

TAKE PART IN PUBLIC HEARINGS

(Continued from Page 1.)

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Bohn stated that legislation was virtually useless without a working class organization to enforce it. He said that there were already at least ten laws in the state of Illinois which, if enforced, would have prevented the Cherry disaster.

In reply to Mally's citation of the necessity of fighting for legislation to prevent another Cherry disaster, he said that there were already at least ten laws in the state of Illinois which, if enforced, would have prevented the Cherry disaster.

I had been argued, said Bohn, that although the working class could not get legislation and it enforced: by making it, yet to do so would mean that the Socialists were right, and that it was necessary for them to proceed further with the Socialists.

Let Bourgeoisie Do Reform Work. The passage of reform legislation, he said, was the natural work of the bourgeoisie, and could be left to them.

The danger of a similar development was very real, he thought. He indicated by the fact that thirteen bills withdrew from the Socialist party after the adoption of the unsatisfactory national platform of 1907, and in the West there are already thousands who were once good Socialist party members who have become disgusted with politics on account of opportunism.

If these men are allowed to go away and if a John Burns, a Ferris, or a Briant arises in this country, in the next five years it will be because such methods as this have opened the door to opportunism, he concluded.

Frank Bohn Opposes. Frank Bohn, who made the motion to adjourn the session, was the principal speaker in opposition. He prefaced his remarks by disclaiming the tendency...

Henry Harris declared that the plan was championed by lawyers, doctors and real estate men, but by union workmen. It amounted to the same thing as petitioning, he said, and even if legislation could be obtained it would be misinterpreted, and declared unconstitutional by capitalist judges.

Albert Abrahams said that the question was between the doctrinaire Socialism of the student and the live Socialism of the real world. Sound theoretical knowledge is not alone sufficient, he said; it is necessary to interest people by the advocacy of immediate measures, and then they would be led on to study Socialism and class struggle and accept Socialism as a whole.

Organizer N. Solomon declared that the amendment for the drafting of bills was something outside of local jurisdiction, being a state matter. If one local can be represented at an Albany hearing, any other can, however small. The result might even be that two locals at such a hearing would have opposing views about the measure in question.

SPARGO LECTURES ON LIFE OF KARL MARX

Large Audience Listens to Talk on Work of the Father of Scientific Socialism.

"Karl Marx and His Work" was the subject of a lecture delivered by John Spargo before a meeting given under the auspices of Local New York of the Socialist Party yesterday morning at Lyric Hall, 42d street and Sixth avenue.

Spargo opened his talk by stating that he would deal with the personality of Marx preparatory to the more serious questions that he hopes to deal with next Sunday at the same hall.

"It is more than thirty-six years since that giant intellect died and English wired Liebknecht: The greatest mind of the century thinks no more."

Spargo next treated a newspaper article from the pen of Dr. Parkhurst, in which he said "the name of Marx is a stench in the minds of all decent minded persons. The speaker replied to this by saying that it is strange that people should in one breath condemn Marx while praising Lincoln, considering that the latter appreciated the work of Marx and dearly loved him.

In his discussion of Marx's student life, Spargo treated the matter in an entertaining manner and brought forth facts that have long been lost and forgotten.

"In his university life," Spargo explained, "Marx was a poor student. He would study in his own way and gave no attention to the pet theories and methods of his instructors. As a student he was an absolute failure."

Spargo next went into Marx's romance with Jenny. He told how he wooed and won her and how the many difficulties were solved.

"Marx, as a youth, had great talent as a poet, and wrote wonderful satirical verses. He was the terror of his schoolmates because of his ability to ridicule them with his ever ready wit expressed in verse.

"As he grew older and fell in love with Jenny, he turned from satirical verses to love songs, and many delightful sentiments were created by him."

Spargo next went into the intellectual evolution of the father of modern scientific Socialism. He explained how he developed from the Hegelian philosophy into his own line of thought and research.

"Marx," continued Spargo, "never pandered to the mob. Never played on the weaknesses of the masses. He never feared to take the unpopular side if he thought it true.

BIG CROWD HEARS SOCIALIST DEBATE

He has to meet competition he is doomed as soon as his capital is vanished. Nor is it in accord with sentimental justice to pay some favored toiler more than his equally worthy brother can earn.

"The manhood wage—a plan by which we accord to each laborer enough money to support himself, his wife and as many children as God sends to his home—is a delusion and a snare. It directly encourages improvidence and stimulates the growth of population by diverting nature's stern discipline from the unworthy to the worthy. It pays the thrift and temperance and vices a premium on recklessness and vicious self-indulgence.

"I charge Socialism with fundamental error in preaching the doctrine of human equality. Nature abhors equality. Men vary infinitely from the meagrest degenerate to the tallest of the sons of God. They can be equal only before the law or in the eye of the law, or as supplicants for justice. Intellectually we need patricians and noblemen to encourage us by precept and example and point out the path of progress. A dollar a day—a thousand dollars a day—will never remunerate men like Edison and Harriman for their services to a world of workers.

"The attitude of Socialists toward the courts of the law is undemocratic. In America we must reverse the law. It is our only hope. We have no standing army of appreciable proportions. We have no sons of privilege with unequal demands addressed to public authority. We have no place else to go than to the courts for the redress of grievances. To teach the multitudes that justice is bought and sold in this country, and that the judgment of our judicial tribunals are knocked down to the highest bidder, is to accuse the whole nation of crime."

Tremendous applause greeted Hillquit when he got up for rebuttal. He began his reply to Russell's "indictment" of Socialism by addressing District Attorney Whitman, the chairman, as follows: "In behalf of Socialism I enter a plea of 'not guilty,' and at the risk of violating all rules of the code of criminal procedure, I prefer counter charges against Professor Russell and his client in this case, the capitalist system.

"I charge Professor Russell with the crime of having created a man of straw, labeled him Socialism and then slaughtered him with premeditation and deliberation. It is a case of straw-man-slaughter."

Referring to Professor Russell's eulogy of labor, Hillquit said that the capitalist paraphrased the Biblical injunction, 'Thou shalt work in the sweat of thy brow' to 'Thou shalt make others sweat for thee in the sweat of their brow,' or more tersely, 'Thou shalt make others sweat for thee.'

He then told of how the capitalist system causes idleness both among the rich and the poor, and the empty lives of the gilded youth and the empty lives of the gilded youth.

Hillquit pointed out that only under Socialism will work be a pleasure. Today, he said, work is repulsive, monotonous, exhaustive, hazardous and unremunerative.

He denied that capital is superior to labor, and showed that instead labor creates and denies the fallacy that many make that Socialists oppose capital as such. He said: "If a frenzied stock speculator corners all the wheat or meat of this country for the purpose of personal enrichment and the people rise in indignation, we do not say that they are opposed to wheat or meat—they are very much in favor of these things, but they resent the attempt to withhold them from those who need them and are entitled to them. This is precisely the position of Socialists with reference to capital."

"I charge the capitalist class with cornering the machinery of wealth production upon which the life of the people depends."

Regarding the sacredness of law, Hillquit said that law is only the reflex and expression of minds and conditions. He said: "There is nothing mysterious or sacred about the law, and we do not want it to be made the instrument for the perpetuation of economic injustice or social backwardness, an instrument by which the dead may rule the living, the strong oppress the weak."

"Progress is born of criticism and opposition. Unreasoning veneration for the law leads to nothing but social stagnation and reaction."

CHINESE SHOTS JAP

After Quarrel in Doyer St. Hallway Y. Saito Gets Fatal Wound.

Jung Hing, a Chinese cook, of 4 Doyers street, shot and mortally injured a Japanese valet named Y. Saito of 167 Cherry street, last night, in front of the hallway of 4 Doyers street.

Three minutes after the shooting the Chinese was found bending over a stove on the top floor of his house, preparing to cook food that lay there in saucers on the floor.

He was breathing hard and his face was white. While he was being brought downstairs two witnesses were rounded up by the police. They were two lobbyboys of the quarter, who had seen the man do the shooting and run up the flight of stairs.

COLD SCOURGES MEXICANS. MEXICO CITY, Jan. 23.—The unprecedented cold weather that prevails over the central plateau of Mexico is causing intense suffering among the poorer classes of people. The mercury dropped to nineteen degrees above zero in some sections. All growing crops were killed.

provided for by other methods in previous sections. If the amendment about drafting bills were adopted, he said, those opposed to it on principle would have to start a systematic agitation against it, and would appeal to the rank and file to defeat the action when it was put to referendum vote.

Socialists had always criticized the unions for sending committees to the legislature, on the ground that it obscured the irreconcilable antagonism between labor and capital, said Solomon, and it would be inconsistent for the Socialist party to now take the same action.

An amendment incorporating the encouragement of Socialist co-operative enterprises in the constitution was laid on the table.

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FEAR THE SOCIALISTS

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 23.—The plan to start a complete meat boycott here is threatened because of the fear that the Socialist party will make it a political affair, to press the party propaganda for government ownership of corporations.

The idea of having the aldermen steer the movement or make an investigation is not appealing strongly to many of those who think something should be done by the public, because of the fear that politics would play a part.

It is said the Socialists will handle the matter for themselves, and the Democrats and Republicans will remain in a position to take part in any general movement as civilians, if they see fit. As a matter of fact, the aldermen who would be most likely to jump at some phase of the situation ordinarily are feeling around to ascertain what would be the best stand to take from a political standpoint.

FOR BIG CONFERENCE. National Anti-Food Trust League Takes Self Quite Seriously. WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—A national conference on the subject of food prices was planned this afternoon by the directors of the newly organized Anti-food Trust League. The league claims a membership of 30,000, and hopes to increase that number to a million. Invitations to attend the conference will be extended to packers, manufacturers of foods, organizations which work for the uplift, women's clubs and associations, labor unions, etc.

An address to the American people was prepared today, and is in part as follows: "The National Anti-food Trust League stands for the American principle of fair play. The league is organized in behalf of the consumer as a bulwark against excessive prices of any staple food article.

The address also says that following the inception of the league and the publicity given it, there has been a spontaneous uprising throughout the country, and the meat boycott is not the work of the league, but it is a result of our spreading the doctrine of 'back to normal prices.'

TEARA KENDALL DEAD. CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—Ezra Kendall, who has been staying in the "Vinegar Buyer" for a number of years, died suddenly today at a sanitarium in Madisonville, Ind. Apoplexy was the immediate cause of his death.

What has Professor Russell answered us? He has given us the best answer that any representative of the modern system, or apologist for it, can give us. He said: 'It is not a question of justice in itself, of fairness or of equity. Here we are. Here is the capitalist class. We own the instruments of production and you shall not take them from us, because we own them.' This is not a demand of justice. It's an expression of pure naked power; nothing else.

"Assume that we could monopolize the streams and rivers and assume that we could apportion among the powerful class the water required for everyday life, and assume that we draw some seeds for it—what a monstrous, hideous dream! Is it not? And what are we doing today? Haven't we parceled out the globe created by whom? By the natural forces, or Almighty, or by whomsoever you want; haven't we divided it into slices, and don't we give this slice to this man and the other slice to the other man, and don't they stand before mankind and say: 'Keep off of this globe; it belongs to us.'"

"And when we ask: 'What title do you have, man, and woman, flesh of our flesh, blood of our blood, to monopolize every alive for yourselves and to exclude the rest?' their only answer is a title deed—some senseless, dead, stupid paper signed, sealed and delivered. And that is a complete answer to all your moral argument, to all justice, to all equity.

"Now, I fully sympathize with Professor Russell when he objects to being in a Utopia and in a paradise. I don't think I would stand it much, and the angels in heaven would object to our permanent company, either by mine, for any length of time.

"But where does the Utopia come in? Professor Russell has read to you one extreme. There have been some more printed and written along the same line, the conception bears that the Socialist state, as we imagine it, would direct and manage the activity of each and every member of the community. Today, for instance, President Taft at Washington would have the pleasant job, under a Socialist state, of getting up every morning, running over the list of say 25,000,000 or so of active workers and assigning to each a particular task for the day, saying: 'A, today you will do carpentering; B, you can dig ditches today; C, you will wash bottles today; D, today you will shoe horses; X, today you will shoe flies.'"

NEW YORK STATE SOCIALIST LEAGUE

State Secretary—J. Schaefer. East 16th Street, New York City. LOCAL SECRETARIES: Albany—El B. Thomas. Albany—F. Z. Arnold, 49 1/2 1st street. Amsterdam (Litchfield)—K. Kimball street. Astoria—William Krueger, 100 1/2 1st street. Auburn—Miss Louise C. North street. Belmont—Elmer Johnson, 100 1/2 1st street. Binghamton—Dr. George A. Beach 162 Court street. Brant—John Graham, North Collins. Buffalo—Louis F. Ezlin, 762. Catekill—H. E. Decker, 100 1/2 1st street. Clinton—John G. Kirby, 100 1/2 1st street. Corning—W. W. Arland, 100 1/2 1st street. Lawrence building. Delapville—A. E. Froot, 100 1/2 1st street. Dunkirk—George A. Williams, 100 1/2 1st street. Elmira—Harry B. Aldrich, 100 1/2 1st street. Elmira Heights—S. A. West 17th street. Farnham—Daniel Grancy, 100 1/2 1st street. Fulton—H. R. Fiske, 450 1/2 1st street. Geneva—Preston Wright, 100 1/2 1st street. Gloversville—W. W. Robinson, 100 1/2 1st street. Hamack—H. D. Wakeman, 100 1/2 1st street. Hempstead—Charles Lenka, 100 1/2 1st street. Main street, Freeport. Hornell—S. Wooster, 100 1/2 1st street. Ithaca—R. S. Stevens, 100 1/2 1st street. Ithaca—C. Crandall, 100 1/2 1st street. Jamestown—W. A. Bennett, 100 1/2 1st street. West 2d street. Johnstown—August Praetorius, 100 1/2 1st street. Burton street. Kings County—Ed Lindgren, 100 1/2 1st street. Willoughby avenue, Brooklyn. Lily Dale—Lee Morse. Lockport—J. C. Sweet, 100 1/2 1st street. Lockport—C. A. Stannard, 100 1/2 1st street. Juniper street. Middletown—S. C. Hill, 100 1/2 1st street. Mount Vernon—W. C. Chase, 100 1/2 1st street. 461 South Columbus avenue. Niagara Falls—E. E. Chase, 100 1/2 1st street. 1913 Niagara street. Newburgh—D. M. S. Fenn, 100 1/2 1st street. Second street. New Rochelle—L. Gould, 100 1/2 1st street. New York—U. Solomon, 100 1/2 1st street. 84th street. Northfield—E. Van Name, 100 1/2 1st street. 200 1/2 1st street. 200 1/2 1st street. Norwich—F. E. Woodard, 100 1/2 1st street. 100 1/2 1st street. Nyack—August Sauter, 100 1/2 1st street. Olean—P. V. Carvill, 100 1/2 1st street. Union street. Oneonta—Orlo Epps, 100 1/2 1st street. Palmyra—Dr. E. C. North, 100 1/2 1st street. Patchogue—A. M. Walther, 100 1/2 1st street. Peekskill—J. J. Heleker, Jr., 100 1/2 1st street. Park street. Penn Yan—Charles B. Walker, 100 1/2 1st street. Lawrence street. Port Chester—H. Koenen, 100 1/2 1st street. Box 23. Port Jervis—Theodore Hecker, 100 1/2 1st street. 146 Hammond street. Poughkeepsie—J. C. Rothman, 100 1/2 1st street. Mansion street. Queens County—Carl Hahn, 100 1/2 1st street. 498 Fairview avenue, Elmsford Heights. Rochester—William Kirby, 100 1/2 1st street. Rome—William C. Dora, 100 1/2 1st street. 100 1/2 1st street. Sag Harbor—William Foshier, 100 1/2 1st street. O. Box 262. Salamanca—John W. Walcott, 100 1/2 1st street. South Main street. Sandy Hill—J. E. Cooper, 100 1/2 1st street. Dowell street. Schenectady—H. M. Merrill, 100 1/2 1st street. Liberty street. Seneca Falls—George C. Calkins, 100 1/2 1st street. Chapel street. South Glens Falls—Charles Sweet, Box 262. Stapleton—William Vesek, 100 1/2 1st street. 100 1/2 1st street. Steamburg—Raymond Stevens, 100 1/2 1st street. Syracuse—G. A. Strobel, 100 1/2 1st street. Bridge street. Ticonderoga—George J. Washburn, 100 1/2 1st street. Tarrytown—Gordon V. Carruth, 100 1/2 1st street. Main street. Tonawanda—Roy H. Jones, 100 1/2 1st street. North Tonawanda, N. Y. Troy—Frad C. Phoenix, 100 1/2 1st street. Utica—Miss Phoebe A. Klein, 100 1/2 1st street. Mary street. Watertown—Steven English, 100 1/2 1st street. Leray street. Watervliet—D. F. Dwyer, 100 1/2 1st street. Seventh avenue. Watkins—Earl Ford, 100 1/2 1st street. 100 1/2 1st street. Waverly—A. A. Weber, 100 1/2 1st street. Wellsville—D. M. Reed, 100 1/2 1st street. White Plains—William Foshier, 100 1/2 1st street. 110 Railroad avenue.

to change either human nature or the entire system of modern civilization. We expect to do but one thing, and that is, abolish the system of exploitation. Is it feasible, is it possible? "Why, there have been times when men have demanded other and as radical reforms, and they have been called dangerous dreamers. But the reforms have been materialized nevertheless. The man who truly is a dreamer is not the one who foresees the possibility of a Socialist change, because our entire history and civilization has been one of changes. That man is truly a dreamer who believes that everything will always remain just as it is today. (Applaud.)

"I maintain that the present capitalist system, with all its horrors and evils, is horrible—a nightmare. But Socialism is not a dream, but a reality. Take the millions and millions of people, men and women of all classes, civilized world, united under the flag of Socialism. Watch their growth. Watch their tremendous progress.

"Notice that they have broken down all barriers between man and his fellow man. Notice that they have created the strongest international organization the history ever knew. And if in the face of all that you are going to say that it is all a dream, a childish Utopia, without any basis in reality, then, friends, you do not know how history is made. History is made by the great movements of masses. And the greatest movement of masses ever witnessed at any time is that of modern international Socialism."

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The Homestake Lock. If you want to keep posted on lockout against the Western Federation of Miners at Lead, S. D., send the Black Hills Daily Register for two months' trial subscription. Register is the official organ of lock-outed men. Drawer K. S. D.

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The Call



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IMPOSSIBILISM, INDEED!

We have received the following communication:

Editor of The Call:

In your editorial on the Meat Strike in the West, which is rapidly spreading over the country, you favor the policy of the impossibilist, the policy that has governed the Socialist party ever since I became a member six years ago, the policy to hold aloof from every movement for the immediate betterment of the great majority, commonly known as the policy of "What's the Use?" This policy has discouraged and largely paralyzed the activity of many members of the party. So they now prefer to go to a ball, the theater, or some other place to pass away their time, rather than work for the benefit of the party. I firmly believe it is the duty of the Socialist party to take hold of this movement and to use it to advance the party's interest, not to wait until some demagogue steps in and uses this meat strike for his own political and commercial aggrandizement.

A. B. DE MILT.

New York, Jan. 21, 1910.

We do not exactly know what sense our correspondent attaches to the word Impossibilist, the opposite of which is, of course, Possibilist—an equally vague term, which has been used in the sense of Opportunist. We are not very fond of using these words ourselves. They are very good to hurl at an opponent, but we have never noticed that they help in elucidating the question under discussion.

However, if refusing to run with the crowd is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If applying the principles of Socialism and the peculiar conditions of working class life as a test of Socialist policy is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If refusing to boycott one's stomach is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If refusing to go on a hunger strike, as a weapon against the trusts, is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If refusing to submit tamely to a reduction in the standard of living of the American working class, so as to bring it down to the standard of living of Chinese, Japanese, and Hindu coolies, is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If insisting on the necessity for resisting the extortions of the trusts by fighting for increased wages is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If insisting on the necessity for resisting the extortions of the Meat Trust by putting the meat industry under social control—to start with, by establishing municipal slaughter houses—is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

If pointing out that a falling off in the consumption of meat is bound to result in an increased consumption of milk, butter, cheese, eggs, vegetables, and bread, and consequently in increased prices for these articles of diet, is Impossibilism, then we are an Impossibilist.

But we have the consolation of being an Impossibilist in good company. The New York Volkszeitung has taken the same stand toward the voluntary semi-starvation movement as The Call. The Central Labor Council of Cleveland has denounced the meat strike, calling, instead, for higher wages and a municipal slaughter house. The Central Labor Union of Toledo has pronounced the meat strike to be an insidious attempt to reduce the wages of workmen by lowering the standard of living.

On the other hand, we are glad to find that our Impossibilist position excludes us from the company of the "great metropolitan dailies," which encourage this boycott in every way, although they have again and again branded the boycott, when employed by workmen against capitalists, as a conspiracy and a crime against civilization.

Leslie M. Shaw, ex-Secretary of the Treasury and president of a bank, has declared for a censorship of the books in public libraries, in order to make it impossible for young men and women to "devour" books teaching the principles of Socialism. We have no doubt that Shaw and the entire class to which he belongs will in course of time, and in proportion as the menace of Socialism increases, declare for other repressive measures, such as a regular press and book censorship, and other things that the people of Russia are now enjoying. But meanwhile, we may suggest to him to take a leaf out of the book of the Russian government, which has had considerably more experience in these things than he can ever hope to have, and to demand for the public libraries a triple censorship, namely, the regular censorship, a special censorship, and the censorship of the church. But after they shall have achieved these things, Shaw and his class must also be prepared to take in the bargain: Mukden, Tsushima, Portsmouth, agrarian uprisings, revolts in the cities, financial bankruptcy, industrial ruin, impotence in foreign politics, and the detestation of all progressive peoples.

Last Saturday we stated in these columns that "if the Democrats had any self-respect and were a genuine opposition party, which they have not and are not, they would refuse to have anything to do with an investigation for which they are not permitted to commission their most competent and trusted men." The Republicans refused to permit Rainey, the choice of the Democratic caucus, to serve on the Ballinger-Pinchot investigating committee, and named Lloyd, another Democrat, to take his place. The procedure was as insolent and high-handed a violation of the rights of the minority as can be found in the annals of parliaments. But did the Democratic minority assert its rights? Not at all. Lloyd having declined the doubtful honor of representing the minority at the dictation of the majority party, the Democrats meekly proceeded to select another man, James M. Graham, of Illinois, to fill the place originally intended for Rainey. By this tame submission to the arrogant pretensions of the President and his Republican henchmen, the Democrats in Congress have proven themselves once more to be devoid of self-respect and to be no opposition party at all, but a mere tail of the Republican party. For the sake of place, pelf, and patronage, they have sacrificed not only their own rights, but the rights of every future minority representation in the House. By their greed and cowardice they have established an evil precedent, which may yet cost them far more than they have bargained for.



"I've Got It!
I Won't Eat Meat!"

EDMOND KELLY.

By Robert Hunter.

Three years ago in Paris I received an invitation to dine with the distinguished international lawyer, Edmond Kelly. He had then a handsome apartment overlooking the broad avenue that led to the Bois.

I met at dinner a number of well known French Socialists and we spent an evening in spirited debate. The most brilliant talker was a peasant. He was a gifted agitator and had become one of the foremost organizers for the French party.

He was bitterly anti-Catholic. Kelly remonstrated with him, but failing to impress him he turned to drop this "aside" to me:

"He calls himself an atheist, yet he is saturated with a religion. His heart bleeds for the poor and oppressed, and with the passion of a saint he preaches the gospel of brotherhood."

A few days later a note came asking me to lunch with Mr. Kelly at his office. It was situated on one of the chief boulevards and was both extensive and luxurious. Almost before the men brought our food, Mr. Kelly inquired, "May I ask you quite frankly a very personal and impertinent question?"

"Certainly," I answered, rather surprised.

"Could you tell me just how cheaply one can live in New York? That is to say, just how cheaply you live?" My health requires some comforts, but I will reduce them to a minimum. I have been working for years to free myself. I want to see now if I have saved enough to give the rest of my life to the cause of the workers.

"I have lived always on their backs. I suppose in my state of health I must continue to live on their backs, but at

least I want to fight for them the rest of my days."

I need not say his words surprised me. I had thought of him only as a broad-minded aristocrat. I knew him as the personal friend of the richest and most prominent families in this country and abroad, a man of superior education received in the universities of Europe and America. I knew him also as a man well known in the clubs, the attorney of the wealthiest American families, of great international trusts, and honored by the French republic with the title of chevalier.

"I have only a short time to live," he said. "I must try to pay my debt to the workers."

A year later he and his wife took a small apartment on the lower east side of New York city. He sent in an application for membership in the Socialist party and started with such enthusiasm, as his health permitted, to speak, write and work for Socialism.

He saw nothing of his old New York friends, although he was pressed with dinner invitations, with offers of opera boxes and all the other things that had been so much a part of his former life.

He tried to serve the Cause, not as a distinguished lawyer, but as a plain Comrade.

He did not always understand. He made errors of judgment and the rigid disciplinarians of the party often rebuked him.

I knew these rebukes hurt, and I believe he felt oppressively lonely, suspected so often by his new friends and disinclined to take up the old relations with his former friends.

I went to see him frequently and he seemed always in a feverish haste.

He implored me to do this or that which he felt needed to be done.

"But these things take time, Kelly," I would say to him. "They can't be done in a night."

Such answers seemed to bring him grief, and I understood not his haste until one morning I found him very ill indeed, and he told me that the doctor visited him every day to keep him alive hour by hour, with radium.

He stood face to face with death and that made him feverish for results. Feverish to see the cause booming in the workers in mass moving toward the new time.

When the cause lagged or dissensions in the party arose he seemed in positive anguish, because it put off the day when something would be done—the something he craved to see, at least to have some little glimmer of before he had to go.

And now poor Kelly is gone. Beautiful, unselfish Kelly. He asked nothing for himself, not even ease and quiet which were so necessary to him in his health and at his time of life.

He only wanted the workers to move, to grasp some little conception of their great destiny. He wanted organization and unity, he wanted to see the great Labor stir itself and with body and soul aglow rise to battle for the emancipation of man.

Weak and helpless himself, hesitating on the very threshold of another world, his feeble body tortured into animation by a powerful drug, he prayed for just one comfort before his hour came and that was to see the battalions of labor forming, to see them rising, to see them move.

TRACTION SITUATION IN PHILADELPHIA

By P. H.

Financiers are coaching the motor-men and conductors of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company for a strike. That is the one vital fact at which not one local newspaper has dared to hint at. Just why these financiers want a strike has not been made clear, but several probable reasons are being discussed in financial circles.

That the men have mighty good reasons for going on strike no one denies, nor does any one doubt their ability to tie up every line in town, excepting, possibly, the elevated-subway line on Market street. It looks like a splendid fighting chance for the men. There's the rub; it looks too good to be true. At a vote taken last Wednesday night ten-elevenths of the men voted to strike. Those who voted against it were largely union men who are under economic pressure which make them shrink from a spell of idleness. It will develop later that many who voted for a strike are hiring spies in the employ of a certain group of financiers.

It looks as though the Rapid Transit Company was trying to kill two or three birds with one stone. One of the birds, the most feared, is the union; the other, the most coveted, is the stock and control of those who will find themselves beached when the strike tide goes out again. A week ago, before the public had realized that a strike was seriously considered, we began reading in local papers of the state constabulary being in readiness for duty here, and the mayor responded to the string which Clarence Wolf pulls, and opened his mouth to say that policemen and firemen would man the cars if the crews should strike. Wolf represents one or two

groups of financiers who are battling for control of the Rapid Transit Company. P. A. E. Widener, if we are correctly informed, represents the other group. The Wolf interests have been in the ascendant since the strike last June. So, the mayor is against all compromise. He tried compromise early in his own career and found it a failure; then he surrendered to "the power behind the republic." Now he wants every one else to do the same thing.

Let us cite an example of how the wind is blowing: The Evening Telegraph is owned by Barclay Warburton, a son-in-law of John Wanamaker, and a close personal friend of P. A. E. Widener. Prior to the trolley strike last June the Telegraph stated that only a fraction of the men were unionized and would not go out. The morning the strike was declared this paper announced that a handful of the men only had quit and that the affair was a fiasco. Eight hours later the entire staff of the paper walked home; not a wheel was turning. The interests did not want a strike then. Neither did the Republican organization. An election was pending and a disaster threatened. So, while people walked back and forth from work and mobs rioted in the streets, the Evening Telegraph called the strike a fiasco. It was for the company.

Then the Greeks came forward bearing gifts, and the men went back to work, only to find that the thing which had glittered like gold was the fisherman's spoon and that they were the suckers it had caught. But the dear public, which neither fights for its rights nor encourages those who do, was tired of the strike. It wanted life in the manger and sleep again while the vermin fed upon it. So it

forgot the strike and returned the Gang to power in the autumn.

Thanks to the degenerate spirit which now dominates the "cradle of liberty" city, the new year dawned with the "organization" and its financier owners free to advance for the slaughter of the Street Carmen's Union. Money had just been crowned again throughout the city and state, and all the forces of city and state stood ready to do its bidding. Policemen, firemen, constabulary and militia are straining on the leash. To accelerate the strike, sentiment, which had already been bred by the repudiation of almost all its promises by the company, the agents of the Widener financiers have labored diligently and successfully. The strike would surely have come next June, but that is too far off to suit the ravenous captains of industry, who will use the workmen at once to further their interests. So last Tuesday the Evening Telegraph published a revolutionary editorial which still mystifies the city. It called upon high heaven to witness the abominable management of the Rapid Transit Company. It said, in part:

"The public is not concerned with the company's troubles with its employees. It is not their affair whether it pays its men 15 or 25 cents an hour. It is not their affair that it attempts to excuse itself because of disorders with its motormen and conductors. If it does not pay these men enough to make them willing employees it should pay them through its bureau that it cannot give better service because its employees are hostile to it. If they are, what makes them? Are they paid adequately to maintain themselves and families as men in their station should, and if they are not, whose business is it but the Rapid Transit Company's to see that they are justly paid, and by such practical

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE "PERPETUATION IN OFFICE" ABSURDITY.

Editor of The Call:

Comrade Gaylord is a dandy agitator and strikes the bull's eye every time he does. But when he ventures into the shallow waters of party politics and starts out on one of the electioneering tours, from which the national organizers of Wisconsin have become famous, he gasps for wisdom and punches holes in the blue ether.

The Socialist party is organized for the purpose of instituting a grand universal "rotation," otherwise called revolution. The Socialist party is out to "rotate" the entire capitalist system out of office. If Comrade Gaylord is so opposed to "rotation in office," why did he "rotate" some unfortunate Democrat or Republican out of office in his senatorial district.

"Rotation in office" is not a capitalist principle. As a matter of fact, the capitalists endeavor everywhere to lengthen the term of all officials and to perpetuate them in office, if possible, and it is the Socialist who opposes it.

"Rotation in office" is a thing which the "ins" denounce and the "outs" advocate. Among Socialists the "ins" declare "rotation" capitalistic and the "outs" Socialistic.

It is part of our capitalistic mind to think that all the good things depend on the retention in office of me and mine. I was once national secretary. After Comrade Bucher had succeeded me I felt that he fell short of the high standard which I set up. No doubt Comrade Bucher secretly nourished similar sentiments regarding Greenbaum. No doubt Greenbaum found Comrade Mally anything but an improvement on himself. No doubt Comrade Mally felt that Comrade Barnes did not show great ability in carrying out his great policies. No doubt Comrade Barnes was convinced that the Socialist party never did a better piece of work than in "rotating" him into office. No doubt Comrade Barnes will agree with Comrade Gaylord that "rotation in office" of national secretary at the present time would be capitalistic, silly, and "would develop political."

Comrade Gaylord should not commit himself for all time to come. You never can tell. I could name seven of the present candidates for the N. E. C., whose election would instantaneously convert Comrade Gaylord to the "rotation in office" policy.

The Jaures, Bebel, Vanderveide, Kautsky and Adler argument works both ways. The "ins" believe that the American Jaures and Bebel are in and should be kept in. The "outs" hold that the American Jaures and Bebel are out and should be put in. The "outs" will, no doubt, pledge that as soon as they are put in they will become the most uncompromising opponents of the "rotation in office" stillness. But until then they will combat the "perpetuation in office" absurdity.

The argument of efficiency is also one of a reversible character. Ours is a party governed by a majority and tempered by a minority. If the N. E. C. ceases to share the views and carry out the policies held by the majority, it ought to "rotate" out of office. And the more efficient it is in carrying out the wrong policies, the more reason for its "rotating," p. d. q. Q. E. D.

HENRY L. SLOBODIN
New York, Jan. 7, 1910.

CO-OPERATIVE QUESTIONS.

Editor of The Call:

Were it not for the fact always present that all three of the co-operative propositions before the Socialist public today in New York are apt to suffer when there is any doubt or misunderstanding in regard to their relative positions, I would not venture to ask your space again to reply to the Comrade whose letter was printed without his signature attached (incidentally, of course) in The Call of the 14th. But, alas, when a Comrade who is a member of two of the different organizations confuse things so badly, we may be sure that quite a large number of your readers are still perplexed.

I did not in my last letter in The Call say anything so foolish as that I "considered a co-operative movement exploited if supporting a Socialist political movement." What I said was that some of us in the Co-operative League think that an S. F. man is all the more valuable to both the co-operative movement and to the S. F. when he joins the co-operative movement not merely with a view to exploiting it for the benefit of the political one. There is surely quite a

recognition to be made good, faithful and efficient servants.

"Now, it is high time for the Rapid Transit Company to comprehend its obligation to the people of Philadelphia. They have virtually given up the streets to it. They pay the fares it exacts. This is their full part, and they have a right to demand and expect that it will remain an efficient transportation system.

"If the managers cannot comprehend and meet this duty let them step down and out for able men. If the present operating force will not work better because illly paid, let it be better paid. What is imperatively needed is good service and not the constant lament that it cannot be had because of the grievances of the employees. Why should they not be aggrieved if they feel that they are not sufficiently paid? Why should they not strike to secure a better recognition of their claims, when the strike is the last argument they can use to assert their rights?

"Should a strike come, it will be because the Rapid Transit management has neither the brains nor ability to settle the discord in its own household. Let it not hope, in view of such

wide difference in the two... As a matter of fact, I... attempt at the meeting of the... Wholesale Society, to alter... rotation in its constitution... Comrade's memory deceives him... matter) which, on the... thought liberal and well... But my action there is... matter of small interest to... era. What interests them... ferent organizations, not... individuals.

Our Comrade may be right... ing that there was no... three co-operatives (the... League, however, which... in the field, should not... brought up against it.) But... tainly wrong if he thinks... three have been established... tude to each other need... but one of good will. Two... the People's Wholesale Socie... the Co-operative League... much the same basis, but... pose now to work in different... It is quite true that I think... should remain a separate... tion, but that is no reason... should not accept the very... help which the Wholesale... all goes well, would be able... and there is not the slightest... that, in spite of our family... help will be willingly... given. In fact, my understand... the position is that the men... organized the Wholesale Socie... the same position, in the... do, that the rival societies... with it should retain their... As for the idea that a co-op... movement which hopes to... and desires the confidence of... lists must declare itself in... Socialist political action, I... that on that point the consti... the Wholesale Society itself... up diplomatically. Arthur... reply by calling attention to... stances of societies which are... erative, which have success... which have the confidence of... lets without such specific de... —the Franken Kasse and... bejarring. These two socie... co-operative insurance have... quired that their members... undertake to vote for the S. F... quire only that they do not... capitalist party. The Co-op... League stands in practically... position. It does not require... individual member should... per cent propagandist propo... divided into the offers of... its constitution says merely... 20 per cent of the dividend... given by the member to some... nation or purpose connected... ultimate aim of the league... estimate aim is given as the... capitalism and the establish... a new society based on co-op... industry. Let the S. F. me... how far that is good enough... They can see that a man... free, for instance, to send his... to help the L. W. W. in... at Spokane, if he preferred... rather than give it to the... rect to the party funds, but... see also no doubt that he... be able to contribute to... Hall or to help Houston... The difficulty of the Co-op... League, however, like that of... operative attempts, is not... that of obtaining confidence... difficulty of finding a sufficient... ber of men who will not... press confidence but come... take an active part in the... THOMAS H. B... New York, Jan. 15, 1910.

These famous alternatives... the-Saver and James... have been working overtime... James-the-Spender seems... be the whole American nation... been squandering the public... and he has been eating too... What is left of the public... arid land or else swamp. So... be forced, as John-the-Saver... gate the one and drain the other... as James-the-Spender he can... der the real-estate portion of... people that got before. But... dest spectacle of all is that... American people eating too... course, the country can produce... food than is needed for the... population, and there has been... cussion of splendid big crea... they are convertible into money... one small portion of the Ameri... ple, the portion that is always... the-Saver, always runs up. Al... they squandered on themselves... ways have a surplus, and that... is steadily swelled by the... people. Editors of capitalist... and representatives and man... say nothing of soldiers, profes... opponents of Socialism, are... fond of these two boys, but... seems to penetrate to their... gence that the poor have not... save, and that the rich do... to have become more will be... them.

As a crisis, to have the backing... lic sympathy. This sympathy... goes anywhere, will go to... ductors and motormen. Now... managers remedy the situation... once. If they are too feeble... skillful, let them step down, the... capable men may give the pub... service demands."

This is the truth employed... vance the interests of labor... wants a strike, and his organ... encouraging the man to... Will he lure the union into... and slay it? Or does he really... the men are in a position to... their demands? Will he be... conduct a successful strike... by discredit the present man... effect a reorganization, reap... of raising the men's wages... a drop in stocks in the month... which his interest will profit... Who can say? The Wolf... tion people are talking of... firemen and state constabulary... Widener people are doing... can to force a strike. Are... overplaying their hand?... honest men come into their... thieves' quarrel over the... shall see.