

DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE OF THE WORKERS

# THE WESTERN COMRADE

THROUGH POLITICAL ACTION AND COOPERATION

May 1917

Price 10c

ASTOR, LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATION

*Acceded by  
Colony Co-operators*

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## Three Years of Achievement

By Frank E. Wolfe

Editorials on the St. Louis Convention  
by Job Harriman, and the Personal  
Account of it by Cameron H. King.

*PLP*

:: Next Month: "Celebrating May Day at Llano" ::

*Western SFA*

# The Gateway To Freedom Through Co-operative Action

**T**HE LLANO DEL RIO CO-OPERATIVE COLONY is located in the beautiful Antelope Valley, in the northeastern part of Los Angeles County, Southern California. This plain lies between the San Gabriel spur of the Sierra Madres on the south and the Tehachapi range on the north. The Colony is on the north slope of the San Gabriel range. It is almost midway between Palmdale, on the Southern Pacific, and Victorville, on the Santa Fe railroad.

The Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony is made up of persons who believe in the application of the principles of co-operation to the widest possible extent. Virtually all of the residents are Socialists. It is a practical and convincing answer to those who have scoffed at Socialist principles, who have said that "it won't work," who have urged many fallacious arguments. In the three years since it was established, the Colony has demonstrated thoroughly the soundness of its plan of operation and its theory. Today it is stronger than ever before in its history.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Llano del Rio Colony is the greatest Community enterprise ever attempted. It was founded by Job Harriman, May 1st, 1914, and is solving the problem of unemployment and business failure. It offers a way to provide for the future welfare of the workers and their families.

An abundance of clear, sparkling water coming from mountain springs is sufficient to irrigate thousands of fertile acres. The climate is mild and delightful, the soil is fertile, and markets are not far distant.

The Llano del Rio Colony is a horticultural, agricultural, and stock-raising enterprise, with such manufacturing as will supply the needs of the colonists, with perhaps something to sell when the Colony has grown.

It is a perfect example of Co-operation in Action. No community organized as it is, was ever established before.

The purpose is to solve the problem of unemployment by providing steady employment for the workers; to assure safety and comfort for the future and for old age; to guarantee education for the children in the best schools; and to provide a social life amid surroundings better than can be found in the competitive world.

It has more than 800 residents, making it the largest town in the Antelope Valley. More than 200 children attend the schools. Part of the children get meals at the school; some live at the Industrial school all the time. The Montessori school is in operation, taking the children from 2½ to 6 years of age. A new school building is soon to be built on the new townsite. The County school and the Colony Industrial schools are both in operation.

The Colony owns a fine herd of 125 Jersey and Holstein cattle, 100 head of young stock are on the range, being heifers and calves up to 2 years of age. Over 100 head of horses and mules, including colts, are owned by the Colony. These, with the tractors and caterpillar engine, four trucks, and numerous autos, do the hauling and the work on the land.

A recent purchase of Duroc-Jersey sows gives the Colony twenty-two registered high-class breeding sows and a splendid boar, the nucleus of a great development along this line. Many new pens have been built. Registration will be kept up and the raising of fine hogs made one of the leading industries. There are also some fine Berkshires, and a large number of grade sows.

Much nursery stock has been planted, a vineyard of 40 acres put out, and many fruit trees set this spring. The Colony has more than 400 acres of orchards.

Community gardening is successful, and an increased acreage will be put in each year.

The ideal is to farm on an extensive scale, using all manner of efficient labor saving machinery and methods, with expert and experienced men in charge of the different departments.

Llano possesses more than 668 stands of bees. They are cared for by expert bee men of long experience. This department expects to have several thousand stands in a few years.

The Colony has secured timber from the San Gabriel Reserve,

and has a well equipped sawmill. Lumber worth \$35 to \$40 a thousand costs the Colony only a few dollars a thousand.

Social life is delightful, baseball and football teams, dances, picnics, swimming, hunting, camping, all being popular. A band, several orchestras, a dramatic club, and other organizations assist in making the social occasions enjoyable.

Alfalfa does extraordinarily well at Llano. Much has been planted and the acreage will be increased as rapidly as possible. Six good cuttings a season can be depended on. Ditches lined with cobblestone set in Llano lime, making them permanent, conserve water and insure economy. They will be built as fast as possible.

A square mile has been set aside for the new city. With the sawmill running, the lime kiln producing a very superior lime, and with sand and rock abundant and adobe brick easily manufactured, the time is near when permanent buildings will be erected on the new site. It will be a city different in design from any other in the world, with houses of a distinctively different architecture. Houses will be comfortable, sanitary, handsome, home-like, modern, and harmonious with their surroundings, and will insure greater privacy than any other houses ever constructed. They are unique and designed especially for Llano.

## LLANO INDUSTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

Among the industries of Llano, to which new ones are constantly being added, are: Printshop, shoe shop, laundry, cannery, cleaning and dyeing, warehouse, machine shop, blacksmith shop, rug works, planing mill, paint shop, lime kiln, saw mill, dairy, cabinet shop, nursery, alfalfa, orchards, poultry yards, rabbitry, gardens, hog raising, two stages, lumbering, magazine, newspaper, doctors' offices, woodyard, vinegar works, bakery, fish hatchery, barber shop, dairy goats, baths, swimming pool, studios, two hotels, drafting room, post office, commissary, camping ground, Industrial school, grammar school, Montessori school, commercial classes, library, women's exchange, two weekly dances, brass band, mandolin club, two orchestras, quartets, socialist local, jeweler.

## COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

**T**HE LLANO DEL RIO COMMUNITY has a remarkable form of management that is the result of evolution. The management of the affairs of the Colony industries is in the hands of the department managers. In each department there are divisions. Over some of these divisions are foremen. All these are selected for their experience and fitness for the position. At the department meetings as many persons as can crowd in the room are always present. These meetings are held regularly and they are unique in that no motions are ever made, no resolutions adopted and no minutes are kept. The last action on any matter supercedes all former action and this stands until the plans are changed. The plan is working most admirably and smoothly. At these meetings the work is discussed and planned, reports are given, teams allotted, workers are shifted to the point where the needs are greatest, and machinery is put on designated work, transportation is arranged, wants are made known and filled as nearly as possible. The board of directors, members of which are elected by the stockholders, meets once a week, and has charge of the financial and business management of the enterprise. These directors are on the same basis as all their comrades in the colony. At the general assembly all persons over eighteen years of age, residing in the colony, have a voice and vote.

## NO CONSTITUTION OR BY-LAWS

**M**ANY persons who want to know how the affairs of the Llano del Rio Community are conducted think, in order to get this information, they must secure a copy of a constitution and by-laws. There is no constitution. The Llano Community contents itself with a "declaration of principles" which is printed below. The management of the Colony rests with the board of managers, a member of which is the superintendent and his two assistants. These managers are selected for their fitness and ability. The business and financial affairs of the enter-

prise are conducted by the board of directors who are elected by the stockholders. The corporation by-laws are the stereotyped corporation by-laws of almost every state. The only innovation is in the restricting of anyone from voting more than 2000 shares of stock, regardless of how many shares are held. As this is to be the ultimate holding of every member, this is considered a strong protective clause. The incorporation charter is also the usual type and gives the corporation the right to transact almost all manner of business. The Nevada corporation laws are liberal, safe, and well construed. There is no disposition on the part of state officials to interfere.

### DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

**I**N conducting the affairs of the Llano del Rio Community it has been found that the fewer inflexible rules and regulations the greater the harmony. Instead of an elaborate constitution and a set of laws the colonists have a Declaration of Principles and they live up to the spirit of them. The declaration follows:

Things which are used productively must be owned collectively. The rights of the Community shall be paramount over those of any individual.

Liberty of action is only permissible when it does not restrict the liberty of another.

Law is a restriction of liberty and is only just when operating for the benefit of the Community at large.

Values created by the Community shall be vested in the Community alone.

The individual is not justly entitled to more land than is sufficient to satisfy a reasonable desire for peace and rest. Productive land held for profit shall not be held by private ownership.

Talent and intelligence are gifts which should rightly be used in the service of others. The development of these by education is the gift of the Community to the individual, and the exercise of greater ability entitles none to the false rewards of greater possessions, but only to the joy of greater service to others.

Only by identifying his interests and pleasures with those of others can man find real happiness.

The duty of the individual to the Community is to develop ability to the greatest degree possible by availing himself of all educational facilities and to devote the whole extent of that ability to the service of all.

The duty of the Community to the individual is to administer justice, to eliminate greed and selfishness, to educate all and to aid any in time of age or misfortune.

### LLANO OFFERS YOU ESCAPE FROM—

**T**HE electric light bill, the water bill, the doctor's bill, the drug bill, the telephone bill, the gas bill, the coal bill, the dentist's bill, the school book supplies bill, the sewer assessment bill, and car fare, the annoyance of the back door peddler and beggar (Henry Dubbs who think the trouble is individual hard luck), the hundred and one greater and smaller burdens on the householder, and the lean weeks caused by unemployment and the consequent fear of the future. There is no landlord and no rent is charged.

While they are charged with living expenses, for food and clothing, the colonists never fear meeting the grocery bill, the milk, the clothing bill, the laundry bill, the butcher's bill, and other inevitable and multitudinous bills that burden the struggling workers in the outside world. For the tax bill he has no fear. The colony officials attend to the details of all overhead. To colonists the amusements, sports, pastimes, dances, entertainments and all educational facilities are free.

### IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**W**HEN a member of the colony dies his shares and credits like any other property, go to his heirs. Only Caucasians are admitted. We have had applications from Negroes, Hindus, Mongolians and Malays. The rejection of these applications is not due to race prejudice but because it is not deemed expedient to mix races in these communities.

Llano is twenty miles from Palmdale, on the Southern Pacific Railroad. All household goods and other shipments should be consigned to the name of the owner, Palmdale, California, care Llano Colony. Goods will be looked after by the colony freightman until ordered moved to Llano. All shipments should be prepaid, otherwise they cannot be moved and storage or demurrage may be charged. Freight transportation between the colony and the station is by means of auto trucks. Passengers are carried in the colony's auto stages. In shipping household goods, it will

be well to ship only lighter goods. Cookstoves, refrigerators and heavy articles should not be shipped from points where freight rates are high.

Individuals may own their own automobiles and many colonists do own them. All livestock, poultry, etc., are kept in the departments devoted to those industries. The aim is to keep the residence portion of the colony clean and sanitary.

### SOUND FINANCING NECESSARY

**P**ERSONS cannot be admitted to residence at the colony upon the payment of \$10.00 or any other sum less than the initial payment fee. Hundreds write and suggest they be allowed to pay a small amount, or in some cases, nothing at all, then enter the colony and work out the remainder of their shares. If the colony permitted this there would soon be a hundred thousand applications.

The money derived from these initial payments is used to pay for land, improvements, machinery, and to carry on the enterprise until it is on a paying basis. It takes considerable time to bring a large agricultural undertaking to a productive point. The colony must proceed along sound financial lines in order to continue its present success. This fact must be obvious to all. The management of the Llano del Rio Community has never been unmindful of the fact that there is a numberless army that cannot take advantage of this plan of co-operation. Many letters come in that breathe bitter and deep disappointment. No one could regret this more than we do. It is our hope that the day will come when successful co-operative groups can say to their stripped, robbed and exploited brothers: "You who come with willing hands and understanding of comradeship and co-operation are welcome."

The installment plan of payment whereby one pays \$10.00 a month is proving satisfactory. On this plan the absent comrade is providing for the future while his brothers and sisters on the land are bearing the brunt of the pioneering. Families entering the colony begin to draw from the commissary. Some of the food, all the clothing, much of the material they draw, costs money. The initial membership fee goes to offset the support of families until the colony shall be on a paying basis.

### PLAN OF ORGANIZATION

Following is the plan which has proven successful: Each shareholder agrees to buy 2,000 shares of capital stock. Each pays in cash or installments, \$1,000. Each pays in labor, \$1,000. Each receives a daily wage of \$4.00, from which is deducted \$1.00 for the stock he is working out. From the remainder comes his living expenses. Whatever margin he may have above deduction for stock and living expenses is credited to his individual account, payable out of the surplus profits of the enterprise. If an installment member falls ill, is disabled or disemployed, the Colony gives him every opportunity to recover and resume payments. In no case will he be crowded. If he finds it impossible to resume payments, we will, upon request, issue stock for the full amount he has paid. This is transferable and may be sold to his best advantage. In this we will endeavor to assist wherever practicable. Corporations are not allowed by law to deal in their own stock.

### HOW TO JOIN

Write today for an application blank, fill it out and send together with a remittance of \$10 or more to secure your membership. You can then arrange to pay \$10 a month or more until you can so adjust your affairs that you can make final payment and join your comrades who have already borne the first brunt of pioneering.

The LLANO COLONIST is the Colony's weekly newspaper, telling in detail of what is being achieved, giving an intimate peep into the daily lives, the smaller incidents of this growing, thriving institution.

The WESTERN COMRADE is the Colony's illustrated monthly magazine, giving more complete articles concerning the Colony, showing photos illustrating its growth, etc. The editorials, and many other special features, are making it one of the leading Socialist magazines of today.

Address Communications regarding membership, general information, etc., to the

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT, LLANO DEL RIO COMPANY,  
LLANO, CALIFORNIA

For subscriptions to the Publications, changes of address, etc., please write

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LLANO, CALIFORNIA

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## What Readers Write Us

"I have now decided to come to Llano within two weeks and investigate your co-operative enterprise. Inclosed find \$1 for subscription to the Llano Colonist and Western Comrade." M. N. Hill, Ida.

\* \* \*

"Please find inclosed 75c. I hope to be a member and with you before the year is out, but must have something to read in the meantime." A. J. Daugherty, New Mexico.

\* \* \*

"In view of the eminently sane attitude toward war set forth in the COLONIST of April 28, I want a hundred copies for distribution. Level heads are found now and then everywhere, but you California Socialists seem to represent "organized sanity," especially the Llano group. At the present rate, you will soon formulate the policy of the Socialist Party of America. Grace B. Marians, Secretary Socialist Party, Las Animas County, Colorado.

\* \* \*

### HERE'S A WORKER

"When I started to get subs I first secured the names of a number of Socialists in my neighborhood. . . I visited them and left sample copies of the Colonist and Comrade, at the same time explaining enough about the Colony to try and interest them and to get them to read the papers. Then I would call in a week or two, asking them if they liked the paper, answering any questions they might ask as best I could and talk Llano until they became interested enough to give me a subscription. Of the 25 subscriptions I secured since I began, most all became so interested in reading the papers and the booklet "Llano del Rio Colony a Success," which I always took with me, that after talking a little while about the achievements at Llano very enthusiastically, I had little trouble in securing subscriptions. Of course I met a few who were not interested, but these

I tried to impress with the fact that the Colony papers should be extremely interesting to every Socialist, as they were different from any other Socialist papers in that they were telling of the actual working out of the Socialist principles. I then tried to get them to subscribe for the first ten weeks anyway. . . Every one whom I could get to read the papers thought they were fine and wished me all manner of success, even if they couldn't see their way clear to subscribe. I sent a few subs to friends who were not Socialists; since then one of them told me her husband says "I'm a Socialist." They think the papers fine." Mrs. Jacques, California.

(Space does not permit giving more of this extremely interesting letter; later it will be given in full in either the Comrade or Colonist. Mrs. Jacques is a systematic worker and is getting excellent results.)

\* \* \*

### BLIND, BUT A WORKER

"I will begin by telling you of my handicap. I am totally blind. I must depend on the help of my neighbors to learn what you have written me or what is printed in your papers. By searching the town I manage to find enough neighbors to read to me the principal part of the Comrade and the Colonist. I earn my living by peddling garden produce. From this you will see I am not an ideal agent to represent your literature. The Sub I herewith enclose I got by giving him a copy of the Comrade and the Colonist and telling him I thought them the most rational Socialist reading matter I have found. He, being a Socialist, thought so too, and the next time I met him he only asked me if I had paper to take his name and address. I fished out a sub-card, and here it is." C. D. Kaufman, North Dakota.

(Comrade Kaufman has sent us in a number of subscriptions; he operates the typewriter himself and sets a splendid example of what can be accomplished by grit and determination.)

# The Western Comrade

Devoted to the Cause of the Workers

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JOB HARRIMAN . . . . . Managing Editor.  7 FRANK E. WOLFE . . . . . Editor.

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VOL. V.

LLANO, CALIFORNIA, MAY, 1917.

No. 1

## Editorials By Job Harriman

**T**HE Emergency Socialist Party Convention, recently held at St. Louis, has sent forth a proclamation which, in our opinion, is exceedingly unwise and extremely dangerous. The causes of the war are stated correctly and with great force. The policy to be pursued by the party during the war are stated with equal force, but are devoid of wisdom and are pregnant with unnecessary danger and dire consequences to our movement.

If the policy outlined by the convention is adopted by the party, it will lay the foundation for an attack upon our organization which will create consternation in our ranks throughout the land.

This document will support a charge of conspiracy to violate the federal statutes. The prison doors will open and gulp in our members by the thousands.

No good can come to the movement by such a course.

When we recommend to the workers, and pledge ourselves to "continuous, active and public opposition to the war through demonstrations, mass petitions and all other means within our power," and "TO THE SUPPORT OF ALL MASS MOVEMENTS IN OPPOSITION TO CONSCRIPTION" if conscription laws are passed, we act in direct violation of the United States statute which provides that "if two or more persons in any state or territory conspire to . . . oppose by force the authority of the United States, or by force to prevent, hinder or delay the execution of any law of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, shall each be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than six years, or both." If the party approves this position by a majority vote, the members will either have to back up, lie down, or go to jail. Whichever course they take will land them in a fool's paradise.

The majority of the convention acted under great excite-

ment and provocation, but it is hoped that the party will act more wisely.

A political party that cannot raise sufficient funds to finance its convention without borrowing money is hardly in a position to declare war on the government of the United States. That is precisely what the majority of the convention have proposed that the party do.

We opposed this country entering the war with all our power, but were powerless to prevent it. Now that we are in the war, this country will follow the same course that all belligerent nations have traveled. Efficiency will force municipal, state and national ownership and management of industries. War will empty the nation's commissary. Starvation and devastation will curse every city and hamlet. And we who know best how to direct the movement for the nationalization of industry to the end that suffering may be alleviated and industries may be so organized that mutuality of interest in industrial and commercial affairs may be substituted for the present competitive system, are advised to put ourselves in such a position that our services will be spurned, and that the people, who do not understand us, will turn against us and rend us. The working class will not even understand our course.

This is not a labor war. Strikes may come and go, but the war will go on to the finish. We are all citizens of this country and the rules of war will be enforced. Wisdom, sagacity and good judgment tell us to take advantage of the opportunity to forward our movement as far as possible by nationalizing our industries while the government and the people are being forced by their economic needs in that direction.

It is for these reasons that we urge the party membership to vote for the minority report submitted by the dissenting fifty which gives their declaration of policy on the war.

## MINORITY REPORT BY THE DISSENTING FIFTY

Fifty delegates to the Emergency Convention, who could not agree with the war declaration adopted by the majority of the delegates, drew up the accompanying declaration and had their signatures affixed to it. This makes it possible to send this "Declaration on War Policy" to referendum along with the declaration adopted by the convention. The declaration of the convention will be published in leaflet form in the meantime and sent out for general distribution. The declaration on war policy of the dissenting fifty is as follows:

### DECLARATION ON WAR POLICY.

**C**ONGRESS has declared that a state of war exists between this nation and Germany. War between the two nations is a fact.

We opposed the entrance of this republic into the war, but we failed. The political and economic organizations of the working class were not strong enough to do more than protest.

Having failed to prevent the war by our agitation, we can only recognize it as a fact and try to force upon the government, through pressure of public opinion, a constructive program.

Our aim now must be to minimize the suffering and misery which the war will bring to our own people, to protect our rights and liberties against reactionary encroachments, and to promote an early peace upon a democratic basis, advantageous to the international working class.

Furthermore, we must seize the opportunity presented by war conditions to advance our program of democratic collectivism. Every one of the other belligerent nations have discovered through the war that capitalism is inherently inefficient. To secure a maximum of efficiency, whether for military or civil needs, it has been found necessary to abandon the essential principle of capitalist industry. The warring nations have had to give up the organization and operation of industry and the primary economic functions for profit, and to adopt the Socialist principle of production for use. Thus the war has demonstrated the superior efficiency of collective organization and operation of industry.

Guided by this experience, we would so reorganize our economic system as to secure for our permanent domestic needs the greatest possible results from the proper utilization of our national resources.

In furtherance of these aims, we propose the following

### WAR PROGRAM.

1. We propose that the Socialist Party shall establish communication with the Socialists within the enemy nations, to the end that peace may be secured upon democratic terms at the earliest possible moment.

2. We demand that there be no interference with freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of assemblage.

3. We demand that dealings between the government and the workers in all of the industries and services taken over and operated by the government shall be conducted through their organizations, with due regard for the right of organization of those not yet organized.

4. We demand that conscription, if it come at all, shall begin with wealth. All annual incomes in excess of \$5,000 should be taken by the government and used to pay the cur-

rent expenses of the war. If it is just to conscript a human being, it is just to conscript wealth. Money is not as sacred as human life.

5. We demand that there shall be no conscription of men until the American people shall have been given the right to vote upon it. Under the British Empire the people of Australia were permitted to decide by ballot whether they should be conscripted. We demand for the American people the same right.

6. We demand that the government seize and operate for the benefit of the whole people the great industries concerned with production, transportation, storage and marketing of the food and other necessities of the people.

7. We demand that the government seize all suitable vacant land, and have the same cultivated for the purpose of furnishing food supplies for the national use.

8. We demand that the government take over and operate all land and water transport facilities; all water powers and irrigation plants; mines, forests and oil fields; and all industrial monopolies; and that this be done at once, before the nation shall suffer calamity from the failure of their capitalist direction and management under war pressure.

## MAJORITY REPORT OF THE ST. LOUIS CONVENTION

**T**HE SOCIALIST Party of the United States in the present grave crisis, solemnly reaffirms its allegiance to the principle of internationalism and working class solidarity the world over, and proclaims its unalterable opposition to the war just declared by the government of the United States.

Modern wars as a rule have been caused by the commercial and financial rivalry and intrigues of the capitalist interests in the different countries. Whether they have been frankly waged as wars of aggression or have been hypocritically represented as wars of "defense," they have always been made by the classes and fought by the masses. Wars bring wealth and power to the ruling classes, and suffering, death, and demoralization to the workers.

They breed a sinister spirit of passion, unreason, race hatred and false patriotism. They obscure the struggles of the workers for life, liberty and social justice. They tend to sever the vital bonds of solidarity between them and their brothers in other countries, to destroy their organization and to curtail their civic and political rights and liberties.

### Pledge All To Labor

The Socialist Party of the United States is unalterably opposed to the system of exploitation and class rule which is upheld and strengthened by military power and sham national patriotism. We, therefore, call upon the workers of all countries to refuse support to their governments in their wars. The wars of the contending national groups of capitalists are not the concern of the workers. The only struggle which would justify the workers in taking up arms is the great struggle of the working class of the world to free itself from economic exploitation and political oppression, and we particularly warn the workers against the snare and delusion of so-called defensive warfare. As against the false doctrine of national patriotism we uphold the ideal of international working class solidarity. In support of capitalism, we will not willingly give a single life or a single dollar; in support of the struggle of the workers for freedom we pledge our all.

### Why This Orgy of Death?

The mad orgy of death and destruction which is now convulsing unfortunate Europe was caused by the conflict of capitalist interests in the European countries.

In each of these countries, the workers were oppressed and exploited. They produced enormous wealth, but the bulk of it was withheld from them by the owners of the industries. The workers were thus deprived of the means to repurchase the wealth, which they themselves had created.

The capitalist class of each country was forced to look for foreign markets to dispose of the accumulated "surplus" wealth. The huge profits made by the capitalists could no longer be profitably reinvested in their

own countries, hence, they were driven to look for foreign fields of investment. The geographical boundaries of each modern capitalist country thus became too narrow for the industrial and commercial operations of its capitalist class.

The efforts of the capitalists of all leading nations were therefore centered upon the domination of the world markets. Imperialism became the dominant note in the politics of Europe. The acquisition of colonial possessions and the extension of spheres of commercial and political influence became the object of diplomatic intrigues and the cause of constant clashes between nations.

The acute competition between the capitalist powers of the earth, their jealousies and distrusts of one another and the fear of the rising power of the working class forced each of them to arm to the teeth. This led to the mad rivalry of armament, which, years before the outbreak of the present war, had turned the leading countries of Europe into armed camps with standing armies of many millions, drilled and equipped for war in times of "peace."

Capitalism, imperialism and militarism had thus laid the foundation of an inevitable general conflict in Europe. The ghastly war in Europe was not caused by an accidental event, nor by the policy or institutions of any single nation. It was the logical outcome of the competitive capitalist system.

The six million men of all countries and races who have been ruthlessly slain in the first thirty months of this war, the millions of others who have been crippled and maimed, the vast treasures of wealth that have been destroyed, the untold misery and sufferings of Europe, have not been sacrifices exacted in a struggle for principles or ideals, but wanton offerings upon the altar of private profit.

The forces of capitalism which led to the war in Europe are even more hideously transparent in the war recently provoked by the ruling class of this country.

When Belgium was invaded, the government enjoined upon the people of this country the duty of remaining neutral, thus clearly demonstrating that the "dictates of humanity," and the fate of small nations and of democratic institutions were matters that did not concern it. But when our enormous war traffic was seriously threatened, our government calls upon us to rally to the "defense of democracy and civilization."

Our entrance into the European war was instigated by the predatory capitalists in the United States who boast of the enormous profit of seven billion dollars from the manufacture and sale of munitions and war supplies and from the exportation of American food stuffs and other necessities. They are also deeply interested in the continuance of war and the success of the allied arms through their huge loans to the governments of the allied powers and through other commercial ties. It is the same interests which strive for imperialistic domination of the Western Hemisphere.

The war of the United States against Germany cannot be justified even on the plea that it is a war in defense of American rights or American "honor." Ruthless as the unrestricted submarine war policy of the German government was and is, it is not an invasion of the rights of the American people as such, but only an interference with the opportunity of certain groups of American capitalists to coin cold profits, out of the blood and sufferings of our fellow men in the warring countries of Europe.

It is not a war against the military regime of the Central Powers. Militarism can never be abolished by militarism.

It is not a war to advance the cause of democracy in Europe. Democracy can never be imposed upon any country by a foreign power by force of arms.

It is cant and hypocrisy to say that the war is not directed against the German people, but against the Imperial Government of Germany. If we send an armed force to the battle fields of Europe, its cannon will mow down the masses of the German people and not the Imperial German Government.

Our entrance into the European conflict at this time will serve only to multiply the horrors of the war, to increase the toll of death and destruction and to prolong the fiendish slaughter. It will bring death, suffering and destitution to the people of the United States, and particularly to the working class. It will give the powers of reaction in this country the pretext for an attempt to throttle our rights and to crush our democratic institutions, and to fasten upon this country a permanent militarism.

The working class of the United States has no quarrel with the working class of Germany or of any other country. The people of the United States have no quarrel with the people of Germany or of any other country. The American people did not want and do not want this war. They have not been consulted about the war and have no part in declaring war. They have been plunged into this war by the trickery and treachery of the ruling class of the country through its representatives in the National Administration and National Congress, its demagogic

agitators, its subsidized press, and other servile instruments of public expression.

We brand the declaration of war by our government as a crime against the people of the United States and against the nations of the world.

In all modern history there has been no war more unjustifiable than the war in which we are about to engage.

No greater dishonor has ever been forced upon a people than that which the capitalist class is forcing upon this nation against its will.

### Our Course of Action

In harmony with these principles, the Socialist Party emphatically rejects the proposal that in time of war the working class should suspend their struggle for better conditions. On the contrary, the acute situation created by war calls for an even more vigorous prosecution of the class struggle, and we recommend to the workers and pledge ourselves to the following course of action:

1. Continuous, active, and public opposition to the war, through demonstrations, mass petitions, and all other means within our power.

2. Unyielding opposition to all proposed legislations for military or industrial conscription. Should such conscription be forced upon the people, we pledge ourselves to continuous efforts for the repeal of such laws and to the support of all mass movements in opposition to conscription. We pledge ourselves to fight with all our strength against any attempt to raise money for the payment of war expenses by taxing the necessities of life or issuing bonds, which will put the burden upon future generations. We demand that the capitalist class, which is responsible for the war, pay its cost. Let those who kindle the fire furnish the fuel.

3. Vigorous resistance to all reactionary measures, such as censorship of press and mails, restriction of the rights of free speech, assemblage, and organization, or compulsory arbitration and limitation of the right of strike.

4. Consistent propaganda against military training and militaristic teaching in the public schools.

5. Extension of the campaign of education among the workers to organize them into strong, class-conscious, and closely unified political and industrial organizations, to enable them by concerted and harmonious mass action to shorten this war and to establish lasting peace.

6. Wide-spread educational propaganda to enlighten the masses as to the true relation between capitalism and war, and to rouse and organize them for action, not only against present war evils, but for the prevention of future wars and for the destruction of the causes of war.

7. To protect the masses of the American people from the pressing danger of starvation which the war in Europe has brought upon them, and which the entry of the United States has already accentuated, we demand:

(a) The restriction of food exports so long as the present shortage continues, the fixing of maximum prices, and whatever measures may be necessary to prevent the food speculators from holding back the supplies now in their hands;

(b) The socialization and democratic management of the great industries concerned with the production, transportation, storage, and the marketing of food and other necessities of life;

(c) The socialization and democratic management of all land and other natural resources which is now held out of use for monopolistic or speculative profit.

These measures are presented as means of protecting the workers against the evil results of the present war. The danger of recurrence of war will exist as long as the capitalist system of industry remains in existence. The end of wars will come with the establishment of socialized industry and industrial democracy the world over. The Socialist Party calls upon all the workers to join it in a new struggle to reach this goal, and thus bring into the world a new society in which peace, fraternity, and human brotherhood will be the dominant ideals.

### Recommendations

1. We recommend that the convention instruct our elected representatives in Congress, in the State Legislatures, and in local bodies, to vote against all proposed appropriations or loans for military, naval, and other war purposes.

2. We recommend that this convention instruct the National Executive Committee to extend and improve the propaganda among women, because they as housewives and as mothers are now particularly ready to accept our message.

3. We recommend that the convention instruct the National Executive Committee to initiate an organized movement of Socialists, organized workers, and other anti-war forces for concerted action along the lines of this program.

# Three Years of Achievement

By Frank E. Wolfe

**T**HREE years of history of the Llano del Rio community, even if written as a sketch briefly touching upon the events that were of the most importance at the hour, would require more space than could be found inside this magazine. Achievements have been many and continuous. They can be touched upon but briefly here.

Starting in May, 1914, with a plan that was only defined in the one idea—that of forming an initial group for the purpose of solving the problem of co-operative production of the necessities of life—the founders worked their way along and as the scheme unfolded the plans took more concrete form. True, the man who first thought of the community had plans of large dimensions. He had not nor could he have definite ideas as to details and development. To him and to many others the vision of the future was strong and many were the dreams that were dreamed. At first it was all a dream—land, water, labor, a community, houses, live stock, machinery and all. Then slowly the dream became a reality.

The first land was secured largely on faith. A few improved ranches came in on options that were held with small payments and promises based on hope of the future. Then that hope became strengthened by the response of comrades and options became purchases and a stronger grip was secured on the deeded land. Then land began to come in through trades and other channels. More and more land was added until the red spots on the Colony map widened, and as deeds were secured these spots took on a deeper hue. With the purchase of the Tilghman ranch was removed the serious obstacle of a contender for our water rights. We secured a splendid piece of property, with producing alfalfa fields and more important, the tunnel and the undisputed right to the dam site. Then came other land which was obtained by trades and transfers, until the Colony was secure with land sufficient to support several thousand persons. Water development and conservation through improvement of ditches and cobbled laterals, clearing and improving the tunnel and by other means extending the supply, was a contemporaneous transformation from dream to reality. These two vitally essential features of the enterprise have always been recognized as fundamental.

How much land has the Colony?

This question is frequently asked. Many times it comes from persons who have no conception of an acre of land and could not visualize 100 acres or give any adequate idea of what an immense tract of land 1,000 acres is. To give them a foundation, let us say that a section of land comprises 640 acres. This is a square mile. Get a line on that, then figure that the Colony now has under control about 9,000 acres and that it can secure more as rapidly as we want it, or can put it under cultivation. Of this land there are about 3,000 acres of titled land under deeds. The remainder is under tax titles and contracts. All is safe from interference. Land for purposes of extension is available at a reasonable rate. We have under cultivation inside the Colony about 1,400 acres. Besides this, we have under lease for the year's crops a number of ranches. We have labor contracts whereby we exchange service for fruit and other crops so that our year's product will not be limited by what land we have under cultivation. We are clearing land as rapidly as practicable, but this work can go forward only as rapidly as we can divert teams and men from the necessary work of planting, cultivation and harvesting. There is always need for more

men and more teams and it requires much clever manipulation on the part of the assistant superintendent, the corral manager, the head farmer, and others, to keep the teams on the most needed work.

To the farmers the land is of the most paramount importance. The gardener has an argument which no one can meet. The cannery foreman can floor anyone who attempts to argue about the relative value of his department. "Say, don't you fellows want to eat next winter?" is an argument that makes the laundry foreman, the soapmaker, and even that important individual, the tanner, pause in any flight of oratory. The cannery man wins. So does the gardener, the berry man, the hog raiser, or anyone in the food production or conservation department. But it all goes back to the land as the source of life at Llano, as in every other part of the globe.

Llano will always have enough land. Negotiations are continually pending for more land and deals go through nearly every week on the basis of trades. Recently 1,300 acres came in in one week. This added three ranches to our cattle range and gave us a 100-inch well and a pump of that capacity.

We have every hope of securing two producing ranches that lie back in the foothills between the Colony lands and the mountains. These will also come in under trades and they will more than meet the Colony's growing demand for food and feed.

Equal in importance with the possession of land is the ownership and development of water.

It is unsafe for a layman to write about the conservation and development of water. For this reason the following facts and statements are taken from an article prepared by our engineer. They may be relied upon as being not only conservative but always inside figures and guarded statements.

Llano's water supply comes from four sources, namely, the surface flow of Big Rock Creek, storage, reservoir, and underground flows.

First: The natural surface flow of the Big Rock Creek, of which we are using a part at present. This water will easily irrigate 5,000 acres if properly handled. At the present time there are about 3,000 miners' inches of surface flow, later in the summer the flow decreases to about 500 inches.

Second: We have a reservoir and dam site. A dam 200 feet high will have a storage capacity of from 40,000 to 50,000 acre feet of storage water. Government reports show flood water enough from this watershed to be sufficient to fill this huge reservoir. However, the dam as planned at present will have a capacity of 5,600 acre feet. This amount of water is sufficient to irrigate at least 5,000 acres more of this land.

Third: The underground flow, of which we can only estimate at present. The flow from the old tunnel constructed some twenty-five years ago is 125 miners' inches. This flow has been increased forty miners' inches by cleaning out the tunnel to a distance of about 100 feet from where it enters the deep wash of Big Rock. This wash is composed of loose gravel indicating many hundreds of miners' inches of water; perhaps it may run into thousands of inches. We are still pushing the work ahead on the tunnel and expect to tap this wash forty feet below the surface of the creek bed as stated. One hundred and twenty miners' inches forces its way through gravel and mud a distance of probably one hundred feet and that alone tells us a vast quantity of water awaits us.

Those who contemplate joining us may rest assured as to the land and water problems. They await only development. The possibilities are almost unlimited. The conservation of water is reasonable, being under \$25.00 per acre.

To the North, thirteen miles beyond the Lovejoy Buttes, the Colony owns a ranch where our range stock headquarters are now located. This lower part of the valley is a pumping proposition. On this ranch we have a well that furnishes 100 miners' inches, pumped with a fifty horse power gasoline engine.

"It is safe to say that the sources of water we have, can and will be developed to irrigate 50,000 acres of land," says this engineer. "Come and see for yourself—and judge for yourself. The United States Government has set aside 60,000 acres in this irrigation district. That means they say 60,000 can be irrigated from these water sources. We say 50,000 to be well under the United States government estimate."

Looking back over three years of endeavor in this valley, one is struck by the horizontal rise in achievement. If the co-operators had restricted themselves to one little line of development, a much greater showing might have been made in that particular department. This was not possible. This was a matter of clearing land, plowing, leveling, fencing, planting, attending crops, and harvesting. But while this was going on there were the other departments, each of great importance, coming forward with demands for labor, teams, machinery and appropriations. Horticultural activities could not be curtailed. Live stock had to be given attention. Then the numerous industries demanded a share in the resources necessary to development and expansion. The whole vast enterprise must come along with as even a front as possible—the rise horizontal.

The first live stock acquisition included about a dozen hogs. They were of indifferent type, with no breed or character. Since that time hundreds of hogs have passed the department. During the past year over \$5,000 worth of pork has been distributed through the commissary and there are 200 hogs now in the department. This number will be reduced within a few days and then the increase will start upward toward the days of packing meat next fall. Great care will be taken in the meat producing and live stock department. No boarders will be permitted to winter. Each animal will pay its way—go to the range or go into smoked pork or corned beef.

Slowly it seems, but steadily, the herd of hogs has been changed in character from "scrubs" to pure bred stock. Blue ribbon Berkshires and Duroc-Jerseys are the sires of the rising generation of porkers. There are twenty-two registered brood sows of high pedigree among the Duroc-Jerseys and more are to be added at once. We have had exceptionally good fortune in having this department in the hands of a man of great ability and good business sense.

The Colony's dairy herd was started with 83 head brought from the Imperial Valley in January, 1915. Up to that time the few pioneers here had little milk and not much butter. The herd is gradually being merged over from Jerseys to Holsteins, but these two strains will long run equally strong.

There are about 200 cattle in the Colony's herd on the range. Here again good fortune attended the community in that it had a cattle man of experience to take charge. Not only is he a capital herder, but as a real, old-time, ideal cowboy he adds greatly to the picturesqueness of the scene. He is affable and a source of inspiration to the youth—a hero to the small boy of the Colony.

The range is excellent. The ranches with water in that part

of the valley to the north are coming into the possession of the Colony. There the bunch-grass, knee high and plentiful, furnishes all-the-year-round grazing for our stock. We want to run this herd up to several thousand head and that is a part of our plans. The dream here takes form as we go forward. We must have this herd because we shall need the meat and the hides.

The need of the hides will become apparent when we say we have a tannery and a shoe factory, a harness shop and a great need of leather for varied purposes.

The leather thus far tanned is of excellent quality. The shoe factory will turn out good shoes both for dress and for work purposes. Both these departments are in the hands of masters of their crafts.

Starting in three years ago without detailed plans, the process of evolution has carried us forward until we have sixty-six departments operating under managers and division managers.

These departments report to assistant superintendents who have charge of the two general branches of the enterprise—the agricultural and the mechanical.

Under the former comes all things that pertain to the general business of farming on a large scale. Under the latter the industrial side of the undertaking.

Without regard to the division, the following is a list of the subdivisions where workers report to the time keeper: Administration, agriculture, agricultural implements and tools, alfalfa, architect and survey, art studio, bakery, barber shop, bees, building, cabinet shop and planing mill, cannery, cleaning and pressing suits; clearing, fencing and grading; creamery, dairy, fish hatchery, general garden, general store (commissary), grain (corn, barley, rye and wheat), hay and grain, hogs, horses and teaming, horticulture, Llano hotel, Tilghman hotel, Mescal hotel, Lime kiln hotel, Logging camp hotel, Fish hatchery hotel, irrigation, irrigation construction and development, irrigation district work, jeweler, laundry, log road and logging, lime kiln, library, mechanical store, machine shop, medical, Mescal ranch, Montessori school, membership, overalls and shirts, poultry, printing, publishing, post office, rabbits, range herd, rug shop, saw mill, sanitation, shoe shop, Sierra Madre colony, social service, soap factory, stage line, tannery, Hart-Parr tractor, Best caterpillar tractor, large steam tractor, small steam tractor, transportation, tinshop, plumbing and stoves, wood department.

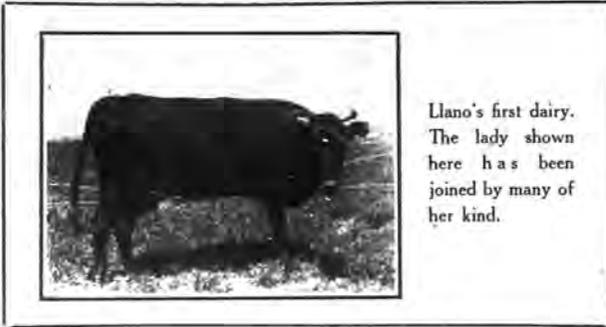
There is a growing tendency toward more and more independence in the management of departments. As men in charge of these departments demonstrate their ability they are given greater power and their advice is always carefully considered in business transactions in connection with their work.

The planting of gardens and crops this year has been planned, and in part carried out, with a view to producing especially for the needs of the colonists should there be a continued rise in the cost of living and a greater scarcity of food supply.

There are four acres in strawberries, which will be producing berries by May 5. Last year the Colony had all the sunberries it could use. In fact, considerable of this delicious fruit went to waste. This will not be allowed to occur again.

Thirty acres are being planted to beans. This is outside the "kitchen garden." Eight acres are also prepared for peanuts.

There are twenty acres planted to potatoes. The Baldwin fourteen acres in potatoes are in fine condition and the first crop will be taken in the early part of June, when a second crop will be planted. The seven acres on the Young place



Llano's first dairy. The lady shown here has been joined by many of her kind.

are making splendid progress. Plans are made to greatly extend potato planting.

Forty acres are planted to sugar cane, and this may be extended. A great variety of vegetables will be produced.

Steadily the Colony pushes forward in all directions. The rounding out of the third year of its existence shows remarkable progress and development. Extension of land holdings goes on from month to month and the policy of taking over land free and clear of debt is as closely followed as practicable.

The Colony acquires machinery in much the same manner by trades and issues of stock. This enables us to increase the assets without incurring obligation.

During the first weeks of May, according to predictions that are virtually promises, the lumber department will be bringing logs down from the timber land, and the sawmill will start cutting lumber for the Colony.

Plans of the building department contemplate the completion of the new dormitory, hospital, cannery, printshop, tannery, office extension, apiary department, and new cow camp. A new public kitchen and dining room will follow.

The dormitory will be 130 by 36 feet and will contain twenty-five rooms. It should be completed by the latter part of May.

The stone is on the spot where the hospital is to be erected. This is a pleasant location in the almond grove, where it is quiet and the surroundings are ideal.

There is great need for new housing for the printery. This important department is operated under great difficulties owing to crowded conditions where linotype, folder, cutter, presses, and other machinery are crowded into extremely cramped quarters. Highly skilled and efficient workers have to resort to many makeshifts to enable them to keep the publications moving.

The laundry is in a similar situation and the industry is scattered. This will be remedied by the erection of a separate building where all branches, including the soap making plant, will be housed.

The cannery will take possession of the entire building, of which it now occupies but one-fourth. In addition to this, storage room will be provided.

It is expected that by midsummer the woodworking department will have an abundance of material on hand and the Colony spared any further burden in the matter.

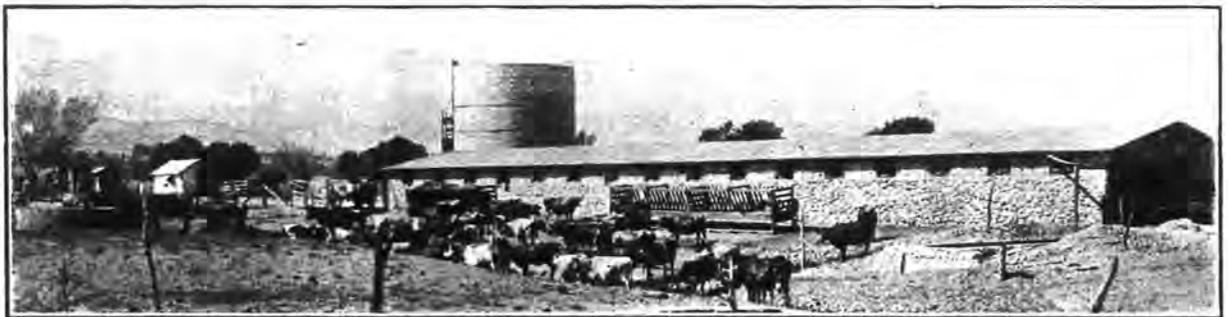
The Colony has in its own trout hatchery one of the most valuable branches of the entire enterprise. The manager of this department is building solidly. Six concrete tanks have just been completed for the young trout. This is the substantial permanent construction which will characterize the development of this interesting division. Two of the pools are completed, although pool No. 2 awaits lining. Several hundred of the breeding trout have been placed in smaller tanks pending improvement of pool No. 1.

This season's hatch of rainbow trout is several weeks out of the egg, and the little fellows are strong and vigorous. When they are large enough to take from the hatching trough they will be put into tanks constructed for that purpose.

Several thousand will go into each tank and there they will remain through their fingerling days and up to the day of their removal to the larger lakes. It is planned to build twelve or more lakes in terraces down the beautiful valley when this industry can be developed to a point of several hundred thousand trout.

These are the rainbow trout (salmon irridius) and are not only the most beautiful and gamey but the best pan fish native to Western waters. It is planned to put in a fall spawning of Eastern brook trout. This will depend on the completion of the new hatchery building. The material for this building is on the spot and only awaits the stone masons. Though much necessary and just as important construction is waiting all over the ranch it is confidently expected that the pools for the hatchery will be completed in time to allow for the fall activities at the hatchery.

This is but a portion of the history of Llano recited especially for this Anniversary Number. As much more could be written and then scarcely touch the subject. Llano's history is already a complex fabric, and it is known in its entirety to no man. But its development is now the thing of prime importance and the foregoing sketch should prove convincingly that Llano has progressed more rapidly and substantially than even the most optimistic had a right to hope or expect.



In addition to the Llano dairy herd, many more will be brought in from the ranges within a short time.

## Was Schmidt Guilty?

["Was Schmidt Guilty?" is the name the WESTERN COMRADE has given to the address made by Comrade Job Harriman before the jury at the conclusion of the trial of Matt Schmidt on the charge of dynamiting the Times Building. Schmidt has just been sent to the penitentiary after having been in the Los Angeles jail for about two years, to serve a life sentence. The COMRADE will run one instalment each month of this extraordinary document. It is the intention to eventually publish it in book form.]

**G**ENTLEMEN: You have been told by the assistant prosecuting attorney that he prosecuted this case because he was sincere in the belief that the defendant is guilty and because it was his duty as a citizen to the state, and his divine duty to God! We shall see later how sincere he is as a citizen and with what divine conscience he urges his cause.

As for myself, I want to meet you as man meets man in a common effort to solve a serious problem. We are only men and nothing more. We are confronted with a solemn obligation; let us face it in a plain, straightforward and humble manner. Let us make no profession of our divine duties or inspirations, and we shall come far nearer the truth than if we are blinded with imaginary duties and influences. Our minds must remain open and receptive to the last, and you must go into the jury room without previously making up your minds on the issues at the bar.

The real issue involved in this case is the struggle between the United States Steel Trust and the International Bridge and Structural Iron Workers. The defendant, Schmidt, is only an incident in the fight. The prosecution had as well face this fact without further equivocation. Their effort to conceal the struggle for dollars by the Steel Trust and the Erectors' Association, and the struggle for their lives by the union men, is futile and without avail. Nor yet is this prosecution conducted for the purpose of convicting certain men of a certain crime, but rather for the purpose of destroying the labor organizations, the only power that stands between the Erectors' Association and the gratification of their greed.

For many weeks you have been held here in this jury box and compelled to listen to the reading of hundreds of letters, scores of magazine articles, and untold numbers of signatures in hotel registers in various cities, all to the end that they might convince you of a nation-wide conspiracy to destroy property and that they might cast the odium of it upon the American labor movement. They have labored in vain for many weeks to make it appear that the lockout in Los Angeles during the year of 1910 was directly connected with the war between the Steel Trust and the International Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

Without an understanding of the struggle between these two powers you will be confused by the testimony and you cannot intelligently proceed to a verdict in this case.

For years prior to 1906 the Structural Iron Workers had been striving to better their condition. Ten hours a day was the sentence pronounced upon them. The dangers of this most dangerous occupation became even more perilous toward the end of the long hours, when the body and nerve weakened under the heavy burden and on the dizzy heights. One by one they lost their balance and plunged headlong into the grave below. The death roll became appalling. The guardian angel was never present. They fell from cathedrals and banks, from blocks and towers alike, whether they were building for God or for Mammon. The only voices they heard was

the demand for long hours, low wages, hard work, and this came from the iron jaws of the Steel Trust. Their homes were poorly furnished, their children indifferently educated, their wives were clothed in calico and cheapest cotton, they went to their work shivering and insufficiently clad. Why should they not struggle to better their condition? Are we not all in the same struggle? Are you not struggling, at your trades, on your ranches and in your business callings, to better your condition? And shall these men be forbidden the common heritage? Shall they sink, sink, sink, into a state unfit for a slave?

And tell me for what was the Steel Trust struggling? Was it for food and raiment with which to feed their loved ones at home? Far from it. Their tables were laden with silver, filled with milk and honey and sweetmeats; their homes were palaces adorned with rugs, and ebony and gold tapestry, while their families were robed in silks and satins and bedecked with diamonds, and the doors of the greatest colleges of the land were open to their children.

No! No! The owners of the Steel Trust were not struggling to earn comforts for their families, but they were struggling for larger profits, more power, with which to enforce low wages and long hours and to gorge their greed.

Again I ask, why should not these iron workers fight for food and raiment, fight for their wives, their little ones, and their homes?

No one knows or ever will know the suffering and privation these men endured during the long years of this terrible labor war. On the one hand stood the billion-dollar Steel Trust. On the other stood thousands of men bound together by their mutual interests, their necessities and their affections. The means of warfare was the lockout and the boycott employed by the trust. And the strike was employed by the men.

A number of large erection and construction companies dependent upon and working with the Steel Trust were organized and operating in all the large cities of the land. So long as these companies worked independently the efforts of the iron workers were crowned with some degree of success. The measure of success with which they met inspired in them a confidence in their power and a hope of better days and rallied them all into a solid phalanx, determined to reduce their working hours and to increase their wages. They were the attacking force. They must force their wages up or forever live like slaves. Every increase of wages increased their power. Every hour cut off increased their hope. And every increase of power and hope added numbers to their ranks to help them fight their winning battle.

As the years rolled by the bitter war went on, with working hours decreasing and wages increasing, until the year 1906. In the early part of that year the United States Steel Trust, the great American Octopus, stretched out its terrible arms and gathered together all the steel erection and construction companies in the United States and forced upon them a penalty of "no submission, no steel," to refuse to deal directly or indirectly with the International Bridge and Iron Workers' Union. You will remember that Mr. R. D. Jones from Utah, witness for the state, testified in effect that his company was forced to run an open shop—that the Steel Trust would not sell them steel unless that condition was strictly complied with.

By means of the resolution adopted in 1906 these companies were formed into an association. Among other things the

resolution provided that no member of the association should recognize or deal with any union; that all losses sustained by reason of such refusal on the part of the company would be borne by the association.

This policy, if carried out, meant the ruin of the Iron Workers' Union. What chance would a poor, helpless man have without the support of an organization when confronted with such a power? In such a case there can be no agreement. The man can only submit; he does not consent. The minds do not meet. There is not a single element of an agreement present in such a transaction. There is rebellion in his mind, ever present, when he submits and goes to work. Why does he not quit? Why does not the cry for bread of his hungry children cease ringing in his ear? Necessity knows no law. It drives him on into a dark and helpless future.

It may be that, during some time in your lives, some of you men have been members of unions. If so, you fully realize that the union is the only power that prevents wages from being reduced to the point upon which men can barely subsist—that those who do not belong to the union, as well as the union men, reap the benefit of the higher rate established by the efforts of the organizations.

Again I say that if the policy of the open shop were universally adopted the union, with all the advantages it has delivered to the worker, would pass away. Every applicant for work would receive the same answer: "We are paying two dollars to two twenty-five for a ten-hour work day; no extra for overtime. Plenty of takers! Want the job?" The helpless man would bow his neck to the yoke and go to work. Overtime was eagerly sought, not because these workers strove to lay up money, but because ten hours at two dollars or two twenty-five is not sufficient to provide the family with the necessities of life. Long hours and low pay were, therefore, the rule when the struggle of the iron workers began in the East, as well as in the city of Los Angeles, in the year of 1910 before the lockout occurred.

WOOLWINE—That is not according to the evidence.

HARRIMAN—Oh, yes, it is. Turn to Mr. Grow's evidence, Mr. McKenzie, and read it to him.

McKENZIE—(Reading from manuscript) "The wage for structural work here was 22½ cents an hour and no extra pay for overtime."

HARRIMAN—Are you satisfied, Mr. Woolwine?

WOOLWINE—Beg your pardon for interrupting.

HARRIMAN—Your pardon is granted and your memory resuscitated.

Ten hours' work for two dollars and twenty-five cents. Would you, though already exhausted, have worked overtime if the welfare of your family had been at stake? Knowing the dangers to life and limb at great heights, especially when the body and nerves are already strained with overwork, would you have added hours to cover the deficits at home? And do I hear you say no? Then what would you have done? Quit the job? Ah! listen! The cry of little children comes from your home. What would you do? You would do the only thing left to do—you would join with your fellows and strike for better wages and shorter hours.

The issue of wages and hours is the point at which the line of every great industrial battle is drawn. The hosts seeking profits are arrayed on the one side of the wages and hours line, and the hosts of breadwinners on the other. In this great industrial battle in the East, the Steel Trust, together with the Erectors' Association, was struggling to force the wages down and the hours up, while the union men were endeavoring to force the hours down and the wages up. This is the line of

battle and the prosecution may as well face the fact. Equivocation will not avail them. This prosecution is not conducted, as they would lead you to believe, for the purpose of convicting a few so-called conspirators. This prosecution is conducted for the purpose of undermining the labor movement of America.

Two dollars and a quarter a day and nothing extra for overtime, is the demand of the Steel Trust! What answer could the individual make to this demand? It is the demand of the powerful master to the slave. If he refuses to work the master lays on the lash of hunger and turns the wolves loose to howl at his door.

You men of the jury must admit that the labor unions are the only power that stands between the weak and helpless individual and the billion-dollar Steel Trust, together with the powerful Erectors' Association. Disband the labor organizations or conduct the open shop, which is the equivalent, and you open the way for greed to afflict this country with a terrible disaster—a disaster so far-reaching and so searching that it ferrets out and grips every man who lives by the sweat of his brow—a disaster that means poverty, and ignorance, and corruption, and despair.

Yet the Steel Trust commanded the steel erecting and constructing companies of the United States to pass and enforce with all their power a resolution—that is, to enter into and force a mutual agreement—that they, or any one of them, would not deal, directly or indirectly, with the labor union; that they would only hire men as they came; that, in so far as they were concerned, there should be no labor union; and that there should be no organized power to fight to better working conditions. Only the individual man, standing alone, shall have the privilege of selling himself at whatever price those who wish to buy shall place upon him. His poverty and degradation shall be measured by the greed of the powerful, and the luxuries of the powerful shall be limited only by their temptations.

That this is the ripe fruit of an open-shop system there can be no doubt.

That the destruction of the labor unions and the establishment of the open shop is the purpose of this prosecution, and not the prosecution of a few so-called conspirators, there can be no question. Time and time again it was testified upon this stand by members of the Erectors' Association that they would not deal with labor organizations; that they all ran an open shop; that they would not even negotiate nor confer with labor organizations; that they had not dealt with labor organizations since 1906; and that since the year 1906 they only hired and dealt with laborers individually.

Notwithstanding the long and bitter struggle previous to this strike, there was never any violence committed until after this soulless resolution was passed in 1906—no violence until the greedy corporations endeavored to deal the death blow to the International Bridge and Structural Iron Workers.

True, there was a little testimony concerning one or two instances, but that testimony was wholly unworthy of belief or consideration. It flowed from the perjured lips of felons like the poisonous fumes of hell.

There were four of these felons employed or in some way bribed or induced by the state to testify for the prosecution. There was Dugan of Indianapolis, Davis of Massachusetts, Clark of Cincinnati, and McManigal. These principal witnesses for the state were all guilty of capital crimes, each endeavoring to perjure this defendant's life away for his own liberty.

(To be continued next month)

# Triumph of Theory Over Practice

By Cameron H. King

**T**HE Emergency National Convention was held under extraordinary circumstances and worked under an especial tension. It is therefore partly to be excused for its failures. But at the same time it exhibited the faults of the Socialist Party organization behind it. Of oratorical talent there was plenty. Of theoretical discrimination there was a surfeit. Of political insight, of constructive capacity, there was a lamentable deficiency.

Since the beginning of the European war there has raged among Socialist Party theoreticians a terrible controversy as to the relative importance of the economic, political, diplomatic and dynastic causes of the war. These theorists, numbering in their ranks our most prominent comrades, came to the convention imbued with the idea that its most important business was to decide by majority vote which group was scientifically correct. So, immediately upon arriving in St. Louis, they dug trenches and began assailing each other with conversational gas attacks and oratorical curtain fire. As an inevitable result the delegates' attention was practically confined to the discussion of such questions as "Have the workers a country?" and "Shall we oppose all wars, offensive and defensive, now and forever, world without end, Amen?" Much learning and acuteness, also some ignorance and stupidity, were displayed in the debate on these burning theoretical questions. But it submerged almost completely the practical political situation, the emergency that still confronts us, which is, "Here is war! What are you going to do about it?"

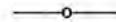
The delegates took the attitude of endeavoring to prove to the party membership that they were "Scientific Socialists," rather than the attitude of workmen trying to build a political organization for the protection and advancement of their class interests. "This is the right theory. This is scientific," was the burden of most speeches. Those who argued "This is politically expedient. This will gather the biggest working class political force," spoke an unknown tongue. So far as they were understood, they were misunderstood and damned for opportunistic heretics who would sacrifice principle for mere politics.

And yet the real problem was not the production of a scholarly essay on war, but the organization of the opposition to war and conscription, the detailing of a program of constructive work to alleviate the misery and suffering resulting from military operations and to organize the food and other supplies for the protection of the civil population. The weakness of the convention declaration lies not merely in its preliminary essay, which is good in the main, but in a program that is essentially negative. The failure of the convention was that it gave practically no time to considering the methods and program of action in this crisis, but it devoted three days to considering theories about how the crisis arose. Surely the heights of political incapacity are not far away from the convention plateau.

In dealing with the recommendation of the committee on constitution to liberalize the "penal code" of the party which now prohibits members choosing a liberal in preference to a reactionary where there is no Socialist candidate, the same domination of theory, pure and simple, was demonstrated. Practically every state that has had experience with non-partisan and second election laws finds that its members, in large numbers, refuse to be disfranchised when the Socialist candidates fail to get by the primary. In hundreds of instances

issues of local importance remain to be determined after the party candidate is eliminated. In some cases vital battles in the great class struggle put the Socialist candidate in the anomalous position of dividing the working class vote and throwing the election to the arch-representative of the capitalists. Facts were told to the theorists who dominated the convention, but they smothered those facts with the phrase "that all other parties and candidates are necessarily capitalist parties and candidates and there is nothing to choose between them." They voted to retain the penal code in all its rigor, despite the appeals made by such comrades as our National Secretary Adolf Germer, Jos. Cannon, Dan Hogan of Arkansas, Anna Maley, John C. Kennedy and George Goebel. But they don't really mean it. They were challenged to expel those who had violated their blue laws, but refused to take up the challenge. In truth, the facts dazed them and, while not ready to enforce their criminal statutes, they are hanging on to them until their vision clears again and they can decide what change really must be made.

This review of the convention may seem severe. But the situation is not hopeless. There was a tremendous devotion, a splendid enthusiasm and earnestness in the membership of the convention. Their real fault is in the position which they have permitted to grow up around them. They have been cut off from the daily contact with the work of the organized working class in a large measure. They have not had constantly to test theories in the crucible of practical action. If the movement can be brought down and safely rooted in the facts of economic and political life the talents of the comrades at St. Louis will go far toward creating an irresistible and a fundamentally revolutionary force in American life.



## Five and Fifty

If fifty men did all the work  
And gave the price to five,  
And let those five make all the rules—  
You'd say the fifty men were fools,  
Unfit to be alive.

And if you heard complaining cries  
From fifty brawny men,  
Blaming the five for graft and greed,  
Injustice, cruelty indeed—  
What would you call them then?

Not by their own superior force  
Do five on fifty live,  
But by election and assent,  
And privilege and government—  
Powers that the fifty give.

If fifty men are really fools,  
And five have all the brains,  
The five must rule as now we find;  
But if the fifty have the mind—  
Why don't they take the reins?

—The Forerunner.

# Radicals or Fetish-Worshippers

By D. Bobspa

**B**IRTH, growth and death—the inevitable law of all nature—applies with relentless and unvarying force. Organizations are not exempt from its workings.

From protista to primate, from atomic to astral, from individual to social, the law operates impartially.

The radical, whose belief was born of science, at times seems to forget the workings of its impersonal parent.

Organization is essential to progress. Yet every help becomes a hindrance when misapplied or when a newer tool is required. We tend to worship organization more than progress. Humanity ever has created masters instead of servants. Indeed, the pathway to democracy is strewn with golden calves and misspent generations in the wilderness of serving institutions created by the people.

By this we see the same state of barbarism as of old today marks the condition of mankind. The barbarian is essentially a fetish-worshipper. While in every age the esoteric circle broke through the darkness of form into the liberty of the truth portrayed in the form, the masses have bowed—and do still—along with most of their “practical” leaders, before fetishes.

Yes, we are a race of fetish-worshippers. Laugh not at the man who carries a potato in his pocket to ward off rheumatism or at our darker brother who sees in the left posterior appendage of Brer’ Rabbit a propitious omen.

Radicals, “advanced and serious thinkers” in general, no longer worship state constitutions and potentates. Religious dogmas they question, and topple from their lofty pedestals the enshrined heroes of exploitation and oppression. Yet many have made but this one step. The worship has been transferred merely to different idols.

Does your organization serve you, or do you serve your organization?

Are you still the fetish worshipper, bowing in slavery to your own faiths, philosophical systems, party constitutions, ballots, and such “scraps of paper,” attaching a superstitious and unwarranted importance to these? Or are you employing these useful and necessary tools AS TOOLS for the construction of a world-wide democracy of co-operation?

Let us look for a moment at the meaning of the act when any group of individuals organize for the advancement of

society. Human society has moved forward with much the same movement as an amoeba. This one-celled animal responds to its economic environment by pushing out finger-like processes from any part of its body to surround whatever food lies closest in its microcosm.

Society, too, has advanced irregularly through the leadership of little minorities—thinkers who pushed out from the mediocre majority to surround some tiny morsel in the infinite ocean of truth. In this “absorbing” pursuit too many find satiety and insist that their tiny mote of truth is the open sesame to the portals of emancipation.

Every organization contains within itself an inherent tendency to become static, whereas society is ever dynamic. Here is the source of much of the difficulty of social effort.

Even as we grasp (relatively) truth in the light of today’s experience, new events demand a readjustment of our estimates—a readjustment which creeds, constitutions and organizations make difficult.

I see an evil in social alignment. By uniting with similarly sighted individuals, a machine—a tool—is formed through which to propagate the light and lead to further light. We have taken a cross section of the stream of evolution, studied it and examined many details in the laboratory of our own organization—forgetting all the while that the stream flows ever onward, gathering strength and meaning on the way.

In consternation we cry out for evolution to work itself out in accordance with our particular plans. We want evolution to work with us instead of reversing the process. We tend to forget that “the bird of time is on the wing.” With various brands of radical salt we set out to decorate the tail of the fleeing social bird.

Organization from the earliest development of mankind has tended, after the first warm enthusiasm, to attach importance to itself per se—to rest on the laurels of past achievement. The members tend to drop the scientific attitude for the orthodox. Within human limitations no other fate is possible for an organization. The movement is ever forward. The organization, after the highwater mark of achievement, is ever backward.

Death—new births—death—birth. The cycle goes ever round so far as individuals are concerned. The individual



Lots of willing workers at the Industrial School. Note the teamster, showing equality of sexes as well as equal suffrage at Llano. They will have lots to do with harvesting the garden produce this summer.



One of the new tractors bringing in lumber and cement. Both of the trailers were built at Llano. The engine is now being used on the road built to the timber in the mountains south of the Colony.

dies; the species is perpetuated through the ages. Aeons see the species disappear; life continues. The single organization exists only to advance the ever-upward movement of society.

Nor is one cause alone the corner-stone of evolution.

Countless forces act, interact and react in the ramifying maze of our social fabric. The resultant force is the measure of human development.

The rationalist has been designated as one "who is religiously irreligious." Other brands of radicalism tend likewise to adopt a faith to prove, living in the glories of the fathers of their movements, forgetting the spirit of these old leaders. So do members of other groups of people. It is a natural and (seemingly) inevitable working of psychological laws.

Any radical group in its youthful days begins work on a new social fabric. About the time they get the foundation laid the builders begin to pay more attention to the variety of bricks than to the nature of the structure. They also see others employed on the job under the inspiration of different philosophical fathers. Instead of all laboring together, there is a tendency—attributable to worship of the fetish of "MY" organization as an end in life—for each group to build about themselves a great wall, windowless and doorless, defying any others to enter. So, instead of a great social structure, built by divers workers, there is danger of a large number of these one-room prisons of progress.

I say this is a danger. Perhaps I should say it is a hindrance. For there are always rebels among rebels who are ready to grasp the red flag of the revolution from its resting place to carry it forward.

Come-outism is the saving ferment of radicalism, rescuing it from the stagnation of static organization.

Hosea and the ancient prophets illustrate the point. These rebels thundered against the ecclesiastical and political exploiters of their day. Their followers of other generations worshipped them, but forgot their spirit of revolt.

So, today, we hear much of Jeffersonian democracy, Marxian Socialism, Georgian philosophy, etc., but see all too little of the scientific spirit and independent attitude of the founders of these systems.

When The Great Adventure was launched in California to

restore the land to the people there were authoritarians in the ranks of the Socialist Party and the Single Tax groups who objected because they felt the methods and some of the phases of the proposed law were not quite up to the orthodox Marxian and Georgian standards.

There were come-outers in each organization and in other groups and among the free-lances and the masses when the message reached them. They swept the fogginess of dying worshippers aside.

Conservatism is the price we must pay for any set form. Growth means change. Constitutions, forms, and rules, while essential—or at least often convenient—are to some degree hindering forces. At the best they should be elastic and relative, not binding—made for use and not for their own sake. There is nothing sacred in form and method. Results alone count.

Radicalism needs a careful, critical self-examination today. We see the prominent groups standing pat in large measure, while individuals within are breaking over the barriers to unite, as in the Great Adventure and the International Workers' Defense Leagues functioning over the nation.

Do not overlook the fact that these men and women are functioning in new groups as individuals and not as representatives of the old groups. These older organizations must emerge from the philosophies of the past into the actuality of the present if they are to continue to function as revolutionary movements.

Why worry if they do not so long as those within them are active? Let us cease to be fetish-worshippers. Let us cease to worry over any particular organization or group. The important matter is that there shall be organized effort. Let us not forget the end through adoration of the means.

There is scant place in radicalism for the doctrinaire, the lover of constitutions and fixed authority, the over-organized, the orthodox, the timid, the imitator, the "practical" man. The hope lies in the rebel, the come-outer, the dreamer, the inspired lunatic, who plunges into the great adventures of revolution free and untrammelled by creeds, constitutions and by-laws of his own or any others' making.

[Comrade Bobsa is quite well known to the readers of radical publications from his book reviews. The Western Comrade is glad to announce that the book reviews will be among the good things the Comrade will be able to offer its readers. Page 23 carries Bobsa's first contribution.]

# Llano del Rio Colony Adds

ONE of the most important land transactions in the history of the Llano del Rio Colony was finished late in April when Comrade Harriman, as president of the Llano del Rio Company, signed the necessary papers which transferred to the Colony's holdings 2750 acres of land in the southwestern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. The land is a few miles from Wasco, about thirty miles from Bakersfield, and is agricultural land.

This is the first large tract acquired not contiguous or nearly contiguous to the original holdings in the Big Rock Irrigation District. With the acquisition of this land, the Llano del Rio Colony will be able to make its first step in the plan to develop lands in districts where products can be raised that can not be profitably grown in Llano.

The land is rich and productive. This district has lagged behind most of the San Joaquin Valley in agricultural development, having been held in large tracts used mainly as cattle ranges. It lies within the semi-tropic belt, and is excellent for such fruits as grapes, olives, figs, with the possibility that lemons and oranges may be grown here to advantage. Alfalfa also produces heavily.

The new land undoubtedly lies within the oil belt of Central California, and as soon as arrangements can be made, drilling for oil will commence. An experimental well was started on this property several years ago, but capital was insufficient and it was abandoned. However, it was sunk far enough so that gas was struck, and for some time engines were operated with this convenient fuel.

Another well on the Kern lands developed hot water, offering some special possibilities of commercialization along the lines of establishing a sanitarium. This is an artesian well and gives a good flow. Irrigation in this district is by means of wells. Sixteen wells are already drilled on the new Colony holdings. Work will commence just as soon as it can be arranged, and the task of developing the big ranch will be hurried as rapidly as is practicable.

Of course, no definite plans have been made for cropping the new ranch, as the final details of the big transaction were finished but a few days ago. However, as this is one of the finest fruit districts of California, it has been suggested that a great vineyard be set out. Since the grape growers of California have become organized co-operatively, this has become a well-stabilized business and offers better opportunities than almost any other field.

Peaches, apricots, prunes, plums, figs, olives, also do well in this district, and large acreages of them will probably be put out as soon as possible. As a pear, apple, and cherry district it does not offer any possibilities, but the Antelope Valley holdings of the Colony are of the very best for this purpose.

The new land is about seven hours' travel by automobile from Llano, with excellent road most of the way. The intention is to establish a camp there where men and horses may be housed, and then to farm it

## How We Live at

WHAT does it cost to live at Llano? How do your prices compare with those at other places? How is the high cost of living affecting the comrades at the Colony? What effect will the war have upon the Llano Community and the cost of living there?

These are a few of the questions that pour in daily from interested comrades all over the country.

Our answer frequently has been a general statement that we buy at the lowest wholesale prices and sell to ourselves at cost plus freight; that we do not overcharge or exploit ourselves; that we arrive at the cost of our own products and sell to ourselves at the lowest price and that we have the human trait of wanting to be kind to ourselves.

In considering the comparative cost of living at Llano with that of the outside, we should not overlook the item of rent. Just deduct that item from the living cost — if you live at Llano.

Then eliminate the cost of social service. What's that? Well, your doctor's bill, the nurse's bill, the dentist's bill, the cost of social amusements, education and incidental cost of social life. All this comes under social service and is free.

Then you pay water rates. Cut that item off. You may not have hot and cold running water in your sink, but you will have no monthly water bill nor will you have it even when it comes piped in the new permanent houses.

There are no telephones in the private houses, though we have excellent service to the outside. No telephone bill.

At present the illumination is by kerosene or gasoline lamps. Electricity is used in the machine shop on night shifts and at the dances and entertainments. We have, of course, no gas or electric light bills. Taxes on all property owned by the corporation are looked after by the officials and no trouble ever comes to the colonist from this source. Officials of the corporation work most harmoniously with the county, state and national officials.

Under the general heading of social service come all amusements, sports, pastimes, dances, and entertainments. These, with all educational facilities, are free.

Now we will grow more specific. In giving figures showing prices of some commodities in the "outside world," we take Chicago prices because it is the greatest food supply city in the world and because prices are lower there than in most parts of the country. Even these prices are conservative because the prices are higher in the wealthier parts of the city and in those parts where the very poor live and buy in small quantities.

Llano products are pure and put up for home consumption. Our butter is unexcelled because,

Table of Comparison

	Chicago Ap. '16
Butter	\$0.43
Eggs	.30
Flour	7.00
Gran. Sugar	.05
Rice	.06
Prunes	.10
Cornmeal	.02
Oatmeal	.03
Starch	.04
Beans, Navy	.08
Beans, Lima	.08
Peas, Dried	.06
Barley	.05
Matches	.08
Kraut	.05
Can. Tomatoes	.07
Can. Corn	.07
Salmon	.12
Sardines	.14
Lard	.14
Bacon	.18
Pork chops	.15
Beef steak	.25
Mutton chops	.25
Fresh trout	.18
Cabbage	.03
Onions	.02
Rhubarb	.02
Spinach	.07

# 2750 Acres to Its Holdings

## at Llano By Frank E. Wolfe

as an outside storekeeper once said, we "don't know how to cheat." The table on this page gives the cost of products at Chicago in April, 1916, April, 1917, and in Llano in 1917.

In Chicago soap is 25 per cent higher, all cereals are 50 per cent higher. No quotations are given on vinegar, cider, or honey. Our present prices are: Cider 40c a gallon, vinegar 40c a gallon, Honey at Llano is quoted at: Comb honey 15c, extracted honey 7 1/2c, and this is the highest quality pure sage honey. These are pure Llano products. We will have twenty tons of honey this season. That cuts down the sugar bill for Llanoites.

How do the prices at your grocery compare with those at Llano? We will have over 120 acres in garden and we will keep it coming. Our winter garden will be extended. Our potatoes are coming fine. We will have a greatly increased supply of fruit and in larger variety. We are preparing to enlarge our cannery. We are fortifying and entrenching.

We are preparing for the future. The war situation changed our plans in only one way; it made us come to a quick decision to produce more food and more feed. We may be forced to other adjustments, but in no other place can the people make as quick an adjustment as at Llano. An hour's notice—less, at certain times—is sufficient to bring the demanded action.

At the General Assembly April 18th a motion was made that Llano set the clock ahead one hour. Then came quick discussion, speeches were short, pointed, but always constructive. Objections were trivial, almost humorous. "We will use the sunlight." "We will beat the Western hemisphere by advancing to the European point of efficiency." "We will add an hour to our day, and use it for education, amusement, recreation and 'joy of life.'" These were the arguments and they prevailed. The vote was virtually unanimous.

"When will we set the clock?" "Will it be next Saturday or Monday?" These questions were met with a rather startling shout from all over the hall: "No, no! Do it now!" That settled it. The affirmative vote was by acclamation and Comrade L. H. Miller, the Dean of the Colony, whose flowing beard and snowy hair made a picture of Father Time, set the clock ahead. This brought a brief, solemn speech from the ubiquitous wag that "the hour grows late and we should adjourn."

Llano acts in concert. The spirit of solidarity grows. Whether the question be food supply or be it any emergency, we can act within an hour. The efficiency commission has wrought wonders in a few weeks. Departments are co-ordinating more.

Food prices and regulations will be watched with great care. Economy and system govern the commissary. Every department manager is striving his utmost.

How does this compare with your hodge-podge out there in the cut-throat competition?

as huge ranches are usually farmed, with a competent superintendent in charge. No attempt will be made to found a city there. It will be purely a subsidiary of the Llano Colony, owned and controlled by it. Men will be shifted back and forth as they are required.

Many visitors, and even many residents, have failed to grasp the bigness of the Llano plan. They have failed to see further than just what is here at Llano. They have mistaken the plans of the Llano organization as being confined to this particular spot.

But Llano is merely the beginning. It is the demonstration spot. It is the place the colonists have selected to begin showing what co-operation can achieve. It is expected that many thousands of acres of Antelope Valley lands will be added to the Llano holdings here, but by no means are they to be confined to Llano alone.

Now the first step out has been made. A huge tract of nearly 3000 acres has been acquired in the San Joaquin Valley, perhaps 200 miles from Llano, yet within easy reach. Where will the next one be? Do you catch the vision of what it means to be a member of the Llano del Rio Company? Not Llano alone, but Llano repeated, multiplied, the Llano idea carried irresistibly throughout the West, conquering prejudice, spreading hope, extending the co-operative idea.

From the beginning three years ago with only a few acres near the present town of Llano to holdings that take in thousands of acres in the Big Rock Irrigation District and contiguous territory and have now been extended over a range of mountains and into another great fertile valley, is a notable achievement.

This is a day of tremendous interest in land, especially farming land. With the entire world clamoring for food, with the governments of most of the great nations of the world looking toward the United States for food supply, the acquiring of these great tracts of land by the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony takes on additional interest.

Llano will be able to take care of her own people and to take care of them royally. In a few years most of the products consumed will be Llano-produced. There is no reason why suitable lands cannot be acquired for every material and food that will be needed by Llano people.

The eyes of the radical and progressive thinkers, whether Socialist or otherwise, are being turned Llano-ward. Opportunity is greater for this community than ever before. With three years of steady progress and substantial building standing as a record of achievement by which the progress of the future development may be judged, Llano can confidently offer to those who believe in the practice as well as the theory of co-operation something satisfying and inspiring.

On Llano's third birthday she is able to announce the first large outside purchase. Are you prophet enough to say what the announcement of two, five, or seven years more may be?

### Comparative Prices

Chicago Ap. '16	Chicago Ap. '17	Llano Ap. '17	Your Grocer
\$0.43	\$0.53	\$0.35	.....?
.30	.42	—	.....?
7.00	14.00	10.50	.....?
.05 1/2	.11	.10	.....?
.06	.10	.06	.....?
.10	.15	—	.....?
.02 1/2	.05	.04 1/2	.....?
.03	.07	.04 1/2	.....?
.04	.07	.06	.....?
.08	.20	.12 1/2	.....?
.08	.20	—	.....?
.06	.15	.10	.....?
.05	.12	.06 1/2	.....?
.08	.25	.12	.....?
.05	.25	—	.....?
.07 1/2	.20	.15	.....?
.07 1/2	.18	—	.....?
.12	.30	.10	.....?
.14	.08	.05	.....?
.14	.27	—	.....?
.18	.35	.30	.....?
.15	.30	.10	.....?
.25	.35	.10	.....?
.25	.35	—	.....?
.18	.30	—	.....?
.03	.15	.02	.....?
.02 1/2	.15	.02 1/2	.....?
.02 1/2	.10	.02	.....?
.07 1/2	.25	—	.....?

# "R. P. M."

By L. W. Millsap, Jr.

**T**HREE little letters do not look very dangerous here, but when we study carefully the affairs of today we find that most of the misery and suffering which we see around us are inseparably connected with them. This discovery is not new by any means, but the study of that connection is interesting from any angle and there are always new developments.

Man seems to have been unfortunate throughout his whole career, and he has not been entirely to blame for it either. Nature, entirely without his consent, provided him with the faculties of curiosity and ambition—in short, with a mind—and she also gave him two hands with which to experiment. Worse than this, she trained him to stand up on his hind legs and leave those hands perfectly free to get into trouble.

This was an awful responsibility to place on the shoulders of any creature, and it is not surprising that man has done no better than he has. He has had to learn, and the way has been long and painful.

He began to use those hands and to feel of Nature's raw material. In that way he acquired knowledge as our Montessori children do, though his way was crude and painful. He felt rocks, learned through experience that they would crush his fingers, but after much pain and many accidents found he could roll them together to fashion a shelter to protect himself from storms. He took hold of tree limbs and found they would bend and spring, but in his experiments they sprung back and hit him. It was painful, but it started a train of thought which ended in the construction of the bow and arrow. He found that wood could be cut into sharp splinters, and about the first use he could put them to was thrusting them through his own flesh—through his ears, nose, lips, etc.—but in so doing he got ideas.

He discovered fire. His curiosity caused him burned hands, but he gradually obtained fixed and correct ideas concerning fire. In much the same way he learned the use of metals, the pain of cut fingers finally teaching him truths that have been immensely beneficial to the race. He first hurt himself, then hurt his neighbors intentionally, with his new-found tool. Eventually they got together and made the valuable discovery serve them both by bringing greater comfort instead of greater misery.

Every discovery followed the same rule, and it follows it today. Man has turned every discovery against himself first, then against his neighbors until the effects were well-known, then together they have used it to the advantage of both. What he has done singly he has also done collectively. Steam, electricity, gasoline, explosives, transportation machinery, flying machinery, printing machinery, motion pictures, microscopes—in fact, anything we might mention—has been used by man against himself, until we come back to where we started, to the consideration of R. P. M.

R. P. M. is an abbreviation used in mechanical parlance meaning revolutions per minute, and this, of course, helps determine the results.

At first all machines were hand machines and were operated by turning cranks. The term R. P. M. was not used very much at this time.

Then came foot-power machinery and the R. P. M. increased. This seemed to be the right thing to do, but we must remember that ages ago before this it seemed the right thing for man to put his hand into the fire, and when he began to

increase the R. P. M. of machinery he was destined to make a more startling discovery than he did in the first instance.

It has not been so many years back that man got the fever to increase the R. P. M. of his machinery, and at the present time that fever is at its height. Man throughout the world is suffering the supreme agony of his experiments along that line, and at the same time he is beginning slowly to realize that he can use increased R. P. M. to his advantage just as easily as he can destroy himself with it and that it is not nearly so painful. It is exactly the same as when his primitive ancestor found that he could use fire to warm his hands, instead of using it to burn his fingers.

When man had arrived at the age of hand and foot power machinery he had just reached a point where he could convert Nature's raw materials into a form that he could use and do it without much effort or loss of time on his part. Then he discovered that Nature's forces—heat, electricity, and light—could be harnessed to turn that machinery.

This discovery looked so promising that his enthusiasm knew no bounds, and when he saw Nature's forces turning machinery and producing necessities it fascinated him to such an extent that he thought all his problems were solved, and so eager was he to increase the revolutions per minute and turn out more product that he became a slave to the fascination and entirely lost sight of the fact that his needs were supplied and that he could rest on his oars, so to speak.

He was feverishly eager to produce more and more and more. All of Nature's raw material must be secured and turned into finished product. Every source of natural power must be secured and developed. Material in astonishing quantities was converted into productive machinery as well as product, and the vast sources of power were harnessed to it with the constant aim to increase the R. P. M., until the industrial world became one mad, feverish rush to produce, produce, produce.

What is the result? Nature is still wise. Man forgot that Nature had provided for future generations as well as the present and had stored her treasures in the form in which they kept the best. Man prepares material for his own use, but if he does not use it Nature eventually converts it back into the raw state; and there is no escape from this law. One way or another Nature will accomplish her purpose.

What was man to do with the increasing product of industrial machinery? He could not consume it, hence it was necessary to market it. This fact enabled the more highly developed nations to force their product on the nations inferior in this respect. But no sooner had this occurred than they, too, began to make inroads on Nature's storehouses and to pile up product they could not consume. Advertising was developed and speed-up systems applied to them. Poor blind humanity! All it could see was SPEED. Man was delirious with R. P. M. fever and rushed on, until now, instead of applying the abbreviation R. P. M. to the movements of machinery, it can be applied to the movements of nations and to the movements of groups of humanity!

Revolutions are the talk of the hour. We are wondering how many Revolutions Per Minute we will be called upon to witness and engage in before the cataclysm is over, but through it all we can see some light.

Mankind is learning that production for use is the only plan that safely agrees with Nature's laws.

# Liberty and Play for Baby

By Prudence S. Brown

**T**HE good news comes to me that since reading "Concerning Babies" in the March Western Comrade several mothers have provided keepers for those active little ones in the household who are just beginning to creep—yes, even before they had fallen over the edge of the bed, or tumbled down stairs, or pulled the tablecloth by the corner and upset the contents of said table on the floor. What teachable mothers! My soul takes courage. And they tell me the fathers helped!

One father brought home a little 4x4 fence hinged at the corners; it could be set up anywhere from the kitchen to the lawn or the parlor, or folded flat and set out of sight if out of use. He found this right on the sidewalk in front of a second-



Llano's first houses were of canvas. Picture taken in fall of 1914.

hand store; it cost very little. But the strange part of the story is he would never have seen this valuable folding fence, and never have known how useful it could be in his home, if he had not been reading the Western Comrade.

Another very careful father says the fence is not sufficient protection from floor draughts, and he found a 2x4 dry goods box, sawed it down to the height of fifteen inches, assisted his wife in padding the floor and edges attractively, put on four-inch legs with rollers, and declares his keeper is very superior to the fence. My special point is the value of these keepers to the child's individual development and the mother's nerves and disposition, as well as the peace and harmony of the home.

I speak of these keepers with the most profound seriousness; I am sure that I am not alone in my sympathy for the already overtaxed mother, who is kept on a torturous, nervous strain during every waking moment of her child's life because of the lack of just such a convenience as a keeper for the wee sprite who takes delight in scattering everything, from the ashes in the kitchen stove to the books on the library shelves.

The keeper organizes the child's physical activity as well as his mental activity. In this he keeps reasonably clean; he learns his first lesson in appreciation of an individual ownership and use of personal belongings. Here is his wee chair, his ball, his dog, etc., and no one disturbs his things. The slight limit to freedom is an advantage to his development in every way. Indeed, the keeper to the little child is quite as important as the individual home is to the family.

Nothing can so effectually hurt a child's healthy growth, mentally and spiritually, as the constant interruptions it receives when allowed to go freely into everything. It is forever "Come, come, baby, don't get into that," or "No, no! baby must not touch." What freedom is there to the child in what is usually called freedom? The more nearly a little child can be "let alone" while he plays, the more naturally he will grow and develop in every way.

Take him out of his keeper occasionally for a romp and change, and by all means give him some time to run or creep about the house, but this sort of freedom should come to him when father or mother is free to watch his rapid movements and divert his attention from forbidden corners without letting him feel the shock of interruption.

This sort of care of the little one from ten months to the time when he can understand how to act in the home community will establish great peace and comfort in the household, save the baby many bumps and screams, and the mother many nervous shocks.

A child's first play is nothing more or less than unconscious work; he puts his whole being into the effort to make or unmake, to take apart or put together, everything that he finds; he examines, studies and tries to define everything he can touch. He is, in short, a serious little student of life and of things, and he well deserves a small nook to himself, a place of safety and security from any sort of disturbance or intrusion. As parents and protectors of babies, it is our first duty to provide an environment suitable to our little one's original research work.

A bar could easily be made with supports that would fit over the keeper, upon which the pendulum balls could be swung, and these could be removed and the large ball for exercising the feet be hung in the place. As baby tires of any one toy, it should be placed where he cannot see it and different things put within his reach. That is part of the organization work.

By one who was with Dr. Montessori last year in Spain we are told of a very happy device for young children. Very tiny tables just the height were used as the base of insets of varying sizes; then, with a small chair, baby could begin the experiment of taking out and replacing the insets. This would be a beautiful game inside the keeper.

Now I anticipate a question: What is to be done when baby throws everything over the top and onto the floor outside? Just leave them right there; he is quite intelligent enough to



This view of Llano shows the newest section, houses being of wood.

perceive that he has deprived himself of the pleasure of playing with them, quite bright enough to discover the inconvenience of being without toys, and will learn, if you allow him the opportunity, to keep them where they belong. Leave him quite alone to his discovery, leave him destitute of everything; finally, when he is asleep, carefully put all of these things away where he will not see them again for several days. Don't for the world pick them up and give them to him; that would be fatal to his discernment of cause and effect. Trust your baby's intelligence; organize and observe and say very few words and mean what you say.

# The Thing in Itself

By Clara Cushman

As she washed the breakfast dishes in front of the open window she had seen him creep behind the fence where the grapevine grew. Now, three hours later, he was still there. The sinewy length of him lay belly down, but he was not asleep. His elbows supported his bulky shoulders, and at intervals his hands were busy doing something—she could not see what. A tiny circle of light played above him, like the reflection of the sun upon glass, one moment darting hither and thither among the leaves of a neighboring peach tree and along the top of the fence, the next melting into the sunshine of the garden. She had read in one of her Sunday supplements of the amazing possibilities of mirror focusing. She concluded that the intruder was manipulating a mirror with a view to obtaining a plan of her home; or, worse, the luminous circle might be a reflection from the gleaming barrel of a revolver!

And his clothes were not reassuring. She examined him carefully through her late husband's field glasses. The loose gray trousers poorly matched the tight short-sleeved black coat of an ancient style, save that they, too, were of a fashion long since discarded. The ill clad legs and trunk only served to make the red sweater which she had seen him so fastidiously fold and lay in the cleanest grass with his cap, look the more brilliant and finely woven.

She hesitated no longer. Alone in the house, with this suspicious trespasser at large, she would not sleep a wink that night. She went to the telephone and summoned the police.

Two officers responded to the call.

"Now," said the first, as they viewed the intruder from the housewife's kitchen window, "you stay behind the tree yonder and watch. I can easy get the drop on him while he's layin' like that. And when I cover him, you come and help with the cuffs, if I need 'em."

Revolver cocked, he slipped crouchingly along the outer side of the fence until opposite the man, when he reared himself cautiously. The man was gazing intently through a magnifying glass. At what? Nothing, as far as the policeman could make out.

"Whatcha doin' there, you?"

The man did not turn as he replied, "Watching the vine grow."

"What?"

"Watching the tendrils swing round in the sunlight. Please go away. I'm busy."

"Busy! You damned hobo, you've been loafing there four hours. Get up and come along."

He turned his face at this, and gazed at the officer mildly. His skin was dark and weather beaten, like an exquisite piece of tanned leather, to that point where his cap habitually rested, above which was a high, wide brow of almost marble pallor. His eyes were large, deep set and of a celestial blue, his cheek bones high and narrow, his shaven lips slightly tremulous, and his expression nobly serene.

"Of what am I accused?" he asked.

"Vagrancy and tresspassin'. That's private property you're on and you know it." He still held his revolver discreetly cocked, as he eyed the man's muscular body. "Get up now, and no monkeyin' if you don't want me to fill you full of lead."

The man dropped the glass into his pocket and rose, stamping his feet to rid himself of the cramp his vigil had entailed. "Yes, I have learned it saves time to go quietly, although I

am neither a vagrant or a trespasser." He slipped his hand into his trouser pocket and produced a quarter. "There is my visible means of support, and, as for trespassing, the vine and the earth I was lying upon are mine. I inherited them."

"Huh! Maybe you inherited a gun, too. What's that lump in your pocket? Keep your hands up while I look."

But the protuberance in the pocket of his greenish black coat proved to be a folded razor, a cake of soap wrapped in a blue cotton handkerchief, and a handful of English walnuts. The officer pocketed the razor.

The man smiled whimsically. "My toilet accessories. And my dinner. I dine every night at five. But come," his manner changing, "my time is precious." He reached for his sweater and cap.

"Who'd ya inherit that fine new sweater from?"

"Yes," he replied, "it is fine and warm. They are warmer when they are fine. I have learned it saves time to get them fine and warm, although I would rather have given a pint of my heart's blood than the three days of precious time I had to give. Three days! Thirty-six of my hours wasted, gone, just to keep me warm!" He threw out his arms in a passionate gesture. "When I should have been at my task! Picking hops! And I could not stop to watch them grow! It was 'Hurry, hurry, hurry!' But the ache in my shoulders warned me. It said, 'You must keep me warm or I will hurt you. Then you will become ill and cannot complete your task.' So I wasted three days earning the money." His delicate upper lip trembled, then he subsided into his customary serenity. "But come, come, come! Let us get through that I may be on my way."

The bluecoat turned to his assistant. "Nobody home," he said, tapping his forehead significantly; then more kindly, to the intruder:

"Now just put your mitts in here and come along quiet, and we won't have any trouble." In an undertone to his companion, "You never can tell about these here nuts."

The prisoner meekly held out his hands and, in doing so, for the first time observed his captor. Instantly his face became alive as he peered into the officer's face. "Amazing!" he whispered to himself. "A marvelous specimen! Ah, if I could but keep him for observation! A case of atavism—the flatness above the brain, the sloping forehead, the wide nose, the—" He lifted his manacled hands to trace the officer's features.

The assistant grabbed him and the bluecoat retreated. For the second time the intruder smiled. "I ask your pardon. I am afflicted with absence of mind. But come, come, come!"

At the city marshal's office a further search revealed a notebook and pencil, and a book, "Sinnesorgane in Pflanzenreich." That was all.

"Mebbe it's one of them anarchist books," the "marvelous specimen" suggested. "You never can tell about these here nuts."

"May I go now?" the prisoner asked. "I have a great deal to do before night."

"What's your name?"

"Theodore Beckman."

"How old are ya'?"

"Thirty-seven."

"Where didja' come from?"

(Continued on page 28)

# Carbo-Hydro Phobia

By Dr. John Dequer

**T**HE word "phobia" means fear. Hence hydrophobia means the fear of water, and photophobia the fear of light—and so on. He who fears anything unreasonably is on that point a phobic.

In Llano we have noticed the presence of a rather strange variety of the phobias. It manifests as an unnatural and unreasoned fear of starch. This would class the disease as carbo-hydro phobia. In most cases it runs a mild course and passes away with the arrival of garden vegetables. In other cases it persists and defies all treatment. It is contagious, but rarely fatal. No cocci germ is responsible for its spread. It rarely affects the physical organism. It is a purely mental disease which produces a psychic state in which the patient attributes all the ills of the flesh from a sore toe to a bald head to the presence of an imaginary superfluity of starch in whatever he may have to eat. We have discovered, however, that the disease is not endemic—that is, it is not a Llano product. It was imported from other communities, who, perhaps, rejoice in their export.

The malady originated in the top ends of certain diet enthusiasts, and it is transmitted to the lay folk by means of preaching and suggestion. Starch is the cause of all their woe—physically, mentally, and socially. Their afflictions come from their starchy diet. Those that hear and believe—catch it.

"What do the Llanoites eat that makes so many of them ill?" wrote a friend of mine who had been in correspondence with a local sufferer from the disease under discussion.

I answered: "We eat during the winter months—when fresh vegetables are hard to get—bread, butter, beans, macaroni, rice, tomatoes, apples, with now and then a little meat, the latter not very often—say twice a month. Fish is had occasionally. Mush of some sort may be had every morning. We drink coffee and tea, and have a fair amount of milk—not always all we want, but enough to keep healthy. This is our fare during the hard part of the winter. No one died of starvation or grew excessively lean except those who were so unfortunate as to become afflicted."

Now, if we consider that our people come from different climates, that they live—many of them—under pioneer conditions, you will find that Llano is a supremely healthy community. We have the pure, dry air, the clear water and pleasant climate that cannot but make for health.

To those who do not burden their souls with borrowed troubles and who engage in active, constructive thought and labor, Llano is a place favored by nature. Man will keep healthy even on her winter menu.

Let us carefully analyze the food of the Llanoites and see if there is any excuse for people who catch this new-fangled phobia.

Bread here, as elsewhere, is the staff of life. It, specially in its white form, is a spook to our patient. It contains starch. Surely, and starch we need. It is an element in any diet. But bread is not starch alone. It contains gluten, and gluten is a protein product and is equally as essential to life as starch. Bread is generally eaten with butter or peanut butter, which adds to its nutritive value.

The late Dr. Austin Flint, one of America's foremost physiologists, has said of wheat: "In many vegetable grains known as cereals there exist, in variable proportions, a highly nutritive nitrogenized substance called gluten. This is found in great abundance (from 10 to 35 per cent) in wheat." And again:

"The nutritive power of gluten is so great, and it contains such a variety of alimentary principles, that dogs are well nourished and can live indefinitely on it, when taken as the sole article of food." Of course, dogs, being by nature meat eaters, would suffer more quickly than men. But they have an advantage: They are of lower intelligence, and, therefore, are immune to this new phobia.

By kneading white flour under a gently flowing stream of water the starch is removed from it—a process used in the manufacture of macaroni, and which may be still further carried out by the cook. Yet at macaroni, which at best is only partially starch, the victim shies like a broncho at tumbleweed.

Besides starch and gluten, wheat flour used in the making of bread and macaroni contains vegetable fibrin, a substance analogous to muscular fibrin; vegetable albumen, similar to that found in the white of an egg or in meat. These are nitrogenous substances for which the sufferer thinks he is starving.

Nitrogenous substances are needed by the organism. They are of great importance and are found in many forms in the vegetable kingdom, from which every living being gets them either directly or indirectly. The sufferer from carbo-hydro phobia thinks he is dying from the want of them, while he eats bread on which a carnivorous dog will thrive.

The two classes of food of chief importance in the vegetable



Municipal Wood Yard at Llano

world are those represented, first, by gluten in wheat, and, second, by legumine in beans and peas. Vegetable albumen is to be found in turnips, carrots, cabbages and so forth. The nutritive qualities of vegetable and animal albumen are identical.

In the dreaded starches served to the people at Llano a chemist will tell you that you will find the following nitrogenous substances for which our victim imagines he starves: Gluten, in bread, macaroni, oatmeal, and other breakfast foods, together with vegetable albumen, vegetable fibrin and vegetable casein.

We are, however, not vegetarians—as any member of the flock or herd will discover. We have butter, not in abundance, not enough for our pleasure, but with salad oil and peanut butter we make it do. None of these last mentioned contain starch, although some contain sugar, to which our organism finally converts all starch.

We eat meat occasionally, as we can afford it, also fish. And when all is said, the time of year considered, and the food supply cooked as it ought to be, the food of Llano will sustain abundantly the efforts required by the men and women here. And there is no excuse for anybody to suffer with carbo-hydro phobia. Nature has given us in the so-called starch foods enough of the opposite, even without meat, to balance the ration for most of us.

# What Thinkers Think

## The Substance of Instructive Articles in April Magazines

### ATLANTIC

**Education As Mental Discipline.**—American education is dominated by the theory that there are general faculties of memory, reasoning and observation which can be developed by arbitrary mechanical exercises. "Content education" holds that the subjects taught must contain elements of specific experience, problems and activities which mean something to the child. The child who explains that you are "not expected to understand algebra, only to do it," and the hopeless failure of the language work, not only in Latin but in English, illuminate the mistake at the base of the mental discipline idea. It has recently been computed that the efficiency of Latin teaching in one state was between ten and fifteen per cent. Does such a record as this guarantee training or does it indicate DAMAGE to the mind and character? Culture studies are desirable when they are taught in a way that makes them a permanent factor in a child's interest.—Abraham Flexner.

### LITERARY DIGEST

**The Hygiene of Type.**—Arthur E. Boswick calls attention to the fact that the diminutive size of the type in which books are printed is a menace to our eyesight. Searching for books in large type suitable for tired eyes he has only been able to collect four hundred volumes. Ten point is recommended for ordinary use. Fourteen point for tired eyes, and thirty point for children under seven. The eye adapts itself to a standard length of line, and wide columns invoke extra fatigue. Standardization of size of type and width of columns is to be recommended.

### PEARSON'S

**Uncle Sam's Dishonest Servants.**—In discussing our so-called "public servants" I shall not mention the pension scandal nor the pork barrel, but I want to draw attention to the minor thefts of our United States Senators and Congressmen. There are laws that provide positively that a government employe shall receive only his actual expenses when traveling on official business. Congress pays itself mileage of twenty cents a mile and admits that it is excessive. Besides this, at one session which ended at the moment the next session opened, the members not even leaving their seats, the members were very indignant that they did not get the 226,000 dollars due them on mileage to and from their homes. There is an allowance of \$1500 a year for clerk hire; many members give the largest part of this to members of their families for nominal services. There are an immense number of sinecures used to promote the personal interests of Senators and Congressmen. One Federal Judge possessed of great wealth was retired on full pay, \$6,500 a year. He was then elected to the Senate. His average attendance has been 14 days a year. He draws \$7,500 a year for this, gets his mileage allowance and keeps an office force at \$6,000 more to make excuses for his absence. The abuse of personal privilege is another public scandal.—R. Sackett.

### POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY

**A Power House as a Futurist Painter Sees It.**—The Futurists try hard to translate motion into color and line. Miss Stevens calls her picture of a power house, pictorial velocity. She says there has been no attempt in art to find a method adequate to express the vastness and stupendous activity of events today. Anything moving rapidly loses its definite form in lines of direction. Motion and light destroy the solidity of material bodies. Those artists who paint mechanical forms have achieved nothing of the life, or force, or purpose of the object. The futurists make their engines move, throb, create. Something is always happening in a futurist's pictures and the great variety of color and changing lines helps to convey this impression.

### THE OUTLOOK

**Prisoners' Mail.**—In a summary showing mediaeval custom being practiced in the restriction of the mail of the inmates of most American State prisons, Mr. J. J. Sanders gives a report of the regulations in the different states. Some States only allow one letter every two months. 500,000 persons pass through American prisons every year, and the prime source of this stream is ignorance. Everything that can awaken their intelligence is valuable, especially familiarity with current events and communication with relatives and friends. No prison riots occur in the States where letter writing is unrestricted. Nothing will make a person more morose than being cut off from his loved ones, and free communication keeps their minds occupied with wholesome and elevating thoughts.

### WORLD'S WORK

**A Tunnel From England to France.**—The British are now in favor of the project of a tunnel under the Channel. If they had it now and it shortened the war by only two days the saving in actual money would pay the whole cost of construction. It will be the longest tunnel in the world, thirty-three miles long. The plan is to drive two tubes through the lower grey chalk, which is impervious to moisture, and to drive secondary tunnels which will slope in the opposite direction, being low at the shore and high in the middle. These will drain the tunnel and serve to carry off the excavated material. With this system they can be working at several sections of the main tunnel at the same time. It is not considered at present that the defense of the tunnel offers any difficulties.—G. D. Knox.

### SATURDAY EVENING POST

**Russian Democracy at Work.**—Russian democracy today has the army with it and limitless financial credit. What is less realized here, the Russian, thanks to the village Mirs, the municipal councils and the rural Zemstvos, have a vital tradition of democracy and a broad experience in self-government. The Mir is the peasant village organization, and transacts its business on a basis of democracy and communism more direct and simple than our Colonial town meetings. Calling themselves the group of toil they composed a third of the first Duma and surprised all by their political sagacity. The zemstvos are county and provincial councils, intensely and heroically democratic in their activities. Imprisoned and exiled for their social service work by the bureaucracy, by a miracle of what Kropotkin calls "mutual aid" they developed their extralegal activities under the leadership of Prince Lvov, now premier of New Russia. In spite of their parliamentary strength they failed to democratize Russia because they had not the support of the army and the international bankers. The new army has drawn its officers from the "Intelligentsia," almost wholly radical, and the bankers have come to the support of the Republic because the Autocracy had proved a rotten reed in conducting the war.—Arthur Bullard.

### THE NEW REPUBLIC

Four Justices of the United States Supreme Court believe that the Oregon Minimum Wage law is constitutional; four believe that it is unconstitutional. Owing to the form under which the case was appealed, this equal division validates the law. If the form had been slightly different it would have been invalidated. On such precarious chances the fate of a law of the first importance has depended. The delay of four years consumed in fighting the case has also discouraged various groups of people interested, and the popular impulse which started the movement has been diverted into other channels. Nothing could bring more strikingly to light the constant peril of leaving to the Courts their present power of reviewing legislation. This is too heavy a price to pay for an antiquated constitutional remnant of our forefathers' distrust of democracies.

### HARPER'S

**The Safe and Useful Aeroplane. An Interview With Orville Wright.**—The aeroplane, by taking the element of surprise out of warfare, will have a tendency to make it impossible. It will also have a large share in developing the new type of civilization which will come after the war. But extravagant claims must not be made for it. Large planes will never be practical for the same reason that there are no birds that compare in size with mammals. The weight of a bird increases as its cube, whereas the area of the wings increases as its square. The aeroplane surpasses in safety and in swiftness all other means of transportation. An aeroplane sails just as well upside down. The stopping of the machine only means that you have to volplane down. The one difficulty to deal with is the establishing of proper landing places all over the country.

### COLLIER'S

**Commission Control.**—Competitive production having failed, co-operative production is being organized in the industrial corporations. These corporations will combine first in like industries and finally in the one industrial corporation of the United States. There has been a childish desire on the part of the people to break up these combinations, but the inflexible law of nature is behind them. Previous to government ownership the same process of governmental administration of private corporations was adopted in Germany. Industrial administration must, however, be continuous and not subject to political uncertainties.—Charles P. Steinmetz.

# Reviews of Recent Readable Books By D. Bobspa

## "The Chosen People"

Friends of the Mooney case and all participating in the San Francisco and other labor fights will read with interest Sidney L. Nyburg's "The Chosen People." Sympathetic understanding of the complex elements underlying the conflict between labor and capital, a broad insight into human nature, the ability to dissect human emotions and to tell a tale simply, graphically and convincingly are qualities that enabled this popular writer to produce one of the few good novels of the present year—a novel that will stand high with the stories of any year.

The plot centers about a Baltimore strike and the trial of a strike-leader on a trumped-up murder charge. Dr. Philip Graetz, youthful Jewish rabbi of a wealthy synagogue, brought all of his boyish idealism to bear in an attempt to bring the warring classes to harmony through the application of ethics and abstract justice. The strike was in the factory of the president of his congregation, the only garment works in the city that refused to give any sort of recognition to the union.

David Gordon, Russian Jew and prominent attorney, was hired by a rival manufacturer to defend the accused man and supplied with unlimited funds to maintain the strike. David took advantage of this opportunity to advance the union standing. He showed clearly that race, religion, ethics, justice and humanity are all swept aside in worship of the great god Profit. The strike was allowed to go on until the banking interests of Baltimore found the financial interests of the city were beginning to suffer, when they pulled the strings that brought the recalcitrant factory owner to a compromise. None were willing to have their connection with the settlement known, so the public credit was given to Dr. Graetz, adding to his fame.

This is a bald, crude statement of a fraction of the dramatic situations skillfully woven into a flesh and blood story by the genius of Mr. Nyburg. A love story, while not the dominant element, proves a telling motive in the thread of the novel.

Ellen, the young settlement nurse, agnostic and Socialist, as well as the labor lawyer, David Gordon, reveal much of the causes and meaning of the unrest of society. The factory owner asked angrily of the attorney: "Since when, under our code of laws, have innocent men been forced to try their cases in the newspapers?"

"I should say," was David's bland retort, "it became necessary immediately after private corporations learned to punish personal grievances in the Criminal Court."

"The Chosen People" is no bitterly partisan class document. The human nature of the human being is not lost sight of. We are studying men, not types. The rich factory owner is pictured as a bloodsucker, but the reason he is and can be a vampire is revealed. The novel is a powerful human document of profound appeal.

Mr. Nyburg holds up a magic glass which is crystal-clear for the Gentile to gaze upon the Hebrew as he is, and at the same time a mirror into which the Jew may look for a critical self-examination.

Broadness of spirit and cosmic outlook are embodied in this readable novel that finds its gripping theme in the heart of American industrialism.

Kussey, Greenberg and Nyburg! What a debt we owe to the penetration of these Jews in presenting their keenly analytical pictures of the tragedy of capitalism's mad rule.

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## "The Soliloquy of a Hermit"

I have heard John Cowper Powys lecture, and his soul-stirring message was just what the reading of his inimitable essays in "Visions and Revisions" and "Suspended Judgments" would lead one to expect—the poet, artist and orator in one combination. But he did not receive all of the family genius, as his older brother, Theodore Francis Powys, contributes an unusually fine monograph "The Soliloquy of a Hermit." Thomas a Kempis, Marcus Aurelius and Epictetus have their modern projection in the confessions of this English farmer, contented to live his life apart from the mad ambitions of the world. "I am not here to do right or wrong, or to teach anyone; I am here to live," he writes. This comrade, who wears the badge of Socialism, wonders "if we shall ever understand that the world is not made for work, but for joy."

Mr. Powys is not a slave to dogmatic assertions and beliefs. He is primitive enough to be swayed by the moods that come to him. Here is a comrade after my own heart, truly. The only way to transfer the charm of the 143 pages of the little book would be to quote it entirely. I wondered what the author was "driving at" when first I began to browse through the unchaptered thread of the soliloquy. Perhaps I don't

know yet. But on the way I paused frequently to gather a rich bit of ripe fruitage which tasted ambrosial to my parched intellectual palate. In our swing away from the grossness of materialism and the grossness of spirituality we welcome such sane philosophers of life as it is.

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## "If Wishes Were Horses"

The Countess of Barcynska, while not a brilliant writer, is always interesting and possesses a rare faculty of understanding human nature that is lacking many of the more spectacular rhetoricians. She won her way to recognition through such books as "The Little Mother Who Sits at Home," and "The Honey Pot." In "If Wishes Were Horses" she gives a picture of English life that is photographic in its realism. It tells of Martin Leffley, towards whom I feel as amiable as I do towards a few weak-souled clerks I have had to work among in my days. He was a "cheap" clerk, with boss-worshipping propensities; a selfish ambition, a certain little ability to play the game for all it is worth, gained for him a rapid rise. But his main "asset" (he considered her in such light) was his wise, unselfish wife, whose only fault was the idolizing of the brute who married her for his physical comfort. An aunt who dealt in second-hand clothing, and whose money was more welcome than her presence, was another factor in his development. This self-made thing in pants became successful in business and by trimming his sails so as not to damage big business sailed into the right to string an M. P. after his name, by the grace of the Socialist and radical vote. But there came a time when all did not go so smoothly, and in the midst of the catastrophe which overtook him he learned the real meaning of his wife's love. The shallowness and pretense of the modern social life is powerfully depicted. The characters are real, the situations natural and the novel strongly written, the powerful lessons and the story elements being skillfully blended.

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## "The Library of Original Sources"

A revival of more active enthusiasm for "The Library of Original Sources" is one of the imperative needs of radicalism in the critical period of today. This most monumental compilation of source material ever made had a sale of many, many thousands a few years ago, and has continued as a steady seller ever since. For the sake of the movement it should, however, be even more widely spread.

There are tens of thousands of new and young thinkers in the Socialist, rationalist and labor movements who should be intimately familiar with this bible of historical research. The collection is nothing less than a bible. Think of reading the message directly from the people in the development of history—the history often purposely and nearly always misrepresented in commentaries written centuries later. Read the source material and interpret for yourselves.

"The Library of Original Sources" grew from the needs of college professors for source material. Nothing comprehensive along this line had ever been published in the world. So scores of the greatest scholars labored for years to produce this fundamental collection. Ancient tablets and monuments yielded their inscriptions. Manuscripts from libraries all over the world, state archives and musty records yielded the cream of the world's documentary evidence of historic progress of the ages.

The resulting series of ten large royal octavo volumes, bound in black India sheeplekin, has stood the test of years and stands today an unquestioned authority. I have heard it settle arguments in the college classroom; have listened to its message from the lips of the soap-boxer, have heard it quoted in park and street arguments on every side in city and country in many states.

The illustrations are appropriate to the text and are in themselves a liberal education.

The political and economic by no means exhaust the possibilities of the library. Religious, social and every phase of human activity are treated with an equal thoroughness as the economic. The set indeed constitutes "a library," and the facts represent the cream of human documents of every age.

Just a word to fasten this review to earth. The library can be secured for about one-half its original price for a short time, on easy monthly payments. Sounds like advertisement, doesn't it? Does the Mohammedan "advertise" the Koran, or the Socialist the "Communist Manifesto"? The "Library of Original Sources" is a world classic and beyond "advertising" in the ordinary sense. My best propaganda is to stimulate interest in such landmarks of progress. A syllabus and outline of readings is furnished free with every set.

# A Pioneer Woman's View

By Mildred G. Buxton

**A**FTER all the spirit is the thing. At first the novelty of the place—tent life, early rising, supplying the wood and water—carried me over the hard places, and as long as I could see the mirages in the early morning and the glorious sunsets in the evenings, with the ever-changing lights and colors on the Buttes north of the Colony during the day, I was happy, lifted, carried out of myself and away from such minor troubles as bodily fatigue and physical discomforts.

A dreamer, you say? I admit it. All my life I have cultivated my natural ability to lose myself for the time being in the beauties of the universe about me. It is a sort of insulation I carry against the too rude shocks and jars of life. But let me also admit my extremely practical side lest you misjudge me. For many weeks I worked in the dining room and kitchen and a right good record did I make.

Here I began to feel that it was vitally necessary to work out the co-operative commonwealth without delay. There were people who were so shut up within themselves that they could not ask for what they wanted courteously or pleasantly; nor did they demand what they wished, they merely watched sullenly, and if one person was served a bit more in quantity or more pleasantly than himself there was an immediate complaint. This in spite of the fact that all the service was as nearly equitable as possible. Women came whose faces were hard and bitter and who all but frowned if one wished them a good morning in passing.

All of this was most puzzling at first until it dawned upon me that these imprisoned souls were the direct result of the capitalist system. So long had they been oppressed and defrauded that they felt each little oversight as a direct slight, and they seemed to suspect each friendly word or smile as presaging further exploitation.

Right then and there my heart and mind took such a firm stand for co-operative living that it will last as long as time lasts for me.

As Ruth LePrade says in her wonderful poem, "We cannot mount alone," and in other places in the same poem, "As long as one man is sorrowful and broken I, too, am sorrowful and broken." "As long as one soul is weak I, too, am weak," "As long as one small child sobs in the night my heart will answer, sobbing too."

This expressed my feeling clearly. Of what avail was all the culture, all the knowledge, all the luxury or comfort I could put into my own personal life while there were people in the world so deeply hurt?

I knew then that I could never again work for myself alone—even my single handed efforts for my own family would never be enough henceforth.

Up to this point in my life my idea of helping humanity had been by the charity route, but a course of several years in that sort of work had thoroughly convinced me that charity fails to solve social problems.

Humanity does not need uplifting. It needs a clear, sympathetic understanding of its problems and then must follow, so it seems to me, united effort, standing shoulder to shoulder to work out the answer. Here in Llano I found this condition and I was glad to turn in and help. By the time I realized the ideals and the truly remarkable way the work was reacting on individuals I was committed to it forever.

It is difficult, standing at the end of nearly two years' effort,

to trace the way step by step—but as I look about at my friends who have developed and grown to spiritual heights they would never have attained by working for themselves alone—as I realize my own growth—I see how tremendously worth while it is.

Take our situation from any angle you wish—and there are many angles for a woman to consider that do not enter into a man's calculation: A man may dream the big dreams without considering the details that go into the everyday living of them and it remains but for the woman to follow along. She, too, may have a glimpse of the vision, but in the face of the pioneer hardships it is a brave woman who can face the personal discomforts.

We are all considerably bound by them; but, after all, our foremothers faced them and came through royally and brought up families that are a sufficient proof of the sterling worth of these women. Have we modern women been so weakened by our very comforts and luxuries that we have no courage left upon which to live while we are working out our great dream? Most other pioneer women had no such dream to hearten them at their tasks. At best, their hope was but to advance towards personal success. If personal success is worth all the hardships the real pioneers had to endure—how much more worth while is it to know that we shall gain not only the personal success of a good home, a steady income, good education for our children and a free, happy social life, but that we are working out a basis or plan by which all mankind can free itself so that all who are willing to work may have the same advantages?

But to return to the personal side for the woman. We women have a narrow outlook on life and are bounded on at least three sides by pots and pans. More than any other complaint I have heard this: "If I only had a sink and running water!" It is hard to do without such necessary luxuries as these, but I decided not to let a sink or the lack thereof bound me on the fourth side. That side must be kept free and clear to enable me to see the vision and maintain an open pathway to my ideals.

Always I had admired noble women, those I knew and those I had read about who had struggled through hardships of one sort and another to attain a desired end, and I had dreamed vainly of the time when the children would be grown, the household cares less depressing and I, too, could develop the latent possibilities I felt within myself.

In Llano I began to rearrange my life in its proper relation to my ideals. Housework has taken its proper place as a means to an end and not as the end itself. Stories of people living in tents in the desert or mountains had always held an interest for me—their hardships and the spirit in which they bore them were the measure of their triumph. Through struggles with my weaknesses I came to realize that theirs was no empty triumph. It isn't easy, but then, what real success in life is easy? Many of us drift into our life's work and make many changes as we go along. I choose to follow the definite path of co-operation, the working out of the great dream of mankind, equality and brotherhood.

Once the husband has decided upon a course to follow, the woman must consider every question from two standpoints: What will it do for my children? What will it do for myself?

In answer to the first it seems to me that Llano children learn most valuable lessons about life and living. First, that

the greatest good for the greatest number is an important rule in life. If the commissary were short, for instance, all would share alike. Also they find that community interest is a real thing and one not lightly to be disturbed. They learn, too, that the service an individual renders to the community is the measure of his worth and that he takes his own measure. No amount of "front" avails one here—if we wish favors we must earn them. In other words, we are valuable in proportion to what we give to the colony, not in what we take from it, as is the rule in the outside world.

I mention these things first because they have impressed me as exceedingly valuable lessons for children to learn.

Then there is the matter of health. I have found overflowing measure for my children. And the snow-covered, somewhat austere mountains to the south, the more friendly, colorful Buttes on the north, with the misty blue Tehachapi range in the distance, form an environment of grandeur and natural beauty that cannot fail to react on the character and imagination of the children.

There remains now the one question, as to the effect on the woman herself. Our judgments are usually formed as a result of our own experience, so perhaps I shall be pardoned if I remain personal. I have believed from the first that the women in this community have the opportunity to live closer to their ideals than in any other place in the world. I still believe it. The community ideals are a great help and there is no reason why we women cannot begin here and now to develop ourselves and our children as we have always dreamed of doing. We shall not succeed at once and there will be many times of depression when it seems too hard, but when

I stop to think I remember that these periods of depression are not at all peculiar to Llano.

It seems to me that one's friends in the "outside world" should be in about the same financial elevation as oneself, other things being equal. In Llano, our plan of equal incomes regulates that automatically and I believe that the time will come very soon when such feelings as envy will be unknown. And to a woman with limited means the heartache that comes from constant association with women who have everything in the world to do with is a serious matter and the little feeling that comes with it almost excusable.

Let me tell you one more little decision of my own on the personal side and I will stop. One of my earnest desires has been to grow old gracefully. It hurts me to see women minging along aping the clothes and manners of young girls after they have reached the thoroughly respectable and lovable age of older women. I want to be young as long as I can, but it must be the youth of the heart, and when the wrinkles come I want them to be the sincere ones caused by earnest thought and friendly smiles.

Perhaps the wrinkles come a bit sooner to women in Llano than outside, but they are wrinkles of character and are sincere records of our lives. Many persons have spoken of the lack of worry lines in the faces of our people; the mask-like face that hides all worries is not here, either, for the ordinary worry that plays such havoc with a woman's good looks is lacking. So I mean to convey that here we can show our true character in our faces to the end, and, meeting honest, kindly faces all around, it must follow that our own will take on the beauty of earnest endeavor in a great cause.

## For Women Only

**W**OULD you like to have a pretty mouth? Of course you would, and I am going to tell you how to get one without paying a dollar down and a dollar a month for the rest of your natural life.

I had always read, just as you have, that beauty is only skin deep, and I took it in, as I always do those wise saws that may or may not be true, and repeated it sagely when I thought it sounded well. But I did not realize what it really meant until I began to eat at cafeterias for a while; one morning it dawned upon me that the muscles under the skin have as much to do with our beauty as anything else and that if they are properly trained the skin over them will surely take on some of the grace of the action properly performed.

Have you ever noticed the peculiar little pouches that form at the sides of many mouths? Well, I did the morning that I made the great discovery, and it was simply this: That

most people fill their mouths too full and in the effort to cover it decently while they are masticating their food they draw the muscles into an unnatural position that gradually results in those horrid pouches that every woman dreads. When I saw these mouths in action I tested it for myself, not once, but many, many, times, and proved to my entire satisfaction that it lies absolutely within the power of every woman to have a pretty mouth if she will take small bites of food and chew them well. Try it. Look about you well, first at your friends and enemies, then try the remedy and you will find yourself on a track that will not only pay you handsome dividends in the way of a pretty mouth, but the pleasure of eating delicately will lend a refinement to the countenance; you can converse more pleasantly and elegantly than when the mouth is full; and, lastly, you will eat less and feel much better, thereby swatting the H. C. of L.



Left, a musical citizen of Llano. Other pictures show some recent arrivals at Llano. Those shown on the right are always seen together.

# Industrial Education

By Clinton Bancroft

**A** CLOSE observer of the educational activities of the past few years could not fail to have noted a tendency on the part of private and independent educators to turn their attention more and more to technical trades and industrial occupations, rather than to literature, art and the professions. This has been largely in response to a demand for such technical training from the children of the poor, whose common school education was left unfinished in the industrial struggle for existence. Under these conditions the privately owned trades and correspondence schools entered the educational field. Their special function was to qualify the wage earner quickly for the higher salaried positions in commercial and industrial occupations, a rich field left practically untouched by the public schools. They capitalized the function of the public school; but it is always a notable fact that when private individuals undertake to perform a public function for profit they seize first upon that portion of it which promises the greatest revenue to themselves and exploit it to the limit of the people's patience. Dividing the educative energies of the nation into two parts—one, the common school system, operated by the public and supported by direct taxation; and one operated by private interests, the business colleges, trades and correspondence schools, supported by a schedule of tuition fees—has resulted in a loss of potential energy to the former. Private trades and correspondence schools operated for profit in this age of our national life are as much an anachronism as would be the farming out of taxes. But a public function improperly performed forces the people to undertake its performance in their private capacity, and this opens the door for the irresponsible exploiter.

The public school is many years behind the times in economic thought and industrial teaching, although it cannot be said to be a failure (as some have charged) so much in what it has done as in what it has left undone. It was adapted to the age in which it was first established (the wild ass days of our forefathers in the Indian wars period), but its development has not kept pace with the progress of science and industry. Practically speaking, it is where and what it was at that time. This backward condition may be traced to the fact that land necessary for industrial education has never been provided for public school USE. Land was set aside by the government in overflowing measure to support the school system, but it was always sold to the credit of the school fund and the money filtered back to the school through the cupped fingers of political rings. The land itself was never put under the direct control and use of the schools for industrial-educational purposes and for the maintenance of students and faculty. That there is a growing need for land for the public schools for such purposes is manifesting itself in the systemless and unsupervised offering of prizes to rural students in many states for the best results in agricultural and animal productions. It is the evolution of the public school moving onward to its destiny; but in the movement, which as yet seems only to be in the direction of more "efficient" farming, capitalism and individualism are unconsciously sowing the seed that will eventually overgrow and destroy themselves. The urban dweller, the landless student, however, does not enjoy these privileges and benefits; and free access to land, supervised industrial-education, and maintenance employment are three essentials to a complete educational system.

Today aspiring students without means to acquire a complete education (a condition for which they are altogether blameless, as their age and opportunities will show), but whose ambitions urge them to an active, industrial life, are expected to find maintenance employment under the competitive wage system, and, finding none, the result is undereducated workers. Society (the government) in its public educational plan should guarantee this maintenance employment to all during the school period of their lives—to those with abundant means as well as to those with none. Maintenance labor should be required of all alike (of the rich as well as of the poor), and none should be made to feel that it is due to poverty, ignoble, or degrading, but that it is an essential part of their education, health-insuring, mind-enriching and ennobling.

"But," says a reactionary political economist, "would you have the public school system furnish employment and continue to educate the children of the poor until they were qualified to fill any position in life they desired to occupy? And how would land be acquired in sufficient quantity? Our free school system would break down under such a strain as that."

That is exactly what we would have it do. Nothing less. Thomas Paine said, speaking of the people of his time: "A long habit of NOT thinking a thing wrong gives it a superficial appearance of being right and raises at first a great commotion in defense of custom. But the tumult soon subsides. Time makes more converts than reason." And for society to leave a part of its young people to struggle with the limited opportunities offered them under competition to gain their education, and to permit a large part of the balance to be educated in private schools operated for profit, is one of those chronic habits of "not thinking a thing wrong" until age has given it a "superficial appearance of being right." It is now generally admitted that less than 10 per cent of all children who enter school pass beyond the grammar grade. The 90 per cent consists chiefly of the children of the toiling workers of the world. If education is good for the few, the 10 per cent, it is good for the many, the 90 per cent; and the public school must measure up to such ethical standard or fall far short of attaining its real educational power and usefulness. Less than this would leave the system still incomplete; nor would the school system break down. And there is no "free school;" that is a misnomer; the people pay for all the education their children receive, and under the present wasteful methods and administration they do not receive in educational value all they pay for. Every individual educated in the so-called "free school," who later in life produces that which adds to the wealth of the nation, repays the public for his education. And a rightly educated people is a social asset.

As to land: When there is a general demand for land deemed necessary for school purposes, the people will find ways and means to secure it. But suppose, as a beginning, the states or the Congress should enact a simple law or constitutional amendment to the effect that:

"Whenever any individual or corporation shall by gift, bequest, grant, deed, or otherwise, convey to the State of \_\_\_\_\_ the title to any piece or tract of land for which the purpose and consideration named in such conveyance shall be declared to be Industrial Education and the Common Good, such land shall thereafter become and be held to be the

property of the school district in which it is situated, and shall be subject to the control of the board of school directors.

"And such land shall not be sold thereafter."

There are many tracts of land today that would be given or bequeathed to the public school if the owners were assured that such land would be devoted to educational purposes only, and not sold or diverted to private interest for profit.

Then suppose a Congress of Educators should organize a non-dividend-paying corporation with the property holding powers of a modern university, and that through such a responsible agency the people should raise funds and purchase land in locations suitable for their plans, and, having cleared the title and prepared the property for industrial-educational purposes, the corporation should deed it to the state for the common good whenever a majority of the people in the community interested should demonstrate by their choice of school directors that they were ready and understandingly competent to operate it successfully.

Suppose that, following the enactment of such a law, many tracts of land should be given to the public schools and colleges generally throughout the United States for use in teaching technical trades, agriculture and stock-raising for use, and that all the products of these lands above the maintenance and compensation of the students and workers should be devoted to extending the work and scope of the school, and to the building of "free homes" for fatherless children and their mothers on such land to be occupied by them during their educational period.

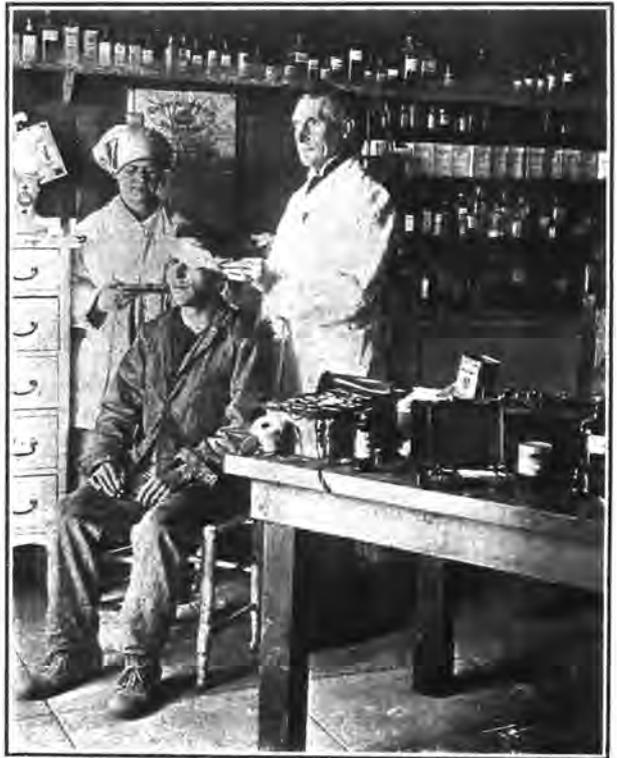
Suppose these educational centers, with plenty of land for practical purposes, should initiate a series of experiments in co-operative home building by students learning the building trades; in co-operative production and distribution of the necessities of life as an economic means to level the high cost of living; in co-operative banking and exchange and of labor as the true basis of value of the money of the future, with the purpose in view of determining what is the common good, what is industrial justice, questions for the educational powers of a great and wealthy nation to solve. Would it result unjustly to any to have them answered?

Suppose villages and cities should grow around these educational centers with a new perspective of industrial life, and that the Mothers of the land, to whom lawmaking powers will soon be generally given, should determine that their children should not be dwarfed and maimed and stunted in body and intellect to satisfy corporate greed for profit, and should then decree that no person under the age of twenty-one years should be employed in factory, mill, mine, store or office operated for private profit. What changes would be made in the present order of industry, in thought, in system, in laws, and in the administration of law and justice?

Ownership of productive land by the school, together with cheap and rapid transportation, enjoyed by some communities, would result in the geographical transformation of many districts and the establishing of educational centers where the chief occupation of the people would be educating the rising generation and improving the race. The work of supplying the people of these centers with a large part of the things they daily needed would be conducted under the supervision of the school as a part of its educational plan. Teachers and students, all would practice daily what they taught and studied. Under such regime all would work at least two or three hours daily in some useful and productive occupation according to age, strength and ambition. School hours would not be observed with the tyrannous discipline of the past, the hours of such service being credited to school attendance. School

life would thus be made an attractive pleasure to the pupil instead of a perfunctory duty.

In the evolution of industry from capital-ownership to co-operative ownership by the workers (from individualism to Socialism), the lessons of service for the common good, of the necessity for free access to land by the workers, of the power and economy of co-operation, of the ethics of mutual exchange of labor values, of industrial justice, of educational freedom—all these will find a place in the curriculum of the public school in time. But industrial education in trades schools operated for profit is practically only the training of wage slaves for capitalism to exploit. The ideals of industrial life (freedom and justice to the workers) are not set forth in their claims for patronage and are impossible of realization;



MEDICAL ATTENTION at Llano is a social service and is free to Llano residents. Eventually this department will take in every school of healing.

whereas all ideals—educational, industrial, economic, social and moral—are possible of realization to a people united upon common ownership of land. But without it, in vain will the lessons of social labor and social justice be pictured before students who see but do not understand; in vain will the truths and philosophy of Socialism fall on ears that hear but do not comprehend. But this need not be. For now let the educators and voluntary co-operators unite in a demand for **Land for the Public Schools**, and join their lawmaking powers, their organizing powers and their labor (economic) power in a general movement to secure it, and the school would solve the problem of the conflicting interests of labor and capital, and also many of the lesser social and economic problems that perplex and vex humanity everywhere.

# Llano Soil and Water

By Wesley Zornes

**T**HE soil in this portion of the Antelope Valley is covered with Joshua Yuccas, greasewood, sage and wild buckwheat for the most part. The great solitary, sentinel-like Yuccas, some of them hundreds of years old, dot the plains below and the slope to the southward. They are not deeply rooted and are easily pulled up. The greasewood is also light and easily cleared from the land. The sage and buckwheat are what the bees feed on largely.

The process of clearing is simple. Four horses are hitched to two long railroad rails, which they drag back and forth over the field, effectually uprooting virtually all vegetation. Four horses with a specially constructed brush rake string it in long windrows, where it is burned. Thus with eight horses and three men five acres can be cleared each day, the estimated cost being about \$4.00 an acre, though the actual cash cost is much less than that. The land is worth, before clearing, about \$12.00 an acre, and the usual price for clearing is \$10.00 an acre.

The necessary work to level for cropping is perhaps less than the average over the country; certainly it is not more. The value of the land increases greatly from year to year by reason of the work placed upon it. Those who come from prairie countries do not at first realize the work that has been done in Llano. They cannot visualize what has been done, and the value that has thereby been added to the land.

The acreage available to Llano is practically without a limit. To say we have a thousand acres, ten thousand acres, or thirty thousand acres, is not giving a very clear idea. Only when it has been seen can one realize the great extent, and what a thousand acres really means.

Irrigation in Llano is being systematized wonderfully. Miles of cobble and lime ditches are being constructed, and many

miles will be completed as time goes on. It is the easy, efficient way of handling the water.

Irrigation specialists say that the easy slopes, the water retentiveness of the soil, and the short ditches required because of the nearness of the source of water supply, make it remarkably easy to irrigate the land here, compared with what irrigation means in many places. The ditches are permanent. The longest dirt ditch is only three miles, though longer ditches than this will be necessary eventually. The cobble ditches, of which the longest is half a mile, are a complete success, and ultimately the ranch will be a network of these cobble and lime ditches.

During the winter season the land is thoroughly soaked with water. This makes it require less during the summer. Plans are being worked out to conserve every drop of water. The tunnel is being cleaned and will probably be extended, when it will give a greater flow of water. This work will develop a great deal of water and will be preliminary to the building of the storage reservoir at the dam site, which will not be built until absolutely required.

The soil is characterized as being of a residual formation; it is of decayed granite and quartz, which disintegrated into soil where they lay. The land is comparatively smooth with a good grade from north to south. The quality is of the best and, according to the agriculturists, will produce any crop that the climate permits of being grown, though some soil building is required for gardening and some other crops. There is practically no limit to the depth of the soil. It is rich in lime and different mineral salts and is greatly benefited by cultivation. It is of sufficient porosity and ranges from light sandy soil to a sandy loam, holds water well, has almost perfect drainage, and is easily worked as a whole.

## The Thing in Itself (Continued from page 20)

"One cannot remember the name of every town."

"Where ya' goin'?"

"South, where the winters are warmer. I sleep in the open and must guard my health."

"Why'n't you get a job somewhere 'n settle down. A strap-pin' fellow like you?"

"The job, I have always with me. To settle as you say—" his azure eyes deepened into wistfulness—"as to that I must not because of my weakness."

"Drink or dope? You don't look it."

He shook his head.

"Women?"

Again he shook his head. "I throttled my passions when I was twenty."

The marshal scratched his head. Here sure was a queer nut! Interesting too!

"Well, what's your weakness, then? Laziness, I guess."

"I am prone to form binding ties. To love people. I move always so that there will be no ties to woo me from my work."

"What's this work that you're always talkin' about. What do ya do for a living?"

"Ah! It is the things that I must do for my living—to earn my few handfuls of food, my shoes, my shirt, the warm clothes that I must have to do my work—it is these things that tear me from my work. It is deplorable that I must waste so much

time from my task, when I am thirty-seven, and at the most have not more than fifty years in which to complete it."

"Well, what the devil is it?"

"Preparing my book."

"It must be a damn big book if it takes fifty years to write it."

"Not more than a dozen pages. Truth is brief when once discovered. I have assigned myself only five years in which to write it. That gives me forty years longer to prepare it, and five years to wait for my passing. With care, it will be given me to live long."

"You sure look healthy. But ain't we all liable to accidents?"

"It is so. But still, who knows? I may be able to continue beyond the transition."

"I guess he's one of them crazy spiritualists." This from the "marvelous specimen."

"Whatcha' goin' to call your book?"

"The Thing in Itself."

"Some name, too," with a wink at his subordinate.

"It is indeed. But I am not so mad as to expect to grasp more than one phase of it."

"Oh, you ain't, eh?"

He bowed his head. "Ah, no!" It will not burst upon me in the splendor of its entirety. The humble devotion of a million petty lives like mine would not be worthy of a reward so matchless as that! But if I surrender to my purpose all

I hold most dear—love, fellowship, adulation, bodily comforts—and endure this—” his blue eyes raising to the grinning faces before him—”scorn, ridicule, misunderstanding, persecution, loneliness—and still do not despair, still seek in all humility and patience—then, then I shall have paid the price! I shall not behold the Thing in Itself, but—” his face was suffused with a wonderful smile—”Its shadow will fall for a single moment across me, and I shall know an ecstasy that shall compensate for all. That is what I shall put into my book of twelve pages, the fitting of the shadow of the Thing in Itself.”

Absorbed in thought he stood silent, then—”Gentlemen, have you done with me? I wish to return to my work.”

”Why, yes, I guess so, partner. You seem harmless enough. But keep off of private property, or we’ll run you in.”

”And the razor? May I have it? It cost me a wasted day.”

The marvelous specimen returned it with tolerant condescension. ”Here it is, Grandpa. Don’t cut yourself. Hope you finish the Thing-um-a-Bob. You better quit wastin’ your time lookin’ at vines or you won’t finish it.”

”If I could find what makes the tendril seek its support with such trembling eagerness instead of growing away from it, I would almost know the Thing in Itself. I am searching among the plants now. In ten years I begin to seek among humanity. You may see me then.”

The door closed softly. The marshal threw back his head. ”The Thing in Itself.’ Some name! Ha! Ha!”

And the marvelous specimen echoed, ”Ha! Ha! He sure is some nut! Ho! Ho!”

## Courage

By Mrs. C. P. Stetson

It takes great courage just to train  
To modern service your ancestral brain;  
To lift the weight of old, unnumbered years,  
Of dead men’s habits, methods, and ideas;  
To hold them back with one hand,  
And with the other sustain the weak steps  
Of a new thought.

It takes courage to bring your life up square  
With the accepted thought and hold it there,  
Resisting the inertia that drags it back  
From new attempts to the old habit’s track;  
It is so easy to drift back, to sink,  
So hard to live abreast of what you think.

It takes great courage to live where you belong  
When other people think that you are wrong—  
People you love and who love you, and whose  
Approval is a pleasure you would choose.  
To resist this pressure and succeed at length  
In living your belief—Well, it takes strength

And courage, too. But what is courage  
Save strength to help one face a pain foreseen—  
Courage to resist the lifelong strain  
Of setting yours against your grandsire’s brain;  
Dangerous risk of walking lone and free  
Out of the easy paths that used to be?  
But the Greatest Courage man has ever known  
Is daring to cut loose and think alone!  
Dark as the unlit chambers of clear space  
Where light shines back from unreflected face.  
But to think new takes courage grave and grim  
As led Columbus over the earth’s rim.

It takes great love to train a human heart  
To live beyond the others and apart.  
A love that is not shallow is not small;  
Is not for one or two, but for them all;  
A love that can wound love for its higher need,  
A love that can leave love though the heart bleed;  
A love that can lose love, family and friend,  
And live steadfastly, loving to the end.

### Wanted—A Comrade

to take over a thirty-acre ranch and provide for two old people a few years, and have the farm for pay.

A little capital and good reference required.

Address: S. Whipple, R.F.D. No. 1, Box 25, El Centro, Cal.

### WANT JAN. 1914 COMRADE!

☞ The files in the office of the WESTERN COMRADE lack the JANUARY, 1914, number. Anyone having a copy will please communicate with the Western Comrade, Llano, Cal.

### ”Celebrating May Day at Llano”

The June WESTERN COMRADE will tell of the May Day celebration which combined the third birthday of the Colony, the fifth birthday of the WESTERN COMRADE and International Labor Day. It was fittingly observed, and the photos will give a splendid idea of Llano social life.

There will be many other interesting things told about the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony as well as articles of general interest, education, and Comrade Job Harriman’s thought-beggetting editorials.

# Llano Celebrated Achievement

Aditorial by the Circulation Manager

**M**ORE than the traditional observance of International Labor day was in the minds of residents of Llano when they celebrated May 1st.

It was the third birthday of Llano.

It was the fifth birthday of the Western Comrade.

As to Llano—three years of achievement are behind her; a splendid future lies ahead.

As to the Western Comrade—behind is a clean record; no radical publication has such a radiant future.

The Western Comrade is steadily gaining in circulation. And one of the most significant facts is that nearly every reader renews his subscription when it expires.

The reason is a good one. The Western Comrade tells him of the things he wishes to know.

Each month it is hoped the Western Comrade will become a more and more interesting magazine. It should occupy the foremost place in the radical field today. It tells the story in which we are all interested, the story of which no other publication can tell.

## THAT IS ACHIEVEMENT.

Facts are demanded today. Socialist theories are good, but the people demand more. They want to know if they will work. And we must answer that question satisfactorily and directly. No evasion will do. We must cite examples. Whether it is just or unjust to ask us to do this, it is the question asked of us, and we must meet it. We have no other choice.

Has anyone ever asked you:

Can the workers manage industry?

Will Socialism work?

Can you have a uniform wage scale?

Who'll do the dirty work?

How will the people take over the industries?

Won't a few gain control?

And the objections are:

You can't have common ownership of land.

You can't work a ranch on an eight-hour day.

You've got to have a boss.

Socialism destroys the home.

There'll be no incentive.

You've heard lots more of them. Heretofore you've had to answer with theories. Llano furnishes facts. Llano is constructive, practical, growing, virile, young. Llano people have learned much in the three years they have been practicing the theories of Socialism. They answer every objection, every question.

The Western Comrade and the Llano Colonist tell about what is being done. They show how co-operation succeeds. They tell of accomplishment. And it is because of this that the Llano Publications have grown.

Straight-from-the-shoulder Socialism they teach, the pure, unadulterated article. Yet they do not call names, do not indulge in bitter criticism, do not participate in party disputes.

The Llano gardens are an example in concrete Socialism. So are the printing department, the cannery, the dairy, and every other institution in Llano. As little lessons in Socialism they are unparalleled. You can interest anyone in such lessons as these.

Socialists have looked forward to the coming of the Co-operative Commonwealth. They have prophesied much from it.

They said it would take care of the orphaned, the aged, the sick.

Llano does that.

They said it would provide employment for all.

Llano does that.

They said it would give old age and mothers' pensions.

Llano does that.

They said it would bring hope to people.

Llano does that.

The things that Socialists dreamed of, worked for, voted for, agitated for—these are being achieved in Llano.

Every reader of the Western Comrade should help to spread an interest in Socialism. You can interest your friends, your neighbors, your workmates, your associates, even your employer, when you can show literature telling of the achievements of these principles.

The COLONIST and the COMRADE do this.

**The triumphs of the principles you believe in depend on the education of the people. There are no better mediums for this than the Llano Publications.**

Will you get one additional reader this month?

It is asking little of you, but it is asking you to do what you believe is right. We must have your help. We must spread the news of "Co-operation in Action."

The COMRADE has grown, so has the COLONIST. But they must grow more and more rapidly. Already they wield an influence greater than any other papers, proportionate to their size.

Will you help make them more influential?

The COLONIST is 50c a year, or \$1.00 for a club of three. The COMRADE is 75c a year, or 50c in clubs of four or more.

Both to one address are \$1.00 a year or 75c in clubs of four or more.

Canadian rates are \$1.00 a year for either the COMRADE or the COLONIST. No club rates apply outside of the United States.

## I Need \$10,000

TO ENLARGE MY RAPIDLY GROWING BUSINESS

My business is a standard, conservatively managed business. It has been established about five years. It is growing so rapidly that in order to keep up with the increased demand I must have larger equipment throughout. This requires an immediate outlay of capital.

There is every prospect that WITHIN FIVE YEARS IT WILL BE THE LARGEST BUSINESS OF ITS KIND IN THE UNITED STATES.

The product in one line has been multiplied by three in the last ten months; a newly established line has grown amazingly.

I have had to turn away a great deal of profitable business because my equipment has been inadequate to handle this new business.

I am a Socialist. I want to borrow this capital from Socialists.

**I CAN GIVE FIRST CLASS SECURITY.**

I estimate that \$10,000 will equip a new plant completely. The money will be used for this purpose.

I want to borrow it either in a lump sum or in smaller sums.

Have you a small sum you wish to invest where it will be used by a comrade, and where it will be well protected?

Write me for full details, and let me know what sum you will loan if the security is satisfactory to you.

Please address: John D. McGregor, care of Western Comrade, Llano, California. —Advertisement

### About Manuscripts

Only typewritten material or that written with ink will be given consideration.

Please put your name and address and date on manuscripts.

The WESTERN COMRADE does not pay cash at present.

Please state if you desire return of manuscript.

The COMRADE is always glad to consider contributions, but nothing of a controversial nature will be printed.

### What Are You Good For?

Did you ever try to find out?

Are you employed at work for which you are best fitted?

Do you KNOW or are you GUESSING?

Your children -- what will you advise them to do?

The science of Character Analysis will answer the questions you have asked yourself. It is not fortune telling. It is not guess work. It tells you what you are fitted for and gives you the reasons. It tells you why you have not succeeded in what you have attempted and will show you in which lines you can hope to succeed.

An analysis of yourself will cost you something and it is worth many times what it costs; but information about it—that is free. Just write: "Send me free information about Character Analysis and Vocational Fitness." Write your name and address very plainly. Send it to:

P. O. Box 153, Llano, California

### California Lands or Government Lands

"NEW OPENINGS DIFFERENT COUNTIES AND STATES"

booklet, telling of your nine rights, eight without residence. Special circulars, how, why, and where, of overlooked or covered up bargains; all counties, some near you. Write:

Joseph Clark, Searcher of Government and State Records  
1511 K St, Sacramento.

Telephone Home A-4533

**HARRIMAN & LEVIN**

Attorneys at Law

921 Higgins Building

Los Angeles, Cal.

## Law Book Free

**S**TUDY LAW, and become the man of power in your community. The farmers of North Dakota captured the State Government, and found that they needed law-trained men in office to fight the big interests which have their lawyers in the Legislature to make their laws, and in the Courts to defend and interpret them. There are opportunities awaiting YOU. Get ready for them—study Law at home in your spare time. We prepare you for the Bar examination. Guarantee bond for refund of money if dissatisfied. Degree of LL. B. conferred. Hundreds of successful students enrolled. Fourteen-volume Law Library upon enrollment. Low cost—easy terms. Be independent. Be a Leader. Write today for free law book—"Law and the People."

THE PEOPLE'S COLLEGE, Dept. D,  
FORT SCOTT, KANSAS.

## Reduced Freight Rates

on Shipments of

Household Goods

from all Eastern points

to California

Members of the Llano del Rio Colony will find it especially advantageous to make their shipments through the

### JUDSON Freight Forwarding Co.

443 Marquette bldg, Chicago; 324 Whitehall bldg, New York; 640 Old South bldg, Boston; 435 Oliver bldg, Pittsburg; 1537 Boatmen's Bank bldg, St. Louis; 518 Central bldg, Los Angeles; 855 Monadnock bldg, San Francisco. WRITE NEAREST OFFICE.

### Can You Reduce Weight?

Information regarding my Obesity Treatments is contained in a little booklet and consists of fully explained systems of dieting, exercises, bathing, manipulative movements, and various other essentials to effect the desired results. Persistency in this common sense and proved treatment will surely bring results in your case as it has in others. No drugs are used; it is a natural and beneficial way of reducing flesh. It gives full details for daily conduct. In sending remittances, state what portion you particularly wish to have reduced and emphasis will be given as to what treatments will prove most beneficial.

Full \$5.00 Treatments, \$3.00

Mrs. C. M. Williams, Llano, Cal.

### CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 25c a line for one insertion; 15c a line thereafter. Twelve words to the line. Advertising payable in advance.

WANTED—GAS ENGINES, 6 TO 12 H. P. STATE MODEL, DESIGN, name, age, condition, and give full description. WESTERN COMRADE.

FOR SALE.—BREEDING RABBITS. BELGIANS, NEW ZEALANDS, AND Flemish Giants. We can supply all ages up to eight months. For further information address Rabbit Department, Llano del Rio Colony, Llano, Cal.

# Three Years of Growth

## Are Back of The Llano del Rio Colony

Thirty-six months of unprecedented success and prodigious growth is the record that the Llano del Rio Colony can point to. Never before in the history of the co-operative movement has such splendid progress been made. It is a record justly to be proud of and the success has been fairly earned. The Llano del Rio Colony is on a safe and sane footing; its growth and progress will be even more remarkable during the years to come.

### LLANO OWNS

Printery  
Shoe Shop  
Laundry  
Commissary  
Bakery  
Cannery  
Tannery  
Creamery  
Magazine  
Newspaper  
Saw Mill  
Lime Kiln  
Dairy  
Hogs  
Alfalfa  
Orchards  
Gardens  
Rabbitry  
Stock Ranges  
Machine Shop

## 2750 Acres

This great tract of land was added to the holdings of the Colony just recently. It lies in the fertile San Joaquin Valley and is splendid fruit land. Every member of the Llano del Rio Colony, resident or installment member, profits by the added acreage. It strikingly marks the growth of the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony.

(See pages 16 and 17 this issue Western Comrade)

### LLANO MAKES

Bread  
Overalls  
Shirts  
Canvas Gloves  
Butter  
Leather  
Soap  
Rugs

### LLANO HAS--

Library  
Montessori School  
Orchestras  
Two Hotels

### GIVES FREE--

Medical Attendance  
Doctor's Services  
Entertainments  
Rent  
Baths  
Dances

## Have You the Spirit of Co-operation?

Have you, who have voted for the co-operative commonwealth, who have talked and agitated for it and prayed that it might come in your time, who have done your part to educate the world to its benefits—have you the courage of your convictions? Are you willing to unite with your comrades and MAKE it the huge success you have dreamed of? The hardest of the fight is over. The Colony is on a sound foundation now. The days when it required the great sacrifices and the utmost courage are now past.

But the days of doing and the time of the greatest opportunity lie immediately ahead. Those

who have the foresight to get into the vanguard of this great enterprise, who are willing and anxious to get on to the firing line of the grandest phase of the co-operative movement, who have the spirit of the co-operative commonwealth strong within them, can achieve and conquer. Workers and thinkers are required. They will be amply rewarded, too, but the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony appeals to those who have VISION and SPIRIT more than to those who are merely interested in their own betterment. Will you join with those who are making "Co-operation in Action" a success?

SEND FOR THE "GATEWAY TO FREEDOM"

## Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony

LLANO, CALIFORNIA