

## Timely Topics

By Norman Thomas

Alfonso Joins the Jobless—The Poison of Racketeering—McCooney and Son Incorporated—Two Faint-Hearted Progressives—The Democrats "Help" the Jobless Workers—The Socialist Spirit

### AN UNEMPLOYED KING

ANOTHER king has joined the ranks of the unemployed, but he and his numerous family seem to have a very large unemployment pension and are going to live the life of Riley in England where I hope they will have to pay a big income tax to support more vigorous efforts at socialization in England than the McDonald government has yet been able to push forward.

Thus far Spain has managed her political revolution exceedingly well and has got rid of an entirely superfluous dynasty with a very small minimum of violence. The fact that Alfonso seems to have had considerable sense about knowing when to quit helped matters. But it looked as if he would have had to do most of his own fighting. Now it remains to be seen whether the political revolution will pave the way or make easier the realization of a social revolution. Landlords and capitalists are more of a problem than a king. Still Alfonso's strength was always on the side of the landlords and the capitalists.

### TRIBUTE TO RACKETEERS

NEW YORK can't make fun of Chicago anymore. The investigation into District Attorney Crane's conduct of his office shows that an appalling lot of businesses pay regular tribute to racketeers and that honest citizens are afraid to testify for fear of their lives, which the city government has thus far been unable or unwilling to protect. The poison of the racketeering has, as everybody knows, got into the labor movement, but the seat of infection is by no means a few dubious labor unions but the capitalist system. I am still of the opinion that strongly entrenched as racketeers are in New York they could be driven out of business were it not for their legal, political and business allies and associates.

### THE MCCOONEY FAMILY KLAN

A CURIOUS and probably unconscious commentary on racketeering was given us by the Brooklyn Eagle on April 10th when it put side by side in adjacent columns two stories, one headed "FISH MEN GIVE \$12,500 FUND TO 'MYSTERY MAN'." The other story is headed "J. H. MCCOONEY FIRM GETS BIG B.M.T. POLICIES." The annual fund of \$12,500 to buy "protection" in the fish market is racketeering pure and simple. The insurance item is more refined, subtle and legal. The point is that John McCooney is the political king of Brooklyn. The B.M.T. is a transit company which already has and expects to get immense favors from the city. In the Undermyer plan it is designated as the operator of the unified lines. One of King John McCooney's sons, John, Jr., is senior partner in the law firm which organized the Seaboard Underwriters, Inc. in which one of the active figures is King John's other son, Herbert, who already does a lot of the city's bonding and insurance business. Now this McCooney insurance concern owns a large chunk of the B.M.T.'s \$67,000,000 policies. Oh, no, this isn't racketeering, but it's one of many examples of the working of a system in which racketeers feel morally or immorally at home.

WHILE we are on the subject of Brooklyn I want to comment on the real progress made in the campaign against police brutality by Charles Solomon's success in having Detective Lichtblau held for trial because of his assault on our young comrades Gross and Rifkin. It is now very important that District Attorney Geoghan of Brooklyn should appoint an able assistant to push this case. Many a good case has been thrown deliberately or through inefficiency when the District Attorney has assigned to it an incompetent young assistant. Although the charge against Lichtblau is not terribly serious the police stand together in matters like this even when standing together means lying together!

### PROGRESSIVES AND THE JOBLESS

AS I write I have heard that on the same day in different places Senators LaFollette and Couzens called attention to the seriousness of the unemployment situation. They are right, but the unemployed have a legitimate and serious accusation to bring against them and their fellow progressives. These progressives, notably LaFollette, had a chance to force an extra session of Congress to consider unemployment relief. They didn't do it. Not one of them agreed to sign a request to the president to bring about an extra session. Apparently they prefer to go around the country criticizing Hoover rather than trying to force action.

### DEMOCRATS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

AS for the Democrats, they fully share blame with the Republicans for the do-nothing policy on unemployment. Raskob's long and very dull letter on Democratic policies, except for what he said about prohibition, might have been written by Hoover. He had nothing to say on any issue that would not be satisfactory to Wall Street. In New York State the allegedly progressive Governor Roosevelt put up no fight for immediate unemployment insurance or for relief for the present emergency. In New York City the Democratic machine, with the apparent blessing of the Welfare Council, after endless delays, voted a meager 2 million dollars to make jobs and buy materials. Compare this 2 million dollars with a weekly wage loss of 15 million dollars in New York City and with the further fact that the Prosser Committee has laid off or soon will lay off 20,000 of the needy men on its roll for lack of funds. In New York City not even extra public works have been pushed in spite of Jimmie Walker's pretensions to the contrary. At least 100 million dollars worth of contracts are frozen with nothing moving.

Jimmie played his usual line of cheap but clever politics by talking about the danger of increasing the tax rate by real help for the unemployed—this on a day when the Board of Estimate room was filled with taxpayers who came down to see about street openings, etc. Of course the taxpayers applauded. It is true enough that in some cities, and to a very limited extent, in New York, an increase in our unscientific real estate tax rate would be harshly on small home owners. In New York it will not do a small part of the damage that neglect of the unemployed will do. A lot of New York landlords have for years raked in the unearned increment of land increases and now they ought to pay. What is still more important is the fact that on proper methods of land condemnation alone Jimmie and his colleagues could save more than what we are asking for reasonable relief. Instead Jimmie gets away with this bunk. The representative of the Welfare Council thanks him. The official labor movement stands by him. The churches keep silent. What if one out of every four or five persons usually gainfully employed in New York City is today idle? Let us comfortable folk enjoy what we have. Don't raise taxes. Never mind the deluge.

TO turn to more cheerful affairs. My heartiest congratulations to our Wisconsin comrades. To elect two members of the school board in Milwaukee, a Mayor in Racine, and re-elect two other Mayors in Manitowoc and Iola is vastly encouraging. It shows what organization can do and it challenges the rest of us to go and do likewise.

### TWO WORTHY DRIVES

WE can't begin to take advantage of present public sentiment unless we make the national drive a success. We can't do what we ought unless we boom the circulation of the New Leader. This circulation campaign with the remarkable prizes the New Leader has offered to the winner is one of the most important immediate features of party activity. The good year the Rand School has enjoyed and the success of its anniversary banquet show a spirit in the party that ought to put over the national fund drive and the New Leader campaign.

### JUDGE LINDSEY'S BOOK

TO people inclined to despair about human nature, I earnestly recommend a reading of some of the chapters, notably the chapters "Chains Unseen," "The Psychology of War," and "They Came Alone" in Ben Lindsey's interesting autobiography "The Dangerous Life." These chapters deal with Judge Lindsey's extraordinary work with juvenile offenders. He got these boys and girls to deliver themselves without police to the institutions to which he sent them. And then when you are feeling a bit optimistic about human nature, go to see the excellent Mooney and Billings propaganda play, "Precedent," at the Provincetown Theatre. This well acted performance of a play written by a St. Louis lawyer, Mr. Golden, corroborates and intensifies all that Judge Lindsey says in his book about what the love of profit will do to human nature under a system which makes Profit King. Yet all through the shameful tale one feels the spark of human courage and loyalty, which even prison cannot crush.

# NEW LEADER

With Which  
Is Combined

THE AMERICAN APPEAL

Founded by  
Eugene V. Debs

VOL. XII.—No. 16

Published Weekly at  
7 East 15th St., New York, N. Y.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1931

Entered as Second Class Matter, January  
19, 1924, at the Post Office at New York,  
New York, under act of March 3, 1879.

Price Five Cents

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year . . . . . \$2.00  
Three Months . . . . . .75  
Six Months . . . . . 1.00

## RACINE ELECTS SOCIALIST MAYOR

### 1,000 Attend Dinner for Rand School

Hillquit, Dewey and  
Others Laud Work of  
Socialist School

THE place the Rand School holds in the ranks of the progressive workers and educational leaders of the nation was attested last Sunday night. More than 1,000 Socialists and trade unionists met with teachers of international renown to celebrate the arrival of the Socialist school at its 25th birthday. The large dining room of the Mecca Temple housed the largest dinner held by any labor group in many years.

Harold Laski, Morris Hillquit and Algernon Lee, leaders of Socialist educational and political activity, shared the speaking time with John Dewey, probably the most famous educator of our time, and Alexander Meiklejohn, founder and director of that revolutionary educational department, the experimental college at the University of Wisconsin. The speakers sounded in eloquent and pointed phrases the need for broad education in the social problems such as has been the life-work of the Rand School. Prof. Laski urged the abandonment of set economic and political formulas as a strict basis for Socialist study. Prof. Meiklejohn on the other hand spoke feelingly of the need for "education for a purpose." Mr. Hillquit combined fearless and unbiased research in the educational matters with the need for a clearly formed, single-purpose Socialist movement. Lee, who presided, spoke of the work of the school, of which he is president. He dealt generously of portions of credit to his co-workers in the Rand School. Prof. Dewey's address dealt with education and social progress.

#### Audience Gives \$4,000

While the addresses, appropriately enough, considered the problems and aims of Socialist education, the audience was made up of a large cross-section of the school's huge following. Socialist party leaders and workers sat with trade unionists, former students of the school, and many men and women of liberal opinion who have followed the course of the Rand School with warm interest. When Mr. Hillquit told, after his set address, of the work of the school and its plans for the future, the diners came forward with donations totaling almost \$4,000. As a special mark of appreciation, students presented Mr. Lee with a gift consisting of his passage to Europe and return so that he might attend the international Socialist congress in Vienna this Summer. At the speakers' table sat the leaders of educational progress and men and women who have done much to keep the school at work: Anna Berkowitz, Morris Berman, William E. Bohn, educational director, Prof. George S. Counts, Carl Van Doren, John A. Fitch, Julius Gerber, Elizabeth Gilman, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Held, Dr. Mathilda Lee, Mrs. Bertha H. Mally, Prof. Raymond C. Moley, Dr. Helen Montague, Prof. William P. Montague, Prof. Rexford G. Tugwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Waldman. Norman Thomas, away on a lecture trip, sent his warm greetings.

For Mrs. Mally, special honors were reserved. Before calling on any of the speakers, Mr. Lee told of Mrs. Mally's years-long devotion to the school, and called on her to say a few words. In characteristic fashion, Mrs. Mally spoke of her happiness at the school's celebration and stated she was now interested in seeing that its next 25 years are as inspiring as its first.

#### Socialist Education Discussed

Prof. Laski, the first speaker, came in two capacities, he said. First, as a teacher, and secondly as "a Socialist, a little bewildered to find so many Socialists in America." He brought greetings from the British Socialists. As a teacher, said Prof. Laski, he has tried to do a maximum of damage to his students. He has tried to shock their minds out of complacency. He recalled his teaching days at Harvard, where he found pleasure in teaching alongside Prof. Carver, who seemed to be "a little aware of the things about him." Speaking of Socialist education, Laski said Marx was a great agitator and Lenin a great strategist, but it would be a sad day when their teachings came to be accepted as sacred text without thorough scrutiny. In workers' education, students should learn

### Union Square To Hold Giant May Day Rally; Parades Are Planned

Trade Unions Join With  
Socialist Party and  
Youth Groups

THE May Day celebration in Union Square promises to be a memorable affair. Arrangements are rapidly being completed and the organizations that have already agreed to cooperate indicate that the square will be packed on labor's international holiday.

The celebration will begin at 2 p. m., Friday, May 1st. Among the organizations that will participate are the Joint Boards of the Cloth Makers, the Dressmakers, the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Furriers and the Millinery Workers; the United Hebrew Trades, the International Pocketbook Workers, a number of unions not affiliated with the Joint Board of the Ladies' Garment Workers, the Neckwear Workers, the Iron and Bronze Workers, local unions of the Bakery Workers, the Work-

men's Circle, the Jewish Socialist Verband, the Young People's Socialist League, the Young Circle League, and branches of the Socialist Party.

Other unions and organizations of the workers will line up for the greatest celebration in the past ten years. Each union is planning its own program, in some cases including a parade to Union Square and in others assembling in a special hall and marching direct to the square.

#### Parades Are Planned

The Clothmakers will meet in a theatre on Second Avenue and the Amalgamated Joint Board unions will probably do the same thing. The Bakery Workers are arranging to parade from Rutgers Square on the East Side up Second Avenue and enroute they will be joined by other unions and organizations. They will march up to 34th Street then over to Fourth Avenue and down to Union Square. The Bakers will advertise their la-

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### Hoffman Held Seditious Law In Stroudsburg Repeal Asked For Murder In Pennsylvania

Judge Inspires Arrest of  
Textile Workers' Or-  
ganizer—Bail Is Sup-  
plied

STROUDSBURG, Pa.—(AP)—Alfred Hoffmann, United Textile Workers of America organizer, has been arrested on charges of conspiracy to murder inspired by County Judge Samuel E. Shull. After an hour's stay in jail, Hoffmann won his freedom on bail of \$1,000 set by Shull.

Hoffmann, a veteran of a hundred union campaigns including Reading, Marion and Danville, was taken into custody by a county detective on the courthouse steps. Judge Shull had just adjourned his hearing on the Mammoth Hosiery Mill's petition to make permanent the drastic injunction he granted the mill against 200 striking employees and officials of the union.

Two former strikers, now scabbing, had testified at the hearing that either Hoffmann, or Jensen Shaw, another leader, had advised strikers to wreck automobiles carrying scabs. One of them, Mrs. Nellie Miller, wife of one of the four Mammoth scabs awaiting trial for the killing of Albert Bachman, striker, said she was not sure which man urged the "ditching" of cars. She also declared, on cross-examination by defense attorneys, Cohen and Troy, that it was a meeting of the strikers the advice was given.

#### Judge in Outburst

Nevertheless on this testimony, Judge Shull arose and addressed District Attorney Ira Le Bar, a spectator at the hearing: "I direct your attention," he told him, "to the testimony regarding the acts of Hoffmann and Jensen. I urge you to study it and to prosecute them for conspiracy to assassinate."

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### Brownsville Socialists Enter Minnie Weisberg In Sub Contest—And Pitch In to Help Her

By The Contest Editor  
THERE can be no successful Socialist movement without an effective Socialist press—this is a nutshell is what national and local Socialist leaders declare in statements received daily in the office of The New Leader. Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, of Milwaukee, expressing keen interest in the outcome of The New Leader circulation contest says, "At no time has the need for a strong militant Socialist press been greater than now." After describing the intensive campaign carried on in Racine with the aid of The Milwaukee Leader and the Socialist Campaigner, Mayor Hoan states that the people "are eager to read Socialist literature because it offers them a permanent cure for our economic ills and not a temporary palliative. For this reason I sincerely hope The New Leader's circulation campaign will be a success, and I urge all who can to enlist in the contest."

and thus make it possible for its inspiring message to reach an ever wider circle of readers. What we did in Racine can be repeated in other cities, large or small. The important thing is to build up our Socialist press so that it may effectively perform its mission."

#### Lewis Enters Contest

Other prominent Socialists to urge intensive work for the building up of The New Leader's circulation include, Jacob Panken, Louis Waldman, Herbert Merrill and Marx Lewis, the latter in Washington, D. C., entering the contest himself. But to get down to the progress of the contest. The Brownsville branch (23rd A. D. Kings) enters the lists this week in the person of Minnie Weisberg. The announcement of her acceptance as the representative of the branch in the contest was cheered by the members of the branch at the last meeting. Comrade Weisberg's reputation is such that

44 Hour for Women  
Worker Is Defeated—  
Mrs. Wilson Puts Up  
Fight

By Arthur McDowell

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The Pennsylvania House Judiciary General Committee heard Francis Fisher Kane, for six years U. S. District Attorney, for the Philadelphia district, plead for report and passage of the repeal of the Pennsylvania Seditious Act, contained in House 175 introduced by Darlington Hoopes, Socialist of Berks. Rep. Hoopes introduced Dr. Phillip Bookstauber of Harrisburg, state chairman of the Civil Liberties Union who introduced Attorney Kane. Dr. Bookstauber in his introductory remarks declared the present Seditious Act under which five men are now serving sentences for their utterances "abominable and totally un-American."

Mr. Kane, who served during the war but resigned from his position in the Federal Department of Justice in protest against the illegal practices of A. Mitchell Palmer, the Attorney General in the "red raid" of 1919-21, declared that he had prosecuted under the Federal government believing it inevitable but pointed out that the Pennsylvania Act had been passed after the war and was being used in the struggles of labor for recognition, to intimidate workers. The witnesses noted that the act was chiefly used against communists but declared that far from being hindered, communism thrived on suppression. In his own city of Philadelphia Attorney Kane noted, things were being done in an attempt to meet the unemployment crisis which were undoubtedly socialist at least. The challenge of communism.

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### Clubber Cop Is Held for Higher Court

Detective Who Beat  
Young Socialists Goes  
to Special Sessions

MAGISTRATE RUDICH, sitting in the 7th district Magistrate's Court, Brooklyn, has held Detective Harry Lichtblau, attached to the 67th precinct, in bond for trial in the Court of Special Sessions, on complaints filed by Jesse Gross and Bernard Rifkin, young Socialists, charging Lichtblau with having severely beaten them while they were prisoners in the precinct station house on the night of March 31st.

Under cross examination by former Socialist assemblyman, Charles Solomon, who represented Gross and Rifkin, it was brought out that Lichtblau had resigned from the police department in 1923, one month after his last police trial, and that he was reinstated after an absence from the Department lasting six years. It also developed that the detective had stood police trial several times.

The charges of assault against Detective Lichtblau grew out of the arrest on the night of March 31st of Gross and Rifkin at 55 Snyder Avenue, Brooklyn, where a meeting of the 21st assembly district organization of the Socialist party was in progress. The boys, 23 and 19 respectively, both college students, were charged with disorderly conduct and tried on April 7th before Magistrate Sabatino. Gross, who was charged with distributing at Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn, copies of Free Youth and circulars announcing a Yip meeting, was found not guilty. Rifkin, charged by Lichtblau with preventing him from arresting Gross in the place where the party meeting was in progress, was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$50, the maximum under the law applicable to the case, or serve thirty days in jail.

#### Cop Is Arraigned

Sabatino first refused Solomon's application for process against the detective, finally having him brought before the court and arraigned. Solomon defended Gross and Rifkin before Judge Sabatino.

In the cases against Lichtblau, Gross and Rifkin testified that the detective took each one separately to a basement room in the police station and there punched, slapped and kicked them repeatedly. Rifkin said he was kicked so hard on one occasion, his head was thrown against the concrete wall, causing him to fall out of the chair in which he was directed to sit, and upon the basement floor. While he lay there, bewildered, he testified, the detective stepped upon his hand.

Dr. Israel Glauberman, for the complainants, testified he examined the boys after their experience with Lichtblau and found both to be suffering from bruises, contusions, abrasions and lacerations of recent origin and located in different parts of their bodies.

Six witnesses were called by the defendant, including the principal of the night school at Erasmus, who was complainant in the unsuccessful case against Gross before Sabatino, and five police

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Heads Its City Govern-  
ment



WILLIAM J. SWOBODA

### Socialists of Milwaukee Win Education Seat

Party Re-elects Strehlow With Highest Vote  
and Captures New  
Post

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

MILWAUKEE, Wis.—Milwaukee Socialists made another advance in the school board last week by electing another member to that body. George Strehlow, re-elected, and William F. Buech were the successful Socialist candidates. Strehlow received the highest vote cast for any candidate, 41,535, and led in 16 of the 25 wards.

Buech was at first reported defeated but a recheck of the count revealed an error which gave him the victory. The recheck showed that in reporting the returns from the 14th ward a mistake had been made by crediting Mrs. George C. Zachow with 100 votes more than she received. In place of receiving 1,346, with which she was first credited, she received only 1,246 votes. It was discovered that three precincts had not been included in the count.

The new figures show Buech leading Mrs. Zachow by 142 votes, Buech receiving a total of 35,693 and Mrs. Zachow 35,551.

Wages Were An Issue  
By Buech's election the Socialists gain the only new member elected to the board as well as receiving the highest number of votes for Strehlow.

The other three Socialist candidates, Mrs. Ida Kent, Edwin W. Knappe and Jacob Jung, made good runs but were defeated.

The campaign for the election of members of the board was marked by strenuous efforts of the open shop employers, capitalists and capitalist organizations and newspapers on behalf of the non-partisan candidates.

The biggest issue in the campaign was the question of a minimum wage provision for contract work done for the school board. The Socialist candidates were pledged to support a resolution for such a provision and if two new Socialist directors had been elected a minimum wage would have been put into effect.

It is for this reason that the employers and the non-partisan newspapers so bitterly fought the election of the Socialists.

### Socialist Membership Increases in Berlin

(By A New Leader Correspondent)

BERLIN.—In spite of the severe economic crisis, the Berlin Social-Democratic organization has succeeded in increasing its membership by 20,000 during the last two years. The membership is at present 91,349. The Berlin Socialists are untiringly pursuing their membership campaign under the slogan invented by Otto Wels, the chairman of the Party: "Where is the second man?" (Every member is asked to obtain a second member).

WANT A FREE COPY OF  
NORMAN THOMAS' NEW  
BOOK? ENTER THE NEW  
LEADER'S CIRCULATION CON-  
TEST, GET FIVE YEARLY SUBS,  
AND THE BOOK IS YOURS.

### Swoboda Wins City by 1,860 Votes

Mayor Swings Support  
to Party—Victories  
Scored in Manitowoc  
and Iola

Racine, Wis., Elects  
A Socialist Mayor

(By A New Leader Correspondent)  
RACINE, Wis.—With the election of William Swoboda, Socialist, as mayor of Racine, this city has joined the list of Wisconsin cities having Socialist mayors. Racine has long been considered a conservative city.

The election of Swoboda has attracted state-wide attention as it followed one of the most spectacular campaigns waged in any Wisconsin city in years. Milwaukee Socialists headed by Mayor Daniel W. Hoan rendered splendid aid by speaking at meetings which became larger as the campaign progressed.

On the night before the election 3,500 people packed Memorial Hall to hear Hoan, Swoboda and Mayor William H. Armstrong, who withdrew from the race and supported Swoboda. Nearly as many voters as were admitted to the hall were turned away.

Party Wins Praise  
Racine's Socialist mayorality candidate was all smiles as he proceeded to speak. In a brief address Swoboda showed his mettle as a candidate with a level head and resources adequate to any emergency.

Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee made a big hit. He dealt with economics in an un-compromising way, tracing the rise of democracy and the gradual awakening of the working class. He pointed out the latter's historic mission in the evolution of civilization and of the great task which still remains.

"It is up to the working class to bring equal rights to all in a society now dominated by gigantic productive forces for the exploitation of the real producers of wealth," he said.

"If the workers are to own the tools of production, organization is necessary." When three or four Communists attempted to disrupt the meeting Hoan revealed that he was wearing his fighting clothes. Walking to the end of the stage he pointed a finger at them and told them the carpenters had left several openings in the building. "You can leave by any door you choose," he shouted.

Milwaukee's fighting Socialist sheriff, in opening the meeting, declared that the 3,500 faces before him indicated the working people have decided to do something about the present deplorable industrial conditions, which, he said, are rapidly becoming so bad as to necessitate basic changes in the social order within the coming few years.

#### Victory By 1,860 Votes

In a resonant voice he told the assemblage that if each one would dedicate just one day a month to the working class political movement—the Socialist party—Wisconsin could be the first state in the union with a majority of Socialist legislators.

Swoboda defeated George H. Herzog, former postmaster and long active in politics, by a margin of 1,860 votes. The total vote was 10,793 for Swoboda and 9,933 for Herzog.

Socialists also won their eighth successive victory in Manitowoc by reelecting Martin Georgeson Mayor. Georgeson, who has been active in the labor and Socialist movements for many years, defeated his opponent, Peter M. Anderson, by a vote of 3,310 to 2,748.

Iola also re-elected its Socialist Mayor, R. J. Anderson, who polled a vote of 115 against his opponent, H. E. Hauser, who received 45. George Mensing, running for Supreme Court Justice, secured between fifty and sixty thousand votes which is one of the best runs a Socialist candidate has made in the state since 1920. Comrade Mensing received better than ten per cent of the total vote cast.

The Socialist mayors in Wisconsin now include the following:

CITY	MAYOR	POPULATION
Milwaukee	Daniel W. Hoan	47,344
Racine	William J. Swoboda	47,542
Manitowoc	Martin Georgeson	23,291
Beaver Dam	Sam Weaver	8,881
Iola	R. J. Anderson	7,783

For the Socialist Party this is only a start. We are already preparing an edition of the Campaigner in Sheboygan where two Socialist supervisors were re-elected in the last election.







## Railroads Lead in Drive To Cut Wages

Eight Eastern Lines Win Court Aid to Slash Labor's Pay

By HORACE B. DAVIS  
ALTHOUGH bankers in great numbers have been writing to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics for data to justify cutting wages, and business journals such as the Journal of Commerce and New York and the Commercial & Financial Chronicle are carrying on a hue and cry in their editorial columns to the effect that wages must come down, the lead in the campaign for lower wage rates is being taken at the moment by certain large railroads. Their influence is being exerted directly and indirectly.

The indirect influence is seen in the railroads' attitude toward steel. The present period is a critical one for steel wages. The big steel-making companies recently announced that prices on several leading products would be advanced, and that an effort would be made to stabilize them at the new level. If the advance persuaded purchasers that prices really had hit bottom, then the manufacturers thought that a tidy volume of orders would come rolling in from those who had been holding back for the lowest price. But if no such increased demand developed, prices were expected to go tumbling again, and this time the big bosses made it quite clear that the hourly rate for unskilled labor would come tumbling down too. The last time the U. S. Steel Corp. started cutting its unskilled labor rate, it did not stop until the low figure of 20c an hour was reached.

**Steel Cuts Rumored**  
Last year, according to the Wall Street Journal, 50 per cent of the steel consumed went to three lines: construction, with 19 per cent of the total; automobiles, with 16 per cent; and the railroads, with 15 per cent. Structural steel awards for the first 11 weeks of 1931 have run ahead of the figures for 1930 by 100,000 tons. But the automobile makers and the railroads suddenly stopped buying about March 25, in what looked like a concerted effort to break the steel companies' stability program.

Railroads even withheld specifications on rail contracts placed last year and requested postponement of deliveries, reports the Wall Street Journal. The Pennsylvania did distribute contracts for nearly 125,000 tons of structural material among a number of fabricators, and advertised it widely; but the deliveries were for such distant dates that the immediate effect was small. "No explanation has been given for the attitude of the railroads," concludes the Wall Street Journal, and adds, "Spring is the usual season for laying new track when necessary."

The steel-makers are running so slack that in the Mahoning Valley the big Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. and the Republic Steel Corp. have abandoned their custom of publishing their weekly operating schedules. New talk of approaching wage cuts is heard in the steel districts.

**Courts Being Used**  
The railroads, meanwhile, are going ahead with their own wage-cutting program. At about the time Hoover was assuring the country that business men were observing his wishes that wages should not be cut, nine eastern railroads affected by New York State's important plan for grade crossing elimination were winning court support in their fight to avoid paying prevailing wages and observing the 8-hour day. Some time ago the Delaware & Hudson, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, the New York Central, the Erie, the Pennsylvania, the Long Island, the Staten Island Transit, the New York, New Haven & Hartford, and the Boston & Albany started court action to nullify the labor provisions of the Dummore Act, which covers the grade crossing elimination work.

## Hoover Mocks Murder In Speech To RedCross

Scripps-Howard Papers Denounce President for Ignoring Great Misery

WASHINGTON (FP)—President Hoover's speech of congratulation to the convention of the American Red Cross, upon its acceptance of the order which its council received from himself as its president, when it refused to administer the \$25,000,000 of food relief which the Senate voted to the drought victims, has raised a new storm of protest in Washington. Progressives declared that here, indeed, was a man "playing politics with human misery"—to use Hoover's own phrase of last year. The Scripps-Howard newspaper chain answered the President in a blunt editorial contradicting his claims. The People's Lobby issued a scathing statement. All observers agreed that Hoover had taken a stand against public relief to the hungry in the coming winter, quite as much as in the winter now past. They compared his coldness with that of Taft.

"Congress has long been accustomed to making relief appropriations to meet emergencies and disasters in this country and abroad," said the Scripps-Howard editorial. "Such help degraded neither the giver nor the receiver. The only question asked in the past was whether government aid was essential to quick and adequate relief. That is a fair question. The answer is, in our opinion, that government aid is very much needed today."

"From the President's address, readers might assume that the emergency has been met by voluntary relief funds through the Red Cross, and private agencies. . . . The President knows that not one cent of the national Red Cross fund has been spent for relief of the 6,000,000 unemployed and their families, or for relief of the additional millions of part-time employed and their families. Only drought victims have been helped by the American Red Cross."

"And the resident knows that local private agencies have not

met the unemployment emergency. He knows that the report of the National Association of Community Chests and Councils shows that more than seventy-five per cent of local relief has come from public treasuries, chiefly municipal treasuries."

"The large private philanthropy which Mr. Hoover praises is not working, unfortunately. That is not because the people are hard-hearted but because they have not the money to give—they have no jobs, or they are on part-time, or are helping jobless relatives, or their savings have been cut to a dangerous margin by the depression. The money is concentrated in the hands of the rich. The rich have given, but they have not given enough—not one-fourth enough, according to the figures."

"We don't like to do any more than Mr. Hoover does. But when the choice is between doing and starvation, we say give doles."

The editorial closes with a reminder that Hoover has power to call Congress in special session in an emergency—"And this is an emergency."

**"Echo of Dark Ages"**  
The People's Lobby said that "The President's speech is an echo from the Dark Ages, when poverty was regarded as a visitation of an inscrutable Providence, instead of being recognized as due to criminal governments. This speech has hastened the dissolution of the Red Cross and assured a large appropriation for the next Congress for adequate relief of the victims of drought and unemployment, and hundreds of millions out of the federal treasury for the subvention of unemployment insurance."

It reminded the country that Hoover reported in his speech at the Children's Conference last fall that there were 6,000,000 undernourished children in America, and that he then said "The ill-nourished child in our country is largely the product of ill-instructed children and ignorant parents." Yet the committee of the Conference dealing with that subject reported that "We have now reached the point where those interested in child welfare must advance through the medium of greater economic protection of parents."

## Sedition Law Repeal Urged in Pennsylvania

(Continued from Page One)

ism should be met in a sane and intelligent fashion, not with ignorant fear and brutal but futile attempts at suppression. The committee requested Mr. Kane to prepare a brief and the state chairman and executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Civil Liberties Committee pointed out the need for a formal and extended public hearing.

Rep. Hoopes in closing asserted his interest in free speech as an aid to peaceful and necessary change in government and pointed out to the committee composed entirely of lawyers that as such they might well be interested in the preservation of the ancient principle of free expression as a social safety valve, as inherited by Americans from English law.

## 44-Hour Bill Killed

Five days after Grundy forces in the Pennsylvania Senate succeeded in killing the Women's 44-Hour Bill which had been supported by the Women's Trade Union League and the State Federation of Labor, Rep. Lillith Wilson, Socialist of Berks, introduced an amendment to the present woman's act which provided for a maximum five day, forty-hour week. Under the Wilson bill the protection of women from health menaces would be extended to others such as laundries and restaurants. Penalties for violations are raised from \$25 to \$200 fines and imprisonment from sixty days to one year.

A constitutional amendment resolution to legalize Old Age and Widowed Mothers Pensions has passed the Pennsylvania Senate. The resolution must be passed by the General Assembly again in 1933 in order to be submitted to the people for approval. The first Old Age Pensions resolution introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly this session was introduced into the House by Rep. Lillith Wilson, Socialist of Berks. Senator Frank Harris, Progressive sponsor of the Senate resolution who succeeded in defeating a motion to recommit and kill after a bitter debate, told the Federated Press correspondent that he felt like a socialist after having to fight Senator Woodward of Philadelphia who last year paid taxes upon a twenty-three million dollar estate. Senator Woodward led the forces seeking to defeat this early move toward Old Age Pensions.

## Mill Union Entrenched In Danville

4,000 Workers Stick to Organization Though Strike Was Lost

WASHINGTON (FP)—Textile workers and textile employers throughout the South Atlantic seaboard region have been deeply impressed with the courage and "sticking" quality of the 4,000 cotton mill operatives at Danville, Va., who have firmly maintained their union although their strike was abandoned Jan. 29, that the experimental stage of union organization in the Southern mills is now past.

This is the view taken by Miss Estelle Lindsay, field organizer for the National Women's Trade Union League and one of the actual leaders of the strike at Danville, who was in conference April 13 at Washington headquarters of the League, that the Danville struggle marked a definite advance over the earlier one at Marion, N. C., and that great numbers of workers in other textile centers are waiting only for the invitation to go out and make the next fight with the same spirit shown in these two contests.

At Marion, the bosses evicted the strikers' families, wholesale, from company houses. By the time the Danville strike began, public indignation at the eviction method of punishing strikers had alarmed the cotton mill owners. Hence the Riverside and Dan River Mills allowed their strikers to continue to live in company houses—1000 of them—until the first 47 were evicted at Christmas—from September without payment of rent. To date, some 300 families have been driven out.

In Marion, pickets at the mill gates were murdered. While Miss Lindsay did not touch on this matter, it was obvious in Danville that the bosses and the local authorities wanted no repetition of the farcical trial which resulted in freeing the killers of these unarmed strikers at Marion. No Danville strikers were killed.

Representatives of the League have been encouraged for the early unionization of textile centers in the South by the calm determination of the Danville strikers to keep their union, even though only a few of them are now employed in the mills they left last September. A large proportion of the 4,000 have gone back to the farms or scattered to other mill towns, but they remain strong trade unionists, and their influence has affected most of the mill workers in that region. If funds were obtainable, to provide food for strikers' families, the workers in several other big mills in the Danville region would be out at once.

## Hillquit Speaks Tuesday At Edgemere, Rockaway

The Far Rockaway Socialist Educational Forum announces a timely lecture by Morris Hillquit on "The World Crisis." Questions and discussions will follow the lecture. Please note the address: 22-24 Beach 35th street, Edgemere, Long Island, Tuesday, April 21, 8:30 p. m.

## Pioneer Youth Theatre Party

Pioneer Youth of America requests that progressive, labor and radical groups make note that it has taken over the performance of Channing Pollock's "The House Beautiful" for the night of Thursday, April 30th (the eve of May Day) as its annual theatre benefit.

## C. P. L. A. Theatre Benefit

Based upon the Mooney-Billings case, "Precedent," which opened this week at the Provincetown Theatre, 133 MacDougal street, has aroused the interest of many radical organizations who protest against the continued incarceration of these prisoners of the industrial struggle. Among them is the Conference for Progressive Labor Action, which has arranged benefit performances for the two evenings, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21. Tickets may be obtained from Jennie D. Carliph, Room 2004, 104 Fifth avenue, New York City.

## The Bronx Free Fellowship

Dr. Jessie Wallace Hughan, Leonard D. Abbott, and Rev. Leon Rosner Land will address the 6 o'clock Fellowship Service at the weekly meeting of the Bronx Free Fellowship, Azure Masonic Temple, 1591 Boston Road, near East 172nd street, on Sunday evening April 19th. At the nine o'clock Open Forum, Judge Jacob Panken will speak on "The Need of Thinking Aloud."

## World Tomorrow Dinner

Carrie Chapman Catt, Harry Emerson Fosdick and John Haynes Holmes will speak at The World Tomorrow Semi-Annual dinner at Mecca Temple, on Friday evening, April 24th, on the subject, "Can the Church Stop War?" Kirby Page, editor of The World Tomorrow, is to preside and will announce the results from a questionnaire on War and Peace recently sent to 33,000 ministers.

## Trade Unionism In West Virginia Coal Taking Root Again; 13,000 Are Organized

Keeney Revives Fighting Spirit of Workers in Famed Battleground—Problem Is Immense

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—After the unorganized soft coal fields of Central and Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia is a surprising relief. If it were not for the complications that arise from having two unions in the state, the situation would be comforting. The organizing activities of the United Mine Workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and of the Independent West Virginia Miners' Union associated with the Howat movement may result in very perplexing problems for the labor movement.

West Virginia has always been a sharp challenge to the United Mine Workers. There the open shippers have concentrated their forces, there the bigger corporations have fortified themselves against union inroads. West Virginia is indeed a mountain stronghold of the coal barons. Along the creeks and runs lie the mining camps paralleling the railroad tracks. The point on the houses has been beaten by the rains, and coal dust has taken its place. The rooms are bare, sometimes papered with bits of wall paper or newspaper. The grass struggling with the smoke and coal breaks the desolation.

The miners are helpless in these isolated hollows in the mountains. The company owns their homes and the stores from which they buy. It often owns the whole town and that means the sheriffs and the deputy sheriffs too. If the men show signs of insurgency they are put out of their miserable shacks. If they ever harbor the thought of moving elsewhere it is soon scotched for lack of money. They are always in debt to the company for food, rent and equipment. It is not enough that their pay is brutally low but their wages are deflated by their having to purchase at the company store where prices are twenty to forty per cent higher than at private dealers. The law forbids a company to force its employees to buy from its store but economics is stronger than law. Even the indictment of a coal company at Morgantown last week will not change the system until the miners have a powerful enough organization to enforce the law.

The West Virginia miners used to be organized into the United Mine Workers of America, District 17, and had agreements with the operators. Socialist sentiment was strong. During the 1924 strike Frank Keeney and the other district officers found that they could not finance a continuance of a struggle to maintain high post-war wages in the face of the changed conditions in the industry. They claimed that the aid received from the International was inadequate and asked that the central organization take over the district, while they resigned. This was done. Subsequently the miners were whipped and starved back to work. The union in West Virginia collapsed. Keeney blamed the short-sightedness and arrogance of Lewis.

In the meantime, the United Mine Workers' organization was battered and shattered in other districts. Anti-Lewis movements arose. A "reorganized" United Mine Workers claiming it was the legal organization, was established in March, 1930, with headquarters at Springfield, Ill. Frank Keeney joined this movement. He was assigned to organize West Virginia. The organizers of the United Mine Workers with headquarters at Indianapolis, were also in the field under the captaincy of Van A. Bittner of Pittsburgh. Percy Tellow of the Lewis union found an opportunity to revive an organization at Ward on Kelley's Creek near Charleston, where the miners were incensed at a wage reduction and suffered other indignities. A strike was called. Later Tellow brought the men a settlement which they found unsatisfactory but in the resulting confusion many of the miners returned to work. At this point Keeney, whose residence is in Charleston, began to take a hand in the situation. He was approached by a committee of the disaffected miners and soon the strike was on again under the auspices of the Springfield United Mine Workers. The strikers began to receive relief. The final settlement was little better than the first but the miners retained their organization and placed confidence in Keeney and his backers.

An organization campaign through the Kanawha Valley around Charleston and proceeded. A wage cut at Whitesville gave the new organizers a chance to entrench themselves in that important mining town. Meetings were held in other places and the organization enrolled members constantly, though few paid dues. At the present time Keeney claims that thirteen thousand of the twenty-two thousand in the valley have joined the new movement. Last month a convention was held

which founded the West Virginia Miners' Union and voted to affiliate with a clean national miners' union should one be formed. Delegates have been sent to the St. Louis convention headed by Howat.

Up to a month or so ago this campaign of organization was chiefly financed by the "reorganized" United Mine Workers. Then, funds were cut off. A peace was patched up between the Lewis and anti-Lewis groups in Illinois as a result of a court decision giving legal recognition to the Indianapolis union. Keeney turned for support to other sources. In recent weeks finances have been obtained from sympathizers of labor. By May 15 when the movement of coal to the Great Lakes gets under way, Keeney expects to have the Kanawha Valley so well organized that the operators will listen to the miners' demands.

When the autonomy of District 17 was given over to the International Union, West Virginia was divided into District 31 in the north and District 17 in the south. Keeney's following is mainly in the southern district. In No. 31 Van Bittner and his organizers have been holding meetings regularly and signing up members who are exonerated from paying dues. Indianapolis is financing the district. In No. 17 the U. M. W. A. holds sporadic meetings but can make little progress.

West Virginia and Pennsylvania are now engaged in a neck-to-neck race for supremacy in the production of bituminous coal. The wages in Pennsylvania are low but those in West Virginia are so far inferior that the operators in the latter state can undersell their northern competitors in the lake trade. The differential in the railroad rate is too small to keep out the West Virginia coal. A strong union is needed to bolster up wages in West Virginia and indirectly relieve the pressure on Pennsylvania miners who have been hit by wage cuts. The unfortunate thing is that the bulk of the coal from West Virginia comes from the southernmost counties which promised to keep increasing their quota for some years. The lower portion of the state is entirely unorganized. The companies dominate completely. It is widely stated that a union organizer or sympathizer risks life and limb in that territory. Hardly an active union man has ever been to McDowell county. After organization has proceeded in the upper portion of the state the great task of capturing the non-union fields to the south must be begun.

## Canada Labor Lays Plans for Political Fight

Montreal Party Gains 2,000 Members in Single Month

(By A New Leader Correspondent)  
MONTREAL—Labor is organizing on a five-year plan for the next federal elections strengthening its position politically and economically in the municipal, provincial and federal fields. The Montreal Labor Party, official political wing of organized labor, has added 2,000 members to its enrolment during the past month and feels confident that within a year or two at least 25,000 new members, including the most important labor unions in the Dominion, will be organized. Labor Alderman Jos. Schubert stated last week at the inaugural meeting of the Delorimier Labor Club. The proceedings marked the formation of another of a series of labor clubs which are being organized in the various divisions of the city as a preliminary to additional units in the various important centres throughout the Dominion.

Briefly enunciated in the words of Schubert, the purpose of the Canadian Labor Clubs is to educate the people to participate in political action, and to elect men and women to office that can offer a remedy for the present economic evils arising out of a system once good, but which, like an old servant, has outlived its usefulness. "Our group is a living organism that is ever growing and transforming itself to the pressing needs of the day. It is only natural that political systems should express the changes that take place in our social and economic structure," he declared.

**Jobless Aid Asked**  
The Canadian Labor party decided at a meeting of the Montreal District Council to start a campaign for the adoption of a form of contributory unemployment insurance by municipal, provincial and Federal authorities.

A resolution will be sent to the authorities in Montreal, Quebec and Ottawa. Some form of meeting will be organized shortly for the purpose of giving publicity to the unemployed situation and the need of insurance.

A dinner will be given by the Montreal District Council of the Canadian Labor Party in honor of the three Labor members of Parliament, J. S. Woodsworth, A. A. Heape, and Angus MacInnis. The dinner will be held at Cafe St. Jacques, 415 St. Catherine street East, Saturday evening, April 25. Price is \$1.25 per plate.

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Remember, you should collect \$1.00 for a six months' subscription and \$2.00 for a yearly subscription. All subscriptions must be NEW and start not later than June 8, 1931. In case of a tie all tying contestants will receive the same prizes. All entries must be postmarked before midnight of June 1, 1931. Any mailed after that will not be counted.

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# New York City's Cyclical Investigation

REVEALED WHOLESALE CORRUPTION BRINGING A CIVIC AWAKENING; THE CITY INVESTIGATION AND THE ROLE OF THE SOCIALISTS

By Morris Hillquit

AGAIN New York has been struck by a spasm of civic awakening.

If the course of local politics was true to form and precedent, we shall have a long drawn out and sensational investigation of the city administration.

Management, extravagance, favoritism and corruption will be disclosed in many departments, and a close link will be established between public officials, the political machine and the criminal underworld.

The professional reformers, good-government advocates and the progressive clergy will hurl imprecations upon the head of the political maleducators. The newspapers will condemn the vicious political ring in headlines and editorials. The decent citizenry will be shocked and aroused. Scores of volunteer committees and organizations will spring up to purge the city government of its taint.

and to save the fair name of America's metropolis.

In the coming city election the awakening of the civic conscience will be cashed in. The Republicans to whom will fall the lion's share of the credit for the investigation and disclosure, will unite with the "independent" democrats and non-partisan reformers on a fusion ticket, and a "good-government" administration will be swept into office.

To the workers of New York the political change will mean nothing. The reform government will improve the outward style and tone of the city administration, but not its character and substance. It will eliminate some but not all of the graft, and will try to manage the affairs of the city on strict "business principles", i. e., on the basis of economy, primarily for the benefit of the taxpayers and the rich.

For the vital social functions of the municipality it will have no more sympathy or understanding

than the machine politicians of the democratic stripe. None of the reform governments with which New York has been blessed in the past has displayed a very keen interest in the health, education and well-being of the workers, their housing, parks, schools and playgrounds, or their relief in times of unemployment and distress.

None of them has shown any noticeable sympathy for the workers in their struggles for better living conditions, and particularly for workers on strike.

If anything they have been more capitalistically class-conscious than Tammany.

The "good government" administration will be more respectable and high-batted than the Curry-McCooney-Flynn regime, but even colder and less human. In one uneventful and tedious term of office it will kill the precariously awakened civic consciousness of the people to its customary slumber, and the democratic machine will resume its interrupted rule of the city.

In the meantime, however, there is danger that the voice of Socialism in the coming city election will be drowned by the roar of middle-class municipal reform.

These somewhat unpleasant reflections lead me to question the wisdom of our recent political tactics in New York.

For some years past we have largely emphasized the features of graft and corruption in the city government. I am inclined to believe we have over-emphasized them to the detriment of legitimate Socialist propaganda.

Socialism, of course, stands for clean government, and it is our just boast that no Socialist city administration, here or elsewhere, has ever been polluted by dishonesty or corruption. But it is not mere honesty in office that we exact from government. That is the pre-empted stock in trade of the middle-class reformer.

We know or ought to know that under the rule of both old parties

alike, government is a partnership between the party in power and business, by the implied terms of which business obtains certain privileges and immunities while the politicians secure a license to graft. It is only when the politicians grossly abuse the license that the righteous wrath of business is aroused.

Accordingly, municipal corruption in the United States has never been a Democratic monopoly. The Republican Party honors the tradition with equal fidelity in all important cities which it controls, and "reform" governments are not entirely free from the taint.

There are, of course, conditions in which the issue of municipal corruption may become of crucial tactical importance to the Socialist Party, and even sweep it into power. But as a rule such conditions arise only when the Socialist Party is the leading party of opposition. Where it is a weak third, the agitation will only result in turning out one capitalist gang in favor of another.

Our present predicament in New York is a case in point.

The impending legislative investigation of the city administration was to a large extent sponsored and fostered by Socialist agitation. Prominent Socialist leaders were among the first to make persistent public accusations of administrative dishonesty and corruption and Socialist leadership had an important influence, if not the initiative, in organizing the City Affairs Committee, whose charges against Mayor Walker unquestionably helped the passage of the legislative investigation. That investigation will be conducted under the leadership of the Republican Party, primarily for Republican political advantages.

It will undoubtedly bring forth not only the villains of the play, but also its popular heroes, probably in the persons of one or more of the investigators or their counsel, and it will be these heroes behind whom the "reform" forces will unite in a fusion ticket.

How will the Socialist Party fare in such a political set-up? Already the chairman of the City Affairs Committee has publicly disavowed any connection of the Committee with the Socialist Party, and expressed his complete confidence not only in Judge Seabury, counsel to the legislative investigation committee, but also in its chairman, Senator Hofstadter, who is, after all, just a practical Republican politician.

If either of these men or others of a similar type are named on the city ticket in 1937, what will be the justification and the chances of the Socialist ticket?

I submit these questions for the consideration of the party membership.

Between now and the next city election we have yet about two and a half years, time enough to formulate and to carry out a rational and effective program of policy and campaigning methods.

I do not advocate a fundamental change of tactics, but I feel

very strongly that we must shift the emphasis in our municipal program and propaganda. We cannot ignore the concrete issues of city government as they arise, but it is not our function to bolster up issues that are merely secondary from a Socialist and working-class point of view.

In the forthcoming investigation we should underscore every disclosure of dishonesty and corruption, always pointing out that the pot and the kettle are equally black.

Above all, however, we should stress those features of our municipal program which are of a distinctly Socialist character, the social functions and duties of the city towards the working population.

This is the vital contribution of Socialism to municipal politics and the only one that distinguishes us fundamentally from all other parties.

If we ever will win political power it will not be as a rival or ally of any middle-class reform movement, but as a distinct movement of Socialism and labor.

## How Racine Joined the Growing Ranks of Wisconsin Socialist Cities

By Charles D. Madsen

YEARS ago, the Socialist movement was fairly strong in Racine and several aldermen were elected by the party. But in the years after the war the party lost these positions and became weaker and weaker. The result was that a year ago, although the Socialist Party had a branch, there were very few active Socialists in the city. Almost the entire burden was borne by P. J. Christenson, John Sherman and two or three others. The movement seemed dead. The Milwaukee Socialists wanted to assist, and during several months about this time last year they put an organizer in Racine and several neighboring towns, but the results were not very satisfying. That experiment was dropped.

In the campaign of 1930, the Racine Socialists distributed several thousand Socialist Campaigners and ran several street meetings. There seemed to be considerable interest in Socialism at this time. Several hundred attended the last meetings. But when the time came to count the votes, the Racine Socialists wondered if their efforts had been wasted. There were barely five hundred votes cast for the Socialists.

The Socialist Party of Racine met after the election and decided that if it was ever to build up a party in the city, it must work out a way to put plenty of Socialist literature in the hands of the workers of the city. Having no money to spend, the Socialists were forced to try to raise enough money to put thousands of Socialist papers into the city each week. The question was taken up with the Socialist Party of Wisconsin.

At this meeting Sheriff Benson suggested an edition of the Socialist Campaigner for Racine which would be circulated from door to door each week and which would take advertising. They determined to take just enough advertising to pay for the paper and the services of an advertising solicitor. This edition was called the Racine Labor Appeal.

A few months before this an active and militant Irishman had joined the Party, Howard McConnell by name. He was putting new life into the work. He agreed to handle the advertising although he had never done anything of the sort before.

With this conference, the Socialist Party of Racine started to grow rapidly. Every week six thousand papers were distributed from door to door. The working people of Racine seized them avidly. They felt that at last they were getting the truth and that they could do something to strengthen themselves and better conditions for the working class.

The Socialist Party began to gain members. Thirty or forty attended every meeting and several applications for membership were received at each meeting. The Socialists felt that at last things were starting.

But still they did not realize their real strength. It was determined that the party would put up candidates in the primaries and endeavor to poll an increased vote over that received in the fall.

William J. Swoboda was nominated by the party for mayor. Swoboda is a young man, only thirty-three years old. He became interested in Socialism on his return from the World War. He had found that while he had been fighting to make the world safe for democracy, the men who had brought about the war were busy enriching themselves. As a result of much reading, he became a Socialist in spirit and was intimate with all the Socialist leaders in Racine. About a year ago he joined the party. Swoboda is a commission merchant with three stores. He has a wife and two small children.

After the question of nominating a mayor had been settled, the party tried to get enough men to run for aldermen. The comrades did not want to take up the bat-

## Mayor Armstrong Joins Forces With Socialists—Candidate of Business Interests Gives Way Before Voters' Revolt

### Socialist Mayors of Wisconsin Cities



EARL WEAVER of Beaver Dam.

MARTIN GEORGENSON of Manitowish.

E. J. ANDERSON of Iola.

DANIEL W. HOAN of Milwaukee.

WILLIAM J. SWOBODA of Racine.

ner nominated for the board of supervisors which controls the affairs of the county. But the party was not in condition to secure signatures as several wards did not succeed in getting their candidate's names on the primary ballot.

Wisconsin cities have an unusual system of electing city officials. In the primary anyone may run and the two highest then run it off in the final election. No party labels are permitted.

As a result of the primary was to give to the present mayor about five thousand votes. Mr. Herzog received about eight thousand votes and the Socialist candidate received about two thousand votes. On the night before the election, Daniel W. Hoan, the Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee, spoke to about a thousand people in one of

the large halls in Racine. By law this eliminated Swoboda but the Socialists succeeded in nominating two supervisors. These were Otto Fehlbeg and Emil Sommers.

A short time after the primary Mr. Armstrong, the present mayor, came to the Socialists and explained that he was through with politics and if Swoboda wished to accept his position, he would have him certified by his campaign committee as is permitted by the law. Mr. Armstrong is an intimate friend of Mayor Hoan's and has always been sympathetic with the Socialist movement.

This offer so astounded Racine Socialists that they knew not what to do. They communicated with Milwaukee and held a joint meeting with the Milwaukee Socialist

leaders. At this meeting it was decided to accept the offer as long as no strings were attached.

While these matters were pending, the Racine Socialists staged a monster unemployment demonstration where several thousand people listened to Al Benson, the Socialist Sheriff of Milwaukee County, and Frank Crosswhite.

Ten days before the election papers were filed that placed the name of William J. Swoboda on the ballot. The Socialist Party prepared to put up a hot campaign but without much hope of success for Herzog had secured a majority of all the votes cast in the primary.

All the enemies of Herzog, who was the candidate of Horlick's Malted Milk, came out for Swoboda. The Sheriff of Racine County spoke for him over the radio.

Several of the aldermen urged his election and Armstrong did all in his power to swing his strength to the Socialist.

At the first rally of the campaign, Oscar Ameringer spoke to the people on the importance of electing Socialists. The hall seated six hundred. It was filled by nearly two thousand people—five hundred were turned away.

During the rest of the week several speakers went down from Milwaukee and numerous local men urged the election of Swoboda. All the time the Socialist strength increased while Herzog had difficulty in keeping his men in line.

The Herzog forces backed by certain big capitalists spent thousands of dollars in an attempt to elect Herzog. Every voter in Racine was called on the telephone at least once and told to vote for Herzog. In one building he had thirty-one telephones operating.

On the night before the election the Socialists hired Memorial Hall which seats thirty-five hun-

dred people. When the opposition heard of this move, they offered six hundred dollars for this hall for which the regular rent was one hundred dollars. But the Socialists had a signed contract.

At this last rally Mayor Hoan, Sheriff Benson, Swoboda, and several others spoke. The hall was filled to the doors and a side hall was opened. In all at least four thousand people heard the speakers and thousands more were turned away.

The next day the voters went to the polls. The Herzog forces were so confident of victory that they hired a hearse with a coffin in it labeled, "Swoboda" to drag through the streets in a victory parade.

But when the votes were finally counted it was found that Swoboda was elected by one of the largest majorities which has ever been given to a candidate for mayor. And the vote was the heaviest in the history of the city. Out of twenty-three thousand reg-

istered voters nearly twenty thousand voted. The final vote was: Swoboda, 10,794; Herzog, 8,933; Swoboda's majority, 1,861. Swoboda carried eleven of the fifteen wards.

When the returns began to come in and it was evident that the Socialists were winning, hundreds of Socialists stood in the streets with tears of joy in their eyes. At last, they felt, the workingman was to get a fair deal in Racine.

One of the most significant features of the victory is the fact that Racine has always been considered a conservative stronghold. The "progressive" element of the Republican Party has lost the City in every election.

The election of a mayor was obtained by waging a straight Socialist campaign. The growth of Socialist sentiment is indicated by the fact that our two candidates for supervisor were swept into office although in one case all the political dopesters had declared that it was impossible. George

Mensing, the Socialist candidate for the Supreme Court, received over four thousand votes in Racine County. Though everyone knew that there was no chance of his election. Both these victories indicate that there is a real Socialist sentiment in Racine.

At the time of the election the Socialist Party had only seventy-five members. But in the last few weeks many of the leaders in the labor movement had joined the party. The Socialist party of Racine will make no drive for members at this time but will investigate each applicant carefully and make sure that he is a Socialist and not merely a job hunter.

In order to build up the strength of the Party and to give the administration an organ of their own, arrangements have been made with "The Milwaukee Leader" to publish a Racine edition. Several hundred subscriptions have been secured already and it is the aim of the Racine Socialists to give it a larger circulation than either of the capitalist papers which are published in Racine.

For the Socialist party of Wisconsin this is only the beginning of a series of triumphs to come.

## The Legislative Balance Sheet

By Louis Waldman

N. Y. Lawmakers True to Form; Mr. Fearon Becomes Leader

THE crushing defeat of the Republican Party in New York in the last election does not seem to have taught the Republican-controlled legislature anything.

The achievements of the legislative session just ended are probably no worse than those of the past ten years. That is not saying much. The extraordinary suffering of 1931, required a new policy. Measures looking to the immediate alleviation and prevention, in the future, of unemployment were uniformly ignored and assigned to the legislative "grave-yard". Universal unemployment insurance not only failed of passage. Not even a committee to investigate the question was appointed. Friends of old age security will be disappointed in the failure of the legislature to lower the age at which old people are entitled to receive pensions from seventy to sixty years. Were such an act made law, it would have helped, not merely the dependent aged, but to some extent the unemployed by taking the aged out of industry.

Improvements in the Workmen's compensation Law, which have been urged by Socialists, Progressives and the State Federation of Labor for the past decade, failed of enactment. Occupational diseases which should have been made compensable as a matter of justice to such workers are still left unprotected. The high cost of insurance and the resulting diminution of benefits to injured workers because of the failure to establish the State Fund as the exclusive carrier of compensation insurance will continue as before. In spite of the universal demand in the present crisis for the decrease in the work-day and for the raising of the age limit at which children may enter industry, in order to absorb a part of the unemployed, the legislature did nothing about it.

If the producers have fared badly at the hands of the legislature, the consumers did no better. The public utility interests seem to have had their way as usual. No serious attempt was made to overturn the evils which a legislative committee in the session of 1930 reported, after due investigation, to exist in our state. The excessive charges which our utility companies are making for services and commodities under their monopolistic control have not been reduced, and the legislature created no machinery to give our people relief from these exactions.

The power interests of our State will not be checked by anything contained in the so-called St. Lawrence development law. On the

contrary, as that law stands now, the State will supply to these companies cheaply developed electricity to be sold by the companies at what they regard a reasonable rate to the consumers. How reasonable these rates are we know from bitter experience. The average is the highest in the country. We pay 2c per kilowatt-hour more than the rest of the country.

The lack of policy of the Republican controlled legislature on water power is one of the high marks of the bankruptcy of that party. Whatever they did on the St. Lawrence Development project was a reluctant yielding to Gov. Roosevelt, who, himself, had no clear-cut and well worked-out plan for the beneficial utilization of the great water power resources of the State. His own commission differs from him on the practicality of his plan and he has not yet supplied any facts or reasons why the State should invest a billion dollars in developing the St. Lawrence and then, with hat in hand, beg the monopolistically controlled power industry to distribute this electricity.

The New York City transit bill, which may bring unification a little nearer in the City of New York, gives the transit interests more than it does the city. The requirement that there shall be as high as six and no less than three members of the transit companies on the Board of Transit Control would be incomprehensible if the record of the Republican party as a friend of the utility interests were not so well-known.

They did not make any provision that would improve on Mr. Untermyer's financial plan or give the city leeway to make adequate modification of that plan in the interest of the city. For instance, the excessive price of over seventy million dollars proposed in the Untermyer plan is legalized by providing that the accumulated and unpaid preferentials to the company, which will be cancelled shall be computed in valuing the property in determining the purchase price.

Although the public has been systematically mulcted by the milk trusts, and the farmer denied fair compensation for his product, the legislature did not take a single step to reduce the spread of approximately ten cents between the selling price paid the farmer for his milk and the price the city consumers are forced to pay. For this the Democrats as well as the Republicans must share full responsibility as neither the Governor

nor Democratic minority have taken any steps to compel the legislature to act.

Although close to 300,000 poor depositors were deprived of their life savings in the greatest bank collapse in the history of the country, the legislature heartlessly yielded to the influence of the banking interests and refused to provide for the protection of thrift accounts in the same way as savings accounts are now protected in the savings banks.

It should be remembered that had the 1930 legislature acted on the recommendation submitted to them by Moreland Act Commissioner Moses, investigator of the City Trust failure, for the segregation of thrift accounts, the failure of the bank of U. S. with all its hardship might have been averted. Perhaps not as dramatic as is the requirement for the segregation of thrift accounts was the demand to prohibit banks from making loans of other people's money to their own affiliates. The existing practice inevitably degenerates into speculation by the insiders of the banks with the bank's money.

One of the good acts of the legislature was the appointment of the committee to investigate corruption in New York City. Credit should be given for this act. But it should be borne in mind that the investigating committee was appointed only after it was made clear to the Republican legislature that it was good politics to do so. Democrats played politics all through the session. Their tactics of obstruction of all measures to cleanse New York City of corruption, such as their opposition to the immunity measure and the Republican majority in refusing to enact legislation keeping judges out of business.

The selection of Senator George Fearon as leader of the Senate, to succeed Senator John Knight, who

has been elevated to the Federal bench, indicates that those reactionary policies of the legislature will not be changed. Mr. Fearon is more reactionary than Mr. Knight. His entire legislative record is one of hostility to progressive legislation.

On the very eve of his election to the important post of leader of the Senate, he was the sponsor of a bill which, if constitutional, as I believe it is not, would strike at civil liberties. The time-honored and traditional American right for man and woman with grievances to parade and make their grievances known through placards and emblems would be made unlawful under this Fearon bill. In the judgment of some chief of police, those placards or emblems are in contempt of American institution. From my personal recollection of him, there is too much fear in Fearon. It is fear of progress, fear of new ideas, fear of men who differ from him, fear of slighting special privilege.

The 1931 legislature emphasizes the need for a new political realignment for a party controlled by and representing the interests of the great mass of consumers and producers.

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**National Notes**

**MAY DAY TO BE CELEBRATED**

Mass meetings, demonstrations and parades will be staged throughout the country by the members of the league on May 1, the international labor holiday. Preparations have been made by the New York, Chicago, Milwaukee and Reading sub-divisions of the Y. P. S. L.

In a call issued by National Secretary Switkes, he says: "The doom of the capitalist system has been predicted by the Socialists for decades. Though today some of the leading industrial nations are powerless to avert the impending destruction of their system and the substitution of the new, warless, classless society for which thousands of idealists the world over have given their liberty and their lives-Socialism.

"On May 1 the solidarity of the workers of every nation will be celebrated. Workers of every calling, of every race, creed and country will give the call of their class, lay aside their tools and march out of the factories, mines and mills to fraternize with their fellow workers. It is indeed most fitting and proper that we the American young workers and students join the millions of other old and young Socialists in the celebration and observance of this international labor holiday. Elect your committees to arrange for the commemoration of this event in a manner befitting the occasion. Wherever possible cooperate with our parent body the Socialist Party."

**JAMBOREE PROGRAM**

Committees have gotten under way to secure the advertisements and greetings for the souvenir journal to be issued for the Yipsel jamboree and conference to be held on July 11 and 12 in Reading, Socialists, labor and sympathetic business firms will be approached by solicitors for their "eds," greetings or compliments. It is expected that the many friends of the young Socialist movement will be liberal in subscribing for space in this special program which will get into the hands of thousands of Socialists and sympathizers. Individual party members and Yipsels can secure the blanks from their local secretary or from the National Office, 628 Walnut Street, Reading, Pa.

**CLEVELAND**

As a sign of the important part the young Socialists are playing in the development of the Socialist movement witness Cleveland where Max

**R. Wohl, an active Yipsel** has been nominated for city council. The members of the Cleveland circle have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the campaign and have pledged themselves to double their efforts to make victory of the Socialist ticket possible. Watch the movement grow in Cleveland.

**MILWAUKEE**

Organizer Henry Schuller of the North Side circle sends this news: "The members of our circle have done their share in getting out the vote and making the splendid victory possible in the recent school board elections. We had a large delegation present at the monster unemployment demonstration and expect to repeat at the May Day celebration."

"Comrade Pohman of Jefferson County, Wis., will put on a number of musical numbers and present a movie show featuring Yipsel actors at our meeting on Friday, April 17. He is trying to create an interest in the organization of a Yipsel circle in his home county and will get our cooperation to see this program realized. The baseball season is just about to open and a complete playing schedule has been arranged. In all 30 games will be played during the season. In the league we have five Yipsel teams entered and expect our team to cop the banner, cup and emblem which will be presented to the winners to attest their victory."

**LOS ANGELES**

"Our city officers are now touring the state for the purpose of organizing Socialist Party branches and Yipsel circles and as a result they resigned their positions. Our new officers are W. Goldberg, executive secretary, and Martin Cohen, treasurer. Comrades Rush and Sheehan have already covered La Habra and Santa Anna and report great results, meetings held, members enrolled and spirit of fight and win instilled in the old members," writes the new secretary.

**READING**

The card party held by the circle on Saturday, April 11, was successful financially and otherwise and the committee in charge was given a vote of thanks by the members for their services. On Saturday, April 18 the baseball team will be out for spring practice. "We intend getting a crack team up for the jamboree," says Organizer Harold Seibert. Circle Reading had a discussion on "The Effects of the Moving Pictures on Our Education" at its meeting Tuesday, April 14. Next week a social will be held.



## A BIT ABOUT BEGINNINGS

IN preparation for the writing of a short book on some outstanding Socialist figures, I have been studying the life and times of Robert Owen, sometimes called "The Founder of British Socialism."

The "Socialism" of Owen was of course a rather vague and misty Utopianism centering around the plans of the British philanthropist-manufacturer for Community Villages, or what his more radical critics called, "parallelisms of paupers."

Money was to be abolished, the workers were to receive the full share of their product and the education of workers' children to a new sort of social order was to be stressed.

It is in connection with these Utopian plans of Owen and his followers in the upcoming Trades Unions that the word "Socialism" first appears in the works of British economists, but it was long after Owen's time that the word took on any scientific significance.

It is interesting to recall that Owen came forward with his scheme for a new social order at a critical time in the history of the development of capitalism which in many respects is parallel to the situation with which we are confronted today.

The long Napoleonic Wars came to an end in 1815. Returning soldiers were dumped onto the labor market and at the same time the new machines, especially in the cotton industry, were throwing thousands out of work in the very cradle of the Industrial Revolution. "Merrie England" was anything but that. A committee to discuss the causes and cures of unemployment was formed, consisting of men notable in public life and the new industries and on this committee was Robert Owen, whose factory village at New Lanark in Scotland was a model and the envy of manufacturers everywhere. To the committee's consternation, Owen came in with a plan for unemployment relief which contemplated nothing less than an entirely new way of living in a cooperative and non-competitive commonwealth. Naturally the landowners and industrialists who up to now had been more or less sympathetic with Owen's benevolent paternalism, would have nothing to do with any such revolutionary project. So he was forced to seek his audiences among the workers who were beginning to form trade unions and also to carry their fight for manhood suffrage into the political field. In this manner in England, Socialism, Cooperation and Trade Unionism, the three chief weapons in the arsenal of the proletariat were joined together at the outset. To be sure there were the usual differences in philosophy and outlook between the three, and I don't want to oversimplify the situation. The fact remains that today these three must somehow be brought together again.

I debated at the cooperative apartments of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers up in the Bronx last Sunday with a young man who held that all political action was futile and degrading and you can have a cooperative commonwealth by simply forming consumers and producers into nation-wide cooperatives. It would not be fair for me to give my version of the debate here. I might be a partisan reporter. But I cannot for the life of me understand the position of the active hostility which some of the most articulate supporters of the Cooperative movement take towards Socialism. With the workers of this country engaged in a struggle with such an adroit, nimble-footed and resourceful enemy as the present capitalist system, to abandon so obvious and powerful a weapon as political action seems to me, at any rate, sheer folly. I think that the trade unionist who does not support both Socialism and Cooperation is blind to his best interest. I think that the Socialist who does not do all in his power to further a true cooperative enterprise is untrue to his Socialist training and I think that a Cooperator who does not work and vote for Socialism in the political field, just doesn't know what Cooperation is driving at. We have altogether too many unSocial Socialists and non-Cooperating Cooperators.

But here I go and get hot and bothered about things like Cooperation and Socialism when matters of real importance are afoot.

I have just read a piece in the paper saying: "Two very busy days confront President Hoover. He must make three speeches and throw out the first ball in the opening of the American League season at Washington." The first speech will be delivered at the annual meeting of the American Red Cross. If I were Herbert I would far rather have a ball pugily around a lot than try to think up something complimentary about the work of the Red Cross. Though I do not doubt that Herbert will have plenty of perfume on hand to sprinkle the "Greatest Mother of Them All." Heaven knows she needs it.

If making three speeches in two days constitutes Mr. Hoover's ideal of a busy time, he just ain't been anywhere. The average Socialist speaker can make three speeches in one day without drawing breath and in the course of them actually say something.

You know that the Presidential speeches are all canned up in advance and handed to him by one of his many secretaries. He doesn't make speeches. He just stands up there and reads platitudes out loud to a microphone, and he can't even do that with any zip.

Then there is a new development in our Great Anti-Spaghetti campaign instigated by Catha Leynson. From Montreal, Samuel Adams writes us that: "Although Sunny Italy has given the world some of its greatest art and literature, its noblest achievement is King Spaghetti. The 'dirty Duce' may eat spaghetti, but so did Massini, Garibaldi and Matteotti of revered memory and so do Francesco Nitti, Guglielmo Ferrero and the rest of the Duce's mortal enemies. Comrade, before you take the fatal step, look on both sides of the shield. Mussolini may come and go but spaghetti will go on forever. Viva Spaghetti! Join the Society of the Friends of Spaghetti!"

We hope that this appearance of organized opposition to our great movement will not in any way discourage Catha and the anti-Spaghetti bunch. All pioneer movements flourish on persecution. Up and at 'em Catha. The darned stuff is no good anyway. No matter who eats it. One of the best guys we know loves cauliflower, but the mere sight of cauliflower is an active depressant upon us.

The dirty business of beating up two of our Yids, Jesse Gross and Bernard Rifkin, by the Brooklyn police is having an aftermath unexpectedly unpleasant for the noble cops. Now it is the turn of the arresting officer to explain to the resisting kids whose crime consisted in distributing pamphlets in praise of peace and in mildly objecting when they were hauled off to the Bastille.

The defence of Rifkin and Gross costs money. A hall has been given through the good offices of the Reverend Dr. Mayer-Oakes of the Fourth Unitarian Church at Beverly Road and East 19th street, Brooklyn, and there on the night of April 25th, a dance will be given to raise funds for the defence, which we urge you all to attend.

McAlister Coleman.

## From Our Foreign Correspondent

# Briand and the French Presidency

By Emil Vandervelde

BRUSSELS.

DURING the month of May the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, meeting together in Versailles, will elect a President of the Republic in place of M. Doumergue.

This event is of some importance. The President of the French Republic doesn't possess the power of the President of the United States of America. But he has more power than the constitutional Kings of England and Belgium. In Belgium, for instance, when a ministerial crisis arises the King automatically turns to the leader of the majority party. In France the President has an absolutely free hand when it comes to choosing the man he entrusts with forming a government; and in a country where, with the exception of the Socialists, the lines of demarcation among the parliamentary groups are decidedly vague, this choice may sometimes determine whether the policy swings toward the Right or toward the Left.

There is a great deal of talk about M. Aristide Briand as the successor of M. Doumergue. Everybody agrees that if he accepts his election is certain on the first ballot. But, will he accept? Those in touch with him are inclined to believe that he will. It would mean leaving Geneva; but it would also mean continuing to control foreign policy in Paris without being hampered by the instability inherent in ministerial functions. For, it must be admitted, if the government of M. Pierre Laval falls it is by no means certain that M. Briand will remain at, or return to, the Quai d'Orsay.

The economic agreement between Austria and Germany has drawn much hostile comment in the Paris papers. And it hasn't met with any too favorable a reception in Berlin. I was able to check up on this while attending the funeral of our lamented comrade, Hermann Mueller.

It is true that the German Socialists, like all Socialists everywhere, have no objections in principle—quite the contrary—to the "Anschluss." Under a system of treaties claimed to rest upon the right of self-determination by the

## Reactions to the Austro-German Agreement; Bright Political Prospects for Socialism

nations, how can it be admitted that only Germany and Austria haven't this right?

But the fact remains, nevertheless, that according to the terms of the Treaty of St. Germain, the "independence of Austria is inalienable," and that, furthermore, and especially according to the Protocol of 1922, France, England and Italy lend aid and assistance to Austria on the express condition that it doesn't alienate, directly or indirectly, its economic independence.

Now the British jurists consulted by Foreign Secretary Henderson were able to convince him quickly that Foreign Minister Schober of Austria and Foreign Minister Curtius of Germany were sustaining an indefensible thesis when they contended that a tariff pact, hardly camouflaged, between Germany and Austria, reduced to 6,000,000 inhabitants, wouldn't make the latter dependent upon its powerful neighbor.

Besides, in Socialist circles in Berlin and Vienna, which had received no advance information about the proposed deal, there is a revolt against these methods of secret diplomacy, especially at this moment when attempts are being made to lay the basis of an European union. It even appears that the Socialists were not the only ones kept in ignorance of what was being planned. M. Curtius would have liked to handle foreign policy by himself, as Stresemann used to. He had said mighty little about it to Chancellor Brüning and the latter, convinced that in the near future he would have to negotiate with France and England about the Young Repatriation Plan, was, it seems, disconcerted to hear of the pact of Vienna.

At all events, there is no doubt that the reaction produced in Prague, Paris and, above all, London has given food for thought to those who already believed they had confronted Europe with a fait accompli. No longer is any objection being raised to having the League of Nations take up the matter. The hope is being voiced that, after the rather lamentable



From the Journal of the Intl. Transport Workers Federation  
Arming for the Next War

failure of the third economic conference, the Austro-German project at least will have the result of making plain the need of going to the aid of Austria, now floundering in inextricable difficulties. The Socialists, at least, are in agreement to "Europeanize" the problem. Preoccupied, first of all, with working for the rapprochement of Germany and France and with trying to increase the chances of success for the Conference on Disarmament of next year, they are glad that the British Labor Government has put this ticklish affair up to the League of Nations.

The main thing is to avoid having the decision to intervene appear like defeat or humiliation for one of the parties concerned. From this point of view we cannot help but approve what our Austrian comrades said in their Arbeiter-Zeitung:

"It would be foolish to fail to understand, in Vienna and Berlin, that any weakening of the position of M. Briand in the internal policy of France strengthens the international opposition of France against the plan for an Austro-German customs union. But it is necessary also that it be under-

stood in London, Paris and Prague that the domestic situation in Austria and Germany must be taken into consideration. If the two German states are forced to drop their plan by a dictate, it will mean an increase in the wave of nationalism in Germany and a favor to the monarchists and clericals in Austria."

So, no new "dictate," but a solution inspired, above all, by the general interests of Europe. We should understand French public opinion very poorly, especially in the provinces, if we thought these questions of foreign policies occupied the attention of the masses over-much.

As M. Siegfried has very well said in a recent book, "Tableau of Political Parties in France," the average Frenchman isn't greatly interested in foreign affairs. Poorly informed by the big militarist and super-patriotic newspapers, he too easily imagines that his deep and sincere love of peace lacks its counterpart on the other side of the Rhine. Through speculation upon his dread of war he is induced to prepare for war. But, in spite of everything, his desire for peace dominates him. There is no doubt that the numerous victories won by the Socialists in local elections during the last few months, even in the rural districts, were due not only to the discontent caused by the agricultural crisis but also to the fact that the masses of the country folk were confident that they would carry on a ceaseless and merciless battle against the menace of war.

A very prominent politician, once a Socialist but no longer one for many years, said to me the other day: "In next year's elections your friends will win forty or fifty new seats."

If this prophecy is correct, the Socialists will be the strongest group, by far, in the next Chamber and perhaps M. Briand, as President of the Republic, will ask Leon Blum or Paul Boncour to form a government, with a Socialist premier. Unless—and this seems to us the more probable—the first effect of the striking success of the Socialists will be to line up all the bourgeois forces against them, with or without the clericals of the Extreme Right.

## Scanning the New Books

Edited by LAWRENCE ROGIN

# Fact And Fiction About The Coal Industry

## Communism in the Mine Fields

By Tom Tippet

MISS ROCHESTER has written a valuable analysis of the coal industry. (Labor and Coal, by Anna Rochester, International Publishers—\$1.) Apparently she is a skilled research worker and knows how to dig into capitalistic records to make a case against the private owners from their own books. She has read all the latest coal data and marshaled it in such a way that the average worker can understand the plight of coal. A valuable contribution to current literature on the subject is made by an excellent explanation of the financial statements of coal corporations showing that although a coal company may report a working deficit—in reality there is plenty of profit being made. The financial and credit structure of the industry is the best section of the book. Miss Rochester buttresses her indictments against the owners with plenty of evidence so that as one reads her attack on the industry, he is easily carried along to her conclusions.

There are four chapters in the book devoted to the struggles of the coal diggers for unionization and the growth and decline of the United Mine Workers of America, including the story of the reorganized union established March 10, 1930. The author makes very little distinction between the Lewis union and the new organization led by Howat, and she points to the Communist miners' union as the only pure organization to lead the coal diggers to victory in their struggle with the coal operators and world capitalism.

Miss Rochester draws upon Communist fiction to make her case here. I think that in fundamentals she is not far wrong in her discussion of the two non-Communist unions, although many others will disagree with her because she is careless with facts. It is too bad Miss Rochester doesn't know more about the Communist union in coal. She has its case painted in false colors, and, for those who know, that misrepresentation will injure her whole book. There is no Communist union in the coal industry except on paper. It has no following in Illinois where it made its dramatic bid for a following with its strike in 1929. Miss Rochester says, in describing this episode, that 10,000 mine workers struck in southern Illinois under the communist National; not one miner struck in southern Illinois where the union's strength was greatest; 2000 miners came out in the Taylorville district when the Communist pickets appeared and after their own followers had failed to respond to their strike call. But many of the 2000 were

striking not with the Communists, but because the militia had been brought in to put down their strike. When the soldiers left, the miners went back to work; the law clapped the Communist leaders and a lot of other miners in jail—the union had no strength and no influence to do anything about it. (That ended the Communist union in Illinois.)

I am writing this review in Illinois at a time when the miners are again going through a union crisis. After having traveled up and down the state attempting to locate a rank and file leadership, I have seen no evidence of the Communist union although many of its old followers and sympathizers are still here. They are as bitter against the Communists—who they say betrayed them with false hopes, false strength and stupid leadership—as they are against the other leadership.

It is a pity that Miss Rochester didn't stick to facts in the labor section of her work as she did in the discussion of the owners. She could have uncovered plenty of evidence to prove her case against the U.M.W. of A. But she had to create a case for the Communists and she had to create that case out of Communist reports. She doesn't read those accounts apparently as cleverly as she reads coal corporations' financial statements.

However her book is valuable for its coal analysis and for its careful description of miners' living conditions in the non-union fields—and for its exposition of union corruption.

Young Circle League to Give "Squaring the Circle" Apr. 25

"Squaring the Circle," by the Russian, Valentin Katayev, will have its American premiere on April 26th at the New School for Social Research, 68 West 12 street. The play, which satirizes contemporary Russian life, will be given by the Young Circle Dramatic Studio under the direction of David B. Rossi. "Squaring the Circle," adapted for the English stage by Sadie Engel and Helen Rossi, describes the lives of two young Communist couples, who struggle with the present moral and social problems of life under the Soviets. The forthcoming production however has evoked a great deal of interest in theatrical circles, since Mr. Rossi is known to be an authority on the modern Russian drama having recently returned from study of the stage in Moscow.

## In Brief

THIS book (The Activities of the International Federation of Trade Unions, 1927-1930. Publishing Office of the International Federation of Trade Unions, 31 Tesselshadestraat, Amsterdam, 1931. 395 pages.) contains the Proceedings of the Fifth Ordinary International Trade Union Congress, which was held at Stockholm in July, 1930, the Report of the Conference of the International Trade Secretariats, the Report on Activities submitted to the congress and of the resolutions passed by it. It is especially important as containing the discussions of the "Economic Policy" of the I. F. T. U., its draft Social Legislation Programme and the addresses given on "Disarmament and Peace" and "The Trade Union Movement in Countries without Democracy".

The above publication is not only indispensable to all trade union and labor organizations, but it is also, on account of its comprehensiveness and the wide scope of the many questions with which it deals, of great interest to politicians and economists of all shades of opinion.

Intending purchasers are referred to the authorized commission booksellers of the I.F.T.U. in their country or to the publications department of the I.F.T.U., Tesselshadestraat 31, Amsterdam, W. The book can be obtained in the United States of the Publicity Agency of the I.F.T.U., Bruno Wagner, 243 East 84th Street (Labor Temple), New York City. Price, 80 cents.

Probably no other factor is more powerful in support of economic mastery and political reaction than historical myths. In the United States they have come to have almost a religious sanction. They cultivate a self-like resignation to exploitation and illegal usurpation of power by public officials. Scoundrels with graft to conserve subscribe to these myths with pious fervor. During the World War a Temporary member of the Board of Aldermen of New York City time after time threatened Socialist members of that body with lynching because they were not ortho-

dox in this matter yet that member was only interested in accumulating cash for himself and his associate brokers.

In the past twenty years many American scholars have gone back to the sources of American history and, aided by new researches, have presented a new and more candid interpretation. Of this type of work Professor Harry J. Carman's first volume of a new text book is important. This volume (Social and Economic History of the United States, 1500-1820. D. C. Heath & Co., \$4) covers the period of development from the handicrafts to the factory system.

The merit of the volume lies not in anything strikingly new in interpretation but the skill with which he knits a mass of material into an unfolding narrative of economic, social, political, and cultural evolution. Climate geography, economics, politics, literature, religion, the arts, the professions, education and social struggles present a synthetic interpretation of American history. In the process old myths go into the discard like a housewife peeling the layers of an onion. The volume is a mosaic of many materials handled by a craftsman of skill and judgment and as a text book it will be of inestimable service in the cause of modern enlightenment.

There are 22 maps and charts and 51 illustrations that illuminate the text. Those who obtain the first volume will look eagerly forward to the next one with the hope that the complete work will find its way into many educational institutions.

J. O.

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## The Chatterbox

Being no great respecter of personages it will be definitely facile for me to go through the pages of reporting to you folks (who were either geographically or economically too far removed to learn for yourselves), what took place at the Rand School twenty-fifth anniversary banquet, last Sunday evening. [Wow... That means I'm catching my breath. With such an involved statement for prologue, you might as well prepare yourselves for an interminable dissertation.]

And really, I am doing nothing more than follow one of the first rules I learned when studying English composition in my sophomore days. That is, always to match your style of expression to the subject matter you propose to describe in your writing.

But if you have been brave enough to read as far as this, let me reward you with these paragraphs.

Each of twelve hundred guests, colored in tint from the faintest of auroral flush to the screaming howl of scarlet, paid out two dollars admission to soup, fish, toothpicks, coffee and four separate speeches from famous educators on the infancy of modern education. Several hundred of us piled up four thousand dollars more as a birthday present for the school. There were the usual interchanges of mutual compliment and felicitations, numerous telegrams of good wishes read, and much restlessness between contributions from the speakers' table, and checkbooks of the audience. At the close of the feast, the cloakrooms were jammed with waiting guests, and the sidewalks outside the hall cluttered with groups seeking taxicabs or a way out for American college students.

And with this I could quite adequately end my news story, and remain happy.

The newswriters of the metropolitan press who had gathered to get some fresh tang for the morning columns to counteract the scandal and smut of the hour, went away with much scribbling and no hope for justice from the city editor. Nothing longer than several inches appeared anywhere. Which was as might be expected. So few people are interested in education anyway. And whatever the four speakers had to say had been said so many times before, by them and others. It just was another case where the man had failed to bite the wolfhound... and so there was no news.

But ah! dear friends, your humble columnist was there. And this time, as on many another occasion, your shrewd sniffer had followed a subtle scent and come upon rare experience. Again, the American and United Press have been utterly scooped. In this manner:

Let us thank Dr. Melkeljohn of Wisconsin for his splendid sermon on Idealism. His preliminary attempt to build the banquet into an aeroplane, with Prof. John Dewey as the propeller, Morris Hillquit as the rudder, Algonzo Lee as the pilot, and Prof. Laski and himself as the east and west wings, left us in great doubt as to where the gas tanks were situated. He could not have meant all of the twelve hundred before him. Although if one were to judge by the noise that broke out over the hundred odd tables while Morris Hillquit was heroically gathering up the offering, there was enough fuel in the audience for a trip to anywhere and back.

There was something cruel about Dr. Melkeljohn's eloquence. It sounded bitter with disillusionment. It had a touch of weariness quite rare in one who has not as yet declared himself for Socialism. There was something wrong with the social order that made education so cut and dried an affair of self seeking toward a selfish end. He still belonged to the "There is something radically wrong" group.

He left me sad. As did John Dewey, whose mind I have always revered, even if I give irreverent consideration to his age. Every word of the venerable philosopher dragged the chain and ball of seventy years. His talk was wise, correct and uninteresting. When I am old, I hope somebody much younger than myself will re-tell all the wisdom and nonsense I have said and written, if any such there be worth repeating, while I nod on approvingly and puff great grobs of smoke against the ceiling.

Comrade Hillquit had the manifold task of delivering an academic lecture on Socialist Methods in Education, preparing the diners for a collection, and then the very severe process of extraction. Manfully, prodigiously he waged the unequal fight. Four thousand dollars is a big sum to procure in these ugly times. He managed to scowl out that amount from almost sterile ground. Twelve hundred or five thousand may come to our banquets, but there are only the faithful few hundred who give and give. . . . and then start giving all over again. Head the list with Mr. and Mrs. Morris Berman, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Halpern, Mrs. Stokes, John T. McRoy, Morris Hillquit, himself, and down from their hundreds of dollars to Jimmy Higgins of the 9th, 11th, and 41st A. D. and his five or two dollar mite . . . and you have touched the end of the ore vein. It was a hard job . . . and well done . . . Say I.

Ah, but now we come upon the scoop. Prof. Harold Laski of Great Britain and the University of London spoke and made the hit of the show. Smart, lithe and smooth as a paragraph of Oscar Wildean prose, he stood before us and puffed forth perfect rings of epigrammatic smoke.

Either he understood his audience perfectly, and had organized his sallies with devilish precision, or he is possessed of enough veritable genius to audaciously fling out glittering bubbles of sound, that seem solid enough until touched by reason or reality.

G. B. Shaw has that great talent, undeniably. But he has at least grown old enough and big enough to admit some of the palpable tricks he uses in the sleight of hand act of being smart.

Because, so few of us can really remember any of the brilliant intangibilities Prof. Laski blew out, I will hold forth before you again the high point he reached in his flight of paradox and epigram. "Propaganda is the method we use to deceive our friends, without ever deceiving our enemies." I think that a pretty fair recollection of it. The statement is clever enough to intrigue such folks as still read Ibsen and sigh over the vasty depths of human nature problems. Or those lost souls who wander about from one serious thinking forum to another, from one oom pah cut to another haven for rudderless mentalities. Or for those inarticulate worshippers of what is just a little higher than the articulate. Most puns and epigrams are just that at best.

I have been wedded to propaganda for all my adult years. It has been a sane and particularly honest marriage. Finding nothing in my beliefs that is not the full truth, I surely have not lied to my friends when I convinced them to believe with me. Nor have I fooled my enemies. They recognize the evident menace of its truth to their well-being and their power, and fight back bitterly, viciously, unceasingly. What they use, in the form of retaliation, may wear the outer cloak of propaganda. Their substance is desperate deception.

Nor would the converse of the proposition apply on their side. Their propaganda appears to deceive no one but their enemies and only through that devious process, are the workers, their historic foe, kept at the farce of appearing to be their friends.

So you see, how thoroughly untenable, and obviously inaccurate the brilliant bonnet of even an Oxfordian savant can be on just the mere touch of a dumb dora like,

S. A. deWitt.



# Mooney Frame-Up Made Living in Drama

The Stage

The Movies

Music

## The Week On The Stage

By Joseph T. Shipley

### CALIFORNIA JUSTICE

"PRECEDENT." By I. J. Golden.

PLAYS that are propaganda are best when they are frankly that, without disguise; and "Precedent" is a simply told, straightforward picture of the significant episodes in the framing of Mooney, union organizer, in California in 1916. It carries well in the theatre, is written not only with sympathy but with intelligence, with knowledge of the stage's problems; it is well cast and excellently directed. Even the New York Times praised the play and the performance.

There is today no dispute over the facts of the Mooney-Billings case—of which it is the aspects that concern Mooney which are presented. The first act is a series of pictures: the Delaney (Mooney) household; the interview between Mooney and the head of the street car company whose employees he was organizing; the office of that gentleman when the preparedness parade was bombed—with the determination to convict Mooney of that crime; the conversion of two helpless citizens into perjuring witnesses against Delaney; the courtroom and conviction. In each scene, the author knows when to stop; he carries the action to the suggestion of its close, then refrains from pressing the obvious. The result is an interesting, appetizing start.

The second act gathers dramatic force, with Fremont, interested in seeing justice done, pursuing Supreme Court justices and prosecuting attorneys, using the knowledge he gathers as a newspaperman to force them to join in his plea for a pardon. And the last act shows how, at the fatal moment in the governor's consulting room, they again (held by the power that has planned the entire crime of convicting an innocent man) turn against the forces of justice, deny their promises, and influence the governor, despite the incontrovertible evidence, so that, instead of granting a pardon, he commutes the death sentence to one of life imprisonment.

An epilogue shows Mooney (for no one thinks of the man as anything else; the names used on the stage are not intended as more than legal disguise) in prison today, fifteen years later, waiting for some action that will give an innocent man his freedom. His freedom he may yet have—though none now knows how; this play may help to stir the forces that will demand and secure it; but the years, the health, the work in the good cause he has lost are gone as far beyond recall as the lives of Sacco and Vanzetti, and the other martyrs in the cause of labor and the people.

"Precedent" is a vivid and stirring picture of one of the outstanding crimes, committed in the name of justice, by those who thus keep their hold upon power in this land.

**EARLY SUMMER COMEDY**  
"THE WISER THEY ARE." Comedy by Sheridan Gibney. With Ruth Gordon and Osgood Perkins. At the Plymouth.

When two philanthropists, of opposite sex, decide (for reasons, despite what they say, quite undiscoverable) to wear off love affairs and try true love, there is no telling what may happen. By the conventions of this sort of comedy, of course, has done nothing more than flirt and get engaged now and then; Bruce has been less reticent with his admirers. But when all the girls' lovers and all the man's "hearts" are assembled at a farewell supper—and when one of each appears in

### Rapidly Forging to the Front



In "God's Gift to Women" starring Frank Fay, now at the Strand, Joan Blondell has one of the leading roles. This young player's popularity is increasing with each new role she enacts.

ardent pursuit on the honeymoon liner—what faith can the girl have in her husband—what faith can he have in his wife?

It's all a silly entanglement, of course, artificially arranged and beneath the standards of serious criticism; but anyone who checks those standards with the hat-box is likely to have a pleasant time. The wiser they are, the easier to fool, I suppose is the saying that fits; but Ruth Gordon, adroitly overplaying, makes Trix a mixture of stupidity and prettiness, a mixture that makes the languid audience of these warming days. The dialogue Mr. Gibney has written, though seldom sparkling, is seldom dull; and Osgood Perkins (though why he did leave "Tomorrow and Tomorrow"?!) aids it with his deft deceptions. The whole company, indeed, plays well in the spirit of the lively trifle, so that the Plymouth is likely to see it proved that "The Wiser They Are," the harder we fall.

**Barthelme in "The Finger Points" and F. & M. Britton Gang Are Feature Attractions At the R.K.O. Hippodrome**

The Hippodrome is presenting Richard Barthelme in "The Finger Points," the gangland-news-paper drama of hush money by the authors of "Little Caesar." Fay Wray is Barthelme's new leading lady in this screen contest of the press versus the underworld. Regis Toomey and Robert Elliott also play important parts.

The first class vaudeville bill of many favorites includes Frank and Milt Britton and Gang of Fun; Joseph E. Howard, the beloved composer; Madie and Ray, youthful Westerners; Chris Carlton, the conjurer; Fortunello and Cirillino, the Happy Hooligans; Lydia Barry, the Irish songstress; Easton and Howell, colored laugh-smiths, and Aussie and Czech, a Spanish novelty.

**Nazimova to Be Guest Artist With Civic Group**

Madame Nazimova will appear in "The Cherry Orchard" at the Civic Repertory Theatre as a guest artist for two special performances during the week of May 4th. This week, which will mark the end of the Civic Repertory Theatre's fifth season, will celebrate its closing by presenting a series of plays that have been the outstanding successes of the repertory.

**8th MONTH!**

**The Greeks Had a Word For It**

A Comedy by ZOE AKINS

Presented by William Harris, Jr.

Sam H. Harris, Jr. Then, 42nd St. W. of B'way.

Eves. 8:30; Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:30

**MADISON SQ. GARDEN**

TWICE DAILY 2 and 5 P. M.

Including Sundays, Beginning

**LAST WEEK**

Engagement Ends Sunday Night, April 26

**RINGLING BARNUM BROS. and BAILEY CIRCUS**

Presenting for the first time in N. Y.

## "Cimarron" Begins Its 3rd Week at the RKO Mayfair; Worth Seeing

"Cimarron," Radio Pictures' dramatization of Edna Ferber's popular novel of the early days of Oklahoma, is being held for its third week at the R-K-O Mayfair at popular prices. Richard Dix stars as Yancey Cravat; Irene Dunne as his wife, Sabra.

Among the many things that critics found outstanding in contributing to the remarkable success of the picture is the faithfulness with which the production follows the novel. When in the very early stages of preparation, only one general order effected the picture—Radio executives insisted that "Dramatic license must not be taken with 'Cimarron.'"

Ten days of fascinating reading matter was condensed to two-hours' absorbing entertainment without loss of the Ferber style, motif or story.

"Millions have read and loved Miss Ferber's novel," says Wesley Ruggles, the director. "I feel that they have every right to a faithful screen version. No expense has been spared in securing talent, backgrounds, locations and settings that will accurately reproduce the realism of the first Oklahoma land 'run' and the colorful days that followed."

### Annual Gold Medal Is Offered by Channing Pollock

The Board of Education of the City of New York has accepted, and will award annually, a gold medal offered by Channing Pollock, author of "The House Beautiful," to the student writing and publishing in any high-school paper the most constructive and up-looking criticism of any play produced in New York. This award, which is to be known as the Channing Pollock Medal, is now being designed by Tiffany, and will shortly be displayed at the Tiffany Studios.

### "Wien, du Stadt der Lieder" Stays On at Little Carnegie

Laughing and pleased theatre-goers continue to leave the Little Carnegie Playhouse where the Viennese musical comedy, "Wien, du Stadt der Lieder," or "Vienna, City of Song," has been playing to capacity houses and enters its sixth week this coming Wednesday. So full of engaging humor, melodious songs and clever dialogue is this latest importation from Germany, that many patrons announce their intention of coming back to view the picture a second time. Paul Morgan, Charlotte Ander, Max Hansen, Siegfried Arno and Sigfrido Hofer are in the excellent cast.

"A smash hit...one of the happiest theatre evenings I ever experienced."  
—Walter Winchell, Daily Mirror.

Morris Green & Lewis Gensler present

**JOE COOK**

In his Newest Maddest Musical

**Fine and Dandy**

ERLANGER'S THEATRE

14th St., W. of B'way, Phone PE-4-7023

Eves. 8:30; Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:30

**THE BEST PLAY ON BROADWAY!**

Crosby Gaige presents

**CHANNING POLLOCK'S**

**Smashing Success**

**THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL**

with MARY PHILLIPS-JAMES DELL

THEATRE

APOLLO West 42d St.

Eves. 8:30; Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:30

NITES \$1.00 to \$3.00

Wed. Mat. \$1.50 to \$2.00

"As cheerful a frolic as the present season has offered."—Sun.

DWIGHT DEERE WIMAN presents

**MARY BOLAND**

In her newest, gayest comedy

## To Thrill the Cameo's Audiences



A. A. Milne's "The Perfect Alibi" finally reaches the Cameo's screen after successfully playing on Broadway stages for two seasons. Dorothy Boyd and Frank Lawton are shown in a tense scene from this mystery drama.

## "Tabu," Beautiful Film Of South Seas, Stays On At Central Park Theatre

In spite of the prediction by certain gentlemen of the press that "Tabu" might meet with "critical appreciation and public neglect," this silent film, directed by F. W. Murnau, continues on its way up at Leo Brecher's Central Park Theatre, where it is said to be attracting large and appreciative audiences. It enters its sixth week at the "movie by the park" this coming Tuesday.

The very fact that "Tabu" is without dialogue is believed by the management to be an important factor in its success. Evidently there are still many people to whom a well-told story in pantomime represents ideal screen entertainment; then too, the charm of Murnau's Polynesian fable, the naturalness of its native characters, its lovely settings, and Dr. Riesenfeld's delightful score, all play their part in attracting the customers up to 59th Street.

## "Skandal Um Eva," Henny Porten's Latest German Talkie, at the 8th Street

Henny Porten's latest German talking picture to reach this country, "Skandal Um Eva," directed by G. W. Papp, will have its premiere at the Eighth Street Playhouse on Friday, April 17th.

## 6 CHARACTERS

IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

with WALTER CONNOLLY and EUGENE POWERS

BIJOU THEATRE

42d Street, West of Broadway

Eves. 8:30; Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:30

## "THE GREEN PASTURES"

MANSFIELD

57th St. W. of B'way

Nights at 8:30

Wed. Mat. \$1 to \$2.50

Sat. Mat. \$1 to \$2.50

Seats at box office, mail or telegraph orders, 5 weeks in advance

## "PRECEDENT"

A PLAY ABOUT JUSTICE

Provincetown Theatre

Curtain 8:15 Mats. Saturday

133 MacDougal St.

Phone: SPring 7-5064

## "You Said It"

with LOU HOLTZ

MARY LAWOR SMITH ROBERTI CHORUS OF 50

SEATS 5 WEEKS

CHANNING'S 46th ST. THEATRE

Eves. (ex. Sat.) \$1 to \$1.50; Wed. Mat. \$1 to \$2.50; Sat. Mat. \$1 to \$2

A Theatre Guild Production

**MIRACLE at VERDUN**

By HANS CHLUMBERG

Martin Beck

THEA. 45th ST. W. of 8th Ave.; EVES. 8:40

MATINEES THURSDAY AND SATURDAY, 2:40

A Theatre Guild Production

**GETTING MARRIED**

By BERNARD SHAW

GUILD THEATRE, 52nd ST. W. OF B'WAY; EVENINGS AT 8:40

MATINEES, THURSDAY AND SATURDAY AT 2:40

10TH CAPACITY WEEK HIT!

**MOROSCO** Then, 45 St. W. of B'way, Ev. 8:30

Matinees Wed. and Sat. at 2:30

**LIONEL ATWILL**

in THE

**SILENT WITNESS**

with

Ray Strick—Portmanteau Bonanova

"Crisp written...well played...kept the audience on its toes clean through to the final curtain."

—Arthur Dahl, Herald Tribune.

Forrest Theatre

49TH STREET, WEST OF BROADWAY

Eves. 8:30

Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:40

"In the Best of Families"

Risque...but screamingly funny

Forrest Theatre

49TH STREET, WEST OF BROADWAY

Eves. 8:30

Mats. Wed. & Sat. 2:40

with

ZITA JOHANN and HERBERT MARSHALL

HENRY MILLER'S Then, 134

Eves. 8:40; Mats. Wed. Thrs. & Sat. 2:30

## Lew Ayres in "The Iron Man" Opens at Globe; Jean Harlow Is Co-Star

The most sensational rise to stardom during the past year has been that of Lew Ayres, who is starred in Universal's stirring picture, "The Iron Man," which opens Friday, April 17th, at the Globe Theatre.

One picture made him an idol in the eyes of film goers throughout the nation. That was "All Quiet on the Western Front," and today Ayres is regarded as the "And" of the year.

In "Iron Man," he portrays a likeable youngster who shows much promise of becoming a champion lightweight, but who is doubtlessly held back by his show-girl wife whom he loves. He is taken up by a real fight manager, played by Robert Armstrong, and at the first decision he loses, his wife, Jean Harlow, leaves him to settle down to a little serious fighting, and eventually becoming the lightweight champion of the world.

And with the title—comes his wife, to indulge in the luxuries of his new position, for he still loves her. But one of her boy friends is also a fight manager, and she soon inveigles the champ to sign the new manager, the beginning of the end.

### Little Carnegie Exhibits Works of Ernest de Nagy

An exhibition of the works of Ernest de Nagy, noted Hungarian artist, is now on display at the Little Carnegie Playhouse in conjunction with the Viennese musical comedy, "Wien Du Stadt der Lieder," or "Vienna, City of Song." Nagy, now on a world tour with his paintings, is, as yet, somewhat unknown to American patrons of art. This is his first American exhibition and consists of some 38 pieces including portraits, still life, and landscapes.

### THE NEW IDOL

of the screen

**LEW AYRES**

He was a guy with a sock-proof jaw...but his head got too big for his halo.

**"IRON MAN"**

With JEAN HARLOW

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Written by the author of "Little Caesar"

A Universal Picture

Globe Theatre

3rd Episode—"Gold"—Johnny Farrell

### 3RD MONTH

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S

Thrill of a Lifetime

**TRADER HORN**

ASTOR Bway & 43rd St. Twice

Daily 2:40, 8:40. Three

times Sun. & Holidays:

3, 6 and 8:40.

SEATS 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE

All Seats Reserved

### CAPITOL

Broadway and 51st Street

Major Edward Bowes, Mgr. Dir.

2nd BIG WEEK

**Norma Shearer**

In a soul drama more wonderful than "The Divorcee"

**Strangers May Kiss**

with ROBERT MONTGOMERY

Nell Hamilton, Marjorie Bonham, Irene Rich

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Production

ON THE STAGE—"Tivvies" Revels

with Mitchell and Durant, Chester Hale Reutter, Capitians

BUNCHUK and Orchestra

Heart Metrophone News

HA HA HA

**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

"CITY LIGHTS"

Continuous 1:30-4 A.M.

**50¢ & \$1**

GEO. M. CONAN Theatre

B'way between 42nd & 43rd St.

## Popular Pair in New Picture at the Globe



Universal's new picture "The Iron Man" is now at the RKO Globe theatre. Lew Ayres, of "All Quiet" fame, is assisted by a capable cast which includes among others, that beautiful blonde, Jean Harlow.

## A. A. Milne's "Perfect Alibi" Grace Screen at The Cameo Theatre

A. A. Milne's successful mystery play, "The Perfect Alibi," which played for two seasons at the Charles Hopkins Theatre, has been made into a talkie by Radio Pictures. It starts at the R-K-O Cameo Theatre today, Friday, April 17.

The Milne play, the kind of plot which exposes the murderer before the audience but not to the participants, scored a tremendous success on the stage, becoming the outstanding mystery hit of the decade.

## ROXY QUICK MILLIONS

7TH AVENUE AND 60TH STREET

Fox Movietone Racketeer Romance

with SPENCER TRACY, SALLY EILERS, Marjorie Churchill, John Wray

—ON THE STAGE—

Triumphant return of Patricia Bowman, also Renoff & Renova, Anne Tyson, other personalities in "LAND OF LAKES," "THE FISH BOWL," "HAPPY FEET," "THE ANVIL CHORUS" with ROXY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Erno Rapee conducting, ROXYETTES, ROXY BALLET CORPS, ROXY CHORUS

All Seats Till 1 P. M. Today—50¢

Starts Sat. April 24

Constance Bennett

"BORN TO LOVE"

**CAMEO**

42nd St. & B'WAY.

Two hearts against death...giving all to smash the mysterious crime that mocked the law—and almost-defeated justice.

A. A. MILNE'S SENSATIONAL SUCCESS

**THE PERFECT ALIBI**

RKO Radio Picture

"A Bargain at Popular Prices."

N. Y. AMERICAN

**GEORGE ARLISS**

in

**'THE MILLIONAIRE'**



### Lilting Music in German Talkie at 5th Ave. Playhouse

Talking Picture Epics Inc., sponsors of such unusual talking pictures as "Simba," "Hunting Tigers in India," Governor Pinchot's "South Seas" and others, is introducing to American audiences an outstanding German talking and singing film entitled "Ein Maedel Von Der Reeperbahn," which begins a run at the Fifth Avenue Playhouse this Saturday, April 18.

Lilting music, clever direction and character delineation are the features of this production, which so interested American audiences in New York that it achieved a four weeks' run in the Central Theatre on Broadway.

### Little Theatre Opera Co. To Present "The Waltz Dream" as Final Offering

"The Waltz Dream," the Viennese waltz opera by Oskar Straus, composer of the "Chocolate Soldier," will be presented as the final opera of the season of the Little Theatre Opera Company at the Heckscher Theatre, on Monday evening, April 20, for a week's engagement. This production brings to a close the company's third Manhattan season and fourth

### Moves to Fox Brooklyn



Will Rogers' latest and funniest picture is the Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court. It begins a run at the Fox Brooklyn starting Saturday, April 18th.

This appears to be the first time that the "Waltz Dream" has been presented in New York since it was heard, soon after its Viennese premiere, at the Broadway Theatre in 1908.

### New History Society's International Costume Ball Is Given Tonight

Donna Maria Coromila-Stratos, dramatic soprano, will sing at the International Costume Ball of the New History Society in the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton on Friday (April 17) evening. Mme. Stratos is the widow of the first Prime Minister of Greece, and will appear in the Pageant of Humanity. Others appearing in the Pageant are Miss Ruth S. Denis who will interpret the West in a dance of her own creation; Yeichi Nimura, in a dance of the East, and Miss Cliveleen Gleson as the Spirit of the New History.

### Leo Bulgakoff to Produce Play by Leonid Andreieff

A play by Leonid Andreieff hitherto unfamiliar to American audiences and readers will be brought to first performance on the New York stage late this month by the Leo Bulgakoff Theatre Associates, according to an announcement by Mr. Bulgakoff last night. Originally titled "Thought," at the time of its first production on the stage of the Moscow Art Theatre in the Spring of 1914, just before the war, this play by the author of "He Who Gets Slapped," "Ana-

### In German Films at 5th Ave. Playhouse



Starting today, the 5th Avenue Playhouse will show "The Girl From Reperbahn," the all-German dialogue film which recently ended a two-dollar run at the Central. Trudy Berliner has the leading role.

thema," and other masterpieces of modern drama will be known as "Devil In The Mind" when it has its first performance in this country some time during the week of April 27 at a theatre to be announced later.

"Devil In The Mind" will not only mark the first independent activity this season on the part of the Leo Bulgakoff Theatre Associates but will also bring Mr. Bulgakoff himself to the stage as an actor for the first time in two seasons.

### Don Azpiazu—His Influence On American Jazz

Last year the "Peanut Vendor," This year "The Voodoo." The new influence on American Jazz—Don Azpiazu's rhythms are sweeping the country. From coast to coast, we have the music of Cuba.

"Jazz or ragtime starting years ago in the back parlor of saloons, on the Mississippi or on levees, or in African Jungles, has now reached a stage where it is accepted by the greatest musicians throughout the world," said Don Azpiazu, whose Havana Casino Orchestra is at the Palace Theatre this week.

Don Azpiazu's influence has put a new touch to American Jazz, starting it at the low places, as mentioned before, and progressing through parlors and cheap dance halls. Paul Whiteman, with tricky harmonies and unusual effects, started the present day jazz mania. The next influence that fell on American Jazz, was that exerted by George Gershwin, whose "Rhapsody in Blue" eliminated the black-sheepishness of American Jazz. And now, the new influence is that of the Cuban rhythm and tempo.

"The Voodoo," their newest number, was a sensational success this week at the Palace Theatre. Every interviewer singles this number out as the greatest hit in the past year for music numbers.

## UNION DIRECTORY

### BONNAZ EMBROIDERS UNION

Local 68, L. L. G. W. U. 18th St. Algonquin 4-3877-2658. Executive Board meets every Tuesday night in the office of the Union, 22 E. 15th St. President: Leon Hattah; Manager: William Altman; Secretary: Treasurer.

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LOCAL No. 8. Office and headquarters: Brooklyn Labor Lyceum, 949 Wiloughby Ave. Phone 3484. Office open every Saturday from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. Regular meetings every Friday evening. Charles Pflaum, Fin. Secy; Frank F. Lutz, Treasurer; Andrew Strick, Agent; William Weingart, President; Charles Webb, Vice-President; Samuel Potter, Secy.

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Local 174, A.M.O. & B.W. of N.A. Office and Headquarters: Labor Temple, 243 E. 84th St. Room 12. Regular meetings every 1st and 3rd Sunday at 10 A.M. Employment Bureau open every day at 6 P.M.

### CLOTHING CUTTERS UNION

A. O. W. of A. Local "Big Four" Office, 40-42 W. 17th Street; Stuyvesant 5544. Regular meetings every Friday at 210 East Fifth Street. Executive Board meets every Monday at 7 P. M. in the office. Philip Orloffsky, Manager; L. Machlin, Secretary-Treasurer.

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550-552-554. 3rd Floor. Telephone Algonquin 5500-524-5. Sydney Hillman, Gen. President; Joseph Schlossberg, Gen. Secy-Treas.

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Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union, Office, 123 Second Ave.; Phone Orchard 9560-1-2. The Council meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. S. Hershkovitz, Secy-Treas. Operative Local 1. Regular meetings every 1st and 3rd Saturday. Executive Board meets every Monday. All meetings are held at 123 Second Avenue, N. Y. C.

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OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA. Amalgamated with the American Federation of Labor, 9 Jackson Ave., Long Island City, N. Y. Tel. HUNTERS' COURT 3088. Morris Kaufman, General President 2nd Secretary.

### FURRIERS JOINT COUNCIL OF N. Y.

LOCAL 101, 105, 110 and 115 of The INTERNATIONAL FUR WORKERS OF U. S. and C. 23 West 31st Street, Penn. 6-7322. Meets every Tuesday at 8:00 P. M. B. Merkin, Manager.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Local 2. International Fur Workers Union. Office and headquarters: 949 Wiloughby Ave. (Brooklyn). Reg. meetings 1st and 3rd Mondays. Charles Hershkovitz, President; Sam Kroll; Business Agent, H. Kaimikoff; Secretary, Samuel Mindel; Treasurer, H. Hershkovitz.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

8 Van Ness Place. Auspices Socialist Party, Chelsea Branch. Tuesday, April 21, 9 P. M. Dr. Alexander Fichandler, "Social Problems of the Orient," 100 West 72nd Street. Auspices, Socialist Party, Upper West Side Branch.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Thursday, April 23, 9 P. M. Ethelred Brown, "Determinism," 600 West 181st Street. Auspices, Socialist Party, Washington Heights Branch.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Sunday, April 19, 8:30 P. M. James H. Maurer, "What the Socialist Administration is Accomplishing in Leading Pa." Chairman, Samuel Orr; Paradise Manor, Mt. Eden avenue, near Jerome avenue. Auspices, Socialist Party Bronx Branches.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Tuesday, April 21, 9 P. M. David Kaimikoff, "Current Events," Workers' Circle Center, 818 East 140th Street. Auspices, Socialist Party, 1st A. D. Branch.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Tuesday, April 21, 9 P. M. Henry Fruehr, "Current Events," Hollywood Gardens, 886 Prospect avenue. Auspices, Socialist Party, 3rd A. D. Branch.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Thursday, April 23, 8:30 P. M. Dr. Leon R. Land, "Can War Be Stopped Under Capitalism?" Hollywood Gardens, 886 Prospect avenue. Auspices, Socialist Party, 5th A. D. Branch.

### FOUR DRESSERS UNION

Thursday, April 23, 9 P. M. August Claessens, "The Genius of O. Henry," 20 E. 11th Street. Auspices, Socialist Party, 8th A. D. Branch.

### HEBREW TRADES

175 East Broadway; Telephone Ordy. 3-8810. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, 8 P. M. Executive Board same day 8:30 P. M. M. Tigel, Chairman; M. B. Weiss, Vice-President; M. Feinstein, Secretary-Treasurer.

### THE AMALGAMATED LADIES' GARMENT CUTTERS' UNION

Local No. 10, L. L. G. W. U. Office, 109 W. 30th St.; Telephone WIS 8011. Executive Board meets every Thursday at the office of the Union. Maurice W. Jacobs, President; Samuel Perlmutter, Manager-Secy; Morris W. Jacobs, Chairman of Finance; Board; Philip Oretsky, Asst. Manager.

### LABOR SECRETARIAT OF NEW YORK CITY

A Cooperative Organization of Labor Unions to protect the legal rights of the Unions and their members. 8 John St. Room 2706-10 New York. Board of Delegates meet at the Labor Temple, 243 E. 84th Street, on the 1st Saturday of each month at 8:00 P. M.

### THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

8 West 16th Street, New York City. Telephone Chelsea 2148. Benjamin Schleinman, President; David Dubinsky, Secretary-Treasurer.

### LAUNDRY WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Office 62 E. 106th St. Phone, Lehigh 4-1111. Second and 4th Mondays, 10 A.M. President, Sam L. Kaufman, Manager and financial secy. Hotelman, Recording Secretary J. Mackey.

### LITHOGRAPHERS

OF AMERICA. New York Local No. 14. Office, 100 West 14th St. Phone, WALKER 7764. Regular meetings every second and fourth Tuesday at Arlington Hall 19 St. Mark's Place. Albert E. Castro, President; Patrick J. Harkin, Vice-President; Frank Schel, Fin. Secretary; Emil Theodor, Secy. Hostman, Recording Secretary.

### MILLINERY WORKERS' UNION

Local 24. Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers International Union. Office, 660 Broadway. Phone Spring 4458; uptown office, 30 West 37th Street, Wisconsin 1270. Executive Board meets every Tuesday evening, 8 P. M. Manager, S. Spector; Secy-Treas., Sam Kroll. Recording Secretary, A. Mendelsohn; M. Goodman, Lucy Orr, Chairman of Executive Board, Morris Hershkovitz; Secy. of Executive Board, Sam Hodas.

### MILWAUKEE WAGON DRIVERS' UNION

Local 184, L. L. G. W. U. Office, 259 W. 14th St. City. Local 584 meets 1st and 3rd Thursday at 8 P. M. in the month of April. Brotherhood Hall, 210 East Fifth St. Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 8 P. M. in the month of May. Hall, 210 E. Fifth St.

### NECKWEAR CUTTERS' UNION

Local 6369, A. P. of L. 2 East 15th Street, Algonquin 7678. Regular meetings every Wednesday evening at the Labor Temple, 243 East 84th Street. President, David Kaimikoff; Vice-President, S. J. Rosenzweig; Fin. Secy and Treas. Wm. R. Chilling, Business Agent.

### NECKWEAR MAKERS' UNION

Local 11016, A. P. of L. 7 E. 15th St. Phone, Algonquin 7022. Joint Executive Board meets every Tuesday night at 8:00 P. M. in the office. Ed. Gottesman, Secretary-Treasurer.

### PAINTERS' UNION

Local 499, Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators. Office, 100 West 14th St. Regular Meetings every Wednesday evening at the Labor Temple, 243 East 84th Street. President, David Kaimikoff; Vice-President, S. J. Rosenzweig; Fin. Secy and Treas. Wm. R. Chilling, Business Agent.

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## THE SOCIALIST PARTY AT WORK

### The National Office of the Socialist Party is located at 2653 Washington Blvd., Chicago, Ill.

### California

William H. Henry of Los Angeles, announces that he has resigned as manager of the New Era.

W. R. Snow, former state secretary for Illinois, is working for the party in northern California. He reports good street meetings in San Francisco and Oakland, with organization work well under way in Oakland. A big debate has been arranged, with Ernest Untermann taking the Socialist side.

In the southern part of the state, Roger Rush and Hyman Shénanin have just completed a campaign to strengthen the La Habra local, adding nine new members and talking to every member of the party and every registered Socialist to build further spirit. Three meetings were held.

### Illinois

Plans are rapidly taking shape for the annual May Day celebration which this year will be held at the Ashland boulevard auditorium by the Socialist Party and fraternal organizations on a far larger scale than for the past few years. It will be held Friday evening, May 1.

The outstanding function in Socialist circles in Chicago, this spring, is to be a banquet on May 17 at the Workers' Circle Lyceum in honor of Norman Thomas. The price per plate is \$1, and tickets, which may be secured at county headquarters, are going rapidly. All signs point toward this affair being the largest banquet of the party in Chicago since the war.

### Colorado

This city is on the map with a thrifty local of 26 members. The Chamber of Commerce has denied us the right to hold street meetings, to parade, or to use the auditorium for meetings. That body has been informed that Socialists will not permit it to strangle free discussion.

Frank Crossworth of New York, spoke to a hall crowded to capacity although we had only three days to make arrangements and a number of new members were obtained. The Socialist Party is here to stay and we expect to nominate a full ticket for the next election. The local secretary is J. F. Landis, 45 Block 10.

### Massachusetts

The Greenleaf local reports more new members joining since the first of the year than for the previous ten years.

BOSTON

James H. Maurer will be the speaker on May Day at Tremont Temple at 82 Tremont street, at 8 o'clock, on "Our Remedies for Unemployment."

STATE OFFICE NOTES

The state convention will be held Sunday, May 24, at the American House, at 56 Hanover street, Boston. Boston local has been successful in securing the services of our vice-presidential candidates in 1928, James H. Maurer, for their May Day meeting, Friday evening, May 1, at Tremont Temple, at 8 o'clock.

Comrade Maurer's life long service to the labor and Socialist movement has endeared him to every militant worker for social justice. His topic will be the remedy for the "Socialist Remedy for Unemployment."

The Boston Yipsels and party members are working enthusiastically to make the meeting a success, and we have circulated the unions of greater Boston, the Workers' Circle and Workers' Sick and Death Benefit Societies as well, and our regular mailing list.

### CONNECTICUT

The party and Workers' Circle branches will celebrate May Day with Samuel E. Beardsley of New York as the leading speaker. Beardsley is a former state secretary of the party and is also a prominent official of the jewelry workers union. A speaker from the Jewish Socialist Verband of New York will also address the meeting which will be held at Hermon's Hall, 138 Crown street, Friday, May 1, at 8 P. M.

Local New Haven will meet Monday evening, April 20, at Fraternal Hall, 19 Elm street. A new organizer will be elected. It is expected that the election of state officers of the party will be on hand. Plans will be made for entertaining

the state executive committee at the Workers' Circle Educational Center, 72 Legion avenue, Sunday, April 26, at 6 P. M. At the close of the business session of the local meeting a speaker from Yale College will address the meeting.

### UTICA

Norman Thomas has been scheduled to speak at Utica on the evening of April 22 in connection with the special election campaign being waged there. Ray Newkirk will be the Socialist candidate and Charles E. Horan the Republican candidate in opposition to Samuel H. Miller, Democrat, who was ousted from the State Senate on account of fraud perpetrated in the Socialist primary last fall by his supporters. Miller, who was elected by virtue of this fraudulent nomination, declares that he will be "fired" by the voters of his district, but there is said to be much indignation in Onondaga County at calling a special election, since a large expense would have been saved the taxpayers had the filing of the Republican candidate been deferred until the general election this fall.

### BUFFALO

Local Buffalo will meet Thursday evening, April



With the miserable failure of capitalism, only a party frankly representative of the laboring population has a future. The moral for all our comrades is, "Go thou and do likewise."

cheap as it would be if we had complete Socialism. The farmers who rent the stock must still operate the capitalist way in most other respects. So their cooperative dairy charges enough for milk to pay the

quent edition of "The New Leader" the date of "Time" magazine where this article originally appeared? This for verification.

Milwaukee, Wis.

JOSEPH F. PROCTOR