

## That New Railroad Great Enthusiasm Slave Bill For Socialists

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Such statement is entirely erroneous. The bill is full of exception clauses, which practically annuls the sixteen-hour clause except in case of the telegraph operator.

The annulling clause reads as follows, "provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any engineer, fireman, conductor or trainman to desert his locomotive or train in case of accident, storms, wrecks, washouts, snow blockade or any unavoidable delay arising from like causes."

Any railroad man knows that ninety per cent of delays, long hours are caused by what is embraced in the exception clause.

Moreover, owing to the gigantic problem of transportation, with the single lines, lack of side tracks, it is impracticable at present to fix number of hours per day that trainmen should work, except that it be twenty-four hours and such a law as that would be hailed with glee by the employing class.

The only way to regulate the hours of trainmen is to limit the number of hours per week, when a man has worked the limited number of hours per week then he does not go out until the beginning of the next week. In this way the trainman is allowed time to recuperate, provided, however, that the limit of hours worked per week do not reach one hundred and twelve, like the bill now before the legislature provided.

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We have failed to see anything in the demo-repub papers claiming any good features of the sixteen-hour law. In fact they are unable to print anything about the bill except the text of the measure.

The News has interviewed railway men and they all condemn the measure. It is safe to say that if the bill passes the senate and receives the governors' signature, that it will be one of the first bills that the workers of the state will demand a referendum on under the Direct Legislative law when that law becomes operative.

Next week the News will deal with the work of the telegraph operator, the conditions he works under as well as throwing some side lights on the life of the trainmen in the west.

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In Straasburg it has been resolved to publish our party organ, the Freie Presse, in a French as well as a German edition.

To give an idea of what a power our party has become in Berlin: On the day of the dissolution of the reichstag, when our party organ had no more news than any other, all copies were sold out of the Vorwaerts. All people in the trains instinctively called for the Vorwaerts, copies were sold at 1 mark (1s.), instead of 5 pf. (1-2d.), and at the cafes special tips were paid to the waiters to secure a copy (and that in cafes where the Vorwaerts is taken in several copies). The workers were not those who made the demand—they had their copies in their pockets—but the bourgeoisie had only one instinct, viz., to know what the most powerful party in Germany had to say on the question.

Never has there been an election, perhaps, in which the social democracy has been completely left to itself as this one. More and more clear every day is the bond which unites all bourgeois parties of all colors in common hostility to us. We see the radicals and ultra-conservatives forming alliances for common candidatures at the first ballot. That may even lose us certain seats, but it lays the foundation of a future victory so much the more certainly as it implies the actual bankruptcy of the bourgeois liberal parties. They declare their own impotence and throw their principles overboard.—Justice.

### Kaiser's Son.

As if Kaiser Wilhelm did not have troubles enough with the wicked socialists, now Prince August Wilhelm, the eighth son, has been caught trifling with socialism and is to be shipped to the United States to forget his fad. August Wilhelm has betrayed great admiration for Bebel, the leader of parliament, and actually attempted to go to work for a living on a socialist comic paper in Berlin. Thereupon the kaiser fiercely clutched at his mustache, swore a lot of "donnerwetters" and decided to trot the prince off to America. If that punishment doesn't cure Gussie of his evil habits of poking his nose into economic questions then he is to be married off to Princess Alexandra Victoria von Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Guecksburg. That ought to hold August Wilhelm for keeps.—Citizen.

## Franchise Grab

### Big Corporations Seeking to Deliver Montana Into Hands of Octopus Through a Sneak

There is an innocent little bill before the legislature at present, it is House Bill No. 34, and introduced by Manchester (rep.) of Butte.

The bill is for the benefit of franchise grabbing corporations and seeks to amend a law passed in 1903. The legislature of that year passed one of the best laws on the Montana statutes. The law in question prevents any city council from giving away a franchise. And no corporation can get a franchise unless the people by a referendum vote decide in their favor.

Before the passage of this law corporations could get a franchise for a song, and there existed a continual war between the people and the city councils on the question of giving away franchises.

Since the law went into effect very few franchises have been granted corporations. In nearly every instance the voters have voted against giving away a franchise regardless of the inducements the corporations might offer. In fact the giving away of franchises has become a lost art in Montana.

Moreover city councils will not submit to the voters a question of giving away a franchise, unless the corporation desiring same, puts up enough money to pay the cost of the election. This coupled with the fact that the people won't give away franchises, has dampened the craving of submitting the question to a vote of the people.

The capitalists are now squealing and squirming against such a law and they dare not openly appeal it, but they have their henchmen at work trying to attach an innocent little rider to the law.

The rider or the Manchester amendment is to the effect that after a corporation has secured a franchise or any existing franchise, the same can be extended by the city council without submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection.

If it is a good thing for the people to vote on all franchise gifts, then it is equally as good a thing for them to vote on extending the franchise.

The Butte Street Car company which is owned by Senator Clark, the copper king, is working hard for its passage and they have a powerful lobby at work in Helena.

Manager Wharton, of the Butte street cars, appeared before the committee and said that if they wanted to extend their lines two blocks, the question had to be submitted to the people and it would cost \$2,500 to pay the election expenses. All they wanted was to extend their lines a quarter of a mile and if the law as changed, the city council of Butte would grant them the permit to extend their lines without referring it to the voters of Butte and the Street Car company would not be out the \$2,500 election expenses.

Of course, Mr. Wharton did not state how much it would cost to treat the old party members of the council after they gave the Street Car company the permit. Senator Clark and other capitalists know that they can control the

majority of a city council when they cannot control the majority of the voters.

City councils have sold franchises, but the majority of the people, while they can be fooled occasionally, can never be bought.

Other interests that are behind this measure, are the large electric power companies of the state. The Standard Oil interests are damming up the rivers of the state, and building immense power plants and distributing the electric power in a radius of over one hundred miles from the central station, and are endeavoring to secure a monopoly of the electric light and power by getting franchises in the various cities of the state.

Where they cannot get a franchise they buy up the existing franchise—if there is one. They are erecting their poles and stringing their wires all over the state. They are lighting up at night the mountain passes and the prairies (miles from any town) to allow night crews to work on the railroad construction that is now going on in this state.

The Electric Power company is planning to secure franchises, and raids are to be made on various cities of the state, and the passage of this amendment will make the work easier for them. Then all they will have to say is, "We just want a permit to erect our row of poles and string wires so we can pass through your city." If the people vote to give them that, then they can proceed to buy up the city council and get a permit to erect poles and string wires all over the city without the same being submitted to a vote of the people. This amendment is like the old fable of the camel. He begged his master to let him put his nose into the tent because it was so cold outside. This permission being kindly granted, he then begged to put his head in. The master protested on account of the smallness of the tent, but finally yielded to persuasion. Whereupon the camel said the warmth was so agreeable that he pushed his whole body in, and since there was not room for two pushed the master out.

It is inspiring and prophetic to hear the discussions among the people of any city when a question has been submitted to grant a corporation a franchise. Everywhere one hears the remarks, "Vote against the franchise, we will run that business ourselves some day." This is the sentiment that is among the masses. This is the sentiment that the capitalist fears. This is the sentiment they would crush out by passing this amendment. "We will run that business ourselves some day,"—how hopeful in this waste of commercialism are these words. Yes! but it will never be as long as the workers elect to office the funkneys and hirelings of the franchise grabbing parasites. "We will run that business ourselves some day." Yes, when and only when you elect a majority of socialists to govern the state.

## German Elections Misrepresented

The associated press reports of the German elections are to the effect that the socialists have been defeated and the Kaiser victorious. The reports as published in the capitalist papers are misleading and show anything but a socialist defeat. The socialists lost 19 seats and gained one. This would mean that they have elected sixty-three members and will contest seventy-five seats in the second ballot, of which the opposition concedes that they will win nineteen. Which if they do will give them eighty-two members in the Reichstag or one more than before. The socialists have elected more on the first ballot than they did at the election and they also go into the second ballot in more districts than before, besides increasing their vote from ten to fifteen per cent.

However, the reports that are at hand, are unreliable and we will have to wait for more definite information, which we believe will show more favorable returns for our German comrades.

The Kaiser was badly scared as to the outcome of the election and if the socialists did not poll as large a vote as the Kaiser expected they would, he would naturally consider the socialists defeated. However, if it should happen that the Kaiser has checkmated the socialists, we can rely on it that our comrades were repulsed not routed.

It is amusing to read the capitalist papers of this country, how gleefully they gloat over the supposed defeat and how they show their sympathies to be with the royal snob of Europe, a man despised by all Europe. The British navy has been looked on for years as the policeman of Europe, but this distinction must be shared by the socialists of Germany, as they more than any one else, have restrained the iron hand of Emperor William.

Local Tacoma sends out a convenient little card folder advertising a series of five socialist meetings by Vincent Harper, beginning on Jan. 15 and closing Feb. 12. The lectures are given at Germania hall and 15 cents admission is charged. Music will be given at the lectures. The subjects are: Man or Machine, Woman or Washtub, Child or Chattel, Revolution or Evolution, The Dawn.

### From Japanese Socialists

Dear Comrades—I have been instructed by the representatives of the socialist party in Japan to forward the enclosed matter to you for publication, and to send copies to all principal socialist papers in the United States and to national headquarters at Chicago.

The socialist papers in America do not seem quite clear in their general attitude toward the Japanese expulsion question, and the comrades of Japan are asking whether or not American socialists are going to be true to the exhortation of Marx—"Workingmen of all countries, unite"—or whether they are to encourage contention and division on the ground of race prejudice. Fraternally yours,

K. KANEKO.

Toronto, a town of 330,000, polled 8,000 for the socialist candidate for mayor.

## Gambling Law Disturbs Solons

The gambling law of Montana is proving a source of interesting byplay in the legislature. The republicans are making a scape goat of the democrat Governor Toole and laying the shameful farce of the violation of the gambling law throughout the state, and especially in Helena, upon the governor's executive shoulders. They introduced a measure making him responsible for the enforcement of the law. Whiteside, of Flathead, a democrat, moved to amend by inserting Galen's (republican) name for Toole's. The republican amalgamated solid sat down on that promptly. They'll blame Toole, their political opponent, but the white dove republican must be left untainted by the same offense.

This legislative business is one of the most brazen imposition upon the working class of all the infamies of the rule over them by the exploiters. The legislatures are simply to clench the exploitation by the rulers, with the show of a machine. They do nothing of any social value. They put up men of straw and knock them down again. They amend and resolute, and talk foolishly, and turn down what they talk about, and adjourn, and put in time, and everything they do common sense would settle in a few moments' time. The state would be in infinitely better shape if they never met at all—if there was no legislature whatever, say for ten years. All they do is to waste a lot of money to give a lot of grafters a job, and the state interests are no whit further advanced. The meet give a show of popular acquiescence to the deeds that the capitalists wish to do for their own profit. And then it is another way to waste the surplus that the workers create. It really is not much matter to the workers to what length they go. The more old, wasteful and unrighteous are their methods the sooner will the workers see how helpless is their state until they themselves take a hand in moulding their affairs. Two or three socialists in each legislature mark the entrance of the wedge which will rend the rath of exploitation.

Berlin, Jan. 14.—The seventh congress of the Silesian social democrats was held at Prague during Christmas week. The official report of the party shows that the party now has 1,517 organizations, while in 1904 it had only 1,075. The total number of members in these 1,517 organizations is 99,098.

The report also shows that the party has sixteen political papers, three of which are dailies, and one a monthly review, "Academy," which is published in Wien.

The party publishing house is reported as publishing large numbers of books and pamphlets on scientific subjects, some of which are original works while others are reprints and translations from foreign languages.

The agitation committee reported that during the year 30,600 meetings for agitation purposes were held. During the year 3,159 people came in conflict with the police. Of these 2,748 were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. The papers of the party were confiscated by the government 212 times in that period, and the editors were in 33 cases imprisoned for periods ranging from 27 days to six months.—Chicago Socialist.

## Child Labor Bill

During the legislative assembly of 1905 an effort was made to sneak through a bill that would legalize child labor, but the union men of Helena got word of same and fought the measure so hard that the bill was killed. This year an effort is being made to sneak through a measure that will help create child labor in Montana.

The measure in particular has been introduced by Miller of Lewis & Clark which seeks to repeal the act creating the bureau of child and animal protection. This bureau is the most effective office in preventing child labor. The president was more than once taken children of thirteen years old out of the mines of Cascade county and recently prosecuted a saloon keeper in Butte for employing a boy under sixteen as bartender. Not being able to corrupt the president of the bureau of child and animal protection, the corporations seek to abolish the office.

Watch the outcome on this measure and how your representatives vote.

Local Los Angeles has declared for a general strike as a protest against the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone outrage.

## Bern Elections

At the city election in Bern, Switzerland, the socialists polled 45 per cent of the total vote and elected 9 representatives out of 20, the liberals 7 and the conservatives 4. So the socialists are the strongest party in the capital city of Switzerland and soon they will have the majority.

In Bern, as in many other cities of Switzerland, exists the proportional election system. For those who are not versed in it there follows a short explanation. For instance: There are 20 members to be elected and the republicans, democrats and socialists are in the field. Each party puts 20 names on its ticket. The total vote is 10,000, or 500 for each candidate. The average vote on the socialist ticket is 4,500, this being 9 times 500 means that the 9 candidate with the highest vote on the socialist ticket will be elected. The republican poll an average vote of 3,500; this is 7 times 500 and the 7 republicans with the highest vote are elected. The democratic candidates get 2,000 votes on the average and consequently they elect 4 members. There have to be large election districts to make the proportional system work satisfactorily.

## WYOMING EIGHT HOUR LAW

Three months ago the supreme court of Wyoming declared the eight-hour law of that state unconstitutional, although the law had been on the statutes fifteen years ago. The law was being violated and no effort to enforce same was being made by the officers of the law and it was a hard matter to get a case against any mine owner or corporation for trial.

In order to make a test case, a union miner agreed to have the union bring suit against him, which resulted in the case being decided against the union and the eight-hour law declared unconstitutional.

The coal miners of Wyoming have had an eight-hour law for miners drafted and sent a strong lobby to Cheyenne to work for the enactment of the same by the present legislative assembly.

The legislative committee on capital and labor have passed the bill up to the attorney general of Wyoming for an opinion before taking action on same.

There are no socialists in the Wyoming legislature; had the workers of

that state elected a bunch of socialist representatives there would have been no necessity of sending a lobby to work for a labor measure.

We do not hear of a lobby being sent to the legislature of Wisconsin since the socialists elected a delegation.

It used to be a common thing for the British unions to send a lobby and petitions to the House of Commons, but the British union men got wise, elected thirty-eight socialists and those thirty-eight M. P.s now form the lobby and each one of them represents a good fighting petition.

It is impossible to tell at this time how the Wyoming eight-hour law will fare, but if the legislators of Wyoming are anything like the Montana ones we can expect the bill to be amended making sixteen hours the legal work day in mines.

The socialist party at Cincinnati, at its recent convention elected a new city central committee, with Daisy Conklin as secretary and Nicholas Klein as chairman. W. J. Millard is the city organizer. An active lecture campaign is being outlined.

## COUNTRY DIVIDED INTO DISTRICTS

The National Executive Committee has made arrangements to concentrate its resources upon organization instead of upon mere lectures, as in the past. For this purpose the country has been subdivided into nineteen districts, as follows:

First—Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island (state elections 1907 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island).

Second—New York, New Jersey and Delaware (state elections in New Jersey).

Third—Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia (state elections 1907 in Pennsylvania and Maryland).

Fourth—Ohio and Kentucky (state elections 1907 both states).

Fifth—Michigan and Indiana.

Sixth—Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Seventh—Illinois and Iowa.

Eighth—Missouri and Arkansas.

Ninth—Nebraska and Kansas.

Tenth—Oklahoma and Texas.

Eleventh—Montana and Idaho.

Twelfth—Arizona and New Mexico.

Thirteenth—Colorado and Wyoming.

Fourteenth—North Dakota and South Dakota.

Fifteenth—Washington and Oregon.

Sixteenth—California, Nevada, and Utah.

Seventeenth—Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Eighteenth—Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Nineteenth—Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

M. W. Williams has been assigned to the first district, Isaac Cowan to the third, and John Collins to the fourth. Effort has been made to concentrate the work in states holding elections in 1907.

Comrades—We believe that the expulsion question of the Japanese laborers in California is much due to racial prejudice. The Japanese socialist party, therefore, hopes that the American socialist party will endeavor to bring the question to a satisfactory issue in accordance with the spirit of international unity among workingmen. We also ask the American socialist party to acquaint us with its opinion as to this question.

(Signed.) D. Kotoku, T. Sakai, K. Nishikawa, Care of Heiminsha, No. 7, Rokuchome, Shintomicho, Kibashi, Tokio, Japan.

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Local Tacoma sends out a convenient little card folder advertising a series of five socialist meetings by Vincent Harper, beginning on Jan. 15 and closing Feb. 12. The lectures are given at Germania hall and 15 cents admission is charged. Music will be given at the lectures. The subjects are: Man or Machine, Woman or Washtub, Child or Chattel, Revolution or Evolution, The Dawn.

### From Japanese Socialists

Dear Comrades—I have been instructed by the representatives of the socialist party in Japan to forward the enclosed matter to you for publication, and to send copies to all principal socialist papers in the United States and to national headquarters at Chicago.

The socialist papers in America do not seem quite clear in their general attitude toward the Japanese expulsion question, and the comrades of Japan are asking whether or not American socialists are going to be true to the exhortation of Marx—"Workingmen of all countries, unite"—or whether they are to encourage contention and division on the ground of race prejudice. Fraternally yours,

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## Gambling Law Disturbs Solons

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This legislative business is one of the most brazen imposition upon the working class of all the infamies of the rule over them by the exploiters. The legislatures are simply to clench the exploitation by the rulers, with the show of a machine. They do nothing of any social value. They put up men of straw and knock them down again. They amend and resolute, and talk foolishly, and turn down what they talk about, and adjourn, and put in time, and everything they do common sense would settle in a few moments' time. The state would be in infinitely better shape if they never met at all—if there was no legislature whatever, say for ten years. All they do is to waste a lot of money to give a lot of grafters a job, and the state interests are no whit further advanced. The meet give a show of popular acquiescence to the deeds that the capitalists wish to do for their own profit. And then it is another way to waste the surplus that the workers create. It really is not much matter to the workers to what length they go. The more old, wasteful and unrighteous are their methods the sooner will the workers see how helpless is their state until they themselves take a hand in moulding their affairs. Two or three socialists in each legislature mark the entrance of the wedge which will rend the rath of exploitation.

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## COUNTRY DIVIDED INTO DISTRICTS

The National Executive Committee has made arrangements to concentrate its resources upon organization instead of upon mere lectures, as in the past. For this purpose the country has been subdivided into nineteen districts, as follows:

First—Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island (state elections 1907 in Massachusetts and Rhode Island).

Second—New York, New Jersey and Delaware (state elections in New Jersey).

Third—Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia (state elections 1907 in Pennsylvania and Maryland).

Fourth—Ohio and Kentucky (state elections 1907 both states).

Fifth—Michigan and Indiana.

Sixth—Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Seventh—Illinois and Iowa.

Eighth—Missouri and Arkansas.

Ninth—Nebraska and Kansas.

Tenth—Oklahoma and Texas.

Eleventh—Montana and Idaho.

Twelfth—Arizona and New Mexico.

Thirteenth—Colorado and Wyoming.

Fourteenth—North Dakota and South Dakota.

Fifteenth—Washington and Oregon.

Sixteenth—California, Nevada, and Utah.

Seventeenth—Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

Eighteenth—Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

Nineteenth—Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

M. W. Williams has been assigned to the first district, Isaac Cowan to the third, and John Collins to the fourth. Effort has been made to concentrate the work in states holding elections in 1907.

Comrades—We believe that the expulsion question of the Japanese laborers in California is much due to racial prejudice. The Japanese socialist party, therefore, hopes that the American socialist party will endeavor to bring the question to a satisfactory issue in accordance with the spirit of international unity among workingmen. We also ask the American socialist party to acquaint us with its opinion as to this question.

(Signed.) D. Kotoku, T. Sakai, K. Nishikawa, Care of Heiminsha, No. 7, Rokuchome, Shintomicho, Kibasaki, Tokio, Japan.

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The measure in particular has been introduced by Miller of Lewis & Clark which seeks to repeal the act creating the bureau of child and animal protection. This bureau is the most effective office in preventing child labor. The president was more than once taken children of this year old out of the mines of Cascade county and recently prosecuted a saloon keeper in Butte for employing a boy under sixteen as bartender. Not being able to corrupt the president of the bureau of child and animal protection, the corporations seek to abolish the office.

Watch the outcome on this measure and how your representatives vote.

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## Bern Elections

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In Bern, as in many other cities of Switzerland, exists the proportional election system. For those who are not versed in it there follows a short explanation. For instance: There are 20 members to be elected and the republicans, democrats and socialists are in the field. Each party puts 20 names on its ticket. The total vote is 10,000, or 500 for each candidate. The average vote on the socialist ticket is 4,500, this being 9 times 500 means that the 9 candidate with the highest vote on the socialist ticket will be elected. The republican poll an average vote of 3,500; this is 7 times 500 and the 7 republicans with the highest vote are elected. The democratic candidates get 2,000 votes on the average and consequently they elect 4 members. There have to be large election districts to make the proportional system work satisfactorily.

## WYOMING EIGHT HOUR LAW

Three months ago the supreme court of Wyoming declared the eight-hour law of that state unconstitutional, although the law had been on the statutes fifteen years ago. The law was being violated and no effort to enforce same was being made by the officers of the law and it was a hard matter to get a case against any mine owner or corporation for trial.

In order to make a test case, a union miner agreed to have the union bring suit against him, which resulted in the case being decided against the union and the eight-hour law declared unconstitutional.

The coal miners of Wyoming have had an eight-hour law for miners drafted and sent a strong lobby to Cheyenne to work for the enactment of the same by the present legislative assembly.

The legislative committee on capital and labor have passed the bill up to the attorney general of Wyoming for an opinion before taking action on same.

There are no socialists in the Wyoming legislature; had the workers of

that state elected a bunch of socialist representatives there would have been no necessity of sending a lobby to work for a labor measure.

We do not hear of a lobby being sent to the legislature of Wisconsin since the socialists elected a delegation.

It used to be a common thing for the British unions to send a lobby and petitions to the House of Commons, but the British union men got wise, elected thirty-eight socialists and those thirty-eight M. P.s now form the lobby and each one of them represents a good fighting petition.

It is impossible to tell at this time how the Wyoming eight-hour law will fare, but if the legislators of Wyoming are anything like the Montana ones we can expect the bill to be amended making sixteen hours the legal work day in mines.

The socialist party at Cincinnati, at its recent convention elected a new city central committee, with Daisy Conklin as secretary and Nicholas Klein as chairman. W. J. Millard is the city organizer. An active lecture campaign is being outlined.

## That New Railroad Great Enthusiasm Slave Bill For Socialists

Some of the representatives that voted in favor of the sixteen-hour day for railroad men imagine that they have done something great and are claiming that the law is a good thing, because it prevents the railroads from working their employees fifty-six hours which has been done in many cases.

Such statement is entirely erroneous. The bill is full of exception clauses, which practically annuls the sixteen-hour clause except in case of the telegraph operator.

The annulling clause reads as follows, "provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any engineer, fireman, conductor or trainman to desert his locomotive or train in case of accident, storms, wrecks, washouts, snow blockade or any unavoidable delay arising from like causes."

Any railroad man knows that ninety per cent of delays, long hours are caused by what is embraced in the exception clause.

Moreover, owing to the gigantic problem of transportation, with the single lines, lack of side tracks, it is impracticable at present to fix number of hours per day that trainmen should work, except that it be twenty-four hours and such a law as that would be hailed with glee by the employing class.

The only way to regulate the hours of trainmen is to limit the number of hours per week, when a man has worked the limited number of hours per week then he does not go out until the beginning of the next week. In this way the trainman is allowed time to recuperate, provided, however, that the limit of hours worked per week do not reach one hundred and twelve, like the bill now before the legislature provided.

The hours of trainmen in Britain are limited to fifty-four hours per week and since this law went into effect the number of accidents on the railways in that country have decreased to an exceedingly large degree.

In the case of the telegraph operators, twelve hours a day, not to consider sixteen hours, is too long for any man to transmit orders to train crews. It is the long hours of the operator that makes a wreck of him and give wrong orders that results in railroad wrecks. Eight hours per day is long for any telegraph operator and when when the work day of the operators is reduced to eight hours, then there will be a corresponding decrease in wrecks caused by operators' blunders.

We have failed to see anything in the demo-repub papers claiming any good features of the sixteen-hour law. In fact they are unable to print anything about the bill except the text of the measure.

The News has interviewed railway men and they all condemn the measure. It is safe to say that if the bill passes the senate and receives the governors' signature, that it will be one of the first bills that the workers of the state will demand a referendum on under the Direct Legislative law when that law becomes operative.

Next week the News will deal with the work of the telegraph operator, the conditions he works under as well as throwing some side lights on the life of the trainmen in the west.

In the municipal elections at Bornheim, near Frankfurt-on-Main, our comrades recently doubled the number of their representatives in the council—winning three seats—despite a property qualification of \$300. In the province of Brandenburg, at Zehdenich, two comrades were elected, with a majority of 50, into the communal council. In Altshausheim, in Baden, the social democratic list won with 114 to 115 votes, the bourgeois opponents getting 69 to 70. In Essen our vote at the municipal elections rose from 1,492 in 1904, to 2,238 in 1906; in a suburb of Essen, from 80 in 1903 to 299 in 1906. The other parties, including the Catholics, have all lost votes.

In Straesburg it has been resolved to publish our party organ, the Freie Presse, in a French as well as a German edition.

To give an idea of what a power our party has become in Berlin: On the day of the dissolution of the reichstag, when our party organ had no more news than any other, all copies were sold out of the Vorwaerts. All people in the trains instinctively called for the Vorwaerts, copies were sold at 1 mark (1s.), instead of 5 pf. (1-2d.), and at the cafes special tips were paid to the waiters to secure a copy (and that in cafes where the Vorwaerts is taken in several copies). The workers were not those who made the demand—they had their copies in their pockets—but the bourgeoisie had only one instinct, viz., to know what the most powerful party in Germany had to say on the question.

Never has there been an election, perhaps, in which the social democracy has been completely left to itself as this one. More and more clear every day is the bond which unites all bourgeois parties of all colors in common hostility to us. We see the radicals and ultra-conservatives forming alliances for common candidatures at the first ballot. That may even lose us certain seats, but it lays the foundation of a future victory so much the more certainly as it implies the actual bankruptcy of the bourgeois liberal parties. They declare their own impotence and throw their principles overboard.—Justice.

### Kaiser's Son.

As if Kaiser Wilhelm did not have troubles enough with the wicked socialists, now Prince August Wilhelm, the eighth son, has been caught trifling with socialism and is to be shipped to the United States to forget his fad. August Wilhelm has betrayed great admiration for Bebel, the leader of parliament, and actually attempted to go to work for a living on a socialist comic paper in Berlin. Thereupon the kaiser fiercely clutched at his mustache, swore a lot of "donnerwetters" and decided to trot the prince off to America. If that punishment doesn't cure Gussie of his evil habits of poking his nose into economic questions then he is to be married off to Princess Alexandra Victoria von Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Guecksburg. That ought to hold August Wilhelm for keeps.—Citizen.

## Franchise Grab

### Big Corporations Seeking to Deliver Montana Into Hands of Octopus Through a Sneak

There is an innocent little bill before the legislature at present, it is House Bill No. 34, and introduced by Manchester (rep.) of Butte.

The bill is for the benefit of franchise grabbing corporations and seeks to amend a law passed in 1903. The legislature of that year passed one of the best laws on the Montana statutes. The law in question prevents any city council from giving away a franchise. And no corporation can get a franchise unless the people by a referendum vote decide in their favor.

Before the passage of this law corporations could get a franchise for a song, and there existed a continual war between the people and the city councils on the question of giving away franchises.

Since the law went into effect very few franchises have been granted corporations. In nearly every instance the voters have voted against giving away a franchise regardless of the inducements the corporations might offer. In fact the giving away of franchises has become a lost art in Montana.

Moreover city councils will not submit to the voters a question of giving away a franchise, unless the corporation desiring same, puts up enough money to pay the cost of the election. This coupled with the fact that the people won't give away franchises, has dampened the craving of submitting the question to a vote of the people.

The capitalists are now squealing and squirming against such a law and they dare not openly appeal it, but they have their henchmen at work trying to attach an innocent little rider to the law.

The rider or the Manchester amendment is to the effect that after a corporation has secured a franchise or any existing franchise, the same can be extended by the city council without submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection.

If it is a good thing for the people to vote on all franchise gifts, then it is equally as good a thing for them to vote on extending the franchise.

The Butte Street Car company which is owned by Senator Clark, the copper king, is working hard for its passage and they have a powerful lobby at work in Helena.

Manager Wharton, of the Butte street cars, appeared before the committee and said that if they wanted to extend their lines two blocks, the question had to be submitted to the people and it would cost \$2,500 to pay the election expenses. All they wanted was to extend their lines a quarter of a mile and if the law as changed, the city council of Butte would grant them the permit to extend their lines without referring it to the voters of Butte and the Street Car company would not be out the \$2,500 election expenses.

Of course, Mr. Wharton did not state how much it would cost to treat the old party members of the council after they gave the Street Car company the permit. Senator Clark and other capitalists know that they can control the

majority of a city council when they cannot control the majority of the voters.

City councils have sold franchises, but the majority of the people, while they can be fooled occasionally, can never be bought.

Other interests that are behind this measure, are the large electric power companies of the state. The Standard Oil interests are damming up the rivers of the state, and building immense power plants and distributing the electric power in a radius of over one hundred miles from the central station, and are endeavoring to secure a monopoly of the electric light and power by getting franchises in the various cities of the state.

Where they cannot get a franchise they buy up the existing franchise—if there is one. They are erecting their poles and stringing their wires all over the state. They are lighting up at night the mountain passes and the prairies (miles from any town) to allow night crews to work on the railroad construction that is now going on in this state.

The Electric Power company is planning to secure franchises, and raids are to be made on various cities of the state, and the passage of this amendment will make the work easier for them. Then all they will have to say is, "We just want a permit to erect our row of poles and string wires so we can pass through your city." If the people vote to give them that, then they can proceed to buy up the city council and get a permit to erect poles and string wires all over the city without the same being submitted to a vote of the people. This amendment is like the old fable of the camel. He begged his master to let him put his nose into the tent because it was so cold outside. This permission being kindly granted, he then begged to put his head in. The master protested on account of the smallness of the tent, but finally yielded to persuasion. Whereupon the camel said the warmth was so agreeable that he pushed his whole body in, and since there was not room for two pushed the master out.

It is inspiring and prophetic to hear the discussions among the people of any city when a question has been submitted to grant a corporation a franchise. Everywhere one hears the remarks, "Vote against the franchise, we will run that business ourselves some day." This is the sentiment that is among the masses. This is the sentiment that the capitalist fears. This is the sentiment they would crush out by passing this amendment. "We will run that business ourselves some day,"—how hopeful in this waste of commercialism are these words. Yes! but it will never be as long as the workers elect to office the funkneys and hirelings of the franchise grabbing parasites. "We will run that business ourselves some day." Yes, when and only when you elect a majority of socialists to govern the state.

## German Elections Misrepresented

The associated press reports of the German elections are to the effect that the socialists have been defeated and the Kaiser victorious. The reports as published in the capitalist papers are misleading and show anything but a socialist defeat. The socialists lost 19 seats and gained one. This would mean that they have elected sixty-three members and will contest seventy-five seats in the second ballot, of which the opposition concedes that they will win nineteen. Which if they do will give them eighty-two members in the Reichstag or one more than before. The socialists have elected more on the first ballot than they did at the election and they also go into the second ballot in more districts than before, besides increasing their vote from ten to fifteen per cent.

However, the reports that are at hand, are unreliable and we will have to wait for more definite information, which we believe will show more favorable returns for our German comrades.

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Thirteenth—Colorado and Wyoming.

Sixteenth—California, Nevada, and Utah.

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## That New Railroad Great Enthusiasm Slave Bill For Socialists

Some of the representatives that voted in favor of the sixteen-hour day for railroad men imagine that they have done something great and are claiming that the law is a good thing, because it prevents the railroads from working their employees fifty-six hours which has been done in many cases.

Such statement is entirely erroneous. The bill is full of exception clauses, which practically annuls the sixteen-hour clause except in case of the telegraph operator.

The annulling clause reads as follows, "provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be construed to allow any engineer, fireman, conductor or trainman to desert his locomotive or train in case of accident, storms, wrecks, washouts, snow blockade or any unavoidable delay arising from like causes."

Any railroad man knows that ninety per cent of delays, long hours are caused by what is embraced in the exception clause.

Moreover, owing to the gigantic problem of transportation, with the single lines, lack of side tracks, it is impracticable at present to fix number of hours per day that trainmen should work, except that it be twenty-four hours and such a law as that would be hailed with glee by the employing class.

The only way to regulate the hours of trainmen is to limit the number of hours per week, when a man has worked the limited number of hours per week then he does not go out until the beginning of the next week. In this way the trainman is allowed time to recuperate, provided, however, that the limit of hours worked per week do not reach one hundred and twelve, like the bill now before the legislature provided.

The hours of trainmen in Britain are limited to fifty-four hours per week and since this law went into effect the number of accidents on the railways in that country have decreased to an exceedingly large degree.

In the case of the telegraph operators, twelve hours a day, not to consider sixteen hours, is too long for any man to transmit orders to train crews. It is the long hours of the operator that makes a wreck of him and give wrong orders that results in railroad wrecks. Eight hours per day is long for any telegraph operator and when when the work day of the operators is reduced to eight hours, then there will be a corresponding decrease in wrecks caused by operators' blunders.

We have failed to see anything in the demo-repub papers claiming any good features of the sixteen-hour law. In fact they are unable to print anything about the bill except the text of the measure.

The News has interviewed railway men and they all condemn the measure. It is safe to say that if the bill passes the senate and receives the governors' signature, that it will be one of the first bills that the workers of the state will demand a referendum on under the Direct Legislative law when that law becomes operative.

Next week the News will deal with the work of the telegraph operator, the conditions he works under as well as throwing some side lights on the life of the trainmen in the west.

In the municipal elections at Bornheim, near Frankfurt-on-Main, our comrades recently doubled the number of their representatives in the council—winning three seats—despite a property qualification of \$300. In the province of Brandenburg, at Zehdenich, two comrades were elected, with a majority of 50, into the communal council. In Altshausheim, in Baden, the social democratic list won with 114 to 115 votes, the bourgeois opponents getting 69 to 70. In Essen our vote at the municipal elections rose from 1,492 in 1904, to 2,238 in 1906; in a suburb of Essen, from 80 in 1903 to 299 in 1906. The other parties, including the Catholics, have all lost votes.

In Straasburg it has been resolved to publish our party organ, the Freie Presse, in a French as well as a German edition.

To give an idea of what a power our party has become in Berlin: On the day of the dissolution of the reichstag, when our party organ had no more news than any other, all copies were sold out of the Vorwaerts. All people in the trains instinctively called for the Vorwaerts, copies were sold at 1 mark (1s.), instead of 5 pf. (1-2d.), and at the cafes special tips were paid to the waiters to secure a copy (and that in cafes where the Vorwaerts is taken in several copies). The workers were not those who made the demand—they had their copies in their pockets—but the bourgeoisie had only one instinct, viz., to know what the most powerful party in Germany had to say on the question.

Never has there been an election, perhaps, in which the social democracy has been completely left to itself as this one. More and more clear every day is the bond which unites all bourgeois parties of all colors in common hostility to us. We see the radicals and ultra-conservatives forming alliances for common candidatures at the first ballot. That may even lose us certain seats, but it lays the foundation of a future victory so much the more certainly as it implies the actual bankruptcy of the bourgeois liberal parties. They declare their own impotence and throw their principles overboard.—Justice.

### Kaiser's Son.

As if Kaiser Wilhelm did not have troubles enough with the wicked socialists, now Prince August Wilhelm, the eighth son, has been caught trifling with socialism and is to be shipped to the United States to forget his fad. August Wilhelm has betrayed great admiration for Bebel, the leader of parliament, and actually attempted to go to work for a living on a socialist comic paper in Berlin. Thereupon the kaiser fiercely clutched at his mustache, swore a lot of "donnerwetters" and decided to trot the prince off to America. If that punishment doesn't cure Gussie of his evil habits of poking his nose into economic questions then he is to be married off to Princess Alexandra Victoria von Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Guecksburg. That ought to hold August Wilhelm for keeps.—Citizen.

## Franchise Grab

### Big Corporations Seeking to Deliver Montana Into Hands of Octopus Through a Sneak

There is an innocent little bill before the legislature at present, it is House Bill No. 34, and introduced by Manchester (rep.) of Butte.

The bill is for the benefit of franchise grabbing corporations and seeks to amend a law passed in 1903. The legislature of that year passed one of the best laws on the Montana statutes. The law in question prevents any city council from giving away a franchise. And no corporation can get a franchise unless the people by a referendum vote decide in their favor.

Before the passage of this law corporations could get a franchise for a song, and there existed a continual war between the people and the city councils on the question of giving away franchises.

Since the law went into effect very few franchises have been granted corporations. In nearly every instance the voters have voted against giving away a franchise regardless of the inducements the corporations might offer. In fact the giving away of franchises has become a lost art in Montana.

Moreover city councils will not submit to the voters a question of giving away a franchise, unless the corporation desiring same, puts up enough money to pay the cost of the election. This coupled with the fact that the people won't give away franchises, has dampened the craving of submitting the question to a vote of the people.

The capitalists are now squealing and squirming against such a law and they dare not openly appeal it, but they have their henchmen at work trying to attach an innocent little rider to the law.

The rider or the Manchester amendment is to the effect that after a corporation has secured a franchise or any existing franchise, the same can be extended by the city council without submitting the question to the voters for their approval or rejection.

If it is a good thing for the people to vote on all franchise gifts, then it is equally as good a thing for them to vote on extending the franchise.

The Butte Street Car company which is owned by Senator Clark, the copper king, is working hard for its passage and they have a powerful lobby at work in Helena.

Manager Wharton, of the Butte street cars, appeared before the committee and said that if they wanted to extend their lines two blocks, the question had to be submitted to the people and it would cost \$2,500 to pay the election expenses. All they wanted was to extend their lines a quarter of a mile and if the law as changed, the city council of Butte would grant them the permit to extend their lines without referring it to the voters of Butte and the Street Car company would not be out the \$2,500 election expenses.

Of course, Mr. Wharton did not state how much it would cost to treat the old party members of the council after they gave the Street Car company the permit. Senator Clark and other capitalists know that they can control the

majority of a city council when they cannot control the majority of the voters.

City councils have sold franchises, but the majority of the people, while they can be fooled occasionally, can never be bought.

Other interests that are behind this measure, are the large electric power companies of the state. The Standard Oil interests are damming up the rivers of the state, and building immense power plants and distributing the electric power in a radius of over one hundred miles from the central station, and are endeavoring to secure a monopoly of the electric light and power by getting franchises in the various cities of the state.

Where they cannot get a franchise they buy up the existing franchise—if there is one. They are erecting their poles and stringing their wires all over the state. They are lighting up at night the mountain passes and the prairies (miles from any town) to allow night crews to work on the railroad construction that is now going on in this state.

The Electric Power company is planning to secure franchises, and raids are to be made on various cities of the state, and the passage of this amendment will make the work easier for them. Then all they will have to say is, "We just want a permit to erect our row of poles and string wires so we can pass through your city." If the people vote to give them that, then they can proceed to buy up the city council and get a permit to erect poles and string wires all over the city without the same being submitted to a vote of the people. This amendment is like the old fable of the camel. He begged his master to let him put his nose into the tent because it was so cold outside. This permission being kindly granted, he then begged to put his head in. The master protested on account of the smallness of the tent, but finally yielded to persuasion. Whereupon the camel said the warmth was so agreeable that he pushed his whole body in, and since there was not room for two pushed the master out.

It is inspiring and prophetic to hear the discussions among the people of any city when a question has been submitted to grant a corporation a franchise. Everywhere one hears the remarks, "Vote against the franchise, we will run that business ourselves some day."

This is the sentiment that is among the masses. This is the sentiment that the capitalist fears. This is the sentiment they would crush out by passing this amendment.

"We will run that business ourselves some day,"—how hopeful in this waste of commercialism are these words.

Yes! but it will never be as long as the workers elect to office the funkneys and hirelings of the franchise grabbing parasites.

"We will run that business ourselves some day." Yes, when and only when you elect a majority of socialists to govern the state.

## German Elections Misrepresented Gambling Law Disturbs Solons

The associated press reports of the German elections are to the effect that the socialists have been defeated and the Kaiser victorious. The reports as published in the capitalist papers are misleading and show anything but a socialist defeat. The socialists lost 19 seats and gained one. This would mean that they have elected sixty-three members and will contest seventy-five seats in the second ballot, of which the opposition concedes that they will win nineteen. Which if they do will give them eighty-two members in the Reichstag or one more than before. The socialists have elected more on the first ballot than they did at the election and they also go into the second ballot in more districts than before, besides increasing their vote from ten to fifteen per cent.

However, the reports that are at hand, are unreliable and we will have to wait for more definite information, which we believe will show more favorable returns for our German comrades.

The Kaiser was badly scared as to the outcome of the election and if the socialists did not poll as large a vote as the Kaiser expected they would, he would naturally consider the socialists defeated. However, if it should happen that the Kaiser has checkmated the socialists, we can rely on it that our comrades were repulsed not routed.

It is amusing to read the capitalist papers of this country, how gleefully they gloat over the supposed defeat and how they show their sympathies to be with the royal snob of Europe, a man despised by all Europe. The British navy has been looked on for years as the policeman of Europe, but this distinction must be shared by the socialists of Germany, as they more than any one else, have restrained the iron hand of Emperor William.

Local Tacoma sends out a convenient little card folder advertising a series of five socialist meetings by Vincent Harper, beginning on Jan. 15 and closing Feb. 12. The lectures are given at Germania hall and 15 cents admission is charged. Music will be given at the lectures. The subjects are: Man or Machine, Woman or Washtub, Child or Chattel, Revolution or Evolution, The Dawn.

### From Japanese Socialists

Dear Comrades—I have been instructed by the representatives of the socialist party in Japan to forward the enclosed matter to you for publication, and to send copies to all principal socialist papers in the United States and to national headquarters at Chicago.

The socialist papers in America do not seem quite clear in their general attitude toward the Japanese expulsion question, and the comrades of Japan are asking whether or not American socialists are going to be true to the exhortation of Marx—"Workingmen of all countries, unite"—or whether they are to encourage contention and division on the ground of race prejudice. Fraternally yours,

K. KANEKO.

Toronto, a town of 330,000, polled 8,000 for the socialist candidate for mayor.

The gambling law of Montana is proving a source of interesting byplay in the legislature. The republicans are making a scape goat of the democrat Governor Toole and laying the shameful farce of the violation of the gambling law throughout the state, and especially in Helena, upon the governor's executive shoulders. They introduced a measure making him responsible for the enforcement of the law. Whiteside, of Flathead, a democrat, moved to amend by inserting Galen's (republican) name for Toole's. The republican amalgamated solid sat down on that promptly. They'll blame Toole, their political opponent, but the white dove republican must be left untainted by the same offense.

This legislative business is one of the most brazen imposition upon the working class of all the infamies of the rule over them by the exploiters. The legislatures are simply to clench the exploitation by the rulers, with the show of a machine. They do nothing of any social value. They put up men of straw and knock them down again. They amend and resolute, and talk foolishly, and turn down what they talk about, and adjourn, and put in time; and everything they do common sense would settle in a few moments' time. The state would be in infinitely better shape if they never met at all—if there was no legislature whatever, say for ten years. All they do is to waste a lot of money to give a lot of grafters a job, and the state interests are no whit further advanced. The meet give a show of popular acquiescence to the deeds that the capitalists wish to do for their own profit. And then it is another way to waste the surplus that the workers create. It really is not much matter to the workers to what length they go. The more old, wasteful and unrighteous are their methods the sooner will the workers see how helpless is their state until they themselves take a hand in moulding their affairs. Two or three socialists in each legislature mark the entrance of the wedge which will rend the rath of exploitation.

Berlin, Jan. 14.—The seventh congress of the Silesian social democrats was held at Prague during Christmas week. The official report of the party shows that the party now has 1,517 organizations, while in 1904 it had only 1,075. The total number of members in these 1,517 organizations is 99,098.

The report also shows that the party has sixteen political papers, three of which are dailies, and one a monthly review, "Academy," which is published in Wien.

The party publishing house is reported as publishing large numbers of books and pamphlets on scientific subjects, some of which are original works while others are reprints and translations from foreign languages.

The agitation committee reported that during the year 30,600 meetings for agitation purposes were held. During the year 3,159 people came in conflict with the police. Of these 2,748 were sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. The papers of the party were confiscated by the government 212 times in that period, and the editors were in 33 cases imprisoned for periods ranging from 27 days to six months.—Chicago Socialist.

## Child Labor Bill

During the legislative assembly of 1905 an effort was made to sneak through a bill that would legalize child labor, but the union men of Helena got word of same and fought the measure so hard that the bill was killed. This year an effort is being made to sneak through a measure that will help create child labor in Montana.

The measure in particular has been introduced by Miller of Lewis & Clark which seeks to repeal the act creating the bureau of child and animal protection. This bureau is the most effective office in preventing child labor. The president was more than once taken children of thirteen years old out of the mines of Cascade county and recently prosecuted a saloon keeper in Butte for employing a boy under sixteen as bartender. Not being able to corrupt the president of the bureau of child and animal protection, the corporations seek to abolish the office.

Watch the outcome on this measure and how your representatives vote.

Local Los Angeles has declared for a general strike as a protest against the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone outrage.

## Bern Elections

At the city election in Bern, Switzerland, the socialists polled 45 per cent of the total vote and elected 9 representatives out of 20, the liberals 7 and the conservatives 4. So the socialists are the strongest party in the capital city of Switzerland and soon they will have the majority.

In Bern, as in many other cities of Switzerland, exists the proportional election system. For those who are not versed in it there follows a short explanation. For instance: There are 20 members to be elected and the republicans, democrats and socialists are in the field. Each party puts 20 names on its ticket. The total vote is 10,000, or 500 for each candidate. The average vote on the socialist ticket is 4,500, this being 9 times 500 means that the 9 candidate with the highest vote on the socialist ticket will be elected. The republican poll an average vote of 3,500; this is 7 times 500 and the 7 republicans with the highest vote are elected. The democratic candidates get 2,000 votes on the average and consequently they elect 4 members. There have to be large election districts to make the proportional system work satisfactorily.

## WYOMING EIGHT HOUR LAW

Three months ago the supreme court of Wyoming declared the eight-hour law of that state unconstitutional, although the law had been on the statutes fifteen years ago. The law was being violated and no effort to enforce same was being made by the officers of the law and it was a hard matter to get a case against any mine owner or corporation for trial.

In order to make a test case, a union miner agreed to have the union bring suit against him, which resulted in the case being decided against the union and the eight-hour law declared unconstitutional.

The coal miners of Wyoming have had an eight-hour law for miners drafted and sent a strong lobby to Cheyenne to work for the enactment of the same by the present legislative assembly.

The legislative committee on capital and labor have passed the bill up to the attorney general of Wyoming for an opinion before taking action on same.

There are no socialists in the Wyoming legislature; had the workers of

that state elected a bunch of socialist representatives there would have been no necessity of sending a lobby to work for a labor measure.

We do not hear of a lobby being sent to the legislature of Wisconsin since the socialists elected a delegation.

It used to be a common thing for the British unions to send a lobby and petitions to the House of Commons, but the British union men got wise, elected thirty-eight socialists and those thirty-eight M. P.s now form the lobby and each one of them represents a good fighting petition.

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