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FOOD FOR MILLIONS ROTS IN THE FIELDS

Government, Tied By Big Business, Helpless in Great Emergency.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—With millions of bushels of grain rotting under Dakota snows, millions of bushels of apples and oranges already decayed under the trees that grew them, potatoes making fertile the ground whence they came, and millions without fuel in zero weather, the United States government, the state governments and big business are helpless.

There is no exaggeration here. All these tremendous facts are found in the records of the slow-moving interstate commerce commission.

This body, set to work to discover why crops raised by farmers cannot be delivered to consumers, has done nothing to solve the problem. It went to work as if it was investigating a theory and not a condition.

Ole Sather's Way

Only one man so far has shown how to solve the problem. At Parkhurst, N. D., while other men were praying, petitioning and suffering, one man by the name of Ole Sather took the situation into his own hands. The railways had ignored his pleadings for weeks. His elevators were full to bursting. Late one afternoon a train pulled into Parkhurst with a lot of empties. Fortunately for Ole, the train stalled on a grade. The crew cut off eight empties to be picked up by a later train. Sather saw the empties and he saw the means of relief.

He sent for neighbors and friends from the countryside. The cars could not be moved but the grain could be hauled to the cars. Teams were impressed into service. Night came on, but the countryside was light with lanterns and torches. The farmers labored to beat the on-coming train. And when morning dawned, the empties had been loaded to the limit. The railroad employes threatened to throw the grain into the snow. But finally they decided to take it to market.

Railroad magnates, those great captains of industry who alone are competent to manage the public highways, say prosperity and big crops have given more business than they can handle.

Less Grain Hauled

The figures are against them. Facts show that less grain was hauled this year than last year. While the apple trees gave forth the greatest crop in ages, the fruit is high priced, yet the farmers who planted the trees, sprayed them and watched them weary years till they gave the best that was in them, get less from the bumper crop than from the small production of other years.

With their grain out in the snow decaying, the red cheek of the apple rotting and forced to burn his barn to keep his children warm, the farmer is in a receptive mood for lectures on "anarchy in distribution."

Idiocy of Competition

Never before has the idiocy of competition for bread been shown in clearer fashion. The farmer with his cold children and blue featured wife, sitting around a fire kept going with boards from his red barn, looks out on the snow covered grain, the bleak orchard and the cattle growing lean again because they cannot be hauled to market.

In the city the weary clerk, shop worker, the teamster, the reporter and the "business man," prying the apples in the grocer's window, find them "too high." Their bread is lighter in weight, their potatoes cost \$1 a bushel, and they find themselves pinched in the midst of prosperity.

Only far ones are in Wall street.

If it should be declared and soldiers needed food the federal government would take charge of the roads if need be. Then "business men" would be pushed aside and the men who always do the real railroad work would be in charge and supplies would be delivered.

If, in this emergency the farmer and city worker should be taken care of as if an army needed supplies the trouble would be over. Separate the real railroad men from Wall street and they will do the business.

THE CLERGYMAN'S GENTLE REMUE.

A clergyman in the north of England was dissatisfied with the quality of milk being served him. He determined to remunerate with the milkman who brought it.

"I've been wanting to see you in regard to the quality of milk which you are serving me."

"Yes, sir," uneasily answered the tradesman.

"I only want to say," continued the minister, "that I use the milk for dietary purposes exclusively, and not for christening."

HITCHCOCK ENEMY OF LAND THIEVES

Only Man Who Ever Attacked Rich Law-Breakers On Public Domain to Be "Retired"

Washington, Dec. 19.—The retirement of Ethan Allan Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, from the president's cabinet, March 4, is a national calamity.

There have been secretaries and secretaries, but none like Mr. Hitchcock. Others have shone in society at the capital and done nothing. This man held office to do work in it. In the past the public land of the United States has been stolen and former secretaries of the interior have never lifted a finger to stop the thefts. In spite of great opposition this man not only tried to stop thievery, but instituted prosecution of the thieves. He secured the indictment of one United States senator, two members of congress, one federal district attorney, and 486 other persons of more or less distinction. Of this number eighty-nine were convicted and 401 indictments are still pending. One of those convicted was a clergyman.

The Colossal Conspiracy

The enormity of the conspiracy he attacked is beyond all records. Some years ago the people thought so well of Benjamin H. Bristow for prosecuting the whisky thieves that many wanted to make him president. The whisky ring, however, was nothing compared to the land steals. In old days the public believed the Star Route theft was a grave matter but all were infantile compared to this.

The swindling contracts of the Spanish-American war amazed, but this scandal and all the money stolen from the government in that war would not be a circumstance to the most incalculable loot of this conspiracy.

One man has fenced in 9,000,000 acres and another seized a territory one hundred miles in circumference. Another took possession of more land than that comprised in the state of New Jersey. One hundred men have stolen 17,000,000 acres. There has been stolen from the government more land than all the New England states comprise. The audacity, persistence and extent of these robberies has probably never been equalled in the annals of American history, and the amazing part of the story is that men sworn to uphold the laws of the United States have turned to and enthusiastically helped the thieves in the thieving.

Big Capital With the Thieves

It required no ordinary courage to attack this vast structure of fraud. Such pressure as was brought to bear upon Secretary Hitchcock has hardly been withstood by any other cabinet member at any time since the formation of that body. Not only were senators and members of congress involved, but great business interests of the country stood by the thieves.

Banks were their defense and campaign subscribers asked leniency in their behalf. In the letter of Governor Higgins to President Roosevelt one can see how far these pals extended. Governor Higgins was a friend of the president and he wrote as a friend, imploring consideration. He asked for consideration of gentlemen that had the backing of the Standard Oil Trust.

None of these influences prevailed upon Secretary Hitchcock. Then Theodore Roosevelt spoke the "good word" and Secretary Hitchcock's retirement was announced. What more could the president do for the Rockefeller and Ryans?

Thus at the beginning of one of the most important criminal prosecutions started in this country, the prosecutor (but unearched the crimes is "retired," James K. Garfield will succeed him. You have heard of him before. He is the protégé of Mark Hanna and the man who undertook to whitewash the beef trust.

HANDY WOULD WELCOME INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION

General Manager of the Lake Shore Declares This Is Only Hope of Relief in Car Famine

Erie, Pa., Dec. 24.—(Special).—At a meeting of the Manufacturers' Association called to discuss the present lack of shipping facilities, E. A. Handy, general manager of the Lake Shore railroad, declared that nothing but an industrial depression would improve conditions.

"The conditions you complain of are general, not local," said Mr. Handy. "They exist all over the country, and your question is one that is being asked with increasing frequency nowadays. The business of the nation has outgrown the supply of cars. It is absolutely impossible for the railroads to buy enough cars to meet the demands made upon them. The shops are unable to turn them out fast enough. In my opinion the only solution to the difficulty is an industrial depression for a couple of years, which will give the roads a chance to catch up."

BRYAN AND MCKINLEY HAVE DELINQUENT FATHER

Toledo, O., Dec. 21.—Syracuse Dixon was arrested here on a warrant charging him with non-support of his twin sons, Bryan and McKinley.

U. S. OFFICIALS HELP RUSSIAN DESPOT

St. Col. Von Petrovsky, Patriot, Escapes From the Czar Only to Be Held in San Francisco.

(Special Correspondence)

San Francisco, Dec. 26.—There is a well defined scheme developing on the part of United States immigration officials to prevent the landing of any one who will not swear allegiance to capitalism and the republican or democratic parties. A Russian refugee, St. Col. Von Petrovsky, is being detained at this port under instructions from the immigration authorities charged with belonging to one of the forbidden classes.

On Jan. 23, 1906, Petrovsky called a meeting of the citizens of Vladivostok to consider the unrest of the troops garrisoned there and to devise means to prevent an outbreak and consequent bloodshed. He advised those present at this meeting against any riotous action. Contrary to his advice several hundred unarmed men proceeded toward the commander's house, to petition for the release of two illegally held political prisoners. They were met by a volley from machine guns, killing twenty-six and wounding many more.

A few soldiers among those shot gave the government a pretext for calling the action a mutiny. Petrovsky was charged with having incited his speech in evidence he was acquitted.

The Charges Against Him

He was next charged with taking part in political affairs. Four counts were drawn in this indictment. First, the writing of a handbill calling the meeting to order. Second, writing a report of the meeting approving the presence of soldiers at a political gathering. Third, writing a leaflet urging the citizens to take more interest in politics. Fourth, writing a leaflet accusing the military authorities with wantonly and needlessly shedding the blood of peaceful petitioners.

On these counts he was convicted and sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment.

He was also convicted of having attended and participated in the ceremonies at the funeral of the victims of the massacre of Jan. 23, 1906. His sentence for this offense was, however, included in the one for the others.

While temporarily released without bond or parole, pending the appeal of his case to St. Petersburg, he escaped on a Chinese junk and reached Korea. From there he went to Japan and then to Honolulu, where the United States officials admitted him after an examination. He then took passage on a Japanese steamer for San Francisco, where he was detained at the instance of Frank S. Sargeant, United States general commissioner of immigration, who chanced to be a fellow passenger.

Called an Anarchist

It is claimed that he is ineligible under two sections of the law—as a criminal and as an anarchist. But the section referring to criminals especially exempts political offenders, and since Petrovsky belongs to the Social Democratic section of the Russian revolutionary movement, and holds that the establishment of a republic is the next governmental step, he cannot be classified as an anarchist.

The government is making this a test case in an effort to prevent all Russian refugees from landing in this country. The United States commissioner of immigration, H. N. North, told The Chicago Daily Socialist correspondent that if Jack London were an alien he would be denied a landing on his return to this country.

The Socialists of San Francisco have taken up the fight, and have appealed to Secretary Strauss of the department of commerce and labor.

LAW DOES NOT FRIGHTEN JOHN HUGHES OF WISCONSIN

Milwaukee, Dec. 26.—John Hughes of Reesville, assemblyman elect from Dodge county, while in Milwaukee declared that he would continue using the mileage issued to him by railroads in exchange for advertising in the Reesville Review and the Wisconsin Druggist, of which he is the publisher. Mr. Hughes intends to introduce a measure in the legislature instructing the dairy and food department to carry the oleomargarine cases to the highest courts for final adjudication.

DELICATE INSTRUMENT TELLS OF DISTANT QUAKE

Berkeley, Cal., Dec. 24.—A seismograph installed in the University of California by Professor Omori, the famous Japanese scientist and inventor, recorded an earthquake of great violence which occurred at a distance of about 4,000 miles. It lasted one and a half minutes.

SCHOOL FUND LOOTERS WIN

Charter Convention Turns Down All Labor Petitions and Plays Into Hands of Big Business

Just how much the charter convention cares for the opinion of labor was shown most strikingly at the session considering the school question. A communication was sent in from the Chicago Federation of Labor protesting against all attempts to take the control of the schools from the people, against one-man power in the schools, and asking that the board of education be elected.

The communication was read at the beginning of the session. The following extract from the minutes shows what followed:

The Chairman: "The communication will be printed in the record and placed on file. Dr. Taylor will now proceed."

Dr. Taylor Proceeds

Then Dr. Taylor did "proceed." He proceeded to recommend the reverse of everything that the workmen of Chicago asked for. He recommended that dictatorial power be vested in the superintendent, and that he be made as difficult of removal as possible, that the board be made a small appointive body responsible only to the mayor.

In short, he presented a bill exactly embodying the things for which the Merchants' Club, the Union League Club, the book trust and the school lease grabbers have been asking. All this was done in the face of a referendum vote of the people of Chicago, of the expressed wishes of the organized workers and the teachers in the schools of Chicago.

Revell, Tribune School Board Member, Talks

On the question of the election of the board members, A. H. Revell, furniture dealer, pointed out the great need of extreme care in the selection of members of the school board, and informed the convention that he had once been a member of such a carefully selected committee. He did not tell them that it was one of the boards that helped to loot school funds for the benefit of members of the Merchants' Club. He then declared that he would have something more to say on that point were it not for fear of treading on tender toes.

Mr. Revell uses room under the sidewalk, for which he pays no rent.

Then the delinquent, Francis Raymond Robins invited him to go ahead with the treading, but he gracefully sidestepped and sat down.

That he was wise in so doing is shown by the fact that he was followed by Louis F. Post, who was unkind enough to remind Mr. Revell of the least-stealing propensities of previous wisely selected boards. Mr. Post then proceeded to riddle the talk about an elected board, taking the schools into politics, and showed that an appointive board was always simply trading stock for the politicians having the appointing power, and that when it was bi-partisan that there was continuous wrangling and squabbling for political advantage.

Insults Teachers

Mr. Pendarvis then gave a sample of the sort of common decency that has recently been inculcated into the school fight by the Merchants' Club by an insulting sneer at the Teachers' Federation, contained in a question as to whether women were disfranchised in the selection of the last school board. As the only adequate reply to this would have been a slap in the face, and since the rules of the charter convention are not framed on the Marquis of Queensbury model, his cowardly insinuation met with only silent contempt.

Trouble in Plenty

But the cat was now out of the bag. A reference to school leases had been dragged in, and the fact was crammed down Mr. Revell's throat that he had helped the Tribune to steal about \$50,000 a year while he was on his "well selected board."

This was getting on dangerous ground. So the debate was quickly switched to one side and the call for a vote followed. Here the Merchants' Club influence was seen to be paramount, and the convention decided by a vote of 11 to 39 that the school board should be appointed.

JAPS TO MAKE STEEL

Machinery Bought Here to Put Orient Into Competition With Trust

New York, Dec. 24.—Large contracts for equipment for huge steel works which the Japanese government will build in the island of Moji are being awarded in the United States. Three Japanese firms with offices in this city, who are acting for American manufacturers, are handling the contracts.

The plant which Japan proposes to establish will cost \$10,000,000. When specifications were issued three months ago it was feared American manufacturers could not compete against German makers, owing to the enormous demand for steel products at home. Later it developed that conditions were very similar in Germany.

RAILROADS KILL FOR XMAS GIFT

Privately Owned Lines Give Powerful Evidence of Incompetency.

Christmas day supplied more than the usual number of railroad wrecks, deaths and maimed persons. Overworked men and poor equipment were the chief cause.

At Ashtabula, O., the Buffalo-Pittsburg flyer to-day struck a trolley car on the Ashtabula rapid transit line at the Lake Shore railroad, 300 feet from the scene of the Ashtabula disaster of 1876. The street car was demolished. One person was killed and fourteen injured.

The crossing gates, it is alleged, were not down when the car approached. While crossing the tracks the train struck the car almost in the middle and carried it nearly 300 feet, lining the north side of the track with debris.

Some of the injured had to be extricated from beneath the wreck. The motorman, B. Ashley, escaped injury.

Examples of Incompetency

Jacksonville, Fla.—Southern Railway passenger train No. 33, from Washington, was wrecked at Moncrief, five miles from Jacksonville, at 5 o'clock in the morning. One man was killed and three injured.

Seranton, Pa.—The bodies of Edward Lidridge, aged 21 years, of New York, and Albert Caronoff, aged 18 years, of Seranton, were found along the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad tracks at Clark's Summit. The bodies were badly mangled. It is supposed they were struck by a train.

Springfield, O.—East-bound Big Four passenger train ran into the rear of freight train No. 96, in the western part of the city. The list of injured includes eighteen passengers, none seriously. The crew of the passenger train jumped.

Price, Utah—Rio Grande passenger train No. 3, west bound, a double header, collided with a freight engine standing on a siding near Mounds, seventeen miles east of here. The three engines and the cars jumped the track. The engines were badly damaged. Three trainmen were killed, but none of the passengers was hurt.

HICKS TELLS HIS STORY

While Enjoying First Smoke in Fifteen Days He Talks—May Go on Stage.

Bakersfield, Cal., Dec. 24.—Through a volume of tobacco smoke thick enough to cut with a knife Lindsey B. Hicks today for the first time told his own story of fifteen days in a living tomb—of a battle for a life that probably has no parallel in history.

It was the simple, heroic narrative of a simple, brave man, a modest recount of an event that kept the newspaper reading world on tiptoe for two weeks.

"Well, the whole wonder of it is that I didn't lose my mind during those first three days," began Hicks, knocking the tobacco ashes out of his beloved pipe. "After I heard a human voice in that iron pipe I felt that there was hope and that my pals would die if it were to get me out."

"Somehow I didn't feel so frightened. I was more worried over how the thing happened than my own chance of getting out of there. The last I saw of the Mexican he was going hand-over-hand up a rope and I was just wondering if he got away. I thought, anyhow, it was a shame that this poor fellow should be sent to his death by a drunken man."

"I was so cramped up in there that I could not stretch my legs out. When I wanted to rest I would stick one of my legs down a crevice and stretch. You see the seat of my trousers is worn out from shifting about."

"When I wanted to sleep I just put my hat on a wheel of the car and rested my head on it."

"I will stay here a while and think over the offers I received. Of course, I know I am somewhat of a curiosity and I do not deny that I consider making some easy money."

MILK DEALERS WANT SOME OF THE PROSPERITY PIE

Toledo, O., Dec. 21.—Two of Toledo's largest dairy companies have posted prosperity notices in the shape of an advance in the price of milk to take effect Jan. 1.

Rumor has it that the price was dictated at a recent meeting of the Lucas County Liquor Dealers' Association. The trust busters are taking notice.

ROOSEVELT DENIES RIGHT OF PETITION

Privilege Granted Subjects by Despots Not for Union Printers

Washington, Dec. 23.—Until within very recent years the largest printing establishment in the world, that of the United States government, was a strictly union shop. Through the efforts of the Typographical union this office had become a model establishment, as far as such a thing is possible with the wage system.

Because of the large number of men employed there, and their staunch support of the union, local 101 of the I. T. U. was able to assist materially in maintaining a high rate of wages throughout the country. This naturally enraged the employing profit seeking class.

Then came Teddy, the strenuous, the great Friend of Labor, with the Miller decision, making the government printing office an "open shop."

Men Made Victims

The result was the same as occurs at every privately owned plant. The men began to be victimized. Public Printer Stillings became known as an enemy of union labor. Any "rat" who wished to avenge any personal grudge, had only to report that he had been "amused," because he was not a union man to secure the discharge of the "aimoyer."

The road to preferment was seen to lie along the lines of anti-unionism. When Milo Shanks, a foreman in one of the departments, wrote a personal letter to Roosevelt telling him of the conditions which were being introduced into the printing office, the great "Friend of Labor" sent the letter to Public Printer Stillings and Shanks was promptly discharged. Thus the right of petition, granted by despots, is wiped out.

The weak-kneed ones among the membership of the I. T. U. began to give way under this pressure, and a recent number of the Typographical Journal gives the names of fifty-six members of the Washington local who have been expelled for non-payment of dues.

"Rats" Increase in Power.

Every day sees the number of "rats" increase and the number of union men grow less. This attack on the I. T. U. coming just at this time when the union is engaged in the greatest fight of its existence arouses more than a suspicion that it is being directed by the Typothetae (the employing printers' association.)

When the fight began two years ago there was not a single non-union man in the establishment. Today there are more than 200, and they are increasing every day. Today an officer of the union is debarred from entering the office. A few weeks ago an order was issued, forbidding the posting of notices of union meetings, something that had been permitted from the founding of the office. A chairman is not permitted to collect dues except after getting a personal permit from the Public Printer.

At every point it is made as difficult as possible for the union to continue and every encouragement is offered to the men to become "rats." The government printery rapidly is becoming a government "ratery."

YELLOW PERIL CAUSES SERIOUS "PIPE" STORY

Japs Plan to Take Cuba and Saffronize Those Now "Assimilated"

Havana, Cuba, Dec. 26.—A sensational report relative to the five Japanese found sketching the city fortifications has been made to Governor Magoon. It is said that Japanese are preparing to incite rebellions against the authority of the United States simultaneously in Cuba, Hawaii and the Philippines. February is said to be the time set for the uprisings. This information has been given to Governor Magoon by a government official named Pardini, who is reported to have overheard the Japanese here discussing the project.

TEAMSTERS MAY STRIKE IN SYMPATHY WITH HORSES

The report that team owners of Chicago are preparing to investigate the rumors that members of rival teamster unions are venting their spite against each other by injuring their rivals' horses, will probably result in the teamsters refusing to drive many of the crippled horses which the team owners use. Many of the horses, the drivers claim, are unfit for use, and yet the police and the humane society officers, who would arrest any poor men they saw driving such horses, never stop a team when the name of a big firm is on the wagon.

WHOLESALE MURDER OF ITALIANS IN SOUTH

New Orleans, Dec. 26.—A plot of the Mafia which has been working secretly in New Orleans for years, is regarded as being responsible for the deaths of six Italians who were found murdered early to-day in a tenement house in Dumaine street. Several of the men had been struck to death.

RECLUSE KEEPS STRANGE VOW

Hamilton, Ohio, Dec. 26.—Martin Conway, aged 70, a recluse who lived in a stable, was found frozen to death last night. He made a boast five years ago that no person other than himself would ever cross his threshold while he lived. He made it good. He had been missing early in the day and the police broke down the door and found the corpse.

GEORGE KOOP NEXT MAYORAL CANDIDATE

Working Class Caucus Selects Agitator and Printer for Chicago's Chief Executive.

Chicago Socialists at their caucus Sunday selected George Koop, the veteran propagandist and prominent member of the typographical union, as the Socialist candidate for mayor next spring.

At 3 o'clock, when the meeting was called to order by County Secretary J. S. Smith, Ulrich's hall was crowded with party members who had responded to the call.

T. J. Morgan was elected chairman, and A. W. Mance secretary of the meeting.

Chairman Morgan said he would show his appreciation of the honor conferred on him by proceeding at once with the business of receiving nominations for mayor.

After passing a rule that all nomination speeches be limited to five minutes the following persons were nominated: George Koop, Barney Berlin, Seymour Steadman, J. M. Patterson, William Bross Lloyd, Jacob Wimmen, James S. Smith and Bernard McMahon.

The nomination was declined by all but George Koop, Barney Berlin, Seymour Steadman and William Bross Lloyd. Some one raised the point that J. M. Patterson was not eligible for a party nomination because he had not been in the party twelve months. The point of order was sustained, and his name was withdrawn.

George Koop was nominated on the second ballot.

Koop, the choice of the Socialist caucus for mayor, is a prominent member of the Chicago Typographical Union, and one of the best known Socialist workers in the city. There hardly is a street corner or hall in Chicago where he has not preached the gospel of Socialism to large audiences. He is 46 years old, and is employed by the Chicago American. He also is a popular member of the German Turners.

The meeting adjourned with three cheers for Socialism and a working class mayor for Chicago after next April. A collection of \$16.40 was taken up to defray the expenses of the meeting.

After the caucus the meeting was turned into a mass meeting to discuss the daily.

Every one present favored supporting The Chicago Daily Socialist. That a daily paper must support Socialism before the city, state or nation can be taken for Socialism was the view of all.

In a few minutes \$25 was subscribed for the \$10,000 loan with which to buy a press and \$190 in stock pledged. Officers of the Workers' Publishing Society who were present say that the loyalty of party workers assures the success of the daily and 100,000 subscribers.

NOTED RECLUSE TO BECOME CIVILIZED

Will Get a Hair Cut and Shave and Return to Germany

Hunters, Wash., Dec. 25.—Hans Kohlen, a German, who for twenty-three years has lived the life of a recluse on his farm about four miles west of Fruitland, is about to return to his native land.

Twenty-three years without a hair cut or hair comb is quite a record. This is Mr. Kohlen and now he proposes to return to civilization.

He never owned a team and carried heavy logs on his back for his fences. He slept in a big dry goods box filled with hay. He has sold his ranch for \$2,500.

A MIGHTY PUMP

The biggest high-pressure pump in the world is installed in the placer mining fields of Southern Oregon. Aside from bearings and gears, it weighs 70,000 pounds. Its capacity is 13,000,000 gallons a day of 24 hours, or about 9,000 gallons a minute. It hurls streams against the mountain sides to tear down the gold-bearing gravel. The pump is operated continuously, except twenty minutes daily to inspect the bearings and gear.

MOVED UP.

Si Outcake.—How you heard anything on your son lately that went low this city last spring?

Hi Harris.—Gosh, yes! He's made his way low th' front, all right.

Si Outcake.—Yew don't tell me!

Hi Harris.—It's a fact. He started in ez fondle on a street car, an' now he's a motorman.

German emigrants have arranged a new agreement with the master printers, which is to be in force for five years. The claim of the men was a 15 per cent increase of tariff rates. They have obtained 10 per cent increase a week, a reduction of hours from nine a day to eight and a half; they have obtained only half an hour off on Saturdays.

LEGALIZED PEONAGE

We are now hearing much of peonage in the Southern states, many cases having been tried in United States courts during the past three years.

I quote you from the statutes of Louisiana: Act No. 54, session of 1906 (omitting title): Section 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly of the state of Louisiana:

Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc.: That whoever shall wilfully interfere with, entice away, intimidate or induce a hired person, tenant or share-hand to leave the service of the employer or to abandon the land the subject of the contract, or who shall knowingly take into his employ any such person before the expiration of the contract, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined in a sum not less than ten (\$10) dollars nor more than two (\$200) hundred dollars for each offense, and shall be liable in a civil action for damages to double the amount of any debt due by said hired person, tenant or share-hand to the person, who had made the advances.

A Living Wage

Several investigators have recently made careful estimates of what is the lowest sum that will maintain a healthful animal existence for the average family. Among those who have contributed to this discussion are Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago, Simon N. Patten, of the University of Pennsylvania, and John Mitchell, of the United Mine Workers.

The results of all these investigations have been summed up in a recent book by Prof. John A. Ryan, of the Roman Catholic Seminary of St. Paul, Minn. Not one of these men, it will be noted, is a Socialist.

They all roughly agree that \$600.00 is the minimum living wage. Professor Ryan concludes that this sum is below the living point in the great cities, but is approximately as accurate as can be stated. He lays down the following propositions as the final conclusions of his book on "The Living Wage":

- First, anything LESS than \$600.00 a year is NOT a living wage in any of the cities of the United States.
Second, this sum is PROBABLY a living wage in those cities of the southern states in which fuel, clothing, food and some other items of expenditure are cheaper than in the north.
Third, it is POSSIBLY a living wage in the moderately sized cities of the West, North, and East.
Fourth, in some of the largest cities of the last-named regions it is certainly NOT a living wage.

The Massachusetts Bureau of Labor has just completed an investigation into the wages paid in that state and gives the following as the result:

The gross number of persons employed in the 90 industries or branches of industry was 520,295. But 26,009, or 5.02 per cent. of those employed received \$600 or more as average yearly earnings."

The report shows that even this percentage is too high and finally concludes that only 4.73 per cent. of those employed received \$600 a year.

THIS WAS IN THE PROSPEROUS YEAR OF 1905.

If in this year of PROSPERITY LESS THAN FIVE PER CENT. of the workers received a living wage, what per cent. of them receive it in an AVERAGE YEAR?

Remember that this standard was not set by Socialists. Remember that these figures were not gathered or published by Socialists.

"Remember that they were gathered at a time when industry was almost, if not quite, at its flood tide.

THEN NEVER SAY AGAIN THAT THE SOCIALIST IS EXAGGERATING WHEN HE SPEAKS OF "STARVATION" WAGES.

Turn these figures over in your mind until their terrible significance sinks home.

These figures tell us THAT NINETY-FIVE PER CENT. OF THE WORKERS RECEIVE LESS THAN ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN THEM AS HEALTHY ANIMALS.

It is not a case of a "submerged tenth," but of a SUBMERGED NINE-TENTHS.

J. PIERPONT, YOUR OLD COLLEGE CHUM, REFORMER

Is Angry at Old King Leopold and Wants U. S. to Interfere in the Congo

J. Pierpont Morgan is appearing in the role of a reformer. He has joined Dr. Lyman Abbot and other New York reformers in addressing a letter to Secretary Root, saying the

United States is justified in interfering against existing conditions in the Congo.

Has Pierpont been left out of the Congo syndicate or is it a deep-laid plan to oust King Leopold in the interests of American "investors"? The latter explanation is more likely. Morgan would hardly go back on his comrades' exploitation, John D. Rockefeller, King Leopold's methods are rather crude and coarse anyhow.

Most of the laborers of the South are disfranchised and I appeal to you workers who yet possess the ballot, to make it effective by voting for members of your class who are class conscious and members of the Socialist party. R. W. S.

By the Innocent Bystander

Fixing the Blame.

"I don't see why you should kick about that steak," says the landlady. "It certainly cost enough."

"Oh, I suppose it did," replies the struggling boarder. "The rubber business is controlled by a trust, the papers say."

Farmers in the northwest, because they could buy no coal, burned up their fences and outbuildings. This was a good thing for the lumber trust.

Colonel Mann's whiskers are on trial in New York, bringing back to mind all those stories about Town Topics.

Commissioner Garfield is going to swing that axe and bring the lumber trust to the ground with a resounding crash—if the lumber trust's lawyers don't get too busy.

After spending three days in Panama Mr. Roosevelt writes 15,000 words. What would happen if he should take a leisurely trip around the world as Mr. Bryan did?

If our courts commanded respect they would not have to demand it. Herein lies a truth and it is not at the bottom of the well, either.

Quite Correct

"I am sick unto death," groaned the sufferer. "I am sure I am going to die."

"Let us send for Dr. Killing," said a bystander. "He will help you."

Chancellor Day doesn't claim to know everything, but there is one thing of which he is certain. That is, that he is against Roosevelt.

How It Happened

"Quiller's honeymoon only lasted three days."

"How was that?"

"Why, on the third day Quiller caught his bride fixing her hair and she had a dozen hairpins in her mouth."

The man who tries to give his friends capitalist presents on a workman's salary is up against it for several weeks of the new year.

What He Did

"I found out today about a mean trick that Griggs played me. I determined to call him down."

"What did you do?"

"Went to the phone and called him up."

Poulney Bigelow, if he were not completely bluffed, might retaliate by saying that he spent as much as three days in the canal zone himself.

Rules of the Game

"Do you know who I am, officer?" expostulated the hobo. "I was once de champion chess player of de United States."

"Well, then, it's your move," replies the minion of the law, getting his baton ready for business.

A Queer Patient

"Jones is a most peculiar patient," says Dr. Dosem.

"How is that?" asks Dr. Skinnem.

"No sooner do I cure him of one complaint than he gets another. I cured him of loss of appetite and now I've got to cure him of loss of memory. He has forgotten to pay me."

France is preparing for the day when war will be conducted from airships. When airships are perfected war will become too dangerous to trifle with.

It must be particularly distressing for those English notables to have to suffer from such a dreadful plebeian complaint as the grip.

Now that the insurance presidents have organized a regular union they ought to become better targets for court injunctions than ever.

DEADLY HOLIDAY BATTLE FOR CHANCE TO WORK

Union and Nonunion Miners Fight for Coal Digging Jobs

Owensboro, Ky., Dec. 26.—In a battle between striking miners and the guards of the West Kentucky Coal Company at Sturgis, Union county, three men were killed and four fatally wounded.

The miners have been on strike for over a year and the company employed nonunion men and hired thugs to guard them. Yesterday the miners and the guards met in a downtown street and a fight occurred. Just what precipitated the trouble is not known, but no surprise was expressed at it as serious trouble between striking miners and the scabs has been long expected.

NEGRO "GOT GAY": KILLED

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 22.—Arthur Metzler, a drug clerk, shot and killed Al. Harvey, a negro, this morning. Metzler's only explanation was that the negro "got gay," and attempted to walk behind a counter. After shooting the negro, the clerk telephoned the proprietor to "come down and have a dead negro I have just killed, hauled away."

A QUIRRE EPITAPH

The following epitaph is copied from a tombstone in Brandon, Vt., marking the grave of a child who died at the age of a few days:

Sweet maid, she glanced into our world to see A sample of our misery. She turned away her languid eye To drop a tear or two and sigh.

Sweet maid, she tasted of life's bitter cup. Refused to drink her portion up. She turned her little head aside, Disgusted with the taste, and died.

GOVERNMENT OWNS CABLE LINE AND IT WORKS

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 22.—A cable from Lieutenant Colonel Glassford at Wrangle, Alaska, today announces that the cable ship Bucardo has established telegraphic communication with that city. This is the first cable work extension under the congressional act appropriating surplus receipts for that purpose.

RESPECTABILITY AND REVOLUTION

By ROBERT WHITAKER

When polite people object to Socialism because some Socialists are extremists and do not talk drawing room English, they ought to fortify their criticism with a list prepared beforehand and of those revolutions in the past which have been carried through with the assistance of only the "safe and sound" men and women of their day.

And we all know how respectable Jesus was and how entirely discreet were all His references to the ruling classes of His time. If you have any doubt about it read the twenty-third of Matthew, which is at least as much inspired as the twenty-third Psalm.

But why bother with ancient agitators, who, whether respectable or not in their own day, are become eminently safe and sane in the hands of most of their modern followers? Doesn't everybody know that Christianity was popular at once in all the "higher walks of life" and that only the poor and the unlearned and the slaves despised it? Was not every modern denomination born of some polite gentleman who occupied some prominent pulpit or some university chair, and parted his hair in the middle? Were not the factory laws in England welcomed with courteous acclamation by all the nice, refined people of the established church and the great schools, and did

not the Corn Law agitation succeed without any help from any man or woman who had less than a Ph. D. degree? And in our own country was not Garrison a gentleman of the old school, and did not Wendell Phillips win the instantaneous recognition of those fashionable circles in which he was born. We all know that no man ever said a word on behalf of the black slave who could not read both Latin and Greek fluently, and that Abraham Lincoln was a very Chesterfieldian in manner and reputation before he so much as thought of public office. Nor did anybody vote for him or espouse his cause who did not belong to one of the first families, or dote on Browning's poetry and the essays of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Of course not. Never until Socialism came has any great cause ever begun without being instantly popular among all the nice members of society, nor has any revolution ever won its way except by the use of nicely balanced phrases and pretty words and by appealing to the refinement of My Lady in satin or My Lord in kid gloves. Of course not.

So would our safe and sane people have us believe. Yet, unhappily for their fastidiousness, setting all sarcasm aside, this is the very unrefined truth, that every revolution in society, however much helped by individual champions from among the "better classes" has been chiefly helped by the common people, and has been opposed by the great majority of the religious, intellectual and political leaders of that generation in which it was born. When a reform becomes respectable some other reform is already on the way. It will be a long time yet before Socialism is the "correct thing."

CHEAP LABOR SALE

I have before me a prospectus issued by the board of trade of Knoxville, Tennessee, for the benefits of the business interests of the city. It is sent to the different manufacturers of the country to induce them to locate in Knoxville. The prospectus is very well gotten up—it shows skill and taste in its arrangement. It has a number of fine cuts of the city and surrounding country, giving in detail all that one might reasonably want to know in such cases. But what strikes the writer as being so cold-blooded, is its article headed "LABOR," of which the following are the exact words: "Labor at reasonable cost is the boast of Knoxville. The source of the labor supply is the native white population surrounding Knoxville, the most prolific in family production in the United States. The laborer is capable and contented, strikes are practically unknown. The low cost of living and the mild climate making the cost of fuel and clothing less than in many other cities, and permitting of outdoor work every day in the year, renders it possible to maintain a lower wage scale than prevails in like industries in the North."

As an example of some of the wages paid in Knoxville the following is quoted: Common laborer, from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day; carpenters, \$2.50 to \$3.00; printers, \$2.75 to \$5.00; painters, \$2.00; plumbers, \$2.00 to \$4.00; paper hangers, \$2.50 to \$3.00; brick masons, \$4.50 to \$5.00; plasterers, 35 cents per hour; teamsters, \$1.00 per day; textile mill hands, from 50 cents a day up.

The prospectus boasts of having one of the largest cotton mills in the South, also the largest woolen mill in the world, hence the quotation of textile mill hands 50 cents per day and up.

What does the above convey to the reader? Only this, that whatever advantages nature has given the laborer of Knoxville it is taken from him by the manufacturer. If the climate is rigorous he is paid sufficient wages to purchase food and clothing. If these are unnecessary they are not furnished in the wages by the employer. In other words, the laborer is not allowed any benefits that his location make for him by the reason of his living in a mild climate, but it is absorbed by the employer.

If some wizard of an Edison should discover a food, the value of 10 cents' worth of which would be sufficient to maintain the laborer in working order, do you not know that the wages would at once fall to the bread line? Of course they would and wages has and will always remain near the bread line, sometimes above and sometimes below. So long as the present system is in vogue the above conditions will prevail.

You will note from the prices quoted in the prospectus, that those trades which are best organized receive the highest wages, and unorganized ones receive the lowest.

THOS. B. FARMER

EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE

BY ELIAS TOBKININ.

Some of lilies sing, Some of daffodils, Some of blushing cheeks, And of Cupid's jills.

Some on nature fair Their praises bestow; Some contentment land On this earth below.

I no lilies know, And no daffodils, But acquainted well Am with human jills.

Blushing cheeks I know That in cellars fade; Faces lovely once, Sorrow ugly made.

Daring minds I know, Cruel hunger tamed; Lowly beggars who Once distinction claimed.

Womans, men, I know, Who to sorrow wade; Noble hearts and true That in silence break.

THE REFERENDUM

Mayor E. F. Dunne, who was elected on a platform for immediate municipal ownership, has got tired, and, in spite of the fact that the voters of this city have three times given their voice for municipal ownership, this I. M. O. mayor crawls behind the referendum to get out of his dilemma. He said the palpable "ainde which the capitalists are trying to foist upon the city of Chicago as a settlement of the traction question is a good thing, and this I. M. O. mayor says he will advocate its acceptance by the people.

Now, the Chicago Federation of Labor is on record, and has not as yet been swerved from its position, on municipal ownership, and if the referendum is granted the advanced element in organized labor will show to the people of Chicago the fraud that is clumsily concealed in the proposed traction ordinance.

The Tribune and the Journal are trying to coax the I. M. O. mayor to forego the referendum. The Journal challenges the mayor to also put the school question to a referendum. Amen. By all means let us have a referendum on the school question. Let it be made plain what the issues in the school question contain. The capitalists are ever eager to exploit the children. It is in their creed, "Suffer little children to come unto me,"—they yield big profits.

The I. M. O. mayor, if he insists on the referendum, which we hope he will, he does not want to stand everlastingly damned as a fraud, will give the working class in the city of Chicago a chance to open the eyes of the capitalist class, by their developed intellect, and with the Chicago Daily Socialist to blaze the way with the truth when the votes are counted.

By all means let us have a referendum on the school and traction questions.

B. B.

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BOOTS and SHOES

MASS MEETINGS TO SAVE JAILED MINERS

All Chicago to Be Aroused to Prevent Judicial Murder of Strike Heroes.

Three mass meetings in defense of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone will be held under the auspices of the Socialist party in Chicago the first ten days in January...

JEWIS WILL HAVE DAILY SOCIALIST

Comprehensive Plans Made for Another Advocate of Working Class

A Jewish Socialist Daily for Chicago is assured. Plans for a daily have been under way for the last six months among the Jewish Socialists of this city...

CHRISTMAS GLOW IN THE DIVINE AND IN THE GHETTO

Twenty-four Cents a Day Earned by Children Who Make Decorations

In a palatial dining room on the Lake Shore Drive a long richly-laid table was lighted last night with a subdued light, rose colored from the dainty lamp shades.

WILLS BABOON BELL RINGER TO FRENCH GOVERNMENT

New Orleans, Dec. 22.—A six-foot baboon, 26 years old, has been willed to the government of France by Father Estorge of Lafayette, La.

TRIBUNE REFERENDUM WINS IN SLUM WARDS

Gets Big Vote in Eighteenth, Where Jail Alderman Controls; Also in the First

Latest returns from the Chicago Tribune's private referendum indicate that it will carry the First and Eighteenth wards by a large majority.

LOCAL BARON PLANS TO CAPTURE GERSHUNI

A plot to arrest Gregory Gershuni, the Russian revolutionary leader who will arrive in Chicago shortly, is being hatched by Baron Schlippenbach and Baron Rosen, the two representatives of the Russian government in the United States.

LEITER AUTO KILLS BOY

Widow of Chicago's Big Landlord in Vehicle Which Slays

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—(Special)—A forty-horsepower automobile, owned by Joseph Leiter, in which the owner, his mother, Mrs. L. Z. Leiter, and Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Reinington of New York, were riding, instantly killed Samuel West, a 14-year-old colored youth.

CITY MEAT INSPECTORS BUSY

Report of Efforts to Prevent Diseased Flesh From Getting into the Market

The city health department has finally consented to allow Socialist reporters to examine its food reports. "Coal oil is poured on slunk calves (immature) to prevent their being sold to the people," said Mr. Pritchard, secretary of the board.

12,000,000 ORANGES DESTROYED

Anarchy in Distribution of Wealth Amusing and Tragic

Washington, Ind., Dec. 20.—A prominent business man, just returned from Florida, says that during the past week 300 car loads, or 60,000 boxes of oranges were destroyed because the railroad companies refused to handle them, claiming a car shortage.

AN IMPORTANT JUDICIAL DECISION ON WAGE SOALES

Circuit Judge James W. Craig, at Danville, Pa., rendered a decision of importance to union labor men, as well as to employers of laborers, in ruling on a bill of exceptions in the case of Shuman vs. Edward Lewis.

LOCAL BARON PLANS TO CAPTURE GERSHUNI

LABOR UNION NEWS

The Amalgamated Leather Workers' Union of America has reaffirmed the idea of high dues and adopted a resolution in favor of the nine-hour day.

GRAFT, GRAFT AND MORE GRAFT

The fight on the \$440,000 Keshner lease was resumed before the Barzen graft committee at the city hall Wednesday.

AN ELEVATED POEM

[City police have been detailed on the most congested elevated railway platforms of Chicago's loop district.]

TELEGRAPHERS GET TEN PER CENT INCREASE

Strong Union of Key Men Brings Rock Island to Time

The Rock Island Railroad Company has granted the 2,500 telegraphers on its system a ten per cent increase in wages.

LABOR GETS \$10,000,000 CAPITAL GETS \$50,000,000

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 22.—The extra Christmas pay rolls in the Pittsburg district to-day amount to more than \$10,000,000.

TELEPHONES FROM PAST RAILWAY TRAINS

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 22.—From a railroad train running at speeds varying from fifteen to thirty-five miles an hour, telephone conversations were held with Louisville, Cincinnati, Madison, Ind., and New York by the means of an appliance invented by Dr. Alva P. Jones of Louisville, for which he is said to have refused a \$100,000 offer by Chicago parties.

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE TO THE COURTS

The provision in the labor law forbidding the employment of minors under eighteen years of age and of women in factories at night has been declared to be unconstitutional by a majority of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York.

At a meeting of the executive council of the South Wales Miners' Federation, held at Cardiff, "Mabon" presiding, it was decided to apply for an advance of 2 1/2 per cent.

LABOR UNION NEWS

GRAFT, GRAFT AND MORE GRAFT

The fight on the \$440,000 Keshner lease was resumed before the Barzen graft committee at the city hall Wednesday.

MOYER-HEYWOOD PROTEST MEETINGS

Acting under instructions from the County Center Committee, the Executive Committee has arranged to hold three meetings in the three divisions of the city for the purpose of voicing the working class protest against the evident intentions of the capitalists to hang our comrades of the Western Federation of Miners, Moyer, Heywood and Pettibone.

ROCKEFELLER IS HUMAN

Plays Santa Claus and Reformers are Surprised That He Should Show Sympathy

GERMANY'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS THIS YEAR WEIGH 9,885 TONS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—Germany sent to the United States this year for the Christmas trade 9,885 tons of toys, breaking all previous records according to an estimate made at the department of commerce and labor.

THE LATEST ADDITION TO THE LABOR UNION FAMILY IS REPORTED FROM NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

The latest addition to the labor union family is reported from New Brunswick, N. J. It is a washerwoman's union. It has not a charter at present or any special officials, but the members have a mutual understanding.

THE SPANISH CABINET HAS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE A BILL IN PARLIAMENT

The Spanish cabinet has decided to introduce a bill in Parliament with the object of ameliorating the conditions of women and children who are compelled to work for a living.

WHO IS GETTING PROSPERITY?

A Big "Take-Off"

Wage increases in this country have become epidemic. Farm wages have risen in all parts of the country, so that they will probably average ten per cent more than a year ago.

MURDER AND SUICIDE FOR \$1.50 SITUATION

Charles Oberg, seventy-six years old, was murdered by Robert Wedgren, aged fifty-four, because Oberg obtained Wedgren's job, according to Oberg's sister, Wedgren committed suicide.

AGED MAN UNDERBID YOUNGER WHO TAKES AWFUL REVENGE

Charles Oberg, seventy-six years old, was murdered by Robert Wedgren, aged fifty-four, because Oberg obtained Wedgren's job, according to Oberg's sister, Wedgren committed suicide.

STUDENT NAMED FIDLER HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE SLAYER OF COUNT IGATSEFF

A student named Fidler has been identified as the slayer of Count Igatseff. Fidler was a leader in last year's revolution in Russia.

BIG REDUCTION SALE

For Christmas in Men's and Boys' Suits and Overcoats

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### EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

To secure a return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed. The fact that a signed article is published does not commit The Chicago Socialist to all opinions expressed therein.

Editor, A. M. Simons; Business Manager, Louis Dalgaard; State Secretary, J. H. Smith; County Secretary, C. L. Becken.

Entered at the Postoffice, Chicago, Ill., as second-class matter, March 18, 1902.

## Unions in Government Owned Industries

The general movement now being made against organized workers in government owned industries is not accidental, nor are the stakes being played for small.

Here is one of the great strategic points in the battle between exploiter and exploited, between the lords of rent, interest and profit and the slaves of wages.

Nothing is more certain than that the coming years are going to see a great extension of government owned industries.

This movement may end in the state tyranny which Herbert Spencer foresaw in his "Coming Slavery," and which, by a strange twist of his mental vision, he mistook for socialism.

WE ARE MOVING TOWARD STATE SLAVERY IF EACH FORWARD STEP IS ACCOMPANIED BY REMOVAL OF THE RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY THE MUNICIPALITY OR STATE.

Be sure you realize thoroughly what this means. If with each new addition to the list of government employes we are to see one more body of workers deprived of their right to organize, to fight for their interests in every effective manner, then it will not be hard to foresee the day when a majority of the workers will be disarmed and at the mercy of a ruling exploiting class, who will have control of government.

THIS IS WHAT IS BEHIND THE ATTACK ON ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, IN THE POST OFFICE, THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE POLICE FORCE.

Already the suggestion has been more than whispered that the men so employed should be disfranchised. This has already been done in many European countries which are held up as models by some advocates of nationalization and municipalization of industry.

The Socialist favors government ownership only as it STRENGTHENS AND BENEFITS THE WORKERS.

For this reason the Socialist demands that the workers in the public service be not only permitted to retain all the rights and privileges that workers everywhere have fought for and won, but that their rights be extended and their conditions improved above those in private employment. By their better organization and better equipment—intellectually and physically and socially—they should be able to assist their fellow workers in the battle against private employers.

This is one of the reasons why we fight for the printers in the government office at Washington, for the clerks in the postoffice, and for the firemen and teachers of Chicago.

The sort of government ownership for which the Socialist stands will help every man inside or outside the industry which is nationalized or municipalized.

The sort of government ownership for which many so-called reformers are standing will, unless it is closely watched and vigilantly fought, tend to weld the fetters of slavery more firmly upon the hands of the workers both inside and outside the government owned industry.

Look out for the advocate of municipal ownership who would TAKE ANY PRIVILEGES FROM THE MEN TO BE EMPLOYED IN THOSE INDUSTRIES.

When a reformer begins to preach about the dangers of unions in the public service, ask him for whom they are dangerous.

They are dangerous to the forces of exploitation. They are dangerous for the profit eaters. They are dangerous for the capitalists.

By that same sign they are necessary to the defense of the producers, the profit makers, the workers.

The Merchants' Club sees this. That is why an effort is being made to incorporate a section in the Chicago charter providing that all union men shall be barred from municipally owned industries.

The workers should be equally alive to their interest. Do not stand on the defensive. If we must fight let it be in our opponents' territory.

DEMAND THAT ONLY UNION MEN SHALL BE EMPLOYED BY THE MUNICIPALITY

Insist that the government shall be a model employer. We have the votes.

IF THE SCAB SHOP SECTION IS CARRIED IN THE REFERENDUM ON THE CHICAGO CHARTER IT WILL BE BY THE VOTES OF UNION MEN.

## Christmas Charity

This is a time of prosperity. Everyone agrees on that fact. It is a season of perhaps the greatest prosperity of which capitalism is capable.

Yet, on every corner of the business district of Chicago are seen grotesque figures engaged in a competitive begging contest for funds with which to give four, five or six thousand "poor families a Christmas dinner."

Granting that all the money thus obtained proceeds beyond the organization for which it is gathered (and no reports are ever presented on this point) what sort of charity is it that begs from ex-



A FIREMAN'S TROUBLES

plooters in a time of "prosperity" to give to those whom the exploiters have shut out from the abundance around them?

We do not pretend to know "what Christ would do if he came to Chicago," but if our reading of the New Testament is correct, we cannot believe that He would be found standing in front of Marshall Field's store, garbed in a masquerade costume, swinging a big kettle before the fashionably dressed patrons of that institution.

Neither do we believe that He would be collecting contributions with which to advertise a newspaper by sending baskets to people made hungry by a system which that newspaper dare not attack.

It may not be orthodox, but we do not believe He would be doing any of these things if He were in Chicago to-day.

## Why This Secrecy?

A few months ago Chicago was startled day after day by stories of the destruction, by the health department, of adulterated and poisonous goods. Names standing high in the rolls of the Commercial Club and Union League, and the sacred pages of the Blue Book were shown to belong to wholesale poisoners of Chicago's food supply.

Then, suddenly, these stories stopped. There were dim rumors that such stuff was still being discovered, but the office of the food inspector was shrouded in mystery.

"Business interests" had insisted that the commission be muzzled.

Otherwise "business would be injured." This is the literal explanation given out by Dr. Whalen, commissioner of health, for the refusal to permit the inspection of public documents.

What kind of business is this that would be injured by such publicity?

THE BUSINESS OF POISONING THE FOOD OF CHICAGO, and no other.

Would it not be a good idea to injure this business, Dr. Whalen?

Is the commissioner of health appointed for the purpose of defending, maintaining and protecting public poisoners? If so, the sooner the fact is made known, the better.

The dispensers of adulterated, rotten and injurious foodstuffs do not mind the destruction of an occasional lot that happens to be discovered by the inspector. Such a trifling loss can easily be made up by putting a little more adulteration in the next lot.

But publicity drives away purchasers. It makes it difficult to dispose of the next lot. IT REDUCES PROFITS, and that is the only thing that will make a capitalist cry for help.

The men who are thus tampering with the food supply of a people are MURDERERS. Every physician will agree that the death rate of children in this city is greatly increased by the adulterated food with which these little ones must be fed.

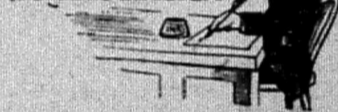
DR. WHALEN, BY HIS SECRECY, IS PROTECTING THESE MURDERERS OF THE CHILDREN.

MAKE PUBLIC THAT LIST, DR. WHALEN, AND LET THE PEOPLE KNOW WHO ARE POISONING THEIR CHILDREN.

Governor Taylor of Kentucky is now living in Indiana. He is charged with the murder of Goebel. Several witnesses are willing to swear they saw him commit the crime. What do you suppose would happen if a bunch of Kentucky feudists, led by a few officials, should go over into Indiana at midnight and capture Taylor and carry him away into Kentucky? What would Roosevelt do in such a case? Would he follow the precedent set in the Moyer-Haywood case?

It is noteworthy of the Tribune's referendum that, as always, the slum and boulevard are voting together. It is the wards of Hinky Dink and Brennan that lead the silk-stocking precincts in their majority for the franchise grabbers.

## OUR STATISTICIAN



The Illinois Manufacturers' association has issued its annual report in which the chief cause for rejoicing—as set forth by the secretary of the association—is the fact that the worthy factory owners have succeeded in keeping the average annual wage down to \$550.

This average includes many foremen and superintendents, and other higher priced help who can not be secured for less than \$100 to \$150 a month, leaving many of the men to gain a livelihood for themselves and their families as best they can on salaries ranging from \$25 to \$40 a month.

The increase in the value of the products turned out by these factories has increased from \$900,000,000 to \$1,500,000,000. Of this sum but \$208,405,468 was paid to the men who actually produced the salable article of commerce.

There is a little less than \$1,000,000,000 invested in the factories which produced \$1,500,000,000 in but one year—or more than one and one-half times the capital invested.

### TRUST SWALLOWING

Why curb the trusts, asks Prof. Giddings, of Columbia university. Let them continue to absorb each other, the larger swallowing the smaller, after the manner of snakes, until at the end of their carnivorous carnival there is left but one huge, gorged trust-serpent. Then, the nation steps in and swallows this surviving fittest. Thus government ownership comes like a gift. The trust will have done all the work; the people reap all the benefit. Unhappily these schemes do not always work out according to program. The advantages of government ownership depend on who owns the government. And it is quite within the range of possibility that the supertrust, its appetite growing by what it feeds on, might decline to be swallowed by the nation; might, in very fact, turn and swallow the nation, instead. It takes two to make a bargain, even in sociology.—Ridgeway's Magazine.

### HOW IT WORKS.

Patrick Murphy, while passing down Tremont street, was hit on the head by a brick which fell from a building in process of construction. One of the first things he did after being taken home and put to bed was to send for a lawyer. A few days later he received word to call, as his lawyer had settled the case. He called and received five crisp new \$100 bills.

"How much did you get?" he asked. "Two thousand dollars," answered the lawyer.

"Two thousand, and you give me \$500? Say, who got hit by that brick, you or me?"—Boston Herald.

A New York dispatch says there is a case of leprosy among the New York "400." Moral leprosy?

## Municipal Ownership

For more than a decade the street car question has been agitating Chicago politics. Two generations of Harrisons held the mayoralty chair for a longer period than any reigning family has controlled the destinies of any city in America, largely by means of their dexterous manipulation of Chicago's transportation problem.

Throughout the entire time that this question has been made the football of Chicago politicians there has been a steady progress towards ownership and operation of the cars by the municipality.

This has been to a very large degree due to the persistent, tireless agitation of the Socialists. Finally Mayor Dunne was elected on the platform of Immediate Municipal Ownership, and the promise that every question of importance concerning the traction question should be submitted to a referendum.

At the time of Dunne's election the Socialist Party pointed out the impossibility of securing municipal ownership through the election of the present mayor.

In the press and from the platforms Socialist writers and speakers showed that a party pledged to the maintenance of the capitalist system was at a tremendous disadvantage when it came to bargaining with the great industrial forces that dominate that system.

Mayor Dunne and the Chicago Democracy are essentially representative of small business interests. They seek to relieve the crushing COMPETITIVE pressure upon the small exploiter of labor.

For this purpose they desire reduced fares, compensation to the city to reduce taxes, etc. But occupying, as they do, a middle position in society, they reflect that fact in their mental makeup. They are weak, vacillating, uncertain. They know they cannot hope to win without working class support, and so pretend to cater to the laborers. But their ideas are derived from the great capitalists. Their ideal is to become great capitalists.

When they meet these masters of industry they are bound by the rules these masters have made. They think in the terms that the great capitalists would have them think.

Their instinct is to bargain, and scheme, and dodge, and compromise.

But they are no match for the gigantic interests with which they are bargaining. If they were, they would not have been competed out of existence.

The present city administration has just closed such a bargain. It has lost, as usual.

IT NOW ASKS THE VOTERS OF CHICAGO TO RATIFY THAT BARGAIN.

We are interested in this situation only from the point of view of the working class. We are not of those who believe that municipal ownership of street cars will bring any great boon to that class.

Strange as it may seem, although Socialists have always advocated municipal ownership, doing so for years before any other party ever suggested it, yet they are the only ones who cherish no delusions about it.

Socialists are familiar with the conditions of the working class in Glasgow, Berlin, Vienna, and a hundred other cities with municipally owned street cars. In none of these places has the worker been freed from wage slavery, from unemployment, from exploitation.

But Socialists do see a slight opportunity to benefit the workers through municipal ownership, and that is the only side of the question that interests them.

They believe that the men who work on these cars ought to receive as good wages as are paid in any other line of industry—and indeed somewhat better. They believe that the day ought to be limited to eight hours. They believe that only union men ought to be employed on such industries. They believe that all possible safety appliances ought to be used.

NOT ONE OF THESE THINGS ARE EVEN MENTIONED IN THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

These are all DETAILS says Mayor Dunne.

Yet they are extremely modest requirements. They do not exceed the ordinary trade union demands.

THEY ARE NOTHING NEAR WHAT THE SOCIALISTS WOULD DO IF THEY WERE IN POWER.

We only suggest them now as things that are within reason under capitalism, as things that can be accomplished by the votes of the workers of Chicago in the period before they work up to the fact that they can take much more.

## Out of Bondage

The sign of the serf, oh, worker,  
Is not in the yoke or chain  
That fastens your strength with sorrow,  
That poisons your longings vain.  
It isn't in rags or hunger,  
Nor yet in the grit and grime  
That burden your life and stain it  
With the shame of oppression's crime.

The brand of the slave, oh, plodder,  
Is not in the cog-like skill  
That grinds you, as you grind profit  
The purse of your lord to fill.  
It isn't in shirtless sweating,  
Where molten destruction glares,  
And never true service knows it,  
And never a duty cares.

But, oh, there are coils about you  
That fasten your trembling heart,  
That strangle your hope with iron,  
And laugh when the teardrops start.  
The forces of ancient Power,  
The hate and the pride and might  
That ride on your broken courage  
To strengthen their vaunted right.

And this is your task, oh, toiler—  
To shatter the nameless Thing  
That crushes your sense of reason,  
Your vision of truth to sting.  
And you never can stay the monster  
Until, as it rushes near,  
Your manhood shall rise above it  
All laugh at the thing called Fear.

—GEO. E. BOWEN.

English workers are wiping out the House of Lords. German workers are driving Kaiser Billy into private life. French workers are establishing religious freedom. Russian workers are on the road to the creation of a new free nation. American workers are—hollering for Teddy and prosperity. But they are waking up.