

THE FIELD IS RIPE

The Socialist party started out on its career with a full knowledge of its high mission. Its mission is to get Socialism, and, in doing so, it has to convince a majority of the people that they should have it.

Many a local or branch in a small city or town has found it hard to maintain an organization; but if they keep in mind and adhere to the object of the party, it should not be difficult.

Every organizer has had the experience of local comrades telling him they could not keep the members interested because there was nothing for them to do. In reply, however, to the question, "Have the majority of the people of your community been converted to a belief in Socialism?" they have to admit that such is not the case.

So long as that is not the case, there is so much to do and so much "raw material" to work on, that the only problem is to decide what to do next.

This is true everywhere, even in "Socialist cities." It can hardly be said that there is a "Socialist city" anywhere in the United States, if, by a "Socialist city" you mean a city in which the majority of the people are full-fledged Socialists.

It follows that in all parts of the nation the great work we have before us in the immediate future is to educate the people to a true knowledge of Socialism.

There are various ways of doing this. One splendid way is to get subscriptions to Socialist papers and let them edge the truth in. Meetings, plays, leaflets, pamphlets and books have their place. So have social features. Writing letters to the capitalist papers is valuable, provided they are well written. The circulation of petitions for the Wisconsin Production Corporation bill was very educa-

five, and the hearing on it and the companion bills was equally so. It is safe to say that many thousands of Wisconsin people now have a better idea of what the Socialists want. They'll have a still better idea if the bills pass.

In short, there is far more educative work to do than the present number of active Socialists can get done. The field is ripe to the harvest and the workers are too few. If these lines strike the eyes of any who believe in Socialism but are inactive, may these words haunt them until they become active. —The Milwaukee Leader.

Sales Tax Hits The Worker

According to a government survey undertaken by the bureau of labor statistics, about 80 cents of every dollar which the wage-earner spends goes for purchases upon which a sales tax is levied. Thirty-seven cents of the dollar goes for food, 13 cents for clothing, 12 cents for household equipment and 5 cents for furnishing. The other 13 cents go for odds and ends such as recreation, gasoline, etc., upon which taxes are also levied.

There is no way by which the poor man can escape a tax in one form or another. Even his rent, which makes up the major portion of the remain-

ing 20 cents, also absorbs several kinds of taxes.

The sales tax definitely increases the price of commodities the workers have to buy in order to live. It therefore diminishes the amount of the purchases which the workers can make. By so doing the purchasing power of the workers, which was to be increased by the new-deal formula, is definitely reduced and the inequitable distribution of wealth, which was responsible for our present depression, is made even more inequitable.

The most remarkable feature about the sales tax, which is spreading practically through every state, is that most of the states are in the hands of officials who have been elected on a platform to uphold the hands of the president and to support his new deal. Yet by adopting these vicious sales taxes they are striking down the hands of the president and confounding the new deal. They are adopting policies that are directly contrary to the program of creating a better balance between our consuming and producing powers.

The whole situation shows strikingly how the rich can shirk their responsibilities and transfer the burden to the shoulders of those who are the weakest and the most heavily laden. They have fought successfully every attempt to institute income taxes, except in few instances, which would tax the citizens in accordance with their ability to pay. And they have just as successfully ushered in the sales taxes, every cent of which is food taken from some hungry worker's mouth, and a garment taken from some worker's back.

Labor should concentrate on this evil, which is the vilest form of wage reduction.—The Brewery Worker.

FRANK CESEN TO LECTURE FRIDAY

Chicago, Ill.—At the April meeting of branch No. 1 JSF it was decided to invite comrade Frank Cesen from Detroit to give a lecture in Chicago on some important issue of the day. Comrade Cesen accepted the invitation and arrangements for a meeting have been made for Friday night, May 31, at the SNPJ Hall.

Comrade Cesen is a good speaker and one of our most active comrades in Detroit on the cultural field. His topic Friday night will be "What methods should the Socialist Party use to get the masses for our movement". This subject should be very interesting and every branch member and sympathizer is urged to attend. The admission is free.

After the lecture a social will take place. Refreshments and good music for dancing has been provided for. Attend this lecture Friday and enjoy a pleasant evening with the members of branch 1. — Pub. Committee.

THE FALCON CALL

A new monthly children magazine The Falcon Call has just reached us. It is published by the Red Falcons of America at 7 East 15th St., New York. The contents of this publication is devoted to children between the ages of 6 and 12, acquainting them with the principles of Socialism through short stories, novelties and attractive drawings. Every young boy or girl will be glad to get a copy. Send for a copy to the following address: The Falcon Call, 17 East 15th St., New York, N. Y. The price is ten cents.

Times Change

To be put on bread and water was once a dire threat. Now it has become a plea and a promise.

EVERY DAY

BY COVINGTON HALL

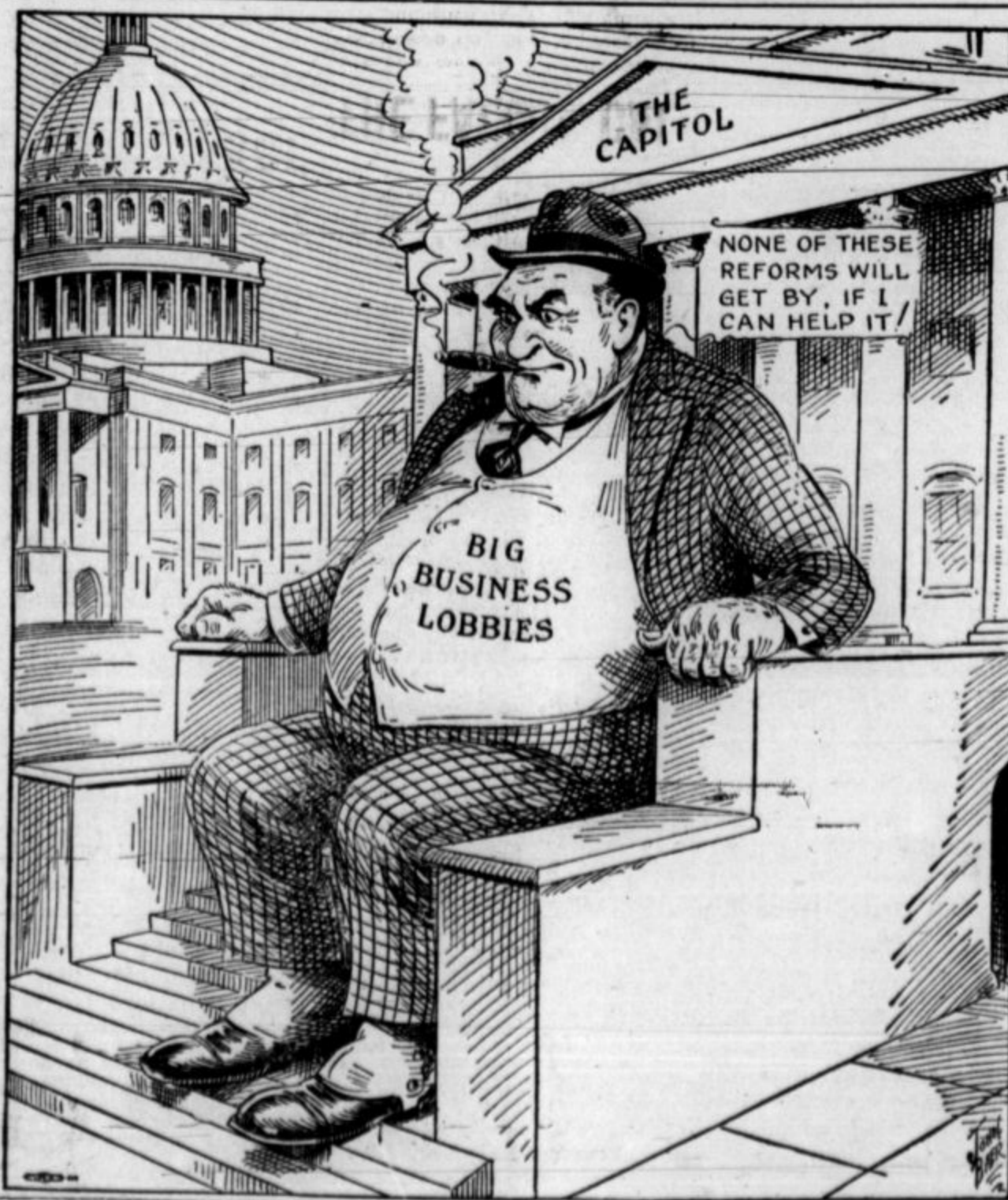
Empires, into dust have moldered, kingdoms crumbled to decay,
But, unwearied, Labor marches on to conquest every day;
Over Ladders, Judges, Pontiffs, over prisons, states shrines,
Moves the Mass forever where the Star of Freedom shines.

Every day the sword is taken from the gunmen 'round the throne;
Every day some son of Science leaves the priesthood power-shorn;
Every day some shame is buried; every day some terror dies;
Every day some soul awakens with the fear gone from his eyes.

Every day the right advances, every day old wrongs retreat,
Every day some lie is trampled 'neath an outraged Rebel's feet;
Every day sees Superstition growing peaked and pale and small,
Sees another dead Osiris from the thrones of Heaven fall.

Every day our knowledge widens; every day some mind is freed;
Every day Truth rings a deathknell over some slave-making creed;
Every day Love's wings grow stronger; every day sees Man arise,
Every day some soul awakens with a new light in his eyes!

Not There for Cherry Blossoms!



OUR WAUKEGAN JSZ CONFERENCE

BY JOHN RAK

Approximately 40 delegates attended the Illinois-Wisconsin Conference of JSF in Waukegan Sunday, May 19. Large delegations came from Milwaukee and Chicago with North Chicago, Waukegan, Sheboygan and Racine also well represented. It was encouraging to note the large number of women present who took an active part in the various discussions.

Frances Zakovsek, secretary, reviewed the past work of the Conference and outlined the afternoon program in which the Chicago dramatic group of branch 1 has been invited to participate. Comrade Pogorelec, chairman of the Conference reported on his Western tour which he has just completed. The trip was a financial and moral success. Proletarec gained in circulation and good literature sales were made. The district organizers reported that all branches and lodges in their vicinities have re-newed their affiliation with the Educational Bureau. In Milwaukee and Racine, several new lodges joined.

A large part of the conference's time was taken up by the delegate's reports. It was encouraging to note that the lodges affiliated with the Educational Bureau were well pleased with the literature and

other service they were able to get from this institution. Branch delegates reported of their cultural work, selling The American Family Almanac, The May Herald and of other activities. In West Allis branch 180 is conducting joint educational meetings with the English comrades and have a large number of Slovene youth students enrolled in the Red Falcon school. Representatives of the English Sections from the Chicago and Milwaukee JSF branches told of their activities in selling literature and other work. In Chicago a Red Falcon group of branch 1 has been organized which is making good progress. Most of the branch delegates stressed the need of more activity in their ranks and of getting more young members to join.

The problem of getting a larger circulation for Proletarec and its publications was well discussed. More systematic organization in this respect will be planned by branches where it has not been practiced as yet. The district organizers are to assist in this work as well as help build up the branches for more activity. The possibility of having a field worker on the road for several weeks campaigning for Proletarec and doing other or-

ganizational work in the various districts was also discussed. Due to the limited time available for the sessions, no definite action was taken. It was hoped that the JSF executive committee would plan such a tour in the future.

The conference decided to hold a manifestation commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Yugoslav Socialist Federation in Waukegan sometime in September. The date and arrangements were left to the secretary and branch 45. A \$25 contribution was made to the Campaign fund of JSF. At the next conference the question of getting youth interested and active for our movement has been placed on the agenda.

A fine crowd attended the afternoon program sponsored by the Conference. The Chicago dramatic group of branch 1 presented "Red Flowers", a 4 act social drama which made a good impression upon the audience. A number of Milwaukeeans saw this play for the second time and informed us that they will plan to stage this drama in Milwaukee sometime this fall. Several Chicagoans were also present to witness the afternoon program and enjoyed themselves until it was time to leave.

THE ILLINOIS SOCIALIST PARTY CONVENTION

BY DONALD J. LOTRICH

The State convention of the Socialist Party of Illinois took place on May 11 and 12 at Decatur, Ill. Decatur itself is a nice little town. It is the home town of ex-Commander Hayes of the American Legion, a hater of true America and American principles, an opponent of organized labor, a great red baiter and an eel and a heel of the Amer. Chamber of Commerce. Decatur is also the home of a 15 week strike of cotton goods workers in which a judge issues a drastic injunction against picketing and where the town had to swear in 150 policemen (strikebreakers) to protect the mills from 275 striking women. So you see, Decatur was quite an appropriate place for the Socialist convention.

Several prominent Socialists were with us for the occasion. Norman Thomas stopped off on the pre-convention evening, to hold a successful meeting at the Decatur High School. With him were Paul Porter, National Labor Secretary, Clarence Senior, Executive Secretary, Prof. Maynard C. Krueger of the National Executive Committee and Douglas Anderson, Chairman of the State Executive Committee. Because of 25 cent admission charge the size of the audience was kept down but about 400 were in attendance, anyway. All the speakers were exceptionally good. In particular, Norman Thomas, who made the best address I have heard from him as yet.

The following morning the State Executive Committee met to complete the convention details.

Joseph Brinocar, State Secretary, opened the convention shortly after 1 P. M. Saturday. Clarence Senior made the keynote speech in which he outlined the work and progress of the Party and its various divisions. He stressed the need of Socialist influence in the trade unions and other labor bodies and urged the fulfillment of the United Socialist Drive to carry the Party thru for some crucial battles on the political front next year. He pointed out that in a survey made by the Association of Power and Light Utilities, the Socialist Party was considered its enemy No. 1 and when such a vast monopoly undertakes to give us such a high ranking the Socialist Party, as feeble as it is, does amount to something.

When the credentials committee reported that 35 branches sent 45 delegates I was disappointed. Surely, I thought, we would have 75 delegates. Though we are supposed to have 114 branches in Illinois only 35 saw fit to be represented. That dampened the ardor considerably. However, the convention set to work at once and elected Comrade M. E. Kirkpatrick (recently elected mayor of Granite City) chairman of the convention. Comrades Burl and Brinocar were named vice chairman and secretary respectively and Theresa Kerr recorder. Five committees were then named, as follows: organization, resolutions, constitution, press and nominating.

Reports were read by the secretary and the labor committee. These were surprisingly lacking in information and certainly in spirit. For me, they were too ordinary. Convention reports should always be concise, spirited and well prepared. It seems like our comrades didn't take the convention seriously.

A communication to the SEC from the Communist Party was then reported on. The C. P. wanted a "united front" again. This is their annual maneuver and the SEC recommended that we not waste the time of the convention. A majority voted to give the Communists 10 minutes time in which to pour out their usual misrepresentations and blunders because that's exactly what it amounted to. The Communist district organizer began telling of the united fronts in Milwaukee and Wisconsin and elsewhere. He evidently didn't recognize Comrade Al Benson, ex-sheriff of Milwaukee County, who was invited to the convention. Well, Benson was asked to make a statement. He did, to the entire disgust of the Communist misleader. Benson told the whole story that the Communists haven't even got a look in anywhere in Wisconsin. We spent exactly 45 minutes on this subject and then tabled the "united" front proposals. The time wasn't all wasted, however. I hope some of our comrades learned a thing or two about the insincerity of these would be united fronters.

With that the Saturday session was adjourned. The committees were ordered to meet at night and report in the morning.

Ex-sheriff Benson, Prof. Krueger and Paul Porter went to the square at 8 P. M. for a street corner meeting and attracted a big crowd. Comrades Benson and Krueger had their say but Porter was stopped soon after he had started by a policeman who ordered the meeting disbanded. Several chamber of commerce men listened for a while and then phoned the Police Chief to stop the meeting because they must have feared the truth would take hold of some of the Decatur workers. Porter caustically remarked that had ex-Commander Hayes been speaking the freedom of speech would not have been infringed upon. Some of us tried to trace the cause of the stoppage of the meeting. With several Decatur citizens we trotted to the police station but we could not get any one responsible for the orders. The mayor couldn't be reached by phone.

Many comrades spent the evening listening to our speakers at the Moose Hall where a program of movies, lantern slides and talks was arranged. Senior, Krueger, Benson and Porter spoke there again.

Committee reports were made Sunday morning. The Press committee confirmed the action of the SEC in urging the National Executive Committee to adopt a Party paper. In the meantime it asked support of the

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We heard interesting travel reports from comrades Chas. Pogorelec and Joško Oven after the regular monthly meeting of Branch No. 1 JSF last Friday night. Reports were also made on the State Convention and the District Conference of the Educational Bureau JSF. All reports were interesting. The numerous experiences of comrades Pogorelec and Oven even amusing. That both of these tours were successful goes without saying. If only we could keep some steadily on the road our movement and our press would gain immensely. Comrade Justin Saitz is the new secretary of our branch.

For Friday, May 31, 1935 Branch No. 1 JSF has arranged to bring comrade Frank Cesen from Detroit, Mich. for a lecture. It will be held at the SNPJ Hall. Comrade Cesen is well known in Yugoslav cultural circles. He has had a hand in promoting many programs and dramatic presentations and he is well versed to speak about cultural and other subjects. He will lecture about prospects and future of the Socialist Party. We urge our people to attend. The lecture will start at 8:00 P. M. No admission will be charged. After the conclusion a social will follow.

Our Unemployed Club Headquarters are already becoming popular among the lawn bowlers. With a little help from our comrades we can make it the central gathering place for the employed as well as the unemployed. When our people have nowhere to go these warm summer evenings the time can be well spent at our Unemployed Club, 2544 S. Millard Ave. We again extend an invitation for you to use the premises as often as you care.

The New Deal enthusiasts received another big blow when President Roosevelt relief program was jammed thru Congress with power for the President to set the rate of pay on relief projects. The rates were set from \$19.00 per month for unskilled labor to \$94.00 for highly skilled labor. How can any man have security at wages of \$19.00 per month? How can they ever hope to get out of the depression by keeping the workers ragged and hungry? Well they know that industry cannot absorb those unemployed and still they reason that the wage is low to force workers to seek employment with private concerns. Organized labor should oppose any such program vigorously. However, many of the officials of the A. F. of L. are so in love with the New Deal that they shan't oppose the starvation wages set by the President. The result will be that an attempt will be made to lower the wages of union labor too. If only we could lop

off some of the big salaries of the professional union leaders.

Last week we mentioned that the Illinois legislature would jam thru an increase in the sales tax to 3% despite the fact that the bill was defeated on five different attempts. It was amended and carried as a regular bill. So that beginning with July 1 the tax will go into effect, the poor will be 1% poorer and the wealthy will laugh up their sleeves because a democratic legislature with little knowledge of economics and no consciousness, at least no consciousness that the poor suffer most thru sales taxes, have done precisely what Big Money called for and what is bound to increase the wound of the depression.

That Sweitzer scandal wherein our famed City Clerk stole over \$400,000 is getting the headlines. Sweitzer denies any wrongdoing, which is typical of democratic and republican politicians. Everything is going to turn up all right, he told his fellow Elks at their recent meeting. They applauded him lustily for that remark and promised to stand behind him despite everything. Sweitzer must have done a lot for the Elks else why should they back up a thief and a robber. Maybe some of the stolen money was used for the Elks. Anyway, instead of condemning him and throwing him out they applaud his taking ways.

CLASSICAL LEAGUE

A Yale student specializing in classical languages has been arrested at the Colt Arms-picket line in Hartford, Conn.

He called the boss a skunk.

Just Listen To Him!

Charlie Dawes, who borrowed 90 millions from Uncle Sam and paid a little of it back, reads that a million Illinois folks face hunger as relief stops, that the business index has hit a new low for the year well below 1934, that the shipment of goods has hit a tailspin—

So he predicts that full prosperity will be here in June.

Speaking of Wage Cuts

One of our fellow workers on the payroll of a large corporation "earns" a salary of \$300,000 yearly. Charles M. Schwab pulls down \$250,000, not counting overtime work, for Bethlehem Steel, and Walter S. Gifford of the American Telephone Co., receives valuta to the extent of \$200,000 with which to keep the wolves away from his humble abode.

—The New Leader.