

29198
THE NEW VOICE
PUBLISHED

FARMER-LABOR VOICE

Swind 10/10/24
3/2/25

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF FEDERATED FARMER-LABOR PARTY

Vol. XIII, No. 21.

CHICAGO, ILL., AUGUST 1, 1924

Price, 5 cents

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS:

With this present issue, publication of Farmer-Labor Voice will be discontinued, and its subscribers will receive in place of it The Daily Worker, for a period of one month.

It was the purpose of Farmer-Labor Voice to fill the great need for a Farmer-Labor newspaper. And when this newspaper was first issued, the Farmer-Labor movement showed every promise of developing into a substantial political national organization of the working class. Farmer-Labor Party organizations existed in many of the states. All of them felt the need for some common and dependable source of information and organ of expression. Farmer-Labor Voice was created to supply this want.

The Federated Farmer-Labor Party, formed in the Chicago convention of July 3-5, last year, having its most militant support from the Workers Party of America, was enabled to increase its activity for the movement by publishing Farmer-Labor Voice. This was made possible by the generosity of the Workers Party, which freely turned over to the Federated Farmer-Labor Party its newspaper, the Voice of Labor, with its mailing list. The files of Farmer-Labor Voice carry a picture of an apparently healthy and militant United Front movement of workers and farmers. And such was actually the case.

The Workers Party of America contributed much to the Farmer-Labor movement. It was the Workers Party which made possible the publication of Farmer-Labor Voice. And it was the Workers Party which made the most substantial contribution to this movement. The Workers Party spent much energy, and not a little cash, in the attempt to build up a great national Farmer-Labor movement.

...All was going well with the Farmer-Labor movement, until the national election struggle began to assume its present aspect. The two dominant political parties have always fought every effort of the farmers and industrial workers to engage in independent political action. They have been strongly opposed to the rising Farmer-Labor movement, from the very start. At first they tried to destroy it from the outside. And when that failed they sent their agents into the Farmer-Labor Party, to destroy it from the inside.

The writer, upon his visits to the various State Farmer-Labor Party conventions held within the past year, came in contact with many of these old political party agents. Most of them more or less successfully cloaked their real purpose—destruction of the Farmer-Labor movement—under various disguises. Some said, "We want to win in this election; so let us fuse temporarily with the Democrats." Others said, "Let us keep our State Farmer-Labor Party, but do not affiliate or join with a national movement."

We fought these elements, wherever they were met with and identified. And the Farmer-Labor movement might have weathered all of these attacks, but for the high-handed and dictatorial attitude of America's worst political poseur, Robert M. LaFollette. He seems to have been able to accomplish, in a short time, more injury to the once healthy Farmer-Labor movement than all the small-fry old party politicians could ever have accomplished by their combined efforts. LaFollette and his precious "Conference for Progressive Political Action," at the Cleveland convention betrayed this rapidly crystallizing political movement of the farmers and industrial workers.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL STONE WOULD FOOL THE FARMER

(By Federated Press)

NEW YORK.—Suit has been brought by the Federal government in New York to dissolve the Binder-Twine Trust, charging conspiracy and monopoly in violation of the anti-trust laws, since 1920. The Bill in Equity charges the defendant with maintaining a monopoly in sisal, a fibre principally grown in Mexico and Central America, and asks for an injunction restraining the defendant from further conspiracy in restraint of trade.

The Sisal Sales Corporation, organized in 1920 and 1921, the Equitable Trust Co. of New York, the Royal Bank of Canada, the International Trust & Banking Co., and other corporations and individuals in this country and Mexico, are named as defendants.

They are charged with engaging "in a combination and conspiracy in restraint of interstate and foreign trade and commerce in sisal, and having entered into contracts in restraint of such trade and commerce, in violation of the anti-trust laws of the United States; that as a result of such combination, the defendants had acquired a complete monopoly in the sale of sisal in the United States, and have absolute control over the price of such commodity."

Since the Binder-Twine Trust has long been a sort of spot with the farmers of this country, the present action by Attorney General Stone is interpreted by cynics as a bid by the Coolidge administration for the disaffected farm vote. Every time the trust raises the price of twine 1c a pound, it costs the farmers of the country an additional \$3,000,000 for the season, it is said.

The FARMER-LABOR VOICE will discontinue publication with this issue. Financial arrangements have been made with the Daily Worker Publishing Company, by which the DAILY WORKER will be furnished to all of the unexpired subscriptions of the FARMER-LABOR VOICE for a period of one month.

In the face of such a crisis, and with so many weak-kneed Farmer-Laborites running pell-mell to LaFollette and his so-called "independent" candidacy, there is little hope at the present time for successful issuance of a newspaper devoted purely to the Farmer-Labor movement.

This writer has been appointed to act as campaign manager for the Workers Party of America and its national political candidates, William Z. Foster and Benjamin Gitlow. The decision of the Workers Party to run its own candidates was forced by the action of LaFollette and his plainly evident intention to hamper the growth of a political party really representing the broad masses of the workers and working farmers. LaFollette and his little banker-businessman supporters, with the active aid of the Socialists and the professional labor leaders, can be effectively opposed only by an organization that is compact and disciplined, which will raise against the LaFollette middle class ideals the counter ideals of a Workers' and Farmers' Government.

We call upon the readers of Farmer-Labor Voice, and all other sincere Farmer-Laborites, to rally to the support of the Workers Party candidates—William Z. Foster for President, and Benjamin Gitlow for Vice-President. They will wage a militant campaign that will advance more than ever before the idea of a great national political party composed of the farmers and industrial workers.

JOSEPH MANLEY,
Editor, Farmer-Labor Voice

GENERALS SEE PACIFIST BOOM

(By The Federated Press)

NEW YORK.—Militarists are becoming alarmed at the spread of anti-war sentiment and sundry generals have been brought to New York to warn the country against "the menace of pacifism."

"The tide of pacifism was never higher than at this moment," Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord told the officers of the 77th division at a dinner at the Hotel Astor. Harbord lamented that congress was not making large enough appropriations for the military establishment.

"The investigations in Washington are giving the propagandists a new handle for their old arguments," admitted Brigadier Gen. William Weigel at the same dinner. "They are saying the militarist crowd and the capitalist crowd are uniting to work against the interests of the common people."

At the famous B. Y. O. B.—bring your own booze—dinner of the wartime purchase, storage and traffic division, general staff, U. S. A., Harbord spoke again. Bernard M. Baruch, chairman war industries board during the war, outlined the plan he has proposed to congress for industrial mobilization and conscripting labor at army wages in the next war.

Former Assistant Secretary of War Benedict Crowell described the use of gas which will make the next international conflict short and sweet.

The next day Brig. Gen. Peter E. Traub, in a characteristically heavy military manner attempted to satirize the anti-war or "pacifist" position, at the annual dinner of the American Defense Society.

A peace float with a Quaker motif toured the city and aided the Women's Peace Society meetings to get across to the public the message No More War. Officers of the society claim that 50,000 persons were reached with the slogan, No More Compromise With Militarism. Write Your Congressman to Make War Illegal. Handbills were distributed condemning the government's Mobilization day and attacking the United States for spending more money for militarism now than before the war to end war.

"CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM"

SACRAMENTO, Cal.—Special Agent W. H. Lackey of the federal census bureau has arrived in Sacramento to investigate the birth control movement in California. At least, that is the reason he gives for recent statistics showing that California has more mothers than any other State, but these mothers have fewer children. He finds 87 per cent of the married women in California have children, as against 83 per cent elsewhere, but there are 267 children per 100 mothers, as against 300 per 100 in the rest of the country. "The difference is due to practical birth control," says Lackey.

TO COMPETE WITH UNITED STATES FLOUR

(By Federated Press)

CONSTANTINOPLE.—American farmers will no longer find Turkey a ready market for American flour, if the present government realizes plans for making Turkey independent of foreign imports. The Turkish leaders have figured out that Anatolia, the granary of the near east, can easily take care of Turkey's needs, provided production is organized properly. At present Turkey spends \$140,000,000 importing grain and flour from the United States, besides quantities from Russia and Rumania.

WHEAT AND TARIFF

By the President's proclamation the duty on wheat has been raised from thirty to forty-two cents a bushel. The ground for this action is that, according to the Tariff Commission, it costs more to produce wheat in the United States than in Canada, the chief competing country. This may be true, although it is a difficult problem to determine the cost of an agricultural product part of which comes from good land and part from bad; part from lands skimmed with the minimum expenditure and part from lands cultivated intensively at great expense per unit of production. But this is a difficulty the Tariff Commission must encounter every time it tries to determine the difference between domestic costs and foreign costs. It is an unworkable basis for the rational regulation of trade. No matter whether lowest costs, average costs or higher costs are taken as a basis of comparison, the results are fluctuating and obscure. The objective of protection, the establishing of a scale of domestic prices under which a well managed concern can live and do business, may be attained much more easily by simply watching the domestic price level and making the necessary adjustments to it.

In the case of wheat there is an additional absurdity in attempting to apply the principle of comparative costs. Canada is the chief competing country, but her competition makes itself felt not in our market, but in the European markets, which are entirely out of reach of our customs. The price of wheat goes up or down for Canada and the United States alike according to the condition of European demand. On the day when the twelve cent increase in duty was proclaimed wheat actually rose on the Chicago market by about half a cent. It rose, however, not because of the President's action, not because Great Britain and Italy bought 2,900,000 bushels. As it happened, they bought not United States wheat, but Canadian. Wheat is wheat, and the farmers of Canada and of the United States must prosper or starve together, so long as both countries are heavy exporters. It may be that some farmers are sufficiently obtuse to believe that the customs line between the two countries makes a difference. But the majority of them must have become wiser by this time.

FARMER TO GET HOLE IN DOUGHNUT

By LELAND OLDS

(Federated Press Industrial Editor)

Financiers in the east are going to gobble up the lion's share of any billion dollar increase in the value of farm products. Banks and other creditors rather than the farmers themselves will be the first to benefit by speculative increases in the prices of wheat, corn and hogs.

"It is to be remembered," says a Kansas City story in the New York Times, "that some 400 country banks in the grain States are in the hands of receivers and their assets in notes are being collected with vigor. This will account for some of the (farm) income in such localities. Store accounts, farm equipment, motor car payments have been delayed and must be met. Farm mortgage indebtedness has increased, companies generally having been lenient with defaulted interest until the crop could be gathered. This money will go east. The product of the farmer's toil does not go to himself but to his creditors, the financiers, who will leave him just enough to keep going and produce next year's crop for them."

Officials of the U. S. treasury confirm this view of the situation. The high prices of wheat, they say, have placed the financial institutions in many states on their feet again. Millions of dollars in credit extended to farmers will be liquidated or the loans reduced this fall and paper which some of the banks had been forced to charge off as uncollectable will now become obligations upon which the banks will realize.

The World Alliance for International Friendship through the churches circularized 100,000 ministers in all parts of the country with the pacifist resolutions passed at recent denominational conventions.

The capitalists of the world are always 100 per cent solid for war—the last working day of a "dome" is at the mercy of the middle class machinery.

FOSTER REPORTS ON RUSSIA

(By Federated Press)

NEW YORK.—The Russian revolution has met its severest tests and fought its way through to victory, William Z. Foster, chairman Workers party and its presidential candidate, declared to a cheering mass meeting of New Yorkers. Foster, who has recently returned from Russia, described the improvement of conditions there today as contrasted with the situation as he saw it in that country in 1921.

As a result of the Russian success he predicted victory for the world revolution: "The Russian working class has smashed a great breach in the wall of international capitalism. The exploiters can never patch it up again. It will widen and widen until finally the great proletarian flood pours through and overwhelms the capitalist class all over the world."

He said he lost 25 pounds in Russia in 1921, and the workers were hungry, thin and haggard. Now in Russia the workers have more food, control over their jobs, and are happy and contented. He described how the government had overcome the counter-revolutionary allied invasions, civil war and blockade.

Production has increased, foreign trade has begun again, and the peasants are satisfied, according to the speaker. He stressed the great achievement of the government in balancing the budget and stabilizing the ruble. This he contrasted with the chaos and collapse in Germany and Poland which one meets on the way to Russia.

UNITED STATES TRADE WITH RUSSIA GROWS

NEW YORK.—A ten-fold increase in Russian exports in the first half of the current fiscal year, as compared with the year ending Oct. 1, 1921, is reported by the Amtorg Trading Corporation of New York, from figures of the Russia bureau of import and export trade. Russia's trade with the United States is revealed as the fastest growing of all trade between Russia and foreign countries, imports from the United States having grown from 3 per cent of Russia's total import in 1922-23 to 7.6 per cent in the last fiscal year. The four principal items of Russian import now are metals, fuel, chemicals and textiles.

Whereas Russia's principal group imports at the beginning of the fiscal year 1922-23 were foodstuffs, amounting then to about 20 per cent of her entire imports, this group comprised only 6 per cent of the total Russian imports in the four months of the current fiscal year. This is said to bear out reports that Russia is able to feed herself and that the big demand is now for goods for industrial purposes.

THE CHILD-LABOR AMENDMENT

Arkansas was the first State to ratify the twentieth amendment to the federal Constitution giving Congress power to enact legislation against child labor. Georgia was the first State to reject it.

There are in Georgia 89,000 child workers between the ages of ten and fifteen—more than a fifth of the entire number of children of this age in the State.

As a rule those children work in cotton mills, where the State law allows them to toil ten hours a day and also at night.

Georgia opposes the Federal Child-Labor Amendment on the ground of the so-called States' rights. The Nation must not legislate for the sovereign States. But there would be as much opposition if any one had the temerity to propose an anti-child labor act in the Georgia legislature. The mill owners and other employers of children are interested in child labor, which is very profitable to them, not in States' rights, which is, in this case, but a "patriotic" smoke screen. If a State law should be proposed the child slaves will rise in the defense of the child's "right" to work ten hours a day in a mill, when the employer needs him—freedom of contract! Anyhow, the stock argument is always available that "the child is better off in the mill than on the street."

Politicians are great hero-worshippers; and every politician considers himself a hero.

WEIRD TALES TOLD OF LABOR'S EARNINGS

(By International Labor News Service)

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Warning against the propaganda which represents the interests of the farmers and the industrial workers as diametrically opposed, was sounded in the house by Rep. George Huddleston of Alabama, in a speech faying the propagandists and exposing the unsoundness of their arguments.

Mr. Huddleston declared that there was a wide-spread propaganda at work designed to keep farmers and industrial workers from co-operating. "Labor is told," he said, "that the high cost of food and clothing is due to high prices on the farm. The farmer is told that the high cost of the articles which he buys is due to high wages exacted by the factory worker! It is boldly stated to both that the interests of farmer and labor cannot be reconciled, that they cannot act together. The propaganda even goes to the extreme of asserting that the hardships which each of the groups suffers are due to the other group."

False Propaganda Spread.

"In furtherance of the propaganda, the farmers are told weird tales as to the earnings of labor. It is recounted that a great quantity of the products of the farm a day's wages will buy. If the farmer goes to buy a pair of shoes or an agricultural implement, the high prices demanded will be charged to extravagant wages exacted by labor for its production."

"On the other hand, the city laborer is told that the high cost of food is due to profiteering by the farmer, that the high cost of clothing is caused by the exactions of the producers of cotton and wool, that shoes are expensive because hides are high, indeed, by the same misrepresentations are producers of different kinds of farm products set against each other and prejudice invoked between members of different mechanical crafts."

Farmers and Wage-workers Deceived.

"Upon no other common subject is there so much misinformation afloat. So industrious are the peddlers of the propaganda that the very air is saturated with false impressions as to the returns which producers and workers of all kinds receive for their labor. The farmer has little idea of the fearful economic strain to which industrial workers everywhere are subjected. The latter frequently aspire to go to the farm. They know little of the hard and stinted lives of those who till the soil. The industrial worker does not know that the farmer was successfully deflated in 1920, and the farmer does not yet realize that labor resisted such deflation with only partial success and at a tremendous cost and sacrifice, and that labor's adversaries are yet deep in their plans for the destruction of its organizations and its complete subjection."

Rule by Sowing Strife.

"The source of inspiration for the effort to prevent co-operation between farmers and wage workers is obvious. Small groups are enjoying the benefits of our economic and political system. They have seized upon political power and are using it for their selfish advantage. They have usurped economic positions which enable them to exploit their less enterprising or less favored fellow citizens. Through monopolies, oppressive trade practices, and by perverting our economic system they have collected the bulk of the wealth of the nation into a few hands, have made industry their personal servant, and have monopolized our mineral wealth, water powers and other natural resources. Only the farms are now left in distributed ownership, and year by year holdings of farm lands are increasing in size and the number of farm workers who own their own land is becoming smaller. Even owners of small farms have become, through a mortgage system, mere tenants, in substance, of great financial interests."

Working Classes Divided.

"These small but powerful groups are able to rule both in the political and economic world because of the lack of co-operation among the masses—the failure of the masses to work together. They rule by creating jealousy and prejudice among the various groups of the people and by setting the units of the people to fighting each other. Once the masses come to an understanding and learn to work together the dominion of the selfish classes will crumble into dust."

"There is a present urgent reason for the effort to keep labor and the farmers apart. They are finding each other out. They are coming more and more to know that their interests are not hostile but in close harmony. They are awakening to a fuller realization of their common interests and a recognition of their common enemy. The situation is not satisfactory to the powerful selfish groups. It seems that their victims are about to get together. The selfish interests would set labor and the farmers to tearing each other."

FARMERS, GOING BROKE, FLOOD THE CITIES— AND REDUCE WAGES

How great a stake does labor have in the prosperity of the American farmer? Without any hesitancy whatever, we say, very great indeed. It is so great, in fact, that it cannot easily be overestimated. To realize this one has only to recall that the well-being of labor depends upon the continuing activity and earning power of the mills, the mines, the factories, the transportation companies and the building trades. And what is necessary in order that these industries be kept continuously and profitably active? A strong and lively demand for the goods that they produce or transport. That demand, let us impress it strongly, must come in large measure from the farmers. For of the total purchasing power of the country, 40 per cent is computed to arise in the farmer group.

Farmers' Purchasing Power Lost.

Now the farming population of the country is today and has been since 1920 in a decidedly distressed condition. It is actually financially "broke" and in no sort of condition to furnish any demand for goods at all. During the last four years no farmers, practically speaking, in any part of the country have made any money; on the other hand the vast majority have collectively lost hundreds of millions of dollars. When the collapse of our war inflation came in 1920, it brought ruin—financial and social ruin to over a million farmers. This is proven and the cold facts of the matter made available for anyone's scrutiny by a recent survey made by the United States Department of Agriculture.

The report shows that in 15 principal agricultural states, 26 per cent of the farmers had lost their entire property since 1920, or would have lost it except for the leniency of their creditors. That is, over one-fourth of the total farming population of our principal farming area has been completely wiped out. No demand from these people, surely, for the product of mills, factories, mines and railroads, obviously enough because they have no money with which to buy.

Report Shows Bankruptcy Percentage.

This special report of Secretary Wallace on the western states further shows the following startling condition to exist in that region; in Minnesota 27 per cent of the farmers are bankrupt today; in South Dakota 39 per cent are in that condition; in North Dakota 51 per cent; in Wyoming 51 per cent; in Montana 62 per cent! How much demand for labor's products are such farmers going to present to mills and shops and stores?

And such a situation is general in all parts of the country. If we apply the percentage of bankruptcy found in the 15 western states to the farmer population of the whole country we get as a result 1,800,000 farmers now financially on the rocks. A terrifically big hole in the effective purchasing power of the country.

Young Men Being Driven From Farms.

Then there is another aspect of this very widespread farm disaster which most vitally concerns labor. It is driving people away from the farms by the hundreds of thousands, driving them into the city, into the factories, mines and mills, into the labor market, where they become a competing element against the regular workers for a bare subsistence and living. Two million people left the farms in the year 1922. They are still leaving with equal volume and speed. What is of more significance, they are leaving the farm for good and all, and will never return to it. They are mainly the younger men and women and they represent a terrible loss in strength to the agricultural forces of our country. They are the capable, experienced farm workers, and their going permanently weakens our nation because it saps away the vitality and vigor of our agricultural producing class.

What becomes of them in the town and cities? They add an enormous increase to the cheap-labor supply available to the industrial magnates. In city life they cannot demand high wages. Vast numbers of them have young families and are in desperate financial circumstances. Work, work at any price, under any conditions is what they must have. So they compete with the established labor supply on life and death terms and lower the standard for all.

City Populations Grow at Expense of Country.

This they will continue to do, and the agricultural class will dwindle and wither away, as long as the condition of the farmer is ignored in favor of big business, foreign industrial exploitation and the general development of industrial life regardless of the welfare of the other elements in the country.

As has happened again and again in the past his-

THE LAND VALUES WILL RISE—MAYBE

By LELAND OLDS

(Federated Press Industrial Editor)

Lower standards of living for the workers and a rise in land values which will come too late to benefit the small independent farmer are safe predictions on the basis of a Department of Agriculture study of increasing population and the utilization of land. With an approximation to European standards of living the department's economists believe the land area of the United States could be made to support a population of 300,000,000.

They predict that the population will reach 150,000,000 by 1950 and that this will mean increased pressure on land resources and a consequent renewed demand for land and farm products. By that time even with simplified consumption standards, including a marked reduction in the consumption of meat, the people will require 38,000,000 additional acres of crop land.

Good land available for farming, says the department, has been getting relatively scarcer in the United States for several decades. Though the census of 1920 showed nearly a three-fold absolute gain in the area of land in farms the per capita acreage in farms has decreased. The combined production per capita of 9 principal crops was less in 1920 than in 1900. The per capita acreage of improved land in farms which was at its maximum in the decade 1880 to 1890 has since declined.

This decline in farm acreage and in the production of cereals is shown in the following table based on census figures:

	1890	1900	1910	1920
Acreage per capita:				
All farm land	9.9	11.0	9.6	9.0
Improved farm land	5.7	5.5	5.2	4.8
All cereals	2.23	2.43	2.08	2.07
Production per capita (bushels):				
All cereals	56.0	58.4	49.1	44.3
Corn	33.7	35.1	27.7	22.2
Wheat	7.4	8.7	7.4	8.9
Oats	12.8	12.3	10.9	10.0

The large per capita wheat production in 1920 marks the tail end of the period of inflated demand due to the war. Figures for 1923 show production reduced to 6.6 bushels per capita.

Similar figures for livestock are not available but estimates based on census reports of the cattle supply indicate that in the case of beef at least per capita production declined steadily after the decade 1890-99, when the open range passed the height of its development.

of the world, city populations are growing at the expense of the agricultural class; wages in the cities must ultimately decline steadily, the lot of the city workers becomes harder and standards of living among them lower and lower.

Necessity for Farmer-Labor Unity.

Once the American farmer class was recognized as the glorious strength of the nation, its solid foundation and power. We all saw our farmers as giving America its self-reliant, vigorous, commanding position among the nations of the earth. But during the past twenty years, and especially since the great war, the farmer has lost ground tremendously. In consequence the whole fabric of our national body has been weakened, its vitality lessened. If labor itself would advance to new levels of comfort and enjoyment it behoves all laboring men to take quick thought and heed for the exceedingly bad plight of our farmers. His purchasing power must be restored; he must be so situated that his sons and daughters will feel at home on the farm; his old prestige, as a prosperous, respected, self-reliant citizen must be brought back again. Otherwise there will be for labor less opportunity to enjoy good working conditions, nor will there be any bright prospects for a happy future.

The wide discrepancy between the price received by the farmer for his products and the price paid for the same products by the ultimate consumer must necessarily convince every fair-minded person that something is decidedly wrong. When the farmers receive seven and a half billions of dollars for their annual production and the consumers pay twenty-two and a half billions for them it is mighty easy to arrive at the conclusion that both the producers and the consumer are being robbed, that some one is making an excess profit and that neither the farmer nor the city worker who buys these products is getting a square deal. The city worker and the farmer on the farm must co-operate for their mutual protection.

THE REAL CAUSE OF PRESENT FARM CRISIS

By F. E. Coulter

In our study of the relations of society, we have seen that the basis of the moral stability of the nation is the general state of the economic social welfare of the producing elements of the population. This is evidently true since the producers are the only ones at liberty in every way to deal justly with their fellow men. We have also seen that the farmers, of the producing classes, are the ones that will inevitably have to meet the expenses of society, since all the others are in a measure able to shift the burdens imposed upon them by society to the next man lower down on the economic ladder. With these two truths we ought to be able to see clearly the real moral and material basis for the everywhere-present moral degeneracy of society. As Tolstoy so naively puts it in his study of how the little devil earned his crust of bread—"I merely caused him to have more than he needed, so that the blood of the wolf, the fox, the swine, which is in him all the time might manifest," this being the way the little devil explained to the big devil how he had destroyed the soul of the farmer.

There is a truism of political economists which says, "The use that a people allow made of the reserve energy of their money will determine the moral and spiritual status of the people." Let us then look at the money question for just a minute and see if that is not the cause of the present condition of affairs? In 1919 the secretary of the treasury reported that the total amount of money in the United States, outside of the treasury vaults themselves and therefore not available as assets in the business world, was \$5,806,571,880.00; that was all there was for the reason that there had never been any more made. Now this is practically all that there is now as there has not been any issue of note since. This was all that there was for the 110,000,000 of people to do all their business with, so that any undue absorption of the money of the nation by any particular business would at once be the cause of great moral and economic degeneracy. Well, at the same time the report showed a grand total of 35,000 banks in the nation—BANKS, MIND YOU: ONLY ONE BUSINESS OF THE NATION—and these banks held the sum of over \$4,975,076,052.00 in their capital and reserve accounts—almost all there was, with the staggering sum in addition in their bills-payable account of \$50,900,000,000.00. So that they were practically collecting interest on \$70,000,000,000.00 and there is only five billion in existence. A casual glance then at the situation shows that for all the business outside of the banks there is less than one dollar to the inhabitant; while actually taking into account the interest and loans of the same banks, "We, the people," of constitutional fame, have absolutely no money at all. But we owe the banks interest on more than ten times as much money as there is in existence.

This is the reason that the farmer is being driven off the land and into the cities, there to join the hosts of the agents that live on some way off the earnings of the bankrupt. For you must not be deceived in your estimate of the solidarity of the banking game. Practically all the gamblers in stocks and bonds, the estate agents, the sellers of bonds and all the rest that live by what men call business, are, in fact, agents of the banks. Aye, more. All the men who are insistent in their clamor for more bonds and ever more bonds to build public improvements are also the paid agents of the institution that has already eaten up all the rest.

NO-MORE-WAR DEMONSTRATION

NEW YORK.—Pacifists, churches and Communists demonstrated against war on the tenth anniversary of the outbreak of the world war. The Workers Party is holding a series of twelve meetings lasting through the week, pointing out the capitalist nature of the last war and out deuces to all of them.

FARMER-LABOR VOICE

Published twice a month, by the Federated Farmer-Labor Party of America. Joseph Manley, National Secretary, 806 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Subscriptions: \$1.00 a Year; 50c for 6 Months. Bundle Orders: At 3c per Copy.

JOSEPH MANLEY, Editor

(Entered as Second-Class Matter, under the name "Farmer-Labor Voice," February 1, 1924, at the Post-Office of Chicago, Ill., under the Act of March 1, 1879.)

The Farmers' Vilifier

No Gains for Farmers

One of the chief reasons why the farmer fails to obtain relief from the government in the hour of his sore distress, is the fact that the East either holds him in contempt or fails to understand and sympathize with him. Only the other day the *Wall Street Journal*, organ of special privilege, dismissed the northwestern wheat producer with the sneering remark that he was a malcontent "who loafed into bankruptcy with one-crop farming."

If the newspaper claims are valid evidence, then prosperity is here on all fours for the farmers.

The recent rise in price of wheat and corn on the exchange is being heralded everywhere as proof of the fact that the farmers have at last gotten out of the acute depression that has been their lot for the last five years.

Nothing of the sort is true. No fundamental change has occurred in the status of the farming masses of the country. The temporary flurry in the price of corn and wheat is occasioned by temporary conditions and can at best bring only fleeting relief, small and limited in character.

The American wheat market has been somewhat buoyed up of late because of a decrease in the acreage, a cold late spring and a drought in southern Europe. According to the department of agriculture estimates the crops of the northern hemisphere, exclusive of Soviet Russia, will be ten per cent less than last year. Then, drought has done considerable damage to the Canadian crop. Great stretches of the Canadian wheat crop are damaged fifty per cent beyond recovery. The official Canadian wheat estimates for the year have been changed from a minimum of 474,000,000 bushels to a maximum of 318,000,000.

In the United States proper there is an outlook of an average decline of six per cent in crop production per acre below the figure for the past ten years. West of the Rockies crops are very poor. In Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri crops are ten per cent below their usual yield. The cool weather in the central corn belt, after a cold May everywhere east of the Rockies, has brought about a decline of nearly fifteen per cent in the corn yield. In most of the western States the continued drouth and shortage of water for irrigation is raising havoc with the corn crop. The conditions in Indiana and Ohio are likewise adverse.

The gloomy crop news will bring no cheer to the farming masses of the country. First and foremost, how can the farmers join in sharing in the price advance if their crops are decreasing in quantity and they will have no crops to sell? Secondly, natural adversities of the sort wheat and corn are now experiencing are only of temporary duration. Thirdly, whatever crops the farmers do have on hand to dispose of have been mainly sold in advance to meet taxation bills, mortgages, interest payments, and bankers' notes. Consequently, it is the grain gamblers, the big capitalist speculators who will reap the greatest benefits of the sensational rise of corn and wheat. The basic causes for agricultural depression are untouched.—(The Daily Worker.)

Correct this sentence: "That's all right," said the smiling banker, "we'll be glad to renew it for you."

If there is anything more distressing to a thoughtful man, than to see so many people live without working, it is to see so many work without living.

It has been declared that 400,000 farmers in this country will face bankruptcy before the year is done—unless there is a speedy change for the better in agriculture.

No reform, either moral or intellectual—and certainly no economic reform benefitting the workers—ever came from the upper classes of society. All such reforms have come from the protest of the victim and the martyr. And the final emancipation of the working class must

be achieved by the workers themselves. The noted French writer, Hilaire Belloc, is quite certain that without military compulsion the Daves plan cannot be made to work; and about everybody else is satisfied that, with military compulsion, nothing will work. So there you are.

The Practicality of Ideal Theories

"Men are beginning to awaken to the fact that matters of belief and speculation are of absolutely infinite practical importance," said Huxley, the British scientist, a long time ago. But if he lived today, in this country, he would have to admit that the overwhelming majority is still sound asleep intellectually.

Most people seem to think that the bread and butter question is the only one that really matters, and they do not know how much theory and speculation were needed to get a proper conception of the bread and butter question.

Yet the difference between man and the other animals is to be found in the human mind—in man's reasoning intelligence. But this human mentality must be led to exercise itself in progressive thought—which in turn leads to the creation of ideals, and active efforts toward attainment of those ideals. And this education of the masses can be accomplished only by a more widespread publication of the writings and utterances of those individuals who have attained a deep theoretical understanding of the great problems of economics, sociology and politics.

"These are the days that try men's souls"—and that are to try out man's intellect.

When Is a Radical?

Senator Shipstead says that he is a radical; and Senator Magnus Johnson says that he is not a radical. Yet both of these United States senators were elected as radicals, by the Farmer-Labor radical element in Minnesota politics.

In reality neither of these gentlemen is a radical—in thought or in action. And they are progressives only in the fact that they are not members of either the republican or democratic party. Outside of this, there is no difference between these two and the rest of the present United States Senate—except for Berger, the "Socialist" senator from Wisconsin. Berger is different from either of these two, and different from the other senators. But he is not radical.

ch leaves to LaFollette the honor of representing radicalism in the United States Senate. And that's where the laugh comes in.

"Can You Imagine That?"

Mortgages on farms, homes and small business properties in the United States are increasing at the rate of a Billion Dollars a year and now amount to Twenty-five Billion Dollars, according to a recent report by the National Association of Real Estate Boards.

This amount is greater than the total of all money in circulation throughout the country, plus all the gold and silver reserve in the United States Treasury. And this does not include mortgage loans secured by coal, timber and mineral lands, nor railways, city transit companies, industrial plants and the like.

Imagine the interest on these mortgages always 10 per cent some 45c war—to the last working day of a "domest" at the mercy of the middle machinery." h

The *Wall Street Journal* probably is limping in blissful ignorance of practically everything that pertains to farming, considering that occupation as one that requires no brains w/ tever and one of the safest of jobs. Statistics show, however, that in 1923 one farmer out of every twelve lost his farm for debt. They also show that ten thousand farmers out of sixty-nine thousand really lost their farms, but were given more time by their creditors who didn't know what they would do with the properties if they took them over on a foreclosure. This means that one farmer out of every four had a ruinous experience trying to make his business pay.

In what other vocations do men and women work harder and longer and with less recreation than do those who till the soil? The spectacle of a Wall-Street editor accusing the farmers of "loafing into bankruptcy" would be a joke were it not for the fact that the ignorance and malice behind the charge will not be understood or leeded by the Street's many pliant subjects in congress who will oppose agricultural relief at a time when it is desperately needed, especially in the northwest.

Governmental House-cleaning

This year the following Government Departments in Washington, D. C., were given a more or less thorough Spring cleaning, by means of the Congressional investigation and white-wash process:

The Department of Justice (so-called), the Treasury Department, the Interior Department, the War Department, the Navy Department, the Department of Commerce, the Tariff Commission, the Shipping Board.

Outside of these few instances, it was not thought necessary to inaugurate further investigations just at present—except that in response to most strenuous public urgings, a slight show was made of also investigating the Philippine government administration, the foreign propaganda bureau, the bureau of efficiency, the veterans' bureau, the alien property custodians' bureau, and the lawyers' lobbies in Congress.

So it is now "All quiet along the Potomac."

THE DRIFT

Forty thousand workless workers walk the streets of Los Angeles, California. Thirty thousand miners are out of work here in the proud state of Illinois. Word comes from far-off Montana telling of the "wretched condition of industry and so many out of work." Similar signs increase in Pittsburgh. Come with me here to Chicago's hideous three blocks southward and westward from the corner of Madison and Canal streets, where labor is offered for sale; come, look at these increasing thousands of hungry, dusty, forlorn wage-slaves galling up and down before the employment offices—an anxious army of men keen to sell themselves and get themselves "shipped" to distant "labor camps"—shipped as soullessly as cattle are shipped—an army of men, human droves that become hungry—and larger, ominously larger, all the time.

The drift of affairs in American industry is unmistakable—it is downward; for the human driftwood in increasing amount is thrown on to rot.

A VISION FAIR

I stood beside the margin of the sea.
And in the splendor where the sun went
down
I saw a city of the years to be,
Glitter across the surges. O'er that
town
Blue range and bluer gorges caught the
eye,
Flashing with fountains and subdued
with vines;
There roses blazed blood-hearted to the
sky,
And dreamy airs stoic through the
brooding pines.
The golden West, for mortal's wonder,
carved
Its miracles of vapor, flushed with
light.
And there the waves coiled back from
piers inharved
With purest marble; spire and palace
bright
Gleamed ivory-white in gardens—and I
saw
A pure-souled race, that lived without a
law.

The people there were deft of hand and
free;
Light toil for them an easy living won;
And hummed the wheels of happy indus-
try,
While children laughed and tumbled in
the sun.
Crowned with rose garlands, maidens
tripped along—
Fair as the flowers that fluttered at
their feet;
The meadows bloomed, the forest thrilled
with song,
The fields were rich in golden, ripened
wheat.
War's idle banners rolled into the dust—
The tools of war were broken and put
by;
No heart of despot burned with empire
lust;
No rebel, robbed of freedom, longed to
die;
No slick-tongued politicians peddled lies
That papers puffed, and men accounted
wise.

No sign of pinch-faced poverty was there;
No sot or courtesan profaned the
street;
Peace showered her rosy blessings every-
where—
No voice was heard in passion's angry
heat.
Flowers bloomed and fruit hung clus-
tered by the way;
Fair streets garnished park and city
gate;
The swart-browed toiler of a baser day
Had found his place in that benignant
State—
The idle drone lived only as a name;
The lines of greed had passed from
every face;
And sturdy sire and sweet, reliant dame
Ruled earth with love and learning's
noble grace.
No strife was there—no master and no
rod,
No preachers prating of an absent "God."

WHO SAID PEACE?

MELBOURNE, Australia.—The Australian federal government is about to announce a new defence policy, details of which have already been semi-officially announced to press correspondents.

Two new 10,000 cruisers will be built at once and thereafter one 10,000 cruiser every three years. Two modern submarine cruisers will also be built. There will be a seaplane base at Sydney, another in western Australia and a third on the northern coast of the continent; an aeroplane base at Melbourne, and an oil-fueling depot at Darwin, on the northern coast of the continent.

The various munition factories in Australia are to be speeded up so that they can turn out all the rifles, revolvers, machine guns, field guns, shells, explosives, and small arms needed for defense. The naval personnel is to be increased and the training of the militia is to be intensified.

WALL STREET DECREES THE FARMER'S FATE

The more one looks into the conditions in which the farmers find themselves today, the more one becomes convinced that two of the most ardently advocated relief proposals of the capitalists—the cutting of wheat acreage and diversified production—are utterly worthless.

Many farm experts of Wall Street have been yelling for a cut in the acreage of seeding wheat. The fact that our wheat export fell 40 per cent in 1923 has caused some to be misled by this propaganda. It is interesting to note what the application of this remedy means to the farmers. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana show a decrease of 600,000 acres seed to wheat. Yet, it is these very states that have applied the wheat acreage cut that are today suffering most from the acute farm depression.

The self-appointed saviors of the farmers who are doing the bidding of their Wall Street masters are also trying to convert the wheat farmers to the idea of livestock raising. The latest figures of the Department of Agriculture estimate the value of all farm and range livestock on January 1st as much lower than that of the corresponding date of last year. Since January 1st, 1923, the estimated value of farm animals has decreased more than a quarter of a billion dollars. The value per head of milk cows, horses, swine and cattle shows a substantial decline since the depression of 1921 set in on the farms.

The fate of the farmer is hopelessly bound up with the difficulties confronting world capitalism today. The fate of the farmer depends on the world economic conditions and on the status of our own industry. As long as these two factors make for farm depression, the farmers will be unable to get out of their present serious conditions. Under these circumstances, all remedies of the capitalists, regardless of how extensively they may be advertised, are not worth anything to the farming masses.

BABSON DISCUSSES LAFOLLETTE

(By Federated Press)

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass.—In a confidential copyrighted report to his clients Roger Babson, adviser to big business, discusses the significance of the LaFollette independent campaign for president.

"Whether President Coolidge will be elected four months from now depends upon the determination of one outstanding factor," the Babson report declares. "That is, how much of a dent will Senator LaFollette's independent candidacy make upon the republican totals. A Babson representative attended the LaFollette convention in Cleveland this month in order that we might gauge the significance of this meeting.

"The LaFollette platform, while full of the usual political bombast left no loophole for attack by the old parties on any grounds of dangerous radicalism. This LaFollette shrewdly guarded against by his ultimatum against the Communists.

"LaFollette won the support of the socialist party without making a single concession to its demands. In failing for the first time in years to put a slate of its own in the field and endorsing the LaFollette candidacy the socialists came over to LaFollette. He did not go over to them.

"LaFollette was not tricked into any move toward a third party. His candidacy is a one-man affair, wholly within his own control.

"His strength as a candidate is a personal tribute to his popularity. His supporters do not represent the real political and economic radicalism of the country. That group of irreconcilables is as hostile to the LaFollette candidacy as to either of the other parties.

Correct this sentence: "This course is right," said the politician, "and if it costs me a million votes I shall stick to it."

One senator objected to the Child Amendment upon the ground that "at the home" Whose home?

FARM PROBLEMS IN RUSSIA

By JESSICA SMITH

(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

The problem of agricultural machinery is a serious one for the Russian peasant. The need is great, but the demand is small because the rural population have so little money, and the price of grain is so disproportionate to the cost of machines. Most in demand are ploughs, seeders, harvesting machines, scythes, sickles, and machines for cleaning grain.

The Government is doing everything in its power to make it possible for the peasants to buy machinery. The co-operatives are buying machines and turning them over to the peasants. The machines are valued in gold according to prewar prices and may be paid in grain—at the present time one machine rouble is equal to 50 futs (a fut is a little less than a pound) of wheat or 60 futs of rye. Ten per cent must be paid down and the remainder in three parts in three years. The Government trusts are turning them over to the co-operatives on these same terms, so that they may be paid for after the first, second and third harvests.

Central Farm Stations.

Another important step to assist the peasants is the organization by the Department of Agriculture of 1800 "agronomical regions" all over Russia. Each of these will have a central place where the peasants can have grain cleaned and use other necessary equipment which they are unable to buy for themselves. Each such point will have one set of stationary equipment, and another traveling about from place to place. The expense of such stations will be met 25 per cent by the central Government and 75 per cent from the local Government and Agricultural Departments.

In Harkov, in the Ukraine, the People's Commissariat of Agriculture has given 11,136 dessiatins of land to the Dukabours returning from Canada, whence they fled because of religious persecutions under the Czar. Every household receives 32 dessiatins—16 free of charge as long as the land is worked, while rent is to be paid for the rest. The Dukabours are returning in large numbers and have been granted land in a number of parts of Russia.

Co-operation Urged

The Government is carrying on constant propaganda among the peasants for the adoption of a collective form of agriculture to replace the wasteful individual farm system. A recent appeal to the peasants declares that collective forms of working the land must be the basis of the building up of the villages and of the future agriculture of Russia. This will mean an enormous increase in productivity because all the land will be in one place instead of scattered all about in strips and patches as at the present time. The number of boundaries and roads will be decreased. A regular rotation of crops instead of the antiquated three field system will be possible. The amount of sowing ground will be increased. There will be a more effective use of machines and implements; a more efficient system of fertilization, planting, harvesting, cleaning, storing, etc., will be possible. Less live stock and equipment will be necessary. The peasants without horses and equipment may still work on the land. The breeding of horses and cattle will be improved. There will be economy of time, work and money; and finally it will create a greater possibility of spiritual development, as more time will be left to the peasant for other individual and group activities.

WILL PROTECT RADICAL SPEAKERS

(By Federated Press)

NEW YORK.—Anticipating a revival of the terrorism against radical speakers that characterized the campaign in certain communities in previous election years, the American Civil Liberties Union has offered its services to the radical parties during the coming months. Its 1,000 attorneys all over the country are put at their disposal without charge.

"Any attempt to interfere with speakers, meetings or the distribution of literature anywhere or at any time, will receive our prompt and vigorous attention," is the promise of the union. "The right of free speech exists for radicals just the same as for anyone else," says the announcement. In the last presidential campaign the union was called on for help in "alt out" sources to all of the socialist par-

FARMER-LABOR INFORMATION

Fully Mortgaged—and Then Some

Many farms are mortgaged for more than a buyer would now pay for them; taxes and upkeep on them are more than tenants would pay as rent. The holder of a mortgage on such a farm does not want to foreclose; the legal proceedings would cost something, and title to the farm would be effective as a liability, not as an asset. While the mortgage stands, the farmer and the mortgagee can pretend that the farm has value. The work of the farm family may bring enough to pay the taxes.

No Railroad Relief for Farmers

WASHINGTON.—Refusing to yield to the demand for lower freight rates on farm products as a means of calming the discontent of the agricultural states, the interstate commerce commission, by a narrow majority, rules that the farmers are not paying an undue share of the nation's tribute to the private owners of the railroads.

German Small Farmers

MAGDEBURG, Germany.—The small farmers of Germany are looking with grave concern into the future. Ordinarily the small farmer sells his harvest and pays the expense of seeding, planting, and harvesting the next crop.

But he was paid last fall in depreciating paper marks. Most of what he sold after the mark was stabilized had to be sold on credit, or his purchasers had no more ready cash than he had. Now harvest time is at hand. The farm-hands will insist on being paid weekly. He will have to meet freight bills for the government won't ship on credit. He will not get much credit from the reichsbank or the rentenbank, for both are so concerned about keeping the mark stabilized that they will not embark upon a liberal credit policy.

Russian Agriculture

MOSCOW, Russia.—The Russian department of agriculture reports the area under cultivation this past year as about 200 million acres of 77 per cent of prewar. The chief increase is in wheat and barley, the export crops which had fallen especially low. The area under cotton was quadrupled the past year, reaching about 500,000 acres, one-quarter of her prewar acreage. The introduction of long-fibered American cotton, which is given to the peasants on special terms for the government, is increasing with great rapidity.

Condition of Federal Reserve

The consolidated statement of condition of the Federal reserve banks, only 16, made public by the Federal Reserve Board, shows a further reduction of \$10,500,000 in aggregate holdings of earning assets. Holdings of discounted bills declined by \$5,500,000 and of acceptances purchased in open market by \$21,000,000, while Government security holdings increased by \$16,100,000. Federal reserve note circulation declined by \$42,300,000, while cash reserve increased by \$21,100,000 and deposit liabilities by \$65,100,000.

With the exception of the Kansas City bank, which shows an increase of \$200,000, all Federal reserve banks report a smaller volume of Federal reserve notes in circulation, the principal decreases being as follows: Chicago \$70,000, Cleveland \$7,600,000, San Francisco \$6,500,000, New York \$6,000,000, Philadelphia \$4,700,000, and Boston \$4,500,000. Gold reserves increased \$17,100,000 during the week. Reserves, other than gold, by \$4,000,000, and non-reserve cash by \$2,700,000.

MILK BY PARCEL POST

Here is "something new under the sun." A dairyman at Franklin, Va., has established a rural parcel post milk service. He has thermic containers for his fresh milk, and has abolished his own delivery system, substituting the parcel post service on four routes. He gathers the fresh milk from the farmers and, without opening the individual containers, delivers it to the town customers. That beats driving nanny goats from door to door as they do in some countries, milking as per order.

The deviser of this new method is laying its feasibility before the postmaster general, with the view to enlisting nation-wide co-operation. The postoffice is at the mercy of the middle class, for the "domestic" machinery, in the

ATTENTION

By Henry George Weiss

Ye sons of the scythe and the ploughshare,

Ye slaves to the banker's plan,
Ye serfs of the field and the orchard,
We ask you to march in the van.

You who have toiled and have sweated
That others might gorge on your toil,
Now shoulder to shoulder and onward
In defense of your right to the soil.

The grafters are flocking like vultures
To feed on the wealth ye have grown;
Stand pat with the workers, ye farmers,
And keep from the robbers your own.

Old parties? Forget them! They've tricked you

With promises year after year!
Now fling wide your working class banner
And graven, this batttery there:

"To the workers the tools of production,
To the farmers the land that they till,
To the grafters the wage of corruption,
To all labor the fruits of its skill."

NEW COMMUNIST DEPUTIES EX-POLITICAL PRISONERS

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER

(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)
BERLIN.—In the Communist delegation of 60 in the German reichstag the metal workers head the list with 12 members. The office employes have 7, the miners 5 carpenters 5, masons 3, railway workers 2, transport workers 2, and the printers, tobacco workers, shoe makers, house painters, masseurs, and cooks 1 each. (All of the delegation are ex-political prisoners.)

Only two members had the luxury of a higher education. One is Ruth Fischer, graduate of the University of Vienna, the other a lawyer. The rest of the delegation consists of party editors and officials.

Eight per cent of the Communist delegation belong to the General Federation of Trade Unions. Ten per cent are former members of this body who were expelled for boring from within. Several belong to the syndicalist Union of Hand and Brain Workers which draws its main support in the Rhineland and the Ruhr.

All members had at some time or other been in jail for political offenses. One is reminded of Art Young's cartoon during the war, in which he shows a stranger seeking admission to a working class meeting, but who is detained by the doorkeeper with the request: Show me your indictment. It seems to be an unwritten law with the German Communists that none but "jaillbirds" need apply for parliamentary honors.

The leader of the Communist fraction, Thammann, has been in the organized labor movement for 17 years.

CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS GROWING IN CANADA

By JOHN ROBUR

(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)
OTTAWA, Can.—A radical group is being organized in the Canadian parliament. It is an offshoot of the Farmers' party and of the Labor party. Most of its members come from the farmer or progressive group, but it rallied first around a resolution moved by the leader of the tiny Labor party.

The Labor members and the Progressive members of the house of commons frequently vote together. In spite of standpat preaching that labor and farmer have diverse interests, the members of the Canadian house usually find they are on the same side.

The effective start was given to the drift away from the progressive caucus when J. S. Woodsworth, Labor member from Winnipeg, moved that the budget tariff reductions be replaced by those of the progressive platform. He and Irvine, the other Labor member, drew 14 progressives with them in the vote.

Recently this radical group forced the house to take banking reform issues and on one occasion within 12 votes of defeating the

THE WALL STREET RESERVE BANKS

(By James Billings)

A comparison of the published reports issued by the twelve combined Federal Reserve Banks of the United States, reveals the very interesting fact that considerable favoritism has been extended by the Federal Reserve Board—to "the Wall Street gang."

It will first be noted that the total amount of credits extended to all the twelve United States reserve banks, amountd to Eleven Billion dollars (and a little odd change), and that almost half of this went to New York city alone.

And this item will demonstrate, of itself just about how the money power of the United States functions and where lies "the balance of power."

From these reports may be gathered also a pretty clear idea as to the amount of funds used by the Federal Reserve Board to sustain production of the necessities of life, in the economic branch of agriculture. And the difference between this amount and the amount diverted to New York city, is quite significant. Because New York city is not much given to production of economic values; at any rate, not the Wall Street district.

And thus it will become clear that the basic principle for maintenance of the Federal Reserve system has to do mainly with a policy of fostering financial and economic speculation and exploitation, rather than to augment industrial production and aid in the development of natural resources.

What do they mean—Federal Reserve Banks?

Less than twenty per cent of the people receive benefit from the Federal Reserve system. More than eighty per cent of the common people of the nation have been deflated and robbed by this legalized plunderbund.

Since the operation of the Federal Reserve System began, more than two thousand tons of gold and nine thousand tons of silver have been taken out of the United States Treasury and put into the hands of private corporations.

How long is that particular Governmental delusion to be tolerated?

"PROSPERITY" HITS THE FARMER HARD

During the past few years, while corporations have been making profits almost rivaling those of the war period, hundreds of thousands of farmers have been financially ruined. In the wheat state of Kansas 23,574 acres cent went to the wall last year, while in Illinois, where all sorts of crops are grown, and dairying and cattle-raising are usually added, 24.11 per cent failed. Nor was high labor cost the cause, as the average wage paid last year for farm labor was but \$17 per month, without board, and about \$15 less where board was included. In spite of the failure-producing prices received by the farmer for his crops, and the low wages received by the farm worker for his labor-power, food prices remained high in the cities, due largely to the wasteful methods of distribution of farm products. Organization of the farmers and of the city workers, and co-operation for their mutual advantage, will do much to solve the problems of the farmers as producers and to lighten the burdens of the city workers as consumers.

NORTH DAKOTA'S TAX-KILLED FARMS

Prof. Louis Wallis, in one day's drive in an automobile in North Dakota, passed 75 abandoned farms, where machinery was rusting and buildings going to ruin. These farms had been abandoned by farm tenants, or by farmers who had mortgaged their farms at so high an interest rate that they couldn't make farming pay.

You know what happened to our potato crop last year. The railroad took it all, plus \$236 in cash. And 1923 served us likewise on prunes. The railroad got over \$12,000 on 21 carloads of prunes, which left us minus \$2,500 of paying boxes, picking, and packing. It costs more now to send a car of prunes to Omaha than it did in 1917 to New York.—G. M. Paulson, Wilder, Idaho.

IN SOUTHERN COTTON FIELDS

Federated Pages Review.

Exploitation of a class of industrial serfs in the mill towns and cotton fields of the south is clearly pictured in Frank Tannenbaum's *Darker Phases of the South*. The author shows how northern capital has found in the south a field for the development of a lower caste of white workers, without hope and without political interest of any kind. Industrialism has turned the cotton field into a factory without walls.

Tannenbaum shows how the monotony and spiritual poverty of life which results from this mass exploitation of a population creates the psychological soil in which such cruelty and violence as the Ku Klux Klan and the southern prison and chain gang system are a natural growth.

Farmers Enslaved.

The complete and deadening subjection of cotton mill operatives to mill owners has been the subject of more than one study. But Tannenbaum thrusts the problem simply and humanly upon the attention. A man may as his family to the mill village, he says, because as cotton farmer he is in debt beyond hope of recovery. He has neither trade nor money, and the mill offers his children work at more wages than he ever dreamed of for himself. A survey of two North Carolina counties cited by Tannenbaum found the average earnings of cotton farmers in cents per owner per day to be as follows: white farm owners 34c., black farm owners 32, black renters 16, white renters 14, black croppers 10, white croppers 8c.

The Price of Slavery

In return for this privilege of turning his children into wage slaves, not to mention a house at very low rent, a school, coal at \$5 a ton, etc., one condition is attached. He and his children must work in the mill. And "once a mill worker, always a mill worker. Not only you, but your children and children's children forever."

"The mill village," he says, "has no life of its own. It is not a town. It is private property. The school teacher, church, grocery store, moving picture, drug store, doctor, everything is in the hands of the mill owner. Even the policemen are paid by him. The people have no political life. They have no vote. The mill population is a world apart. It is recognized as a caste system. The mill people are at the bottom of the scale. To become a mill worker is to lose standing."

Tenant Cotton-Producers

Turning to the production of cotton for the mills he finds a similar condition. The single crop system has industrialized agriculture because it requires extensive credit and elaborate marketing machinery beyond the farmer's reach. "The majority of cotton growers," he says, "are tenants and a tenant is a laborer who has sold his heritage. He does not work for himself. He does not own the house that shelters him. There is no pride in the home, no pride in the fruits of the earth, no self sufficiency, no independence, no true citizenship. He is a kept

neehold the Cotton Ross!

On the other side he pictures the merchant and banker, who dominates the rural community. This creditor class owns fertilizer plants, oil mills, banks and warehouses: it dictates the election of sheriffs and local judges. The legislators and the district congressmen are its proteges.

The cotton crop, he says, "leads to a concentration of land, of economic power and of political influence in the hands of a small group of creditors and reduces the actual growers of cotton to a state of dependence upon them not unlike that of the worker upon his employer." Since Tannenbaum wrote this it has come out that Wall Street is using tens of millions of dollars to make these local creditors its mere agents.

Through the book runs as an undertone poverty, low standards, monotony, ill-health, demoralization and degradation, the blight upon life which industrialism is spreading both in mill towns and in the farm communities which it inevitably annexes.—Leland Olds.

Darker Phases of the South, by Frank Tannenbaum; G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

Canary Birds?

A high-spirited editor, commenting on the statement in a so-called welfare report that a family of five can live on \$9.60 a week, asks: "A family of five what?—*American Labor Legislation Review*."

When the workers are able to build homes for themselves, instead of only for other people, it may again become popular to have large families of children.

THE BOSS SHOWS HOW TO DO IT

By Carl Hacasler.

(Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

CHICAGO.—How to treat your state legislator or your congressman at Washington to make him come across has been charmingly revealed by big business in recent weeks.

There are times to treat 'em rough and times to be honeysweet and kind. John T. Pirie of the open shop State street department store, Carson Pirie Scott & Co. likes both ways.

"We don't want to tell our legislators what they should do or what they should not do," Pirie advises his fellow business men, "but they must know that we are interested and I doubt if we spend enough time on this subject."

That is his soft pedal manner. Here's his rough stuff:

"I wrote a letter the other day to my congressman," Pirie also says, "and he sent me an answer back signed by his clerk, thanking me for my communication and stating that he would give it careful consideration.

"I wrote him back not to clutter up the mails with that sort of stuff and if he could not answer me to say so; not to write that stuff."

It's a safe bet the congressman returned an agreeable answer.

Cards are now being sent out by the legislative committee of the Illinois chamber of commerce asking every member to visit Springfield, the state capital, during the coming session. It has members in 118 Illinois cities, comprising 47,000 business men and business establishments.

This invading army of 47,000 that is to descend on the state legislators is coming in a purely helpful spirit, its officials declare. "The Illinois chamber of commerce takes a very active part in legislative affairs," they assert, "not in a spirit of criticism and continued faultfinding but to help legislators understand what are the needs of the state. From our experience in the past we are confident that all the senators and representatives will give the visitors a hearty welcome."

The outstanding item in the chamber's legislative program is the state mounted police or constabulary bill which failed at the last session but is to be pushed with increased pressure next session.

That the constabulary is to be used in labor troubles is seen from the propaganda of the business men and bankers in its behalf.

FARM EXPERIMENTS ON LARGE SCALE

(By Federated Press)

RUSSELLVILLE, Ark. — Experiments in the labor problems of large scale cotton farming are being made by the agricultural school at Russellville, Ark. This school farm is in the heart of an important cotton growing district. The labor methods used are applicable to any cotton farm having large yields.

There are 300 acres in field crops. Seventy-five acres are in cotton. The three hundred acre field is worked by five men. Additional help was hired to chop the cotton to a stand. A very comfortable house is provided for each of the five men and family rent free. The men are paid \$45 to \$50 per month, depending on their experience in handling the large farm implements. Each family is furnished all the land it needs for a garden and half an acre for potatoes.

In many sections of the cotton belt labor conditions are intolerable to both landlord and tenant.

The tenant will no longer work for the annual income he has been getting on the farm nor will he live in the uncomfortable houses on the cotton farms. He can move to town and live better and more comfortably, even if he has work only part of the time.

It often happens under the old methods on the cotton farms, that tenants run up a big store account and then after the cotton is half worked out they skip in the night. It is reasonable to suppose that a worker family living on a large tract in a comfortable house with potato patches and gardens will not leave in mid-season. If the modern landlord expects to keep first class farm labor, he must work more acres per man and a higher yield per acre. This can be done by using modern farm implements for large scale cultivation.

TO EDUCATE CHILDREN IN LABOR MOVEMENT

An organization to take the place of the boy scouts and girl scouts, with "elimination of the military and anti-social features of the present boys' and girls' organizations" has been launched at New York by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

The organization is to be known as the National Council for Child Development, and it will consist of labor men and women and educators and parents. It is proposed to bring up the children of workmen in an atmosphere friendly to the labor movement and to "acquaint the growing generation with the social and economic problems that face mankind and prepare it to share intelligently in the work of bettering society."

"Current interpretations of events of importance are governed by hatred, bigotry, and class interests and give our children distorted views of life," says the statement of principles drawn up by the association.

THE "LIBERALISM" OF MR. GOMPERS

Mr. Gompers says, in *Collier's Weekly*, that he objects to the establishment of industrial training schools under union auspices because he does not want to "mold the youth of the land after a predetermined pattern"; and that his "whole bent is toward giving each individual the largest freedom in regard to all life's decisions and undertakings."

These statements need no comment in view of the well established fact that in the United States all "union policies" are dictated and directed by the "labor leaders" who boss the union membership.

In substantiation of Mr. Gompers' dependability as a modern Solomon, one might take under consideration his reference to the organized labor movement as responsible for the public schools of the United States. American history, despite its well-known capitalistic preconception, discloses that one of the first things the New England settlers did when they arrived in this country was to establish free schools—long before there was an "American organized labor movement," or a Gompers to dictate its policies. And Mr. Gompers' machine organization is now busily engaged upon the job of fighting—not forwarding—all proposals to increase the worth of these free schools by means of vocational training courses.

CHILD LABOR MAKES TRAMPS

Many dramatic episodes have been written about why girls leave home; but in the *International Book Review*, Jim Tully, ex-hobo and prize-fighter, offers first-hand comment on the similar flight of young men.

"Economic stress helps greatly to make tramps," Tully states. "There are fewer men on the road in good times than in bad. Vagabonds, despite sentimental and popular novels, are always made up of the children of the poor, who first rebel, then cringe, and then lie down and take their whipping with a whine.

"With 6,000,000 child workers in America at present, it is not hard to figure where the next generation of listless and sniveling tramps will come from. They are forming now—the breaker boys in mines—the round-shouldered lads in steel mills—the link-beaters in ckn factories, of which I was one at 45 cents a day—the little work-slaves from everywhere. In the heart-breaking round of monotony they hear the old call of adventure that reaches the youth in states far from the sea—the 'call of the road.'

"Many young fellows, mostly orphans, with whom I tramped in the early days, are now serving time in some penitentiary. My publisher will bear me out that when he gave me the customary 10 free copies of an author's book, I had him send them to 10 men in 10 penitentiaries. They are guilty of crimes; but society is guilty of one crime against them—it stacked the cards and 'alt' ut deuces to all of these."



THE PRECIOUS PAIR

Farmer-Labor Forum

Farmer-Labor Voice solicits from its readers a free expression of their opinions upon all subjects of special interest to the farmers and industrial workers generally. Contributions to this Forum should usually be of not more than three hundred words. With these, pen-names only will be published if requested. But name and address of writer must accompany each contribution. Farmer-Labor Voice assumes no responsibility for the opinions expressed in this manner.—Ed.)

To the Farmer-Labor Forum:

I have been reading of "Eight Men Buried Alive," in the little pamphlet of that title, issued by the General Defense Committee of the I. W. W.

The eight men referred to are the men who at Centralia defended their hall against an attack of a mob, killing and wounding some members of the American Legion. They were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment at Walla Walla.

It is very evident that the I. W. W. had just a good right to defend themselves against mob attack, members of the Masons or Odd Fellows lodges, or the Methodist or Baptist churches. Six members of the jury that convicted them have since made affidavits that they had made a mistake which was caused by fear of personal violence at the time of trial.

These men, members of the working class, can be freed legally only by pardon of the Governor.

Let us elect such a governor. The I. W. W. ought to register and help elect a Farmer-Labor ticket.

Yours for Justice,

WALTER PRICE,

(Outlook, Wash.)

To the Editor, Farmer-Labor Voice:

I have been reading your paper, and would say that it is fine.

I am a farmer—hard up, like all the rest, and sell at a loss the products of my farm. Those who are interested in exploiting the workers, try to make the farmer believe that labor is to blame for the high cost of living—but a lot of us know better than that.

What we would like to know now is something about the facts with regard to the labor cost of a pair of shoes, or a suit of clothes, etc. If your paper can give us some information in that line, it would be of great interest to all of us.

Our Farmer-Labor Party has a full ticket in this county. Two years ago we carried the League election—and are much stronger now. The fact that bank after bank has been failing, seems to be a good eye-opener for those who have been blind to the real situation of the American farmer with relation to the industrial workers.

Yours, for Labor,

JULIUS WALSTAD,

(Claire City, S. Dak.)

Editor, Farmer-Labor Forum:

This is the Fable of the Prince and the Jay Walker: Once upon a time, the Crown Prince of a Great County was speeding along the Royal Thoroughfare, when a careless Jay Walker stepped in front of the Royal Buzz-wagon. Of course, the Jay Walker got Run Over and Badly Busted.

When the King—who was very Kind of Heart, like all Kings—saw that the Jay Walker was Busted, he was Much Grieved and promptly sent to the luckless Jay Walker a large Bottle of Soothing Syrup. For lack of proper Surgical Aid, however, the Jay Walker became Permanently Crippled. Whereupon the Prince sent him a Near-gold set of Crutches, that he might Resume his Work in helping to Provide for his Country's Needs.

The Jay Walker was so Grateful for this Princely Kindness that he hobbled to Court and kissed the Royal Toes. And the Good Prince, in appreciation of such Loyal Devotion, forthwith presented the Jay Walker with a Silk Purse, made of the Ear of a White Jackals. After Pawning the Purse, to buy a Meal of Victuals, the Jay Walker returned to his Farm—and lived happy ever after.

Moral: Don't clutter up the Royal Road to Prosperity.

The application of which may be said to be something like this:

We, the farmers, are the "Jay Walkers." Prince Pierpont ran over us with his big financial limousine in 1920. And we are pretty badly "busted."

But, cheer up! We have received some "Loans to the Farmer" soothing syrup; and our friends in Washington have been talking of making us some nice farix crutches—so that we may continue "business as usual." Doubtless some wise guy will soon think of instituting special savings banks for farmers. And that will at least sound like "Prosperity."

But, Helen Maria! If our "friends in Washington" really wished to help us, why don't they dig out the economic evil by the roots, instead of trying to prune its branches?

The agricultural depression began with deflation in 1920. This deflation hit the farmers first; but now it is reacting upon the industries in general, and is felt severely by the wage-workers. Prompt and substantial relief might be given by re-inflation of the currency. But that wouldn't be a "sound financial policy"—for Wall Street. So it won't be done.

There will be no relief for the farmers and industrial workers, so long as Prince Pierpont and his big financial buzz-wagon has the right of way up the middle of the road. Kalkulating Kai Koolidge says that "the farmers must help themselves." That looks like good, sound advice. Let us remember it, next November.

WILLIAM G. CONKLIN,

Lawrence, Mich.

The Senate has declared that the air is the inalienable property of the people. Now, if the Senators would kindly refrain from heating it so much for us.

Federated Press Jingles

By BILL LLOYD

They've sprung a new name for war, I see; it's national emergency. The seven syllables, not one, are 'sposed to make the fracas fun. We won't make war, by land or sea; we'll simply meet emergency. The congress never will declare that war is coming with a flare. The president, with his gloved fists, will say, "Emergency exists."

It shows how people like to hug and hang on to a great humbug, and idealize their native land, by sticking heads into the sand. I 'spose the children will be taught that great emergencies ain't fought, but sure resemble, at the least, a sort of Methodist love-feast.

There's one thing certain, you can see; they'll meet the next emergency with poison gases, Lewisite, to blot out cities in a night. The enemy will end our days by spilling on us some death-rays—that is, we'll surely get it worst unless we catch the other first. Another modern way to kill—a bunch of deadly germs we'll spill—that is to say, unless our foe sends bombs controlled by radio which bring about our quick decease before our germs we can release—unless we first should still his ire by pouring on him liquid fire—unless he catches us on the hip and from a ponderous air-ship puffs out a few deadly gases down to kill all living in our town.

If two emergencies should meet, they might accomplish the sad feat of blotting out all living trace of this allied peace-loving race.

I think the youth, on land and sea, who meet the next emergency will wish before the end is gained that old-style war had been retained, and, quoting Shakespeare awfully well, say: "War by any name is hell."

Statutory Overproduction

NEW YORK.—It is estimated that during 1923 43 states enacted 15,000 new laws. During the same period, according to Nassau in The Wall Street Journal, congress enacted 300 new measures while towns, cities, and counties added 200,000 more laws and ordinances. He states that the interpretation of these laws by federal and state supreme courts in a single year required 650 volumes of law reports. The passion for mass production seems to have infected all sides of the capitalist state.

Nothing is more terrible than active ignorance. If you want proofs, just watch our lawmakers at work.

Spots can be removed from almost anything—except a leopard and an old-line party politician.



THE PRECIOUS PAIR