Total subs previously reported	23,870
No. new subs last week	322
No. subs expiring last week	433
Loss for the week	111
Total No. subscribers this date	23,759

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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If this No. is opposite your name your subscription expires next issue 128

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HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1913.

No. 127

THE LESSON OF THE TEXAS FLOOD.

Away back to the days to which the mind of man runneth not and of which history does not record a line, people were periodically plagued with floods, carrying in their train divers woes. Death rode at the head of the whirling waters and the imps of disaster followed in the wake of the tide. The Good Book contains many trenchant verses descriptive of the woes that came upon the people when the water burst its bounds and profane history records in thrilling lines the stories of the floods of ancient and modern times. From Jordan to Johnstown they come until it may, with truth, be said that the degree of civilization we reach can be marked by our ability to stay or guide the ocean or keep the rivers within its banks.

Two weeks ago but one man in a hundred thousand thought of the possibility of disaster arising from flooding waters in the Lone Star State. Yet now as I write, the topic is on every tongue, save those immured in asylums for the feeble minded. The Trinity, Brazos, Colorado, Sabine, San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers changed from peaceful streams into roaring torrents, overflowed their banks and took toll of human life until a hundred souls passed out in the rushing waters. Ten million dollars worth of property loss occurred, mostly in farm products and railroad equipment, while thousands of homes have been destroyed or badly damaged, schoolhouses have been blotted off the landscape; all kinds of livestock have perished and the loss of life will be far greater than that mentioned above, when those who were on sick beds and suffered from the shock are added to the ghastly total.

And oh, the pity of it all. When we consider that human knowledge has reached a stage where such disasters are preventable and are only possible because that knowledge is not well balanced and human greed and human ignorance like evil spirits blast the knowledge that the race possesses and thus renders such catastrophes inevitable.

At whose door shall this crime against civilization be laid? At the door of those alleged statesmeen, politicians, editors and pulpiteers who preach a crass individualism in an era where the hand of science knocks at the door of humanity and demands progress in the name of co-operation.

To illustrate:

On the north fork of the Brazos in Stonewall county facing the town of Sagerton, there resides a farmer named Carl Wolff. For six long weary years he has suffered from the awful drought that devastated that portion of our state. Twice a month throughout each year he stood on the banks of the Brazos and watched the flood waters go down to the Gulf to be lost forevermore, while his own land and the land of his neighbors lay parching under the torrid sun in the summer and lay idle while the snow was on the ground.

"Why should this water waste; why should our homes be broken up through loss of crops; why should the education of our children be retarded; why should millions be lost, the millions that ride on the waters flowing by?" were questions that flowed through the mind of the Socialist Wolff as he watched the life-giving wealth producing stream pass along.

He visited his neighbors and preached co-operation; he pointed out how the river could be straightened and floods made impossible; he pointed out how dams could be erected and the river poured through lateral canals over dozens of West Texas counties until having been harnessed by the genius of human co-operation, it would wind like ribbons over the parched places and produce such a vast store of agricultural wealth that poverty and ignorance would disappear from the western portion of our state and men, women and children would enjoy all the advantages of civilization. But alas for Carl Wolff and his dreams.

The politician preached prohibition in a land that was as dry of whiskey as it was of water; the preacher preached from the songs of Solomon and the prophets of old but knew nothing of the prophet in their midst.

In desperation our comrade built his own irrigation system. He sunk 1200 hard earned dollars in it. It was a noble fight, one man against a mighty river, while the chuckle-headed yeomanry refused to assist, looked on with vacant faces and prophesied disaster. And sure enough the flood came; the irrigation plant in all probability has been swept away and while our friend fought as bravely against the river as Victor Hugo's famous character fought against the cannon, his work goes for naught because the people are still wrapped up in a spirit of individualism that belongs to the days of the ox cart, the tallow candle and the plow of the forked stick.

* * *

And yet despite this spirit of reactionary individualism that produces the awful results sketched above, The Rebel would warn all its comrades to fear not, but that the spirit of Socialist Co-operation will eventually triumph. It takes great disasters like this state-wide flood to arouse not only the somnolent masses but also our leaders of thought in all walks of life. Mother nature with one blow arouses the multitude to action and consequently it is not too far fetched to believe that this may be the last of our great floods.

The Panama Canal has been completed and the waters of the mighty Atlantic and Pacific are now wedded for all time to come. It has been a peaceful marriage, because the work was done by the nation and co-operation ruled until now the oceans mingle as if they were mere mill ponds.

What shall be done with this mighty machinery that has accomplished this gigantic ask?

Let us take it first to the Mississippi. Let us straighten that stream, damn its banks and concrete its levees. Then let us go through Texas and although the Brazos may be as crooked as the soul of a Donk politician it can be straightened and we can have a waterway from New Mexico to the Gulf. Other rivers can be similarly treated and giant irrigation plants can be put in force that will employ every idle man in the nation. Then indeed will the United States be the marvel of the world.

The imagination may be dazzled and stunned when we think of the possibilities that lie in the lap of co-operative labor.

Millions of acres of East Texas lands are now largely swamp could be reclaimed by a system of drainage that would empty into the Sabine and Trinity rivers and then in no place in the world could more vegetables be raised than in that beautiful spot. Similar drainage works could be put through in every other Southern state. For instance in Missouri alone there are 22,000,000 acres of swamp land.

This army, the outposts of which fought our old Mother nature in Panama, could then proceed to macadamize every road in the United States with the result that multiplied millions of dollars would be saved on wear and tear of vehicles of every description, not to speak of the animals; not to speak of the help this would be to education, to civilization.

Other great works for the general good could be undertaken. Drouths would be unknown; floods would be forgotten; war against men would cease and the only war would be the continuous war against our physical environment; slums would be torn down, beautiful homes would be erected for this giant army of workers; poverty, penury and pestilence would disappear; life would lengthen; sickness and ignorance would be a crime; drunkenness would be unknown and each unit in all humanity would regard each other unit as sisters and brothers, because we, as a race, would have arisen to intellectual stature in which we recognize the truth of the mathematical axiom that the whole is greater than the part; that the collectivity is greater than the individual and hat hence co-operation is philosophically correct and scientifically sound.

Let us all work and struggle and pray and fight to the end that this dream come true and then we will have learned a lesson taught by the state-wide flood.

THE LAND PETITION.

At the time of writing, Tuesday November 9, the Renter's Union and The Rebel office has been practically marooned from the outside world for six long days.

After midnight on the 30th of November the captains of the Land Petition army commenced to send their petitions in by the hundreds. Up to the evening of the 3rd, we received over five hundred petitions containing over 40,000 names. Then the bridges went down or were driven out of line and in the past six days we have not received the Galveston News, Houston Post or Chronicle or our eastern or western exchanges. To make matters worse we find ourselves for the first time since The Rebel was started without any letter mail. No money, no subscribers, no cheering letters, in short we might as well be running a Socialist newspaper in Torreon or some war-swept city in old Mexico. A copy of the San Antonio Express got in town this morning and we learned that Rockdale, the seat of the State Secretary is likewise waterbound. All the coal mines are flooded and have suspended operations and the trains can't reach the stricken city.

Those of my friends who have read my speech at the Ellison Springs encampment in West Texas eighteen months ago will remember how I pointed out how the rivers could be handled and that only the spirit of anarchistic individuality prevented this necessary work. If it were taken up in the proper spirit this state-wide disaster might have been prevented. In the hope that the great masses of the people will see the necessity for its co-operative work there is a leading article on the first page which I commend to your kindest attention, with the earnest belief that you will spread it among your neighbors so that they will learn the lesson it teaches.

By next week's issue we hope that the flood will have subsided and we will be able to give you the full details of the Land Petition. We must close at the moment by saying that if all goes well it will be in the hands of Governor Colquitt by December 21.

If any stragglers in our army have Land Petitions around their house, please remember that it is not too late to send them in.

THE REBEL'S CHRISTMAS BOX.

The next issue of The Rebel after this will be last one that will be printed before Christmas Day.

It occurs to us that our friends could not make a better Christmas present to their friends and relaitves than by putting them on The Rebel mailing list for the next four years for $1.

Or if you want to do your neighbors a good Christmas turn send us the names of twenty of them with a $5 bill and we will put them on the mailing list for 40 weeks each, the result will be that before next Christmas you will have a band of Socialists around you who are not thinking on the subject for the moment. Remember in this connection that the man who gets The Rebel for 40 weeks now will have the paper until after the Democratic primaries and he will be sure to stay out.

Another thing this state-wide flood has sadly crippled us. In the last six days we have not taken in six cents, although we know that there is over $150 in the mail awaitng us. Those who love The Rebel for its worth recognizing its financial stringency that is upon should proceed to order cards for our four year subs and send in the largest list of names possible

Finanally remember the price of The Rebel will be increased on New Year's Day but until that time we will receive any amount of subs at the usual rate.

Now you rebels all get busy and send The Rebel a great big Christmas box. We think we deserve it for the year's work we have done. Don't you?

PROSPERITY FOR THE FEW.

From a statistical report of the U. S. Treasurer it will be seen that out of a total of 19,350,100 families in the United States only 42 out of 1000 earn $1000 or more per year. The highest earning being 20 families out of all which get $10,000,000 or more; the other 958 out of 1000 get less than $1000, some as little as $200 per year or an average of $480 for 95 8-10 per cent of people. The last named embrace nearly all the useful workers and the very ones who should have the best chance in life. To which class do you belong?

Dear Rebel:—

Here are 84 signers for the speculators to loosen their grasp and hold and take one foot off of our necks and if these 84 signers will read The Rebel and go by Comrade E. O. Meitzen's advice, you white slaves of Panola county will free yourselves. I claim to be a Socialist and hope to see the day we slaves won't have to sow the root of all evil and jingle it in their pockets, to get a crust of bread from the mortgage grafters that have been oppressing our people here in Panola county for the last 26 years. Panola county is in a hard shape when a good man can't get money to buy his bread after making a good crop. The Donk landlords and Donk merchants here are trying every scheme to knock the Socialist boys out by high prices on goods and low prices on farm products. Taxes are higher here than ever. Give us a Socialist tax assessor and let him respect no person and oppress none but the grafter.

Yours for the fight,
M. T. Barksdale.

Montague Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade.—

I am sending in my land petition. I am sorry. I haven't been able to get more than 122 signers. I would have secured some more but on account of so much rain I could not get to circulate it as I wished to do.

Yours for the fight,
J. T. Barnett.

Taylor Co., Tex., Nov. 29, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Sir:—

It has been easy to secure signers but few men have turned me down. After moving from San Saba county I have been very busy and hence have not circulated the petition as I would liked to have done. However find enclosed a list of names.

Yours truly,
J. C. Wiggins.

Williamson Co., Tex., Nov. 30,1913

Dear Comrade Meitzen:—

Will send you a few names by book that got lost. I had 119 names memory which had on a petition I don't know whether they will do us any good or not. I remember a good many more but do not know their given names.

Yours for the fight,
Geo. W. Lee.

KEEP THE POOR FELLOWS OUT OF JAIL.

Fannin Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade:—

I am sending you Petition containing 288 names. Would have done better but have been in bad health and unable to get around a good deal of the time. Have had a hot time with the pauper capitalists. I would meet a bunch together, would say: "Gentlemen, I have a petition I want you to sign to keep a lot of poor fellows out of jail." They would say: "What have they done?" I would say, "well they have committed some great crimes, some have committed the crime of having been born too late, some a worse crime by not having been born rich. You see there are about 300,000 men in Texas that haven't a legal right to stay on the earth the only place they have a legal right to stay without paying for it is in the public road and you know if that many people get in the public road they will block the public highway then the sheriff will arrest them and put them in jail, so you see in the last instance the only place they have a legal right to stay without paying for it is in jail." Then I would read the petition and some of them would say, "no, I won't sign that I think a man ought to have all the land he can buy." I would say: "Well gentlemen I owe you an apology I didn't know you were land monopolists or I would not have asked you to sign it, I beg your pardon." Some would say, "I don't own any land." I said, "you can tell me that, but actions speak louder than words, you own not less than 40,000 acres of land. I know you do or you would sign it." He would say, "I will bet you $10 I don't own any land." I would say, "I will bet you $1,000 that you own not less than hundred thousand acres, now put up or shut up."

Yours for the revolution,
J. M. Cline.

Angelina Co., Tex., Nov. 28,1913.

I am sending you the Land Petition with 190 names. There was a booklet on each side of me and I did not have much territory to work in or I would have gotten more signatures. The renters here won't sign it they are afraid that they will get a home.

Your comrade,
M. L. Shofner.

CAPITALISM BREAKS UP CHURCH AND HOME.

This situation is in Leon county, Texas. It is found in what is known as the Blackshire Bend. A few years ago there was a church of about 60 members, today they have no church there. At that time there was a school with about 40 scholastic pupils, today there are only 17. What is the cause? Capitalism.

This section of the country has fallen into the hands of the capitalist class, who care not for church nor school for the man's children who till the ground and his children that pull the cotton sacks in the heat of an August day. Capitalists care not whether a poor man's child ever sees inside of a church or school as long as he obeys his commands. But let the poor fellow begin to think for himself and begin to have feeling for his children as a brute then these greedy dogs begin to kick them off his place and put negroes in the place of the white renter. And when the negro disobeys they get a lashing and when he goes to gathering his crop these landlords ride and watch the gins and when one of his tenants gets there the landlord takes possession of the cotton and sells it and then asks the poor fellow how much grub he can make out on until he gets another bale of cotton.

This I have seen, not only that but one negro sold a bale of cotton and paid the rent and refused to give up the balance, but gave it up after being beat with an ax handle and was dispossessed of the balance of what he had and drove off the place. This is the fruit of capitalism. And some of these men set up in the "Amen corner" and howl "Amen" to their two by four preachers.

Now back to the Blackshire Bend. This country is owned by about five parties of which only one lives in that country and this one owns ten thousand acres and has it all fenced and will not allow the tenants to have a cow on the place and if they have a hog it is kept in the pen. I visited one of the tenants on this place and his wife walked something like a quarter of a mile to milk their cows. I asked why they went so far to milk and they said the landlord would not allow their cows on the place. I visited another place and this man told me that what few white people there was in this country was in debt so that if they tried to leave that they would be dispossessed of what little they had, but said that the landlords were going to shove them out and put negroes in their places another year.

Now let a thinking man think for a moment, the renter has no land hence has no home and he driven here and there and cursed by the capitalist and accused of being dishonest and no account. Their children are born into this world in poverty and despair and are not thought as much of as a poodle pup by the capitalist class. They look on them as the lowest degree of humanity, and I see men who when they go to one of the capitalists take off their hats and honor him as the negro slave did his master. Then they tell me that we are living in a Christian land of plenty, while poverty and starvation are staring them in the face.

Now I want you to know that I haven't any patience with this present grafting system nor the grafters that support it. I am a Socialist and in for the fight with all my power and influence.

Yours for Socialism,
B. B. Walston.

For the first time since The Rebel has started, we have found ourselves marooned because of the flood, and are consquently badly hampered. There is one consolation for us in our delimna and that lies in the fact that nothing but a visitation of nature can damage the Rebel worth a cent. We are still in the ring, smiling and fighting.

Did you ever stop to think how many kinds of Democrats there are today? Doctor Rankin is a dry Democrat; Brother Colquitt is a wet Democrat; Col. Pastoriza is a land Democrat; Cyclone Davis is a Pop-Democrat and E. O. Meitzen is a Social Democrat. What's Wilson?

Now comes the sad December days,
The saddest of the year.
When landlords rent the white
men out
And Christmas days are minus
cheer.

Oh, I want to be a vidette.
And with The Rebels stand
With leaftlets in my arms.
And sub cards in my hands.

Answer to the Evils of Socialism.

(Written for The Rebel by Elder W. J. McElhaney, of Lipan, Texas, to be published in pamphlet form after completion of the series. This is a clear, plain, powerful reply to the lies of a crooked "sky pilot."—Editor.)

OBJECTION TWO.

The next accusation against Socialism is that it is opposed to religion. We want you to understand that religion is not a specific form. There are many kinds and degrees of religion, but with the exception of a very few writers on Socialism, the Socialist writers have not opposed Christianity, as you can see and understand that there is a vast difference between modern religion and primitive Christianity.

The church, we are sorry to say, (what we mean by the church is the vast number of organizations under different names and titles) in every class struggle, has taken the side of the aristocracy and the kings, instead of the poor, oppressed, down-trodden workingmen. We refer you especially to the position of the church in the French Revolution. Even now while there are many preachers and good and noble men, in all the different churches that have espoused the cause of the poor and oppressed and have come out boldly on the side of Socialism, there are many others who still cater to wealth and honors and are found fighting against the interests of labor.

So, if the professed teachers of the churches fight this great labor movement what should you expect but the falling away from the churches and a loss of confidence by the working class, and we need not be surprised that so many articles are being written inquiring why it is that the preachers are preaching to empty benches, neither should we be surprised if some Socialist writer should occasionally abuse the preachers when we find them opposing the interests of the workers. So when Socialist writers and speakers are censuring the churches for their opposition to this great movement don't understand that they are fighting Christianity.

The "Rebel Videttes."

To the Rebels of Texas:—

It is not necessary to tell you that next year will witness the greatest campaign in Texas with the greatest issues predominating, ever seen in any state in the nation.

Nor is it necessary to point out that 500,000 tenants in city and country, and 200,000 small farm owners in Texas are on the verge of revolt as a result of the stupendous fight The Rebel and its Rebels have made in the past especially as to the Land Question.

Finally, you also know that these 700,000 exploited workers can be misled by the hypocritical old party press and politicians who under the pretense of favoring "reforms" will seek to guide into safe and sane channels this revolutionary protest against landlordism in particular and capitalism in general.

Mind you, we Rebels have done all of the work of stirring up these landless, homeless, exploited, thousands, without a particle of help from the outsiders. Not until we had shown to the world that our land program had struck the popular chord—not until the land revolution was well under way in Texas, did a single old party paper and politician begin to talk "reform."

Now, we must gather the harvest we have sown. We must not permit the stranger who has neither plowed, harrowed nor sown, to reap down our fields. The working class of Texas, is ours; the state capitol is ours—if we will only get our complete message to the people.

The Rebel has, it is true, about 18,000 subscribers and four times that many readers in Texas, but the old party press and politicians have twenty times that audience.

In order to keep what we have gained and to win what we are entitled to, we must be prepared to reach at least as many people as the opposition can.

THE REBEL MANAGEMENT, REGARDLESS OF CONSEQUENCES, HAS DECIDED TO DO MORE THAN ITS PART TO THAT END BY PROCEEDING WITH THE IMMEDIATE ORGANIZATION OF A GREAT STATEWIDE LITERATURE DISTRIBUTING ARMY.

THE PLAN IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The name of this organization shall be the REBEL VIDETTES.
2. A member can be any good Socialist, whether red card or not, male or female, boy or girl.
3. Members will be expected to do a few hours' work at least once each month.
4. Their duty will be to hand a copy of the monthly *propaganda edition of The Rebel*, (or other literature) not less than once a month to every non-Socialist within a given territory, whether it be all or part of the precinct.
5. They may otherwise aid in the work of agitation and organization of the Socialist party, though of course subject to the orders of their local and county organizations. *For instance their first task in this respect would be to see to it that every man likely to vote our ticket would pay his poll tax by February 1, 1914, and come to the polls election day.*
6. The REBEL VIDETTES will be officered as follows: Vidette captains will have charge of counties; vidette chiefs, of voting precincts and Videttes of portions of voting precincts. Only those will be appointed to thus take charge who freely agree to act.
7. Each vidette is expected in his rounds to collect enough funds to pay for Rebel Propaganda Editions at the rate of half a cent a copy; but for those unable to pay for copies we propose to establish a Vidette Fund, out of which to pay for free bundles to those who are willing to distribute but not able to pay for them.
8. The Rebel's first propaganda edition will be issued January 1, by which time we hope to have this army well under way.
9. If you wish to get in on this great movement in time to get well under way for the 1914 campaign, sign the attached application blank and send to this office. You will receive your commission, report cards and outfit as soon as we can get around to you.

Yours for victory,
E. R. MEITZEN.

Tear Off Here.

________________ Texas, ____________ 191____

To E. R. Meitzen.
Business Manager of The Rebel,
Hallettsville, Texas,

Dear Comrade:—Enroll me as Rebel Vidette for following territory, in which I agree to hand to each non-Socialist at least once a month a copy of the Monthly Propaganda Edition of The Rebel.

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My voting Precinct is named ______________________ and

Numbered ______________

My county is ______________________

I can use ____________ copies of the Propaganda Edition each month, until further notice.

I will pay for ____________ copies, for ____________ for which find $____________ enclosed, at the rate of one-half cent per copy.

Signed ______________________________

Address ______________________________

COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

Critical-Utopian Socialism and Communism.

We do not here refer to that literature which, in every modern revolution, has always given voice to the demands of the proletariat: such as the writings of Babeu, and others.

The first direct attempts of the proletariat to attain its own ends were made in times of universal excitement, when feudal society was being overthrown. These attempts necessarily failed, owing to the then undeveloped state of the proletariat, as well as to the absence of the economic conditions for its emancipation, conditions that had yet to be produced, and could be produced by the impending bourgeois epoch alone. The revolutionary literature that accompanied these first movement of the proletariat had necessarily a reactionary character. It inculcated universal asceticism and social leveling in its crudest form.

The Socialist and Communist systems properly so-called, those of St. Simon, Fourier, Owen and others, spring into existence in the early undeveloped period, described above, of the struggle between proletariat and bourgeoisie (see section I. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.)

The founders of these systems see, indeed, the class antagonisms as well as the action of the decomposing elements in the prevailing form of society. But the proletariat, as yet in its infancy, offers to them the spectacle of a class without any historical initiative or any independent political movement.

Since the development of class antagonism keeps even pace with the development of industry, the economic situation, as they find it, does not as yet offer to them the material conditions for the emancipation of the proletariat. They therefore search after a new social science, after new social laws, that are to create these conditions.

Historical action is to yield to their personal inventive action, historically created conditions of emancipation to fantastic ones, and the gradual, spontaneous class-organization of the proletariat to an organization of society specially contrived by these inventors. Future history resolves itself, in their eyes, into the propaganda and the practical carrying out of their social plans.

In the formation of their plans they are conscious of caring chiefly for the interests of the working-class. Only from the point of view of being the most suffering class does the proletariat exist for them.

The undeveloped state of the class struggle, as well as their own surroundings, cause Socialists of this kind to consider themselves far superior to all class antagonisms. They want to improve the condition of every member of society, even that of the most favored. Hence, they habitually appeal to society at large, without distinction of class; nay, by preference to the ruling class. For how can people, when once they understand their system, fail to see in it the best possible plan of the best possible state of society?

Hence, they reject all political, and especially all revolutionary action; they wish to attain their ends by peaceful means, and endeavor by small experiments, necessarily doomed to failure, and by the force of example, to pave the way for the new social Gospel.

Such fantastic pictures of future society, painted at a time when the proletariat is still in a very undeveloped state, and has but a fantastic conception of its own position, correspond with the first instinctive yearnings of that class for a general reconstruction of society.

But these Socialist and Communist publications contain also a critical element. They attack every principle of existing society. Hence they are full of the most valuable materials for the enlightenment of the working class. The practical measures proposed in them, such as the abolition of the distinction between town and country, of the family, of the carrying on of industries for the account of private individuals, and of the wage system, the proclamation of social harmony, the conversion of the functions of the state into a mere superintendence of production, all these proposals point solely to the disappearance of class-antagonisms which were, at that time, only just cropping up, and which were in these publications, recognized under their earliest indistinct and undefined forms only. These proposals, therefore, are of a purely Utopian character.

The significance of Critical-Utopian Socialism and Communism bears an inverse relation to historical development. In proportion as the modern class struggle develops and takes definite shape, this fantastic standing apart from the contest, these fantastic attacks on it lose all practical value and all theoretical justification. Therefore, although the origiators of these systems wer, in many respects, revolutionary, their disciples have, in every case, formed mere reactionary sects. They hold fast by the original views of their masters, in opposition to the progressive historical development of the proletariat. They, therefore, endeavor and that consistently, to deaden the class struggle and to reconcile the class antagonisms. They still dream of experimental realization of their social Utopias, of founding isolated "phalansteres," of establishing "Home Colonies," of setting up a "Little Icaria"—duodecimo editions of the New Jerusalem, and to realize all these castles of the air they are compelled to appeal to the feelings and purses of the bourgeois. By degrees they sink into the category of the reactionary conservative Socialists depicted above, differing from these only by more systematic pedantry, and by their fanatical and superstitious belief in the miraculous effects of their social science.

They, therefore, violently oppose all political action on the part of the working class; such action, according to them, can only result from blind unbelief in the new Gospel.

The Owenites in England, and the Fourierists in France, respectively, oppose the Chartists and the "Reformistes."

THE DEATH OF AN OLD RAIL

One of the worst features of the present system is to be found in the fact that there is no provision made for the men who have crossed the meridian of life. This is particularly true of men who worked in the railroad service. Youth must always be at the helm, is the general managers cry and when the first streaks of gray appears in the hair the man is thrown on the scrap heap. The following letter and clipping illustrates this fact. Let us work to destroy the system that holds no protection for the toilers of industry who have become gray in producing the nation's wealth.

To the Editor of The Rebel:—

Enclosed find clipping from the Houston Telegram. While every occupant of the pulpit seemingly deplores the fact that the poor working man drinks a glass of beer, I am fully satisfied that there is not one who will take notice of the tragedy mentioned, although it is of daily occurence throughout the land, where alcohol has slain ten persons; the private ownership of the means of employment has slain thousands. How long will those who style themselves "the best people" continue to "strain at a gnat and swallow a camel."

W. S. Wallace,
Houston, Texas

Seeks Work in Houston and Dies Only a Vagrant.

In a house of friends but in a country of strangers, hundreds of miles away from his loved ones, poverty stricken and the victim of circumstances perhaps, W. O. Chambers, two score and ten years old, died a vagrant in the city hospital. His body is now being held pending word from his sorrow-stricken wife, and on her decision depends whether the husband's body will be sent to Princeton, Ind., for burial, or whether it will occupy an unmarked grave in a potter's field.

Chambers came to Houston to seek work—as many, many have done. He left behind him a family—the members remaining there to await better fortune when they could join in the sunny south and start their home again.

But the husband—50 years and more—a railroad man—failed to find the work as quickly as expected, and fell into the clutches of the **Houston officers. He was adjudged** guilty of vagrancy and sentenced to pay a fine.

No money!—Yes—no money. A cruel, heartless, unthinking world without money. And Chambers was dispatched to the county road to "do hard duty" for 30 days. It was then that he became ill—or perhaps the work was too exacting.

Little attention was paid at first—and later when he was sent to the hospital, and he died a vagrant. His wife mourns the death, yet **doesn't know the circumstances.**

And thus the finale in another tragedy chapter is enacted, the passing of one perhaps who would have worked, but whose body now lies at the brink of the potter's grave.

ARE THEY IGNORAMUSES OR WORSE?

The Firm Foundation, of Austin, Texas, advises its readers to get the debate between Alexander Campbell and Robert Owens and read it in order to know what the Socialist Party stands for.

This raises the question: "Is the editor of the Firm Foundation a fool or is he trying to mislead his readers?"

1st. The Socialist Party is based on the class struggle. Every Socialist recognizes the class struggle. But Mr. Owen knew nothing of the class conflict.

2nd. As a result of the class struggle the Socialist Party emphasizes the necessity of political action, in order to enable the working class to overcome the capitalist class and secure economic justice. Hence, the Socialist Party arises as the political expression of working class interests. But Mr. Owen did not recognize the necessity of politcal action, hence he did not see the need of political action by the working class.

The Socialist Party shows that the class struggle is waged over "surplus value" and points out the origin of surplus value. Mr. Owen knew nothing of it, said nothing of it.

3rd. The Socialist Party emphasizes the doctrine of economic determinism or the fundamental law by which society is governed. Mr. Owen had no conception of this law.

4th. The Socialist Party recognizes the fact that the society is in process of evolution and therefore that the old form must give way to a new one which is in harmony with its environment. Mr. Owen did not recognize the fact of economic evolution and therefore he had no conception of a new form of society as the result of economic evolution.

5th. The Socialist Party recognizes the class character of government and therefore knows that the working class cannot obtain justice through capitalist class government. Hence, the necessity for the working class to seize the whole power of government for themselves. Mr. Owen didn't recognize the class character of government. Hence, he did not see the necessity for the working class to capture the powers of government.

6th. The Socialist sees the world wide effect of laborsaving machinery on society. It therefore sees that the co-operative commonwealth alone can make it possible for the workers to get the benefit of machinery. Mr. Owen did not recognize this, hence his plan was to establish little co-operative societies here and there.

I note seven radical differences between the Socialist philosophy and Owenism. Other differences could easily be given.

As Socialist philosophy differs fundamentally from the ideas of Robert Owen, what shall we say of G. H. P. Showalter, editor of the Firm Foundation, who represents Socialism and Owenism as being identical, and who advises his readers to get the Campbell-Owen debate in order to learn what the Socialist Party teaches?

As well might he tell his readers to read the Koran to find out what Jesus Christ taught.

If the Firm Foundation editor is really ignorant, as is indicated by his advertisement of the Campbell-Owen debate. He is certainly a bright baby! He would win over all competitiors in a contest for a premium offered to the greatest jackass among the editors of Texas.

In his benighted mind, things that differ radically are identical.

I am reminded of the drummer who attended a convention of editors. He was mistaken for a noted Chicago editor. Being called on for a speech he was introduced by the chairman, who said: "We are delighted to introduce to you Mr. Blank. He is a profound scholar. He spent several years years as a professor of mathematics in our state university. He is the author of several well known books. At present he is editor of the greatest paper in Chicago."

The drummer replied: "My name is Jones, not Blank. I live in Kansas City, not in Chicago. I never taught in the university nor anywhere else and I know nothing of higher mathematics. I am not the author of a single book. I am not the editor of the greatest paper in Chicago. I never did edit any paper in my life. I am a drummer for a shoe house. Except for these mistakes the chairman was correct in his introduction of me."

Except for the fact that Socialism and Owenism differ fundamentally at every point, editor Showalter was correct.

W. L. Thurman,
Sulphur, Oklahoma.

RUSSELL COMING TO TEXAS

The following letter has been received by the editor from Charles Edward Russell, the noted Socialist lecturer and magazine writer, late nominee for mayor and twice nominee for governor of New York. One result of this letter will be that the Socialists of Texas will arrange to use Mr. Russell in their coming great campaign and that he will be the principal speaker at the big Lavaca County Socialist Encampment that takes place in this vicinity next July:

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1913.
1025 Fifteenth st., N. W.

Dear Comrade Meitzen:—

I am planning a lecture tour to begin early in February and if you and State Secretary Green think it advisable can extend it to Texas. My plan is to leave everything to the State Secretary and lecture on a per centage basis for the locals, but not for subscriptions. I should be glad to have your opinion.

I hope you are well and happy and send my kindest greetings to you and your household.

Yours fraternally,
Charles Edward Russell.

Howard Co., Tex., Nov. 25, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade:

By tomorrow night I will have taken all of the names to the land petition that I can get with my limited chance to get them. I esteem you both very highly getting out that Land Petition and I hope you will be rewarded greatly for it. I could have taken lots more names if I had a good chance. Please find enclosed money order the balance on Rebel cards; 10 that I ordered last spring. Good wishes and great success to you both is my prayer.

Your Comrade,
G. F. Cheairs.

Hodd Co., Tex., Dec. 2, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade:—

I am sending you under separate cover 2 petitions with 86 signatures if we don't get enough signers to order the election, just hold what you got and we will try again. Ninety per cent sign the petition but I am a renter and could not devote as much time as I wished.

Hoping our efforts will be crowned with success, I am
Fraternally yours,
Thos. H. Moor

Brown Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Kind Sir:—

Enclosed find petition book with 5 cents in stamps to pay for same. Book was sent to me without cost and I am now paying for same. I am living in a Democratic stronghold consequently could not do much for they are afraid they will do something that will displease the bosses. See?

J. M. Alldredge.

SUCCESS WITH TREES
and plants largely depends on the quality of the trees and plants you buy, on the selection of the right varieties for your soil and climate, and on the manner in which you handle them and care for them after they are delivered.
Griffings' Guaranteed Trees
are the "acme" of quality—they are very high in vitality. GRIFFINGS' tell you what varieties to plant in your locality and they give you detailed instructions in planting, cultivating, fertilizing and careing for them. That's why they can guarantee trees.
ASK FOR GRIFFINGS' CATALOGUE.
GRIFFING BROTHERS,
Box 526, Port Arthur, Texas.

CAN THEY REPEAT?

It looks as if the prediction of my friend who advised me recently that the Donk politicians would steal the Land Program of the Socialist movement is about to be justified by results. The latest convert to our Land Program is none other than First Assistant Attorney General Cureton, who was interviewed by a Houston Post reporter two weeks ago, whereupon this great legal light of the Donk party who is actually the brains of the Attorney General's office and is a strong pro-politician in the bargain came out flat footedly for the taxation of the great agricultural estates that are held out of cultivation for speculative purposes.

On top of this the editor of the Houston Post calmly editorialized upon the interview, endorses it and thus we find that this great Bailey organ is prepared to advocate the taxation of idle land to the limit. The editor of the Post says:

Assistant Attorney General Cureton, who spent Tuesday in Houston, thinks that the state ought to adopt the policy of taxing unimproved farm land so highly that they will have to be sold to small farmers who will improve them. He advocates the broadening of the Somers thinks that the state ought to adopt the policy of taxing nuimproved farm lands so highly that they will have to be sold to small farmers who will improve them. He advocates the broadening of the Somers tax system, as in operation in this city, so that it may be made to apply to agricultural lands as well. The Somers tax system, is but the entering wedge for the Henry George system of taxation of land values, known as the single tax plan of raising revenues for the support of the government and of giving to each individual his rightful participation in Nature's free gft to humanity—not to one generation but to all generations—of land, air and water without which it is claimed, there can be no equality of opportunity. There is too much land monopoly in Texas, hence with the unearned increment evidenced by the rising values of unimproved land appropriated by those who hold title to it, there is growing dissatisfaction with the State's policy of land taxation. The proportion of renters to home owners is increasing all the time. The state is largely responsible for this because of the impolicy which has witnessed its disposition of the public domain, whereby land monopoly has been encouraged. The land question is bound to become an issue of increasing interest in the politics of the state, for the cry of land for the landless will not down.

The Socialist Party and the editor of The Rebel are glad to welcome these eleventh hour converts. After we have made the fight and made Land the great issue we would merely warn these gentlemen that the day has passed when they can pretend to accept a measure and then when they ride into power upon it proceed to emasculate it as in the days of yore. We warned gentlemen of this type last week when we published our big double column leader, headed "CAN THEY REPEAT?" The Rebel believes they cannot repeat their policy of dissimulation and in the meantime the more discussion that they raise on the discussion of land the better it will be for the people.

Keep your eyes on these converts, ye rebels, while we continue to turn on the light.

Correspondence

Leon Co. Tex., Nov. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir:—

Am writing you about the law course. I want to take same and please advise me at once about it. I traveled six long years as Deputy State Lecturer and organizer for the Farmers' Educatinal Co-Operative Union until thew went into by and forbidden paths and now sir, I tender my services to you and the Renter's Union and the wage slaves of our country. I have, at all times, tried to do my duty as an organizer for the F. E. and C. U. and the women and childrei of the south. Here in Leon county is some fine and splendid ground for work. I, at one time, met in joint debate Hon. W. B. Durrant, ex-member of the Texas Legislature for Leon county also the Hon. D. C. Dave, present encumbent at Austin, for Leon county. At the last election I voted the Socialist ticket from constable to president and now sir, if you can use me command me and especially advise em on the law course as I want to study law. Thanking you in advance, I am,

Yours fraternally.
Jas. P. Bailey.
Oakwood. Texas.

Waller County, Nov. 29, 1913.
Dear Rebel:—

I will send you my Land Petition. I own my own land and I guess I worked about ten hours all told, could have done better but was building and could not leave. I presented this to Captain Ralston, he owns four or five thousand acres of land. He said he could not afford to do that. He was elected to represent the people here in Waller county. I told him I was going to brand him. I say God bless the working people everywhere. I wish I could write just what I think. I want to send you a leter I got from the Attorney General's department. Several of us wanted to know about the election and he would not advise us. I think those parties are to serve the people and paid by the labor and don't get any benefit therefrom.

R. A. Mansell.

Hays Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
Dear Rebel:—

Find enclosed Land Petition with a few names. I didn't have much time to rustle on account of sickness in my family and working at night, as I do, but these were easy to get.

Fraternally yours
J. D. Carmichael.

Parker Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
T. A. Hickey,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir and Comarde:—

After noticing Comrade Elder W. R. Loden's request in your paper for all Socialist ministers to come together in an association or assembly for the purpose of devising means and plans by which to get all minds placed, if possible, on the true teachings of Christ. As we are aware that so long as one here and another over yonder are saying: "Lo, here is Christ," just so long will the people be divided, just as the different denominations have got them today and as we, the Socialist people, accept the way that Christ taught His disciples to pray thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Also in the 17th chapter of St. John, where He prayed for that great oneness between Him and the people as it was with Him and His Father that we may all be one in Him. And realizing that His kingdom has never come and His done as it ought to be, we are still praying for that time to come.

I noticed that Comrade Loden said that he knew some three or four preachers that were Socialists, right around Weatherford, Texas. There are six or eight that get their mail at Weatherford and I am almost sure there are more.

Yours for that great oneness,
Rev. J. A. Montgomery.

Estelline, Tex., Nov. 24, 1913.
Dear Rebel:—

We had Comrade John A. Currie here with us for 3 days, November 16, 17, and 18th. The attendance at all 6 lectures was fine and on the night of the 18th we charged 10 cents admission and put on a Picture show and the lecture to 230 paid admissions. The collections were sufficient to pay all expenses and after the last lecture we organized a local with 26 members and are now in fine shape and no doubt by Christmas we will have 40 or more members. Comrade Currie sure stirred them up and had them all talking.

On with the revolution, forward march and watch the Donks take to the timber.

Fraternally,
S. G. Abbott.

P. S. Memphis, Newlin, Childress and other neighboring towns were well represented at these meetings.

Erath Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
Dear Sir:—

I sent for two Land Petitions, one got lost and here is the other with 102 names. The one lost had about 50 names. No trouble to get names on the Land Petition.

Respectfully,
J. M. Burson.

Gonzales Co., Tex., Nov. 26, 1913.
The Rebel,
Hallettsville, Tex.
Dear Comrade:—

I guess you can see from the heading of this letter that I am determined to work for the Renters' Union and will if a just God is willing.

About three more days in the cotton-patch and I think I will be ready to go to work. I have just read the last issue of that great religious weekly and I think it the greatest of them all. I think your new form on Prohibition the grandest thing on that line that has come to my notice. Presented on that line the brewery men would not be to fight, and when we realize through the statistics of the country that so many men, women and children are entirely dependent on the breweries for their sustenance it is no wonder that men will vote for their jobs. Besides that beer is a national and possibly an international drink and is thought to be harmless. The foreigner will never submit tamely to any measure that prohibits him from taking his social glass of beer neither will the free thicking American. While there are good meaning men in the prohibition party the element that is leading it would re-establish the Spanish inquisition or the blue laws of Connecticut in this country if they could. Still we Socialists must right the greatest evils first. While the Donk antis and pros are lobbying over the liquor question, we must set up and make our fight for the land question.

Now Comrades, I am sorry to say that I don't see any chance to be with you in Waco, Tex., in person, at the time stated, but my heart and deepest sympathy will be there, you may depend on that. I expect work hard for the Renters' Union and Socialist movement right here at that very time and to be honest about it, I am a little short of funds. If you have any extra copies of Oct. 25th and could send me about 10 or 12 to distribute on my rounds I think it would help the cause.

Yours for Socialism,
S. D. Lee.

P. S. If you have the article that I sent you sometime ago taken from the Co-operator, please send it back. There are other papers here to that have space for it and will take it. It was cut out of the paper here by some men and sent to friends in North Texas. The comrades here say that it was the deepest and most far reaching article on equal opportunity and the land question that they have seen. I claim no honors I ask for none, but if I can write and that will harmonize the minds of others I am proud of that. If the article on the front pages down to hte cross mark suits your paper you can publish it

S. D. L.

Bowie, Texas, Nov. 29, 1913.
The Rebel,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrades:—

I have just read and appreciate Elder Loden's article regarding an organization for our Socialist Ministers. We are elated over this call and will do all in our power to help make it a success.

We have a number of Ministers in this section of the country, who are Socialists and I am sure that all will co-operate in this work. All Christian Socialists have their head and aspirations far above sectarian fences, but will co-operate with them as for profitable.

Let every minister, who is interested in this work write this Comrade and have him to call a meeting to this effect in the early future.

Yours in the battle,
O. B. Kelley.

P. S. Enclosed find two sub. cards for the good old Rebel.
—Editor of The Bowie Echo.

Collin Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
T. A. Hickey,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir:—

Please find enclosed $1 for four sub cards. Please get them on your mailing list as soon as possible after I return them. I expect the Rebel to make a Socialist of every sound thinking men that will read it six months.

Realizing the importance of the Rebel's circulation, I remain one in the army to swell the circulation

Yours for justice, free land and a co-operative commonwealth,
L. Clovinger.

Sabine Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

I am sending you a Land Petition with a few signers, would have sent in more but didn't have the time to spare. I am a tie maker and have to work 6 days in the week to meet my obligations. I am 60 years old.

Yours for Socialism,
John Murphy

Dallas Co., Tex., Nov. 29, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

Enclosed you will find 61 names of the best citizens of our county. On this petition only three turned me down. Hope this will help open our governor eyes.

Wishing you and the dear Rebel success in the great work you are doing in relieving the slaves of the capitalists, I am

Respectfully yours in the fight.
S. W. Price.

Parker Co., Tex., Nov. 29, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

By chance one of the Land Petition fell into my hands but too late for me to do much but have here 50 signers, could have many more if I had gotten it sooner. Everybody was glad to sign it except three, one landlord, one renter, one poor cuss that could not get any land to rent. The last said they were afraid it would raise their taxes. But I don't see how without it would be for their monopoly of ignorance. Most of the signers are home owners, they see where land monopoly is leading to and I think it is time to call a halt. People have begun to think as never before, they are tired of begging some master for a chance to work and live, when we have millions of acres of land held out of use by a few land speculators for an ever rising price all ready so high the poor renter can never pay for it. I think it all right for a man to have all the land he needs to supply his every want, but I don't believe in making him his brother's keeper through land ownership; dictating to him what he will have to do in order to get the necessaries of life for himself and family.

I think the Rebel is the greatest paper published in the South. It is truly the working man's paper. I can't see why it hasn't 100,000 readers. How many of the comrades will pledge themselves to send in a club of 4 subscribers between now and the first of January? I will for one. It should be in the home of every workin so come on boys, what you say?

M. L. Dobbs.

Fannin Co., Tex., Nov. 29, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

I am sending you a few more names also 4 more Donks to skin. I am glad that you have decided to enlarge The Rebel. I wish the readers of the Rebel would quit counting their money and just pick out a few men that are opposed to our great Land Question and send them The Rebel. I am a poor homeless man and have 4 little orphan children to support but I will make this pledge to the readers of the Rebel: I will, from the first of January to the first of March, 1914, out of my own money, send the Rebel to six men that I know to be fighting Socialism, by doing this we will have 125,000 Rebel readers. Now Comrades come on and get busy.

Respectfully yours,
J. A. Chapman.

Cass Co., Tex., Dec. 2, 1913.
T. A. Hickey,
Dear Sir:—

I sent in my petition with all of my settlement on it except one man that owns 50 acres of land and several that own several hundred acres each. The man with 50 acres was farther from signing the petition than the ones that owned more. I got one county commissioner. I would have liked to have gotten the petition filled completely. Now Comrade Hickey, we need a school to educate some *men* as doctors. The Medical world is as bad as the land hogs. Let's hear from some one else, through the columns of The Rebel.

C. Gholson.

McLennan Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913
Dear Comrade:—

Enclosed please find Land Petition with 33 names. I only got to use it 5 hours with this result. Didn't get my petition in time to do much. I believe I could have filled it up if I had had a day or two instead of two or three hours.

Wishing the Land Petition much success, I am

Yours for the Land.
O. Maines.

Grayson Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir and Comrade:—

I enclose Land Petition. I did not get it full, but did not have the chance to see many people as I am a switchman and could not see many people outside of railroad people. I find very few men but what are impressed with the movement.

J. R. Hooten.

Ellis Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir:—

I am sending you a petition which I have circulated here. Where no address of signer is given it is understood to be Ferris, Texas.

Respectfully,
A. T. Walker.

Leon Co., Tex., Dec. 2, 1913.
T. A. Hickey,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

I am trying to open some of their eyes around here, but it seems to be a hard matter. Some of them have lived on graft and in lies so long that they are all the time working for the devil. But nevertheless it is nearly the truth.

You can publish the above if it is not against the regulations of the postal system.

Comrade, Hickey, I want you to word what we have petitioned for to be placed in the constitution, concerning the Land Amendment and have your words put there and added to nor none taken from. Please put it to the house that way. I have noticed when we want a bill passed and to pass it that the man that introduced it don't know what it is when it is passed. Don't think I am dictating to you but that is most always the case. I want this passed to stick and if the Donks don't, we will.

Yours for all the time to come,
A. B. Cox.

Wilson Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Sir:—

You will please find Land Petition book with 46 names. I have had but little time I could work I believe there are more ignoramuses here in Wilson county than any four counties in the state. It makes me feel sore, I found three signed it and two days later came to me and had their names scratched because they were grand Republicans and were afraid it would hurt their party. The landlords have them skinned to a frazzle and they love the land that smites them.

Yours for Socialism
J. H. Lee.

McCulloch Co., Tex., Nov. 29, 1913
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

I enclose my Land Petition. I hope it will help to wake up the Texas officials to the greatest issue of the world (the land issue).

C. C. Curry.

Somerville Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
Dear Rebel:—

Enclosed find Land Petition with the names of 27 qualified voters, who favor the overthrow of landlordism in Texas.

I like your proposition for enlarging the Rebel. With a faith that right will win, I remain,

Yours for service in the pending revolution,
S. T. Layne.

Red River Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
Hallettsville, Texas.
E. O. Meitzen,
Dear Comrade:—

You will find enclosed herewith Land Petition with 106 signatures of citizens of this county, it is not a big number but will count for the cause just that many. I did the best I could with the limited time that I had to circulate the petition. If I had had more time I believe I could have gotten 500 names, but being a working man my time was limited.

Yours for the cause.
R. L. Elder.

Hall Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.
Dear Comrade:—

I am sending you the Land Petition that was sent to R. H. Sheppard and was handed to me. I have 233 signers but have not gotten near all the signers that I could have gotten could I have circulated it more thoroughly. I am 62 years old and am not able to attend the business as it should be attended to. There has only been about one of twenty who have refused to sign the petition.

Yours for land liberty.
H. R. Mullis.

McLennan Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
Dear Comrade Hickey:—

Please find enclosed $1 for which please send your red hot religious Rebel to the following names, as soon as possible, so that we can get the next issue. As this is my first attempt will do better next time. Everybody wants the paper that is making the land question the issue of Texas.

O. Maines.

Milam Co., Tex., Dec. 1, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,

I send you a booklet that we had a few names on. I lost my booklet last week or it was stolen from me by a Donk. I offered $5 for it. I am going to try to get it back and if I do I'll send it tomorrow.

Well I have to move they say I talk too much Renters' Union for [illegible]. Good luck to all and a Happy New Year.

J. F. Carter

THE CONDITION OF LABOR.

(By Henry George.)

Land Value Taxation Conforms to Moral Law.

But to consider what we propose—the raising of public revenues by a single tax on the value of land irrespective of improvements—is to see that in all respects this does conform to the moral law.

The value we propose to tax, the value of land irrespective of improvements, does not come from any exertion of labor or investment of capital on or in it—the values produced in this way being values of improvement which we would exempt.

Land Values Due to Social Progress.

The value of land irrespective of improvement is the value that attaches to land by reason of increasing population and social progress. This is a value that always goes to the owner as owner, and never does and never can go to the user; for if the user be a different person from the owner he must always pay the owner for it in rent or in purchase money; while if the user be also the owner, it is as owner, not as user, that he receives it, and by selling or renting the land he can, as owner, continue to receive it after he ceases to be a user.

Thus, taxes on land irrespective of improvement cannot lessen the rewards of industry, nor add to prices, nor in any way take from the individual what belongs to the individual. They can only take the value that attaches to land by growth of the community, and which therefore belongs to the community as a whole.

Taxation of Land Values Would Relieve Labor.

To take land values for the state, abolishing all taxes on the products of labor, would therefore leave to the laborer the full product of labor; to the individual all that rightfully belongs to the individual. It would impose no burden on industry, no check on commerce, no punishment on thrift; it would secure the largest production and the fairest distribution of wealth, by leaving men free to produce and to exchange as they please, without any artificial enhancement of prices; and by taking for public purpose a value that cannot be carried off, that cannot be hidden, that of all values is most easily ascertained and most certainly and cheaply collected, it would enormously lessen the number of officials, dispense with oaths do away with temptations to bribery and evasion, and abolish man-made crimes in themselves innocent.

Growth of Population.

In that primitive condition ere the need for the state arises there are no land values. The products of labor have value, but in the sparsity of population no value as yet attaches to land itself. But as increasing density of population and increasing elaboration of industry necessitates the organization of the state, with its need for revenues, value begins to attach to land. As population still increases and industry grows more elaborate, so the needs for public revenues increase, and at the same time and from the same causes land values increase. The connection is invariable. The value of things produced by labor tends to decline with social development, since the larger scale of production and the improvement of processes tend steadily to reduce their cost. But the value of land on which population centers goes up and up Take Rome, or Paris, or London, or New York, or Melbourne. Consider the enormous value of land in sparsely settled parts of the same countries. To what is this due? Is it not due to the density and activity of the population of those cities—to the very causes that require great public expenditure for streets, drains, public buildings, and all the many things needed for the health, convenience and safety of such great cities? See how with the growth of such cities the one thing which steadily increases in value is land; how the opening of roads, the building of railways, the making of any public improvement, adds to the value of the land.

Ladies $1000 Reward! I positively guarantee my Never Failing Monthly Remedy. Safely relieves longest, most obstinate, abnormal cases in 3 to 5 days without harm, pain or interference with your work. Mail $1.50, Double strength $2.00, Booklet FREE. Write today Dr. T. R. Southington Rem. Co., 515 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.

You should write at once for "Griffings 1914 Tree Book" they will furnish the trees you intend to plant and tell you how to plant them. Address Griffing Brothers, Port Arthur, Texas.
tfc

The Church and Plutocracy.

By Rev. W. L. Thurman.

With society divided into classes it is evident that every institution, governmental, religious and educational must partake of the class character and be used to support the ruling class, provided the ruling class control them.

Capitalist churches are capitalist machines to support capitalistic robbery, just as are all capitalist parties. The only difference is that one operates under the name of religion, the other does not. One invokes God's blessings on the crimes committed by the other. One is the religious leg, the other the political leg of legalized robbery.

Any old religion will answer the purpose for the religious leg. The ruling class are not hard to please in regard to "religion." Judaism, Mohammedanism, Budhism, Mormonism or any old thing from Catholicism to any sect operating under the name of Christianity.

Nor are they choice as to whether the name of Christ is tacked onto it. "Unitarism," a creed that denies the name of Christ, will do them just as well.

President Taft is a Unitarian. The only condition of acceptance of any old religion by the capitalist class is that the religion (heathen or Christian, Jewish or Unitarian) must endorse interest, rent and profit and interpret "religion" to give God's sanction and authorization to legalized robbery. For the same reason the ruling class will reject any "religion" that opposes their graft, as infidelity, but if it endorses graft, it is all right.

The ruling class is simply following their economic interests—nothing else. Hence, Wm. H. Taft, our ex-president, who is a Unitarian, and who does not believe in the divinity of Christ, is all right. But Eugene V. Debs is branded as a "dangerous infidel" although Debs and Taft stand together on religion.

Facts like these prove that the ruling class are infernal liars and hypocrites on the whole question of religion.

An infidel and a "Christian" look alike to them, provided they can use the so-called "Christian" as well as the infidel in their business of robbing the working class.

All capitalist churches are convicted of lying and hypocrisy on the same ground. They point to "E. V. Debs and nearly every Socialist leader" and denounce them as "dangerous infidels," but they can swallow W. H. Taft without batting an eye. The fact is that the objection is not to Debs and some other prominent Socialists, on the ground that they do not believe in the divinity of Christ, but solely because they oppose the system of graft, for which all capitalist churches stand.

E. V. Debs would be good presidential timber, provided he would repudiate Socialism and come out on the Donk or Elephant platform. The preachers would all forget that "Debs is an infidel." He would, all at once, be as eminently respectable as Wm. H. Taft.

Just as economic determinism controls the master class, so economic determinism controls the churches that are controlled by the masterclass.

That the entire ruling class and the churches under their control are liars and hypocrites in religion is evidenced by this fact. The text books put into the public schools by the old party politicians who constitute the state school boards, give the lie to the Bible and teach straight out Darwinism—"Organic Evolution"—the doctrine that man evolved through countless ages from lower forms of life. But not one of the ruling class, not one of the capitalist churches, not one of the capitalist church papers denounce the capitalist parties that are responsible for putting their "infidel" books in to the hands of our school children. But if a writer, who is a Socialist avows the doctrine of Darwinism, the whole hypocritical gang, politicians and preachers, begin to have fits and howl about "Socialism and Infidelity."

Over and over again, in debate with capitalist minded preachers, I have pointed out the infidelity, Darwinism, openly taught in our public schools and challenged them to denounce the political party that controlled the state, branding them as "infidels" as they do the Socialist Party. Not one of them ever dared to do it. This fact brands every one of the preachers who are out yelling "Socialism and infidelity" as liars and damnable hypocrites. When they say that they are opposing Socialism because Socialist teaching opposes the Bible, they are liars. If honest, they would jump on the Democrat and Republican parties for putting Darwinism into the public schools.

That gang of preachers, like the ruling class whom they serve are hypocrites of the depest dye. They have no religion, care for none, and to them Robt. J. Ingersoll and Jesus Christ look alike, the only difference being that they get more graft by doing the stunt of "religion" for the ruling class. They are out for graft, and if they could get more money out of the working class in defending Socialism, than they do out of the grafters, the last one of them would take out red cards and be howling Socialists before Christmas. They are controlled absolutely by economic determinism, although they declare it is an infidel's doctrine. The same principle governs the church papers. Some of them have decency enough to keep silent or nearly so, while the editors and preachers, who are contributors, are all on the capitalist side, as they have to be to be supported in capitalist pulpits.

Other church papers are openly enemies of the working class, bitterly opposing and misrepresenting Socialism and perverting the teachings of the Bible in order to uphold the ruling class.

The Arkansas Baptist, of Arkansas and the Firm Foundation and Gospel Guide of Texas, are examples of that class of so-called religious papers.

Writers are free to slander the Socialist movement in their columns, but no one is privileged to expose these slanderers. They are too cowardly and unfair to open their columns to a full, fair and honest dissension of Socialism. They are afraid to let the "brethren and sistern" know what Socialism is. The dirty cowards yell: "Socialism is free love, infidelity and negro equality," then like a cowardly dry terrapin they close up in their shell, forbid exposures of these lies in their columns. In vain have I tried to get into their columns to get to expose the misuse of authors and vile slanders heaped upon the Socialist Party. To the Gospel Guide I wrote to try to get to correct the wholesale slanders put into it by A. W. Young, first page editor. Joe Warlick wrote to me that "the Guide is not a political paper and never shall be under my management." But, at the same time, Joe was telling his readers not to be influenced by Socialism, because they could get "all the good in it through the Democrat and Republican parties." Oh no, that was not dealing in politics just "religion" you know. Like all the precious gang, Joe hid behind the cloak of "religion." He merely allowed A. W. Young to expose the infidelity in the Socialist movement because Socialism attacked the church. But all the same he allowed A. W. Young to run the whole range, from "nigger equality" to "free love" from the charge of "infidelity" to a dissension of "wages" and asserting that there was no need of Socialism because labor gets higher wages now than ever before. This all proves that the Gospel Guide is a purely religious paper and is not concerned about politics. The cold fact is that Joe is hiding behind the pretense of religion to support capitalist politics.

I offered to the Arkansas Baptist and the Firm Foundation a discussion of Socialism in their columns, each side to have equal space, and I would guarantee the full publication of the debate in a Socialist paper with circulation equal to either paper. But the Rev. Ben. M. Blowhard, of the Arkansaw Baptist and Showalter of the Firm Foundation refused to open up, although they go on slandering the Socialist Party. They don't pretend that the Bible teaches that God ordained the class division and the right of one class to rob another class, that is to take interest, rent and profit. I therefore tried to get the Firm Foundation to affirm its position as to Bible teaching on economics and I would affirm that Socialism is true and offers the remedies for social evils; but there was nothing doing. The Gospel Guide and the Firm Foundation would both open up to discuss any question with a Baptist, Methodist or any "sect" why will they not act as fairly with the Socialist Party, since they freely slander Socialism in their columns? There is but one answer: *They are afraid to expose.*

Such contemptible, cowardly methods cannot be too severely condemned. It is downright dishonesty, disguised under the name of Christianity.

As these papers have always been willing to discuss with the "sects" the proposition that "the church," of which I am a member, is identical, in doctrine and practice, with the apostolic church, I'll now offer to them this proposition:

I'll deny it, in order to get to expose the hypocritical position that they occupy on economics. I pledge myself to show that what they call "the church" is capitalism hid behind the mask of religion—just a fraud.

I offer this form of proposition because all efforts to get at them in their papers have failed. As these papers have taken upon themselves the task of using the mask of "religion" to keep the working class enslaved, there is but one course open to intelligent working people. Boycott all of these papers. Boycott every preacher that performs the stunt of using the name of religion to mask legalized robbery. You commit a crime against your own class when you help to support them. Don't be a fool and furnish ammunition to the enemy. They are out for graft, cut off their graft and you hit their heart.

THEY BELIEVE IN LABOR UNIONS.

"I believe in labor unions," said
the College President,
"But I think I could improve upon their rule.
If with what the masters chose to
give the members were content;
If they handed the non-unionist
their tool,
And patted him, like brothers,
where his backbone ought to be,
And said: 'Pray take our job for
what you'll get;
For our rights are non-conflicting
in this country of the free—
We're just as free to starve as you
to sweat;'
If they strained their every nerve
to turn out piecework by the
heap,
Till the masters in alarm cut down
the rate;
If they welcomed in apprentices to
do work on the cheap—
Why, then I think trades unions
would be great!
With these few and slight restrictions, which are well and wisely
meant,
I approve of labor unions!" said
the College President.

"I believe in labor unions," said
the Bishop to his flock,
"Provided they do not go too far;
For the violence that boycotts and
does injury to stock
Is only fair in military war.
Let nation threaten nation (if the
last's of smaller size);
Let them righteously maraud and
murder too;
But unionists should never let
their angry passions rise,
For that is such a naughty thing
to do!

A JUST GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN US.

To the Rebel.

If a just God ever heard the call of a downtrodden people, all balled up in the damnable wilderness of capitalism, and send them a messenger to heal their bleeding wounds, it must have been when he inspired the broad minded Irishman known as T. A. Hickey assisted by the broad minded Germans known as E. O. and E. R. Meitzen to establish the unmuzzled paper known as The Rebel at Hallettsville Texas. The Rebel comes out in the open and makes its fight for truth and justice. It stands for a system that will give the workers all they produce by their hard efforts and not just a little of it. The working people are entitled to a system that will give them all they produce and by the eternal they are going to have it regardless of what the sweet scented plutes say about it. I am writing this on as pretty a day as the great architect and builder of the universe could give us. We don't ask for the better day. We want justice and the better system. I hope the boys at Waco are having a fine time and with such talent as will be there I certainly think they will.

Boys read The Rebel and while the Donks are braying and snorting over the anti and pro question don't forget that we must take our stand for the Land Question. By the way, comrades, I was out scalping Saturday and got four new names that I will enclose on separate sheet.

Yours for Socialism,
S. D. Lee
Gonzales Co

SOCIALISTS

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E. R. MEITZEN, State Manager,
HALLETTSVILLE, TEX.

THE LAND QUESTION.

Midland, Co., Tex., Nov. 3, 1913.

Comrade Hickey:—

Enclosed find ten cents for which please send me a bundle of November 1st, which has my article, not for vainglory. I have non-Socialist friends who will perhaps read the article, and the paper, where otherwise they would not. Also Socialist friends I want to wake on the Land Question. Will send them all copies.

You are in the right. I have been Nationalist, Farmer's Alliance, Populist and since 1900 Socialist and now for several years I have realized that *THE LAND QUESTION IS THE THING IN AGRICULTURAL STATES.* Also we must have local self-government in the Socialist Party.

I wish I could do something to help you, but I am sick with lung troubles and of course poor and a stranger, here for my health.

Comrade A. H. Denson, of this place, is a farmer and a good Socialist, but needs awakening along the lines you are working on. I have been giving him copies of The Rebel, he takes the Appeal and send for a Land Petition to come to him. He can do it, if can get him started in this line, but is inclined to think the Renter's Union and the Land Pettion are not Socialism, etc. I have tried to explain that it is as much Socialism as 8 hours a day or the child labor question and that it is what he, as a farmer in Texas, is interested in.

Wishing you every success in ths work for the revolution.

Yours,
J. W. Gage.

P. S.—If I can get to work again, will come to your aid more solidly, a telegraph operator.

J. W. G.

The Clarion, Sugden, Okla.,
Monroe Jones, Ed. and Prop.
November 7, 1912.

Dear Comrade Hickey:

I am enclosing 25 cents for which please send The Rebel for 40 weeks to W. L. Thompson, Sugden, Oklahoma, I took his sub in connection with my paper as per our clubbing rate.

Up to date I have been unable to do much for you in this sub matter but am giving he Rebel a writeup in my paper this week with the hope of helping increase your circulation in my country. I am mailing a copy of my paper on exchange to you today and hope you will find time to note what I have to say about The Rebel.

I am a Texan and my heart is with you in this land fight.

Yours for the reclamation of the land,

Monroe Jones.

DEBATE.

SUBJECT: The Ethics of Socialism and Christianity Are the Same.

At Levita, Texas, last month between T. J. Fikes and A. S. Bradley, two divines for the Church of Christ.

Bradley affirms in the forenoon and Fikes failed to deny. Afternoon Fikes lead and Bradley denied. To say that Bradley ran a regular Waterloo over Fikes in argument is putting it very mildly. We all know Brother Fikes and all love him and because of our friendship for him we regretted very much to see him get such a whipping, but he thought that he could stand up to the rack and hold his own until he had heard Bradley's opening speech, then with a pale face and a nervous voice he made a few scattering remarks and notes, points that he objected to Bradley's speech. Bradley said there were several thousand renters in Texas that were all torn up in mind for a home next year because of landlord oppression and that 4,000,000 in the North were out of work and starving. Fikes said there were homes for all in Texas and work for the 4,000,000 if they wanted work, but they didn't want to work, that they were like too many preachers, always hunting a job and kicking up a fuss. Bradley surely put the "fixin's" on him in his reply.

Bradley has preached in other states and in Texas for the last 15 years and knows the situation of the people and the conditions.

If you need a preacher to fight against another preacher or anyone else for that matter, send for A. S. Bradley, Mullin, Texas.

Dr. F. W. Guyton,
Levita, Texas.

Hunt Co., Tex., Nov. 27, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Sir:—

I have met people of all sorts of minds of different degrees of knowledge and ignorance, prejudiced and receptive, pessimistic, and optimistic; different degrees of manhood and servility and a few of manly independence and class consciousness mostly of doggish nature who snap, snarl, growl and bite in defense of the master class and the poor pitiable coward who gets his bare living from the crumbs that fall from the master's table; and the poor helpless victims who are encased in the meshes of capitalist environments like a rock embedded in the earth which nothing but power of revolutionary forces of the people can liberate.

J. R. Lough.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We occasionally receive cards without names, and letters containing cash without signature, which we will list under this head until satisfactory replies are received:

One sub card from Sulphur Okla.

One sub card from Farmersville Texas.

One letter from Corpus Christi. Texas.

One postal card from Gatesville, Tex., with nothing but the address on it.

NOTICE.

By reason of authority vested in me I call a meeting of the Socialist Party to meet at Allorizan on December 13th at 10 o'clock sharp.

B. W. Thomas,
Chairman Socialist Party, Nacogdoches County.

Limestone Co., Tex., Nov. 30, 1913.
E. O. Meitzen,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade and friend:—

I am mailing you the Land Petition that I ordered and I am sorry to state that I did not get very many names but am proud to state that another man in this neck of the woods has been ahead of me all the time and most people signed his petition. Still I found a few that said they could not sign for fear of their landlords and H. R. Gorman said if it was to pass that some of the big landlords would have to pay such high taxes that they would have sell their land at a sacrifice. Still this H. R. Gorman claims to be a Socialist and he is a renter and a poor man.

Your friend,
R. J. Jernigan.

WE'VE FRAMED IT.

Kaufman Co., Tex., Nov. 28, 1913.
T. A. Hickey,
Hallettsville, Texas.

Esteemed Comrade:—

I am sending under separate cover photographs of some Socialists. We are with you to a finish. I never see anything from the forks of the creek, but we are fighters to the last. The two old parties will think so, when we get a chance to put in a shot at the ballot box. This is a Socialist precinct. we have our chief justice and constable. If every precinct in the state will do as we have done, we will carry the state with a whoop.

D. M. Z. P. Blackstone.

Griffings' trees took twenty-eight first premiums at the South Texas Fair last month at Beaumont. They have thousands of acres of fruit, nut, shade and ornamental trees, roses and flowers. Ask them for their catalogue—by planting their trees you start right. Address Griffing Brothers Port Arthur, exas.