







## North Dakota Would Secede from Union

Nearly four years ago Senator Moses of New Hampshire referred to discontented farmers of the West as "sons of wild jackasses." Senator Grundy of Pennsylvania also declared that the representation of the west at Washington should be decreased so that the capitalist East should be assured of control at Washington. These attacks on the western farmers stung like a whip and some hot words were exchanged between the two sections.

North Dakota last week, through the State Senate, replied by pushing a resolution that recalls the secession resolutions adopted by southern states before the Civil War. At that time it was an agrarian South against a capitalist North; today it is an agrarian West against a capitalist East. In the former period it was big landed magnates in rebellion; in the present it is working farmers

The resolution was published, not adopted; it is a threat, not a decision, but it is significant for all that. It suggests the secession of 39 states from the Union, setting up a new government, and leaving nine states—Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, Rhode

Island; and New Jersey—to carry the old Federal banner. It denounces the "financial East" which had "become rich at the expense of the rest of the Union." In one respect the resolution is even more drastic than any adopted by legislature in the Old South. It urges that the proposed new government should have "no treaty or trade relations, no business or social connections" with the capitalist East.

There is plenty of justification for this animus—but the sentiment is expressed by those who for decades have rolled up big majorities for the party of capitalism. Now that the Democratic party has also become the carrier of big capitalist interests quite a number of these farmer states have voted Democratic. We urge the working farmers to support their own interests and help capture the whole Union, not withdraw from it, and that can be done by allying themselves with a party of the city workers.

Moreover, the capitalist and financial power against which they complain is not confined to the nine states they condemn. It has its fortresses in the large cities of Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, California and other states which they would unite under a new government. There is the further fact that

in the nine states the farmers detest are many millions of workers and farmers who suffer a distress equal to their own. They are the natural allies of the robbed tillers of the soil if the latter understand their own best interests.

Finally, it would be absurd to withdraw from the union and set up a new government, assuming that this could be done peacefully. Capital and finance are securely entrenched in many of the proposed secession states and the proposed secession states and the farmers would face the old struggle under the new government they would set up. This is no time for hate to dominate action. On the contrary, action should be based upon a cool calculation of all the factors involved and we are certain that if this course is followed Socialist conclusions will be the result.—The New Leader.

## GETTING A SAMPLE OF WHAT THEY VOTED

Some people think that a strike at this time is useless. In Detroit this has proved otherwise. The first plant that went out was the Motor Product Co. The Briggs Body Company tried to persuade their men over to the Motor Product Co., to break the strike, but the men refused. The strike was won and the company accepted the strikers' demands, among them, a shop committee which was one of the most important.

A few days later the Briggs Body Co. went on strike. A few scabs are working in the Highland Park plant which doesn't mean anything. Their production is at a standstill. They keep the blowers running and lights burning as though the shop was running as usual, trying to break down the morale of the people.

Working conditions at the Briggs plant are something terrible. You never know how much you are making until you get your pay. I was talking to a girl in the picket line who worked seven hours for forty cents. Another friend of mine worked 119 hours for which he received twenty-three dollars. Of this sum he had to buy his own gloves and tools. To people working for such wages it makes no difference if they work or go on strike.

Governor Comstock of Michigan is said to be one of the directors of the Briggs Motor Co. His first official act was to send state police to his factory. The people that these police will beat up or kill if necessary voted for Comstock. Not only that, but they also pay taxes for the upkeep of this police force. What a crazy system this is! As I was picketing with the thousands of others, I looked over the mass and can safely say that 80 percent of them voted for Comstock. They should have known when they went to the polls that in case they strike or stand up for their rights he would do just what he did. Until the people elect their own kind they will continue to suffer as they do now.

In Detroit there were at one time about 47,000 families on the welfare list. They helped these people not because they felt sorry for them or because they had a kind heart, but because they were afraid these people might be forced to do something. The kings vanished thru war and so will Capitalism in this war of economics. The sooner the workers become organized politically in the Socialist party that much sooner will Capitalism be given its funeral.

Lewis Krosser Jr., Dearborn, Mich.

## Suggestion for a March Meeting

The fiftieth anniversary of the death of Karl Marx will occur, Clarence Senior, executive secretary, has pointed out, in suggesting that Socialist branches arrange a special meeting during March to commemorate Marx's work. A list of literature suitable for sale or distribution at these meetings was included.

Don't confuse them. "Bologna" appeals to an empty stomach, "boloney" to an empty head.

## BY THE WAY...

The New York Times reports that Jesse Jones, a director of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, made a pleasant visit to Representative Howard, asking him to keep the R. F. C. loans from being made public, because publicity would be contrary to the corporation's policy and would embarrass borrowers.

Embarrass borrowers! It sure did—one embarrassed man was former Vice President Dawes, whose bank borrowed \$90,000,000 from the R. F. C., a few days after he resigned as chairman of the government corporation. He had been embarrassed before when the public thought it was only \$60,000,000, and he is almost mortified now.

Another embarrassed man is Jones himself, who is chairman of the board of the Bankers' Mortgage Company of Houston, Texas, which borrowed \$1,489,691. Another of the embarrassed is Atlas Pomeroy, present chairman of the R. F. C., who is a director of the Guardian Trust company of Cleveland, O., which borrowed \$11,915,962 and has just been authorized to receive another \$5,900,000. "Power Trust Couch", Arkansas' shining light on the R. F. C., is probably embarrassed a little, too. The St. Louis—San Francisco Railway company, of which he is a board member, borrowed \$7,995,175. Notice, too, the "bargain sale" figures that look like the old "98c sale" gag—\$11,915,962 instead of an even \$12,000,000; \$5,900,000 instead of an even \$6,000,000; \$7,995,175 instead of an even \$8,000,000. Clever psychologists these R. F. C. directors!

But anyway, Dawes isn't so bad. He at least had the good taste to resign!

We have a Twentieth Amendment. People began to think we ought to do something about "Lame Ducks" a generation ago. Senator Norris has been fighting for a definite proposal to extinguish them for over ten years. When the proposal finally was put through Congress and submitted to the states, a year saw it adopted. The Constitution can be changed sensibly, after all!

The Socialists propose a Twenty-first Amendment. People began to think years ago that something should be done to keep the Supreme Court from ruling unconstitutional social legislation made by Congress. The Socialist party started over a year ago to fight for a definite amend-

ment to cure the evil. Now to build our forces to have the new amendment accepted! Victory may be nearer than we think.

Here's the Edison Electric Institute, organized to purge the industry of evils that have grown up in some companies, such as the looking at operating companies by holding companies, the publication of inaccurate and obscure financial statements, and the use of questionable propaganda and lobbying methods.

Sounds nice? Well, the Edison Electric Institute is headed by a group which has been in control of the National Electric Light Association, bribers extraordinary of American public opinion. Watch out for the new influx of "reform" propaganda!

## SEARCHLIGHT

More startling news came out of Chicago the past week. There was the West Parks System audit report of a ten million dollar shortage. Where did the money go? That can be answered briefly. The West Park System is only one of the many parks systems in Chicago whose main purpose is to reward political henchmen and jobseekers for their electioneering. Nothing less, and nothing more. True, we have a number of good parks and boulevards, but with the money that has been spent on these projects they should glitter with gold from one end to another. By stealing this money these politicians are depriving the citizens and particularly young boys and girls many opportunities of outdoor and indoor training to build strong, healthy and vigorous bodies. And, what do you think they are going to do about it? It's going to go true to tradition. They will yelp a while and gradually forget that it ever happened while the taxpayers continue feeding these parasites.

gram was held with young boys and girls rendering musical and vocal selections and recitations. The writer was asked for a short talk. We need more of this personal contact and understanding. More members of one club should and must attend the doings of another club. We cannot live isolated, one group from another. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Progressive Miners of America are growing by leaps and bounds just because they understand the need of group patronage. Let us, too, get into the spirit, into life and do, what after all is for our own good.

## As I See It

As I see it, the times call for the production of three masterpieces, in paintings, to tell the story of American history of our period.

One of the pictures should feature 12,000,000 jobless men, with their wives and children crucified on a cross of gold.

Another should depict a great banquet hall filled with bloated millionaires enjoying a great feast of all the good things of earth, while children are at their feet scrambling for the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table.

The third picture should show millions of "saps"—workers—the "sovereign citizens of the United States"—marching to the polls on election day carrying banners inscribed "We want Hoover!"—"We want Roosevelt!"—"We enjoy the hell of capitalism!"—"Long live the breadlines!"—"We are satisfied with our misery and want!"—"We are content with mere crumbs." — Frank F. Cherdron.

Marriage may fail, but it shows that two people at least tried to overcome their selfishness.

What's the matter with you Chicagoans? Are you without vision and hearing? Why do you let crooked politicians and leaders of their party aid the more crooked banker allies? How long are you going to let this continue? — Here we have banker Bain convicted for misappropriating the money of his chain of a dozen banks, keeping out of jail by delays and lenient agreements. And, when the prosecuting attorney pulled him in because rumors were current that he was ready to skip the country, Mr. Igoe, one of the leaders of that dishonorable democracy called the Democratic Party, signs bail for banker Bain the crook. Such an alignment should open the people's eyes to the fact that there is no difference between crooked politicians and crooked bankers.

"Pay and Place Under Socialism" is a pamphlet printed by the Socialist Party of New York which can help you understand and present a reasonable argument as to what the Socialists will do when they take over the industries. If you are anxious to know how the law of supply and demand shall be applied, order the pamphlet and read it. It is well to have a general plan on the subject, but I think such problems will have to be solved when they are presented. We are more interested in knowing that under Socialism we will be entitled to greater returns for our work because there will be no one to steal the profits.

The Supreme Board of the SNPP will be holding its annual meeting this week, the last for the present board, as new elections will be held at the May convention.

Adolph Hitler has been appointed the new German Chancellor. And that means, less freedom, less democracy, less government for the workers and the decent elements. Yes, it may even mean a rebellion. We hear some heartening news that the Socialists and Communists may unite and put up an iron front against the Fascists. Germany is torn by struggle and strife but if these two workers' parties can come to terms and agree to unite than all the struggle and strife will not be a heavy price. Yet, to think that most of the Communists were at one time Socialists, where is there going to be any gain?

That play last Sunday was all right, but the severe cold weather kept the crowd away. But that will not do. At least that cannot continue. We must become more active and more conscious of our obligations. We cannot expect a large number of people to spend ten weeks time in preparing something for us and then have us fall down on the job of attendance. Maybe we should investigate or perhaps select a committee to propagate the idea a little harder. And so the "Main Prize" saw its initial showing.

## An Essay About Classes in This Free Land of Ours

By ADAM COALDIGER.

There are no classes in America (they say) — only strata of society based on wealth or the lack thereof.

The top layer is composed of the very rich, that is, those who own the dominant productive wealth of the country, such as railroads, mines, oil wells, telegraph and telephone lines, the greater industrial plants, banks and insurance companies.

The next stratum downward is made up of smaller manufacturers, merchants, county seat bankers, real estate owners, money lenders and stock gamblers.

Below them come the professional classes, such as doctors, lawyers, scribes, military officers and politicians.

Next come the farmers, who, in turn, are separated into land-owning farmers, tenant farmers, share-croppers and hired hands.

Beneath them are the wage earners, divided into upper, middle and lowest strata to wit: White collar men, skilled men and common labor.

At the bottom are the down and outs.

Between these sundry strata of American society, there is no social intercourse. The trust magnates would no more think of associating with the merchants or county seat bankers than the merchants or county seat bankers would think of associating with the pencil pushers, the latter with the skilled mechanics, or the mechanics with the shovel stiff.

But there are no classes in America. Oh no!

Religiously, we are all brothers from the worshippers in Bishop Manning's thirty million dollar cathedral to the

hobo in the gospel mission. We pray to the same God, expect to meet in the same heaven above, and decline to speak to each other here below.

Politically there is perfect equality. High or low, one vote. The very rich select the candidates and foot their campaign expenses. The not-so-rich vote with the very rich as a matter of course. The professionals furnish candidates, orators and propagandists for the top layer, pocketing jobs and campaign funds as pay.

The farmers and wage workers vote for the friends selected by their enemies of the top layer, recommended by the third class—beg pardon—third stratum spielers. And the down and outs constitute the floating or independent vote which decides elections in accordance with the amount of boodle distributed by contending factions of the uppermost strata. The upshot is democracy, also known as government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Sorry to disturb the sweet dreams, but written on every page of history is the lesson that economic inequality and social equality have never dwelt under the same roof. The very rich have always ruled. Their imitators and retainers have always fooled the workers. The downs and outs have always sold their votes—for bread and free circuses in Imperial Rome, for a flop and slug of booze in free America.

Whoever seeks to make American democracy a living thing must start at the bottom, at economic equality. All else is wind, phrases, foam and fizz.

"What, divide wealth?"

Perhaps. We only know all past civilizations fell because those who owned the wealth refused to share it with those who created it. But why worry? There are no classes in America—only strata based on wealth or the lack thereof.

## There Are Now 84 Taxless Towns

There are now 84 towns in the United States which collect no local taxes on account of the profits of publicly owned utilities, the Public Ownership League of America reports.

## Exchange of Jobs the Only Real Change Brought by the Democratic Victory



At the Executive Committee meeting of the Yugoslav Socialist Federation last Friday, we learned of another English-speaking local of our Federation at Forest City, Pa. We are happy and jubilant over the new addition. This makes it two new young groups since the last meeting. A committee of five was selected to plan and assist in making our part of the Socialist four year plan successful. The depression affects our people terribly, but that must not be a barrier to activity. If we are ever to realize a Socialist Society, we must expend our efforts now. Some can contribute money, others can surely give up some time for agitational purposes. Nothing will be done of itself. If we want new members we must go after them. An example of this was given by club No. 1, at its last meeting, where eleven new members were proposed.

The position of our paper was discussed. Only two things can be wrong. Either we do not realize the predicament Proletarec is in financially or else we don't care what happens to it. Our paper has a staggering deficit, which must be wiped out. Club No. 1 and the Chicago comrades have contributed a very big proportion into its sustaining fund. Club No. 37 has also done well, but we haven't heard from many who are able and who should contribute. Come comrades, more action, more life is necessary before we can say that we are doing our share.

Forest City Comrades Elect Officers

Forest City, Pa. — An hour period of discussion after the business part of our meeting held January 29, proved very successful and beneficial to the membership. A number of subjects were well ventilated. The idea of having a mass meeting with a speaker or two was favorably received. Increasing our membership which now stands at ten would be the purpose of this meeting.

Permanent officers elected are: Joseph Drasler, sec. and tres., Walter Cebular, Rec. Sec. Date of meeting, the fourth Sunday of every month at Mr. Zaitz's Hall.—Joseph Drasler