

THE SOCIALIST PARTY

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

Issued Monthly by the National Committee at the National Headquarters, 180 Washington St., Chicago

Volume VII

CHICAGO, DECEMBER, 1910

Number 4

NATIONAL OFFICE FINANCES

PAINE & BOCK AUDIT CO.,

Accountants and Auditors,
546 Commercial National Bank Building.

CHICAGO, December 13, 1910.

Messrs. Berlyn and Sissman, Auditors of the Socialist Party, Chicago, Ill.:

Gentlemen—Having accepted your assignment to audit the books of the National Office of the Socialist Party, we beg leave to report that we have audited the books of accounts for the period April 1, 1910, to December 1, 1910, and submit herewith:

For the period April 1, 1910, to December 1, 1910—
Statement of Receipts,
Statement of Expenditures,
Summary of Receipts and Expenditures,
all of which we hereby certify to be correct, subject to the attached Schedule of Errors and Differences.

Our work for the above period comprehended the following:
Verified entries of cash received and distribution of same, with stubs of Secretary's receipts.

Verified entries of cash paid and distribution of same, with canceled checks, and receipts for expenditures, pasted in receipt book.
Verified footings of cash received.
Verified footings of cash expenditures.
Verified copies of shipping tickets, with entries of cash received.
Made tests of orders, for which no shipping tickets were made, with cash received.

Verified "Mileage Reserve Fund," in separate bank account.
We counted the cash in the hands of the cashier on December 9, 1910, and found the same in agreement with the balance shown by the cash book on that date.

We made bank reconciliation under date of December 9, 1910, and found that the total of the checks outstanding, added to the balance shown by the check book (less exchange of \$1.80 on December deposits), exceeded the balance shown by the bank statement on that date by \$2.00. This amount of \$2.00 is accounted for by the following checks being returned by the bank and held by the Secretary: John H. DeLury \$1.00, not sufficient funds; J. Geinitz, Treasurer, \$1.00, signature not complete.

We wish to commend your system of accounting, which is neat, simple and comprehensive, although we submit, under separate cover, a few recommendations for improvement.

Respectfully submitted,
PAINE & BOCK AUDIT CO.,
Per H. S. PAINE.

APRIL 1, 1910, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1910.

RECEIPTS.

Dues	\$22,878.65
Supplies	795.40
Literature	4,603.89
Buttons	1,109.85
Campaign Fund	3,698.85
Milwaukee Campaign Fund	25.10
Minnesota Primary Law	214.10
New Castle (Pa.) F. P. Fund	250.31
Mileage assessment	3,797.80
Political Refugee Fund	16.40
Subscription to Daily Socialist	5.50
Refunds	165.51
Miscellaneous	7.81
Karl M. Liebknecht	850.00
Total	\$38,419.17

EXPENDITURES.

Exchange	\$ 45.77
General expenses	205.89
Express and freight	1,772.55
Postage	1,609.82
Telegrams and phone	324.20
Wages	5,497.75
Speakers	4,597.10
Printing and supplies	5,449.55
Literature	1,634.17
Office equipment	221.49
Rent	800.00
Light	35.92
Buttons	288.84
Stationery and mimeograph supplies	152.90
Minnesota Primary Law	212.96
Milwaukee Campaign Fund	25.10
N. E. C. meetings	1,154.65
Miscellaneous	504.48
Reserve Mileage Fund	1,746.90
Bulletin	892.90
Congress expenses	971.50
Committee and delegates	1,228.10
New Castle (Pa.) F. P. Fund	146.67
National Security Bonds	30.00
Appropriations	3,525.00
Mileage	4,396.16
International Congress delegates	2,290.75
International Socialist Bureau	208.47
Total	\$39,969.59

SUMMARY.

Balance on hand April 1, 1910	\$ 4,247.60
Receipts	38,419.17
Total	\$42,666.77
Expenditures	39,969.59
Balance on hand December 1, 1910	\$ 2,697.18

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.

In bank	\$ 2,419.15
Checks and money orders	99.75
Undeposited cash	4.10
Petty cash	174.18
Total	\$ 2,697.18

Reserve Mileage Fund, \$1,746.90.

SCHEDULE OF ERRORS AND DIFFERENCES.

April 1, 1910, to December 1, 1910.
Receipt 33191, June 20, 1910—Buttons, \$2.00; entered as literature, \$2.00.
Receipt 34064, Aug. 18, 1910—Literature, \$1.00; entered as buttons, \$1.00.
Receipt 35601, Oct. 21, 1910—Nat'l dues, 20c; entered as miscellaneous, 20c.
Voucher 55, Sept. 10, 1910—Wages, \$1.00; entered, \$3.00.

Examined and verified, and we hereby certify the same to be correct. We also verified the bank account to December 9, 1910, and found the same correct.

PAINE & BOCK AUDIT CO.,
By H. S. PAINE.

CHICAGO, December 14, 1910.

TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES:

Comrades—The undersigned respectfully beg to submit herewith a report

of Paine & Bock Audit Co., dated December 13, 1910, of their finding of the condition of the books of account kept at the National Office of our Party, and accept such report as our own.

We may say in explanation of our action that one of the subscribers, Bernard Berlyn, was with the auditors constantly during the time they were making the audit, and personally participated in the same, and all work was done under his personal supervision and direction. The subscriber, Peter Sissman, verified some of the items and verified all the totals, and we believe that the report is as detailed and as complete in form as one could be made, and, having no doubt of its correctness, it would be useless repetition and mere pretense for the undersigned to make a new report, pretending the same to be their own work, instead of using the prepared tables made by the auditors above named.

As to the recommendations accompanying the report of said auditors, the undersigned do not feel that the same could be adopted profitably to an institution like our Party Office, and we can only concur in recommending two of the recommendations therein contained, to-wit:

1. That hereafter on receipts issued which are to be accounted for as "void"—that is, where no money was actually received on such receipt—the canceled receipt should be preserved and attached to the stub from which it was detached.

2. In view of the constantly increasing number of transactions and amounts involved, which in the nature of things we may expect to keep up, as it has been growing in the past, and we hope with greater acceleration, it is practically impossible to have a system of proper checks and balance between receipts and disbursements by the system of vouchers and receipts alone, and we therefore recommend the adoption of a system of book accounts in ledger form suitable for an office organization like ours.

Fraternally yours,

PETER SISSMAN,
B. BERLYN.

National Secretary's Financial Report for Month of December, 1910

National Headquarters,
Socialist Party,
Chicago, Ill., Dec. 31, 1910.

RECEIPTS.

NATIONAL DUES FROM STATE COMMITTEES.

Alabama	\$ 14.00
Arizona	10.00
Arkansas	30.00
California	505.00
Colorado	75.00
Connecticut	60.00
Florida	17.50
Idaho	27.00
Illinois	276.00
Indiana	64.50
Iowa	55.00
Kansas	75.00
Kentucky	10.00
Louisiana	13.00
Maine	16.90
Maryland	25.00
Massachusetts	149.65
Michigan	70.45
Minnesota	168.90
Missouri	90.00
Montana	14.15
Nebraska	30.00
New Hampshire	5.50
New Jersey	102.00
New Mexico	5.00
New York	425.00
North Dakota	33.30
Ohio	211.00
Oklahoma	425.00
Oregon	55.00
Pennsylvania	420.40
Rhode Island	30.00
Tennessee	15.00
Texas	117.00
Utah	2.00
Vermont	2.00
Virginia	6.00
Washington	120.50
West Virginia	40.95
Wisconsin	179.30
Wyoming	44.40
Total	\$4,036.40

UNORGANIZED STATES.

Delaware	\$ 10.00
Georgia	7.10
Hawaii	4.00
Mississippi	5.70
North Carolina	1.00
South Carolina	9.70
Members at large	2.90
Total dues	\$4,076.80

Supplies	452.56
Literature	464.74
Buttons	123.77
Campaign Fund	9.00
Mileage assessment	26.55
John Spargo, lecture surplus	68.10
Connecticut organizers' acct.	19.82
Miscellaneous	7.74
Total receipts	\$5,249.08

EXPENDITURES.

General expenses	\$ 1.50
Exchange, November and December	13.57
Express and freight	94.73
Postage	256.42
Telegrams and phone	73.78
Printing and literature	1,689.05
Office equipment	1.60
Light	18.96
Rent (December)	100.00
Printing Bulletin, October	133.00
Printing Bulletin, November	1,900.00
Buttons	743.29
The Elliott Co.	9.10
B. Berlyn, auditor	15.00
Paine & Bock Audit Co.	120.00
Bradner Smith & Co.	10.67
Tarentum Paper Mills	9.75
Report of election	20.00

A. B. Dick & Co.	36.15
M. Fry & Co.	25.80
P. F. Pettibone & Co.	34.61
The Heinn Co.	8.00
U. S. Press Clipping Co.	10.50
Wilshire Book Co.	37.50
Fox Typewriter Co.	3.70
Horner's Stationery	2.80
The Levytype Co.	24.00
Refund, Local Cleveland, O.	25.00
Refund, Otto Pauls	4.50
Refund, Geo. O. Ferguson	1.05
Refund, F. G. Charley	1.50
Refund, J. Nicholson	1.50
Miscellaneous	4.67
Reserve mileage	407.70
Morris Hillquit, Polish conf.	7.40
Caroline A. Lowe, woman's correspondent	84.00
V. Licci, Italian translator	50.00
Herman Louko, Finnish translator	105.00

WAGES.

J. Mahlon Barnes	\$125.00
J. C. Chase, 5 weeks	110.00
M. H. Hudson, 5 wks.	90.00
J. M. Work, 5 weeks	90.00
E. N. Taylor, 5 weeks	84.00
E. M. Koop, 5 weeks	55.00
A. B. Campbell, 5 wks.	45.00
M. Schupp	25.00
C. Drees	30.00
M. Altschuler	7.00
Extra help	33.00
Total	694.50

SPEAKERS.

John W. Brown	\$23.26
H. H. Caldwell	80.00
Anna A. Maley	150.00
J. E. Snyder	85.90
Karl Liebknecht	100.00
Geo. H. Goebel	136.04
Total	575.20

N. E. C. MEETING.

Geo. H. Goebel	\$ 88.00
Lena Morrow Lewis	50.50
Victor L. Berger	20.20
Jas. F. Carey	82.40
John Spargo	20.50
Morris Hillquit	80.00
Anna A. Maley	30.00
M. H. Hudson	10.00
Total	381.60

APPROPRIATIONS.

Striking garment workers	50.00
Oklahoma	200.00
Loan to Oklahoma	400.00
Svenska Socialisten	150.00
Total expenditures	\$6,766.10

SUMMARY.

Balance on hand Dec. 1	\$2,697.18
Receipts for month	5,249.08
Total	\$7,946.26
Expenditures for month	6,766.10
Balance Jan. 1, 1911	\$1,180.16
Reserve Mileage Fund	\$2,154.60

Fraternally submitted,

J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

National Congressional Campaign Fund Receipts During December

Previously reported	\$3,708.60
Central Branch, Camden, N. J.	.75
J. E. May, Buckhorn, Wyo.	1.50
J. J. Feiser, Charleston, Wash.	1.00
11 and 17 A. D. Socialist Party, Kings Co., Brook-lyn, N. Y.	3.25
Reno Local, Reno, Nev.	2.00
G. N. Taylor, Streator, Ill.	.50
Total	\$3,717.60

National Notes

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST BUREAU.

Brussels, Belgium,
Nov. 22, 1910.

J. Mahlon Barnes, Chicago:
Dear Comrade—Our Executive Committee, assembled today, directed me to forward to your party our best congratulations for the splendid results of your last election.

We would be grateful if you had the kindness to transmit our felicitations to our stalwart comrades, and we hope your success will continue.

Fraternally yours,
(Signed) CAMILLE HUYSMANS.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF FRANCE, NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Paris, Nov. 15, 1910.

Secretary of the Socialist Party of the United States:

Dear Citizen Barnes—The Permanent Administrative Committee of the Socialist Party (S. F. O.) has been informed of the electoral victory gained by our Comrade Berger in Milwaukee, and has instructed me to write to you on this occasion to tell you how glad we are to see a member of the Socialist Party penetrate for the first time into the House of Representatives of the United States. This is a great event in which we rejoice with you.

We ask you to be so kind as to transmit our congratulations to Citizen Berger, who is personally known to many of us.

Fraternally yours,
(Signed) LOUIS DUBREUILH,
Secretary.

Comrades Hillquit and Spargo, having been chosen delegates to the National Executive Committee, attended the convention of the Polish Socialist Alliance, held at Bridgeport, Conn., November 24. As to the results of the convention Comrade Hillquit says: "I am glad to report that the convention has decided to affiliate with the Socialist Party under the provisions of our Constitution and by an almost unanimous vote. I believe great credit for the accomplishment is due to Comrade Daszynski, who had prepared the ground for this action in his recent successful lecture tour."

Comrade Bostrom, State Secretary of Washington, reports the following:

"Henry Larsen, who has been found guilty of scabbing, was expelled on November 20 by Local Bellingham, Wash. Larsen has been notoriously unfair and has taxed the patience of the local for a long time back. Spite, revenge and maliciousness, and not need, furnished his motive for scabbing. Being exceedingly active, he has been of great damage to the local, as well as to every other organization that has harbored him."

"The same local also publicly repudiated a former member, J. A. Sells, who has twice been elected councilman on our ticket. Sells, having used the position to ingratiate himself with the 'citizens,' felt himself strong enough to abandon hypocrisy and come out on his merits as an official. The primary law gave him a chance to file as a Socialist and an injunction would have been necessary to get him off the ticket. The local is to be congratulated for the housecleaning."

Word has been received that Comrade C. C. Ross died in Little Rock, Ark., October 17. Comrade Ross was known by many as "Captain" Ross, he having served in the confederate army. This fact secured for him a patient hearing in the advocacy of Socialism in many southern communities. For a number of years Comrade Ross was active in the movement in the South and Southwest, frequently as a free lance in unorganized territory, speaking and distributing literature, and again as state organizer. He was a delegate from Oklahoma to the national convention of 1908.

Comrade James A. Smith has resigned the position of State Secretary of Utah owing to the fact that he is moving from the state. The State Executive Committee has unanimously elected Comrade Peter J. Holt, Box 477, Salt Lake City, to that position for the unexpired term.

The Rand School of Social Science offers the following correspondence courses for students living outside of New York City:

Course I. American History. Textbook, McMaster's "School History of the United States."
Course II. American Government. Textbook, Ashley's "American Government."
Course III. Socialism. Textbook, Spargo's "Socialism."

(Continued on Page Four.)

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can be made with the publisher or author. Adopted.
 Comrade Collins was granted the floor. He stated that he had had a first edition of two thousand, a second edition of five thousand and that another five thousand were to be gotten out, also that the German comrades had seen fit to get out five thousand in their language; that little or no advertising had been done; that the book was wholly a trade union book and had taken well. He asked the committee to review the book and see what they could do with it.

The subject of books was taken taken up. Comrade Barnes reported on the success met with in the handling of the cheap edition of "Socialists at Work."
 MOTION.—That two thousand copies of Comrade Spargo's book entitled, "Substance of Socialism" be ordered. Adopted.
 It was suggested that Comrade Barnes enter into communication with the MacMillan Company, publishers, with a view to getting advantageous terms on other well known books.

The question of distribution was taken up.
 It was suggested that all pamphlets published by the National Office be sent to the socialist and labor press, and such other publications as are likely to review them and give adequate editorial advice.
 Suggested that the membership be advised that there is and always will be in the National Office a complete stock of Socialist literature for all purposes.
 It was decided that the small number of Russian comrades in the party did not warrant the expense of printing constitutions in that language.
 Comrade Spargo submitted a negative report on the manuscript of Comrade Connolly, considering it not adapted to America, the subject dealing with a debate held in Dublin, Ireland. Adopted.

The question of a party press agent was laid over to a future meeting.
 Relating to the request from Local Allegheny County, Pa., for the mimeographed Weekly Bulletin, Comrade Barnes stated that the circulation had heretofore been confined to members of the National Executive Committee, members of the National Committee, the State Secretaries, the party press, the locals in unorganized states and national organizers. The edition numbers about four hundred and fifty copies and is produced principally to give to the party press, the principal officers of the various states and the national officers the latest party information. To supply each local it would require an edition of more than three thousand; besides, all official matters and everything with the rare exception of news items of momentary interest, are reproduced in the Official Monthly Bulletin, which goes to all locals.

MOTION.—That any local or individual willing to pay the sum of one dollar per year shall have the Weekly Bulletin mailed to them. Adopted.

Comrades Carey and Hillquit, sub-committee, reported as follows: "To the National Committee of the Socialist Party.
 "Greetings, Comrades.—Early in the month of May of this year certain charges were presented against the National Secretary by Comrades Thomas J. Morgan and James H. Brower, of Illinois. The charges of Comrade Morgan were so frivolous on their face that the National Executive Committee refused to consider them. Those of Comrade Brower were of a more serious nature, but entirely lacking in specifications or proof. Our committee offered to the complainant every opportunity to substantiate his charges, but the latter persistently refused to take advantage of it.

"Upon the basis of these facts a campaign of slander and vilification has since been directed against the National Executive Committee, which is unequalled in the annals of our party history. The committee as a whole has been charged with willful suppression of charges of abuses in the National Office, and the majority of its members and many other active party members supposed to work in harmony with the committee have been charged with unfaithfulness to the movement, dishonesty and other delinquencies.

"Thomas J. Morgan is publishing a weekly paper almost entirely devoted to that purpose and furnishing effective ammunition to the enemies of our movement. The "Christian Socialist" by its editorial treatment of the affair has largely aggravated the controversy and helped to sow the seed of distrust within our movement.
 "We have ignored these attacks for a long time owing to our reluctance to involve the party in a fruitless and humiliating personal dispute, especially on the eve of an important national election.
 "But the matter has now assumed such proportion that in justice to the movement it cannot be ignored any longer. Either the accused or the accusers are guilty of serious misconduct against the party, and the blame must be definitely placed.
 "We, therefore, respectfully request that your committee at once proceed to investigate; 1st, The charges preferred by Comrades Morgan and Brower against the National Secretary; 2nd, The conduct of the National Executive Committee in connection with the said charges; 3rd, The conduct of Comrades Morgan, Brower and E. E. Carr, editor of the

"Christian Socialist," in connection with the said charges and the truth of the charges in the "Provoker" against the members of the National Executive Committee and other party officials.
 "The committee to meet in Chicago on February 4, 1911, at 2 p. m., and all persons involved to be summoned to appear before the committee with their proof and defenses. The expense of the investigation shall be borne by the National Office." Adopted.

Comrades Spargo and Hillquit, sub-committee, reported as follows: "To the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Missouri.
 "Comrades.—An appeal has been submitted to us signed by Otto Pauls in the name of Local St. Louis, against the action of your committee in reorganizing the local and suspending several of its members.
 "The undisputed facts in the case appear to be as follows: Local St. Louis was accused of resorting to fusion tactics in the election of 1909; in the early part of this year the local quorum of your committee submitted to the vote of the membership of your state a motion to investigate the charges against Local St. Louis. This motion was defeated, but the quorum arbitrarily excluded the vote of the members of Local St. Louis, although they had not then been tried or found guilty of any offense, and declared the motion carried. Your committee as a whole thereupon took the matter in hand, overruled the acts of its quorum and elected an investigating committee of its own, consisting of Comrades Behrens, Garver and O'Dam. This act of the State Committee was in turn overruled by its own quorum, and another investigating committee was appointed by the latter to supersede the one elected by the State Committee. This action was taken at a meeting of three members, one of whom voted against it, and it was on the recommendation of this committee that the charter of Local St. Louis was revoked.
 "Two other referendums were had: one to concur in the recommendation of the investigating committee, and the other requesting the National Executive Committee to investigate the entire situation. On both referendums the vote of the members of Local St. Louis was excluded.
 "Local St. Louis now bases its appeal upon the existence of two state investigating committees with conflicting claims to office. They request us to proceed to reorganize the state organization in Missouri under the provisions of Art. XII, Sec. 9, of the National Constitution, and the request is supported by the signatures of 530 members, more than the requisite one third of the total membership of the state.
 "The National Executive Committee, however, does not deem it advisable to resort to the extreme measure of reorganization before exhausting all efforts to bring about an amicable and peaceful adjustment of the situation.
 "The St. Louis comrades, despite the fact that they were excluded from the party, displayed during the recent campaign, as at all times past, splendid enthusiasm and loyalty to the party. It is quite evident that in the interests of our movement as a whole the St. Louis comrades ought to be in the party. And it is equally evident that the Socialist movement of the state of Missouri will gain infinitely by harmonious work and co-operation of all good Socialists within the state.
 "We, therefore, tender our good offices to your committee, and will be glad to delegate a special committee to your state for that purpose.
 "We respectfully request that your committee act upon this offer within thirty days. The National Executive Committee prefers to bring about these results in an amicable manner rather than to resort to its constitutional right of reorganization." Adopted.

Comrades Spargo and Berger, sub-committee, submitted the following draft of resolution:
 "In the year 1906 three workmen, leaders of a great labor union, were kidnaped and illegally and violently taken from the state of Colorado to the state of Idaho and placed on trial, charged with the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg. (After trial all three were found not guilty of the crime and acquitted.) The application for a writ of habeas corpus which would restore their elemental rights was denied by the United States Supreme Court, Justice McKenna only dissenting. The Supreme Court decided that the law provided no relief for kidnaped workmen.
 "Thereupon, Fred D. Warren, editor of the Appeal to Reason, sent through the mails an offer of \$1,000 for the 'kidnaping' of ex-Governor Taylor of Kentucky, who was at the time admittedly a fugitive from justice.
 "The obvious intention of this offer, frankly stated by Warren at the time, was to provide the workers with a concrete proof of the class bias of the Supreme Court, his belief being that in the case of a rich and powerful man the Supreme Court would decide differently than it had done in the case of the three workmen.
 "For this Warren was convicted by the United States District Court and sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labor and a fine of \$1,500, notwithstanding that it was proved that before sending the mails he had consulted the local postmaster, who informed him that the matter was admissible to the mails, and that similar offers are commonly circulated through the mails.
 "This sentence has now been affirmed by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and Fred D. Warren must go to jail.
 "Now, this case does not stand alone.

It is but one of a multitude of decisions rendered by our courts in recent years, characterized by a spirit of bitter hostility toward the working class, of which the numerous injunctions in strike and boycott cases are glaring examples.
 "In view of these facts, be it resolved: That the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of America hereby expresses its emphatic protest against the growing abuse of the judicial power in the interest of the capitalist class, and against this latest severe, unjust and vindictive sentence, which is in marked contradiction to the democratic institutions of the country.
 "That we call upon the comrades everywhere to arrange for mass meetings, all over the country to protest against the growing menace to the working class through the subservience of the courts to the capitalist class, and against this latest despotism outbreak of capitalist venom and revenge." Adopted.
 Adjourned at 12:30 to meet at 2:00 p. m.

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 Adjourned at 12:30 to meet at 2:00 p. m.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Comrade Spargo in the chair.
 Comrade Carl Stover was granted the floor on the question of the Minnesota primary law and gave a review of the case. He also stated that he was willing to institute new proceedings and go through the courts with them, charging only for expenses. He estimated that the expense would be about \$500, and he believed the National Executive Committee should help the Minnesota comrades bear the expense.
 Comrade Goebel submitted a report for sub-committee as follows:
 "The states covered in this report and suggestions are Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana.
 "We recommend as follows:
 "The National Office shall route lecturers and organizers through these states at intervals of not exceeding three months, as far as possible covering the same routes, gradually adding new towns, the aim being to develop strong, vigorous locals that will in turn serve and act as centers of ever-widening circles of propaganda and organization, as well as gradually lessening the average daily traveling expenses.
 "These speakers shall be expected and instructed to explain and emphasize the need and methods of party organization, and seek to encourage and develop systematic plans of agitation at points visited and make such reports to the National Office as will aid the speaker following them. No speaker or organizer shall be employed for this work who is not willing to work in harmony with this plan of emphasizing organization and effective and definite methods of work.
 "The National Office shall circulate the list of Socialist paper readers in the unorganized towns and postoffices of these states at least quarterly, in such correspondence urging organization, soliciting members at large, asking for information concerning the possibilities of arranging meetings, etc. Each letter, as far as possible, should concern and present one definite proposition. The National Office at various periods shall also circulate with leaflets and correspondence officers of farmers' unions and similar organizations under our names, calling attention to our movement and soliciting correspondence on the same.
 "At convenient periods, where possible to find comrades willing to give a month or six weeks' work in their respective states without too great expense, arrangements for the same shall be made.
 "We further suggest as an experiment the grouping together of the states of Georgia, Florida and South Carolina, to which shall be assigned a national organizer for a definite period, whose duties, in addition to speaking when circumstances permit, shall be to develop new territory by visit or correspondence, encourage and aid to more effective agitation the state and local organizations already existing, co-operate with the National Office in routing other speakers and do generally those things conducive to building up strong, healthy, self-supporting state organizations in the territory assigned to him. If, after a reasonable time, this experiment seems successful, then similar groups might be arranged as follows:
 "In one group, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, and in another group, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and Maryland.
 "We estimate the cost of this special plan of campaign for one year as follows:
 Four speakers, averaging 100 days each, at an average daily deficit of \$3.00 \$1,200.00
 Circulating readers of Socialist papers 1,000.00
 Circulating farmers' unions..... 700.00
 Deficit on district organizer..... 900.00
 Deficit on state speakers..... 700.00
 Total \$4,500.00

General discussion followed and Comrade Barnes reported on all unorganized states and to conditions in southern states that are organized.
 MOTION.—That we district the South and appoint three special organizers, one to each district. Adopted.
 The matter of selecting men for the districts was referred to National Secretary Barnes.
 MOTION.—That the report of the sub-committee on the South, as amended, be given to the district organizers for them to follow the plans outlined. Adopted.
 Representatives of the foreign-speaking organizations that were present were requested to make statements.
 Comrades Victoria Licci and Catullo Bellegrini of the Italian Section, Comrades N. Juel Christensen and Theo Jensen of the Scandinavian Organiza-

tions and Comrade Michael Altshuler of the Russian organizations were each granted the floor and gave reports as to the workings of their organizations, the number of locals and where mostly located, and requested such assistance from the national organization as could be granted to assist them in their work. The Scandinavian comrades made a particular request for financial assistance for their publication, "Svenska Socialisten."
 Comrade Barnes presented a number of communications from foreign-speaking organizations.
 MOTION.—That a committee of two be appointed to go over the communications and the entire matter relating to foreign-speaking organizations and report prior to adjournment. Adopted.
 Comrades Carey and Goebel appointed on this committee.

Comrades M. Siskind, Dr. Knopfnagle and B. Berlyn, committee from the Cook County Delegate Committee, now in session, were granted the floor. The committee requested the National Executive Committee to issue an appeal to the party membership all over the country for funds for the striking garment workers of Chicago.
 MOTION.—That the National Executive Committee appropriate \$50 to aid the striking garment workers of Chicago, and that a brief appeal be drawn up by the committee of Cook County for publication in the Bulletin. Adopted.
 Comrade Otto Branstetter, State Secretary of Oklahoma, was granted the floor. He gave a report as to the conditions in that state and requested assistance to the extent of \$200, two organizers for three months and a clearing of the debt of \$400 due the National Office for dues stamps.
 MOTION.—That we send two organizers to this state for two months. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That we remit the debt of \$400.
 Amended, That we do not remit the debt, but instead ask the comrades to liquidate it at their convenience, and that we appropriate the sum of \$200.
 Four voted in favor of the amendment, two in favor of the motion. Amendment carried.
 MOTION.—That the comrades of Oklahoma choose their own organizers. Adopted.

Comrade Lewis submitted report for sub-committee as follows:
 "Inasmuch as the friendship and interest of the Republican party in behalf of the negro race has proven to be a farce and a sham, and the real animus and spirit of this and other parties is being more and more recognized by the colored people, we find as a result a political unrest among the negroes.
 "Already a movement is being inaugurated to encourage this dissatisfaction. In addition to this, the colored race constitutes a large body of ten million workers, and there can be no solution of the problems of the working class without reckoning with the negro.
 "Since there is this growing disposition on the part of the colored race to seek a new political home, and as these people are among the most cruelly exploited of all the working class, we recommend the following specific work among colored people:
 "PROGRAM.—The routing by the National Office of at least one negro national organizer, particularly in those states where the negro still is accorded the right of franchise.
 "The issuance of special leaflets and other literature directed to the negro race, showing the relation of the Socialist philosophy to the so-called race problem.
 "By means of advertisements in negro publications calling attention to this literature." Adopted.

At six o'clock the committee decided to take a recess of fifteen minutes, then reconvene for two more hours.
 Reconvened at 6:16. Comrade Spargo in the chair.
 Comrade Barnes reported on organized states, giving an outline as to the conditions existing in each, results of late election, so far as possible, and with report of each state submitted the letters previously noted.
 Under the report for Arizona it was decided that the only persons the National Executive Committee can recognize are those who stood loyally by the party and the constitution; that all persons who supported the formation of the labor party in the recent election cut themselves loose from the party.
 MOTION.—That we vote \$50 a month for two months to California to sustain the work of Comrade J. E. Snyder. Adopted.
 It was decided to take no action at present on Spanish agitation in Florida.
 The subject of granting a loan of \$100 for dues stamps to Missouri was laid over until the next meeting.

The need for organizers in the different states was considered and divided into three general districts—the New England states, the West and the Middle West.
 MOTION.—That an organizer be assigned to each district, the selection to be made by the National Secretary. Adopted.
 Comrade Barnes read the list of available organizers and applications at hand. The following comrades were added to the list: Isador Phillips of New York City, Ella Reeve Bloor of Connecticut and Wayne Pratt of South Dakota.
 Adjourned at 9:10 to meet at 9:30 a. m. Monday.

MONDAY MORNING SESSION, DECEMBER 12

Meeting called to order by Comrade Barnes at 9:30 o'clock. Comrade Berger elected chairman.
 MOTION.—That we publish that part of the report of the delegates to the International Congress which deals directly with the acts of our delegates

in Copenhagen in the Bulletin, and that Comrade Mrs. Simons be requested to make a pamphlet of the report of the Congress in general, including all resolutions, the pamphlet not to exceed 32 pages. Adopted.
 The National Secretary was instructed to print the resolutions in the Bulletin from time to time as space permitted.
 MOTION.—That Comrade W. J. Ghent be requested to compile and tabulate the vote cast in the last election. Adopted.

Comrade Goebel raised the question as to what extent the report of the National Congress was edited, and stated that such question was raised because of statements printed in certain publications.
 Comrade Barnes replied that the official stenographer had been instructed to make a verbatim report of the proceedings and to supply the National Office with two typewritten copies of the same; that upon this question the motion adopted by the Congress was as follows: "The debates, papers and essential proceedings to be in full, and unnecessary points of order or unessential matter to be omitted." That there was very little cut from the text by way of editing, and that in strict conformity to the spirit and intent of the motion. Both typewritten copies of the official stenographer's report are now on file in this office.
 MOTION.—That a committee of two be appointed to report to the next meeting of the National Executive Committee upon definite means for the promotion and strengthening of the young people's organization in the Socialist Party. Adopted.
 Comrades Lewis and Goebel appointed.

Comrade Carey, for sub-committee, reported on the foreign-speaking organizations, giving a full review of the correspondence at hand and making recommendations regarding each.
 It was decided to place Comrade Mosler of the Socialist Co-Operative Association on the list of national organizers.
 MOTION.—That all applicants be informed that only such foreign-speaking organizations are entitled to the appointment of a translator that, as national organizations, pay dues direct to the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That the Jewish Agitation Bureau be granted an organizer for three months, allowing a deficit not to exceed \$180.00. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That we appropriate \$150.00 for the publication of the Scandinavian comrades. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That we give the Polish comrades an organizer for three months, the maximum cost to be \$180.00. Adopted.

MOTION.—That Comrade Barnes be instructed to write to Comrade Legien with reference to making an organizing tour of this country. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That Comrade Barnes be instructed to correspond with as many known lecturers within the party as possible to ascertain whether any of them are available for lecture tours and, if so, for what time and upon what terms. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That the National Secretary be instructed to secure a suitable place for the holding of the next meeting. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That an announcement be made in the Bulletin that after the disposal of the matter for which the next meeting is being held it is the intention of the National Executive Committee to hereafter hold its meetings in different industrial centers from time to time as the committee may be invited by the comrades. Adopted.
 MOTION.—That Comrade Hillquit be requested to prepare a brief of the case regarding the charges. Adopted.

The following resolution regarding the Japanese was presented:
 "Whereas, as the climax of a campaign of brutal repression, the Japanese government has condemned to death twenty-six persons upon the charge of a conspiracy to kill the Mikado; and
 "Whereas, Homai and Uzawa, two noted Japanese attorneys, have offered to defend the accused; and
 "Whereas, the lawyers have been prevented by threats by the government from defending the accused; and
 "Whereas, the course which the Japanese government has determined to take is similar to that which brought disgrace to Spain in the execution of Ferrer;
 "Resolved, That the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of the United States hereby registers the emphatic protest of the American Socialists against this violation of civilized custom; be it further
 "Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the International Socialist Bureau, with the request that similar action be taken by the Socialists and organized workers of the entire world." Adopted.
 Comrades Berger and Work, sub-committee, submitted the following report:
 "The Executive Committee having already anticipated one of our proposals by providing for an additional leaflet on commission government, we confine ourselves to the following recommendations:
 "1. In routing regular lecturers and organizers, if any of them are specially fitted to lecture on commission government, the National Secretary shall state that fact in the advance circulars, so that the locals may take advantage of it if they so desire.
 "2. In operating the lecture bureau, as provided for in Article VIII, Section 2, of the National Constitution, the National Secretary shall endeavor to furnish special lecturers on commission government to locals and others desiring them." Adopted.
 Comrade Caroline A. Lowe, general correspondent for the Women's Na-

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL BULLETIN

national Committee, presented report as follows:

REPORT OF THE WOMAN'S NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Chicago, Dec. 12, 1910. To the National Executive Committee.

Dear Comrades—This report covers the period from the first of September, the date upon which I took up the work in the National Office, to the tenth of December. From the time that the office of General Correspondent of the Woman's National Committee was created in May, 1910, until September 1, Comrade Mabel Hudson served as the General Correspondent.

The past three months have been spent in getting in touch with the local woman's committees already organized, in communicating with each party local instructing it as to the plan for organizing the women into a woman's committee of the local, and in preparing plans for more efficient work among the women during the coming year.

Various organizers have reported the organization of one hundred fifty-six local woman's committees. A list giving the names and addresses of the correspondents of these committees has been published in the Progressive Woman and in the Daily Socialist. As a result of two communications sent to each party local, out of three thousand two hundred locals, two hundred and twenty-five have responded. The combined report of these show 1,550 women members of the party, and sixty local woman's committees. This is the number of women represented in six per cent of the party locals. We have no information upon which we can base an estimate of the total membership of women in the party.

It is an encouraging and significant fact that despite the lack of any well directed effort to bring the women into the party, so many have entered it because of their earnest desire to be of service to the cause of Socialism. This deficiency in the organization of the Socialist Party no longer exists. The party organization has been provided with a central directing force, whose duty it is to enlist women into the movement. The coming year will test the value of this special provision.

PLAN OF ORGANIZATION.

From a circular letter sent to the locals, explaining the necessity for educating the women, I quote the following: "To accomplish this end, we must have a well organized body of women. We now have a Woman's National Committee composed of seven women, which has elected one of its members as its General Correspondent. We should have each state organized in similar manner with a Woman's State Committee which elects one of its members as its State Correspondent."

This plan is slowly making its way into our state organizations. Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, and Arkansas now have a Woman's State Correspondent. Oklahoma has elected a Woman's State Committee, and has called upon this committee to elect its State Correspondent. The state secretaries for the most part, realize the necessity of securing women in the party locals, and are thoroughly in sympathy with our plan to accomplish this end. It is not always an easy matter to find a woman who is prepared to serve in the capacity of a Woman's State Correspondent. However, we look to the remaining states to secure a Correspondent at the earliest possible moment.

Each party local is instructed to elect a Local Woman's Committee, and this committee is to elect its local correspondent. A list of one hundred and fifty-six such committees is now on hand. Doubtless many of these committees are no longer existent, but those remaining give us a good nucleus with which to start our work for the coming year.

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE CAMPAIGN.

No effort was made to secure information in regard to the work of the women in the recent campaign. However, word drifted in to us, and I shall cite three instances showing the different ways in which women were of assistance.

1—Women throughout the country were active in the distribution of campaign literature, and of leaflets appealing especially to women. No proper estimate can be made of the extent of this work, although we know of the distribution of 45,700 leaflets by the women of but two or three committees.

2—Comrade E. W. Latchem of Coffeyville, Kansas, has written to inform us that the Woman's Committee of Coffeyville rendered most valuable service at the recent election in defeating a proposition to build an armory. They prepared, and hung upon every door knob, a protest card condemning the proposition, and urging that it be voted down. A large share of the credit for its defeat is given to this work by the women.

3—The Socialist Woman's Committee of Chicago got out a special edition of the Daily Socialist on November 19, for the benefit of the striking garment workers. This edition of 62,000 was sold upon the streets of Chicago, and \$3,764.61 was raised. Although the Woman's Committee had sole charge of the work, the hearty co-operation of the comrades, of the striking workers and men, of the Woman's Trade Union League, and of the Socialist Woman's League.

Chicago Socialists declared this one of the greatest moves ever made in Chicago to bring our cause to the favorable attention of the working class, and to secure the friendship of organizations which have the barest idea of

the work done by the women in the movement. As the Italian women in one Branch raised \$100.00 for the Strikers' Fund, just so little bands of women all over the country are contributing their quota to the work accomplished by the entire Socialist movement. If so much has been done without concentrated effort, with such effort the coming year should see vastly increased results.

PLANS FOR FUTURE WORK.

The Woman's National Committee has been seriously at work devising the most simple, direct plans for accomplishing the greatest possible results from its work in the year 1911. The plans are prepared along two lines, the distribution of literature, and the giving of monthly programs. Each line will be discussed briefly.

1—The Distribution of Literature. As our party literature to a large extent is written in a style that does not at first appeal to the average woman, the Woman's National Committee has prepared the following leaflets: Woman, Comrade and Equal, A Word to Working Women, Reply to Anti-Suffragists, Why You Should Be a Socialist, The Crimes of Capitalism, Underfed School Children, Work Among Women, The Worker and the Machine, Boytown Railroad, Cheap Motherhood in America, and an Appeal to Working Women. It is now preparing the following: Woman as a Housewife, The Enfranchisement of Women, Woman Upon the Farm, Industrial Education Among Women, Women as Domestic Servants, Woman as a Teacher, Propaganda and Organization among Foreign Women.

Through these leaflets we are reaching the women in every walk of life. Regular distributing days have been selected, though as far as possible it is desirable that these days coincide with the distributing days of the local. In January, we shall distribute a leaflet appealing especially to the working girls in the factory, store, etc. In February, a Suffrage leaflet shall be distributed. This is the month for the special Woman's Day demonstration, and we hope that the National Executive Committee will again issue the call for its observance. In March we shall distribute a leaflet to teachers, and so on through the months of the year.

We wish to recommend that the locals supply themselves with these leaflets for free distribution at all meetings. Also that all National Organizers be requested to carry these leaflets for free distribution, the Woman's National Committee furnishing them free of charge. We further recommend that the National Organizers be requested to carry cards for our official organ, the Progressive Woman, and that every effort be made to increase its circulation.

2—Monthly Programs. The second line of work is to be in the nature of monthly programs, prepared by the Woman's National Committee. These programs will consist primarily of lessons upon subjects already selected by the committee. That these lessons may be possessed of continuity of thought and insured of sympathetic, systematic treatment, their preparation has been placed in the hands of one person. Comrade Anna A. Maley has consented to do this. Songs and recitations will be grouped about the lessons as a center, so that a first class evening's entertainment will be possible. This program shall be printed each month in the Progressive Woman.

To assist us in developing each subject from many standpoints, the General Correspondent will ask some of our foremost Socialist writers to furnish us with short articles upon them and shall see that they are published in all of the leading Socialist papers.

Through these programs we hope to educate men, women, and children to an understanding of the fundamental principles of Socialism. We hope to develop capable women workers into organizers and lecturers. The programs being published in the Progressive Woman, we hope thereby to increase the circulation, the sub cards being sold at each meeting.

A third line of work should be accomplished through the efforts of the National Organizers.

1—The General Correspondent will see that each National Organizer is supplied with a full explanation of the plan for organizing women into the party. In as much as this is a vital part of the party organization, he should familiarize himself with this plan and be prepared at any time to put it into operation.

2—The General Correspondent should send circular letters in advance of each National Organizer, explaining these same plans to the local comrades, and urging their adoption.

3—The General Correspondent should assist the local comrades in their effort to get the women out to the meeting by furnishing them with newspaper copy—a short write-up of the nature of the lecture and of its vital interest to women.

within certain Atlantic Coast states in which the congested industrial centers are located. Another organizer should be sent to the Southwest agricultural section, and so forth.

In this way our organizers become acquainted with local conditions and can deal with them more intelligently. The local comrades become acquainted with our organizers, and can look to them for careful, responsible treatment.

The above plans will apply to all sections of the United States. Through the regular, systematic distribution of literature, and the increased circulation of our papers, especially the Progressive Woman, through the public entertainments arranged about a study lesson as a monthly program, and through the intelligent co-operation of all of our National Organizers, we believe that the results of our next year's work will be most gratifying.

Certain locals are calling for special work for children. To supply this demand, the committee requested Comrade Bertha Maily of New York, and Comrade Livingston of Chicago to prepare something for this line of work. Comrade Maily sent in her report a few days ago, though it has not yet been acted upon by the Woman's National Committee. It is sufficient to state that this line of work is being developed.

We ask for definite instructions upon the following question. A motion was passed by our committee, authorizing the General Correspondent to communicate with certain noted Socialist women in regard to securing dates for lecture tours, terms, etc., the General Correspondent to have full charge of the routing of such speakers.

After talking this matter over with Comrade Barnes, it was decided to bring the question before the National Executive Committee and ask your decision upon this question. "Since this plan would install in the National Office two bureaus for the routing of speakers, would it meet with your approval?"

MOTION.—That all the routing of speakers from the National Office be under the direction of the National Secretary, and that the general correspondent for the Women's National Committee shall co-operate in routing as many women in the field as are justified by the circumstances. Adopted.

MOTION.—That the National Executive Committee request the editor of "The Progressive Woman" to prepare a special propaganda edition for Women's Day, and that the locals of the party be requested to circulate it. Adopted.

MOTION.—That the report of Comrade Lowe be accepted. Adopted.

MOTION.—That the wages of Comrade Lowe be increased to \$18.00 a week. Adopted.

MOTION.—That Comrade S. M. Reynolds, author of the resolution on agitation in the army and navy, be requested to prepare a leaflet and submit it to the committee. Adopted.

MOTION.—That all other questions up for consideration be deferred until the next meeting. Adopted.

Adjourned at 2 p. m. to meet at 10 a. m. Saturday, February 4, 1911.

Attest: MABEL H. HUDSON, Secretary

National Notes

(Continued from Page One.)

Comrade Sumner W. Rose of Biloxi, Miss., was elected alderman of the First ward in the municipal election held the 13th inst., beating his Democratic competitor by a vote of 60 to 56.

Comrade Geo. W. Andrews was elected alderman of the city of Rockville, Conn., in the municipal election held December 5.

Comrade Wm. H. Cook was elected mayor of the city of Edmonds, Wash., in the municipal election held December 5, and on the same date the Socialists of North Yakima polled an enormously increased vote and came very close to electing the full ticket.

Local Terre Haute (Ind.) desires a Socialist printer with experience in a job office to manage a Socialist weekly paper. One thousand subscribers are guaranteed to begin with and plenty of job work. Expect to issue paper first week in January. Applicants should give references regarding party membership and their work in the printing business. Address James Oneal, 831 N. Third street, Terre Haute, Ind.

"Proletarec," the weekly organ of the Slovenian Socialists in America, will, on January 3, 1911, celebrate its fifth anniversary with a big special edition entirely devoted to the propaganda among Slovenian workers. It will contain the best stuff needed to make new Socialists. Bundle orders from English locals or comrades at the places where they see no activity among Slovenian fellow workers will be heartily received. Special bundle rates are: Ten copies, 40 cents; 25 copies, 75 cents; 50 copies, \$1.50; 100 copies, \$2.50. Address "Proletarec," 2146 Blue Island avenue, Chicago, Ill.

The garment workers of Chicago, 40,000 in number, have been on strike since October 6. The strike started against the firm of Hart, Schaffner & Marx, but shortly spread until it embraced the whole clothing trade.

Organized labor in Chicago is doing everything possible to alleviate the suffering, but the demands are greater than they can meet alone. Among the strikers are hundreds of women with children, and these are in greatest need.

The National Executive Committee

of the Socialist Party voted \$50.00 to the strike committee as an earnest of its sympathy and an endorsement of such contributions for the immediate relief of widespread distress. Send all contributions to the Chicago Daily Socialist, 180 Washington street, Chicago, Ill.

"THE PROGRESSIVE WOMAN."

By concurrent action and request of the National Executive Committee and the Women's National Committee, a special propaganda edition of "The Progressive Woman" will be prepared for Women's Day, February 26. The locals of the party are requested to take advantage of this splendid opportunity to interest the women comrades and workers.

Special bundle prices for this edition are: Thirty-five copies for 50 cents, 75 copies for \$1.00; in lots of 100 or more, 1 cent each. Orders should be filed as early as possible. Address: The Progressive Woman, "Special Edition," Girard, Kan.

The following locals have endorsed the call for a national party referendum submitted by Local Hallettsville, Texas, first published December 3: New Britain, Conn. (Polish Branch No. 46), Fort Worth, Texas (No. 37), Temple School House, Texas.

By a recent referendum in Louisiana, Comrade Hazel Putnam, Wilburton, was re-elected State Secretary, and Comrade J. W. Bassett, Lafayette, was elected a member of the National Committee.

"Political Action," a weekly Socialist paper published at 344 Sixth street, Milwaukee, Wis., has produced a unique calendar for the year 1911. It contains a picturesque road leading from the City Hall to the Court House, to the state capitol and to the capitol at Washington. Also excellent photographs of 65 comrades holding responsible public offices, either state or local. The price is 25 cents, or \$2.00 a dozen.

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARTY REFERENDUM.

Hallettsville, Texas, Nov. 20, 1910.

Dear Comrades—Local Hallettsville No. 93 hereby submits a motion for referendum, amending the National Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 3. All national party officers shall be elected annually and shall not hold the same office longer than two terms.

COMMENT.

The proposed amendment is eminently democratic. Failure to limit the terms of important offices tends to autocracy. For one thing, it tempts men to build "machines" in order to perpetuate themselves in office.

The mere fact that a person has held office too long is a fruitful cause for criticism and dissensions, even though he be guilty of no offense. The worst party rows, local, state and national, can be traced to lack of official rotation. Even under our capitalistic government the wisdom of limiting the terms of governors and presidents is recognized. The best officers are liable to become fossilized, self-serving and time-serving where there is the promise of a lifetime job ahead.

The idea that certain men are indispensable and should therefore be kept in office indefinitely smacks of royalism and not of Socialism. In a live, growing democratic movement like ours there is no lack of comrades fully able to fill national positions. There may have been a time when men of ability and experience were scarce, but that time—if ever there was such a time—is past.

The plea is likely to be made that annual elections and a "new deal" every two years will increase the danger of landing incompetents in office. The answer is that it will entirely remove the worse danger of KEEPING incompetents in office.

New men in charge of national party affairs every two years will result in new ideas and renewed energy in the work of agitation and organization at both top and bottom. It means a constant honorable retirement to the ranks of comrades that have been committeemen or secretaries long enough to obtain a wider view of party problems, but not long enough to become possessed of the mischievous notion that they cannot be replaced.

In a large measure it would put a stop to attacks on national officers—attacks that often hurt the movement more than the persons concerned, though this is not saying that such attacks are not sometimes justifiable. With this amendment in force a party officer would usually have stepped down and out before the opposition to him had crystallized, or else before any possible mischief within himself had the time or chance to get in motion. In nearly every case where state or national officers have been under fire they had been in office longer than two years.

The point will be made that party officials do the best work after serving several years. That may be true in some cases, but in many cases they do their WORST after the second term. Besides, few persons will be so much as nominated for national positions who have not considerable ability and experience to begin with.

A final point: With the growth of autonomous state organizations the time is near when national officers will not be so important as they have been. However, as their actual importance diminishes, the tendency is for such officials to exceed their constitutional powers in order to preserve the importance that was once theirs. We do not charge that this is now

the case, but the danger is there nevertheless. That the proposed amendment will check this dangerous tendency is apparent.

The foregoing is offered solely with the good of the party in view. We are taking no sides in any controversy; our purpose is to strike at the cause of controversies, and at least reduce their power to harm the cause.

Let us practice democracy as well as preach it. No amount of argument, honest or sophistic, will do away with the fact that the proposed amendment is purely democratic. The party constitution of Texas has a similar provision, by the way, and it gives general satisfaction.

Fraternally,
(Signed) A. C. MEITZEN,
Secretary.

National Committee Action

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, Chicago, Ill., Dec. 16, 1910.

To the National Committee: Comrades—At the recent session of the National Executive Committee certain action was taken resulting in an address directed to your committee.

The National Constitution, Section 4 of Article VI, provides: "Any act of the National Executive Committee, unless affected by motion by any member of the National Committee within fifteen days after notice of such act has been mailed by the National Office to the members of the National Committee, shall be in force."

I transmit herewith the text of the subject matter above referred to:

(See other column, National Executive Committee minutes, for motion and statement.)

A printed copy of the minutes of the recent session will be mailed to you tomorrow.

If the above proposal by the National Executive Committee meets with your approval, you are hereby requested to place in nomination five members. The date for the closing of nominations and acceptances and declinations will be announced later.

Fraternally submitted,
J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

PROPOSED NATIONAL PARTY REFERENDUM.

Orange, N. J.

Call for the repeal of Article VI, Section 1, of the National Constitution, and the adoption of the following in place thereof:

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 1.

A. The National Executive Committee shall be elected by the National Committee, any member of the party being eligible for said committee, provided that he or she shall have been a member of the party for three consecutive years and shall not be receiving wages from the funds of the party, except in performance of duties in the purely executive work of the party.

B. The members of the National Executive Committee shall hold office for the term of two years from the date of their election unless recalled by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee.

C. The National Executive Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members to be elected during the month of January in years with uneven numbers, and the seven candidates receiving the highest vote shall be elected.

D. Any member of the National Committee who shall be recalled by referendum of the state which he or she represents shall be ineligible to membership on the National Executive Committee for the term of one year, and the vacancy thus created, or any vacancy occurring in the National Executive Committee, shall be filled by the National Committee for the term of two years.

COMMENTS.

The reasons which impel us to offer the above amendments to the National Constitution are:

First. Our present method of electing a National Executive Committee is cumbersome and does not secure the most efficient executive ability, as it is impossible for the members to judge of the practical qualifications of the many candidates proposed for the proper conduct of the important business affairs of our rapidly growing party.

As the National Executive Committee has no power to outline policies, the principles of the referendum are not applicable to their selection, which could much better be left to the judgment of the members of the National Committee, composed as it is of those who are elected by constituencies familiar with their business ability and capacity.

Second. As at present constituted and chosen the National Executive Committee is open to the obvious criticism that it tends to become an autocratic body, not responsive to the will of the party, the means of checking any neglect of duty being too cumbersome to readily apply.

That this criticism is sure to be injurious to the cause of Socialism has been demonstrated in the past campaign, when vicious attacks, fostered probably by the capitalist party, have been made upon the committee, which could have been satisfactorily met with if they had been responsible to the National Committee.

Third. There is nothing in the experience of the state organizations to show that the business interests of the party are better served by the present method of choosing the National Executive Committee than by that which has been found to work well in the different states.

(Signed) HARRY EGERTON,
Secretary.