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THE REBEL

T. A. HICKEY, Editor and Owner
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THE GREAT APPEAR GREAT TO US ONLY BECAUSE WE ARE ON OUR KNEES—LET US ARISE.

Entered as second-class matter July 1, 1911, at the postoffice at Hallettsville, Tex., under act of Mar. 3, 1879.

HALLETTSVILLE, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1914.

No. 146

Why Not Intervene in Colorado?

For the first time in the history of the United States the great metropolitan dailies of the nation have carried front page stories with screaming headlines announcing the news that two wars were going on simultaneously on the North American continent. One war across the Rio Grande, the other in the Rocky Mountains of the United States.

The war with Mexico, with all its potential power for trouble, pales into significance beside that of the internal war within the boundaries of our own country.

In this crisis the paramount need of the hour is cool heads with well balanced judgment, stout hearts, that will hew to the line of duty regardless of personal consequences and from that attitude there must necessarily flow the teaching of the truth as God has given us he power to see it.

Believing this to be the only position for an unmuzzled paper to take, The Rebel will now proceed to turn the searchlight of facts upon this extraordinary situation. Utterly indifferent to what they happen to ourselves but with a deep faith that in taking this position we give our little mite to the cause of social order with progress and progress with order.

Now let us look at the causes of the first war, the internal war, the greater war, the war in Colorado.

The war in Colorado has gone on intermittently since the Battle of Bull Mountain when Governor Waite was the executive in 1893. During all these years the government in Colorado, whether in control of Democrats or Republicans, stood forward and naked and unashamed as nothing more nor less than the executive committee of the ruling class, the class that owns the mineral resources of the state.

During these years the capitalist class has branded itself as an open foe of law and order. This statement is so sweeping that if The Rebel would carry its truth into the minds of our readers we must go to the established and unimpeachable record for proof thereof. Let us see what that record revealed.

1. In Utah the Legislature passed a mining law under the police powers of the state that provided that those engaged in, on or around mills, mines or smelters should not work more than eight hours a day. A mine owner named Barney violated the law, was arrested, found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine and be incarcerated for three months in the county jail. As to his guilt there was no question. But his attorneys sought his liberation on the ground that the law was unconstitutional. The case was tried before the supreme court of Utah and the court held that the law was constitutional. From there Mr. Barney's attorneys carried the case to the Supreme Court of the United States and that court, the greatest in our nation, declared that the law was constitutional and Mr. Barney served the sentence. Now watch Colorado.

Organized labor in Colorado drafted a law word for word, comma for comma as the Utah law that had stood thetest of not only the state supreme court of Utah but the Supreme court of the United States. By a mass petition drawn in accordance with the referendum law of Colorado, the people of that state voted for the law and carried by a majority of 46,113. The legislature then placed the law in the statute books with the governor's signature appended. The Colorado mining corporations, which are almost exclusively owned by the Eastern capitalists of the Rockefeller-Guggenheim type, appealed to the supreme court of Colorado and that state court declared unconstitutional the law that the people of Colorado had voted for, that the governor had signed, that the Utah State Supreme Court had validated and that the United States Supreme Court had placed the stamp of authority upon. Thus the first fact stands out that the plutocracy had viciously corrupted and made anarchists of the supreme legal authority in the state of Colorado. That is fact one etched from the record.

2. When the great Cripple Creek strike of 1904 and 1905 was raging, wholesale atrocities were manufactured by criminals employed by the Mine Owners' Association of which John D. Rockefeller, Jr., was the most important member. Theodore Roosevelt at that time president ordered that Carrol D. Wright, then America's most famous statistician, should journey to Colorado, investigate the conditions and report back to Congress. This report is on file in the records of the United States Senate today. It was published by the government of the United States under the title of "Senate Document 122, 58 Congress, 3rd Session" and signed by Theodore Roosevelt, president of the United States and Theodore Roosevelt, general Bonaparte. In Chapter 20 of this government document we read substantially as follows:

"During the Cripple Creek strike after a military ball was held in the town of Florence, 20 miles from Victor. 250 ladies and gentlemen were returning from that ball shortly before dawn. As the train reached a high trestle coming into the town the engineer noticed that a rail was displaced. He fortunately saw it in time to stop the slow moving train and thus saved the lives of 250 men and women. Three private detectives ran out on the trestle and laid the crime at the doors of the Western Federation of Miners. Three of the executive board of the Cripple Creek district of the W. F. of M. were arrested a few hours later charged with the crime. These trial occurred 60 days later before District Judge Steele. Private Detective McKinney went on the witness stand and testified to the guilt of the Miners Union officials. On cross examination by Horace N. Hawkins of Denver, a law partner of United States Senator Patterson, Detective McKinney broke down and testified that it was he who pulled the spike, removed the fish plates and threw the rail and when asked who hired him he replied: "The Mine Owners Association of Colorado," of which body John D. Rockefeller, Jr., of the Fifth Ave., New York Bible Class was one of the shining lights.

In closing on fact two The Rebel would advise that you do not take our word but write to United States Senators Culberson or Sheppard for confirmation of the statement.

3 During this period of strife between the miners and the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company and allied mining interests a terrific dynamite explosion occurred at the Independence depot in Cripple Creek. Nineteen men were blown into eternity, bloodhounds were immediately placed on the trail of the miscreants that had committed this collossal crime, three times the dogs took the trail and each time landed at the door of one of the private detectives employed by Rockefeller and Company who owned 40 per cent of the Colorado Fuel and Iron stock. Again The Rebel would warn his readers not to take our word unsupported but write to United States Senators Culberson or Sheppard as to confirmation of the statement that I have culled from the records of the government of the United States.

I could go on to fill every column of this issue of The Rebel with similar crimes committed by the mining plutocracy and present my readers with evidence as indisputable as that printed above, but I have shown enough to give a clear understanding as to the fiendish methods employed by the masters of Colorado's mineral wealth and to whatsoever they will order their agents to go in crucifying humanity upon their cross of gold.

And yet with all this information at my hand I believe that there was some point in human depravity beyond which these human vultures would not dare to travel. I believed there was some place on the road to degradation where they would stop. My mind could not grasp the idea of an armed soldiery driven on to burn a tented town where the miners, fearing attack, had dug pits within the canvas walls of the tents, pits that resembled shallow graves in which their women and babies could escape the shots that would come raining in the night. I did not believe that these incarnate fiends would set fire to these tents erected on the snowy hillsides of the Rockies and that when the women rose like wraiths from the graves that they would be driven by a murderous rifle fire back into the graves, clutching their babies to their breasts only to be consumed by the fires, until the last licking flames went out in the blast of the frozen winds of the Rockies, where the morning sun looked down on a charnel house with 20 women and babies burned to ashes.

I say I did not believe such a crime were possible and I do say here and now that a man who would not pick up a gun to shoot these murderous things is not worthy of the name of an American and I say, so help me God, if I were in Ludlow that morning I would use torch and gun, dynamite and nitro glycerine to blast these rascals into the hospitable graves that should yawn for their rotten carcasses, and I say this as a peaceable law-abiding American citizen, and believe that every other decent man would act likewise when he stood beside the bodies of the murdered women and babies.

Talk to me about Huerta and his murder of Madero; talk to me about Huerta shooting men in the back; for that murderer of Tulsepa I told no brief. Should he be removed by the hand of the Constitutionalists I would rejoice but still I will say that we have a plutocracy on this side of the Rio Grande that at this moment puts Huerta to the brush. I have yet to learn that Huerta makes war on defenseless women and children as does Mr. Rockefeller, Jr., the great Baptist of New York, through his agents, the degenerate gunmen and militia recruited from the slums of the cities of the state of Colorado.

And so I see and will maintain that regardless of what may occur in the land of the Aztecs and Montezumas that the real war, the war that affects you and I, the war that strikes at the hearthstone of the American home, the war that is always on, the war that was well described by Carrol D. Wright on the fly leaf of his immortal report as the "Twenty Years War in Colorado," that is now going on to 30 years and that will continue until the people of the United States organize on the economic and political field and seize the means of producing the means of life from the hands of a unchaste plutocracy, whose crimes cry to the high heavens for vengeance.

Until that day dawns when the resources of the nation are cooperatively owned and democratically managed by thepeople of the nation, we will continue to see the labor war continue on an ever increasing scale until the final battle is fought that will result in abject peonage for the masses of the people or complete freedom. There can be no fig ctrues hoisted between contending forces; it is war to the knife and the knife to the hilt. Should the masses of the people have the courage, the brains and the spirit to overcome their exploiters and rulers they need doubt but that they possess these qualities, then we can have peace on earth, to men good will. Then we can live under conditions such as the old prophet foresaw when he said:

'And he shall preach among the nations and rebuke many peoples and ye shall beat your swords into plow shares, and your spears into pruning hooks and war shall be learned no more."

We should learn this lesson from the Colorado Labor war. Organize for the final battle.

As to the Associated Press.

The Associated Press is a co-operative news gathering body that supplies news tainted, doctored and otherwise to about 800 morning and afternoon dailies in the United States. This association is controlled by a reactionary clique who are in the pay of the plutocracy and make a specialty of deliberately falsifying the news in the interest of their employers. Well posted men on the inside of newspaperdom have long been aware of this fact, but so great is their power, both financial and otherwise, they have been able to maintain a pose of respectability and fairness before the masses of the people. The Rebel is pleased to state that owing to the fearless fight of The Masses, a New York Socialist illustrated magazine, a successful fight has been made upon the modern munchhausens who poison the wells of information for pay. It will be remembered that some months ago The Masses charged that the Associated Press had deliberately suppressed the truth of the mining wars that were raging in West Virginia in the interest of the coal trust, the railroad trust and all that vast economic power that is implied in the term Wall Street. The Masses pointed out that it was a matter of record through evidence secured by the United States Senatorial investigating committee that inquired into the West Virginia mining war that the Associated Press correspondent was one of the principal militia officers in the strike zone who suppressed all news for months that was favorable to the strikers and put nothing on the wires save what his own partisan mind desired and consequently the 800 daily newspapers in the United States that received the service were led into deceiving their readers as to the true situation in West Virgina.

But this was not all. The Masses caricatured in cartoons of the Associated Press, held them up to scorn and ridicule and so fierce was their attack that the A. P. were ashamed to go to their clubs, meet their friends and their children were the objects of ridicule in their colleges and schools that they attended.

When the rhinocerosian hide of the A. P. officials was punctured by The Masses they were compelled to act to bring suit for criminal libel against The Masses. They secured indictments against Max Eastman, the editor and Art Young, the cartoonist. But alas for the Associated Press officials and alas for the papers like the Dallas News, Houston Post and Chronicle, Fort Worth Record and other dailies that received the lying Associated Press report, the courage of Lord and the other A. P. officials oozed. Bob Acres-like through their finger tips and they have caused the indictment against Eastman and Young to be dismissed as the following dispatch to The Rebel from The Masses shows:

* * *

EDITORS OF MASSES WILL NOT BE TRIED.

The indictments against Max Eastman and Art Young, editor and artist of The Masses, a Socialist monthly of New York City, have been dismissed. Young and Eastman were charged with libeling the Associated Press. They had secured a great mass of evidence to prove the Associated Press had suppressed and distorted news in a great number of cases. It is thought the Associated Press feared to have this evidence made public.

* * *

Great is this victory for truth and damaging as it is to the lying bailiffs of the Associated Press, the people must not be deceived into the belief that the A. P. is going to change its methods, no more than a leopard can change its spots. For proof of this statement just read the Colorado mining war news as published in the Dallas News Wednesday, April 22 containing a special dispatch from Trinidad, Colorado, to the news and the read the Associated Press dispatch of April 23, to the same papers that was sent to 800 other daily papers in America. The special story and the A. P. story published only 24 hours apart are as different as day and night. The first story fears all the ear marks of truth. It shows where women were literally burned alive under the rifle fire of the Colorado militia. Take this paragraph for instance that reveals a condition of cannibalistic warfare that is vile enough to make an infamous Huerta hide his head with shame.

"The Ludlow camp is a mass of charred debris and buried beneath it is a story of horror unparalleled in the history of industrial warfare. In the holes which have been dug for their protection against the rifle fire the women and children died like trapped rats when the flames swept over them. (Taken from the Galveston News, Wednesday, April 22, 1914, first column, Fifth Page.)

The truth is suppressed and it is made to appear that the miners are to blame for conditions that the operators are suffering and there is nothing about the dead and the dying women, children and men in the United Mine Workers and mark you the Dallas News and all the other papers carry that lying tale, the public mind is poisoned, public sympathy is turned from the suffering women, children and men on the frozen, blood-stained hillsides of the Rocky Mountains, with but little hope of succor or relief and all the time John D. Rockefeller garners the blood-soaked and tear stained gold that pours into the Colorado fuel and iron company coffers to the extent of more than $20,000,000 a year.

It is now up to the News and similar papers if they have any regard for their reputation to turn their associated Press franchise and seek some reputable news gathering agency that will tell the people the unvarnished truth of the daily news as it comes hot from the furnace of events.

Now we wish to say a final word on this subject directly and personally, to Mr. Lord and his associate officials that control the Associated Press. Just this:

Sir, in times of war the meanest specimen of humanity that attacts on either side, the right or the wrong, is the infamous scoundrel who will poison the wells of a country. His name is Anathema, with friend and foe. In all society there is only one friend that can be compared to him and that scoundrel is like yourself and your brother officials who poison the well springs of the nation's press and poison them at their source. Full well do I know the responsibility I take upon myself when I dare to thus publicly characterize you. From out of my office there will go this message and one hundred thousand people will read it. . . . .

If I have slandered you and yours I am amenable to the laws of the nation under which I live and I here and now dare you, Mr. Lord, to sue me in the courts of Texas, a state by the way that has a very liberal libel law. I repeat I double dare you to put my characterization of you to a public test. In the meantime continue to poison the well springs of the nation's press and poison them at their source. Full well do I know the responsibility I take upon myself when I dare to thus publicly characterize you. From out of my office there will go this message and one hundred thousand people will read it. . . . .

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T. A. H.

Letter of Acceptance.

Halletsville, Tex., Apr. 23, 1914.

Mr. T. A. Hickey,
State Secretary, Socialist Party
Halletsville, Texas.

Dear Comrade:—

A recent mail referendum of the Socialist Party of Texas having resulted in my nomination for governor, subject to the decisions of the August convention, my acceptance of that nomination is hereby tendered.

At the same time it is proper to outline the main issues on which our gubernatorial campaign will be based, a campaign that will include a joint six-months' canvass of the state by the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, assisted by thirty or forty additional speakers.

Financed by the Working Class

By the way, this through canvass will be financed in a manner radically different from old party campaigns. Socialist candidates do not depend upon their own "barrels" or upon those of rich friends or corporations for campaign funds.

These are furnished by the working class membership in the shape of monthly dues and contributions to the local and state party organizations. In other words, ours is the only political party on earth whose nominees are paid by the rank-and-file to make the race for office, not munificently, but well enough for worsting class candidates.

In large part this fact explains why Socialists in and out of office are always found standing by the common people while only the record of old party officers is one long list of betrayals of the masses in the interest of the classes.

Nothing is more natural than that this difference in campaign methods should exist. The wealth for can well afford to make liberal campaign contributions to parties or candidates—Republican, Democratic and Progressive—that uphold the present rent-interest-profit system, for does not that social system insest them with fabulous wealth and power embezzled from the poverty-stricken many?

On the other hand Socialism frankly proclaims itself a movement of by and for the toiling class, distinct and separate from all other parties, and as such it can and will not rest until that system is destroyed root and branch, and the co-operative commonwealth established instead.

As day follows night so it follows that Big Business can not support a party whose historic mission it is to destroy its gigantic game of graft and greed. Hence the Socialist party must, with few idealistic exceptions, be financed solely with the hard-earned nickles and dimes of the working producing class composing its membership.

The Acid Test.

In short we are perfectly willing to let the people of Texas judge us by the acid test:

Only the interests of those who furnish the campaign funds of a political party or candidate are safe in the hands of such party or candidate.

Would the wealthy banker and landlord, Mr. Ferguson, will the Brewery trust and Commercial Secretaries' backing and his personal 40,000 campaign fund be willing to be tested in this wise?

Would Mr. Ball, millionaire and corporation lawyer, with his lumber, oil and railway trust and other Big Business connections dare stand this test?

Not Directed by Will of the Wisps

In other respects do our tactics differ from those of all other parties. For one thing advocating a reign of truth and absolute justice for all mankind, we fight with open visor, we play with cards, face up. We have nothing to hide or equivocate. Not for one moment shall we seek to fool the people with aside or fake issues or politics will-o'-the-wisps, in the hope of gaining temporary advantage.

Nor will you find us aping the tactics of capitalistic candidates who are kept so busy ladling out self-praise, amorous platitudes and sophistries that basic principles are lost sight of.

Our Only Gauge of Battle.

Our only gauge of battle shall be the principles of International Socialism beside which personages are as shadows, merely pawns in the hands of the forces of destiny that with mighty sweep are moving to set free the enslaved toilers of the world.

In every nook and corner of the world, whether it be in rock-ribbed Texas or in blood-drenched Colorado, in Michigan, Virginia, old Mexico, or in war-haunted Europe or in heathen Japan or China, you will see how these principles proclaimed with great power and insistence from day to day.

Basic Principles Stated.

In a few words those principles are:

1. That the mines, factories, railroads, railways, lands and all other great means of communication, production and attribution shall be owned and democratically administered by and in the direct interest of all the people.

2. That thereby such a thing as 90,000,000 people paying billions of dollars in annual tribute in the shape of interest, rent and profit to a few hundred thousand idle landlords, speculators and trust magnates will be forever abolished; no great necessity of life shall ever again be monopolized to the profit of the few, and the robbery of the many; such necessities to be produced by the people for the people at cost.

3. Finally, all of this co-operative, industrial, system is to be in direct and absolute control of the people through the initiative, referendum and recall and through organization of such industries along definite industrial lines.

The postoffice with its rural route, parcels post and saving bank adjuncts, the public roads, the public school system, the proposed 1000-mile government railway in Alaska, the Panama canal and other publicly owned ventures are examples showing what the people can do for themselves in the direct and absolute control of this system.

Truth vs. Falsehood.

Up to this point has been stated the aims and substance of the tactics and demands of the Socialist party, as is plainly shown by a perusal of all platforms, programs and resolutions adopted at every state and national party convention in America or in Europe.

Do not be led into false beliefs as to our purposes by any person who either ignorantly or knowingly repeats falsehoods hatched by the clerical and political henchmen of Big Business.

Remember that just as we who battle for truth and justice must employ only the shining sword of truth, so must those that fight to sustain the prevailing system of injustice and falsehood, bolster it up with more wrongs and untruths.

The only way to combat the truth is with lies, hence the opponents of Socialism have no choice but to lie purposely or to repeat lies ignorantly. However the fair-minded element within the old parties is already learning to discount the charges commonly heard against our movement and is beginning to weigh soberly and sanely the discussions contained in our platforms and resolutions.

And I am not afraid as to what the verdict will be.

STATE ISSUES

Having stated our basic principles as applied to national affairs, I shall now seek to answer the question that next arises:

How would a Socialist governor and legislature apply these principles to state affairs?

Land Question Paramount.

If such an impossible thing were possible that the Socialist Party of Texas should die today before it came into power, it has an achievement to its credit that alone should make its name imperishable.

That achievement was to make the Land Question the paramount issue in Texas when every known artifice of leading Democratic newspapers and politicians was used to play it down and instead play up prohibition and other superficial issues.

Although every state and national platform of our party has emphasized this deep question, yet the first great gun in the Texas Land campaign was fired in July, 1911 when there was issued through The Rebel (published by T. A. Hickey, E. R. and A. C. Meitzen, the first and only call for the organization of a nationwide Socialist party, which could be the child of Texas and the nation to the limit of all lands held for speculation.

This movement to this call a union was organized at Waco in November, 1911, and is now in a growing healthy condition, with R. O. Meitzen as executive secretary. The next step was taken when my father and I drafted the now well known Socialist land tax amendment that was proposed in that citadel of Texas landlordism, our state capitol. It was introduced "by request" by D. A. Paulus, then state senator, now postmaster of Halletsville.

Of course the amendment was quietly buried in committee, but like Banquo's ghost it would not down. The final great gun was fired that blew sky-high the conspiracy of silence with respect to the Land Question, when the Rutsville Union, with the co-operation of the Rebel and the Socialist forces of Texas circulated the now famous Land Petition. Within all the Texas newspapers (October and November, 1913) with storms and floods greatly hampering the work, over 60,000 signatures were secured to the petition asking Governor Colquitt to call a special session of the legislature for the purpose of considering an amendment taxing farm lands beyond the limits of a homestead held for speculation or exploitation. Of course the Texas press was flooded with lies to the money and influence of great landlords, and Mr. Colquitt, the governor, on December 23, 1913, declined to consider this petition when presented to him by mail.

But such was the moral effect of this mass petition revealing as by the lightning's flash the Texas small farm owners of public sentiment in favor of a revolution in the present system of land tenure, that old party newspapers and politicians alike began to hastily trim their sails for the coming storm.

It was amusing to see leading aspirants for high office, like Colquitt, Terrell, Ousley, Ferguson, and finally, Ball, for the first time in their lengthy public careers begin to suddenly shed brilliant rays over the soul-stirring of the Texas small farm owners and tenants.

Where eight months ago there was not so much as a whisper of land reform, now it is among them a row see them vying with one another in competition with the Socialist party for the land movement. Naturally they merely wish to divert the incipient revolution into safe channels and allow the land question to sleep until political nests. Only they will find that the hosts back of this movement are in earnest and in steady earnest, and will not be diverted by fair promises and makeshift reforms.

Socialist Land Plank.

In this movement as a tower of strength, four square, stands the Socialist party of Texas, advocating the utter destruction of landlordism. It takes the position that there is only one way to wipe out the horrid brood of evils arising from land monopoly and landlordism. That is to place an annual tax (which is the full rental value on all land held for speculation or exploitation, beyond the limits of a legal homestead, or any occupancy to be the sole title to land. The rental value of such land is to be fixed on a basis of prairie land, in places where there are no tenants. Where tenantry obtains, the rental tax would be the same as the rent charged by the landlord to the tenant.

The immediate result would be to knock the present artificial speculative value out of land, and throw millions of acres on the market at enormously reduced prices, and it would no longer be heart-breaking task for a family of moderate means to pay out a home. In fact the state government would in addition render all possible aid to such home buyers.

Tenantry and landlordism would thus be abolished at one stroke. Texas would become a glorious commonwealth of progressive, independent home owners. Crime, misery and ignorance would be the exception where now they are the rule, and all the arts and pursuits of a higher civilization would flourish as never in the history of man.

Is not this a program worth fighting for, even for those who have large landed possessions, but who possess a heart and a soul?

Constitutional Changes Required.

It is of course to be understood that the foregoing program will require constitutional changes but as the initiative, referendum and recall provision will shortly become a part of the organic law of the state, it will soon be far from difficult to amend the constitution.

However, pending such time as it may take to be used as to the fight to amend the constitution in this respect, we would use every executive and legislative means at our power to relieve the burdens of the renting and small farm owning class.

The actual farmers of Texas know our record well enough by now to know that the foregoing brief pledge is worth more than all the lies, slanders and promises of the Balls and Fergusons whose present protestations do not jibe well with past performances.

Ball on "Land".

A criticism of the land and tenant proposals of Ferguson and Ball, the two leading candidates for governor, I prefer to reserve for primaries, are not out place here.

Mr. Ball begins by saying that conditions in Texas as to the land ownership are not nearly so bad as in foreign countries."

I wish to emphatically challenge that statement.

What state in the nation, what country on the globe can show such a damnable land record as Texas? Settled less than eighty years ago, it had 219,575 farr tenants in 1910, representing a population of over one million men, women and children comprising 53 per cent. of the total farm population. Not counting the count a larger proportion of city tenants. To make matters worse the number of farm tenants has been growing from day to day. In truth the mass of those now known technically as "home owners" are merely tenants of mortgage holders, and are the hanging to their homes by the "skin of their teeth" as it were.

What other country on the globe except possibly Mexico, can show such a criminal land policy as has been pursued by past Democratic administrations? Multiplied thousands of acres of the people's best lands have been given away outright or sold for a song to railway and other corporations or have been brazenly stolen by connivance of democratic state officials or without protest from them.

The result is that our once great public domain fit for cultivation has vanished all in the course of less than fifty years. Instead, according to a census bulletin issued by the Secretary of Interior there are 117,000,000 acres of tillable land in Texas held in private hands out of cultivation, for speculative purposes with only 32,000,000 acres in actual cultivation.

Imagine a domain larger than Germany and Great Britain combined, that has not been touched by the plow and but lightly touched by the tax gatherer. Then consider that in the face of those 117,000,000 idle acres, land prices and rents are going higher and rent places are becoming scarcer from year to year.

In a few years, at this rate, a few hundred persons will own all the lands in Texas and the remaining population will be more viciously enslaved than the peons of Mexico. Even now I should say that there are hundreds of thousands that are beginning to realize that the land tax is the only way to wipe out the horrid brood of evils arising from land monopoly and landlordism. That is to place an annual tax (which is the full rental value on all land held for speculation or exploitation, beyond the limits of a legal homestead, or any occupancy to be the sole title to land. The rental value of such land is to be fixed on a basis of prairie land in places where there are no tenants. Where tenantry obtains, the rental tax would be the same as the rent charged by the landlord to the tenant.

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Is not this a program worth fighting for, even for those who have large landed possessions, but who possess a heart and a soul!

Ball's Plank.

Mr. Ball's land plank is as follows:

"Tax all land at its full value and let the tax be paid by the owner, whether it be a tenant or landlord."

Mr. Ball begins by saying that conditions in Texas as to the land ownership are not nearly so bad as in foreign countries."

I wish to emphatically challenge that statement.

What state in the nation, what country on the globe can show such a damnable land record as Texas? Settled less than eighty years ago, it had 219,575 far

From Rebel Stockholders.

ON WITH THE WORK.

Bellerville, Tex., Apr. 16, 1914.
Comrade Hickey:—
You will find enclosed a pledge for
ne of stock to The Rebel. On
th the good work of education and
ng The Rebel live long and prosper,
that the spirit of truth may pen-
the minds of the great working
of mankind, who are now bowed
wn beneath the shackles of oppres-
, revolution and superstition.
Yours for the revolution,
J. A. T. Page.

• • • •

ANT DO WITHOUT THE REBEL.

Mt. Pleasant, Tex., April 6, 1914.
Comrade:—
It is great pleasure for me to
p The Rebel and its staff to try to
anything that is to the interest of
masses of the day. Your paper is
best paper in Texas and I can't
along without it. I will take five
ores of stock.
Yours truly,
J. M. Steadman,
Leesburg, Tex., Rt. 2.

• • • •

WILL DOUBLE IF NECESSARY.

Hesse, Tex., April 11, 1914.
Rebel:—
am sending you pledge for five
hares and will take five more if you
n't get enough. The Socialists gave
up a party in Texas like The Rebel
this one hundred thousand circulation
d must have it to combat the lies of
capitalist press before we can hope to
ry the state and bury the males
party.
Fraternally,
Eugene Ethridge.

• • • •

HE IS A SOCIALIST.

Stanton, Tex., April 11, 1914.
Comrade Hickey:—
Enclosed you will find pledge for
ve shares of stock. I am a Socialist.
Yours for the truth,
A. H. Morton.

• • • •

HE WANTS TO SUPPLY THE AM-
MUNITION.

Burr, Texas, April 12, 1914.
Dear Comrade:—
I will sure go five dollars on your
publishing company, but it is not one-
half what I should like to go. Now
comrades as we have a man to do our
fighting let us furnish him with the
ammunition. Don't let him want for
ery, stand pat.
Your comrade,
Tom Hobart.

• • • •

FROM A JOHN A. KIRBY VICTIM.

Benina, Tex., April 11, 1914.
Hickey:—
am willing to do all I can for
e cause. I am a tie maker and have
work very hard for a living but
for $18. I just be belong to
Lumber workers and was in the wall
st at Merryville, La.
Yours for labor,
C. P. Nugent.

• • • •

A NOBLE SPIRITED LADY.

Youngblood, Texas, April 14, 1914.
Your Comrade:—
I want to help a little in the good
work. Wish I could make it more,
but I depend on my husband for my
ZEN for the $5. Will send subs as
soon as I can.
With best wishes to all,
Mrs. A. D. Mendoze.

• • • •

HE WANTS 100,000 SUBS.

Sulphur Bluff, Tex., Mar. 27, 1914.
Dear Comrade Hickey:—
Your circular letter at hand sub-
mitting plan of a stock company for
The Rebel is great. I find one sub-
scription Crawford, Tex., and that is the
first that the first payment on stock
cannot be due at the hardest time in the
year for us poor devils to meet our
obligations. The fact is we have usu-
ally exhausted our means in making
our crop but we will do the best we
can. So here comes my pledge for $5.
It is not dividends I want on this
little investment, the supreme need of
the hour is Socialism. If we can drive
the circulation of The Rebel to 100,000
in this landlord cursed land of the
South with your clean arguments on
the Land question and your masterful
form of exposing the fallacies of the
Donk party, and the false issues of the
pros, we would drive a wedge in capi-
talism that would make the world
stand up and take notice, and thereby
hasten the emancipation of the pro-
ducing class.
Yours for the revolution,
G. B. Russell.

• • • •

HE WANTS LAND FOR THE LAND-
LESS VIA THE REBEL.

Ferris, Texas, April 4, 1914.
Dear Comrade Hickey and Mates:—
I am truly glad you have suggested
the plan you did to place The Rebel
on a safe and sound financial basis.
In my humble judgment there is no
place where we could put our money
that we can spare for educational and
propaganda purposes where it would
do as much good as it would by tak-
ing stock in The Rebel. We need and
must have (if we keep abreast of the
times) a paper with plenty of money
to back it, so as to be able to secure
the services of able writers and send
them to any and all places to secure in-
side information to help our cause
where the kept press fails or refuses
to tell the whole truth; where the mas-
ters would be injured by telling it and
at the same time, be able to keep the
price of the paper so cheap that no
man would be willing to say I am not
able to take it.
We are engaged in the grandest
work that ever engaged the hearts and
minds of men in any age of the world.
Indeed the annals of history do not
contain the record of any move of such
potentiality without regard to race
or nationality, for the general, yea,
the universal betterment of mankind.
And The Rebel is rapid fire, long range
and we must furnish the sinews of war
to furnish ammution to keep up per-
petual bombardment of the stronghold
of capitalism.
Comrades, now is the time and here
is the place to do the work.
Come easy, come all and let your
battle cry be: "Lands for the land-
less and homes for the homeless.
Awake, arise, ye disinherited sons
of toil and make war for liberty and
put the demon of capitalism and land-
lordism to rout and once for all see
to earth without a slave or a master.
W. Lee Wood.

• • • •

IN THE FIGHT TO STAY.

Lamesa, Tex., April 6, 1914.
Dear Mr. Hickey and Mates:—
I have carefully read your plans for
putting The Rebel on the 25 cents
for 26 weeks basis. I think that every
comrade ought to help build The Rebel.
the best little paper that was ever
published. If I was able I would
see that she would get the half mil-
lion mark. But a poor man can't
do much. I am sending the pledge
filled out, $2.50 for the first of July;
$2.50 for the first of October and
would give $25 just as quick if I could
possibly meet it. Remember I am in
the fight to stay.
Respectfully,
J. G. Chapman.

• • • •

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.

Angleton, Tex., April 11, 1914.
You will find enclosed the blank
pledge with $2 for two shares in The
Rebel Publishing Co.
Henry Rodelmiller.

• • • •

THE REBEL BAD MEDICINE FOR
THE L. L.

Davidson, Okla., Mar. 21, 1914.
Dear Comrade Hickey:—
I am sending herewith pledge for
two shares in The Rebel Publishing
Co., will send more later.
I think The Rebel is a good paper
for the working class, but bad medi-
cine for the landlords and I would do
do without it for four times the price.
W. C. P.

• • • •

THE RENTERS NEED THE REBEL.

Bagley, Tex., April 11, 1914.
Messrs. T. A. H. and E. R.M.:—
I will send or pledge $10 if needed.
Let me know as I will forward it at
once. I am a poor renter but can spare
that much, could pay it now as well
as July or October
I lost my home in Sabine county 6
years ago and have been renting ever
since, though have not laid my head
under the iron heel so far and don't
think I will soon, without some mis-
fortune befalls me. Anything to help
the poor down-trodden
Your comrade,
B W Samford

• • • •

HE ISN'T A DRONE.

Palacios, Tex., April 6, 1914.
Dear Comrade Hickey:—
Enclosed you will find pledge for
stock signed up for five shares. I
don't see why every Socialist that
owns his teams and tools and is out of
debt can't take stock. The trouble
is we have too many drones, they love
to howl and blast and tell what ought
to be done and likes to see the other
fellow do the work. It amuses me to
read Ferguson's speech at Blum, Texas
on the land question to catch suckers.
Yours truly,
B. F. Russell.

• • • •

HELP FROM THE AGED.

Ladonia, Tex., April 7, 1914.
Messrs. T. A. Hickey and R. R. Mott-
ram:—
Enclose one dollar for a five dol-
lar share, would give more if I was
able. I am an old man and have two
sons who are rented ground
and you understand how that is.
Will pay what I agreed to pay when it
comes due.
J. M. Shadden.

AND WE HAVE GOBLES OF IT YET.

Daingerfield, Tex., Apr. 7, 1914.
Editor The Rebel:—
Enclose to your call for action
I herewith enclose pledge for five
shares in your stock backed by the
same ability that you had for your
undertaking, that is health and ener-
gy.
S. A. Beard.

• • • •

WANTS AN UNMUZZLED PRESS.

Caldwell, Tex., April 6, 1914.
To the Heroes of The Rebel:—
Here is my pledge in full for 20
shares for $20. I am interested in any
movement for the betterment of the
masses. I am not inventing for the
profits. I have a desire to help others
to see the good of an unmuzzled press
in this great unused state of Texas
lands, where have we the slick pal-
ished Donk reformer out to rake in all
the tender roots at the polls with his
easy greasy plank to regulate rent, in-
terest and profit. Regulate what?
Oh, the Gulf of Mexico I should have
said. Yes, they mean well, but a seat
in office means the boats are anchored.
Now if we knock the blocks off these
air castles we've got to do it with
our best ever, The Rebel, that paper
which dares to speak the truth with-
out muzzle nor breeching. I believe to
socialize the press means to socialize
the work. I am a baby Socialist and a
stranger in this part of Texas but know
they (the people) learn me they learn
more of their own affairs and remedy
for same. The people here need the
Rebel's Union and The Rebel is mak-
ing it go. We must have help for
them to get it. The whole country
is unorganized without what I can learn,
but I think in the near future this
won't be so.
I am sending 25 cents to the Rent-
er's Union and for information as
to, becoming a dues paying Socialist
and if there are any locals already or-
ganized in this county.
Yours for the truth about
Socialism,
Jim Burke.

• • • •

THE BEST YET.

Longworth, Tex., March 31, 1914.
Comrade Hickey:—
I am sending you an application for
ten shares in your incorporated enter-
prise, which I think is the best thing
yet.
J. N. Nolen.

• • • •

THINKS INCORPORATION GREAT
IDEA.

Douglass, Tex., April 11, 1914.
I will subscribe ten dollars in shares
and I think it a good idea for there
are several comrades here that say
they cannot take The Rebel any longer
on account of the price being so high.
Yours for the big fight,
W. P. Norton.

• • • •

THINKS REBEL BEST IN TEXAS.

Pear Valley, Tex., Mar. 28, 1914.
Dear Comrade Hickey:—
I will take a ten dollar stock and
send the money when due. Am hard
run but don't want the best paper in
Texas to suffer or be suspended. I am
with you all the way.
Your comrade,
W. J. C. Wiggins.

• • • •

WANTS DIVIDENDS IN PROPA-
GANDA.

Dilworth, Tex., Mar. 30, 1914.
I received your letter and a marked
copy of The Rebel. I am with you
and will do all I can to get others to
come in. Comrade Mott will bring
it up at our next meeting. I think it
is one of the grandest propositions ever
thought of. I want to start the list
off by putting in five dollars myself. You
will hear from me after we meet.
If this deal goes through, which I
hope it will and there are ever any
dividends declared on the stock, I want
mine in Rebel sub cards or other prop-
aganda literature.
H. P. Key.

• • • •

BIDS THE PARTY GOOD SPEED.

Appleby, Tex., April 15, 1914.
Please accept my little mite together
with the others I have induced to take
stock. Hoping you will succeed and
bidding the party God speed, I remain,
D. P. Palmer.

• • • •

LOOKS FOR A BETTER DAY.

Pennington, Tex., March 28, 1914.
Dear Comrades Hickey and Mattram:—
I am willing to do anything that is
in my power for the upbuilding of The
Rebel. I will subscribe $5 and would
do more if I was able but I am like
all other poor farmers, I belong to the
banker but I hope to see a better day.
Yours for an honest cause,
A. E. Collins.

• • • •

ORDER ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS
OF STOCK.

Fort Worth, Tex., April 6, 1914.
Will you subscribe enclosed pledge for
ten shares for a few days back and place
this one in for me and can't you at-
tach the postoffice or town to each
pledge.
Jos. McClure.

A CUR REBUKED.

Alvord, Tex., April 17, 1914.
Editor The Rebel:—
Haltertville, Texas
Dear Sir:—
About a month ago Dr. J. A. Pres-
ley received a challenge from J. E.
Gilbert, of Decatur, an attorney-at-
law, to debate the following propoui-
tion:
Resolved: "That Socialism as
Taught is a System of Free Love,
Infidelity and anarchy, Which Pro-
motes Social Equality and In-
ter-marriage."
Dr. Presley had not been at home
for some time so I answered him with
a letter that was this in substance:
"Alvord, Tex. Mar. 11, 1914.
"Mr. D. L. Gilbert,
Decatur, Texas,
"Dear Sir:—
"Yes sir, Dr. Presley is a gentle-
man, but I do think you have
treated him as such when you send
him such an insulting proposition to
debate.
Dr. Presley is willing to debate any
thing that is half way fair and I
think he will even sign yoef insu-
ing proposition and go with you four
nights on it, if you will first agree
to take two nights on the proposition:
Resolved: "That Capitalism as Pre-
ticed Is a System of Free Love, Infi-
delity and Anarchy, Which Favors
Negro Social Equality and Inter-mar-
riage." He will skin you too on this
proposition if you don't do like some
rewards do, get up and run and take
your scowed with you.
I want you to show this letter ev-
erytime you tell anybody that you
have challenged Dr. Presey to de-
bate.
Yours for equal rights to all,
Mrs. J. A. Presley.

• • • •

Mr. Gilbert ignored this letter en-
tirely and today another letter from
him came, requesting the same sub-
ject. And as Dr. Presley is still
away I have answered Mr. Gilbert
with the following letter:
Alvord, Tex., Mar. 17, 1914.
"Mr. D. L. Gilbert,
Decatur, Texas.
"Dear Sir:—
It fails to my lot again to answer
your challenge to Dr. Presley as he is
gone from home and has been ever
since I wrote you except one night
and I do not know just when he will
be at home, is it present on the
claims making a tourr. tour. I
showed him your letter and my ans-
wer to it (for it happened to be in the
night before I mailed my answer that
he came in). He approved my answer
and said he would not fail away any-
time on your proposition unless you
were willing to sign the one I sent
you and thereby prove your willing
ness to be fair. My proposition was
this: Resolved: That Capitalism Pre-
practiced is a system of free love, in-
fidelity and anarchy which favors
negro social equality and intermarri-
age.
Now Mr. Gilbert, how in the name
of God and that is fair can you pre-
sume the Socialist with the charges
you have against us in your proposi-
tion and not be willing to defend
your system against the same charges.
You say "Socialism as taught" you
have thousands of lecturers in the
field, you know they don't teach
such. We do not deny that some of
them are infidels but did you ever
hear of a Democrat infidel or a Re-
publican infidel?
We have thousands of books on the
principles of Socialism and only a ve-
ry few (may be a dozen) have ex-
pressed any lax views concerning sex
relations and if you read the preface
to these books you find that these are
only individual opinions and not an
expression of the party as a whole.
As to anarchy, there is not a So-
cialist living or dead by whom you can
prove that Socialism is a system of
anarchy—I mean Socialists, not So-
cialist haters such as W. F. Lemmons
and some others.
Negro social equality is another
thing you can't prove with our own
literature and you surely would not
attempt to prove it by anything else.
You closed your letter with the ar-
gument: "Yours for equal rights to
all." You have therein implied the
only equality under the sun that So-
cialism guarantees to the negro that
is an equal opportunity to earn his
own bread.
Socialism as a system has never yet
had an opportunity to prove that a
Real Socialism cannot exist in a
small locality surrounded by the mo-
ney power (i. e. Capitalism.)
But understand the standard definition
of Socialism and your platform which
is the voice of the Socialist Party as
a whole and prove by sound logic
that we are what you assume to be
then draw up your proposition to that
effect and when Dr. Presley comes
home set your time.
But understand he don't sign your
propositions as you now have it stated.

MINERS AND TROOPS BATTLE TO
DEATH.

Twenty-Five Dead, Score Missing on
Trinidad, Colo., April 21.—Twenty-
five dead, including fifteen children
and two women, a score missing and
more than a score wounded, is the toll
in tragedy and death known tonight
to have been taken by the 14-hour bat-
tle here between the militia and tent-
colony miners in the Ludlow district. The
trouble is on the property of the Colo-
rado Fuel and Iron Company, the
Rockefeller holdings.
With arms ready both sides, after a
day's ominous quiet, now await the
coming of the dawn when it is fore-
cast the battle will be resumed with
greater bloodshed than that which
has occurred.
The militia, which yesterday drove
the strikers from their tent colony,
and, it is charged, fired it, involving
thereby the greatest loss of lives, are
preparing for a machine gun sortie at
daybreak from their position along the
Colorado and Southern Railroad tracks
at either end of the Ludlow station.

Strikers Await the Guard.

On the surrounding hills, sheltered
by rocks and boulders, 400 strikers
await their coming, while their ranks
being swelled by grim faced men, who
tramped overland in the dark,
carrying guns and ammunition from
the neighboring union camps.
Italian, Greek and Austrian miners
have appealed to their consular repre-
sentatives for protection and John Mc-
Lennan, president of the local union
district, today wired the Red Cross in
Denver to be prepared to render aid.
On the outcome of the engagement
tomorrow may depend the fate of the
strike. Both sides face it as a battle
to the death, with no thought of quar-
ter asked or received. At a late hour
it was said here that the battle could
only be avoided by the arrival of over-
whelming reinforcements for the
troops from Denver.
No train service through the war
zone is permitted. A command of the
troops, is housed in an all sides by
the strikers' lines, which extend back
three miles. Through this cordon on-
ly the dead wagon is allowed to pass
No Less Acts at Trinidad.
Although this situation is no less
acute. Men throug the streets about
the union headquarters with the pro-
tors of their flaming tents still before
their eyes and demand guns with
which to work vengeance upon the
militia whom they hold responsible for
the destruction of their homes and so
the death oftheir women and children.
The Ludlow camp is a mass of
charred debris, and buried beneath its
ruins are hundreds of women and
children who have been dug for their
protection against the rifle fire, the
women and children died like trapped
rats when the flames swept over
them.
One pit, uncovered this afternoon,
disclosed the bodies of ten children
and two women.
Further exploration was forbidden
by the politics of the camp, which lies
directly between the militia and the
strikers' positions.
Military authorities here admitted
tonight that they did not know how
great the loss of life may be.
Explosion of cartridges within the
camp and the hail of lead with which
the militia raked it as flames mounted
skyward, added to the horror of the
fire itself.

Terrified by the Rain of Bullets.

Terrified by the rain of bullets
which poured through the blazing can-
vasses above their heads, the women
and children, apparently more afraid
of the lead than the flames, remained
huddled in their pits until the smoke
carried death to them by suffocation.
The first wagon load of five bodies
was brought in late this afternoon and
a second wagon load is expected to-
night. The scene at the morgue was
pathetic.
Both strikers and militia have a
plentiful supply of ammunition on
hand. Five thousand rounds were
run into the troops at Ludlow on a
Colorado & Southern train from Denver
early this morning and this supply
was later supplemented from Trinidad
this noon.
The strikers by the seizure of an ex-
gin, in the Denver and Rio Grande
yards at El Moro early yesterday, were
also able to replenish their stock at
Barnes.
The militia number 200. Detach-
ments from Walsenburg and Lamar
got through the lines early yesterday.
They occupy a position approximately
three miles in length.

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

(Continued from Page 5.)

unless you first sign the one I have
stated on page 3 of this letter. If you
can't sign that and defend the action
you stand for, for God's sake shut
up.
Yours for equal rights to all, even
to Woman Suffrage,
Mrs. J. A. Presley.

Socialist party at Indianapolis in
1913, the gist of which is contained
in various foregoing statements.

IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I should merely
say that the state demands are mer-
ely immediate. While fighting for
such reforms we shall ever agitate
and hold in view the ultimate prin-
ciples of international Socialism,
which provide for the complete
overthrow of the capitalist system
and substituting therefor the co-
operative commonwealth.
In truth it might scarcely be
necessary for me to do anything
more than to advocate these fun-
damental principles. It has ever
been our experience that so afraid
are the capitalist politicians of the
rise of our movement and its re-
volutionary demands, that they
will seek to palliate the anger of
the exploited with various re-
forms, the larger our vote grows.
The logic of this situation would
then be simply for the workers to
vote the Socialist ticket, for the
stronger our vote the more ready
are our masters ready to ease the
load on our backs. Truth they
will shortly agree to anything and
GET OFF OUR BACKS.
Fraternally Submitted,
E. R. Meitzen.

THE CHURCH AND SOCIALISM.

Primitive Christianity had two
phases—the spiritual and the economic
or material phase.
But the modern church has side-
tracked the material phase. Had it
not done so perhaps Socialism would
be unknown in America today.
The modern church promises the la-
borer a place in the land beyond the
moon, but doesn't care a copper wheth-
er he has one in this world or not.
I charge that the church of today
has more of the attributes of the ancie
nt Pharisees than it has of Jesus.
Christ consigned dives of old to the
place where shoes are unknown,
but the modern dives make a splendid
church deacon and if he claims to be
a prohibitionist the churches all want
him in the governor's chair.
There is enough idle land in Texas
to give every family a home, yet six-
typer cent of our people are forced
to be land.
What is the church going to do
about it? Nothing, absolutely noth-
ing; but if ya say prohibition they get
all worked up.
Jesus advocated the cause of the
poor and oppressed of earth, but if a
man does that now, the modern church
calls him an infidel. Every social
evil and injustice could be righted by
mold public opinion in any direction
desired.
I have no objection to preachers
talking of the spiritual phase of relig-
ion, but having dropped the material
phase, they profitably labor absolutely
nothing, hence laborers are leaving
the church by scores. Socialism as
a movement is dealing therefore with
the economic or material side of life,
and this is why the money changers
whom Jesus scourged from the tem-
ples, fight it with all their power and
enlist the services of modern preachers
to help them. Theodore orthodox
church writing will never expose the
cause of labor, for this it would incur
the displeasure of the master class
who must live from the products of la-
bor.
M. D. Brand,
Glen Rose, Tex.

The Rebel would like to know
what was the exact day and date
that Tom Hickey severed his con-
nections with the Houston Brewery
and Ice Co.?
Also what was the last date
that Tom Hickey took a high ball in
the big Houston High Ball club?

Because of the lengthy letter of
acceptance of our candidate for
governor which we publish this
week we are compelled to lay over
the Rebel news next issue and analysis
of the Ball and Ferguson proncunci-
ciamentos. We will publish this
searching analysis next week.

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selling Socialist Publication
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THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FORM OF ORGANIZATION.

The membership of the Socialist Party of Texas is voting this week upon the question of whether the congressional district form of organization shall be put into operation in Texas at the earliest possible moment. We feel no hesitancy in discussing this referendum vote for the reason that every indication points to the fact that it will be carried unanimously.

This unanimity of opinion fills the hearts of the proponents of the Texas program with joy, because it is the goal toward which we have been struggling since 1909.

People who are not versed in the science of organization, particularly those who do not understand the methods of organization which the Socialist party employs and the reason thereof might ask the question: Why did the membership of Texas not put this stone upon the structure of their organization long ago? We might reply in simple language by answering that a child must creep before is can walk.

Even so with the Socialist party organization of Texas. The pioneers of our movement found but a few scattered Socialists here and there over the immense territory that lies within the boundaries of our state. In the nature of things there had to be a central office from which would flow information to the scattered ones. The State Secretary had to charter the first locals, route the first speakers, collect the first dues and generally supervise the organization work of the state and seek to pull together in the best possible manner the scattered elements and through his office work to the best of his ability to put the state organization on its feet.

As might be expected under such conditions the first state secretaries were subject to the severe criticism that must inevitably develop where an organization is green and young and is seeking desperately to get upon its feet. In the early form of organization matters were in such shape that when a disagreement occurred in a local organization between some of its members that usually had its basis in personal jealousy of two or three overworked members the whole state organization would be pulled into the struggle, factions would develop and the state organization would be pulled into the turmoil. And thus we found that the membership of El Paso would be struggling to settle the local difficulties of the membership of Houston, more than 800 miles away. And the membership of Dallas would be rent in twain over the troubles in Tyler and vice versa. Expulsions, suspensions and annulment of charters was the order of the day, while Socialist progress was almost nil; our work was reduced to a minimum. *We expended our energies fighting our comrades instead of the common foe.*

The adoption of the Texas program in 1909 appreciably reduced this never ending friction of the Socialist party in its initial years. The vast majority of the membership quickly learned that decentralization and democracy were synonimous and that the old-time rows in locals were not overamatters of vital principle, and did not need state-wide attention, usually it were caused by some hysteric at would-be leaders and that by segregating them in their own localities the membership would not be harassed by the never-ending quarrels of these geniuses.

From that moment on, the Socialist movement in Texas grew, developed and demanded and obtained the respect of the politicians who did the bidding of the master class.

The first step taken under the Texas Program was the granting to organized counties, county autonomy. The county secretary collected the dues, issued the charters and retained a portion of the dues that formerly went to the state office. The dues from the organized counties to the state office were cut from 10 to 5 cents, and it seemed as if because of the splendid success of this county plan that the dues would be still further cut to the state office and the congressional form of organization be established.

Unfortunately a number of would-be leaders violently attacked this democratic plan. The vision of those who realized that the only hope of the Socialist movement also lay in continuously circling executive power in top and handing over to the rank and file of the membership to the last possible ounce of efficiency the conduct of their own affairs. The Donk Trust busters they thought that they could turn back the tide and file to an autocratic state executive committee on top who would be entrenched behind the bulwarks of the state secretary's office. They started a state-wide fight on the state secretary and stood for the Texas Program; they ridiculed industrial unionism although the Socialist party is its national convention had endorsed it; they fought and misrepresented the Renter's Union as bitterly as if they were either great landlords or Burn's detectives; they minimized, played down and belittled the National and State Socialist declarations on the Land Question; did their best to throw the state into turmoil that was characteristic of the earlier days.

Fortunately all their efforts were in vain. Under the beneficent methods of the Texas Program the organization weathered the storm, the party reached the highest water mark of votes in its history, polled over 25,000 votes in the presidential campaign, became the second political party in the state and is now in the proud position of facing the Democratic party and challenging its 50-year bourbon supremacy.

The last efforts of these misguided men, misguided I believe through lack of information, came to a head when the convention of Texas spoke and spoke through their referendum vote and in Waco at our great state convention last November (E. R. Meiton in chairman) it was realized that the time was here to take the next step from county to congressional organization. This committee of P. D. Phillips, N. W. Haquis and others and these valiant fighters have splendidly done their work. And now a united membership in Texas is putting their seal of approval upon a social democratic form of organization that will arrest the [illegible] and challenge the sympathy and support of every state organization in the union.

Now a word as to the results of this congressional plan.

According to the laws of the United States each congressional district has approximately 225,000 people, its state lines are arbitrarily fixed by the state legislature. The present election law demands that it shall have a congressional chairman through whom all political nominations will be certified to by the secretary of state at Austin. The people we are voting on now provides that instead of this office being a perfunctory place to which no finance goes that each congressional secretary shall be permanently at work all the year round or as nearly at work as possible and that his office shall be the recipient of a portion of the state dues amounting to 3 cents per member within that congressional district.

The result be that with funds to go ahead upon and with his or her district arbitrarily fixed the energies of the congressional office will be centered upon their own bailiwick. No longer will their minds be diverted by attending to affairs hundreds of miles away, but within the boundaries of their own district they will intelligently function. The secretary will find out how many counties are in his district, in other words he will have a map of it. He will know how many counties are organized, how many are unorganized, how many have one or more or no locals therein; he can secure speakers, who, instead of jumping in wasteful manner from one end of the state to the other, will devote all of their energies to the 225,000 people who live in their own district.

A healthy spirit of emulation will be in these congressional districts. They will vie with one another for the proud honor of being the best organized district in the state; they will start papers; they will analyze their economic conditions; they will have statistical reports to make to the 225,000 people in their districts as to how many life saves lie therein; as to what are the number of tenants and in our few industrial centers similar data can be secured readily to reach the masses about the economic conditions that lie immediately at their doors. A new spirit will come into the movement; we will grapple with the

REBELLETTES

A Sad Story.

Because of the tender heart that the editor of this great religious weekly possesses, a heart that bleeds for the suffering of his fellow-Christian brothers, with extreme regret, we compelled to perform the painful duty of telling the news regardless of who it hurt. Even though it be anti-prohibition friends. With this explanation we check our tears, another our sobs and state: That Tom Ball has announced in his Greenville speech that he is opposed to national prohibition, yes, yes, to the five and ten mile law prohibition. We have managed to regain our composure sufficiently well to say that the cowardly hellion should be smote to the earth, why would insinuate that Tom Ball took this anti-pro stand because he has for years been the chief attorney for the Honest Brewing and Ice Company. The slanderer should remember that Tom has retired from the practice of law. Oh, tears course—oh, rats.

A CONNUNDRUM.

The Rebel has offered a prize of $10 in gold to he or she who first gives the correct answer to this connundrum. If Ferguson succeeds in vetoing a free text-book through and thus prevents any landlord from charging more than the third and fourth for rent and the landlords thereupon hire the crop worked for day's wages and the white worker tries to compete with the cheap labor of increasing Mexican immigration and negro labor, how much better off is the white agricultural worker, because of the adoption into law of the land plank of Landlord Jim? To help those who would engage in the contest for our $10 we wish to inform our readers that Mr. Ferguson's campaign headquarters is at McKay of Temple, on April 16 wrote Mr. Hugh Moore, the first president of the Renter's Union, that Mr. Ferguson proposed to lease all land and paya his workers $32.50 a month, or $1.13 a day straight time plus a home. Contestants shall send in a club of six at 25 cents each, which will put six men on The Rebel mailing list until after next election day. Who said hurrah for Ferguson?

A PSALM OF LIES

(Respectfully Submitted to the Capitalist Press. Psalm 52; Maschil of David.)

Why boastest thou mighty tyrant (Ferguson) unto mischief; Wherefore the goodness of God; endureth yet daily?

Thy tongue imagineth wickedness; and with lies thou cuttest like a sharp razor.

Thou hast loved evil more than good; and to speak lies, more than justice.

Thou hast loved to speak all words that may do hurt; O thou false tongue.

Therefore shall God destroy thee for ever; He shall take thee, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling, and root thee out of the land of the living.

The just also shall see it, and fear, and shall laugh him to scorn.

Saying, Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength;

But trusted in the abundance of his riches and strengthened himself in his wickedness.

But as for me I am like the green olive tree in the house of God; my trust is in the tender mercy of God for ever and ever.

I will always give thanks unto thee for that thous hast done; and I will hope in thy name for thy saints like it well.

Literature Bargains.

Platform Text Book, former price 25c, now 20c, postpaid.

"Socialism, What It Is and How to Get It," Amaringer's great little pamphlet; a 10c booklet. Till they are sold, at 5c straight, express or postpaid.

Men and Mules, Bees and Butterflies, and Other Rhymes, books at 10c each, 3 for 25 cents.

Send all orders to T. A. Hickey State Sec. Hallettsville, Texas.

STATEMENT OF MANAGEMENT OWNERSHIP, ETC.

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Known bond holders, mortgagees, etc., none.

Signed: E. R. Meiton.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29th day of April, 1914.

D. A. Pashos, Postmaster

FOR 25c Farm and Ranch or Holland's Magazine or The Rebel until December—with Farm and Ranch, 75c; Holland's, 50c. Lonestar Subscription Agency, 1403 Gano, Dallas, Tex. 1tc

God of things as they are in the world of commercialism, because we will be organized so as to deal with the economic conditions that are right at the door of the people here and now.

It cannot be expected that the congressional district form of organization will be in thorough working order in a night. It was only a Minerva that could spring full-armed from the brow of Jove. The congressional districts however can proceed at once to lay the foundation for the new organization and it is well within the bounds of possibility that by next November at least 12 of the 16 congressional districts of this state will have active secretaries at work in whole or part time and when the votes are counted they will take off their coats for the campaign in 1916 and long before the first guns thunder in that campaign every congressional district will be in thorough working order. And the State Secretary's Honest Brewing and Ice Company. The slanderer should remember that Tom has retired from the practice of law. Oh, tears course—oh, rats.

THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE RENTER.

(Written by The Rebel Staff Poet.)

(Air, Battle Hymn of the Republic.)

Mine eyes hath seen the glory of the coming ofthe Lord,
He is giving back the land to the people of the Lord;
He is storing the wealth i stored
We will get it with the ballot, we do not need the sword
As our Union goes marching on.

Chorus:

Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
As our Union goes marching on.

We have seen the Renters' wood fires in a thousand roadside camps
Were crying to Jehovah in the evening dews and damps
They were moaning there for justice we have heard their early lamps

Chorus:

Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
As our Union goes marching on.

We have sent forth the glorious battle cry—"The land shall not be sold"
To the greedy, who with blood and tears, have made their cankered gold,
The land shall not be sold forever, is as true as of old.
While our Union goes marching on.

Chorus:

Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
As our Union goes marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies, Christ was born across the sea
With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make them free;
While our Union goes marching on.

Chorus:

Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
Glory, glory hallelujah
As our Union goes marching on.

Answer to "Evils of Socialism"

(Written for The Rebel by Elder W. J. McElhaney, of Ligon, Texas, to be published in pamphlet form after completion of the series. This is a very plain, yet well reply to the lies of a crooked "Religious" Terror.

We could give you a hundred more illustrations. This is another mistake that Elder made in trying to dispute this principle of exchange value of commodities. Elder Lemmons gives us a string of Bible quotations trying to prove or disprove to prove that the Socialists are wrong in claiming that four to six hours are sufficient to produce all the necessities of life with our improved machine system of production, he quotes: "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work." Exod. 20-9. "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand." Eccl. 9-6. "Seest thou a man diligent in business; he shall stand before Kings. Prov 22-29. And some of all up and says: "We learn from these passages that God intended we shall work six days, not six hours each day, so we suppose that Elder Lemmons would have us commence work at sunup and work until sundown. Had he been in congress, or a member of some of our State Legislatures recently, he would evidently have very strongly opposed the 8 hour work day. He would have all labor work all day, those exciting 5,000 years ago, or 3,000, or even 100 ago. We are living in the machine age. We are living in an age where the year of 1900 shows that with our improved machinery in all the different lines of manufacturing, one man can produce twelve times as much as one man could produce 50 years prior to that time. You know that sometimes we have what they call "over-production." Too many goods manufactured than we can sell, and we have a panic and the factories close, and the laborers are thrown out of employment in starve. Millions are thrown out of a job. They are forced to the soup houses and bread lines. Now one cause of this, Socialists understand, is not over-production, but under-consumption; that when these panics come people are forced to starve and go half clothed in the midst of plenty, while the granaries are bursting with corn and wheat, and the great factories and distributing storehouses are filled with clothing. Why should these things be. It is because the laborer has not been paid a sufficient wage to buy back the products of his toil. The foreign markets are supplied and the factories must close. Now under Socialism we would never have a factory, but the people receiving the full value of their labor would buy back all the products of the factories. Now, under Socialism if inventions still continue as we suppose they will, and machines improved until future workers can turn out the same amount of goods, the hours of labor would be shortened until all can find employment. In fact, if we should reach the place where all would have to do would be to touch an electric button and you would automatic machinery to work that would produce all the things necessary for the good of the people. Socialists understand that the people own that button, that they might share equally in the profits of the machine, but should we reach an age in the way of development of machinery that we were going to produce more than the world consumed, we would be forced to reduce the hours of labor or close the machine, because there would always be some people who would need something. We would only have to reduce the day's labor to six hours. If we were to produce too much by machinery six hours labor, we would have to keep reducing the hours of labor in order that all the people might have an opportunity to labor and never close a factory. Now, this is possible, and highly probable, as far as manufacturing is concerned, but in agriculture, perhaps, some rule would not work, because when we make a crop we don't work all the year in producing this crop. Then it might be necessary to put in more hours during the making and gathering of the crop in order to make up for the time that we are unemployed. Now, if the traction engine should come into general use in farming with the gang plows and other improved agricultural, labor-saving machinery, it is very probable that the hours of labor on the farm can be greatly reduced, and at the same time the land be made to produce an abundance, for all the people. These things are already on hand, and the unemployed problem is the great problem that confronts the people today. It is estimated that there are more than one million of men are out of employment today, and the number frequently reaches four million. This is a problem that must be solved. We think we have the only solution. Never shut down a factory, but if necessary reduce the hours of labor, because all that any people could demand is a full sufficiency for all their needs. If this could be produced by machinery in six hours labor instead of eight, the only thing to do would be to reduce the hours of labor, and never close the factories on account of over-production or under-consumption. Our policy and program would forever do away with panics and financial and industrial crises.

THE LAND SONG

This song was used by the land revolutionists in Great Britain. Let it be the battle song of the Socialists of Texas. Air, "Marching Through Georgia."

Sound a blast for Freedom, boys, and send it far and wide!
March along to victory, for God is on our side!
While the voice of Nature thunders o'er the rising tide—
"God made the Land for the People!"

Chorus—
The Land! the Land! 'twas God who gave the Land!
The Land! the Land! the ground on which we stand!
Why should we be beggars, with the ballot in our hand!
"God gave the Land to the People!"

Hark! the shout is swelling from the East and from the West:
Why should we beg work and let the Landlords take the best
Make them pay their taxes for the Land—we'll risk the rest:
The Land was meant for the People!

Chorus—
The Land! the Land! 'twas God who gave the Land!
The Land! the Land! the ground on which we stand!
Why should we be beggars, with the ballot in our hand!
"God gave the Land to the People!"

Clear the way for Liberty! the Land must all be free!
True men will not falter in the fight, though stern it be,
Till the flag we love so well shall wave from sea to sea,
O'er Land that's free for the People.

Chorus—
The Land! the Land! 'twas God who gave the Land!
The Land! the Land! the ground on which we stand!
Why should we be beggars, with the ballot in our hand!
"God gave the Land to the People!"