











# The Call

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## THE NEW CITY CHARTER

It would be well for the party members carefully to study the new "Gaynor charter" for New York City, as it involves great changes in the form of municipal government.

In the contemplated charter, for instance, there is one provision which will empower the heads of city departments to use in various ways those who have been sentenced for petty offenses.

There has been considerable agitation during many years for some such action as this. Various economically-minded men have had the idea of forcing criminals and paupers to "earn their keep."

Just now the streets of New York are ruined. It will cost not millions, but hundreds of millions to put them into decent condition.

Another provision of the charter is the conferring on the Fire Commissioner of plenary powers in dealing with building construction, forcing the placing of fire escapes and installing safety devices.

It is that very element that is actually responsible for the Washington place murder, the corrupt organization of property owners working through corrupt officeholders.

Any man placed in office, and possessing such drastic powers, would be selected only because of his fitness from the standpoint of the property owners.

If any change looking toward reform in the building code is to be made it should make all improvements compulsory, and those improvements should cover every phase of the question.

These are but two provisions of the charter. The whole document should be carefully studied. Through insidious clauses much harm may be done to the people, much greater power even than exists at present may be lodged in the hands of the political servants of capitalism.

## TAMMANYIZING THE SENATE

It seems generally admitted that New York State has not gained a Senator, but Tammany has. Formerly it was content with the city offices and prospered remarkably well with them.

What will he represent? Not merely the organization on 14th street. Most of its members are still content with what they can pick up around the city.

Senator-elect O'Gorman, however, becomes a member of a small, select and all-powerful body, the American House of Lords, or the select inner circle of the high servants of capitalism.

While one is a Democrat and the other a Republican, they will be as surely co-workers as Root and Depew, or Depew and Platt were.

## AT COOPER UNION

There should be such interest in tonight's demonstration that not only will Cooper Union be jammed, but on every side of it overflow meetings will be necessary.

Through a decision of the Court of Appeals capitalism is protected by the wiping out of an accident compensation law.

The Socialist party is going to make a powerful demonstration against a social condition that brings forth within a few weeks such glaring inequities as this.

## THE TRIANGLE DISASTER AND THE CAPITALISTIC PRESS.

By META L. STERN.

When some months ago a young girl disappeared mysteriously from her home, the capitalistic press of this country turned heaven and earth to assist the bereaved parents in the search for their daughter.

Monday it was shifted to the sixth and seventh columns. On Tuesday it was given an inconspicuous place on the third or fourth page, and by this time it is stale news not fit to print.

Who was Dorothy Arnold? A rich man's daughter. What was Dorothy Arnold? A young society lady who perhaps never performed a stroke of useful work.

Who is responsible for the Triangle disaster? The owner of the building, the employers of the victims, the factory inspectors, the Building Department, the Labor Department, and perhaps others.

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## THE WAY THEY DO IT.

By JOHN LAWLESS.

Were it not for the unspeakable horror, which has shocked even the Evening Sun, it would be an easy task to point out to you that the Triangle factory fire, with all its slaughter, was just what the workers have to expect.

## THE TRUTH AT LAST.

By PERIN.

At last we have the truth! After lies and subterfuges by the capitalist government at Washington, after pretending that the movement to the Mexican border of 20,000 troops and a fleet of warships was merely for the purpose of practice maneuvers, and perhaps—yes, only perhaps—for the purpose of enforcing neutrality laws, if such there are.

And the truth, what is it? It is precisely what we Socialists stated it to be, and for stating which the capitalist class called us suspicious, lacking in faith in our President and hysterically proud to distrust.

The American courts have from the earliest times counted on the acquiescence of those exploited. And so far it seems quite successful, as may be seen from the fact that the assumption of risk is a legal descendant of that acquiescence expected and proclaimed by Chief Justice Marshall in the Antelope and in the Dred Scott case.

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## LEGISLATIVE FORESIGHT.

By JOSEPH E. COHEN.

The Constitution of Pennsylvania contains the following section: "The exercise of the right of eminent domain shall never be abridged or so construed as to prevent the General Assembly from taking the property and franchises of incorporated companies, and subjecting them to public use, the same as the property of individuals; and the exercise of the police power of the State shall never be abridged or so construed as to permit corporations to conduct their business in such manner as to infringe the general well-being of the State."

This provision is one of many probably inserted at the behest of the up-State farmers and counties to try to hold corporate wealth in check.

Between the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading road, which taps much of the State, there is a gentleman's agreement, the terms of which are inviolable.

At the same time it would be idle to say that the farmers are in a degraded condition. They are far from secure; their prospect is not of a high order.

The farmers are a fighting lot, and they are ever on the alert. The green goods man receives a cool reception at Harrisburg.

## SOCIALISM IN SWEDEN.

By LOUIS H. WETMORE.

Last November the Swedes celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Socialist movement in their country with great demonstrations, the largest of which was a procession of many thousands of Comrades who marched through the principal streets of Stockholm, ending up at the house of the Socialist leader, Branting, who made an admirable speech, in which he prophesied the continued conquest of the party of freedom in the Swedish dominions.

This prophecy is encouraging, coming as it does from a far-sighted leader, as many of the Socialists throughout the rest of the world have been discouraged by the seeming reaction against Socialism in Sweden since 1909.

The growth of the Socialist movement in Sweden was very rapid between the years 1889 and 1896. Before that time the Swedes had been a nation of farmers working mostly on small farms and with a land system based on "peasant proprietorship."

It is Sweden that can claim the honor to have the first country in which a general strike that was economic in character has taken place. There had been general strikes in other countries before the one in Sweden took place: Extensive territories in Russia endured a general strike during the revolutionary period of 1905-1906.

It was on the 4th of August, 1909, that the Socialist leaders called on the workers of Sweden to lay down their tools—all work ceased in the majority of the trades throughout the country.

It was not till the end of August that the bourgeoisie were able to gain control of their industries again.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

CORRUPTION IN WASHINGTON.

Editor of The Call: Some months ago you very wisely in an editorial noted the salient features of capitalism attacked and readily hammered out our permanent "immediate" One of these is the usurpation of power by the Judiciary, the "as you call it. I agree with you, though, but I want to suggest an salient point that should also be attacked, the Federal Government as a whole.

During a residence of many years in the National Capital, I became imbued with a "disdain" contempt for the government. I know that the breeding place of corruption is our municipal politics, we level broadsides at that. We that our State politics is not pure, and we attack that. It seems to me that a just and humane God has placed in juxtaposition, murderous economic and social, a national politics of such relative violence, for the especial ill of Socialist propaganda.

We do not properly appreciate obese President. I heroically both his messages. In his first stated that "our" army and navy for the purpose of finding investment for American capital. At the time the Nicaragua imbroglio was in his second, he recommended the placing of Morgan's China Honduras loans. I suppose the navy will be used to get \$2,000,000,000 interest under the \$4,000,000,000 interest to carry out the policy outlined in his first message. Incidentally, he dismisses with but one word, the birth of a sister Republic in Persia, and warmly congratulates Montenegro upon its promotion from a principality to a kingdom. His brilliant appointment to the Supreme Bench, graceful, elephantine somnolence of the Warren case, his letter to Fallinger, his ordering of the troops to the Mexican border, his naming of the Government clerk—well, there are two strings to Taft, at the end of which he will gracefully resign. One is held by Morgan, the other by Archbishop Ireland and Cardinal Gibbons for the Vatican.

I witnessed some of the closing scenes of Congress. Six hundred million dollars spent with practically no debate! And to me there was something sublime and heroic in the work of the eloquent Indian, Senator Robert Owen, springing up and demanding to know what right the Senate had to spend all that money, without debate. Then there are the "Park Hotel" and the River and Harbor bill, seventy millions thrown out to Congressmen to placate their constituents. And the noble "economy," in cutting several hundred women employees from the Treasury, mostly widows, from \$800 to \$600. Then the unspeakable postoffice graft, and the looting of the treasury of hundreds of millions by shipbuilders and armor plate manufacturers, and the hundreds killed by exploding guns in time of peace.

Washington, D. C., March 23, 1911.

## ON THE COMMISSION FORM.

Editor of The Call: Even since Comrade George Strobel of Newark, published his request for comment and discussion on the subject of the proposed commission for government for cities I have been watching eagerly for some response. Either very little interest is taken in the subject or else every one else is in the same predicament as myself.

Personally, I would like to see word in The Call from those who cities where the commission has been in operation for some time.

Among the several very interesting said by Mr. John Mitchell, concerning a body of the students of the College, was the following: "It is my firm conviction, and the conviction of the majority of the class, that the kind of municipal organization of employees and the organization of the laboring class working in conjunction of the city, in taking notes, have the word or two, but this is exactly what Mitchell wished us to understand. Hundreds of students and faculty members gathered in the hall and discussed various ways to bring the committee of labor from the city and was pronounced by its members. Mr. Mitchell upon the subject of bringing the committee of labor from the city and was pronounced by its members. Mr. Mitchell upon the subject of bringing the committee of labor from the city and was pronounced by its members.