths, the car repairers, or some other craft. These machinists were organized in the craft form of organization. When negotiations would be broken off with the managers the craft would go out as a craft single handed and alone, while the railroad managers always stood united. It was as if two armies were drawn up in battle array and one army had a regiment go out alone to fight the opposing army with its artillery, cavalry and infantry. As might be expected, the single regiment was always annihilated.

But with the growth of intelligence among organized workers, the time came when they decided that the old method of warfare was wrong and that they should proced to combine their forces so as to be in a position to fight a successful battle. To use another illustration, it was like as if two pugilists went into the ring. One had his fists clinched, while the other pugilist merely poked one finger at his opponent. After a thorough drubbing, naturally, the one-fingered man would clench his fist, so as to have a chance and this is exactly what the Federation of shop employees of the Harriman lines has done. To complete the illustration, the five fingers of their clenched hand are the machinists, blacksmiths, boiler makers, tin and sheet iron workers and car repairers.

A committee of the national officers of these five organizations met Mr. Julius Krutschnitt at San Francisco last September. A lengthy conference ensued, that ended in Mr. Kruschnitt declining to recognise the federation, he taking the position that if the men were to ally themselves together in a federation, they would be in a position to control the railroad. The men stood upon their American right to organize and thus were negotiations broken off, and in the first week in October, 1911, the battle began.

Thirty-five thousand men laid down their tools and peacefully left the railroad premises. In Texas 1200 of them were in Houston 500 in San Antonio; 400 in El Paso; 200 in Ennis and 400 at Algiers, just across the state line in Louisiana. From that day to this, the strikers have presented a remarkable front. Less than one-half of one per cent, and most of these aged men, have gone back to work. Their solidarity is an inspiration to all men who hope for a better civilization.

To take their places, the railroad managers have swept clean the scum of the city slums; drunken strike-breakers have been picked up in every part of the United States. Men with or without skill have been secured to handle the ponderous yet delicate equipment, upon successful maintenance and repair of which the lives of the traveling public depends. Te whork of these scabs has been of the most wretched order, as a result the Harriman Line's engines and cars have gone to rack and ruin to such an extent that its passenger trains are chronically late; it has had to refuse freight on most of its roads and the public has been put to very great loss and inconvenience by reason of these conditions.

To give The Rebel readers an idea of how these scabs worked: They placed bran, rice, and other foreign substances into the boilers to stop leaks. The result has been that three other engines besides the one at San Antonio, have blown up on the Harriman lines in Texas since this strike started, and yet the use of bran, rice and other compounds, goes steadily on. Every engineer on the Harriman Lines knows that he is taking his life in his hands every time he goes out on a trip. Men who go out on their runs fear that at any moment they may be buried in the wreckage of the locomotive. Others unable to stand the strain have taken leave of absence and nothing but the fear of losing their jobs, causes them to take out engines which they know are in an unsafe condition, and which no power on earth could induce them to operate before the strike.. Every train that runs must make numerous stops for repairs along the road. These repairs are made by the engineers, temporarily in order to enable them to arrive at their destination. The result of it is, the traveling public has been driven to a high pitch of exasperation because of these delays.

I could go on to give a thousand illustrations of the manner in which the passenger and freight service is handled in Texas since the strike, but the following incident will illustrate them all:

—Digging for the Dead.

From out the yards at Houston an engineer was called to take engine No. 835 on train No. 245. He examined the engine and said it was unsafe. A strike-breaker who was acting as inspector was called and told to examine the engine, which he did, declaring she was O. K The engineer then took her and started out with his train. He reached Chaneyville, four miles from where he started, when three crown-bar bolts blew out. The engine died before he could cut the crossings and a switch engine had to pull him back to the yards.

"No mechanic of ordinary ability would have allowed this defect to pass unnoticed. The public must realize that as long as the company continues to employ that class of men the danger of wrecks and boiler explosions is greatly enhanced."

From the above statement of well authenticated facts it can be seen that John L. Wortham was out to whitewash the company; he did whitewash it and before the coat of whitewash was dry, the expected happened, the great engine No. 704 at San Antonio blew up and 26 lives were snuffed out like a candle. Wherefore, The Rebel points its finger at the railway commissioners and says: "Sirs: This loss of life we place directly at your door. The blood of these men is on your head, and you are responsible for this collossal crime."

* * *

It was indeed fortunate that only 26 men died. Had the engine gone from the shops to the depot where hundreds of men, women and children stand around to get the train, just imagine what a terrific loss of life would have occurred, when No. 704 blew up. And be it noted that before the ink is dry on this paper, it is likely that in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio or some other great railroad depot, that an engine will blow up and destroy life and property on a scale the like of which has never before occurred under similar circumstances in America.

* * *

That this is not a view of an alarmist may be readily understood when we realise that the safe and wise provision that calls for clearance papers showing skill before a mechanic is employed in the shops is not lived up to now and is not lived up to because of John L. Wortham's connivance with his Wall street pals. I presented in 39 of The Rebel, a story of how the engine was blown up. I said:

"At much pains and expense The Rebel has gone to the bottom of the affair and now presents the first genuine story of the explosion for the benefit of the reading public.

"The man who was the immediate cause of the explosion was named Breimer. He was about 30 years old, light complected, blonde hair, weighed 170 pounds, was a native of Maryland and an electrician by trade. He worked as a handyman at the I.&G.N. shops in Palestine up to the first week in March and boarded in Mrs. Pearson's lodging house. He became acquainted with R. B. Spaulding, formerly boiler inspector on the S. P. railway and is now employed by the I. & G. N. at Palestine. Spaulding loaned him $5,00 to go to San Antonio, never dreaming that he was going to scab.

"As soon as he applied at the S. P. shops he was immediately taken on, in spite of the fact that he had no clearance papers. Herein we witness another illustration of the criminal negligence of the railroad commissioners. In their desire to support the railroad managers and help them whip the men, they allow incompetent strike-breakers to handle the ponderous and delicate equipment in the roundhouses at the various division points, and thereby place the lives of the traveling public in Texas in jeopardy.

"The Rebel learns from a thoroughly reliable source that this mogul passenger engine was thoroughly tested two days before the explosion. On the morning of the explosion Breimer was ordered to see that the steam was gotten up. It was an oil burner and had a working capacity of 250 pounds. The ignorant scab soon found that the steam was popping off in the safety valve, but on looking at the steam gauge he found that it was not registering the required 250 pounds, whereupon, he secured a monkey-wrench **AND SCREWED DOWN THE SAFETY VALVE.**

"The steam gauge is a delicate instrument that should only be attended to by a thoroughly skilled mechanic. Sometimes it only needs a slight tap to readjust the mechanism and cause it to register properly. The unskilled strikebreaker of course knew nothing about this, and cared less. In spite of screwing down the safety valve it still made attempts to pop, whereupon, Breimer screwed it down still tighter. The result was that the steam continued to generate in the boiler until it became greater than the tensile strength of the boiler and continued to mount from the safe 250 to between 900 and 1000 pounds.

"Then the great explosion took place, 26 lives were wiped out in a flash, and away back in the distance the observing man could see John L. Wortham and Allison Mayfield sitting on a pile of champagne bottles while Governor Colquitt was chuckling in unholy glee down at Austin.

"The next explosion is due to take place in any moment. The incompetent strikebreakers are still on the job, the railroad commission is still sleeping and the railroad governor will never bat an eye.

"The railroad employes who are striking have now a beautiful object lesson of what class politics means. No longer ought they to be deceived by Ramsey, Colquitt et al and see to it that they elect their own governor next time. Then they will win their strikes and the traveling public will be safe."

I have consulted some of the most expert mechanics in Texas on this situation. One of them, Mr. A. T. Hollman, one of the best known engineers in Houston presented me with the following:

To The Rebel:

"There must have been a thousand pounds pressure on the locomotive before it bursted. The government allows 1-6 of the bursting pressure for working pressure. It was close to a thousand pounds before it bursted. As a practical engineer of 20 years continuous experience in the biggest shops of the country, I know that the explosion occurred about as stated in The Rebel. Why did he not have his clearance papers?

"A. T. HOLLMAN."

Now, Mr. Wortham, what about these clearance papers? Why don't you go to the shops and examine them?. Are you going to protect life? What do you think this railroad commission is for anyhow? And please answer this question: Are you prepared to leave the state when the next engine blows up and another holocaust occurs?

* * *

From all this it can be seen that something should be done in the matter by the railroad commission to protect life and promote the interest of the traveling public and the shippers over the line. The question arises, what has this commission done? Commissioner Mayfield follows suit and proceeds to take a private car stocked with champagne and a French cook and go down for a duck hunting trip, as the Harriman Line's guest, in South Texas. The one commissioner that pretended to make an investigation was John L. Wortham. He went over the roads in a special car provided by the railroad company; as its guest; with him went Gus Radetski, general manager of the railroad. Wortham asked questions of agents of the railroads as the car went along, and always general manager, Radetski was at Wortham's elbow to hear everything the agent said. Wortham did not try to see the striking shopmen and did not see them. He made his "investigation" in Houston so quickly and so quietly that a committee of strikers that wanted to see him couldn't find him; the strikers wanted to submit to Wortham facts and fig-

(Continued on page 2.)

Texas Needs the Recall Right Now.

(By Pendragon.)

If the people of Texas had the recall in their state constitution, they could use it to good advantage right now, yanking John L. Wortham, Allison Mayfield, and W. D. Williams out of the offices of the state railroad commission, where they have proved their gross unfitness.

John L. Wortham's fake investigation of the condition of Harriman line engines, and its terrible harvest of death, stamps him with infamy and cries out for his expulsion from the public office which he disgraces.

Allison Mayfield's acceptance of private car courtesies on hunting trips, placing him under obligations to the men whom he is hired by the people to regulate, stamps him as an unfaithful and an unfit guardian of the people's rights on the railroad commission.

W. D. Williams's failure to give the people any service of real value may be due to his lack of mental qualifications, or to his ill health. Viewed either way, he is not the kind of man the people are entitled to have on the railroad commission.

The Texas railroad commission has become a ghastly joke—a joke on the people. Created to regulate the railroads and protect the rights of the people, it has come to be regulated by the railroads and to violate the rights of the people.

The murder of the twenty-six men at San Antonio, when a locomotive boiler exploded as a result of being handled by an incompetent workman, is as much chargeable to the Texas state railroad commission as it is to the Harriman line managers.

The people of Texas—the workers who average less than $500 a year income from their toil in city and country—tax themselves to pay $4000 a year salaries to each of the three railroad commissioners. The workers are therefore morally and legally entitled to faithful, efficient service by the commissioners. So far as the people know, the commissioners do not receive salaries from the railroads they are set to watch. They are, or ought to be under no obligation to the railroads, except to make the railroads deal fairly with the people.

Yet we have seen the state railroad commission stand by and not lift a finger to do its plain duty while the railroad managers through sheer stupid stubbornness inflict millions of dollars loss upon the stockholders, other millions of dollars loss on Texas shippers, and cap it all with the slaughter of twenty-six workmen.

The railroad commission, seeing these things and doing nothing to prevent them, as it was in duty bound to do, has also stood silent while the guilty railroad managers tried with scoundrel insinuations, carried in a servile daily press, to make the people believe that the strikers were responsible for the San Antonio explosion.

If the railroad commissioners had any spark of manhood in their bodies, they would have come forward like men, when the facts were established, and cleared the strikers of this lying insinuation.

But it looks like they were afraid to do even that simple act of justice to the workers—the men whose tax money they are paid from. It looks like they feared the wrath of the railroad managers more than they do that of the working people of Texas.

As fast as the voters of Texas can get to them—Mayfield, Wortham and Williams—they should be retired to the obscurity which best befits their public records of cowardice and inefficiency.

The people should elect railroad commissioners who will force the Harriman system managers to give the kind of service they were chartered to give. If that is required of them, they will be obliged to fire the gang of incompetents now working in their shops, and make peace with the skilled mechanics who struck last October because they were not receiving enough wages to live the way Texas white men ought to live.

If the daily papers of Texas would do their duty—if they would lay before their readers the plain facts about Worthams' direct personal responsibility, and his associate commissioners' share in it, for the slaughter of twenty-six workmen at San Antonio, the people of Texas would put other men in their places.

But the daily papers won't do their duty; the Harriman system is a liberal advertiser, and the big advertisers, who pay the bills and make the profits of the big daily papers, inevitably dictate their editorial policy. It could not be otherwise. They may deny it as they please, but the fact is there to be seen by everybody. The man or men that foot the bills make the rules for the ranch. That goes everywhere.

The only way the people of Texas can get a free press is to build up papers that don't depend on advertising, but get their support directly and solely from their readers. When a paper depends solely on subscriptions for its support, it has to tell the truth or die.

Moreover, when the people get such free papers, circulating 100,000 copies or more every week all over Texas, the big dailies will have to open up and tell the truth too.

When the Rebel circulates 100,000 copies a week—as it should do within two years—it will be able to force the big dailies to quit suppressing facts their readers have a right to know.

It has been suggested that Railroad Commissioner Wortham ought to be indicted for the slaughter of the twenty-six workmen at San Antonio. Maybe he ought. But he won't be indicted in the courts However, he has been indicted, at the bar of public opinion, for gross and probably criminal negligence of his sworn duty; for either venal or stupid unfitness to perform the duties of his office.

There is no room to doubt what the people would do to him if they had the recall. He would go out of office by twice the majority any man ever went in with.

Jake Wolters and the old party crowd that controls tell you we don't need the recall; that it is "undemocratic", etc.

You bet it is undemocratic—as the democratic party is managed today. But it is not un-socialistic. It is "undemocratic" because the railroads control the democratic party in Texas. According to the Texas standard, it is "undemocratic" to let the people who foot the bills have any protection from the government they support, or any control of it.

It is not "undemocratic", however, to let brutal railroad managers hire incompetent workmen to slaughter twenty-six workingmen; but it would be extremely "undemocratic" of the "democratic" courts of Texas to try to punish the murderers, or of the "democratic" daily papers of Texas to print the known facts.

Pendragon rejoices that new socialist weeklies are springing up in many Texas cities and towns; that socialist columns are being admitted into many old party papers—in response to demands from their readers for the new and genuinely democratic gospel, and he rejoices in the steady advance of the Rebel's circulation.

Not only the socialists, but all citizens who realize the importance of having a free press with courage to tell the plain truth about corporate outrages on the people, should rally to the support of the socialist papers.

The Rebel ought to have 100,000 subscribers just as soon as the Rebel hustlers can roll them in. Give us an audience of 100,000 subscribers—which would mean close to 500,000 regular weekly readers and we'll guarantee to cure the big dailies of their vicious habit of suppressing the criminal news of the railroads and their tools on the railroad commission.

THE SAN ANTONIO EXPLOSION.

(Continued from page 1.)

ures which their watchers have compiled,showing just how badly the train service of the Houston & Texas Central had been shot to pieces by lack of repairs in the shops. They could have proved to him hat is notoriously known to every shipper along the Houston & Texas Central,that the road is in rotten bad shape, unable to give the public service it was chartered to give and is therefore a fit subject for state interference.

But no, Wortham, state railroad commissioner, hobnobbing with general manager Radetzki in a private car as the company's guest and taking no evidence but that of company's agents and company's shippers, who had to testify to him in the presence of General Manager Radetzki, did not wish to learn anything from the strikers. He was not out to investgate in fact. As he treated the strikers in Houston, so did he treat them in Ennis, San Antonio, in short he has refused to hear the shopmen's side that with their wives and families, run into many thousands in Texas, he only hea the side that has is terminal in Wall street, New York. Verily: "the ox knoweth his owner and the ass his master's crib."

We can now leave the commissioners and go into the very depths of things and see if there isn't some possible way that life and property can be protected on the railroads in Texas. I have inquired, why does not Labor Commissioner Spaulding act? He is reported to be a decent man in spite of his wretched environment. I have been informed by one of the higest state officials that he has tried to act and finds himself blocked by the attorney general's office who stands like a stone wall between the railroads and those who would seek to have justice done. I am told he has given up the fight, has thrown up his hands and sad: "I can do nothing."

* * *

Turn, we, then, to the federal boiler inspector, who is he and where is he?

* * *

Turn we, then, to the state boiler inspector, but alas there is nothing doing there. And why? The answer throws a very interesting light upon railroad politics in Texas. Two years ago, and again last year, the state federation of labor endorsed and supported a bill requiring state inspection of boilers. At each session of the legislature, the bill was defeated through the influence of Attorney Garwood of the firm of Baker, Potts, Parker and Garwood of Houston, the general attorneys of the Harriman line. At the hearings in Austin, Mr. Garwood lined up for the railroad and Mr. Orr who was employed as engineer in the Menger Hotel in San Antonio within a few blocks of where this explosion has occurred, appeared as an expert for organized labor. As might be expected, the railroad attorney, backed by a raiload governor, the railroad commissioners and railroad legislature, won out and the boiler inspection bill was killed in both sections of the legislature.

Still we continue to inquire, what can be done to protect life and property in Texas? Let us see what other steps we have taken. We have entered the halls of congress, on the floor of congress stands one solitary representative of organized labor, Socialist Congressman Berger from Milwaukee.. As might be expected, he has gone to the front for the striking shopmen, as the following dispatch from Washington shows:

HITCHCOCK FAVORS HARRIMAN LINES

(By National Socialist Press.)

> "In a letter just received by Congressman Berger, Second Assistant Postmaster General Stewart admits that the postoffice department has not imposed a single fine on the Harriman lines for the constant delays of the mails by this system. The Harriman lines are completely demoralized, Owing to a determined strike of their machinists and shopmen.
>
> "A few weeks before Berger introduced his resolution providing for a congressional investigation of the Harriman railway strike he wrete to the postmaster general asking whether he had enforced the law governing delays of mails against this system.
>
> "Berger has just heard from the department, but not directly from Postmaster General Hitchcock. This gentleman is now busy pulling wires to secure the presidential nominaiton for Taft. Hitchcock is probably now soliciting campaign funds from the railroads and if he is he certainly won't overlook the Harriman lines.
>
> "It will be recalled that Hitchcock was the assistant secretary of the republican campaign committee during the time when 'My Dear Mr. Harriman' contributed a quarter of a million dollars to help elect Roosevelt president.
>
> "It is the Harriman estate that is now refusing to treat with the striking workingmen who demand living wages and decent working conditions."

* * *

And thus we find that life and property cannot be protected through congress.

Still we are not at the end of our search for some method to beat back the Harriman lines and compel them to conserve life and property. Can't we impeach the railroad commissioners? We can impeach the governor of Texas; we can impeach the supreme court but we cannot impeach the railroad commissioners! Why. Because the State Cnstitution does not provide any method of impeachment, and even if it did, nothing can be done until the legislature meets. It may be remembered that Governor Sayers tried to remove Secretary of State Hardy between sessions of the legislature and Hardy laughed at him, and continued to hold office until his term expired just before the legislature convened. Again, Tom Campbell, failed to get rid of Insurance Commissioner Hawkins, so that even if our railroad governor, Colquitt, was willing to get rid of the railroad commission, nothing could be done.

Thus from this lengthy review it is seen that everywhere the common people turn for relief against the Harriman lines, they run up against an impregnable barrer of political and financial strength that has been erected by the owners of the Harriman lines. One last thought comes to us. Can we not turn to the church? There we find the pulpit silent, except in one splendid instance in Houston, where one Pastor has written the masterly piece of satire on the scab that appears on the next page of The Rebel and when he introduced the following resolution at the monthly session of the City Pastors' Association at the Y. M. C. A. last week, the resolution was not adopted and we read from the Chronicle that the meeting was given a humorous turn by the talk of Dr. Sam R. Day on church music.

This is the resolution that the Pastors of Houston killed:

> "Resolved, That the demands of the striking Federation of Shop Employes of the Harriman Railway lines for industrial recognition is just and right."

In support of his resolution Dr. Wright read a paper which embodied a plea for the workingman in both a special and general sense

To turn to the Dallas News, Record, Post, Express, El Paso Times, Austin Statesman or any other daily paper is foolish. In a small southwest Texas town, The Rebel has scooped them all and the fact is that the Harriman Line owners has them muzzled like a chicken-eating dog in a back yad.

* * *

What hope have the men of winning the strike? The men of winning the strike?. I will answer the last question first. The may have hope as fresh as the buds that are bourgeoning around us in this glad springtime. There is no power on earth can keep them from winning. They have already shown their mettle. They are true and tried and they will stand to the very end. Organized labor will come to their assistance more and more as international vice president, Misenthaler, of the switchmen's union recently told The Rebel: if necessary, the switchmen must be pulled. If not, they will be the next to go under the lash. The men dare not, cannot lose this strike. More and more will organised labor come to their assistance with funds, and thus they will continue to help until the Harriman strike is won.

Again, this is presidential year. Mark Hanna settled the anthracite coal strike in 1900, fearing the loss of the presidency. Every atom of political power that the union men possess must be turned against every official in every state, county and city that displays a particle of respect or regard for these "malefactors of great wealth." Let every striking shop man sit down and write a letter to John Wortham, to Wm. D. Williams and to Allison Mayfield at Austin, Texas. Let them bombard Colquitt with letters. Let them assail Lightfoot and the attorney general's office and tell them that although he is retiring under fire, that he will ever be remembered by them. Bombard Rufus Hardy and the other 15 congressmen of Washington with letters; demanding that congressional action about the postal delay on the Harriman lines be taken. In short, put every offical in this presidential year on record; tell him you will remove him from the piecounter. Tell him you will destroy him politically. It doesn't matter whether you write your letters with lead pencil or typewriter. Write and write now and tell them that the mask has dropped from the faces of th Harriman Line politicians. Tell them the curtain has been pulled back. Tell them that the muzzled press is understood. Don't tell them that The Rebel has exposed the whole game, because we want no crdit. We are simply doing our duty as an unmuzzled editor should. Then, you striking shopmen, believe us that every Socialist in the state and every active member of organized labor regardless of its political affiliations, will follow suit and in this presidential year will bombard them and put them all on record. Berger is down in Washington, turning on the light there. Education in these great facts portrayed above is the prime necessity of the hour. Be militant and your strike will be won, and then on election day, bury the railroad governor under an avalanche of ballots and remember the truth of this whole story that the fearless Nugent was right, that "the government must own the railroads or the railroads will own the government," has been demonstrated from the record in this story.

Yes, the federatd shopmen's strike will be won and before many weeks have passed. The Rebel intends to take a trip down to Houston and fall in line with the 1200 stalwarts that have fought for the past six months and with red fire and brass bands, walk down the center of Main street singing Hosannah for the victories we won.. For it is true as that the earth revolves around the sun that American workers cannot be enslaved.

* * *

ANOTHER S. P. ENGINE BLOWN UP.

Through the courtesy of J. L. Hicks, of Abilene, Texas, The Rebel receives a copy of the Oregon Register under date of April 5, 1912. It carries on its front page a big story of the blowing up of S. P. Engine 2538 on April 4. Never in the history of railroading in the world have engines been blown up at such an amazing rate as at the present time, due, of course, to the scabs using rice and compound in the engines and then, doing it in an unskilful way, screwing down safety valves and the like. It is refreshing to read in this story that the railroad commission acted in the promptest possible manner as the following excerpt from the Register's story will show:

> "Baker, Ore., April 4.—Members of the state Railroad Commission wired J. L. Wood at Albany to go to Roseburg to investigate the explosion of a locomotive at Rice Hill. Woods replied he would leave for Roseburg tonight. Every member of the commission is here, hearing the Sumpter rate case and is unable to leave."

Why does the Oregon commission act so promptly and the Texas commission refuse to act at all?

Answer: The railroad commission in Oregon is subject to the recall, while in Texas, we are not up to date enough to have such a yise provision in our constitution.

TEXAS SOCIALIST VICTORY.

Unofficial reports are to the effects that D. B. Gates, the Socialist candidate for county school trustee in beat No. 4 in Angelina county has been elected by a large majority over the democratic candidate.

The democrats put up a hard fight but to no avail. The Socialists have learned that each individual has to fight and not wait on the other fellow.

In this commissioners beat two years ago there were about fifteen Socialist votes polled out of nearly 200. so we naturally feel elated over the gain we have made.

Wm. A. Foster,
Zavalla, Texas.

LETTER BOX.

A. B. C. Groesbeck, Texas: Your communication received. It is crowded out this week n account of the large amount of space used by our big railroad story. It will positively appear next week with appropriate comment.

SOUTHERN NOTES.

J. E. Snyder is touring Arkansas under the direction of the state secretary.

• • •

Clarence H. Taylor is touring Mississippi under the direction of the state secretary

• • •

O. F. Branstetter, of Oklahoma City, is organizing in South Carolina until April 15. under the direction of the provisional state secretary.

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The comrades in Wharton Co. Texas are putting up a great campaign. They have bought space in the local paper three columns wide and 12 inches deep to announce their platform.

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The Call to Action is a new Socialist paper published at Paragould, Ark.

J. T. Cumbie, former candidate for governor of Oklahoma, is tearing people loose from old party affiliations in that state. He has been routed east of Pittsburg.

• • •

The Social Democrat, published at Sayre Okla., announces proudly this week that its circulation has passed the one thousand mark and remember, the paper is only three months old. Boost it to 5,000 as quick as possible, for it is surely there with the goods.

• • •

The Socialists selected the Mayor at Hartford, Ark., last week. He is a coal miner. G. E. Mikel, of Jenny Lind, another coal digger has been nominated by the Socialists of Arkansas for governor. The coal miners are commencing to get into the Socialist movement in great numbers and will be a big factor in beating the donk to death in the South.

• • •

Ida Hayman Callery, State Sec. of Arkansas, writes: "If a general election were to take place now I think the Socialists would poll 20,000 votes in this state. In three or four counties the Socialists feel they will elect their candidates to the legislature. At Leslie the Socialists will undoubtedly elect their ticket.

"This will be the fourth city in which Socialists have elected officials."

• • •

The Bennington Tribune, Bryan Co., Okla., in its issue of March 22, said: "For 50 years the democracy has had no opportunity to make or unmake the laws that have brought on these conditions." And yet methinks Cleveland was elected in 1892 and the democrats secured both branches of congress. What a donketydonk kid of a donk this derned donk is anyhow.

• • •

Thomas Woodrow, of Hobart, Okla., sec. of the Christian Socialist Fellowship for Oklahoma and New Mexico has just closed a remarkably successful series of lectures in the opera house at Marlow, Okla. Rev. Woodrow went to Marlow to divide time with one W. F. Lemmons of Tyler, Texas, but Lemmons refused to meet him. Both men spoke in separate buildings. 500 people heard Woodrow; Lemmons had 47 by actual count.—It was ever thus.

• • •

Winfield, La.—The Democrats of this county are beginning to regard the fast growing Socialist movement with alarm, as there are more Socialists here than in any other part of the state.

The democrats recently held their convention, at which they passed the following resolution, and planned to center their efforts against the Socialists:

"Whereas, strange doctrines of government, designed to destroy the family and striking at the very root of religion and aiming at the abolishment of private property and all incentive to human effort, resulting in the destruction of all law and order and bringing about chaos, are being preached in our parish; therefore, be it, resolved etc.

What an ignorant bourbon crowd these devotees of the donk are, anyhow.

• • •

Comrade Dan Hogan of Arkansas, editor of the Huntington Herald and national committeeman for that state, will speak at Muldrow Saturday, April 20, 7 p. m.; at Sallisaw, Sunday afternoon the 21st, at 2:30 and at Vian the same day at 7:30 p. m.

THE LABEL ON THE REBEL.

A great many of our friends have asked us why it is that while everything in on and around The Rebel office breathes the spirit of unionism that the paper does not carry the label of the International Typographical Union at its mast head just as does the Appeal and all other large Socialist papers.

When our friends ask us the question, they are not aware of the rules of the typographical union, which provides that there must be a certain number of members in a town before a label will be granted or a union can be organized. Inasmuch as The Rebel is published in an old fashioned Southern town of less than 2,000 people, it has been impossible to organize a union until, with the growth of the Rebel, enough printers have been employed to organize the union.

Even when we had secured enough printers we found there was a family row on in the I. T U.; the centralized national executive board has not gotten rotation in office, with the result that the "ins" want to stay in and keep out the "outs." In other words, Jim Lynch and his associates are hanging on desperately to their jobs. The South and west are anti-administration and the powers-tha-be do not wish any new unions to be organized in this hostile territory.

The result is that, although we are in no way implicated in the fight, and everybody associated with us is union to the core, we have been kept from getting the label up to date through the national powers. After months of negotiation, we can now report progress. The printers of Hallettsville and Yoakum organized with fourteen members last week and we are confident that within the next two weeks, unless the autocracy uses extra-legal methods, the union label will fly at our mast head. To give our readers an idea of how straight the Rebel stands, the I.T. U. local of Houston has ordered 100 copies of this railroad edition. I think it is the first time that a big local of the I. T. U. has officially ordered a paper that did not carry the label. In short, the union men know from the record that the Rebel is sound in unionism to the very limit.

RENTER'S UNION.

E. O. Meitzen, Sec., Treas., Hallettsville, Texas.

Organizer J. C. Rhodes writes: "Came home from a successful speaking trip Sunday and will resume the work of organizing the Renter's Union; will get two locals started in this county straightened out and some more built up and push the work to the limit."

Organizer W. W. Reece, of Fleetwood, Okla. has not been able to do much work because of sickness, but is now able to go to work. He writes: "Have been solicited to organize in several places nere. If you will commission me to organize here in Oklahoma, I can do much work. The renters are ready for organization as they never have been before."

J. F. Dwight has started on an organizing tour through Jack, Parker and other counties. He organized a local at Joplin with W.T Meador, Secretary.

Every person who realizes that the working class of farm and factory must be industrially organized before they can achieve industrial freedom, should get in behind the Renter's Union and push it in every way possible. It is just as necessary that the rentrs be taught to strike right as to vote right.

BUNDLE ORDERS.

Our readers will notice in the left hand box on the first page of the Rebel that we print 30,000 this week. This is just our first run; We have sent an advance proof of the first page to the big railroad leaders in the South and to comrades at all strike points. We have already gotten orders from the Houston strikers and the Houston Typographical Union. We have instructed our friends to telegraph orders as we cannot hold the press longer than next Monday, April 15. We hope to print from 30,000 to 50,000 extra copies and thus exceed our 40,000 issue of last January. That beautiful piece of irony, the scab's prayer, is richer than anything that Dean Swift ever got off. At a half a cent a copy the comrades should see the advisability of flooding the country with them. We may have several thousand copies over and would suggest that our Rebels fire in orders at once, 50 cts. a hundred, $5.00 a thousand.

THE LABOR WAR ON THE COAST.

A condition approximating civil war is raging from San Diego along the coast to Washington and down the slope to British Columbia. The business grafters in San Diego, a town that is dominated by the Spreckels land and sugar interests, has been the center of free speech fight for months. On the advice of the infamous Otis, war has been declared on union labor, free speech and the press. Women have been beaten up, men have been deported in automobiles; children have been trampled on; newspapers have been suppressed; an editor has been kidnapped. In short, red handed anarchy has been practised by the business upholders of law and order.

These devils are digging a ditch into which they will eventually whirl themselves, beaten and damned and shorn of their power to curse the earth. Incidentally, they are all democrats and republicans and will soon be, just as in Milwaukee, "non-partisan."

From one end of the state of California to the other, and through Oregon and Washington, the federated shopmen are striking on the Harriman railroad. A free speech fight has broken out in Oakland. The Socialist hall has been invaded by the police and innocent people listening to a peaceful lecture have been clubbed unconscious; at the Gray's harbor district of Washington, the slaves of the lumber trust have struck. Thugs of all descriptions are beating up men and women in a most savage manner. Words fail to tell the frightful brutalities practised by the democratic and republican officials on labor in Hoaquiam and Aberdeen.

The Rebel visited Aberdeen and Hoaquiam in 1903 and positively knows from first hand experience that the principal business men of these towns, as well as the mill owners, have succeeded in amassing their fortunes by the very boldest robbery of Uncle Sam's timber domain. We shall publish the story in next weeks's issue and unless law has completely broken down, these labor exploiters will be headed straight for the penitentiary.

• • •

In British Columbia, the Industrial Workers of the World that is conducting a great railroad construction men's strike, have the men under the strictest discipline, so that the capitalist admits that better order is maintained than before the strike. The Houston Post says:

"Yale is the seat of a miniature Socialistic republic and the strike committee rules A score of special Industrial Workers constables have been appointed and these men distinguished from city coustables by red and green badges, parade the streets.

"Several constables are stationed in the hotel bar and any man who attempts to take more than two drinks at a bar, or who comes back too often is promptly arrested and taken to fro union headquarters. There he is searched and the amount of money in his possession is reported to the strike committee. A fine is imposed by the committee based on the state of his finances."

The above will show how labor maintains order. What a delightful comparison with the capitalist disorder in San Diego, Oakland, Hoaquiam and Aberdeen.

LATER: The latest reports are that from the middle western coast 70,000 men are marching on San Diego. The business grafters who are trailing the stars and stripes in the mud and damaging women and children, and think that they can peonize labor and establish Diaz conditions this side of the Rio Grande, have another great big guess coming to them, The Rebel believes. Before they can destroy freedom of assemblage and the press, a civil war will be provoked in America that will make the late unpleasantness look like a dutch picnic. They had better back off.

HICKEY'S LECTURES.

The comrades at the few points where I was compelled to cancel dates will have a chance to meet me on my way to the national convention. I will visit every point I missed in last tour tour before May 12. Due notice will be given. Come to think of it, when you read this issue, are you not glad that I cancelled dates and secured the biggest story of the year.

OUR REBS.

One of the wisest Socialist newspaper publishers in America recently said:

"There are all kinds of methods for boosting circulation. You can give away pianos, automobiles, diamonds and trips to Europe, but after all, there is only one sure method and that is to put the real class in the paper.

Now, Rebs, on the first week of our second 40 weeks, I ask you to sit as a jury and with the evidence in front of you, please render a verdict as to whether the class is in our paper or not. I think you will all vote "Yes."

For instance, this edition is epoch-making. Not a paper in the South, North or West, over which the great Harriman lines run, with all their great batteries of linotypes and $100,000 presses have told the story that The Rebel prints about the railroad situation this week.

Another thing, did you ever see a pacer go down the road, the admiration of all on-lookers, as he hits a 2:40 clip and yet was tugging at the bit trying to get down to 2:20? That's exactly the shape The Rebel is in. We are going at a 2:40 rate now and want not only to get down at 2:20, but to establish a world's record and we feel that it is in us because we know that we have the class and that we are showing it from week to week. I guess you will help us to get to the point where world's records will commence to tumble.

This week we commence our first great battle with the "offs"; several hundred have been dropped from the list; although we put on nearly six hundred new subs, our offs were so large that we slumped 75 behind This must be offset at once. Our circulation will triple if you follow the advice of the comrade who sends the following letter:

Montague, Tex., Apr. 9, 1912.
The Rebel, Halltsville, Texas.

"Dear Comrade: Find enclosed money order for four 40-week subs. One is my own, renewal, and three new subs Now, if every reader of The Rebel would renew and send in three new ones there would be something doing in Texas. This is my motion. How many will second it Let's see that would run the list up to sixty or seventy thousand. Wouldn't that look like a good Socialist move?

"Come on comrades with your subs.

"H. L. Cook."

Now, let us hear from every Rebel who renews with a list, and don't stop at 4, make it 11 of 44 or as much as you possibly can. This is the one way to spread Socialism.

Some sub getters this week:

W. E. Hayes, 4; L. C. Smith. 4; W. P. Lackey, 4; C. H. Welding. 10; J. C. Winter, 5; G. W. M. Taylor, 4; no. McCann, 4; Jack Billlingsly, 8; S. H. Nance, 4; T. L. Sanders, 4 J. F Hunt, 4; L. P. Williams, 4; S. L. Moore, 8; J. T. Monk, 5; A. T Beach, 8; S. H. Baker, 4; E. E. Cochran, 4; John H. Pope, 6; T. M. Wallis, 4; S. H. Henderson, 6; W. H. Faircloth, 4; Dana Warren, 4; J. D. Evans, 4; Tom Turner, 4; H. M. Dickhard, 5; S. B. Kilgore, 5; J. K. Finch, 6; J. R. Tommie, 4; Ross Crain, 4; J. W. Puckett, 7; J. A. Stephens, 4; F. Thompson, 4; W. R. Mahan, 4; W. M. Campbell, 4; T. J. Alexander, 4; A. J. Smith, 4; Frank Turner, 5; L. O. Lawless, 4; W. W. Barrett, 4; G. H. Oliver, 4; J. A. Parsons, 4; C. Williford, 4; R. D. Miller, 4; R. F. Saner, 4; C. S. Leuderman, 6; Peter Fritzpatrick, 4; John Overton, 4; W. W. Williams, 6; A. E. Satterwhite, 5; W. L. Anderson, 5; L. P. Fore, 7; H. E. Johnson, 4; J. D. Walker, 5; R. F. Duncan, 5; H. L. Cook, 4; L. B. Lippard, 4; B. T. Tackett, 6; E. M. Smith, 4; H. A. Rickaway, 6; W. B. Driver, 4.

STATE NOTES.

E. A. Green, State Sec., Rockdale.

The final count of the referendum for delegates to the national convention show the following comrades elected:

T. A. Hickey, W. S. Noble, E. A. Green, J. C. Rhodes, M. A. Smith, Reddin Andrews, L. L. Rhodes, Belle Williams, E. R. Meitzen, C. A. Byrd, Richey Andrews, J. C. Thompson.

Alternates: Minnie King, M. A. Anderson, G. C. Edwards, N. L. Hardy, Wilford B. Smith, W. J. Bell, C. Nugent, Dan Gandy, B. H. Lauderdale, Alice McFadden, D. C. Grider, Morgan Graham.

MILWAUKEE.

They Unite—They Die.

All eyes were turned last week on the city the Socialists made famous—Milwaukee. The election was undoubtedly the most peculiar municipal fight that has ever taken place in the United States. Two years ago with three parties in the field, the Socialists, won a plurality victory. The combined votes of both old parties would have beaten the Socialists two years ago, but at that time they could not afford to drop the mask; they had to fight a sham battle. The Dems and Reps had to pretend that they were at dagger's point, but the Socialists walked in.

Then followed two years of efficient municipal administration, the like of which has never been seen in America. In all the heat, passion and bitterness of this titanic campaign from which our comrades have so triumphantly emerged, there did not creep into the slanderous throat of one old partyite the charge that the Socialists were dishonest. It was a working class administration from top to bottom and consequently reflected the pure lives of the workers who produce the wealth of the world.

To win out this time, the mask had to be dropped and so the sham battle ended. Into one another's arms fell the Dems and the Reps, the elephant and the donk, and they stood before the multitude proclaiming that which the Socialists have always contended to be the truth, namely, that they were one in spirit, one in exploitation, one in graft.

Nine daily newspapers, as many million dollars, most of the churches, all the big capitalists, all the pimps, parvenues, procurers, in short all hosts of vice and graft lined up for their last grand stand, to keep their black flag of mis-rule flying in the sky.

The combined grafters agreed upon a plan of campaign that would put the American flag in the foreground as an issue. Every grafter and white-slaver decorated himself with the stars and stripes. Every ballot box stuffer and thug, private detective and protected thief, yelled for old glory. Money was poured out like water, yet when the smoke of battle cleared away, the Socialist ranks stood unbroken, yea and more, they increased several thousand and it is freely predicted that the next election will bury the elephant and donk forever.

How fraudulent were the claims of the Dems and Reps about devotion of the flag can be seen from this act, recorded in the Milwaukee Daily Leader, that after the polls closed on election night, the brothels that had been closed under the Seidel administration, threw their doors wide open, red light real estate that was worth $50 a foot when Seidel was in power, went over hight to $1000 a foot.

The patriotic Christian business men of Milwaukee are securing a wide open town and propose to pay their taxes through the bodies of the poor prostitutes of Milwaukee. In each one of these brothels the stars and stripes were waved; more flags were seen in the hands of white slavers, pimps and procurers with their capitalist visitors on election night than was ever seen on Grand Ave. when the morning sun beamed on the 4th of July.

This flag fake is about played out. Already the people are disgusted, the old politicians struggling to get at the pie counter are fighting savegely among themselves and it is freely admitted that were an election to take place next week, the Socialists would again capture the city hall. On all sides it is admitted that the vote two years ago was not a Socialist vote, it was a vote against corruption and graft but this time the issue is squarely joined: Socialism vs. Capitalism, and 32,000 stalwart men lined up under the banner of red that signifies the red blood in the veins of common humanity for which the gentle Christ was crucified. Now the old parties will have to combine in the Fall, if possible, otherwise Berger will be elected and another congressman will accompany him to Washington. The capitalist press of the nation is not jubilant over the outlook; that Socialist vote 32,000 strong has stunned them; 'tis the handwriting on the wall that foretells the speedy dissolution of the capitalist system.

Milwaukee is but one evidence of the coming together of the old parties all over the nation. Mark Hanna was right when he made the prediction in 1900, that the great political battles of America in the early years of the 20th century would be between the republican party representing organized capitalism and the Socialist party representing the masses of the people. Between these two great parties the spineless, issueless, characterless, democratic party will be ground to powder. God speed the day.

ELECTION NOTES.

The Socialists elected one alderman at Peoria, Illinois.

One alderman was elected on the red ticket at Quincy, Ill.

The Socialists lost at Flint, Mich., through a combining of the two old parties. They won the council.

Kalamazoo, Mich., the Socialist elected two aldermen, G. H. Lockwood and Van Balarcum.

The Socialist gained 50 per cent in their vote at Battle Creek, Mich., the town made famous by peanut hull Post.

One alderman was gained at Butte, Mont., making six in all. At Billings the reds elected two out of five aldermen.

At Pearl, Illinois, the Socialists elected Thomas Blair supervisor, against the combined efforts of the two old parties.

At Eau Claire, Wis., the Socialists succeeded in electing a mayor by a handsome majority. This is a city of 25,000 people.

At Krebs, Oklahoma, the Socialists elected two aldermen and at McAlester they increased their vote about 400 per cent over the vote polled one year ago.

At Dowagiac, Mich., the Socialists elected six out of ten ward officials. The Socialists polled 347 more straight votes than both old parties combined and four times as many votes than they had polled at any previous election.

REBEL YELLS.

E. F. Stanton, Hamlin, Tex.: "I am a primitive Baptist. I like your answer to the primitive Baptist last week. It is foolish to think that if the people are economical they will be better off. If all workers should save on buying goods, all men would be seriously injured. If the farmers should cease buying cotton goods, could the retail merchants continue to buy cotton? Could manufacturers of cotton goods buy cotton? These imply nothing but negative answers. Neither economy nor extravagance is the remedy under the present system based on the private ownership of collectively used tools. The collective ownership and democratic management of all collectively used tools for production and the abolition of speculation in land is the remedy for our evils."

• • •

Jim Davidson, Dumont, Tex.: "Whoever says today that might make right, performs an act of the middle ages, and so our masters who depend on might will find themselves behind the times and right, which is Socialism personified, will triumph."

• • •

W D. Boydston, St Jo, Tex. "Help The Rebel. If you can get them to reading, it's all off with the donk."

• • •

Geo. J. Benson, Lampasas, Tex: "Here is my fourth bunch of the Rebel since it started. It won't be the last by any means, for you are running the greatest paper in the South."

• • •

D. A. Tucker, Tyler, Tex., writes: "Please send me cards. The Rebel is the right stuff. It is awakening the sleeping South."

• • •

A. L. Stafford, Rosebud, Tex: "Five years ago I was as much opposed to Socialism as any man in the South, but I was open to conviction and changed. Thank God I didn't have to get my brains knocked out to get my eyes open. The Rebel is surely opening a lot of eyes."

• • •

J. O. Williams, Evant, Tex; "I am an old confederate Rebel 81 years. I love to read your paper because it gives me the truth. The people around here are getting pessimistic because the old party has lied so much that they fear that the truth cannot be found anywhere."

• • •

W. L. Lennon, Point, Texas:

"Let this profit system tumble
Lower, lower let it fall
Let the shades of darkness hover
Over it, it curses all.

Let it tumble on the donkey,
With its weak and dreary bray
It's so tired, worn and weary
Living on such weedy hay."

Our poet tells us he is going to help carry Rains county and bury the donk.

NOTE AND COMMENT -- By "PENDRAGON

Randell's Anti-Graft Bill.

Pendragon has received from Congressman Randell a copy of his anti-graft bill, and a letter asking all Texas newspapers to help him pass it.

Randell means well, but doesn't see far enough ahead.

His anti-graft bill prohibits members of congress from accepting legal fees or retainers, gifts, loans or favors from corporations. His idea is that if this form of buying votes in congress can be shut off, all members of congress will thereafter become pure patriots and enact no laws except for the general welfare.

That idea appeals to the minds of a good many citizens. They, like Randell, have not yet thought out the matter to its logical conclusion.

Socialists, of course, see the folly of it. They know the anti-graft bill even if it were enforced to the letter, wouldn't materially change the present course of legislation, which is very largely in the interest of corporations and other special privilege holders.

Why?

Because most of the members of both houses of congress owe their election to the big corporations. Many of them are under obligation to corporations for profitable private employment, as lawyers or otherwise, before they entered congress. All, except Berger the Milwaukee Socialist, have been trained in the capitalist school of thought, whose motto is "Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost." They have been taught to hold private property in respect and poor humanity in contempt. They have been schooled in the idea that one man has a perfect legal and moral right to own far more property than he can possibly use, even if his owning it and withholding it from use condemns thousands of other people to hunger and cold.

For example, right now a few very rich men, "owners" of the coal mines of the United States, have determined, as this is written, to close down "their" mines because their wage slaves won't accept a ten per cent cut in wages, but want a ten per cent increase.

That is, these "owners" of the coal mines that God Almighty made for the use of all humanity have determined to shut off the coal supply because the workers who take it out for them won't work on their terms. These "owners" of the mines have a big stock of coal already mined and ready for sale. They will raise the price of this mined coal, and make an extra profit while the poor workers with their wives and children are facing starvation in the effort to get a living wage.

The rest of the people, the users of coal, will have to pay the "owners" the higher price for coal, or go without.

No, Mr. Randell, it is not the petty graft paid members of con*gress by corporations, for the passing or killing of laws, which does the big harm in this country. That graft is bad enough, and shameful enough; it ought to be suppressed. But the main harm is done by the huge graft of private ownership of common wealth—the mines, the machinery of industry and transportation, the banks and insurance companies, the land held out of use or rack-rented to poor farm shares slaves, and all the rest of it.*

As long as this big graft continues, the rule of congress by the rich grafters will continue, even though Randell's anti-graft bill should pass.

If Randell wants to get into the real game; if he wants a share in a real fight; if he is a man and not a make-believe; if he has the vision to see the real fight and the courage to get into it, let him rise in his seat in the house of representatives and declare for the collective ownership of all the public property which is now "owned" by private individuals or incorporated groups of private individuals.

If Randell would do that, he would make a national name for himself. He would prove himself big enough to combat the graft that is really important. He would lose nothing by it, and would gain everything worth while, including the respect of thinking men, and the approval of his own conscience.

I say he would lose nothing by it, because he has not a ghost of a chance to win the senatorship in the Democratic primary of the next Democratic legislature of Texas. His little anti-graft bill won't carry him through this race except to an inglorious last place at the finish. He has given up his seat in the house. He is out of the Democratic race absolutely. That graft-ridden party won't ever again trust him in public office. His opposition to even the little graft settles that.

Let Randell throw his fears to the winds. Let him stand forth boldly for the abolition of the whole graft of private ownership of public property. I like the man. He has Democratic instincts. He hates the crookedness and hypocrisy of Democratic party managemen.t He always makes his fights single-handed. He never seeks corporation help. He always has gone straight to the common people for his support. I would like to see him come over in the real Democratic party—the party of Socialism. He may be too old, or too blind, or too faint-hearted. At any rate, his case points a moral for young men ambitious for public service. That moral is: *The time has passed when a man can hope to win high honors, on a genuinely democratic platform, in that party and his home is in the Socialist party.*

Morgan And The Kaiser.

I find the following paragraph in Current Literature:

> "The story has been told before, and is repeated by Mr. Hovey of the kaiser's disappointment over his first meeting with Mr. Morgan. They were dining together and the kaiser opened the subject of Socialism. He was 'surprised to find that his guest was not in the least interested in a political movement of such consequence.' The kaiser afterward, in a letter to a friend, said: 'Try as I could, his conversation failed to reveal to me that he had any clear comprehension of the vast harmonies and conflicts of the commercial universe. I was amazed to find him not well informed regarding the historical and philosophical development of nations. His political economy leaves him unconcerned regarding Socialism, which undoubtedly will soon constitute the most stupendous question everywhere.' Mr. Morgan confessed that he had never been sufficiently interested to study into what Socialism means exactly. And the kaiser is said to have remarked: 'I can not see where he has a single great idea.'"

That is Morgan, the master of America.

He "has not a single great idea."

He is the logical fruit of capitalism—of that blind, stupid, greedy, wolfish wrestle for superfluous material gain which today afflicts the whole civilized world.

The German emperor said with truth that "Socialism will soon constitute the most stupendous question everywhere."

Already it is the chief issue in Germany, where Socialists cast 4,400,0000 votes at the last election, and have the largest party in the national parliament.

Socialism is gaining ground rapidly in all other European countries.

It is becoming the big issue in the United States.

Marching Toward Socialism.

Here, in an editorial from Collier's Weekly, the ablest and most widely read journal of capitalism in the United States, is a confession of the breakdown of capitalist government in this country, and a solemn warning to its capitalist readers that they must prepare, immemediately, to grant to the workers a large measure of what the Socialist party demands for them. Listen to Collier's:

> DEMOCRACY IN WORK.
>
> "In the struggle to live, democratic methods must come, as surely as in political governments they are in the main already here. An industrial oligarchy cannot remain in a political democracy. This would not happen. There would have been collective barform. Take your choice. There is no other way. Hence the importance of the bill now before Congress, providing for a paid commission, to include representatives of labor and capital, and to cooperate with the Department of Commerce and Labor.
>
> "The tragedy at Lawrence means just so far the failure of our time. Had there been strong unions there, the disaster gaining and decent standards. Anybody who opposes the strengthening of unions invites the overthrow of our present civilization. The preferential union shop includes all the benefits of unionism without the weak points of the closed shop. If you want to understand this new and extraordinary development of industrial fair play, it will pay you well to send twelve cents to 'Life and Labor,' 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, for a copy of the January number.
>
> "A few years from to-day parties will divide sharply and almost exclusively on industrial questions. Let us throw out a few propositions to show what we mean:
>
> Indirect taxation is in the main nothing but robbery of the poor.
>
> "Our present tariff is no exception.
>
> "Taxation should be mostly on land values. There are a few other good taxes, such as those on inheritances, but they are, in comparison, unimportant.
>
> "The patent system penalizes the community and strengthens the trusts, some of which flourish by using patents and others by buying and suppressing them. When the Government grants a patent, it should at once throw it open to anyone who chooses to pay a small royalty to the inventor.
>
> "The power of centralized money will have to be decreased. Its greatest single weapon today is control of the insurance reserves. Ultimately insurance will be conducted by the Government, not only to decrease this illegitimate power of the bankers but because the Government, having the ability to prolong life, should logically be the insured. It will probably also take charge of the sale of securities, as a step toward reducing the banking rake-off. Perhaps more for political than for directly economic reasons, it will own the railroads, and more definitely for reasons of economy it will take charge of the telegraph and express businesses.
>
> "Civilization owes to every man the right to work. It owes to the workers a large share in the control as well as in the profits of industry. Improvement in political devices is valuable, but even such improvement is of infinitely less importance than successful thought about ordinary life and labor."

Collier's is the keenest-sighted watchman upon the towers of capitalism. It sees the advance of the conquering army of Socialism. It tells the masters of American monopolies, intrenched behind a rampart of dead laws defended by federal judges and corrupt old-party politicians, that they must give up most of their loot and agree to quit stealing, or they will be stripped absolutely by the workers.

Nothing truer than that ever got into Collier's pages.

But it is not the whole truth. The whole truth is that the monopoliss are going to be stripped of every stolen machine, every stolen instrument of industry, using which as private property they rob the workers. The workers will leave no such machinery in the hands of the monopolists. They will make all such machinery, all such tools of wealth-production, social tools, to be used for the equal good of all citizens.

It may take years to do this—not so many years as some folks believe—but it is all going to be done, because eternal justice requires it, and because the common people have at last begun to know what they are entitled to, and can get by peaceful and orderly means.

The Scabs Prayer.

This stinging piece of irony that follows, entitled "The Scab's Prayer" was written by a minister of the gospel, in Houston, who has actively supported the men who struck on the Harriman system last October to enforce recognition by the system's managers of their American right to sell their labor collectively through a system federation:

> "O, thou immaculate and majestic Prince; thou son of Kruschnitt the elder—Julius by name and chief mogul of the Harriman lines which run from Dust to Dividends, from Feast to Fast and from Obesity to Skin and Bones via short line of Gluttony and Starvation,—we bow before thee, yea prostrate ourselves flat in thy presence and beg to kiss thy feet and lick thy spittle. We have no personal ambition to serve but beg to by thy slaves. that we might se[illegible] thy ca[illegible]e. We ask no recompense only the sweet satisfaction to suffer, starve and die for thee, that thou might be fat and all thy household well fed. And O, beloved Julius, if you would confer a slight favor upon us we beg for this one boon: when life's fitful fever is over with us—and we feel, O Julius, that it won't be long—wilt thou accept a recogntion in our last will and testament of the perpetual bondage of our sons to take our places as scabs, and our daughters to be your confectioneries forever? May thy gracious heart perceive that in this we are not 'asking too much,' as we ask for no other recognition. And O beloved Julius we are so anxious about you and your poserity that we dare not think a single thought for ourselves. While our daughters have no hope of connubial bliss but are consigned by eternal decree to seek maternal happiness in perpetuating a race of scabs, we are so grateful that from the hand of labor thou hast exacted the toll that has purchased for thy daughter the rights of conjugation whereby she may continue thy blood in her generation and chant her lullabys to the tune of a million plunks. For all these things we are not sore against thee. The sore lies just beneath us. We are but scabs upon the sore. We would prevent thy vision penetrating benath us, for there is much pus and the gangrene stench would also offend thy olfactory sense.
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> "And O our beloved Julius, while we know that we are not heard for our much speaking—or speaking little, for that matter—we pray thee extend to us thy humble minions another small bit of thy clemency. We who are but dust and ashes thoroughly leached out by thy showers of grace, which have always been our happy lot to share, would beg another small favor. We know that thou wilt never forget us nor forsake us but wilt out of thine all-abounding self-sufficiency do unto us many times more than the trifles we ask; therefore we would make this our last prayer and close the records. We therefore beseech thee, O son of Kruschnit, although we are but as mites upon a game cock and whose brains are as mud compared with thine, hear us we pray thee in this thing also. When the stockholders of the lines over which thou rulest shall place in thy lily-white hands the watered stock of their industry and shall demand of thee that such stock be brought up to par and dividends be paid thereon, do thou, O Julius, bind upon the backs of union labor the full burden thereof, in longer hours, reduced wages and thy divine 'merit system,' and if these shall fail we know that thy genius will invent new ways of inflicting upon them their deserts, that prosperity may be in copious abundance upon thee and thy houshold.
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> "And if perchance these minions should strike against thee, return all the burden upon these thy unworthy scabs and grind us to powder or produce the plunks. And as a last token of our deep regard for thee, we will and bequeath to thee and thine, for an everlasting possession,—since thou hast our bread in thy hand—both our bodies and our souls, to do with as thou shalt see fit. And if perchance we fail in that thou desirest, let not the offense go unpunished but order thy special car with double-header attached to be switched on to the Perdition Short Line, and when thou art received in hell make arrangements there with Beelzebub thy servant and subordinate to provide for us three extra fries per day throughout eternity or until the foul crime doe in the days of mortality, in daring to think ourselves men in thy gracious sight, shall have been burned and purged away.
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> "And now, and lastly, O thou most noble son and princely ruler, we would close with the petition that thy much revered and popular Thornwell has taught us to pray:
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> "'O righteous and most holy Prince who dwellest in Chicago, hallowed be thy name till 'kingdom come.' May thy will be done to the strikers on the Lines of thy operation, even as thy faintest desire shall be and may the scab disease come upon them even as upon thy most menial slaves. Give us each day a little bread and when perchance thou shalt see that we have little bank accounts and are approaching unto a state of self-sufficiency, come thou in thy wisdom and order a reduction of expenses and cut us down to half time till our surplus is absorbed and we are humble again. Help us to forgive those who would presume to teach us self-respect or to have a manly regard for our families. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the Federation agitators and from the Socialist propagandists, for thou are the one and only one to whom we can appeal and who will dignify us by recording our names upon the industrial roster. And now may thy divine grace upon Billy Taft and his Supreme Bench Show and especially upon the hound whose grinning teeth are set to guard the local stockade in this Houston section of thy moral heritage; and may punishment condign be meted out to him who does not bend the knee to thee who are the chief among ten thousand and altogether lovely.'"

When Rogues Fall Out.

When rogues fall out, honest men begin to get the facts about them. Witness this following editorial from the Fort Worth Record, a portectionist newspaper whie opposes the nomination of Woodrow Wilson adn favors the nomination of a Democrat acceptable to Wall street and Big Business:

> WILSON AND THE CHINESE.
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> "The repudiation of his friend Colonel Harvey, and his controversy with the redoubtable Colonel Watterson are not the only troubles Governor Wilson is having to bear. The governor is the author of several books among the number being a History of the American People. Inquisitive people have been reading his books to learn his views on public questions.
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> "Senator Newlands of Nevada, who retired from the presidential contest in favor of Governor Wilson, made an appeal to Pacific coast Democrats to rally to the governor's support.
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> "Now Chinese exclusion is a live issue on the Pacific coast and before committing themselves to any candidate for any office both Democrats and Republicans out there must know how he stands on this question. They 'looked in the book' and found that in volume five of his History of the American People, Governor Wilson says, in discussing Chinese immigration:
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> '"The Chinese were more to be desired as workingmen, if not as citizens, than most of the coarse crew that came crowding in every year at the eastern ports. They had, no doubt, many an unsavory habit, but it was their skill, their intelligence, their hardy power of labor, their knack of succeeding and driving duller rivals out rather than their alien habits, that made the Chinese feared and hated and led to their exclusion at the prayer of the men whom they were likely to displace, should they multiply. The unlikely fellows who came in at our eastern ports were tolerated because they usurped no place but the very lowest in the scale of labor.'
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> "However much one may admire Chinese thrift and industry, it is undeniable that American laborers cannot compete with Chinese coolies and maintain American standards of living. The coolie will work for wages that compel his competitor to descend to his standard or get out. This is not idle theory; it is a fact that has been demonstrated on the Pacific coast and in Hawaii.
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> "In the belief that he favored the initiative and referendum many labor leaders in Texas and elsewhere have given their support to Governor Wilson. Some of them have clung to him, even after his virtual repudiation of these theories. It remains to be seen if they will still support a candidate for president who is opposed to the exclusion of Chinese coolie labor, and who says that the exclusion act was passed at the instance of unthrifty and lazy men too indolent to compete with the thrifty Chinamen."

The "progressive" Democratic newspapers of Texas are telling Texas voters that Wilson is the most "progressive" of all the Democratic candidates.

If he is, with such contemptuous ideas about American workingmen as those which he expressed in his "History of the American People," then what must we think of the other Democratic candidates?

The truth is, all of the old-party candidates are capitalists; all are bound up with and obligated to the capitalist system.

They have nothing in common with the workers. They don't know the workers. They don't want to know them, except just enough to catch their votes at the polls.

Once in office, they surround themselves with one group or another of the capitalists, and spend their time figuring how the most profit can be stolen from the workers who create all wealth by the capitalists who absorb all the surplus without creating anything.

There is no hope for the workers' to improve their condition either of the old parties. Their only hope is in their own party, the Socialist party, which comes to abolish the capitalist system and to establish economic equality among men.

Wanting economic equality, guaranteed by a government which the masses of the people can control, the workers will never know the meaning of real individual liberty.

Socialism comes to establish individual liberty. That is its reason for being. Not liberty for a few, but for all.

Won't Some Official Act.

Freight service on the Harriman lines in Texas is badly crippled, and passenger service is so notoriously slow and uncertain that travelers who can go by other roads do so. *The Harriman system has through its bone-headed managers squandered tens of millions of dollars of property and revenue for the stockholders. They have done this, as John Kirby did to the timber workers, to prevent their shopmen, free American citizens, from organizing a federated union through which to sell their labor collectively.*

The railroad commission of Texas has lacked the courage, the common honesty, to do its duty in the premises. Its duty was and is to require the managers of the Harriman system to maintain efficient service or to put the roads into bankruptcy and let a state court appoint receivers who would maintain it.

Mayfield, Williams and Wortham, railroad commissioners of the state of Texas, are a trinity of typical Democratic party politicians—professional job holders who crawl on their knees to the railroad magnates to get into office, and, being in, keep on crawling for fear the railroad bosses will have them fired out of office.

If the railroad commissioners of Texas, or the governor of Texas, or the United States boiler inspector, or the state labor commissioner, either or all of them, had done their plain duty—the duty for which they draw pay from the people—the Harriman system would long since have been forced to recognize that its shopmen are human beings, American citizens *with as much right to federate as their employers who federated before them*, and this brutal, costly, inexcusable six-months strike and lockout would have been ended.

But the democratic party stands for the private ownership of railroads and of other public property. Hence the official job-holders of the Democratic party dare not challenge the gigantic corporate owners of such vast public properties.

That task is reserved for Socialism. The striking shopmen have learned, in this strike, that they are free only in name, as long as private owners control their jobs; they are free to starve, but not free to earn a living for their families at the only trade most of them know.

The Socialist vote in Texas next November will teach the railroad bosses some things which they seem to be incapable of learning in any other way.