















## Glass Houses

If there is anybody in the wide world who has no call to criticize congress, it is big business.

Congress gives big business what it wants. Big business shouldn't criticize its willing servant.

But that isn't all. Big business has been running the social order and has made a dismal failure of it. The old saying that men who live in glass houses should not throw stones is still valid. In view of its own incompetence, it comes with peculiarly bad grace from big business to criticize congress or anybody else.

It is true that some big business men talk a little more humbly than they did a year or two ago, but it is also true that the big business men as a whole assume that they are the brains of the country and that nobody else's opinions amount to anything.

This is certainly arrogance when you consider that big business has made a complete mess of things. It was running the show. Nobody else had a look-in. The Socialists kept pointing out the flaws in the social order and the necessity that a new social order should be established which would be minus those flaws. But big business thought the Socialists were a crazy bunch of radicals. And now look at the system as big business has wrecked it!

The question now is: Are the people of the country ready to listen to the Socialists—or will they keep on listening to the dismal failures, the big business men? They can't run their own business successfully—why should they want to run the country?

—The Milwaukee Leader.

## Milwaukee's Financial Condition

Any other city could have put itself in as good financial condition as Milwaukee by the simple process of electing Socialists to office over a period of years.

The Socialists had the will to have good city government, and, what is equally important, they had an organization to back up their elected officials in standing for good government. Other cities are sometimes temporarily captured by some "good man" with nothing but a loose ephemeral organization. Such an official, with the best of intentions, cannot deliver the goods. With a strong idealistic Socialist organization to back up the Socialist mayor and the Socialist aldermen, their strength and courage are multiplied, for they know they will not be deserted or thrown overboard on account of taking the right stand against evil influences in controverted matters and insidious proposals.

It was considerably over twenty years ago when the Socialists attained enough authority in Milwaukee to abolish the old reign of graft and corruption. The city was in much the same condition that Chicago is in now. Its credit was bad and its morale was worse. The Socialists began the long pull toward better conditions. The present status is the result. It has not been easy, but it has been worth while.

The Little Library of Socialism—twenty little blue books published by Haldeman-Julius—contains a booklet written by Mayor Daniel W. Hoan entitled Socialism and the City, which ought to be distributed from house to house in all cities that desire good municipal government. It tells how good city government can be brought about. The set of twenty booklets can be purchased from the national or local Socialist office for one dollar.

## By Actual Test

In this country with all the resources necessary to prosperity at hand surely there must be some course of action that will restore industry to normal conditions. Many plans to that end have been suggested, a few put into actual operation, while others have been discarded as inadequate. In many, if not all, of the plans suggested the wage earner has received prominent mention, even if he has not been given due consideration in every instance.

The belief is well grounded that no plan to help industry is worth serious thought if the wage earner is not included in the basic principles of that plan. The low cost of high wages has been demonstrated by facts, figures and actual test, just as truly as the high cost of low wages has been shown by experience.—The Typographical Journal.

Most of the troubles between the peoples of this earth are caused by constitutions following the flags to places where neither is wanted.

## SEARCHLIGHT

By DONALD J. LOTRICH

Socialist club No. 1 JSF held its regular monthly meeting last Friday night. Great progress was reported by the committee on our coming play, Feb. 7. If it is going to be only half as good as the report stated the people of our community are in for a great afternoon.—Maurer's mass-meeting for Thursday Jan. 28, was stressed and our members were urged to bring all their friends and sympathizers to the SNPJ Hall to listen to this great Comrade.—On Feb. 10, a public mass-meeting will be held at the SNPJ Hall for the striking and persecuted miners of Kentucky. After the regular session Comrade Joseph Owen spoke for a full hour on Russia as he has been able to picture it.

Comrade Joseph Owen is slated to go to Detroit in a debating engagement with Comrade Menton of club No. 114 JSF. Comrade Philip Godina is to perform a like mission in Waukegan. Comrade Anton Garden prepared several propositions to be submitted to the National Convention of the Socialist Party in Milwaukee. The members also balloted on our next convention City. If you do not believe this is a mighty big schedule for one night's meeting, well just try it.

Because the railroad workers are organized they have been able thus far, to resist the wage slashes proposed by the bosses. Negotiations have been carried on between the presidents of the railroads and the union officials for a number of days, and the union is able to hold its ground because it is solidly organized. We wish the workers would heed the lesson that this organization and its struggle is bringing out. Were the men not organized what do you think would happen? Would the presidents ask to negotiate? Nay, friends, they would decree a cut and a cut it would be; that's all there would be to it. Didn't the railroads cut the pay of all of the unorganized workers? Did they arbitrate or negotiate? Not at all.

We have said a good deal about unions before. Unions are important organizations when properly run. Unions can become destructive thru its officialdom. Unionism in this country could be a great deal firmer had the unionists paid more attention to what was going on in their unions. But the average American was satisfied to let someone else run his union just so he had prosperity and a good job with better pay than the average. In many instances incredible people grabbed the reins of the unions and used the power of said organizations to further their personal desires and ambitions. Playing a most conservative game with the politicians and favoring "labor friends", has brought them to where they are at present. What the railroad unions have been able to do any other union should be able to do. Eventually the workers may have to take a reduction in wages but it is of great value to have a union meet the railroad presidents on an equal level.

Our Cook County Central Committee met to take up the recommendations for the State Membership meeting and to determine the extent to which the Party and the new Farmer-Labor Party can agree insofar as nominating candidates for the fall elections are concerned. The Seventh Congressional Branch of the Socialist strenuously objected to any chains being attached to their organization. The proposition that the Socialist Party of Illinois nominate candidates on the State ticket and the Farmer-Labor nominate candidates for Cook County was finally approved. The State membership meeting took place the following day. Both meetings were lively and well attended and outside of a few minor issues to the point and progressive.

We note with pleasure, of the successful State Socialist gatherings everywhere, and the life and renewed enthusiasm that has again come to the front everywhere. We must all give our loyal support to bring the party back to prewar days.

Reinhold Niebuhr of New York is going to speak at the Socialist Center 3036 W. Roosevelt Rd., Saturday evening Jan. 30. His subject will be "The Inevitability of Socialism in Our Civilization". The subject should interest our friends. All that can should attend.

To stop some of the banks from going to the dogs and to prolong the present bankrupt capitalist system the government has stepped out with loads of money. To help the unemployed, there is none to be had. What a pity. But we have been telling that same story to the workers for years. There is billions for the rich man while there is not one penny for the poor. The government has granted an increase in railroad rates, has been supporting the rich farming board, has millions for a large navy and army, has billions for the bankers but when we urge unemployment insurance then the ruling gentlemen lose their sight and hearing. We urge the workers to take a lesson from the struggles of the day and unite to oppose such one-sided legislation.

Charity has given the task to care for the miserable creatures without work, without food and shelter, and charity is on the verge of collapse. Unless more money is put into the coffers of charity, charitable institutions themselves will have to die. The working man doesn't want charity. He doesn't even want a dole if he is given work but the means of production are in the hands of the rich. Congress and practically all public offices are in the hands of the rich. And they decree that we shan't work, that we shan't get unemployment insurance but that charity, itself bankrupt, shall take care of us. If you believe that the millionaires don't have enough and that you should contribute more to them do not heed our advice.

## It Pays to Flatter

The woman of the house was as cold as could be. "You seem able bodied and healthy," she said; "you ought to be strong enough to work for your meals."

"That's true," replied weary Willie, "but although you seem beautiful enough to be in the movies evidently you prefer the simple life."

"Oh, I'm sorry I spoke so hastily. Come in and get a nice, warm dinner, sir."

## Practice Makes Perfect

A barber reported to work two hours late.

"What's the big idea?" demanded the boss.

"I'm sorry," replied the barber, "but while I was shaving I talked myself into a shampoo, haircut and message."

## Our Doings Here and There

By JOHN RAK

Comrade James H. Maurer will be the principal speaker at a mass-meeting Thursday night January 28 in the SNPJ Hall. Comrade Maurer hails from Reading, Pa., where he served two terms as a commissioner in the city government and for many years was president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor. His subject "Unemployment and Insurance Against It" is an important issue before the people today, therefore invite your friends to this mass-meeting. Admission is free.

Considerable comments by different comrades has been given to our ninth regular convention as to where it should be held. The referendum will decide where we shall meet and in the meantime it is important that all branches prepare to send delegates. The executive committee at its recent meeting has prepared the agenda and will do all in its power to help make this convention most successful.

In the last week's issue of Proletarec, comrade Misko, in charge of the 3-act comedy "The Three Village Saints" continued his article giving us a brief summary of what is going to happen on the stage Sunday February 7 at the CS-PS-Hall. For some reason or other three men are involved in a scandal and are desperately trying to conceal it from the public. One of these men has a beautiful young daughter who has a boy friend whom her father dislikes because of political reasons. This young chap holds evidence against the old gent and unless he consents to their marriage he promises to expose him. How everything ends, Misko does not say, but if you will purchase your admission ticket in advance for 50c you can feel assured it's going to be a real laugh. A dance will follow the program with

Johnny Kochevar's orchestra playing. Admission at the door will be 75c.

In Cleveland the players of branch No. 27 JSF will produce a four act drama "The Lower Depth" by Maxim Gorky on Sunday January 31 at the Slovene National Home. The admission is only 50c.

Reports from Milwaukee revealed that about one hundred and fifty comrades and socialist sympathizers were present at the recent branch meeting of club No. 37 JSF. Comrades John Ermenc, Assemblyman of the state legislature, and Tesch, socialist candidate for alderman in the fifth ward, addressed the audience. In Milwaukee the Socialist Party has nominated a full ticket of candidates for the coming elections and from now on until the ballots are cast our comrades will be very much occupied with campaign duties.

## From our sub-diggers column

last week we note that a number of comrades are active securing subscriptions for Proletarec. Due to slack periods our agitators have more opportunity for such work and thus far have made a good showing. Anton Vekic, now touring thru Penna, has been very successful. In Cleveland, Anton Jankovich makes his rounds soliciting renewals. Among other whose names we find in each report are Rozic, Snoy, Zornik, Zakovsek and others. Let's increase this army of go-getters by joining its ranks.

In Detroit our comrades are humming with activity for their branches and city central organization. Remarkable gains in membership have been made, keen interest and good attendances at their meetings. This should be an inspiration to the rest of us to do the same for our branches.

## Poland Shows Us How

Come on, kiddies, gather 'round and learn a lesson. Daughters of the American Revolution, Police Chiefs, National Security Leagues, American Legion leaders, International Bankers, Mine Operators, etc., are requested to pay close attention.

We shall take up the subject, "Revolutions and How to Make Them." Our own fair land teems with examples that might be used, but as the larger portion of them deal with starvation by charity, refrigeration by eviction, and throttling of free speech and assembly, teacher thinks you are too damned stupid to understand them. Our case is taken from the nation of Poland, one of the fair lands of freedom created following the late struggle to make the world safe for democracy. The following description of how the rulers of Poland treat rebels appeared in The Manchester Guardian:

"This time he was beaten on his bare toes, one of the men counting out 50 blows. Then he was strapped to a bed face upward and water was poured down his nostrils from a little can. The water filled his nose and mouth. He sputtered and suffocated. This treatment was repeated three times whereupon he lost consciousness. When he came to he was turned around and tied to the bed face downward. His back was bared and he was beaten in the region of the kidneys. He screamed and was kicked afresh. When he came to, he was a whimpering wreck, and he implored his tormentors to kill him rather than torture him any longer."

The above, kiddies, is one of the most effective ways we know to create the revolutions you apparently desire, which is further proved by the fact that such refinements are being fast adopted by the so-called Red Squads of various American cities. (Leave it to Americans to embrace efficiency!)

Did teacher hear a jeer? Does some smart-aleck child think teacher is kidding the class along? It that so? Well, all who believe Nick Romanoff could have saved his rackets if he had had two Siberias and twice as effective means of torture and twice as big a war and twice as much starvation—please hold up your hands. Oh, that many! Well, class dismissed, and don't ever let me hear you say teacher didn't warn you!

—The American Guardian.

## The Unemployment Microbe

Though the tempo be slow, yet the world moves. It is conquering the forces of nature for the health and comfort of mankind.

A few years ago yellow fever was the scourge of the south. About the year 1900, through the work of Dr. Walter Reed and his associates, who risked and some of them lost their lives in the experiments, yellow fever was conquered. The mosquito carrier was discovered and annihilated and humanity is now safe from its ravages. But there were protests, sneers, objections, remonstrances—"the disease always had been"; "it could not be stopped"; "Dr. Reed's theories were new and dangerous." Yet science triumphed.

As late as 1909 the cause of typhus was found. Previous thereto the disease was a menace in peace and a scourge in war. Yet soldiers of the World War were spared that scorpion. Typhus, through the work of physicians, was prevented. But the preventive work had to run the gamut of conservative opposition.

Today we are face to face with another scourge, wider in extent and more deadly in its ravages than either typhus or yellow fever. It is enforced unemployment. Fortunately the microbe that causes it has been isolated and the means of its destruction are known. We only await the application of the remedy.

The vicious bug is the desire for profits for the few. The cure is social control of industry.

When this remedy is applied the hours of labor will be shortened in proportion to the improvements in methods of wealth production. The application of chemistry and electricity to industrial processes are labor-saving devices and they will be used to save labor, not to increase profits. Like the remedies for physical disease, the cure for unemployment will be combated, only more so, for in addition to inertia it has to contend with the self-interest of short-sighted employers and their political aids. Nevertheless it will prevail.—Agnes H. Downing.

## Why City Taxes?

Up in Senator Borah's state is a happy, scrappy little city whose people are asking that question. The city is Idaho Falls, owner of a self-filling treasury.

"Twelve years ago we dammed a ripple in the river," explains Mayor Barzilla Clark. They built a dam on the Snake river and set up their own electric light and power works. The Utah Light and Power Co., forced to back out, left its high-tension lines at the gates of the city, and, like a cat waiting at a rat hole, waited for the city's project to fail. It still is waiting.

Last year's city budget was \$420,000. Of this only \$74,000 had to come from taxes. The rest came from municipal power and light revenues.

Every city hasn't a ripple at its door to harness. But many cities could, with similar courage, reduce taxes by public ownership of some profitable utility.

Uncle Sam, staggering under his deficit, has a ripple already harnessed down on the Tennessee river. It's called Muscle Shoals. Unless a third presidential veto prevents, this congress is expected to save Muscle Shoals for the people.

—New York World-Telegram.

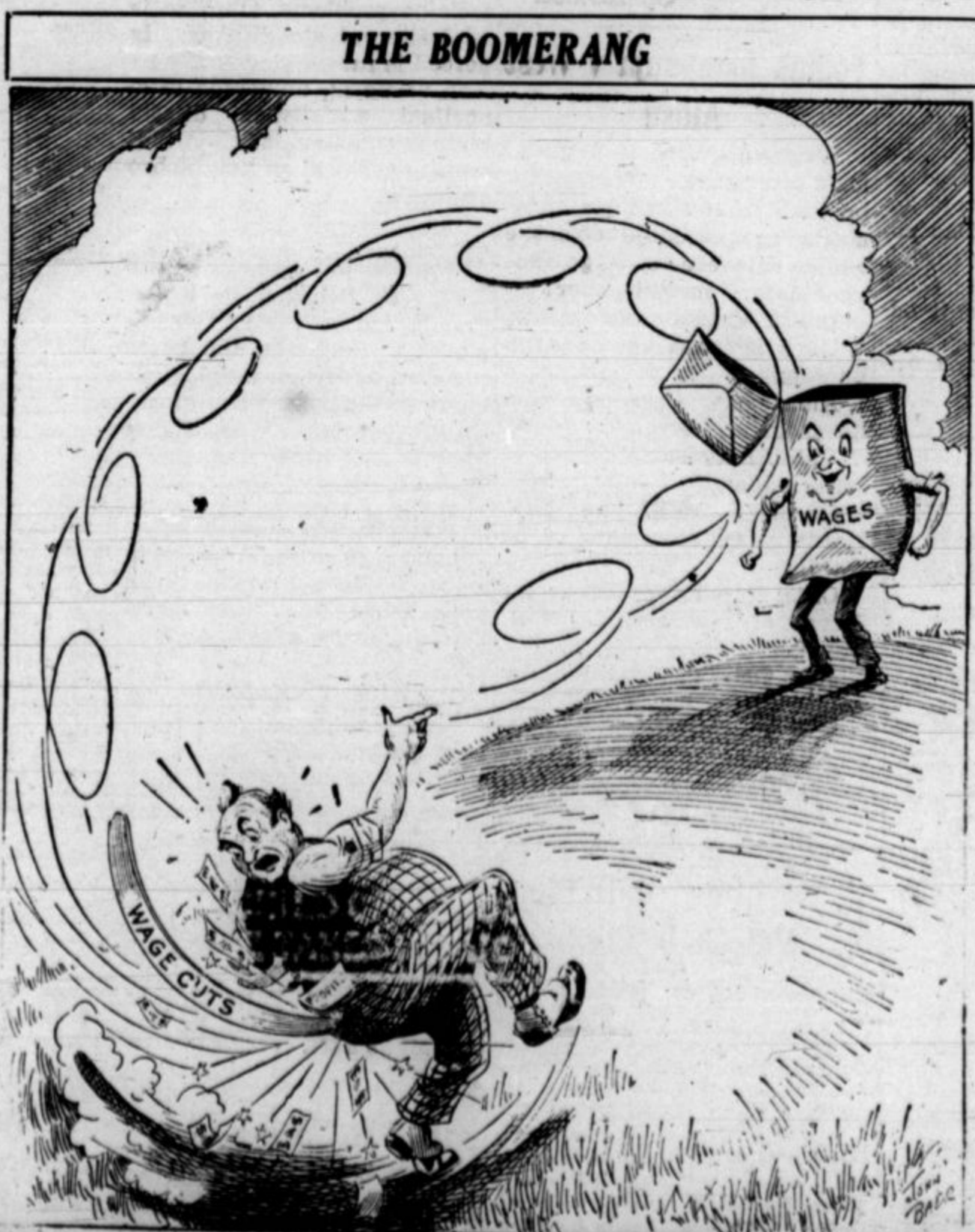
## Up Against It

Labor organizations, business associations and newspapers in the south and west continue to send out warning cries to unemployed people to "stay away" from their respective localities unless they are supplied with funds to see them through the winter months.

In most instances it is mentioned that it is difficult to provide food, clothing and shelter for the home town folks and that strangers cannot hope for help when stranded and are due to undergo severe suffering until employment conditions improve.

One report is that the freight trains in the southwest are loaded to such an extent with hoboes returning east that the train crews no longer attempt to drive off the men who insist upon free rides.

—Cleveland Citizen.



—Drawn for Labor by John M. Baer.