DEBS ON LIBERTY next week.

Total subs previously reported	23,050
New subs last week	412
No. expiring subs last week	392
Gain for the week	20
Total No. subscribers this date	23,070

THE REBEL

T. A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner.
50c per yr; clubs of 4 (40 weeks) 25c
If this No. is opposite your name your subsciption expires next issue 89

THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES—LET US ARISE.

Entered as second-class matter July 1, 1911, at the postoffice at Hallettsville, Tex., under the act of March 3, '79

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1913. No 88

GOVERNOR HALL HAS ANSWERED AT LAST.

It is an axiom of Socialist philosophy that, given a state of society based upon the private ownership of the means of life, food, clothing and shelter, that they who own these social necessities must own the government, both state and national. Otherwise the workers needing food, clothing and shelter would use the powers of the state and nation to take over the things necessary to their social wants. Hence under capitalism all government is class government and the officials from dog catchers to the big executive chair always move in obedience to the wishes of the masters of bread.

The Rebel will prove that this position is correct for the thousandth time by holding up to the light Mr. L. E. Hall, governor of the state of Louisiana. For years the barons of the timber trust with the magnates of the great railroad systems have mercilessly exploited the workers of Louisiana who toiled in the forests that these gentlemen had secured by devious methods. Every conceivable form of robbery was practiced on the workers.

Finally, and as always happens, the timber workers revolted and as the first step in their campaign of their intelligent discontent they organized an industrial union that would have for its object the reduction of hours, increase of wages and the stoppage of various forms of graft practiced upon them, such as fake insurance, plundering commissaries, fake doctors and hospital fees, etc., etc.

That these men had a legal, moral and constitutional right to organize is unquestionable and yet within the shadows of the state capitol and the courthouses of the various parishes they have been shot down in cold blood and the survivors have been indicted because they were shot at; their peaceable meetings have been broken up; they have been assaulted by armed thugs; their women have been insulted by negro scabs and white guards; they have been ordered from their homes and run out of town. This reign of terror has continued under the eyes of the Governor who has never taken one step to uphold the law he had sworn to defend and maintain. Thus in Louisiana has this axiom of the Socialist philosophy been once more proven correct.

Law and order has broken down in Louisiana at the behest of the timber trust and we but witness the triumph of the class who owned the means of life.

In the Rebel of February 8th we published an open letter to Governor Hall of Louisiana from the pen of the timber worker's press representative, Covington Hall, the editor of The Lumber Jack, published at Alexandria, La. It was a great document written with power and dignity and in statemanlike language that might have come from the pen of a Sheridan or a Burke. Comrade Hall recited the wrongs of his people. From the Governor there came no reply.

In the Rebel of Nov. 23, 1912, the editor of the Rebel wrote another open letter to the Governor and mailed it to him in typewritten form under registered mail. In this letter I set forth the crimes of the timber trust leading up to the wholesale assasination of innocent people at Grabow. I pointed out that the grand jury indicted the men who were shot at and allowed the murders to go free. I pointed out that this was done in collusion with other officials; and that when indicted men stood the ordeal of a jury trial the 59 men arrested were turned loose. To this open letter there came no reply.

But so strong has been the light that we have been able to turn on the governor and his satellites that he has been forced to break silence at last. To an honorable citizen of Louisiana, Mr. Jesse Blount of Colfax, La., he has sent the following letter on the timber war that is existing in his state:

STATE OF LOUISIANA
Executive Department
BATON ROGUE

February 21st, 1913.

Mr. Jesse Blount,
Colfax, Louisiana.

My Dear Sir:—

I have your letter of the 14th instant with reference to labor condition alleged to exist in the timber belt and in reply I will say—as you perhaps already know—the enforcement of law in the respective parishes is confided to the local authorities. The Governor has no power in the premises. You know also, perhaps, that no man can be prosecuted for the crime of murder except upon an indictment returned by a grand jury. There is no power lodged anywhere to compel a grand jury to return an indictment. If there are any guilty of the commission of crime at Grabow who have not been indicted or punished, their cases should be presented to the grand jury for action. It is sufficient to say that I have no power whatever in the premises. The officials are elected by the people of the parishes and are subject to removal only by process of the courts.

The only power I have is to suppress lawlessness and disorder when it appears that the local authorities are not able to handle the situation. This is done and must be done without regard to the merits of the controversy that may have given rise to the controversy.

I shall be very glad, indeed, to see an amicable adjustment of these labor troubles and to do what I can in an advisory way to that end.

With kind regards and best wishes, I remain,—

Sincerely yours,

L. E. HALL.

Thus we see Hall has been harassed into taking recognition of the anarchy that is raging in Louisiana. We can afford to laugh at his statement that these conditions are "alleged" to exist. I wonder if the Governor saw the capitol at Baton Rouge burning down if he would tell us that the fire was merely "alleged." The Governor goes on to tell us that he "has no power in the premises" and in the second paragraph he directly tells us that he has power.

Hear him: "The only power I have is to suppress lawlessness and disorder when it appears that the local authorities are not able to handle the situation."

Does he not know that the local authorities are not able or willing to handle the situation in Merryville? Does he not know what happened on Saturday February 15, when a howling drunken mob cursed and pushed ladies at the gates of the stockade? Does he not know that this mob, most of whom were filled with bad whiskey in violation of law, deported men from that town the following day? Does he not know that men have been beaten up on the streets, one of them having his shirt torn off while his mother stood pleading by? Does he not know that six gunmen drove a man up the railroad track shooting at him, one of the shots breaking his foot and in that condition he had to crawl four miles leaving a trail of blood behind him? Does he not know that women were pushed about, little children stepped on and guns flourished in men's faces? Does he not know that Messrs. Cline, Eastman, Baker and Dean were beaten with guns, unmercifully kicked and ordered to leave town? Can he be unaware of the fact that peaceable citizens were given twenty-four hours to leave town? Does he not know that one of the prominent citizens, Dr. Knight, has claimed that physical force is all the law they want? Does he not know that Mr John Hill of Merryville had a mob of fifty around his house who told him to leave? Does he not know that the tents where the strikers were served with the necessaries of life were cut down and badly torn up, that food was destroyed and dishes broken, that on Tuesay, February 17 a mob of 200 men all armed marched down to the tent and unmercifully beat the man in charge? This armed mob has broken into the Union's office and confiscated all the books, charters and everything, even the postage stamps have been stolen and finally does he not know that these are but a few of the outrages committed by the law and order gang in Merryville?

The Rebel presents the Governor with these facts. He must be aware of them. He says he has "the power to maintain order and suppress lawlessness and disorder." Let him do it.

The Governor is now in possession of the particulars, it is up to him to act by restoring order in Merryville and other camps in the hands of the thugs of the timber trusts. If he does not do so he shall stand branded as the shameless tool of the timber trust thieves and their thugs.

THE LAND AMENDMENT.

Mr. J. W. King of Runge, Karnes county, Texas, was a fighting populist 20 years ago. From Populism he graduated to Socialism. When he read the land amendment in the Rebel, he at once addressed the following communication to various old Pops who are in the Texas Legislature:

To Representative. ....

Honored Sir:—I cannot refrain from writing you a few lines in regard to a bill presented by request by Senator D. A. Paulus, providing that all lands held for speculative purposes not in actual cultivation, shall be taxed to their full rental value, homesteads exempted. I earnestly appeal to you in the name of the great common people and especially the homeless to present this bill to our honorable body, the lower house of the legislature, and push it with all the mental, physical and oratorical ability that you possess. I feel sure that you can honestly and conscientiously do this, because I am sure that you have not changed from the position that you took some 20 years gao, when you so ably defended a plank in the Populist platform that read:

THE LAND IS THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF THE PEOPLE AND SHOULD NOT BE MONOPOLIZED FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES.

If this land measure presented by Mr. Paulus and fathered by the Renters' Union and the Socialist Party is enacted in law, it will put an end to land monopoly in the Lone Star State. Then, instead of multiplied thousands of renters living in hovels, we will have home owners that will cause our grand old state to prosper as never before in history.

Let me appeal to you in the name of that lowly Nazarene, in the name of the God of the universe to stand by this measure. Place the members of your body on record, and then, when the bill shall become law, your people will rise up and say: "Well done thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been true over the lesser things we will place thee over many."

Yours very sincerely,
J. W. King.

• • •

AMARILLO PETITION

To the 33rd Texas Legislature:

We, the undersigned citizens of Amarillo, Texas, and vicinity, hereby join with the Renters Union of America in the petition to you to submit to a vote of the people an amendment to the [illegible] ator Paulus, providing for a tax equal to the full rental value all lands held for speculation,—excepting homestead reservations only. And also providing that the legal voters of any city or county or of the State may by majority vote exempt certain kinds of property and place the burden of taxation on other kinds of property.

"Texas has 167,000,000 acres of land; 27,000,000 acres are improved. Out of the balance there are over one hundred million acres suitable for cultivation"—all held up by speculators, and people suffering from the scarcity of products, and high price of living.

So we have four-fifths of the State locked up in the hands of the speculators while tenantry has increased 129 per cent in the last twenty years.

The State Chamber of Commerce has published that only two and one-half per cent. of all the lands in the Panhandle are in productive use. It is overrun with land speculators—made worth much less to the homeseekers than when overrun by the buffaloes—or even by the hostile Indians.

Lloyd George, England's Chancellor of the Exchequer, said: "My countrymen, the time is rapidly approaching when an Englishman stepping out of his door shall no longer be a trespasser in the country of his birth."

Note—Get filled with signatures if possible by the 10th of March and return the roll to Mr. W. Arterburn, Secretary Farmers Co-Operative Union, 313 Taylor St., Amarillo, Texas.

Write to your representative and senator, asking favorable action.

• • •

THE LAND PETITION.

El Campo, Texas, Feb. 20, 1913

Dear Rebels:—

El Campo signed the land petition solidly. Almost as many signatures as there were votes.

The last two issues of the Rebel were stunners.

The millionaires, Koonce Bros., who hold thousands of acres of the best land in Wharton county, are having a hard time making deeds to some of their land because a long time ago he had a lot of it patented to a female dog. I guess she didn't sign up properly or something.

L. C. SMITH.

• • •

We clipped the following from the Legislative Record, the official journal of the 33rd legislature, regular session Mar. 5th:

By Senator Paulus:

Numerous petitons signed numerously by citizens of various Texas communities requesting the Legislature to submit to popular vote constitutional amendments providing for a tax equal to its rental value on all land (excepting homesteads) held for speculation or not in actual cultivation, and further, that certain classes of property be exempted from taxation by vote of the people.

Senator Paulus, who introduced the land amendment to the state senate of the 33rd legislature, informs us that the total number of petitions received up-to-date are close to 200 and some of them con[illegible] In a letter to E. O. Meitzen, secretary of the Renters' Union, he gives us this first hand statement as to the progress of the amendment: "The committee on constitutional amendments has promised to act on the joint resolution at the next meeting. *It has agitated the waters.*"

Decentralization is Democracy's first law.

THE COST OF LIVING.

They debated the cost of living in the United States Senate last week and reached this very sensible conclusion: That the working men employed by the Government as postal clerks and mail carriers cannot live on $720 a year. They increased the pay of these hard working men to $800 by a vote of 31 to 17.

Senator Ashurst produced figures showing that it cost a man to keep his family decently, $768.54. The senator declared this includes nothing for a book, a theatre ticket, an excursion or anything that makes life worth living.

Senator Cummins admitted that the average wages of an American working man was not in excess of $500.00 a year.

The Rebel would like to know if these Senators have not proved the Socialist position up to the handle. They officially order the workers paid not less than $800 in the public service and say that the average wage is $500 in private service and to make matters worse unemployment has to be figured in, not to talk about sickness and old age.

The working man who reads this official statement from the highest authority in America and then votes for a system that pauperizes them, is such a sorry chump that the Rebel can only offer his sincerest condolence to the chump's unfortunate family.

Won't our Rebs everywhere, try to wake the sleepers up by giving them doses of the Rebel forty weeks.

It may interest some reactionary gentleman in various parties to know that the U. S. Senate has passed a constitutional amendment limiting the president of the U. S. to one term. Thus has another body swung in line for rotation in office. And yet some people pretend to believe that if a chuckle-headed chairman or secretary doesn't get unlimited terms of office the organization would go to the demnition bow-wows. If the American Federation of Labor had adopted this same principle years ago, Gompers would have not been able to perfect his unbreakable national machine with it's Civic Federation and Militia-of-Christ appendages. Carnegie and Belmont might weep but it would be a blessing for the rank and file.

THE GRAFTING OF LAND.

The article on land grafting by Comrade Carey Ray of Dublin, Texas, published in No. 84 of The Rebel has caused a sensation all over Texas. It has raised the question that, like Banquo's ghost, will not down. What about the stolen land? And then this: How can the school children's patrimony be returned? And what will happen to the criminals in the case. The New Mexico Socialist writing on the question says:

"The Rebel, a Socialist paper published at Hallettsville, Texas, is on a hot trail at last. One Mr. Ray has up and told the whole story of how Bush and Tiller of Borden and Howard countes, Texas, are supposed to have committed some land frauds by inducing cowboys to file on four sections each, hold it down then deed the land to Bush and Tiller. The writer of this has been on this Bush and Tiller ranch, was there when feeling was somewhat high and believes every word stated by Ray. There are even here in New Mexico some old bony nesters stalking around trying to hold down a half section who can tell you some stories as to why they never got four sections in Texas. Beyond doubt many thousands of acres have been grabbed up by cowmen in Texas just in the way mentioned by Mr. Ray. The writer holds and always has held, that where the original purhaser from the state was guilty of any kind of fraud, and especially where there was an agreement to sell to the stockman, the title to the land is no good. In our opinion, all the Rebel has to do is to employ an expert land lawyer, a detective or two and go after them. It will be able to return hundreds of thousands of acres to the school fund, and open up the same to homesteaders. The unfortunate feature about it is that the poor devils who swore they were not in collision must face the penitentiary for perjury."

Now that Woodenhead Wilson is [illegible] shall look with much interest at the procession of women leaving the cotton patch forever; their children graduating from the universities and a thousand teams carrying grand pianos to their three room shacks.

We have received word of the first encampment, we ought to have one hundred this year.

A SOCIALIST FUNERAL.

Franz Schuemeier, a Socialist member of the Austrian parliament who could not be bought, bribed, bullied or terrified, was shot dead by one of the ruling class on the streets of Vienna last month.

A half million people attended the funeral; more than a hundred thousand people came into the city on foot. The people stood for miles around the cemetery unable to enter, and the grave was piled mountain high with red carnations and laurel wreaths bound with garlands of red streamers. It was the greatest funeral that ever took place in Austria.

Thus do the people pay tribute to those who fight their battles today. Some years ago they would have buried him in the dark of the moon. And the kings and rulers who had our comrade assasinated, will be lucky if they get the interment of a dog.

The newspapers tell us that thousands of bags of coffee were thrown into the Atlantic Ocean; thousands of sacks of onions were thrown into the Pacific Ocean; millions of barrels of apples are rotting on the ground in California; thousands of bushels of apples are rotting in store houses in Cleveland and a train load of potatoes were dumped into a gravel pit near Chicago for the purpose of boosting prices, while private and associated charities are scarcely able to keep up with the relief of pitiful want in our great cities. The Rebel is advised from Nueces county, Texas, that thousands of acres of cabbage are rotting in the fields because the unfortunate farmers are only offered 20 cents a hundred pounds delivered on the car. The Rebel is paying 5 cents a pound cabbage in the town. This competitive system is a wonderful one.

W. J. Burns, the private detective, had a row with a rival gumshoe firm. He says: "Private de[illegible] lowest and vilest snakes that blot the face of the earth, they can be hired to do anything." Burns ought to know for he is one of them.

If one hundred thousand renters had gumption enough to join the Renters' Union this year, a renter instead of a lawyer would be sitting in the Governor's chair two years from now.

CAPITALISM.

Of all the systems of society of which the race have lived and grown none can be compared with Capitalism in misery producing effects.

Today it strikes from the lips of a starving child, and tomorrow levies tribute from the government itself.

There is no cottage humble enough to escape it, no place strong enough to shut it out.

It defies the law, when it cannot coerce suffrage.

It is flexible to cajole, but merciless in victory.

It is the moral enemy of peace and order, the despoiler of men and terror of women, the cloud shadows the face of children, the demon that has dug more graves and sent more souls unsaved to judgment than all the pestilences that have wasted life since God sent the plagues to Egypt, and all the war since Joshua stood before Jericho.

It comes to ruin, and it shall profit mainly by the ruin of your sons and mine.

It comes to mislead human souls and to crush human hearts under its rumbling wheels.

It comes to bring gray-haired mothers down in shame and sorrow to their graves.

It comes to change the wife's love into despair and her pride into shame.

It comes to still the laughter of the lips of the little children.

It comes to stifle all the music of the home and fill it with silence and desolation.

It comes to ruin your body and mind, to wreck your home, and it knows it must measure its prosperity by the swiftness and certainty with which it works the world.

A man named Barnhill from Washington, D. C., writes the Rebel that he is going to come down to Texas to debate with the Socialists, subject: Resolved that Wilson can burst the trusts. He is a twin brother to the fellow that says the earth is flat. He is a first cousin of the negro preacher that sold bread pills to his parishioners at $1.00 a piece, so that Hawley's comet would not strike them. He is near kin to the dog that attacked the buzz saw one time, and the poor beast only lasted one round. He says he has an armor-plate hide, he will need it.

The Oklahoma City Daily News is running a remarkable series of articles under the caption, "On Board the Good Ship Earth." This Democratic newspaper and Democratic writer take the position that mankind has come up from the tiny protoplasm that the first form of life, so these Democrats say. We wonder if Mr. Lemmons will now leave the Democratic party.

RENTERS UNION.

(E. O. Meitzen, Sec., Hallettsville)

The interest in this movement is rising steadily. Inquiries come from all points of the compass and many states of late. Information has been sent out until our supply of constitutions became exhausted. We have thus gone to work and gotten ready for printing with the constitution as now amended, a catechism of question and answers on our demands, defining as clearly as possible the great benefit to be derived from a grand and solid organization of the renters who will thus be able to enforce their demands into law. There being no funds on hand we must ask that the cost of printing be repaid by those desiring same, which is 5c, enough possibly to cover the expense also of those copies which of necessity must be sent out free of charge to newly organized locals and persons writing for information.

J. H. Dolman, of Rule, writes that he and others are working on a plan of educating renter's children in such knowledge as is carefully suppressed by the school book trust.

G. W. Carnes of Cushing R1, Nacogdoches county, writes for information and authority to organize his county.

W. W. Hurley of Seymour wants to do the same thing in Baylor Co.

H. D. Jones of Alvord, Wise Co., is eager to get into the work, being aroused by a stray copy of The Rebel from which he got the idea. Don't fail to push the only paper in Texas that advocates our cause, as it is conceded by all the organizers that where the people have read the Rebel organizing the renters is much easier than where they have been chloroformed by other papers.

E. M. Lane of Blue Ridge, Collin county, writes: The time is ripe for the Renters Union in Collin county. Send me instructions at once. Our new Collin county paper "The Headlight" will give room for discussion on this important question."

We are in receipt of information from Oklahoma that plans are being put into operation by which it is expected to have enough locals organized by May 1st for a state organization.

In Arkansas "The Workers Cause", a paper at Huntington, is taking up the fight for the renters and soon there will be "something doing" in that part of the moral vineyard.

Keeping everlastingly at it brings success. Your help is needed to push this work. Let everyone of you renters do something and don't (for the sake of your wife and children) wait for the other fellow to do something.

RENTERS UNION.

Renters that want a home at wholesale prices somewhere in East Texas, would do well to write me and join the Renters Union as soon as possible. We have an organization now started in the Renters Union known as the Home Builders Association. It is possible that you can get a home much cheaper and on much better terms than you individually. Small land holders that do not rent out land are eligible to join the Renters Union.

Yours for immediate relief.,

A. J .RASCO,

Eustace, Texas.

In 1847 Alexander Stephens of Georgia, afterwards vice-president of the Confederacy, writing of the danger of intervention in Mexico said:

"If Mexico, 'the forbidden fruit,' is to be seized at every hazard, I very much fear that those who control public affairs, in their eager pursuit after the uneviable distinction of despoilating a neighboring republic, will have the still less enviable glory of looking back upon the shattered and broken fragments of their own confederacy. And, instead of 'reveling in the halls of Montezuma,' of gloating over the ruins of the ancient cities of the Aztecs, they may be compelled to turn and behold in their rear another and a wider prospect of desolation, carnage and blood."

Stephen's prophecy is as true in 1913 as it was in 1847.

The somnolent sod-buster who jerks the bell cord over a "hayburner", ruminates to himself thusly: "This year I raised 30 bales of cotton and I find I own only two hickory shirts. But I find some people have started to wake the [illegible] we may be able to have five bales in the clear."

When will the following beautiful promise from Isaiah V, 5—6 come to pass?

"Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for i nthe wilderness shall waters break out and streams in the desert."

DINAH AND LAND TITLES.

By John A. Curtis.

Dinah:—Here I is in Austin, tired and hungry and after I axed all dem land office men to please tell me where de good God ebber parted wif his title to de land, I don't know a thing more en I did, for they couldn't tell me nuthin. Now I am gwinter hunt up dat preacher editer what runs a paper which says it is right to sell de land and maybe I can get some troof from him. * * * Good mornin, Mistah! Is you dat editer-preacher what says it's right to sell the land?

Preacher — I am a preacher and edit a paper.

D.—Is it a religious paper?

P.—Yes, I am a Christian and run a religious paper.

D.—Well, Ise huntin for sumfin to help me settle dis land question cordin to de Bible. Is it right to sell de land?

P.—Yes, Dinah, for we read in the Bible where Ephron, Araunah, and Naomi sold land. Gen. 23:14—17; 2nd Sam: 24:24; Ruth 4:5—8.

D.—Well, don't God say dat de land shall not be sold forebber? (Lev. 25:23.)

P.—Yes, er, er,— —

D.— And don't he say dat de reason it can't be sold is, cause it b'longs to him?

P.—Yes, well, yes, but, er, er,—

D.—Now Mr. Preacher, is you one ob God's chilluns?

P.—Yes, Dinah, I am a child of God.

D.—And ain't it a fact dat your God done said dat he nebber changes?

P.—Yes, God changes not.—

D.—Yet you say it is right fer de land to be sold! Sposin folkses did sell de land; ain't dey selling it now ebbery day? But does dat make it right? Where did dey get a title to go wif dem land sales?

P.—Well, er-er—You know, er-er—

D.—Now, come on, Mr. Preacher, jes be honest and tell me, when did your heavenly father part wif his land-title?

P.—Well, Dinah, You see, er-er —You remember—

D.—Yes, I members now, dat somebody done told me dat Br'er Paul said de earth and de fulness dereof blonged to God. (1 Cor. 10: 26)—God still owned de title to all de land when Br'er Paul used to preach, but you done gone squar back on de Bible and Br'er Paul bofe, and say its right to sell de land. You shore am in an awful fix, honey, you is— What would you think of a little boy what is always 'sputin' his daddy's word and at the same time tellin ebberybody dat his pappy was a good man and nebber did change his mind?

"You find a plain statement in de Bible and den find sumfin to tear it up wif. Say, Mr. Preacher, is you a shore nuff Christian, or is you an infidel?

"Does you believe what God said or not? De way you teach dat land question makes me think of what old Mr. Lorenzy Dow preacher done said once:

"Dam if You do,
Dam if You don't.
Dam if You will,
Dam if You won't."

"It seems to me dat all you preachers orter tell de folkses dat God made de water, sunshine, air, and land fer all the people, and dat it is wrong to have more of any of dem than you can use yourself. If one has a right to an acre of land more den he can use and occupy, den he has a right to a million acres more — yes, to de whole earth. Den where would your wife and little chillans live? If you nebber had seen any Bible, you orter see dis fact wif your eyes of common sense.

P.—Well, Dinah, I must go, er-er. I am a very busy man and — and— —

D.—Yes, You must go! Dats de cry of all dem folkses what calls on God wif der mouf, but lives far off from him wif der works. Dey are mighty busy hollerin: "Sell dat Land!!" while thousands of poor wimmens and little chilluns are working in de corn-fields, and bending over de cotton rows and givin up all dey make, ceptin nuff to barely exist on demselves, to dem land grafters who believed what you said bout buyin and sellin de land. "Busy man!" Say Mr. Preacher, if you don't quit foolin wif God's word like you is— you gwinter be busy some day huntin for a little water to "cool off" and if de liars and hypocrites have de water cornered dere like dey have de land cornered here, you will be "up agin it", you will.

I'm shore glad all de preachers aint gone back on de Bible, but somebody done tole me dat de preachers what are telling de folkses dat "the land shall not be sold forever", are helping dem Socialists change dis earth into a place where all de wimmens and little chilluns will have a home and be happy.

Hallelujah! Hail dat day!
When hunger and pain will pass away;
When greed and graft will be no more;
Dem Socialisms say its comin' shore.

RENTER'S CATECHISM AND CONSTITUTION.

E. O. Meitzen, Secretary-Treasurer of the Renter's Union, has compiled a catechism for the Renter's Union. In simple language he sets forth the usual questions asked about the Renter's Union and answers each one thoroughly. Some unusual questions that go to the very heart of the land and renter's problem are lucidly answered.

This is one of the most entertaining and educational little booklets that has ever been gotten out in the South. Even old agitators will find new information in its pages.

The booklet contains beside the catechism the up-to-date constitution of the Renter's Union. Every Renter's Union and Socialist local should have a large supply of them on hand.

Every single handed talker will find his arguments made stronger by reading its pages. It only costs 5 cents a copy.

HE GOT HIS:

The Forward, a Socialist paper published in Glasgow, Scotland, sizes up the situation of the working man very well by publishing the following epitaph to be placed on the grave of every working man when he dies:

HE GOT HIS AT LAST
HERE LIE
The Mortal Remains of
JOHN SMITH
Who worked hard and died poor,
supported through all the
Trials and Vicissitudes
of Life
BY THE REFLECTION
that
He was the Proud Inheritor
of a share
In that Glorious Empire upon
which the Sun Never Sets.
At his Death he was Placed in
this Grave, and
HIS SHARE
of the Glorious Empire was
reverently Shoveled in on Top of
Him so that he Came by
HIS OWN IN THE END.

THE REBEL LEGAL DEPT

The Rebel will furnish you an honest legal opinion on any legal question by a competent lawyer of 17 years actual practice.

Your question must be short and concise.

Send $1.00 and you will get your question answered in next issue and two yearly sub cards.

A Prominent railway man of Beaumont writes:

Please send me 200 of No. 86 and enter me for a year's subscription to the Decentralizer. I am going to have "Toward the Sunrise" handed to a few of our dear Christian friends. If you are going to have it in phamphlet form please hold this order as I will like to have it increased sufficiently to present a copy to each attendant at our churches. It is great for those that think all is well with the world.

I met you and Comrade Andrews after the meeting in Houston, just previous to the late election. Had not then taken the plunge far enough to carry a "Red" with my O. R. C. card. The O. R. C. card now has a "Red" companion that covers it. Am trying to do some work; am handicapped, however, by a need to stay under cover to a great extent and avoid advertising myself. Hope to be "free" by the end of the year, however.

REBELETTES.

He stood on the courthouse square without as much clothes on him as would pad a crutch or flag a hand car. He wanted to know if the Socialists were going to divide up his property. The poor fellow's property was in an empty receptacle back of his eyebrows.

Don't forget, the Rebel office issues a new paper this week called "The Decentralizer". Before it is twelve months old you couldn't pick up the remains of the bureaucrats in a sieve.

* * *

The Rebel would kindly remark to the renter, who refuses to join the Renters' Union, or vote the Socialist ticket: If his brains were arsenic and you fed them to a canary bird there would not be enough give the little feathered thing the hiccoughs.

You're a Democrat because your father is a Democrat, eh? The old man's dead and you're a dead one too.

TEACHERS UNITE.

Educators of the United States I ask you that we co-operate that we may do for ourselves and our occupation what other trades and professions have done for themselves. Let's unite ourselves together. If co-operation is good for other phases of work it will also be beneficial to the American school teacher. We have within our power the rising generation. We can make it what we will. By a united force we can demand better things, we can teach better, we can raise up a better race. Let's work towards a better unity of purpose.

One of the first steps in the way of co-operation among us would be to establish a National Co-Operative Teachers' Agency. I would suggest that all Socialist school teachers send their names and any others that they may know to their secretary and that every Socialist school teacher commence now to prepare a list of every teacher in his or her county, as the case may, together with a list of the names of each school district in and their respective townships.

This can, I think in most cases, be done very easily by going to the proper officials that have charge of the educational work of the counties.

Let's have the name of every school teacher in the United States that is interested in Socialism and unionism among educational workers.

By proper co-operation of the teachers and by a strong state organization within this national body we could demand things for the schools that will never be obtained until we do unite.

Our united forces could demand that the United States spend some of its millions on the arts of peace instead of war. We could demand some of the money now spent in high society to be spent upon the education of the children of the poor. If only half the teachers of the nation would unite to protest against these barbaric customs it would mean that in every other neighborhood in the land there was an agitator demanding something better—a center around which might grow up a large body of people equally dissatisfied—and the ruling class in America would be compelled to grant concessions.

We can never have better means until we unite and demand it.

Already there are forces at work to destroy our public free school system. Shall we drift backward to the Middle Ages?

Let's unite and teach better than ever before the great power that lies within the rising race. As a step towards that unity a teachers co-operative agency would be a start.

Let's make it a national affair. Let's have some one get busy and work it out in detail. It may take several years to do this start now. It may not meet with success but we lose nothing even if we fail and we gain in experience. Suppose we start now. I would like for other Socialist papers to copy and educational magazines to discuss this matter.

Can I hear from others?

Yours for Progress,

R. D. BELLL,

Bloomfield, Ia.

• • •

You are hereby requested to write me the addresses of all Socialist teachers you know of anywhere also all trustees that would employ Socialist teachers. Do your best to elect a progressive county trustee in your commissioners precinkt on the first Saturday in April and also a progressive district trustee or trustees in your school district and report to me.

W. O. Brannen.

Organizer, St te Socialist Teachers Agency,

Kennard, Texas.

A PROPOSED MAGAZINE TO MEET THE OPPOSITION MADE BY PRIESTS AND PREACHERS AGAINST THE PRINCIPLES OF SOCIALISM IN THE NAME OF "RELIGION."

I have thought for some time that a magazine devoted to that field of labor, outlined above, would add much to cause. There is a certain class of priests and preachers who seem to think that too much light is not good for the eyes of their flocks, and spend a great deal of their time in manufacturing charges against Socialism. A specialty of meeting these charges and exposing their priestly schemes, would, in my opinion, be of great service to suffering humanity. This is what I propose to do, if my proposition meets the approval of my Socialist Comrades.

Here is the proposition:

I will get out a monthly magazine of at least 44 pages of solid reading matter 6 by 9 inches at $1.00 per year, and give as a premium a prescription for one of the best blood remedies known to the medical profession; another for catarrh of the head and throat, and another for tender, sweating and offensive feet. These three remedies are composed of pure drugs, and I know their medical virtue from years of practical experience with their manufacture and sale during ten years of my connection with the drug business.

You get these three prescriptions for use in your own family, and the Magaine one year for $1.00.

If 1000 Socialists will accept this proposition and write me a card to that effect, giving name and address, I will get out the magazine and mail each of them a copy, and on receipt of said copy, send me a dollar and I will then send you the *prescription* and enter your name on my books for one year's subscription to the magazine.

Let me have a card from you at once.

W. T .Flowers,

Tolbert, Tex., R. 2 Box 37.

From the last reports we gleaned from Austin, John H. Kirby has not introduced a bill to stop peonage in the lumber camps of East Texas.

FOR SALE—A bonafide scholarship to The Tyler Business College at reasonable price. Good as any other scholarship. Write this office at once.

OUR REBS.

Do You Want It.

The Rebel has gotten out many "hot numbers," but few have struck fire like No. 86, containing the feature article, "Hierarchy to Grab America," and Debs' masterpiece, "Toward the Sunrise." The issue was soon exhausted, but so many of our Rebs have asked us to reproduce one or the other or both of the articles in leaflet form or in a special edition, that we have decided to print an extra edition of The Rebel containing both articles provided enough of our Rebs want it.

If you want it, just send us an order for a bundle of fifty, a hundred or more, at the rate of ½ cent per copy. Should not enough orders be received to warrant reprinting this edition your money will be returned or, if you request some other good edition of The Rebel will be sent to your address.

Help Pay It Off.

Ever since its foundation The Rebel has been paying off, at the rate of from $200 to $300 per month, the installments due on machinery purchased largely on credit. It has sometimes put us all close to the bread and water diet, and sometimes we have worked and worried day and night in order to keep things going and at the same time give the readers a good live newspaper. Unlike any other great political journal, The Rebel has been started and kept going with practically no capital except the efforts of willing and self-sacrificing workers inside of The Rebel office and outside of it on the forks of the creek and highways and byways.

To the wonder of experienced newspaper men we have kept going without asking any man's support except for value received, and seldom have found it necessary to make any very pessimistic statements with regard to the future of The Rebel in order to gain support.

All this being so, we would ask what would not we, who have already done so much, be able to do if the $3500 yet due on machinery were all paid off?

It would be an easy matter for our Rebs to help us do this. Let them send in all the forty-week subs they can, and then let just three thousand of our twenty-three thousand readers pay within the next four weeks only $1 each for a four year sub and we would be in the "clear," with the monthly drain of $200 together with interest payments stopped.

Then you would see The Rebel become a giant in stature, shaking the world from center to circumference. If that were done, you would see ONE low-priced newspaper that has "arrived" without initial capital and solely with the help of its readers rendered for value received. Croakers galore have told us that it "can't be did" without capital and without lots of questionable advertising.

Will you help us SHOW them that it "CAN BE DID."

From the Firing Line.

J. S. Goodall sends in four from Kent county and says he will do it again.

John L. Wrather ,one of our reliable Houston Rebs, remembers us with another club. Sorry to learn that his dearly beloved help meet died February 23.

John W. Curtis, of Grady Co.,Okla., sends a bunch of subs and thinks we are publishing a great paper. "Give them hot shot," says he, "especially on the land question."

H. Godwin, a well known grocery merchant of Temple, gets on the Reb list four years and says: "Ignorance is all that keeps the poor man from voting the Socialist ticket."

A copy of The Rebel land edition fell into th ehands of Frank McKinney of Childress county and he "showed it to the neighbors, and they seemed to know a good thing when they saw it, so I took their subs."

E. H. Perkins, Co. Sec. Falls county, writes: "The Socialists Party of Falls county will meet at Lott Saturday March 22, 10:30 a. m. sharp. Important business transacted. Speaking at 1:30 p. m. by Reddin Andrews. Everybody come and bring someone else."

A. A. Pruitt of Hamilton county, a true-blue Reb., enters his sub for The Decentralizer and writes: "Would join the party if there were a local within twenty miles of me. Need speakers here. Long may you live to make the good fight you are making."

[illegible] Hadley, Tom Green county: "[illegible] copy of your Land Pamphlet. [illegible] country belongs to the land speculators and stock man. I believe that there is 100 acres of idle land to one cultivated acre and I can't get pasturage for one cow. I rented land last year here, but lost it because I was a Socialist."

Mrs. J. T. Finley, secretary of Cedar Springs local, Falls County writes that although the old party school trustees have forbade the local to meet in the school house, the comrades are going to do big things there as soon as the sun begins to shine. Also: "Lots of people right here in this county think they must vote the same old way, and let the landlords and capitalists rob them in the same old way, and be always in debt, or just can so. out, 'because Pa did.'"

$5 Brings Oliver Typewriter

Send $5 for The Oliver Typewriter—themachine will come a-flying. The newest Model—No. 5—the regular $100 machine —with no extra charge for Printype.

For the price of a good fountain pen you secure the World's Greatest Typewriter. You can pay the balance at the rate of 17 cents a day.

This irresistible "$5 offer" is sweeping everything before it. The era of universal typewriting is coming. The triumph of the typewriter over primitive pen-and-ink has been brought about by the same machine that introduced visible writing.

The OLIVER Typewriter

THE STANDARD VISIBLE WRITER.

This is the typewriter whose high efficiency has made it the choice of the greatest firms and corporations. It is the simplest of all standard typewriter, yet the swiftest and by far the most versatile. The moving parts work freely in a solid metal frame-work, making the machine so strong that the hardest usage has no effect upon it.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR "PRINTYPE."

Most people prefer to have the machine equipped to write in Printype. This beautiful type is obtainable only on The Oliver Typewriter.

It is the greatest style improvement ever evolved for typewriters—the most easily read type in existence—the type which conforms to that in universal use on the world's printing presses

WIN SUCCESS WITH THE OLIVER!



The Oliver Typewriter aids success-seekers in a multitude of ways. The real-life stories of achievement that center around it would fill volumes.

No matter what your work may be—in office, store, shop or home—The Oliver Typewriter will prove itself a great convenience and an actual money-maker.

It stands for order and system and success. It is the visible evidence of the progressiveness of its Young people with brains, ambition and Oliver Typewriters are succeeding everywhere. Can you afford to let $5 stand between you and success?

SEND FOR SPECIAL CIRCULAR AND ART CATALOG

Full details regarding the Oliver Easy-Purchase-Plan, beautiful catalog and a specimen letter written in Printype will be sent you on request.

Let this $5 offer awaken you to your need of The Oliver Typewriter and the ease with which you may own it.

Remember—$5 only and on comes The Oliver Typewriter!

THE OLIVER TYPEWRITER COMPANY,

S. S. BISHOP, Local Agt., Hallettsville, Texas.

THE MAN AND THE DOLLAR.

By EUGENE V. DEBS.

That trite saying of Lincoln, "life before property; the man before the dollar," is exceedingly popular with American people. Theoretically, at least, we are all agreed with Lincoln. Life, human life, is sacred above all material things, and the first duty of civilized society should be to conserve and safeguard the life and well-being of every man, woman, and child. Property, in whatever form and under whatever condtions, should be for the convenience and comfort of man, who created it — his servant always; his master never.

Now the question is, has the Lincoln idea been incorporated in our social philosophy? Is American society organized upon the basis of "life before property?" And do the courts of the United States uphold the doctrine of "the man before the dollar?"

In answering these questions, I propose to cite two typical decisions—at sword's points with each other upon this vital issue—rendered by two eminent circuit court judges of the United States. The one upholds the priority right of life, and the other that of property. The judges who decided these historic parallel cases are both national figures, one now enjoying his remaining days in the quiet of voluntary retirement, after almost forty years of faithful service on the bench, while the other is at the present time President of the United States.

Henry Clay Caldwell was appointed federal judge by President Lincoln, in 1864. William Howard Taft was appointed to the federal bench by President Harrison, in 1892. Both were circuit judges of the United States court when their decisions were rendered. Judge Caldwell — the only federal judge who ever opened wide the doors of his court to labor unions and invited them to be heard in their own behalf — decided in accordance with Lincoln, who had appointed him, in favor of "the man before the dollar." Judge Taft decided in accordance with the views of President Harrison, whose commission he held, in favor of "the dollar before the man."

The two decisions, quoted below, will speak for themselves. The facts here presented are all matters of record. They may be consulting the following cases, as reported in volume 62, *Federal Reporter*:

Ames v. Union Pacific Ry. Co., 62 F. R. 7.
Thomas v. C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., 62 F. R. 17.
Thomas v. C. N. O. & T. P. Ry. Co., 62 F. R. 669.

On January 27, 1894, the receivers of the Union Pacific Railway presented a petition to Judge Dundy, of the federal court for the district of Nebraska, asking for an order of the court giving approval to certain rules, regulations and schedules of pay which had been prepared by the receivers and which they proposed to make effective on the first day of March, following. These rules, regulations, and schedules had been prepared by the receivers without consultation with the employees or their representatives, and without their knowledge and consent, notwithstanding that they enforced a considerable reduction in the prevailing rates of pay. The court was asked to order the employees to submit to the schedule as proposed by the receivers, and to enjoin them from interfering with the receivers in enforcing its terms.

Judge Dundy gave hearty approval to the receivers' plan for reducing the wages of the employees. On the day the petition was filed in his court, he issued an order as prayed for. This order declared that the rules, regulations, and schedules prepared by the receivers and filed with their petition were "prima facie reasonable and just," and directed that said rules, regulations, and schedules of pay become operative on March 1, 1894. It was also directed that an injunction issue against the employees as prayed for in the petition of the receivers.

When this order was presented to the United States courts for the districts of Colorado and Wyoming, those courts refused to give effect to the order in their districts, giving as a reason for their refusal that the employees affected by the order had had no notice of the proposed change. The judges who thus refused to give effect to Judge Dundy's order were Judge Moses Hallett, of the district of Colorado, and Judge John A. Riner, of the district of Wyoming.

The receivers of the road thereupon applied to Circuit Judges Henry C. Caldwell and Walter H. Sanborn, at their chambers in St. Louis, requesting them to issue an order putting Judge Dundy's order in force in the districts of Colorado and Wyoming. This the circuit judges declined to do. Instead, they directed the receivers to annul their order adopting new rules, regulations, and schedules of pay. This having been done, the circuit judges issued an order commanding the receivers to call a conference of the representatives of the employees and the receivers at Omaha, Nebraska, on March 15, 1894, there go over the entire matter of the proposed changes in the wage schedule and as far as possible come to an agreement, any matters of difference remaining unadjusted to be clearly and specifically presented to the court in writing on or before the twenty-seventh day of March, 1894.

At this conference an agreement was reached between the receivers and the train dispatchers and telegraph operators; but as no settlement could be effected with respect to the other branches of the service, the matters in dispute were brought before the court in accordance with the order made by the circuit judges.

At the beginning of this hearing, the circuit court, speaking through Judge Caldwell, set aside Judge Dundy's order and injunction, and announced to counsel that the rules, regulations, and schedules in force when the receivers were appointed were still in force, and would be treated as *prima facie* just and reasonable, the burden being on the receivers to show that they were not just and reasonable. Testimony along these lines was listened to by the court for a week, resulting in a complete triumph for the employees. An order was issued by the circuit court directing the receivers to continue the then existing schedules of pay in full force and effect, and requiring them to pay the expenses of the employees while attending the Omaha conference, ordered by the court, and while attending the hearing. Certain portions of Judge Caldwell's opinion in this case are well worth quoting. He said:

When a court of equity takes upon itself the conduct and operation of a great line of railroad, the men engaged in conducting the business and operateing the road become the employees of the court, and are subject to its orders in all matters relating to the discharge of their duties, and entitled to its protection. . . . . An essential and indispensable requisite to the safe and successful operation of the road is the employment of sober, intelligent, experienced, and capable men for that purpose. . . When a road comes under the management of a court in which the employees are conceded to possess all these qualifications—and that soncession is made in the fullest manner hero—the court will not, upon light or trivial grounds, dispense with their services or reduce their wages.

It is suggested that upon this question the court ought to be governed by the recommendation of a majority of the receivers. The suggestion is without merit in this case, for several reasons: Four of the receivers are not practical railroad men, and are not familiar with the subject. Two of them are lawyers, residing in New York; one a merchant, residing in Chicago; and one a railroad accountant, having, doubtless, a thorough knowledge of the books of the company, but knowing nothing about the wage schedules. These four gentlemen are eminent in the line of their professions and pursuits, and entirely capable of managing the financial affairs of this great trust, ffor which [illegible] selected; but their opinions on the subject of wage schedules are rconfessedly of litti value. [illegible] iety to have an economical administration of this trust, to the end that those who own the property and have liens upon it may get out of it what is fully their due; but, to accomplish this desirable result, the wages of the men must not be reduced below a reasonable and just compensation for their services. They must be paid fair wages, though no dividends are paid on the stock and no interest paid on the bonds.

The receivers should have given notice and invited the men to a conference even if there was no contract requiring it. In answer to this objection to their mode of proceeding, it is said the order of the receivers and the order of the court extended an opportunity to the men to protst against the new schedules after their adoption. The men could have small hopes of a fair and impartial hearing after the receivers had prepared new schedules behind their backs, which were declared by the receivers and the courts to be "prima facie just and reasonable." This was very much like first hanging a man and trying him afterwards. It is small consolation to the victim of the mob to be told that he shall have trial after he is hanged.

It is further said that the new receivers had a right to renounce the old schedules and adopt new ones, because the old ones were mere executory contracts. There are some executory contracts which receivers may renounce, but they cannot claim the benefit of such contracts and at the same time renounce their burdens. This is precisely what was attempted to be done by the receivers in this matter. They renounced the old schedules, and adopted new ones, reducing wages, but with seemingly no idea of absolving the men from the duty of continuing to work and operate the road, for in their petition they ask that their schedules be confirmed by the court "and all of the said employees directed to conform thereto."

Whatever may be the legal right of a railroad corporation to reduce the wages of its employees, or discharge them in a body, a court of equity will not act in that manner, or approve the action of its receivers who have acted in that manner. The receivers, no more than the court, should have undertaken to determine what wages were just and reasonable without giving the men an opportunity to be heard. It is fundamental in the jurisprudence of this country that no court can rightfully make an order or render judgment affecting the rights of one who is absent and who has had no notice. The requirement that the court or any other tribunal shall hear before it decides is much older than Magna Charta or our constitution. It was written in the Book 3,000 years ago that "he that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

A court of equity will not pursue a niggardly and cheese-paring policy towards its employees. Intelligence, bodily vigor, and contentment are wanting among men who are compelled to work for inadequate wages. Sound public policy, no less than justice to the men, reuires that they be paid a rate of wages that will enable them to live decently and comfortably, and school their children. Some corporations may pay their employees a less rate of wages than is here indicated, but a court of equity will not follow their bad example.

So much for Judge Caldwell's views concerning the rights of employees and the duties of a court of equity in protecting them against the exactions of receivers operating a railroad under the orders of a court. Let us now note the action of Judge Taft in dealing with a closely analogous case decided by him less than two months after Judge Caldwell had rendered his opinion in the Union Pacific case. The views of the two judges concerning the rights of working-men and the duties of a court of equity in dealing with them are in startling contrast.

On March 27, 1894, Samuel M. Felton, receiver of the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway, issued an order announcing to employees a general reduction in wages amounting to ten per cent, affecting all persons receiving over $35 a month, or $1.10 a day, the reduction to become effective on May 1, 1894. Mr. Felton's action differed from the action of the Union Pacific receivers in that it did not ask for an order of court legalizing his order. He did, however, consult the court before issuing the order. Judge Taft himself said, "The receiver, before issuing the order in question, considered it of sufficient importance to consult the court as to its propriety, and the court approved it on his recommendation."

Now here was an action precisely similar to the one so strongly condemned by Judge Caldwell in the Union Pacific matter. It was "like first hanging a man and trying him afterwards." The receiver consulted with the court (Judge Taft) as to the propriety of issuing the order, "and the court approved it on his recommendation." There was no conference with the employees; they were given no opportunity to present their side of the case before the order was issued. It was simply gentlemen's agreement between the receiver and Judge Taft; the employees were not considered as having any rights in the matter whatever. The judge and the receiver having got together and agreed that it was proper to cut wages ten per cent, the receiver issued his order to that effect, allowing just sufficient time before its enforcement to conform to the requirement that thirty days' notice be given. The employees had no recourse but to accept the reduction or quit the service of the receiver.

The employees were naturally disinclined to accept the reduction ordered by Mr. Felton, but believed by themselves to be helpless in the matter. Being ignorant concerning the powers of a court of equity and the exact relations existing between the court and the receiver for whom they were working, they did not at first think of appealing to the court for relief. However, on April 5, 1894, the decision of Judge Caldwell in the Union Pacific case was rendered; and as the Caldwell opinion was extensively published and commented upon, it came to the notice of the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific Railway employees, giving them hope and suggesting to them the expedient of appealing to the court themselves. Accordingly they prepared a petition praying the court to suspend and revoke the receiver's order; but owing to their ignorance of procedure, they were delayed in presenting this petition to the court until April 30, 1894, only one day before the order of reduction became effective.

This delay furnished Judge Taft with an excuse to deny the petition. To use his own words: "It was denied, because the petitioners, having had thirty days' notice, delayed presenting the petition until the day before the order went into effect." His opinion, in denying this petition, is in sharp contrast to the attitude of Judge Caldwell in dealing with a similar question. The following from Taft's opinion shows him to be keenly solicitous to protect the interests, not of labor, but of PROPERTY:

Objection is made to the filing of the petition by the counsel for the receiver, Mr. Colston, on the ground that to receive such a petition and consider it will establish a precedent, involving the court in hearings of all sorts concerning the discipline and ordinary administrative matters in the operation of the road. I am therefore asked to rfuse to consider such petition, and to hold that the order of the receiver should be received by me as conclusive to the question. In considering this objection it is well to point out what standing the petitioners have in this court. It is conceded on all sides that the consideration of such a petition is a matter of discretion in the court. The employees have no legal rights which are about to be violated by the order complained of. Under the contract of their employment, they are entitled to 30 days' notice of any reduction in wages. That notice was given upon March 27, and, speaking from a strictly legal standpoint, they are now to be put in the attitude of either accepting or rejecting the proposition by the receiver to employ them at reduced wages. If they are not content with the wages, they are not compelled to accept them, and may retire from his employment. I repeat that from a strictly legal standpoint they have no standing in this court to call for an adjudication of any rights. But the petitioners, so long as they remain in the receiver's employ, are very important in the operation of the road. The receiver is the agent of the court in operating the road. The petitioners are the employees of the receiver, and therefore are the employees of the court. This is a petition to the court, as their employer, to exercise its discretion not to reduce wages. Their appeal is exactly like that of an appeal by an employee to an employer, except that the court is limited in the exercise of its discretion to such action as may be consistent with the preservation of the property and its due administration in the interests of those who own it.

Judge Taft's view of the functions of a court of equity, as expressed in his above-quoted opinion, is that in dealing with the employees of a railroad which is being operated under its direction the court is limited in the exercise of its discretion not to reduce wages "to such action as may be consistent with the preservation of the property and its due administration in the interests of those who own it." The employees have no rights in the matter whatever. They have absolutely no legal standing in the court. A private employer of labor may be moved by their appeals to such an extent as to grant them something out of consideration of charity, but a court of equity has not even such discretion. The judge must stand like a rock in his demand that the property be administered in the interests of those who own it. If the employees are not satisfied with the wages offered them by the receiver they are at liberty to quit. That is the only right conceded to them by Taft, circuit judge.

However, having denied the petition of the men, and standing that "the order must therefore stand, and go into force tomorrow," having fully made up his mind as to the propriety of the order after consultation with the receiver alone, Judge Taft announced the following concession: "With the distinct premise that this is a mere appeal to the discretion of the court in operating the property, to be exercised within the limits already mentioned, namely, the proper preservation of the property and the rights of its owners, and that it is not a judicial hearing which assumes any legal right on the part of the men to continue in the employment of the road, I will hear an application to modify the order whenever such an application is ready for hearing."

Acting on this concession the employees, through their attorneys, presented an application to the court for a modification of the receiver's order, settling up in their application that the receiver's order was unfair and unreasonable and worked great hardship to them, and praying the court for a restoration of the old rate of wages. The receiver filed answer to the application, and the issues raised were fully argued by counsel, Judge Lurton sitting with Judge Taft to hear the case. The petition of the men to modify the receiver's order was denied in a decision rendered May 31, 1894, Judge Taft writing the opinion of the court.

The Taft opinion in this case is wholly a special plea for the receiver and the owners of the property. It goes much into detail and is too voluminous to be quoted here. To those interested, however, the opinion is commended as an example of special pleading. The Taft point of view may be indicated by the following quotations:

It follows from what has been said that under the order of March 27, here complained of, the rate of wages paid by the receiver is a reduction of not more than ten per cent below what it was before the financial depression, when business was good. In the way already explained, many employees have their income reduced much more than this, because more men are retained in the service than are needed, and they do not all work full time; but, for the work that is being done, the receiver is paying but ten per cent less than when times were good. Is such a reduction unreasonable? Certainly not, if we have regard either to the receipts and earnings of the railroad, or to the course of many other roads in making similar reductions.

But it is argued by the learned counsel for the petitioners that the reduced earnings of the employer should have no bearing upon the proper rate of wages to be paid for labor; that the rate of wages is fixed by supply and demand. That in the long run, the price of labor is determined by the law of supply and demand need not be denied, but the operation of this law is set on foot by the action of the employer, whose earnings are reduced by loss of business, in discharging unnecessary labor and offering less rates for the labor he can use. Moreover, the court must take judicial notice of the fact that there has been an enormous reduction in the demand for labor, with a corresponding increase in the supply. Could we have any stronger evidence of it than in the fact that the men in the employ of the receiver wish to divide up the work to be done, so that no one of them works full time? It is not a pleasant duty for the court or its receiver to cause any hardship to a large number of men and their families, and the court is personally cognizant of the earnest, zealous, and painstaking effort made by the receiver to avoid the necessity for this reduction. At a time more than six months ago, when other roads were making a reduction, he declined to do so, and only now, when no other course is open to him, has he resorted to it. *Every other economy possible* has been practiced, with the hope that business would improve, until now, with a default in the rental and forfeiture of the leasehold staring him in the faace, he has been forced to do it.

It should be noted that in the Caldwell opinion the judge stated that the existing rate of wages must be considered as *prima facie* reasonable and just, and that the burden was upon the receivers to show that they were not reasonable and just. Judge Taft announced a directly contrary rule in his consideration of the case now under discussion. He said: "Hearings of this kind may be had, and if the receiver has made a manifest error or committed an abuse of the discretion intrusted to him, the court will correct it. But the burden of showing either must, in the nature of things, be upon the petitioner."

Courts are largely controlled by precedent. Had Judge Taft been possessed of that abounding sympathy for labor which his friends gave him credit for during the campaign for the Presidency, he might easily have followed the precedent set by Judge Caldwell, one of the grandest figures that ever occupied a position on our federal bench. But Taft's sympathies are all with property; when the rights of man come into conflict with property rights in Judge Taft's jurisdiction property will always prevail.

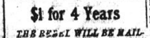
This issue lies at the very heart of the popular agitation that is shaking modern civilization to its foundations; and when it is finally settled it will be on the basis of "LIFE BEFORE PROPERTY; THE MAN BEFORE THE DOLLAR."

THE IRON WORKER.

The Bridge and Structural Iron Workers' Union has just completed its national convention at Indianapolis. Frank M. Ryan, who was sentenced to seven years in the Federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and who is now out on $70,000 bonds, was reelected president.

It will be remembered that when he and thirty-nine other labor leaders were being tried at Indianapolis for dynamiting, the trial judge and the prosecutor had a special train ordered to carry them to the penitentiary forty days before the jury handed down its verdict.

This is the same judge whom Roosevelt denounced as "a jackass and a crook." The iron workers delegates undoubtedly took these facts into consideration when they re-elected President Ryan. Developments in this case will bear matching.



[illegible]

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A Good Baker, with some means wants a location. Write this office. 1

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I have located in Fairhope, Alabama, and have resumed making necties. I will send you as good a silk four-in-hand tie for 25 cents as you can buy of a capialist merchant for twice that amount. Silk Batwing bows 20 cents. Silk string bows, 10 cents. Send for a sample tie and I will also send you samples of many kinds of silk that I use.
Address: Ada M. Tucker,
4tm22 Fairhope, Ala.

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The Land Pamphlet is selling like hot cakes. A second edition will soon be on the press. If you want to know about the land question from a legal, moral, biblical and philosophic standpoint send 10c to the Rebel office for one; $5 per hundred.

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TEXAS NOTES.

Ed. A. Green, State Sec. Rockdale.

LETS ORGANIZE.

The movement is taking on new life all over the State. Are you helping?

Have you noticed how cheap grub and clothes are getting of late? That's caused by the democrats. They are in now you know. Now that the cost of living is so much reducrd we can invest our money in Socialist literature and proceed to educate the heathen.

LISTEN, get out today and organize a local in your community. Ev n if you can only get five members, get to work and get everything in shape to take 'em in; they're comin' with a rush when Doc Wilson's dope begins to take effect.

"Comrade Andrews spoke here; he jerked some of the straddlers off the fence, pulled some through the cracks, and got some on the fence that h could not get the second pull at for the lack of time. Send instructions and blank application for chart - "—J. M. Gardner, Woodson, Texas.

Geo. B Ledwell, the valiant County Secretary of Limestone county, says: "Inclosed find report and all back dues for all locals. The boys are coming out of their shells since the sun has begun to shine."

I know men who won't join the local for fear the little 2x4 merchant 'round the corner may find it out and foreclose the mortgages on his team Don't get scared at your ignorance me boy. Said little merchant isn't near as bad as he'd like to have you think. More than likely he's just hanging on by his eye-brows and besides he's due to "be born again," just as soon as Sears, Rareback & Co., get another swipe at him. What he needs is pity. Give him some Socialist literature and try to cheer him up.

I want every darned grafter on earth to know that I resent his robbery of my children.

Tichenor's reply to Lemmons is going like hot cakes. Better get one. 10c One comrade writes "Here's 10c for he and I are members of the same church, but I am ashamed of him."

J. M. Manning, who is 16 years old is now secretary of Jewett local and is getting a move on things in his neck of the woods. Shame on you young men who whine: "I can't."

Reddin Andrews is spreading discontent among the slaves in Mills county this week.

M. A. Smith will tell the ginks of East Texas how Wood-Head Wilson can't reduce the cost of living as follows: Mt. Pleasant, March 15, Carbondale, 16, 17, 18; Texarkana, 19; Marshall, 20 and 21; DeBerry, 22 to 26; Carthage, 27.

NOTICE: If any more Socialist M. D.'s want a location, just let me know. I've had at least fifty requests for the address of the doctor I mentioned a week or so ago. If you are a doctor and don't like your present location write me, I can place you all right.

The Socialists of Milam county held a rousing mass meeting at the city hall in Rockdale Sat rday, March 1. W. W. Vinton, Rockdale, R. F. D. No. 5, was elected County Secretary, and W. F. Eiland, County Chairman.

Taylor county will have a four days' encampment at Buffalo Gap. Who's next?

Beginning the first Sunday in May Milam county will have a series of summer picnics.

Have you done anything to that Socialist cotton patch yet?

Get in and look out. If you don't live near a local become a member at large.

Of course you are going to organize sometime. Why not now?

Wilson will reduce the high cost of living by reducing the price on Automobiles. The workers elected him and he will of course look after their interests.

The working man under this system is cheaper than cattle. A daily newspaper published in Cape Nome, Alaska, proves it. The Nome Industrial Worker says:

At Bingham Canyon four hundred and fifty workers were killed in the mine last year. There were no inquests, no investigations. They were interred hugger mugger. Moreover, the governor of Utah vetoed a bill passed by the Utah legislature, which provided for all mining fatalities being the subject of an inquest. And the governor stated in cold blood that it would subject the corporations to annoying and vexatious litigation upon the part of the deceased one's relatives.

Please remember that you can secure the Rebel every week from now until after the presidential campaign of 1916, for one lone dollar. Shoot it in and do it now and help us to build up a reserve and fighting fund such as The Appeal now has.

Levi Garland of Bonham, Texas, says: "We now own collectively a vast amount of land situated in the United States. Any citizen who has not already had the benefit of a homestead can go upon that land and make him a home." Mr. Garland's family has not had him sent to the lunatic asylum up to date.

The philosophy of Socialism says to us: usher me in and then no longer need ye bow as low as Cæsar's feet and ask in humble tones for one tithe of that which your brawn hath brought from Mother Earth's unwilling bosom.

When a renter votes for a courthouse lawyer to represent him in the legislature, he needs to have his head examined.

OKLAHOMA NOTES.

(H. M. Sinclair, State Sec., 116 S. Harvey St., Oklahoma City, Okla.)

NEW LOCALS.

Trail in Dewey county, J. M. Rhinehart of Trail, Oklahoma is secretary.

Highland in Canadian county, J. H. Berrong of Houston, Oklahoma is their secretary.

Comrade G. W. Hale of Locust Grove in Mayes county sends in for an application for charter blank and instructions of how to organie a local.

There will be a meeting of the Socialists of Swanson county at Synder Oklahoma, on Sunday, March 16th for the purpose of perf cting encampment route and transacting other important business. State Executive Committeeman Oles Stofer issues the call.

Comrade W. M. S. Colley of Snyder was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Comrade Mr. M. A. Stallard of Snyder was selected as correspondent for the Women's State Committee.

The Socialists of Pittsburg county met at McAlester on Sunday, Feb. 23 and elected the following officials for this year:

County Chairman, Fred W. Holt of McAlester; Alenza Turner, Secretary-Treasurer; A. M. McDonald of Hartshorne; Organizer, County Executive Committee, 1st district, J. H. Thomas, Adamson; 2nd district, A. M. Hayes, Savanna, 3rd district, J. A. Nixon, Krebs; At Large, J. W. Bell of Kiowa and E. B. Welch of Krebs; Board of Trustees, G. M. Cagle of McAlester, J. H. Garland, McAlester and S. G. Barker of Hartshorne; Literature Agent, Guy C. Williamson of N. McAlester; State Committeeman, G. W. Lindsay of Haileyville; Woman's Correspondent, Mrs. J. H. Thomas of Adamson.

The Comrades of Boswell in Choctaw county adopt a municipal platform and nominate Comrade P. M. Clark for Justice of the Peace and J. R. Holmes for Trustee of 3rd Ward.

The Socialists of Oklahoma City have elected the following Comrades to file in the municipal primary of March 18th:

Commissioner of Public Works; J. C. Barnard.

Commissioner of Public Safety; D. Cobb.

Members of School Board, 1st Ward, short term, Wm. McLaren; long term, J. R. Bitner; 2nd Ward, E. W. Chapman; 3rd Ward, Mrs. J. J. Truenett; 4th Ward; W. F. Albright.

The Social Democrat of Oklahoma City publishes a list of all the County Secretaries and Local Secretaries in the State of Oklahoma and will continue to publish same with additional locals for the next few weeks. If you want such a list send to them and it will be furnished you.

Motions.

Moved by Dr. Lamar of Hughes County: That the State Executive Committee call for the resignation of Comrade Oscar Ameringer, National Committeeman from Oklahoma and in case he refuses to resign, that he be recalled.

Signed;

O. A. Fisk, Chairman. Allen C. Adams, Secretary.

Moved by Dr. Lamar of Hughes County: That there be called a mass convention of the Socialist Party of Oklahoma in the City of Shawnee, Okla., to be held on the 2?th, 25th and 26th of July, 1913. The purpose of this convention is the discussion and formulation of plans for future party work, Industrial and Political.

Signed:

O. A. Fisk, Chairman, Allen C. Adams, Secretary.

Moved by Dr. Lamar of Hughes County: Any one nominated for a party or political office in the Socialist party, shall at the time of accepting the nomination state their occupation, which occupation shall be placed on the refendum ballott opposite their name. Any one refusing to give their occupation or giving a false occupation shall have their name stricken from the ballot.

Signed:

J. T. Johnson, Chairman. Allen C. Adams, Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE

MEXICO.

Government in Mexico is a weird and ghastly joke, but let them work out their own salvation. Madero and others have been murdered under the old Mexican farce of trying to escape. The Governor of Yucatan owns fifteen million acres of good sisal land. Corral, the agent of old man Porfirio Diaz, about the same, and all the ruling families in proportion.

The peon is sold with the hacienda, but don't be too independent my proud American voting king, this is the land of the free and the home of the brave and the refuge of the world's oppressed and where we are all equal before the law (nit). Four-fifths of the land of Texas is subject to use only on the terms of the landlord. Mexico has a beautiful constitution, so have we, it says you cannot be imprisoned for debt but the injunction works there just the same as here.

An Old Time Mexican.

Flatonia, Texas, Maarch 3, 1913.
Rebel, Hallettsville, Texas.

A gentleman from Flatonia was at Laredo on Geo. Washington's birthday last week. He claimed that over 10,000 people crossed the bridge that day, everybody was happy, and all the disturbance he saw was—three drunken soldiers—Why not an intervention among the soldiers?

Socialism asks for nothing but ECONOMIC JUSTICE. Do you want it? Would to God that I had the power of nature, the tongues of the spirits, the cunning of the Devil and the purity of the angels so that I might be able to penetrate the calloused mind, and give you the power and willingness to think and act. So, I say farmers, railroad men, miners, workers in shops and factories, school teachers and all who toil with muscle and brain, unite and threw aside all of yo r little petty differences with which your Masters have poisoned your minds and stupified your intellects and with a mighty stride of these mighty millions of class conscious men and women, let us dethrone this mammon of greed and demand freedom, justice, fraternity, the brotherhood of man. The co-operative commonwealth wherein all will have an equal opportunity to give the best that is within them to mankind and for such services rendered receive the full social equivalent of all their services rendered. Give the little ones time for education, art, music, recreation and travel that they may develop the noblest and purest possible to the efforts of the human family.

LEE DECK,
San Antonio, Texas.

Commerce, Tex., M ch 4, 1913.

Dear Hickey:

Your great editorial entitled, "Hierarchy to Grab America," is worthy of preservation, and should be published in leaflet form and circulated by the million. Not that it will prevent the hierarchy from grabbing America, but for the light and knowledge it will give the people.

It has already been written by One who never errs that the American government—the two-horned beast with "horns" like a lamb, but voice as a dragon."—shall "exercise all the power of the first beast,"—the papacy, and "cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." There is no doubt but the United States Government is at this hour "giving its power to the beast;" but beloved, you can possess your soul in patience, remembering that the fifth plague is to be poured out "upon the seat of the beast," when his kingdom will be "full of darkness" and his reign shall cease forever.

M. A. SMITH.

THE ELIMINATION OF THE BOURGEOIS.

Socialists have reached the stage where they fear no attacks from the outside. They know the revolution is on and Capitalism bears in its breast the seed of its own destruction.

To illustrate, go to Fort Worth, you will find the most modern packing houses in the world, great switch yards and stock yards. You see the once proud cattle Baron bring his train load of cattle. He is first touched for switching. (The beef trust own the switches, so as to get rebate from the railroads, through traffic agreements.) He is then held up for yard fees. He finds men sitting on the fence, one is Swift and one is Armour, he asks for a price on his cattle, one makes him an offer, the other a lower offer, if he does not like it he can ship to K. C., Omaha or Chicago, but he finds the same men at the yards in each place and they offer him a lower price (they call this throwing the scare into a trimmed sucker, so he will not be so foolish again as to not give up his yet, he must pay for weighing, also for goods on their terms.) He is not loose brokerage.

You find a great many of the mighty who once rode into town with a whoop and hurrah, firing off six-shooters, roping the terrorized canines now washing dishes in a Chinese restaurant.

The beef trust take the cattle up a long viaduct to the killing beds on the top of the plants. You see the trust runs things as they should be, the cattle pull their own load and their weight carries them down. Also the beef trust has learned the value of child labor. Boys drive the cattle, also they are not afraid of any race trouble as negroes and whites work along side each other. The cattle get to the killing beds; they are run on automatic boxes; a giant negro hits them between the eyes with a long handled hammer, the box dumps them out on the floor, another negro throws a chain around their legs and a traveling crane carries them to the first man who cuts their throats and skins the head, but does this so fast that the eye can scarcely follow, the blood runs down a trough, it makes good beef extract, buttons, refines sugar, etc. You notice how high they have the men geared up; they all move like a cat shot with a box of tacks, they use the shadow of the cattle to help keep the refrigerators cool, the squeal of the pigs to blow the whistle, the beef neck goes into veal loaf, the tallow into process butter, the grease goes to the settling tanks for toilet soap, nothing is lost.

Now let's see where Mr. Small Business Man comes in. Ther are 48,000 refrigerator cars in the United States. The beef barons own 45,000; they own the refrigerator space on the ocean boats. If a little independent packer tries to ship, his cars are not properly iced, or set on the rip track. The pure food law has forced them to buy out most of the small packing houses. However, now they have 248 distributing plants in the United States. Right here is where Mr. Little Fellow comes in: When they open a plant, they sell better meat, take no credit risks, they pay little more rent than he, taxes, little more for him. His business is confiscated the day they open, of course he may run along a few days to save funeral

Three or four years ago the cow men in convention at Ft. Worth got peeved at their treatment and proposed to put up a $5,000,000 packing house at Denver, Colorado., (where of course a $500,000 plant would have been too big as it takes a pack of eagles to get things in or out of Denver.) Then some one whispered to them that the trust held only six hundred million dollars in real money, (not stage money.) They did not build the packing house:

Comrades, the so-called middle class will strangle themselves if you do not think so, ask your grocery merchants if Havemeyer does not seem to need the sugar money worse than they. Arbuckle, the coffee, the salmon trust, the fruit trust, the salt trust, the tobaco, the California dried and canned fruits and so ad infinitum.

Comrades, the bourgeois, is being eliminated by their big brothers.

W. D. S.

THE WORKER.

By Berton Braley

I have broken my hands on your granite,
I have broken my strength on your steel,
I have sweated through years for your pleasure
I have worked like a slave for your weal,
And what is the wage you have paid me?
You masters and drivers of men—
Enough so I come in my hunger
To beg for more labor again?

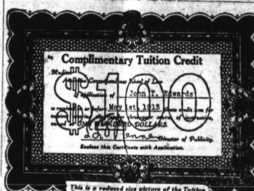
I have given my manhood to serve you,
I have given my gladness and youth;
You have used me and spent me, and
And thrown me aside without ruth;
You have shut my eyes off from the sunlight,
My lungs from the untainted air,
You have housed me in horrible places,
crushed me,
Surrounded by squalor and care.

I have built you the world in its beauty,
I have brought you the glory and spoil,
You have blighted my sons and my daughters,
You have scourged me again to my toil,
Yet I suffer it all in my patience
For somehow I dimly have known
That some day the worker will conquer
In a world that was meant for his own!

The Democratic party in Houston is split in two over the municipal campaign. Both sides claim the other side is crooked. They are both right.

The biggest liar in Texas has just been discovered. He said that the Editor of the Rebel was wearing diamonds.

It was a great Irishman that said one time: "The rich are but pensioners on the poor."



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