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THE REBEL

THE GREAT AFFAIR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE OF OUR KIND — LET US ARISE

T. A. HICKEY Editor and Owner
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Federal Land Hearing in Dallas.

The UnitedStates Commission on Industrial Relations will meet in the city of Dallas from December 14 to December 17 for the purpose of taking testimony as to the land and agricultural situation in Texas. The United States government, has engaged the services of one America's greatest educators, Professor Frank R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin, to conduct the investigation. He and the other members of the commission will be assisted by Mr. W. C. Holman, formerly associate editor of Farm and Ranch. Mr. Holman is one of the young men who is coming to the front in this new line of social survey and is attached to the publicity department of Wisconsin's famous university. This hearing is already attracting nationwide attention because the commission will go into the question of the relations of landlords and tenants and the land problem in general in the greatest agricultural state in the union and this is the first time that such a survey of agricultural conditions has ever been made. That these investigators are men of the highest character and efficiency is thoroughly understood by all classes and it behooves us to do all in our power to place within their grasp everything that will tend to throw light upon the deplorable conditions that have made the greatest state in the union a gigantic auxiliary to the poor house.

Mr. E. O. Meitzen, formerly secretary-treasurer of the Renter's Union of America and Mr. W. S. Noble, of Rockdale, national secretary of the Land League of America have been summoned to appear before the commission.

The editor of The Rebel will not be able to be present because of the stress of work brought about by organization details that must be planned so as to have state properly in line for the 1916 campaign. Of course if he is served with a subpoena from the government, he must attend, otherwise his testimony will have to be given by deposition, if at all. Accordingly, acting in the belief that I will not be there I will present to my readers now about what would happen were I to be examined before this commission in the federal chambers at Dallas on the 12th of this month.

Prof. Frank R. Commons seated at the head of a long oaken table with his associates at his right hand and all available chairs filled with witnesses and newspaper men would conduct the examination something after the following manner:

Q. "Mr. Hickey you have been summoned here by the government of the United States for the purpose of stating to this commission on Industrial Relations what you know about the agricultural situation in Texas. Please state your name, your profession or occupation, place of your birth, age, and then anything that you have to state that will assist this commission in its labors."

A. "My full name is Thomas Aloysius Hickey. I was born in Dublin, Ireland, on January 14, 1869. Of middle class parents, farmers and school teachers and land reformers, in fact my father was one of the founders of the Irish Land League. I am a newspaper man by occupation, am editor of The Rebel, published at Hallettsville, Texas. If it is agreeable to you gentlemen I will state to you as briefly as possible the situation as I see it in Texas.

To begin; Texas is so vast in area that those who live without our borders can only understand its dimensions by comparison. The area of Texas is 266,000 square miles; the area of Germany is 209,000 and France 207,000 square miles. This gives our state an area that exceeds Germany by 57,000 square miles. The total number of acres in Texas are 170,240,000. A little exercise in the multiplication table will show that our area is accordingly 36,480,000 acres larger than the acreage of Germany. I have reduced the difference in miles in area between Texas and Germany to acres for the reason that we speak of land, not only in Texas but all over the nation, in terms of acres when applied to agriculture and to bring out the fact that the Texas Welfare Commission made up of gentlemen well versed in agricultural conditions in our state shows that only 27,000,000 acres of land in Texas are under cultivation. In other words if you took the entire German nation out of Texas there would still be 9,480,000 acres of land more out of cultivation in our state.

"Let me be a little more explicit. The thought must never dwell in our heads that the reason that such a vast area is held out of cultivation because of mountains or arid conditions. Texas is not a mountainous state and the arid places are few and far between. The United States Department of Agriculture in a bulletin published January, 1914, states that only 14 per cent of Texas lands, or 25,060,000 acres are non-agricultural, while 70 per cent or 125,300,000 acres are tillable for crops, while 16 per cent, or 28,649,000 are classed as agricultural grazing lands.

To sum up: I can state that the records of the Land Commissioner's office will show that 108,300,000 acres equal to 167,400 square miles are held out of cultivation for speculative purposes."

Professor Commons: "What is the incentive to hold this land out of cultivation, Mr. Hickey?"

A. The answer can be found in Article 8, Section 9, of the state constitution of Texas which provides:

"The state tax on property exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt and of the taxes provided for the benefit of the public schools, shall never exceed thirty-five cents on the one hundred dollars' valuation."

"This article of our organic law is the nub of the entire agricultural situation in Texas. This section is a part of the constitution adopted in 1876 and has never been amended. But when it was adopted land that is now selling for $100 per acre could be purchased at from $3 to $5 per acre. The state was sparsely populated at the time and it was generally believed that land could always be secured for what we now consider an extraordinarily low price.

Holding to this view it was easy to pass legislative enactments that would give to great corporate interests great tracts of land. The records of the land office will show you, sir, that 36,500,000 acres of Texas land has been given to railroad corporations in this state.

But this is not all. Land Commissioner Robinson in his annual report issued in 1912 shows that land has been taken up in the names of cowboys and other employees of the great cattle barons of the state. I have learned on first hand investigations that four sections of land were taken up in a west Texas county in the name of a blind mule called Happy Jack. I also know that in a South Texas county within 100 miles of my desk several sections were taken up in the name of a female dog. I could tell you many more instances of the same type which would coincide with the statement of Land Commissioner Robinson and I could go to present you data published in my paper such as the story of Mr. Roy Carry of Dublin, Texas in which he gave a detailed circumstantial statement as to how ten of thousands of acres were stolen in Colorado, Scurry, Fisher and other western counties.

"I would suggest to this Commission that there is so much evidence of wholesale land frauds such as I have just indicated that it will be impossible to more than skim the surface of this matter during the limit of time set for this investigation. Instead of three days you should have three months, as one Texas county would be enough to keep you busy a week. Consequently I believe that you should recommend that steps be taken by the Federal government to spend more money and time so that the records of the Land Office in Austin and other records be thoroughly gone into. In making this suggestion I realize fully that the difficulty of crossing the line between the state government and the national government will be with you represented, but if the state authorities will acquiesce you will find a mine of information in the Land Commissioner's office at Austin that will show you how the land of the state has fallen into the hands of a few with the result that the speculative price of land can be maintained with its resulting evils of tenantry, and illiteracy."

Professor Commons: "What can you tell us about tenantry in Texas, Mr. Hickey?"

"Well, sir, I have traveled over 150 counties in this state before I started The Rebel and did so as a state organizer of the Socialist party. To answer our question would require more time than this commission could occupy on this one subject alone. Briefly, I maintain that tenantry in the state that we speak of land tenants were unknown in this state when Lincoln was elected. Land could be secured for a song. After war ended tenantry commenced. Of those who till the soil in Texas less than 5 per cent were tenants in 1870. There were about 50 per cent in 1900. In 1910 they had grown to about 71 per cent. If we add the tenants who own small places and were compelled to rent extra land then 71 per cent would be conservative. Actually, however, 52 per cent of the agricultural population in Texas were tenants in 1910 and since that time there has been a steady and continued increase that has been estimated by Governor J. E. Ferguson at not less than $3,000 a year. I believe that the governor is conservative in his figures and think that it will be close to five thousand a year.

Professor Commons: "Upon what do you base your estimate of increase of 5,000 tenants a year?"

A. "First, the abnormal price that land has gone to because of the fact that I indicated at the outset that a domain larger than Germany is held out of cultivation. Second, that the resulting competition for places has resulted in a bonus and cash system of land tenure that inevitably impoverishes the tenant. Third, the increase in population which causes a greater demand for land by the landless. Fourth, the lack of any system of farm credits save through the ordinary commercial sources. In the lack of such credits the entire agricultural population suffers from usury. Not only the renter or the mortgaged farmer but the actual small farmer who owns his land suffers from the lack of such much needed legislation."

I Have Mr. Hickey told Professor Commons of many such instances and referred him to the documentary proofs in the possession of Mr. E. O. Meitzen and W. S. Noble, who were witnesses before the commission.

Professor Commons, "What effect has this land monopoly that you describe on the education of Texas?"

A. It has resulted in producing (considering all the facts in the case) the worst educational condition ever known among civilized people. Let me show you. Superintendent W. F. Doughty, state superintendent of public instruction, sent to the state press last month a comprehensive article among the states in spite of the fact that it has the largest permanent school fund of any state in the union and yet the records indicate that of the children enrolled in the public schools the attendance was 66 per cent of 87 per cent that registered thus giving an average attendance of 57 per cent as the average daily attendance. Which means that 43 children out of every hundred scholastics were out of school daily last year. These are the state superintendent's own figures and not mine.

"He goes on to say the average school term for the year 1914 was slightly above six months which was of course only two thirds of what it ought to have been and by taking 66 2-3 per cent or two thirds of 57 we find that the average daily attendance for the nine months was approximately 38 children which means that only 38 children of every 100 scholastics attended school daily during the session of nine months last year.

Professor Commons: "Mr. Hickey, how much of this situation is to be laid to the negro?"

"Professor Doughty answers: He says: 'The negro has far more than a generation been our scapegoat for backwardness in educational statistics. But no longer can this old excuse do service in the face of facts. The same records above referred to show that in Texas there are 275,864 negro children within the scholastic age 7 to 21 years. Last year 162,000 of these negro school children were enrolled in the public schools of the state, and their attendance record was 57 per cent, compared with 66 per cent for the white children of the state. The United States census report for 1910 shows that the negro illiteracy in Texas decreased during the decade of 1900-1910 by 42,520 persons, while the report shows that illiteracy among the whites increased by 11,000 souls.'"

Professor Commons: "What then is your conclusion about the agricultural conditions in Texas covering the points you have thus far raised?"

A. "Just this: That your investigations unless followed up by a more intensive investigation covering a far greater period of time will be utterly worthless and even if you gentlemen should consume a year's time and a million dollars I doubt if any substantial good can come unless President Wilson is right in his recent declaration that the class struggle has been abolished and that you gentlemen by means of commissions can solve the problem. I hold to the contrary. I believe that our president and the government that you represent will finally see that the tenants and actual workers of Texas through their own industrial organizations must settle their troubles with their exploiters and that while you gentlemen may be thanked for your trouble of coming into our state it is we who live inside the borders of Texas that must settle the conflict with our own oppressors. This is the reason why we have organized the National Land League which is in the nature of things an industrial union and shall take such political or other action as will free the land in Texas without resorting to arms as in Mexico but are thoroughly determined that the land of Texas must be turned loose from landlordism and all that thereby implied."

The Professor then excused Mr. Hickey and Mr. E. O. Meitzen stepped on the stand argued with the documents that would help the governmental investigation.

Evidence Wanted Now

The Commission on Industrial Relations appointed by the United States government to investigate the agricultural situation in Texas will meet in Dallas December 14 to 17th. The Rebel would suggest that every renter and actual farmer who knows of oppressive conditions by landlords, merchants, bankers and others would send at once a statement of their grievances to Mr. E. O. Meitzen and Mr. W. S. Noble and address them care the Waldorf Hotel, Dallas. [illegible] reach them not later than the 14th. If you have any grievance write it down and address it at once to the above named gentlemen who will present it to the officials of the national government. Your name will not be published.

We have been unable to hear anything more regarding the slugging and reported death of Comrade H. L. A. Holman. We hope to get a definite report by next issue as to this outrage.

WHY THE DIFFERENCE?

An Associated Press dispatch from berlin says: "Foreseeing the interruption of imports from the United States and othe countries the German government at the beginning of the war pre-emptied for military purposes all the copper in the country."

Other dispatches of similar tactics employed as to other commodities necessary in the process of killing people are reported from other countries. The fact that our own Spanish-American war the government confiscated steamers for military purposes is well known. Yet this process of confiscating things necessary to the wholesale slaughter of people occasioned no comment and raised no opposition. No one cares when the Socialists propose to take things over in the name of the people for the sole purpose of keeping people ALIVE, every imp this side of hell and every boneheat outside the lunatic asylum joins in the chorus of denunciation. Had you ever thought of this?

"War, What For," by George R. Kirkpatrick, 380 pages; the great anti-war book, formerly $1; now 30 cts., paper cover. B. V. Dole says: "It is an immortal achievement."

THE RENTER.

The secretary-treasurer an- [illegible] in for the offical organ that is to appear about December 5. However at least a hundred more are needed in order to enter the new paper in the postoffice as second class matter. Send your subscriptions at once to W. S. Noble, Sec., Rockdale, Texas.

The welfare of the town tenant is primarily based upon the welfare of the country tenant, and in a secondary sense the prosperity of the renter on the farm is conditional upon the prosperity of those who pay rent in town. Just at this [illegible] can do the greatest amount of good for the Texas movement if every time he speaks for a local he leaves behind 100 or more subscriptions to the Rebel at 25 cents each for 40 weeks. The speaker will start the donks and the Rebel will complete the job. Any local desiring the services of Comrade Clark on the above basis should write at once to The Rebel Lecture Department.

Those who know of Clark's marvelous power as an orator are well aware of the fact that he can solve many carels at the meeting place. Write for dates at once.

Stanley J. Clark

Tickey This --- Tickey That

(The well-known geology of the editor almost led him to compare the enclosed to the waste basket but his account of its literary merit it we shall overlook the personal note with the hope that the reader may understand the spirit in which the editor reprints it.—Ed.)

A fellow said to me the other day: "What has become of Tickey, he died?"

"Dead; said I. "Dead! Then surely his ghost walks the breadth of the Southland."

Tom, it is the lot of all man to be born, to live and play their little part and then to be buried off the stage to be no more. In the countless ages past and to come even the greatest of us are grains of sand. For my part I have tried to think how much rather would I die when my star had reached its zenith. When my life blossomed the most rather would I have it plucked to beautify a few passing moments of some child's life than to see it fall drop its petals and be by one unnoted, unloved and forgotten. However some create a little longer than others. It could is they who are so fortunate as to open the door at the right time when Dame Fortune makes her one and only visit.

You are one of these fortunate ones. The time was ripe. The opportunity was great. You grasped it. You opened the door and seized the prize. You will fill your day you will pass away to give place to another; but you have won. You have been one of those who led the fight in putting the land question on the billboards of the Southland.

I care not what others may say I care not what others may think. You have done more to get this question before the people than any other one man in the South.

The thing is up. It will not down. It must be settled. Every word said about it now but adds fuel to the flame, but adds to the prestige of the things you did. Ferguson tackled it and now he wants some one to "help him turn it loose."

I sent you last week a very interesting article from Mr. Holleman, of Atlanta, Ga. It was severe in its arraignment of landlordism, so others in order to comprehend its effect now just the cry of "absentee landlords." As a matter of fact absentee landlords are often as good if not better than resident landlords. This week I call your attention to the following extracts of an article by Tom. Finty, a staff writer for the Gal.-Dal. News. While he diplomatically (with an eye to the fact tha. the many resident landlords are readers of the Gal.-Dal. News) appears to lay most of the blame on the "absentee" yet the gist of the article on the whole is so completely in line with what we have been pointing out for so many years, it so fully shows the effect of our continual pounding along this line, that it is worth reading. Here it is:

On last Sunday the News published a most a paper written by Joseph H. Holleman of Atlanta, Ga., and a letter written by William C. Whyte of Dallas, which greatly illuminates the problem. Especially valuable are Mr. Holleman's descriptions of the farm tenant classes and the landlord classes.

He says that the South suffers periodic overproduction of cotton and uneconomic marketing of the crop because a very large proportion of the farmers (in Georgia 90 per cent is estimates) must plant as landlords and supply merchants direct. These landlords and merchants insist upon cotton, for two reasons: First, because cotton can be grown by unintelligent laborers and without much direction, whereas other crops can not be produced by such laborers, except under constant competent direction, and, second, because those other crops in the absence of such supervision might be made away with, whereas cotton practically stands itself.

Absentee Landlordism.

And the landlords, most of them, are not on the ground to give such personal direction and supervision. Most of them live in towns and cities. In other words, the fundamental cause of the trouble, according to Mr. Holleman, is absentee landlordism. Because of this condition, he says diversification and rotation of crops are prevented; lands are being robbed of their fertility, and millions of dollars unnecessarily are sent out of the South for supplies which ought to be produced on the farms.

Admitting the ignorance and incapability of Southern farm tenants as a rule, he denies the necessity for such condition, and insists that compulsory exclusive cotton growing has caused it. But he does not blame the landlords of the South. Upon the contrary, he says they are the flower of his state, does deserve credit to much progress as it has made. They are the men who, having wealthy friends outside of the war-swept zone, inaugurated the credit system after the war between the state. It was then a necessity; it saved the South from utter ruin. But Mr. Holleman believes the time has now come for something better and he appeals to the landlords to assist in the finding and application of a remedy.

Mr. Holleman's article is valuable because it gives a frank picture of conditions. In connection with this however, it is well to consider that all landlords are not alike, nor are all tenants alike.

How the System Hurts.

Plans for solution of the farm tenantry problem have been based largely upon philanthropic and humanitarian grounds. It is well that this phase of the matter shall be presented. But the economic side also deserves consideration. Aside from the humane minds are disturbed by the sight of the resultant human misery, the tenant and credit systems, as we have them in the South, are injurious in these other particulars:

1. Production of cotton is not controlled properly, and the marketing of the product is enforced in an uneconomic and wasteful manner, causing periodic shocks to business.

2. Millions of dollars annually are lost to the South because of the enforced purchase of supplies which should and could be grown on the farms of the South.

3. The South and its various communities and their people are robbed of the advantages which would accrue from greater production of wealth and from a proper system of farming and marketing.

4. The fertility of our lands is being destroyed.

5. The maintenance of a miserable discontented people constitutes a physical menace.

6. The same condition is political menace. Such a people, conscious of their misery, are the easy prey of any the plausibly express sympathy and make glittering promises. The "submerged 55 per cent of Mexico" are not permitted to vote; most of our "the Poor Submerged," as Mr. Holleman terms the tenant farmers and the debt-burdened small land-owning farmers of the South, are permitted to cast their votes. These will constitute a political menace until so advanced in mental prosperity and education that they shall take a more cheerful and intelligent view of Affairs.

7. The shame of the cities largely are recruited from the tenant farms. The tenant farms are the slums of the rural districts. Back-to-the-farm movement is very helpful when the farm is rented one is the South; it is counsel to travel in a circle.

Clean Up Our Own Country.

We have devoted a great deal of patience, time and money to the improvement of our live stock; we are performing a similar work for the subnormal Filipinos; we cleaned up Cuba; it has even been proposed that we shall go into Mexico and spend a little time. Why should we not clean up our own country, instead of cleaning it out

Extremist who say the problem is incapable of solution quote the classics "What can not be cured must be endured," and "The poor you have with you always." True, we have the poor. In Texas we invited them to come. We said, this is a poor man's country. "Pile your sack on board, be hoed, be hiked; be hay stayed. Now we are kicking about it. We also told him that this was a land of plenty, that "roses, roses and golden promise" and that he would get rich and it he wants us to make good, and we will make good. We ought to make good.

Christ did say "The poor ye have with ye always." He described an existing condition, but He did not justify it. He not predict that it would continue until the end of time.

Why not make good? We invited the poor man to the South. Let us see that he shall eat.

Scotch Tenants Prosper.

William C. Whyte, of Dallas, in a letter to Mr. Holleman, tells of the tenantry system of Scotland. There it is the custom to lease farms for terms of nineteen years, a generation, and tenants were encouraged to practice of crops and fertilization.

As for results, Mr. Whyte cites the experience of certain tenants as illustrated. His uncle leased a farm of 160 acres in Scotland for three successive periods of nineteen years, one paying to pay $5 an acre in cash each year. At the end of fifty-five years on this farm he died. But, although he had paid the landlord $17,000, he did not die poor. He had lived comfortably throughout his life and he left $5,000 worth of stock and farm implements and in the bank. His took up the lease at the expiration made a new

nineteen years, which lasted to the prospering man.

Land Speculation a Factor.

There is an important difference between Scotland and the States of the South. He explains the success of the Scotch landlord for his and and in the difference of point of our landlord toward the subject. Here it is: The Scotch landlord has no absolute title; his land is entailed, he can not sell it; he must pass it throughout his lifetime; it will remain in his family after he is gone. Therefore he has an abiding interest in the land. The reverse is true of the Southern States landlord. He can sell his land; usually it pleases him to do so, if he can. As it is true of most other American citizens, he is a land speculator. As he probably will sell his land, therefore, conserving the fertility? Why not skin the land, and let the other fellow assume the burden of conserving humanity?

We proudly boast that the law of entail does not exist in this "land of the free and the home of the brave." But have we not right thus to boast when we have a saturnalia of unbridled speculation in land, making this country a speculation in the land of the free and the home of the slave?

Burden of Overcapitalization.

Many landlords say truly that they have not money with which return upon their investment. But is not the investment unduly large? Texas and other states have undertaken to limit railway capitalization upon the theory that overcapitalization would burden the people. Texas and the Northern Government have given away lands for homes, upon the theory that the people would prosper if lands were given to people with investment. Nevertheless these lands have been sold, again and again, at successively higher prices, and the people, to pay for the land, has striven to get a return upon his investment, as do the owners of railway securities. One of the lands from Mississippi who recently made speeches in Texas advocating prohibition of cotton growing projected into farm lands of the South paid advance 50 per cent in value (price)if such a law were passed. Would such a result be beneficial to the people of the South in general?

Land speculation upon the part of landlords is in part responsible for the kind of tenant system we have. Land speculation upon the part of many of our tenants is one of the reasons that they are tenants. They enjoy given home—also an opportunity to speculate in real estate. They embraced this latter opportunity, selling their homes, to use proceeds to give these persons another opportunity. Opportunity for what To again speculate in real estate, to place a mortgage on itself

Limit on Speculation.

If the state shall ever go out of more lands for homes, or shall charter companies to engage in this mission it should be provided that all profit, over and above the cost of the land and value of improvements, shall be paid over to the state in the event of sale or further sale. Such a provision would make some land speculators. Perhaps not. Yet, but what is the Texas Homestead Law but paternalism? Given paternalism already, why not limit the alcohol drinking of the professed object? And perhaps the principle suggested may be given yet broader application.

Mr. Holleman declined to suggest a remedy. Yet throughout his article a remedy is suggested. He sneaks the city, "Back to the farm!" but addressed it to landlords. There is force in his subtle suggestion. But perhaps a companion to suggest the city, "Back go back." Then, maybe, they might be induced to sell their farms to men willing to live upon them and to be neighbors to their tenants.

One of the methods employed for the uplift of the submerged class in city slums is neighborly helpfulness, love and kindness, rather than by more precept. Sometimes perhaps we shall have settlement workers in the slums of the country.

Change Coming—What Kind?

The Texas tenant and credit system constituted a progressive step when inaugurated. But, like the benevolent despotism of Porfirio Diaz, they have ceased to be so. The time has been reached for another progressive step. Seemingly the landlords can take it. Will they be wise?

Some sort of a change will be made in our tenant system. Why not forestall the greater evil of a change typified. His uncle leased a farm of 160 acres in Scotland for three successive periods of nineteen years, one paying to pay $5 an acre in cash each year. At the end of fifty-five years on this farm he died. But, although he had paid the landlord $17,000, he did not die poor. He had lived comfortably throughout his life and he left $5,000 worth of stock and farm implements and in the bank. His took up the lease at the expiration made a new

For the guidance of

A NEAR SOCIALIST IN THE CABINET

Our comrade, J. L. Hicks, writes that he is breathing easier since the party press of Waco with pleasing regularity. We note or the editorial page of the Waco Morning Herald an article from his pen that puts in a most unpleasant position the Denks from Woodmansee Bend Grove to the twenty-six-shooter deputy of the Democratic party. By their own caliber of officers they prosecute for dollars, or fools or knaves, when by word or act they deny the absolute truth and righteousness of the Socialist position with regard to the great means of life.

Comrade Hicks' article follows:

A Revolutionary Utterance.

Editor Times-Herald:

Does it not seem a little strange that Secretary Wilson of the Federal Department of Labor, has not been taken across the editorial knee of every publication that supports the present administration and sanctions the prevailing ideas regarding the legal security of private possessions, since his recent address before the American Federation of Labor at Philadelphia? Editors whose allegiance to Democrat has grown to be a matter of routine are unaccountably silent over this declaration. Chief Secretary Wilson's declaration than which none more radical or revolutionary was ever uttered or penned by Debs or any other student of Karl Marx.

When Secretary Wilson reaffirmed what he said at Seattle a year ago, and continued, by saying he would not change one jot or tittle of the statement, namely: that "either title to property is a law-created and a law-protected title," he put himself outside of what has come to be known and accepted as capitalism, and planted himself squarely upon the basic tenet of what has come to be known and accepted as Socialism. And to say he is not aware of the attitude in which his language places him or to say that he is not well posted was.

The prevailing idea, the capital st'ec ideas, is that Rockefeller's coal mines in Colorado belong to Rockefeller, regardless of the interest of those who dig the coal or those who consume the coal; that he alone, as owner, has the power, and of right ought to have the power to operate those mines in any way he may see fit, or close them and stop the production of coal altogether, without being under obligation to give his employes or the public any reason for doing so.

The idea upon which government and industry are now presumed to be established is that Rockefeller's title is prior to law. It is a vested right, and is not subject to nor affected by the popular will expressed in the form of law.

The Socialistic idea, the idea underlying Secretary Wilson's statement, is the direct negation of the foregoing. Ultimately it puts Rockefeller's title, regardless of his title, on the claim that Rockefeller's title was granted by society, its value created and maintained by society, and thus the inference is unavoidable that society can, by enacting laws to that effect, take a little to those coal mines back to itself whenever the interests of the whole people may so require, without violating the principle of American government.

Of course the Rockefeller mining properties in Colorado are here mentioned for purposes of illustration. Secretary Wilson's declaration applies exactly in the same manner, and with equal force, to every great and necessary industry that is owned by private

inquiring minds typified in Mr. Finty. V' vaue' suggest that you send them a copy of the Texas Socialist platform, as the only solution along political lines. Also tell them that the Land League of America will grapple with the land and tenant problem, the transportation, credit merchants bankers and other useless parasites are no more.

So with apologies to Kipling I will sing Columbia's song:

It's Tickey this, and Tickey that, And Tickey's how's your rank? But it's, Hist! the Mr. Hicks! While we write the land plank.

Yes, it's Tickey this and Tickey that,

And chuck 'im out, the brute! But he's the savior of his party. When the landlord's horn begins to toot.

Yes, it's Tickey this, and Tickey that

Man! anything you please,

But Tickey ain't no bloomin' fool—

You let that Tickey sees

interests and operated with blind fidelity.

It is yet to be seen whether the Secretary of Labor will finally get "Back to the homestead delt, have bold effront to the supposed rights and prerogatives of the "Hounds of Hiess," without a protest from the peasants in the presidential chair who, with all his sterling virtues and qualities, has proved himself intimated by word or deed that a title to property, once granted by society to an individual, is therefore in any case subject to revocation or impairment or transfer by the power that granted it.

Fundamentally the two Wilsons seem to be at the very antipodes of economic philosophy, and since economic problems make up nearly the whole of modern politics, it appears illogical and improper that the affiliations of the two Wilsons should be with the same political party.

J. L. Hicks.

Box 1107, Waco Texas.

Then the editor of the Waco Times-Herald makes this most significant admission that the rabbit, read prayerfully by these rabbit heads down here in Texas that fight Socialism because it is "agin religion."

Socialist in the Cabinet.

In a communication on this page the statement is made that a recent utterance, first made twelve months ago, by a member of President Wilson's cabinet is as radical or revolutionary as anything ever said by Debs or any other student of Karl Marx.

The statement is correct. Secretary Wilson has planted himself squarely on the Socialist platform. We are not right sure that his is an isolated position, even in Cabinet circles.

Mr. Bryan has undertaken to combat the doctrine of the Socialists, but at the same time he has manifested strong leanings in that direction. It will be recalled that Senator Bailey left the audience at Madison Square Garden while Mr. Bryan was speaking, and subsequently explained that he could not be a party to the Socialistic doctrine that the Nebraskan was setting forth.

It all comes back to the question as to which takes precedence, society or the individual. If society, then Socialism; if the individual, then government for police purposes only.

LAND INVESTIGATION.

Taxation to Destroy Land Monopoly Is to Important Feature of Government Hearing.

Chicago, Ill., Nov. 26.—The date for the public hearing on the American land question by the United States commission on industrial relations has been fixed for December 14-17, inclusive. The hearing will take place in Dallas, Texas. The members of the commission will hear testimony from representatives renters, landlords and students of the land question.

Among the subjects that will come up for consideration are the growth of a feeling of unrest among the rural population and the work that is being done by the Renters' Union of America, the Land League of America, the organization of tenant farmers, has been very active in the south west for the past three years.

Taxation as a means of destroying land monopoly will also receive consideration. Rural credit plans and organization for the market of farm products will be important topics.

The United States Commission on industrial relations was created by an act of congress. The administration is look into the causes of industrial unrest and to propose to congress constructive remedial measures. The work of the commission for the past year has been mainly by sending out trained men to investigate the facts and by the holding of public hearings in representative sections of the country. The commissioners are Frank P. Walsh of Missouri, chairman; Professor John R. Commons, of the University of Wisconsin, Mrs. J. Borden Harriman, of New York, Harris Wimstock, of Illinois, James O'Connell of the District of Columbia, and Austain B. Garretson, of Iowa.

Chas L. Hubbard Richey D. Alexander

HUBBARD & ALEXANDER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Grand Salina, Texas

Civil and Criminal Practice in all State and Federal Courts.

Office and Residence Telephones.

Texas Returns.

The Rebel submits below complete returns gathered by our Rebels from 60 counties in the state, totaling 13,500 votes for the Socialist state ticket, or a gain for these counties of about 70 per cent over 1912. The vote in the 180 counties yet reporting totaling 16,000 in round numbers for Debs in 1912. Assuming that the most favorable reports have been received and the less favorable reports are yet to come, and that therefore the gain for the remaining counties will not be more than 55 per cent, we shall pass the 40,000 mark, or a total increase of 90 per cent. This will be a most remarkable showing for an "off-year" (even Oklahoma gained not more than 27 per cent. What makes the gain so much more inspiring is the fact that the Democrat vote slumped 25 per cent., the Republican vote was cut in half and the Bull Moosers were lost in the shuffle. Tens of thousands were caught in the primary pledge, trap (there is nothing like this pledge except in few Southern states) and did not vote. A small part of them can be induced to the Socialist ticket next time. We are going after these discontented ones with a fine tooth comb. Socialist in Texas to line up for the fray NOW.

We hope to have complete returns by next issue. Had we known that the muzzled press would fail utterly to give the complete counting returns, as they have done so heretofore, we would have made arrangements ere this to get the full returns. The fact that the "Kept Press" has failed to report the vote indicates that they were ashamed to show the great increase of the Socialist party and the pitiful slumps of all other parties.

With such a splendid showing we should all this very day, get into the organization work and stay there until the flag of Socialism waves from the state capitol alongside the stars and stripes.

COMPLETE COUNTY RETURNS.

Angelina	1914	1912
Anderson	524	387
Bastrop	331	387
Bell	62	53
Brown	170	42
Cherokee	404	296
Chambers	39	15
Colorado	55	42
Comanche	454	530
Concho	87	87
Coryell	134	84
Delta	255	165
Denton	307	181
Dickens	86	73
Duval	356	
Fisher	199	
Freestone	217	215
Gregg	53	
Grimes	100	80
Hall	84	28
Hale	35	
Hardeman	343	
Hardeman	128	
Hidalgo	70	20
Henderson	653	425
Jackson	324	
Houston	297	247
Jack	164	219
Jackson	116	82
Jones	179	
Jim Wells	32	
Kleberg (partial)	268	
Kaufman	475	200
Lee	113	
Martin	78	
McLennan	102	163
Montgomery	443	460
Mitchell	64	130
Montgomery	177	100
Morris	40	
Navarro	251	160
Nueces	188	
Panola	160	
Rains	337	248
Rusk	300	213
San Augustine	73	
Sonora	36	66
Stonewall	678	284
Tarrant	139	75
Tom Green	380	
Upshur	49	69
Van Zandt	147	72
Victoria	1005	
Wharton	65	30
Wichita	176	133
Wood	53	117
Young	169	181

NOTE

We want every Socialist that reads this to go at once to his county seat and secure from the county clerk the vote for Meitzen and Noble. The muzzled press will not print the returns. So we depend on you to help us do it. Send vote for 1914 and for 1912 if possible.

Pure leaf Tobacco. Sample 5cts. Dr. Wesson, Wingo, Ky. tfc

Land League of America.

W. S. Noble, Sec.-Treas., Rockdale, (Texas.)

(The following Amendments to the Business Union constitution to every the change of that organization to the Land League of America. They were drawn up by a committee composed of W. S. Noble, E. R. and E. O. Meitzen and will shortly be submitted for referendum of the membership.—Ed.)

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS LAND LEAGUE OF AMERICA

PREAMBLE

The Land League of America comes before the people at a time when monopoly and speculation in all the manners and methods of life has reached its climax; when land, the source of all wealth and all other great resources of the nation are ever drifting into fewer hands, when the poverty and misery of the actual tillers of the soil — the small farm owner, the tenant and the farm laborer — has never been so great, due to the circumstance that they alone of all classes, are not organized and so upon their backs are shifted all the burdens of the world. To these slaves of the soil — men, women and children — we come as a militant organization, conscious of its inherent and destined power to strike the shackles from their limbs; we come to these our suffering brothers and sisters with our hearts in our hands and our souls alight with the flames of hope and truth and liberty. We point them to the necessity of co-operative action, believing that, organized, they can better cope with the many complex problems that meet them and their posterity in the battle for home and for bread. We therefore invite all tillers of the soil who earn their bread as the result of their labor as the result of their own labor to co-operate with us in establishing a league of actual farmers in which none but these may hold membership.

We invite your careful analysis of the facts set forth herewith to show the urging need of such an organization:

The latest official census reports show that out of 167,000,000 acres acres of tillable land in Texas only 27,000,000 acres were cultivated in 1910, and similar conditions prevail in the majority of the states in the union. Thus we have in Texas a vast domain of 117,000,000 of tillable land, greater in area than the German and Belgian empires combined, held out of use by a few land speculators. Out of this condition flows evils that multiply with every passing day.

Tenantry is increasing by leaps and bounds. In Texas alone there were 175,000 tenants in 1900, and today there are over 300,000 tenants on the farms alone, comprising a total population of 1,500,000 souls. The number of city tenants is even more appalling.

This condition of land monopoly and landlordism has forced an advance in the price of land to live beyond its value, making it all but impossible for the average tenant to buy or pay out a home.

Holding these vast bodies of land out of use has brought on a fearful struggle among the tenants to get land of any kind on which to live. Landlords have learned to some distant city, and whose only excuse for holding land is to derive profits from rentals, take advantage of the pitiful condition of the tenants in a most shameless manner.

• • •

Of the many evils that result from these conditions we point out:

1. The miserable housing and unsanitary conditions; the lack of proper outbuildings and other necessary conveniences.

2. Overcropping in many instances forcing the tenant to plant almost the entire farm in cotton, which not only prevent him from raising a sufficient supply of grain and other food and feed crops and sufficient live stock necessary for his needs, but causes the most pitiful women and child slavery.

3. Being denied the chance to properly diversify his products, he is so "raised his living at home," he is compelled not only to buy practically all of his family necessities, but feed for his stock as well. Not having the money for this purpose he is compelled to go to the banker or credit merchant who invariably knows him exorbitant interest rates or prices, and compel him to give mortgages which make him a peon.

4. To add to his further troubles, he is often compelled to pay a cash rental of from $7 to $12 per acre, or an exorbitant share or share rent the paying of which often does not leave him anything wherewith to meet the pressing needs of his family during the winter. The rental contracts in some instances compel extra work, such as ditching, breaking the grounds for the landlord, and otherwise giving the landlord worse than feudal rights over the tenant.

5. Absentee ownership that makes the life of the tenant a living hell in uncertainty of tenure. Having no assurance that he will not be compelled to seek a new place in another year, he cannot rotate or diversify crops and successfully apply scientific methods for conserving and increasing the fertility of the soil; he takes but a half hearted interest in public improvements; his children fail to receive an education because the shifting population makes proper school facilities impossible; churches; commerce and other agents of civilization suffer because of this fact alone.

6. A new evil of land monopoly is rising in Texas that threatens to take the place of the tenant system and more thoroughly peonize our farm population. Many land owners are finding it more profitable to abolish tenantry and substitute therefore a system similar to the haciendas of Old Mexico with miserably paid white and colored wage laborers driven by overseers and managers.

7. This appaling condition is also a direct menace to the small farm owner, who suffers not only by the continuous change in the citizenship of the country, but realizes that by the growth of land speculation and monopoly his children, when grown, will likely have to take their places in the tenant ranks. He further realizes that the new evil of corporation farming and the old evil of commercial and industrial monopoly both into one the renter alike, threatens his very existence. He is therefore compelled to fight with the tenants in the struggle to better the condition of the entire actual farming class.

8. Another difficulty is the continuous influx of people of foreign birth who, ignorant of our climate and soil conditions as well as the customs of the country, are induced to enter into contracts, the terms of which compel them to become practically peons. By thus taking advantage of these honest people they are used as a means for forcing other tenants into making the same contracts. This practice aggravates the prejudice that already exists against a great many ignorant people against foreigners and often leads to trouble and discension.

9. The race question is made all the more acute by greedy landlords who bring negro farm laborers and tenants into white settlements where the negro is used for the purpose of forcing up rents and lowering wages. The white tenants and laborers often visit upon the negro the crimes of the landlords. This condition could be adjusted in such a manner that the race question would not be in competition, but each could have their own community and institutions for the betterment and advancement of both races.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSES

To secure justice, and oppression and wrong; make the golden rule we pledge ourselves to use all lawful means at our disposal; whether it be by suggestion or demand upon governmental power or by co-operative action of the membership, to attain the ends stated herewith:

1. To abolish the unlimited ownership of land and to that end we advocate amendments to the various state constitutions that will provide that all land held out of use for speculative purposes be taxed to its full rental value.

2. To abolish any system of farm tenure whereby the landlord receives an amount that equals more than one-third the grain and one-fourth the cotton.

3. To secure more convenient and sanitary dwellings and outbuildings and modern improvements generally.

4. To educate our membership in scientific agriculture and secure the co-operation of land-owners and substantial men in the section of crops and other modern methods of conserving energy and fertility of the soil.

5. To prevent a tenant from being forced to cultivate more land than he can reasonably work without the excessive labor of his wife and children, and, in fact, to educate all our membership in more intensive farming.

6. To prevent the planting of an excessive amount of any one product, and to secure the co-operation of all interested parties in such proper diversification as will cause such farmer to raise as nearly as possible his own living.

7. To educate our membership to use the credit system as a curse and to secure such rental, trading and marketing contracts as will allow each farmer to control his own affairs.

8. In order that home life may be made brighter and more secure we demand a lease just and permanent rent contract so that the tenant may not be dismissed without good and sufficient reasons.

9. To co-operate with all other workingmen's organizations to secure better conditions for our class, including the direct sale of products from farm to consumer.

10. To strike at the speculators and industrial combines that fix low prices for raw products and high prices for finished products we advocate co-operative buying and selling systems, warehouses, gins, compresses, oil mills, cotton mills and other industries and institutions related to the farm.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Article I.—General Powers.

Sec. 1. The title of this organization is the Land League of America.

Sec. 2. Its powers shall be to sue charters to all unorganized territory, to appoint organizers for the same, to issue necessary literature, including a monthly journal, regulate the disposition of funds in organized territory and take such other steps as will promote the objects of the league.

Sec. 3. The officers to carry out the provisions of sections 2 shall be president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer and an executive committee of five members. These shall issue local and county charters, including state charters, until such time as forty locals in any state perfect a state organization, whereupon the parent organization will issue a state charter and each state organization after receiving its charter shall have absolute control over its own affairs. Under no pretext shall any member of one state organization intrffere with the affairs of another state organization.

Article II.—Membership.

Sec. 1. All persons over sixteen years of age, of good moral character who are farm renters, farm laborers, or farm owners who cultivate their own lands without peonants, shall be eligible. No one who holds land for speculation purposes or who sub-rents or who rents more than a reasonable amount of land, or employs more than a reasonable number of laborers necessary in emergencies, shall be eligible. Provided that all the locals and members in good standing on Jan. 1, 1915, shall become part of this organization wishout the payment of iniation fees.

Sec. 2. A member entering a prohibited occupation as indicated above, shall be granted a withdrawal card.

Sec. 3. No person shall be disqualified on account of religious or political views.

Sec. 4. Persons of African descent shall be organized into separate local Leagues.

Article III.—Funds.

Sec. 1. The dues to the state shall be 25 cents quarterly, payable in advance; provided that a reserve within the golden rule we pledge ourselves to use all lawful means at our disposal, whether it be by suggestion or demand upon governmental power or by co-operative action of the membership, to attain the ends stated herewith:

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Article I.—General Powers.

Sec. 1. If any member shall disclose any of the secrets of this League to anyone not entitled to receive them, or if he shall rent land in violation of the terms and conditions prescribed by the League, without the consent of the same, he shall be expelled from the order, who shall cause his name to be published throughout the jurisdiction of the union as a traitor.

Sec. 2. Each member shall use lawful means in his power to bring land rents down to the scale set by the membership of each county.

Sec. 3. Any member of this League, who shall learn at any time that any member has been rented out by anyone or who hears of any member being about to rent more than the scale fixed by the League, shall report to the first meeting of the League after the offender to be disciplined or expelled as the local may determine.

Sec. 4. Any member found guilty of renting or trying to rent land from under a member of this League without the consent of such member shall be expelled from the Union.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the members of this League in case a member becomes weak or unwise unable to comply with the provisions of his rent contract, to co-operate in assisting him in carrying out such contract, so that this League may not be brought in ill repute.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of each member to assist any member of League in finding work, securing a place, and render any unfortunate brother all the assistance that lies within his power.

Sec. 7. Each member of this League should at all times remember that the League is judged by the personelle and conduct of its membership, and should at all times so conduct himself and discharge his obligations as will add credit to the League.

Sec. 8. Should any member wilfully fail to comply with his rent contract, or bring the said contract has been made in accordance with the league's demands, it shall be the duty of the League to expel him.

Sec. 9. Each member shall assist only those for membership who are of good moral character, and at all times seek to increase the membership, so bring to the knowledge of the proper authorities any violation of the rules of this League that may come under his notice.

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Cut out of Article 5.

Section 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 Remember entire article accordingly.

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Continue remainder of constitution as printed.

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NEW ARTICLE

Article, XI. — City Tenants.

Sec. 1. The president, secretary-treasurer and executive committee of the state League may draft by-laws for the organization of a separate department of city tenants any time they may deem advisable to do so, such by-laws to be submitted for adoption or rejection to a referendum vote of the membership.

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DO YOU WANT AN ORGANIZER.

W. S. Noble, secretary-treasurer of the Land League of America, will shortly begin a lecture tour that will take in every portion of the state for the sole purpose of organizing locals and of getting other organizers of the Land League going. Those that know Mr. Noble's splendid talents as a constructive organizer will feel sure that his trip will be a great success and that the new organization will, under his direction, start out with a vim. That it, his tour will be a success if every last one of his friends, including all readers of The Rebel will make it a point to attend his meetings in person and otherwise aid him to their utterment, in advertising the meetings. Remember that everything that is done in behalf of the Land League will help to wake up the killers of the soil to their own interests.

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Opening Dates.

The following are Mr. Noble's first dates. Further dates will be announced from time to time.

Jewett, Wednesday, Dec. 2.

Palestine, Dec. 3.

Henderson at mass meeting on December 5. Under the direction of W. H. P. Wilson, 6th, 7th and 8th.

Mineola, Dec. 9.

• • •

Rockdale ,Texas Nov. 28, 1914.

Fellow-Workers:—

Henry Grady he almost beauti fully said: "He who kindles a fire upon a heartstone burns the sweetest incense to American liberty."

The Land League of America is organized with that saying as its motto and organization at least on paper, we will stop. The ultimate object of the Land League is to stop the owning of land for speculation, and make Texas a land of home owners. I am enclosing for your consideration a copy of our declaration of principles. The requirements for membership are that the member is either a land renter, farm laborer, or owns land only for use and does not rent some to others . The initiation fee is one dollar ($1.00) which includes 12 months subscription to the official organ and pays the first quarters' dues.

The terms of the organizer's coming are: You agree to pay his traveling expenses, also entertain him while with you. If you can arrange a date write at once, and I will send you advertising matter in plenty of time to advertise the meeting.

Your for justice,

W. S. Noble,

National Secretary Land League of America.

P. S.—The Land League absorbed the Farmer's Union of Texas at the last meeting held in Waco, Texas, Nov. 14, 1914.

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NO LABOR LEGISLATION THIS WINTER.

The president is in a sad position. A capitalist president who wants to put through labor legislation is in a fix. He has a smash who would like to follow the Bib lical injunction to increase and multiply.

Washington October. — No labor legislation at the winter session of Congress, scheduled to begin December 7, is the general order that has been given out by Administration leaders. The workers can not look for any relief in the way of social insurance, child labor laws, or any thing else until the 64th Congress, elected November 2, shall convene next March.

Pressure is already being brought upon the Democrats to call a special session of the 64th Congress to come together for the consideration of labor questions early in April 1915. By that time, it is pointed out, the report of the Commission on Industrial Relations, which is supposed to be engaged in discovering the causes of industrial unrest, will be ready for the attention of Congress. Further excuse for delay in considering labor legislation will be wholly lacking. It is expected new Congress, eager to prove its prowess to the nation, will be installed in the Capitol, ready for the fray.

Without it is well known here is not eager to tackle the labor question at all. He has refused to urge the child labor bill, upon which Palmer of Pennsylvania has been campaigning for the Senatorship. He has sidestepped the seamen's bill ever since he entered the white house, though a word from him would have put it through. He was instrumental in persuasion the so called "labor exemption" clause in the Clayton bill and then failed to hand labor [illegible] of the court sent bricks it ever received.

Our Rebs.

Do you want to know what will happen when the forces that are fighting for land and liberty meet in Dallas on December 14, 15 and 16? Our Rebs know that they will learn through the columns of The Rebel. Will our Rebs please tell their friends that this is the only source of information about this matter that can be secured in Texas until the results are published by the United States government. The Rebel is prepared to publish the story within one week after the session of the commission opens. It will be more complete than any other story published dealing with this meeting in this state. Accordingly order The Rebel now in packages. One-half cent a copy, 50 cents a hundred. Remember that you can buy The Rebel for 25 cents in clubs of four for 40 weeks. Get busy because, education is the need of the times.

• • •

MORTGAGED FARMS.

The republican United States census shows that 1,774,296 farms or 31.9 per cent, have annual incomes under $250. This explains the reason for the march of the farmers toward the city, as the average wage of the city worker is much higher. Not only do three-fourth of all farmers make less than $250, but 28 per cent, or 1,602,854 farms, earn between $250 and $500. Thus it is shown that practically 60 per cent of all farmers earn far less than the average male worker in the city.

The census shows that 35 per cent., or 2,026,286 farms, are rented out to tenants.

The latest census figures show a large increase in mortgaged farms, raising from 31 per cent. to the total of 36 per cent. The following tables give the percentage:

Year, owners, 2,295,268; owners mortgaged, 886,957; per cent 28.2.

1900, owners free, 2,511,101; owners mortgaged, 1,127,362; per cent, 31.1.

1910, owners free, 2,621,073; owners mortgaged, 1,527,649; per cent, 33.6.

Who said "republican prosperity?"

The Farmers' Indebtedness.

According to H. L. Yoakum, president of the St. Louis and San Francisco railroad, the farmers owe the banks six thousand million of dollars and the farmer has to pay interest on this staggering amount every year NOT LESS THAN FIVE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. This amount would build two Panama canals every twelve months!

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F. AUGUSTUS HEINZE DIES.

(F.A.Heinze's history was written by the editor of this paper and published in Tom Watson's Magazine in October and November, 1908. Heinze was the representative of the dying American middle class who still hope for economic supremacy. A complete history of this remarkable character will appear in the next issue of The Rebel, written by the one man in the south who knew him best, personally and otherwise — Ed.)

Saratoga, N. Y., Nov. 4.—F. Augustus Heinze, owner of immense copper interests in the West, died suddenly here tonight. Mr. Heinze, whose legal residence was Saratoga, came here yesterday from New York and voted. He became suddenly ill yesterday afternoon at the home of his counsel, Colonel Judge Nash Rockwood. His condition grew worse and he expired early this evening.

Mr. Heinze, who was 43 years old, had been ill since last June with cirrhosis of the liver and he came here against the advice of his physician.

Mr. Heinze had crowded into his brief life many stirring events. A striking figure among men, yet his ability of the trained actor and experienced orator, he would probably have won a wage job on the ministerial of the gospel, followed the calling marked out to him by his parents, plain Germans, residents of Brooklyn. Heinze, with a wonderful; love mind, daring, ambitious and possessed of boundless confidence in his ability, had no thought of confining his career within the narrow limits of the Lutheran ministry, and he amassed millions, lost them and regained them through his mining and bank speculations, which often figured in the courts.

State Notes.

(T. A. Hickey, State Sec. Hallettsville, Tex.)

GET BUSY WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION.

It has been the consistent policy of every state secretary from A. J. Bell, E. R. Meltzen, E. A. Green down to the present incumbent to do their part to give more and more numerous powers and duties to the county and district organizations. We believed with all our heart that this was the only way to develop the individual initiative of the rank and file and to increase the spirit of democracy within our ranks. This policy is just now beginning to bear real fruit and as the membership takes advantage of the powers that have been vested in them, the party organization will continue to grow to a mighty organization that will capture the state in the near future.

Now we propose to foster a spirit of friendly rivalry and thus help build up to their highest possible state of efficiency the various self-governing county and district organizations that now are the keystone of the arch of the Texas party program. Therefore, among other things, we shall publish each month the standing of each county and district organization, showing the present membership and—next month—the gain (or loss) over the previous month. Watch the membership of your county or district, and see that it continues to grow from month to month, remember ing that nearly always our largest vote gains in Texas, Oklahoma and everywhere else was in those counties where the organization was the strongest.

Here is the standing of the districts and counties for the month ending Dec. 1, 1914:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

First Congressional District.—Mrs. Bella Williams, Sec., 1604 W. 5th St., Texarkana, Tex. Last report, 192 members.

Fifth District.—John A. Roby, Sec., 2308 San Jacinto, Dallas, (just organized.) 175 members.

Eighth District.—C. R. Tray, Sec., 410 Stewart Bldg., Houston, Texas. 25 members.

Sixth District.—B. E. Steele, Thornton, Tex., Sec. (Elected in October but so far not made proper application.)

Sixteenth District.—W. T. Webb, Cuthan, Tex. (Just organized). Members in good standing, 324.

ORGANIZED COUNTIES.

Second District.—Angelina, 48 members; Cherokee, 44 members; Newton Co., 6 members; Shelby Co., 15 members.

Third District.—Van Zandt, 10 members; Rusk 10 members; Fannin, 30 members.

Sixth District.—Limestone Co., 17 members; Trinity Co. 7 members.

Ninth District.—Lavaca county 50 members.

Eleventh District.—Bell Co., 28 members.

Twelfth Dist.—Johnson, 55 members; Erath, 20 members; Parker 37 members.

Thirteenth Dist.—Throckmorton, 12; Montague, 46.

Fourteenth Dist.—Coleman, 54

Fifteenth Dist.—Kleberg, 10 members; Nueces, 39.

NOTE.—Some counties are not listed or else not listed to their full strength in the above because local or county secretaries were neglectful in making report. Remember you must make report whether you have dues stamps on hand or not. Locals in unorganized counties are not mentioned in the above.

* * *

Justice and Constable Elected.

Comrade Hickey:—

About eight or ten days ago I sent you partial returns. Today I send you complete vote for Montgomery county as it is entered on the clerks books at the courthouse. They did not want me to see the election book, but I DID. They credit us with a vote of 177 against 100 two years ago, the Dunks' receiving 718 against 987 in 1912. However, I think we have been "buggered" in the elections even so far as the canvass is concerned, as I had trouble in getting permission to see the final returns, a right that is granted to every citizen by law.

I know this: They worked election day as never before. They threatened and scared a lot of whites and negroes, at least they tell me so. So you see there is nothing too small for them to do. We carried seven boxes and elected one justice of the peace and one constable, and another justice "tied" and we are going after them right now.

The papers here will not print the elections returns at all, and the people are complaining.

Yours to Win.

J. F. Hauff.

* * *

Denton County.

The Socialists of Denton County are called to meet in Masonic Temple at Denton, Monday, January the 4th 1915 10 o'clock A. M.

If you are a socialist we want you at this meeting, whether you voted the ticket, or belong to the party or not. We want to lay plans to carry Denton county in 1916.

M. A. Anderson.
Sec. Local Denton.

TWO GOOD PLANKS.

"The collective ownership of land wherever practicable, and in cases where such ownership is impracticable, the appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all lands held for SPECULATION or EXPLOITATION."

A good plank, isn't it? You may own your own home, carriage, plows, teams, milk cows, automobile, etc., privately, but you cannot buy up or steal large tracts of land for the purpose of exploiting actual farmers out of part or all of the profits from these large tracts of land. Is this plank right? To ask the question is to answer it. You know what is right and what is wrong.

"The collective ownership and DEMOCRATIC Management of the Banking and Currency system."

Do you like this plank? I do. It says DEMOCRATIC management of the banking and currency system. One of the best planks ever put in any platform since Adam and Eve played hide and seek in the garden of Eden over six thousand years ago. I am afraid you do not realize the importance of this plank. At present money is used as a commodity, used to speculate on, when money was intended as a medium of exchange or a measure of values ONLY. "Congress shall have power to coin money and regulate the value thereof" says the constitution. But at present congress coins money only when the Banking interests tell Congress it may. Then, that Constitutional right is taken away from Congress by the money power. And, when money is coined by the direction of the money power it is coined in their interest and against the interest of you farmers who farm the farm, Banks can borrow money at 2 per cent. Why not allow farmers — those who feed and clothe this nation — the right to borrow 2 per cent per annum money too? Are the bankers better than the farmers? If we had to dispense with the banker or the farmer, which one could we afford to let go? We cannot eat and wear the bankers' money neither could we buy anything to eat and wear with the bankers' money if we had no farmers to produce this something to eat, hence, it would be foolish, say money is valuable, outside of its use as a medium of exchange or a measure of values. While money is not valuable, only as above mentioned, yet is used to exploit the farmer more than any thing else you can mention.

The Democratic party is in power right now and, according to the constitution, has a right to coin money and issue it, through the postal saving banks, to you farmers, on your cotton, at a very low rate of interest. Will they do it? If they don't help us when we need help so bad, it is our duty to rebuke them by voting against the Democratic party this fall. If we do this they will come up with our demands in a hurry.

Again, I say the Socialist 'money plank' is one of the best plank in the world. Brother, you owe it to your wife and children to talk for, work for, and vote for the MONEY PLANK of the Socialist platform. I am certain and believe all farmers will agree with me.

* * *

If all the arable land of the United States which is owned but which is not used could be put into some great farm which would cover all of the United States east of Mississippi river.

Think of that you disemployed. Think of a virgin territory as large as from Maine to Florida and from Monrana to the mouth of the Mississippi river from which you are fenced off through that delightful institution "private property in land". Think what a fruitful field for labor this offers to all who are up need, and of the coward, sore heelers.

Going to Put That Boy to Work?

Beatrown Bard, in New York Mail.

You going to put that boy to work,
That little bit of a kid,
Whose heart is out where the daisies are
In the dew and the grasses hid?
Going to put that boy to work,
Whose soul is way out there,
Dreaming of meadow and orchard and bridge,
And joy of the summer air?

You going to put that boy to work
Who is old enough, you say,
To be out helping you get along
With his little piccaninn of pay?
You are going to put that boy to work
Who belongs to God awhile,
Out in the green of the boyhood sheen
Where the hills and the meadows smile!

May be your business, and that I'm blind,
Or a fool to be butting in,
But putting a kid like that to work
Is an economic sin;
Stunting and putting him back so long
From the glory he should know
In the good green spell of the wood and dell
Where a kid like him should grow.

You going to put that boy to work
Because he can help you bear
The brunt of grocery and clothes and rent,
And he ought to be doing his share?
You going to put that boy to work,
That little kid whose eyes
And heart and soul are hankering for
The blue of the summer skies?

You going to chain him in a mill,
Who all day longs and longs
For the playtime life in the good green hill
And the cheer of the robin's songs?
You going to put him in prison, eh,
That he'll never get out again—
For the dreams, the dreams, of the open day
Can never come back to men!

CREDIT SYSTEM HAMPERS DIVERSIFICATION.

Lewis H. Haney, professor of economics in the University of Texas, has been studying farm credit conditions in Texas, and his investigations have led him to the conclusion that the credit system in vogue in this state hampers diversification of crops to a marked degree. After pointing out that by book or crook the interest paid by tenant farmers in Texas averages about 20 per cent, and at that rate progress and ownership are all but impossible, Professor Haney continues:

"Bad years submerge such tenants. Borrowers on crop mortgage in Texas generally receive but 50 per cent of the estimated value of the crop, so that 'borrowing money' even at such rates is very limited. Under such circumstances the tenant is forced into a condition of so great dependence upon the person who 'carries' or 'runs' him that he loses initiative and hopefulness. The merchant, who is prone to assume himself, generally specifies that cotton shall be the main crop with perhaps a little corn for feed and in this way strongly reinforces the tenant's inertia in the matter of diversification. The crop mortgage system, while largely an outgrowth of the tenant-cotton regime, now keeps that regime fastened upon the south and the existing credit system is closely bound up with the single crop practice and self exhaustion. In other ways too, the credit system makes for poor farming. For one thing, the motive for good farming is taken away when everything the farmer owns or hoped to own is going to pay debts and capitalizing interest rates. Again, the tenant and small owner often have no means to get adequate land and capital to utilize their labor properly. There is tremendous waste all through the South due to a failure to utilize labor power to its highest extent. Young and family require a certain minimum number of acres, mules, and dollars" worth of machinery in order to make the maximum net return, and the average Texas farmer badly needs more farm animals and machinery.

"While more live-stock on the farm is a great need, the one-crop system is opposed to animal husbandry. This is partly due to the lack of time to devote to feed crops and partly to the specialization by merchants and bankers of the credit system for the cotton industry. While cotton allows annual settlements, the live stock business requires accommodations of at least two years."

WEALTH INEQUALITY.

(By Bernard Shaw.)

I am bound to keep my temper with an imposture so outrageous so abjectly sycophantic, as the pretense that the existing inequalities of income correspond to and are produced by moral and physical inferiorities and superiorities—that Rockefeller's 500,000 times as great and good a man as William Blake, and committed suicide because he lost two-fifths of his superiority; that the life of Lord Anglesey has been on a far higher plane than that of John Ruskin; that Mademoiselle Liane de Pougy has been raised by her successful sugar speculation to a height attained by Florence Nightingale; and that an arrangement to establish economic equality between them by duly adjusted pensions would be impossible. I say that no sane person can be expected to treat such impudent follies with patience, much less with respect.

The evil resulting from the existing unequal distribution of wealth is so enormous, so incalculably greater than any other evil, actual or conceivable on the face of the earth that it is our first duty to alter it into an equal distribution. The chief agent needed for the change is a sufficiency of gender, the chief moral agent a sufficiency of character which seems to be the difficulty instead of the fear. The nation exhibits, instead of those diversities of opinion and capacity which so impress the Pall Mall Gazette, a dead level of baseness and tameness which makes it possible to drive men in flocks to fight over the question of the proprietorship of other countries before they have settled with us the question of proprietorship of their own.

Because the Socialists believe that the only true title any man can have to land is the fact that he is using it for the support of himself and family, we are called confiscators, and it is charged that we want to break up the home. On the contrary, we intend to break up the present clog-in-the-manger system of land monopoly so that homes may be established, and the idle employed at useful labor.

Oklahoma Notes.

H. M. Sinclair, State Secretary.)

A letter from Comrade Stallard informs this office that the Democrats of the Seventh congressional district resorted to desperate means to put their candidate over. At the last minute and at a time when it was practically impossible to reply, all sorts of stories about Socialists and their candidates were circulated over the district. As Comrade Stallard says, "When a banker goes after poor Henry Dubb, all Henry knows is to obey his master's voice." But there is a good time coming. A good cause can't be kept down.

Local South Greer seconds the motion of Local Fairview, Kiowa county as does also local Howe. This motion aims to prohibit any old party politician from joining the Socialist party for six months after any election.

County Secretary J. T. Ketchum of Greer county sends the State Office a plan of organization by precincts which we will publish in the next edition of the Appeal.

Comrade J. C. Cox writes the office that local Layton seconds the motion by local Fairview. Local Shawnee with 22 members in good standing also seconds the same motion.

Locals desiring the services of Comrade J. A. Currie of San Antonio, Texas, will please address him at Box 641, Oklahoma City.

Free Speech Fight on at Muskogee

A comrade sends the following notes on the situation at Muskogee: where the comrades are putting up a splendid fight for the right of free speech: "The fight against free speech is still being waged in Muskogee and the comrades must give their assistance on the fight to talk Socialism on the streets will be denied by the agents of the masters and grafters. There have been fourteen arrests made since this fight started. We have won every case in the District and Superior courts. Two comrades were arrested while taking collections with which to defend speakers who has been thrown into filthy jails.

This fight is the fight of every Socialist in Oklahoma. If they can stop the agitation of Socialism on the streets of Muskogee, the masters and grafters will grow bold and try it in all the other towns of the state. Remember that local Muskogee cannot make this fight alone. Get behind us now or it will be too late. Send all funds to Mrs. Blanche Rieder, 603 North B, street, Muskogee, Okla.

The comrades of Washita county send flattering reports to the state office of the work done in that section by Comrade Currie of Texas.

Local Baron No. 1, reports that after a trial before the local board on October 8th, 1914, Comrade Ash was expelled from the party.

New Locals Coming in Fine Shape

Stress of work at headquarters makes it impossible to furnish a list of the new locals received with in the past ten days. This list will appear in the next issue of the Appeal. There has been no let up in the matter of organization. New locals are coming into the fold every day. Old locals report a fine increase in membership. Let us keep up the good work. Our aim must be a local in every voting precinct in the state.

The enormous amount of detail work connected with the last election and with the matter of sending out blanks for nomination of party officials makes the state secretary's office busier than the usual this week. With this work out of the road, the office hopes to give the comrades of the state a full account of the activities of the movement in the weeks to come.

The State Convention Next Dec.

The time of the state convention is rapidly approaching. There is much of importance to be considered at that time. Locals should begin now to make plans to have a representative at this important meeting. The last convention transacted a great amount of detail work and did it well because the delegates came with the determination to do business. Let every party above all other considerations. With a representation in both houses of the state legislature, with many county officers to be administered by Socialists and with the interests of a growing organization to serve, the convention needs the help of comrades from every local in the state. Let's begin now to plan for the greatest constructive convention in the history of the movement in Oklahoma.

The fruits of the great campaign that has just closed will be seen in the election of 1916. Those

STATEMENT FROM REV. NICHOLAS.

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 27, 1914.

Editor Rebel,

Dear Sir:

Some time ago, through the kindness of my friend, F. B. Rose, of Abilene, I received a clipping from your paper. The writer said clipping stating that, he or she, as the case may have been, after an address in a certain town, a very pathetic story was told the speaker by some one from Anson Texas.

The story was that a man by the name of Nicholas, of Abilene, Tex., and a sheriff, went to the home of this Anson man and stole his four children and took them away and that he did not know where they were and that his heart was breaking, etc.

And that this was done because the father of said children was a Socialist.

I say, I am the man Nicholas who went with the deputy sheriff of Jones county, who had ordered from the county judge of that county to deliver the four children to the care and custody of the Texas Children's Home Society subject to the further orders of the court.

Any one who wishes to know why the court of Jones county did this thing can get the facts from the court records or from the court officials either of those who tried the case, county attorney, county clerk, district judge or district attorney or sheriff or any of the leading citizens of the town.

The fact that the father of the children was a Socialist had nothing to do with the Judge's decision in the matter so far as I know.

The children are in splendid homes where they will have every opportunity to make first class citizens of our great state.

Yours intruth and justice.

W. A. Nicholas
District Supt. of the Texas Children's Home Society.

(With reference to the above we have made an investigation and it would appear that Rev. Nicholas is stating the facts.—Ed.)

ONE TWENTIETH OF LAND, 1,694 PERSONS.

Speaking of Idle Land and Idle Hands.

What do you think of a system—the capitalist way of doing things — that forces millions of men into idleness and hunger because 1694 people own just a substistence wage — or even a wage at all?

Twenty-one hundreds of thousands of the most fertile land in America lie fallow, fenced off, out of use, because a small group of parasites profit-mongers want to hold vast domains for speculation for unearned increments. According to official reports 1,694 people own 105,600,000 acres of timbland or one twentieth of the entire area of the country.

The land is all supposed to be occupied — that is, it is "owned" but only twenty-seven per cent of the tillable land, according to a recent report of the department of agriculture, is actually in cultivation. The remaining sixty-three per cent, of the tillable land of the United States is held from cultivation solely because of the system of private ownership.

ands of voters in this state gave the message of Socialism a hearing for the first time this year. They did not see the light early enough to cut loose from the capitalist parties this year, but two years of thinking over the matter will turn the trick. We have sowed the seed this year. 1916 will bring the harvest. Meanwhile, organization must be made. The place to organize is in your own local.

Comrade Wellsay has not had anything to say about keeping that little old red card stamped up to date, for some time. Don't forget that ceremony, comrades. It means that you think enough of Socialism to expend a little real money to bring the new order of society into existence. Rebel secretary should be careful to stick the stamps to the card of each comrade as soon as the dues are paid. Each comrade should preserve his card with special care.