

Homeless Wanderers In Wealthy U. S. A.

HOME, SWEET HOME,

These words sound like an air from mighty far to an ever-increasing number of people in this great and wealthy republic of ours. This applies not to dwellers in the municipal lodging houses, in other similar "hotels," or under the city bridges or in the various Hoovervilles, lately erected in the hundreds by the millions of despoiled and depressed, or "under-privileged" as police national politicians choose to call them. We refer here to the rapidly rising numbers of individuals of all ages, and whole families among them, who travel the country's high-ways and by-ways and never have a place which is theirs for longer than a day, if for so long. The U. S. Children's Bureau and the National Association of Travelers' Aid Societies give the number of these "transients" as 25,000 families and 200,000 boys and young men, but even so conservative a person as Newton D. Baker, in a recent article, concedes that "the actual count, beyond doubt, is several times the reported figures, and that this army is gaining rapidly in numerical strength." The

quest of a chance-job, not "escape from work," is what drives these transients into the wide voids, and the failure to find the elusive job keeps them on the roads of the land of unlimited opportunity. And the only solution of the problem of these wandering nomads that our good statesmen know to offer, is more and wider-distributed charity.—Advance.

New Members in Vienna

Vienna Social-Democrats carried out during November a great membership campaign, the object of which was to get 10,000 new members for the party. The Arbeiter-Zeitung now reports that 13,087 new members were secured, so that the objective aimed at was surpassed. Of the new members 6,182 are men and 6,905 are women. These magnificent results of a membership campaign in a city where four-fifths of all the men and two-fifths of all the women who vote Social-Democrat are members of the party is a testimony to the driving power and organizing ability of Red Vienna.

Milestones of Democracy

Magna Charta, Declaration of Independence, Emancipation Proclamation, Homestead Act, mortgages, notes, notices of foreclosure.—American Guardian.

DETROIT AT WORK

A record crowd witnessed the operetta given Sunday, January 15, by the singing society Svoboda. Many were unable to hear or see the performances as the hall was too small.

On January 21, a group from both English Sections of JSF branches here attended the initiation meeting of the newly organized English Section of the Bohemian branch. Thirty-eight men and women signed up to join the Socialist party and 31 applicants were initiated. As the county organizer, comrade Kent was delayed, comrades Naysmith from branch 1, Heller from the YPSL/S, E. Menton and S. Kavcic from our section and several others spoke. After the meeting refreshments were served and dancing followed. We wish the Bohemian comrades plenty of success.

Recently 3 strikes occurred in the city of Detroit. The capitalist newspapers would not give any publicity regarding these strikes at first. It's outrageous when women work for seven cents an hour and the men for twelve cents. At the Motor Products Co., 1,200 men went on strike. It was said that the Briggs Co. attempted to send their men into the Motor Products plant and then hire new men for their work. But the men refused to scab. More publicity about these strikes will appear in the Detroit Leader, a new Socialist weekly, starting the first week in February. This paper will be issued by a group of party members.

At the Socialist county convention held January 21, about 100 delegates represented twenty-one branches. A county constitution was adopted. A report of six mob actions caused by Communists at different Socialist meetings was given. The convention

also went on record that all candidates for any office must run as Socialist regardless of what election. It was urged that the petitions to place our candidates on the ballot be returned immediately. If you haven't got your quota of signatures, do not keep the petition, but turn it in at the county headquarters, 69 Erskine. The speakers bureau reported that they now have a good number of lecturers. Different organizations have been notified that they are now available.

Norman Thomas will speak at four meetings of the Teachers Association in Detroit. He will also appear at other meetings of this organization throughout the state.

In the Spring election comrade Lomdal will be our candidate for county auditor and Edloff for Draft Commission. In Lincoln park four Socialists are running for city council. One member was expelled from the party because she was running on the independent ticket.

A Polish Socialist branch was organized in Hamtramck, Mich., January 21. In the near future an English branch will be organized. Hamtramck is the Communist stronghold.

Both Menton comrades and S. Kavcic of English Section 114 and comrades Cesen, Lajovec and Korosec of 115 will debate on Friday, February 24, at the Slovene Workers Home. The subject will be selected by the debaters. A mushroom supper and entertainment after the debate is promised.

The play R. U. R. is progressing along fine. I have been informed that the director has two people for each part. The best man wins, of course.—Andrew Grum, Jr. Detroit, Mich.

The Constitution Badly in Need of Alterations

A constitutional convention, to frame a better constitution for the United States, is needed, as Oswald Garrison Villard stated in his Milwaukee lecture.

A great many people revere the old constitution. When you find people worshipping the constitution, you can set them down as being either ignorant or interested.

Some worship it because they are rank conservatives who have financially benefited by things as they are and who don't want any changes made lest they should lose some of their special privileges. They consider the constitution the "bulwark of liberty"—that is, the bulwark of their liberty to get something for nothing. They do have any love for that part of the constitution which is called the bill of rights, and which does indeed provide for some liberties.

The bill of rights is contained in the first 10 amendments. It provides for freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of assemblage, etc.

If a constitutional convention should be called, to frame a new constitution, it would be advisable first to make sure that the enemies of the bill of rights are not in the majority.

If they were in the majority, they might strike out the bill of rights, and not improve but worsen the rest of the constitution. Then we'd be worse off than before.

If however, the friends of progress are in the majority, a constitutional convention could frame a constitution which would be a great improvement over the present one.

The present constitution, as Mr. Villard says, was pretty good for its time, but the nation has traveled a long way from the days when there were no railroads, no telegraphs, no telephones, no automobiles, no airplanes, no

great industries, and no labor-saving machines worth mentioning. The constitutions does not fit the present era. Still less does it fit the era that is approaching with seven-league boots.

But, while it is true that a new constitution is needed, it should not be assumed that the industries cannot be socialized under the old constitution. They can—under the implied powers.

The implied powers have been used by the enemies of the people to put over anything they wanted. These powers can also be used by the people themselves.—The Milwaukee Leader



From time to time we have commented on the income tax refunds expressing the viewpoint that it was outrageous to think that experts could make so many mistakes in filing income tax returns. We could not get it into our little cranium how these wizards at Washington could correct the mistakes of the experts. Evidently many congressmen felt the same way, so they passed a law, so to speak, to control these enormous tax refunds. But Herbert Hoover couldn't stand it and so vetoed the bill. The matter of passing upon income tax refunds is too serious a problem for any senate committee to pass upon, according to Hoover. We need fellows like Mellon and Mills to do that, for they are indebted directly to the wealthy class for their campaign melon and now they are only fulfilling their campaign promises. The money refunded during the past few years could serve as relief money for the poor and destitute only for the ties that bind the corrupt politicians and their corrupt business associates. Instead of refunding these vast sums the Socialists would even tax the rich barons heavier were they in power.

Many years of internal strife, lack of work and the subsequent lack of necessities of decent living has made the Progressive Miners alert, steadfast in their cause and somewhat radical. Where, in the years past Socialist speakers and propagandists have received only lukewarm responses they are helping to form Socialist locals in numerous mining localities now. The local mining districts have given the Socialist ticket, at the last election, a substantial vote. We want these men to continue in their struggle until they achieve their full program. We want them to keep a solid union devoid of the Walkers and Lewises. We also urge them to unite with the Socialists and let the Socialist Party serve them on the political front in the same manner that the Progressive Union serves them on the industrial front. Together we can make each other stronger.

Norman Thomas lectured in Chicago last Sunday to an audience of over 1,000. Comrade Thomas spent a couple of days in the Illinois coal mining strike area earlier in the week. He spoke of the breakdown of the Capitalist system and what was to replace it.

Demonstrations of the Progressive Miners' Ladies Auxiliary, especially at Springfield last week, have been very effective. If for no other reason, the large number of paraders gives the onlookers the feeling that it is a good strong organization. When orderly conducted it creates a favorable feeling and sentiment for the Progressive union. On top of all these benefits, is the one of advertising. It would cost the Union thousands of dollars to pay for the publicity these ladies secured for their men.

While in Southern Illinois the newly seated democratic Governor invited him to the Executive mansion where the subject of mines and mining conditions was discussed. We learn that Thomas made a plea for the Progressive Miners group and urged the Governor to return the freedom of speech and assemblage to these miners.

Socialist club No. 1 JSF held its January meeting last Friday. It was probably the best attended meeting in a year. The occasion was further heartened by the proposal of eleven new applicants, seven of whom were accepted and four carried over until the next meeting. Comrade Zaitz lectured on "the manner of changing our social order," following the regular business. Comrade Bernik gave a lengthy annual financial report, which was favorably received and various other reports were unusually good.

The only thing that's going to force the Governor to act, if he does, and to give the Progressive Miners any opportunities which have been denied them, is their strength. For, in addition to their 22,000 enrollment, in the so-called insurgent union, these militant men have a second line of defense in their militant Ladies Auxiliary. These ladies say, and rightly so, our men's jobs are our jobs; if they don't work we suffer." However, I have little

Partly because of the accident of a previously arranged convention occurring right after the announcement of a national "four year plan" of Socialist growth, the Wisconsin party was the first state organization to throw its official weight behind the new program for party education and organization. Under the supervision of Leo Krzycki, state secretary, and Andrew J. Biemiller, educational director, Milwaukee local has already started to work, and other locals in the state will get their drives under way this week.

Wisconsin First to Swing Into Action on Socialist "Four Year Plan"

The plan, as outlined by the organization committee of the party, is comprehensive in detail. It embraces the distribution of literature, with a goal of five million pieces in 1933 increasing to fifty million by 1936. It calls for ten thousand new mem-

bers this year, increasing to eighty thousand four years from now. Propaganda meetings will reach a total of 200,000 by 1936. Study classes will number 1,000 this year, 2,000 in 1934, 4,000 in 1935 and 8,000 in the next presidential year.

"But first, for 1933, ten thousand new members—and every member active!" the plan states. Detailed jobs are given for each party branch, and state quotas are being worked out by state secretaries.

Committee members who authorized the plan are: Chairman Mayor Daniel W. Hoan of Milwaukee; Leo Krzycki, Milwaukee; Powers Haggood, Indianapolis; James D. Graham, Montana; Mrs. Lilith Wilson, Pennsylvania, and Clarence Senior, secretary.

A Proposal for "Dividing Up"

Senator Huey P. Long of Louisiana, known as the "Kingfish", is battling in the upper house for what he calls "decentralization of wealth". He contends that the Democratic Party is in some way pledged to this idea. In a recent address he declared that neither Republican nor Democratic leaders in the Senate "are undertaking to carry out the mandate of the people of the United States to decentralize wealth". He holds that Hoover in his Madison Square Garden speech

and Roosevelt in his speech at Columbus last year approved this idea.

After citing the hunger and unemployment in many states Senator Long declared: "It is, therefore, up to us by some means, by some process, to obtain organized, concerted legislative effort in the Senate and in the other House to transfer into law this mandate to decentralize and spread the wealth of this country among the people."

That's all! There is nothing in the Hoover and Roosevelt campaign speeches to justify the Long interpretation. Then when it comes to translating the idea into a definite proposal the "Kingfish" merely says that there should be "some means" and "some process" of accomplishing it. The proposal itself is absurd. What is needed is not dividing up but the abolition of capitalist ownership of the means of production and distribution—Socialism.—The New Leader.

Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK

Sunday February 5, the dramatic section of branch 1 will present a three act comedy — First Prize — at the CSPS Hall on 18th and May sts. There are many hilarious scenes in this play portraying a professor who had won a million dollar lottery. The professor gives a big party and invites his old friends to celebrate his good fortune. As two women argue it out who's who and what's what, news comes to the professor that there has been some mistake in the lottery and that he is not the winner. Here is where his troubles start. How to raise the money to pay for the expensive things he had purchased and the big party? Of course his friends help him out. How everything came up we will see Sunday. Secure your tickets in advance for 50c. Admission at the door will be 75c. A jazz with Johnny Kochevar's orchestra playing will follow the program.

posed seven new members at the last branch meeting. A number of applicants that have signed up and were not present will be accepted at the next meeting. The committee appealed to all members for co-operation; by doing so the plan as outlined by Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee that each branch increase its membership, the goal set for this year will be reached. The secretary gave his annual report and two delegates were elected to represent our branch at a Cook county conference planning for the May Day celebration.

March 14 will be the fiftieth anniversary of Karl Marx. Comrade Senior, national secretary of the party has appealed to all branches to sponsor memorial meetings. Branch No. 1, J. S. F. plans for this occasion a Variety Program to be held at the SNPJ Hall. The entire proceeds of this affair will go to the sustaining fund of Proletarec. Watch for further announcements.

Detroit hums with Socialist activity. Comrade Grum reports that a Socialist weekly will be started in February; that a Bohemian and Polish branch have recently organized. He also tells us that a debate between the young comrades of branches 114 and 115 will be held on Friday, February 24. Wish we could be present.

All members that can be urged to attend the Bazaar given by the Cook County Socialist party 24, 25 and 26 of February. The admission price is only 15c and the proceeds will be used to clear off old debts. Members wishing to solicit prizes for the Bazaar should get in touch with Comrade Pogorelec for necessary information and credentials.

In a Land of Plenty

It seems terrible in a land of plenty that men and women are goaded to self-destruction for the want of material necessities. Every day the newspapers contain tragic reports of suicide, murder and other forms of violence due to poverty and want.

It is difficult to understand how any intelligent and humane person can justify an industrial system that bears such evil fruits.

X MARKS THE SPOT



—Tailor in The Washington (D. C.) F.