

Just Commenting

Chicago.—Friday, Feb. 17, the Pioneers shall decide who will be our two delegates, and there will be some refreshments and entertainment. It is very important that all who have the right to cast a ballot should be present.

Our lodge is the only English Speaking lodge to have the right of two delegates, and at the last convention this was true, too. We shall have five Pioneers on the convention floor, and they are: Dr. John J. Zaverznik, Supreme Medical Examiner; Donald J. Lotrich, Second Vice-President of the SNPJ; John Olin, of the Financial Committee; and two delegates.

I see Waukegan Little Forts will have a delegate, whereas at the last convention they were not able to make the grade, although they were close. This is fine, but another lodge in Cleveland has fallen. The Pioneers, Young Americans, Comrades, Badgers, and Strugglers have held their ground since the last convention.

When a lodge has two opposing factions, or two men who do not like each other who bitterly fight one another compelling the membership to take sides, they should stop. The general membership, when approached, will be found to oppose quarrelling. No one loves a meeting where bitter debates occur, and that statement is a law as hard as granite.

Human Struggles

Detroit.—I just dread to contemplate of the untold sufferings among the people of this country. A country which has plenty of everything, including money which is scarce.

The companies know their limit better than the laborer knows either his own limit or that of the company for which he works. The employer's knowledge of his own position is sometimes shown in an effective "bluff" or "stall."

campaigning they put through, shortly after the war, which glorified the so-called "American plan" of individual rather than organized bargaining, of the "open" rather than the "closed" shop, which meant that the workers should not avail themselves of the same benefit of organization which the capitalists were at that moment enjoying.

The most treacherous type of organization to which the capitalists may appeal (as being the case with the Illinois Miners) is the labor detective bureau which, though no clash between employer and employees has come, will place spies among the workers or buy out the non-loyal workers; these fellows will work themselves into the union and often become union officers.

Would you imagine telephone girls going on strike now, when their employers could install automatic switchboards on short notice, which they are doing right along, regardless. America is right now suffering from that kind of unemployment, the supplanting of human labor by mechanical devices and not distributing the hours accordingly.

The "truck" system (which we thought was disappearing but is coming back again very rapidly) of payment in whole or in part in goods rather than in money, robs the worker of a large part of his independence, and reduces his wages. The value which the employer sets upon the goods furnished is always high; receiving his pay in goods and not in money, the want of cash keeps him from moving.

Sam Kavcic, Member Lodge 564.

"ŽIDANA MARELA"

Cleveland, O.—The Ameriška Domovina (American Home) tried with all its might to make the dance given by the Socialist Club 49 Christmas day, Dec. 25, a failure. But their plan and tricks did not succeed. The hall was filled with young and old merrymakers.

We should have closed at midnight, but who wanted to go home when the next day was another Christmas. We said to the law, "Go home, and we'll have a private party." So with Jack Nagel at the piano, Tony Sernel on the sax and F. Barbic Jr. on his accordion—the trio serenaded till 3 a. m.

Who are Mr. Pirc and Mr. Yaka Debeve? They think they are two shrewd politicians of the Democratic party. Their paper, the American Home, supports this party and it is as changeable as the weather on Lake Erie. Today they are freethinkers and even socialists. Tomorrow they have changed again, but at the end of the week they are still Catholics and democrats.

jobs, but only a few are rewarded including, of course, Pirc and Debeve. The rest are waiting, and will continue to wait. We, who are telling this to the masses, are attacked by this reactionary sheet, its editors and their friends. They can't scare us, as they are not even democrats.

What is this Technocracy?

Forest City, Pa.—Laurence Rogin in The New Leader writes: "The Cure-All Is Here." It took three depression years for America to develop a popular cure-all, coming from the source least expected, the engineers. But Technocracy is here, and while its "bible" has not yet been published and many of its secrets are still buried, enough has been disclosed to arouse more interest among all classes of people than any creed has in a long time.

The primary principle that the technocrats claim to have discovered is that the machine age has so developed that man no longer needs to live in poverty. They point out how technical advances have enabled one man to do many hundreds of times as much work as he could do before the industrial revolution. They have even estimated exactly how many hours would be required to give us a decent standard of living at the state of technical development now possible.

The remarks that Technocracy makes about economics, philosophy, Socialism and other aspects of life apart from engineering do nothing but show its ignorance. Where Technocracy falls down and becomes vicious is in its lack of provision for taking power. Charts may show that capitalism will collapse, but do they show that the capitalists will turn over the factories to the technologists? Such a view is Utopian.

What is needed in this country, more than further criticism of capitalism, even though it be brilliant and colorful, and especially if it be confused, is an organization to take over the control of industry and of government and run them for the many rather than for the few. That must be developed in the form of a class-conscious Socialist Party. (Sent by Joseph Drasler.)

BIG DANCE FEB. 25

Willock, Pa.—The ladies of SNPJ Lodge No. 149 will hold a dance at Siloene Hall, featuring Jimmy Horne's orchestra. Admission 35c. Everyone welcome. Mary Drasler, Secretary.

ATTENTION!

Chicago, Ill.—As a member of Slovene Male Chorus "Prešeren," I wish to announce our Fourth Annual Social Dance at Berger's Hall on February 18. Friends, if it's a social time you are seeking, this affair you must not fail to attend.

Argentina is planning to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of white lead and all paints and varnishes containing it. For light work a California man has developed a single cylinder one horse-power gasoline motor weighing only four and a half pounds.

SNPJ Investments

So, Chicago, Ill.—Prior to every convention, there is a great outcry from a group of self-appointed economists, on the Society's investments, sick benefit policies, special assessments, etc. But most of them seem to go off half cooked, a few giving some constructive advice.

Taking the question of mortgages to members, for instance, the defenders of the policy of lending money on first mortgages, point to the bad investments in bonds that the organization had made not stopping to consider that those investments were made in so-called boom times when everything touched seemed to turn to gold.

Our Society not being the only one so affected either, but some of our leading institutions with men skilled in the investment game being hard hit. Let us list a few of the disadvantages of mortgage loans to members.

(1) The argument is that we are helping our members and not a capitalist organization with these loans. Have the defenders of this policy ever tried to find out how many SNPJ members are home owners? I'd wager the number is less than 20% and the business of the organization is to look after the interest of all the members and not a small minority.

(2) Did these members ever read about the difficulties some of our leading insurance companies are experiencing with their mortgages, declaring moratoriums on hundreds of millions of dollars of farm property? Do these people know that the SNPJ must realize an income on its investments in order to be able to operate?

(3) In time to come as the SNPJ acquires more and more homes there will be needed extra administrative work to manage the property. There will be taxes, insurance, repairs, etc., to be paid.

(4) As there is no sign of the crisis abating it grows worse as time goes on. What will be the character of these loans, will the members even be able to make the initial payments, some of them being unemployed and borrowing money against their homes to take care of their living expenses, etc., and gambling on the chance of their getting work in the near future.

It looks as if the only reason for the arguments in favor of these loans is a sentimental one. But sentiment doesn't enter in business, not even in a fraternal society, most of the members being in the society for purely selfish reasons. So let us do a little clear thinking before advancing of many panaceas or cures for the Society's ills. Rudolph Kosic.

Profit System as Root of Depression

Universal, Pa.—In my case, as I pointed out in my article in the Prosveta of Jan. 11, Page 8, the transition toward the acceptance of labor philosophy was slow. What influenced the most was the writings of men like Norman Thomas, Heywood Brown and other able exponents of this philosophy, but nothing impressed me so much as an article written in the "Pittsburgh Press" about ten months ago by a "Jobless." This quotation appears word for word below.

The present deplorable condition of the whole country is viewed by the majority of people as another of the periodic stagnations of trade which follow each boom of prosperity, and they are, more or less philosophical, awaiting the end of the depression and the resumption of trade. There are, however, many factors present in these heart-breaking times that were entirely absent in all previous depressions. Many of our most noted writers on economics are asking, "Are we witnessing the final breakdown of the profit system?"

The payrolls and salaries of all American workers never exceed the cost of production of the goods made by the workers. Wages and salaries represent the total purchasing power of the workers. Mills and factories cannot operate for any considerable length of time without realizing profit. American workers cannot buy any of the goods which when sold represent profit, because their purchasing power is limited to the buying of the goods, which when sold, cover the cost of production.

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for any considerable length of time without realizing profit. American workers cannot buy any of the goods which when sold represent profit, because their purchasing power is limited to the buying of the goods, which when sold, cover the cost of production.

We have lost the bulk of our export sales through the imposition of tariffs and the subsequent building of hundreds of foreign branch plants by American capitalists. Where then I ask, is the purchasing power to be found to buy the balance of the goods, the sale of which furnish the profit necessary to run the mills and factories, but remaining unsold, serve only to stop the wheels of industry, throw the workers out of employment and consequently cut off their purchasing power to buy the goods produced at cost, making the problem of disposing of profit goods an impossibility!

I fail to see any reason why mills and factories could not be run on a cost of production basis. The American worker could then, with his purchasing power, take care of the entire product. There would be no over-production and no unemployment. Such a system could be applied to every phase of activity. The necessities of the non-working owners of the plant could be taken care of without hardship to either class. Call such a suggestion Socialism or what you care to, but the nation may shortly be forced to adopt it by sheer necessity.

I urge that we study and adopt Socialism because it would remove the cause of the present evils, which is profit. Under Socialism, profit would be expressed in human welfare and happiness, not in dollars. Socialism would give us all an abundance of the necessities which men must have before they can give their attention to the higher and more beautiful things of life.

Let us realize that a system that will no longer work must be discarded. Let us show our intelligence by

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