

EVERYBODY'S HAPPY!

Everything is all right on the securities front. The National Security League Quarterly brings cheering news to the starving farmers and to the unemployed enjoying their charity soup.

Among the encouraging items is news that the President has approved the act designating the Star Spangled Banner as the national anthem which will make traveling Americans "prouder than ever of their native land". Then it will brighten the corner you occupy to know that women aviators have organized for national defense, a "noble undertaking" we are assured.

Glad tidings come from the literary sector in the announcement that a gentleman by the name of Littlepage wrote an article on the Constitution of the United States. He said that "It is one of the most marvelous documents that has ever been devised. It is unfortunate that we do not have more opportunity to read the Constitution." Perhaps we are so busy hunting the breadline that many of us neglect this holy observance.

There are other items indicating that the nation is still safe for securities and those who own them. Of course the Bolsheviks still plot to kidnap Congress and auction it in Moscow and there are still some teachers who do not believe that God created this country for his chosen people,—the bankers, capitalists, generals and admirals, but military training in the schools will in time make these miscreants go way back in the rear and assume a sitting posture.

Now then, read one verse of the sacred Constitution each day, especially if you feel blue. You are certain not to turn red and everything will continue quiet on the securities front.—The New Leader.

BE PATIENT AND WAIT

What are we going to do about unemployment? Of course, nothing. Can't we trust to God in Heaven that things will turn right in due time? We have been doing in all along and if it has helped no one, nobody was hurt by faith, so why not continue to believe? Surely President Hoover, if he can help it, will see to it that no one interferes with the ways of Providence. And so, fresh from his Southern trip and rest, the President looked over the situation and make the quick and just decision that there should be no increase in taxes on incomes for the next year and, of course, no increase of such unproductive expenses. The public, Mr. Hoover said, should just practice restraint, and the rich won't have to pay extra money. Isn't this just sweet and fair? No "raids on the Treasury", except for tax-refund to corporate millionaires.—J. B. S. Hardman in Advance.

DRIVERS' LICENSES

Recklessness and carelessness are still the modern "rules of the road". Hundreds of thousands of incompetents are allowed full use of the public highways. This last factor—that of incompetence—is probably largely responsible for our gigantic record of fatalities. Only a few states have laws requiring strict examination of applicants for drivers' licenses. Fortunately, there is a trend toward such laws throughout the nation and when every state has and enforces them at least partial success in accident prevention will be achieved.—The Times, Geneva, N. Y.

CRAZY? SURE!

Nice weather we're having. Yep, it's just awful. How come awful? Coal consumption going down to nothing. Mines closing. Miners thrown out of work. Yes, but look at the bright side. Farmers are already working in the fields, preparing another bumper crop. Worst yet. The last bumper crop put 'em on the bum. Another one will put 'em on the bread-line. Then there are the poor people in the cities who suffered so much less on account of the warm winter. Oh, bother the poor! There are too many of them anyhow. What this country needs is an all-winter year. Twelve months below zero and a two-foot snowfall every other day, giving steady work for miners, snow-shovelers, and grave-diggers, destroying surplus livestock, dairy herds, and chickens, preventing another bumper crop calamity. Are you crazy? Sure, and so is a world in which man-made institutions turn even the blessing of heaven into the torments of hell.—Adam Coaldigger.

The reason why there are so many empty bellies is because there are too many empty heads.

SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

We have observed May Day. A fitting program, well performed to only a fair attendance. Whether our folks are so terribly desitute or whether they are too well off yet, we cannot conceive. But one thing is certain the SNPJ Hall should have been packed last Friday night. It is the same old story. "Let the next one do it." Disatisfaction prevails among the workers. They are crying for a change but when it is time to act and show their unity and their spirit for organization they lag behind.

Despite this indifference of the workers Socialism is gaining and the oppressed are beginning to think of a way out of all this misery. The "third party" possibilities are being examined by various progressive factions. Opinions vary but not enough to amount to much. Whatever name the "third party" assumes it will have to be patterned after the principles of Socialism, they all agree. The name Socialism is still a high hurdle for the American workers. The word Socialism has been misused and misquoted, for petty reasons by the ruling class until it has become attixed in the minds of the workers as an outrageous element. To erase that misconception the "third party" advocates want to Americanize the name. I hope that the Socialists and the socialist party will have become powerful enough to thwart any ill propaganda. With our good deeds we can compel the respect of every thinking American. If we are to be the nucleus of a "third party" and if such a party is to revolve around the principles of Socialism need they seek a camouflaged name?

Ameringers' American Guardian is becoming more spirited with each succeeding issue. He has begun at the right time and at the right step and should annex a mass of readers all of whom should become strong Socialists. The support he has received thus far from Socialists and sympathizers is encouraging and bids well to establish a powerful mighty outlet of Socialist propaganda. It is located in Oklahoma City, Okla. and if you are at all interested write to him at Box 777 for a few sample copies.

We have exerted a lot of energy and time for Sava's last concert on April 26, and for the May Day festivity. Sava's concert, by the way, was one of its very best. The singers knew their roles and performed satisfactorily. A detailed account is written elsewhere—in this issue by one who listened. So far as the participants are concerned they were more certain of their songs than ever before. But that is now past also and we have already begun to prepare for May 30, at which time the Educational Bureau of JSF for Illinois and Wisconsin is holding its spring conference. To meet the expense of the conference a social will be held Saturday evening May 30, at the Lawdale Masonic Temple. These conferences are important and in their discussions and decisions bring out many vital points for the movement and our publication.

The May Day issue of our paper was a good piece of work methinks. Our readers should keep the issue handy to give to others, especially the explanation of "What is Socialism". So often you are asked to explain Socialism and right there it is; plain, simple, yet authentic. The illustrations add considerably to the fine appearance of our May Day issue and reports on many subjects make the enlarged issue most complete.

Pioneer Lodge, the largest of some 85 English speaking lodges of the SNPJ, has been keeping Saturday classes to teach the young Slovenes their mother tongue. Thru the entire winter the young folks crowded to the schoolroom where Mrs. Katka Zupancich assigned her weekly lessons. On May 31, these young folks are to complete the present session and for that purpose a program is being arranged at the SNPJ Hall. A good deal of the program will be taken up by the adults.

Cook County Socialists held a good May Day celebration at the Ashland auditorium last Friday. The next job of the County organization will be to make the banquet in honor of Norman Thomas a rousing inspirational one. Every effort is being made to pack the Labor Lyceum on Sunday

MORE ENGLISH
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Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK

On Saturday evening May 9, Miss Jeanette Perdan of Cleveland will give a concert in Chicago at the CSPS Hall, 1126 W. 18th St. Her program contains a fine selection of classical and folk songs. A scene from the "Tales of Hoffman" by Offenback and several piano solos are also included. Dancing will follow the program. Admission 50c in advance and 75c at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at the office of Proletarec.

A conference for branches JSF and lodges of Illinois and Wisconsin, affiliated with the Educational Bureau will be held Saturday May 30 at the Lawdale Masonic Temple Chicago. All branches and lodges in this district are urged to send delegates. Many important problems will be brought up for discussion.

We have received a supply of Norman Thomas' new book "America's Way Out". It is a challenging program for democracy. Comrade Thomas is one of the leading Socialists. He gives good outline of capitalism and aims of Socialism in this new book. It sells for \$2.50. Several copies of "Dynamite" a story of class violence in America by Louis Adamic has also reached our office. This book consists of 452 pages of racketeering and labor struggles in the United States during the last hundred years. The price of this book is \$3.50. Order them from us.

Norman Thomas will be in Chicago Sunday, May 17. He will be the guest of honor at a banquet to be held in the Workers' Circle Lyceum on Kedzie and Ogden Aves. Anyone wishing to attend this banquet can secure tickets at the office of Proletarec. Price \$1.00.

News from Milwaukee has reached our office that the young comrades of branch No. 37 have reorganized their English Division. We hope they will successfully carry on activities and advance the Socialist ideals among the younger folks of their city.

In Girard, Ohio, a conference for branches JSF and lodges, members of the Educational Bureau, will be held Sunday May 24, at the Slovene Home. It is important that all lodges and branches are represented with delegates.

Orders From on High

Little Mary was traveling on a train for the first time. After saying her prayers and being deposited in an upper berth she insisted on talking. "Mother," she called out to that parent in a lower, "does God watch over Cousin Freddy?" "Yes, dear," replied the mother, "God watches over Freddy." Silence, then, "Does God watch over Uncle Albert, too?" "Yes, God also watches over your Uncle Albert. Now go to sleep." Another period of silence, then, "Does God watch over grandpa?" "Yes, Mary. Now do go to sleep like a good little girl." More silence. "Mother, does God watch over Aunt Jennie?" This time one of the annoyed passengers could stand it no longer. Thrusting his head out of the curtains of his berth he announced in a rather loud voice: "Yes, child, God watches over Cousin Freddy, Uncle Albert, grandpa and Aunt Jennie. Now give the rest of us a chance to sleep." Silence. "Mother?" "Sh, sh! Yes, dear." "Was that God?"

Just Enough!

"You are charged, Samuel Johnson, with stealing five chickens, four ducks, two goats and a donkey; and you say you are not guilty?" "Yes, judge." "Perhaps you would like to employ counsel and defend the case. Have you any money?" "No, judge." "Have you any property on which you could raise money?" "Yes, judge; I got five chickens, four ducks, two goats and a donkey."

All modern girls are tough to those who don't rate high enough to associate with the other kind.

WORKERS BY HAND AND BRAIN

The years following the European war saw a great development in the use of machines and a resulting displacement of man power. Under our present economic system of private profit, for a few rich individuals, such situation would have brought about serious trouble in a very short time, had not the major portion of the people displaced by the new machines been absorbed in the distribution of commodities, as advertisers, agents, salespeople, stenographers, etc. This process kept increasing till Stuart Chase in his "Men and Machines" could set the number of these actually in contact with machines as little over five million.

Now this fact of a decreasing number of manual workers, together with an increase in the number of those who are usually referred to as white collar workers, has been used to divide the people at large into two classes. The constant harping by the various agencies of capitalist propaganda upon the theme of "Success" with the implication that the attainment of a white collar job is the first rung in the ladder towards such success, has created a psychological division between workers and those who consider themselves better than mere workers.

Of course no such division can stand the test of fact. Even capitalist text-books in economics define workers as all those who produce some socially useful article or service and who receive in return wages, fees, or salaries; thus not only manual laborers but the whole class of white collar workers must be included. George B. Shaw, Albert Einstein, and other intellectual giants who are dependent upon their own exertions for their livelihood would most likely feel insulted if somebody told them they were not workers. How absurd then for a \$25 a week salesman or a \$15 a week typist to disdain the word 'worker'!

No amount of definitions or talking, however, could possibly equal the lessons which the present economic crisis is teaching every day. All classes of workers have been hit; white collar workers, perhaps, feeling the effects more than others. A short time ago a leading financial paper had and editorial telling about the \$20,000 a year men who are now out of work and can be had for a fraction of that sum now. Such happenings cannot help but make people realize that they were greatly deceived as to their real status, and while their eyes were directed up towards the fetish of Success, they were neglecting the fundamental task of organizing for their economic security. Today, unemployed and helpless, without their own political or economic organization to protect them, they are at the mercy of their bosses political and economic organizations which they unwittingly have helped to build. Times of suffering like the present are unmitigated curses, and yet all the suffering will not be entirely in vain if it leads all the workers by hand and brain to realize that they all belong to the same class; and that their interests as producers are directly opposed to those of the owners of industry. Such a realization will lead in a short time to a strong political and economic organization which shall not only protect their interests but which will begin to build a society from which poverty, unemployment, and want shall be forever banished. — A. H. K.

THE MICHIGAN REFERENDUM

Hurrah for the people of Michigan! They have defeated the bill to re-establish capital punishment. It is so easy to work up the mob spirit, and the spirit of revenge, that we were genuinely afraid the result would be the opposite. We were prepared to grit our teeth and admit that the people had executed a retreat and that there would have to be another battle to recover the lost ground. We are glad indeed to know that there was no basis for our fears. The Michigan result should be a source of encouragement to the forward-looking people of other states who are trying to abolish the death penalty.

MORE OLD AGE PENSION LAWS

Although progress has been made in old age pension legislation this year, and there are now 15 states with pensions for the aged, this does not assuage our regret that the old age pension bill in Indiana has been vetoed by the governor. It is not as bad, however, as it would have been if the state senate had not emasculated the bill. As originally introduced, and as it passed the lower house, the bill provided pensions at the age of 65 and made them mandatory upon the counties. As amended in the senate, it provided for pensions at the age of 70 and made them optional with the counties. Even in that form it met with a veto by the governor. This was very unwise. We predict that there will be a different result two years hence.

Maybe man is inferior, but the first one wasn't created as the result of pulling a bone.

A NEW POPULAR RACKET

