

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

SOCIALIST VOTE IN COLUMBUS GROWS

Big Gain Coupled With Dayton Victory Shows Party's Strength.

Columbus, O.—T. C. Southard, Socialist candidate for member of the city council, received more than 1,760 votes in the primary elections here, just falling short of being nominated. The big vote for Southard is an indication of the growth of the Socialist party. As compared with the results of elections in former years the entire Socialist vote shows a gain.

Machine politicians are especially disconcerted by the big Socialist showing, as they know it means even more than the official figures indicate.

The great victory of the Socialists in Dayton, O., where the workers polled a larger vote than that of the Democrats and Republicans put together, politicians tried to explain away by referring to it as "an isolated case," "not at all in line with real Ohio sentiment."

Now that the Columbus returns are in it has become impossible to hide the fact that the Socialists are making great gains all over the state and that they will be powerful contestants in November.

The primary election was to select nominees for city councilmen. Columbus has a commission form of government, and these councilmen are much more important than an ordinary city legislative body.

In addition to the regular primary elections, there was the question of woman suffrage to be decided. The women won by a 935 majority, and will now have the right to vote in all municipal elections.

MORE BUTTE STRIKERS THAN BEFORE MURDER.

The strike of the miners in Butte was not settled by the murder of Frank H. Little. There are as many men on strike now as at any time since it was called, and in addition they have greater solidarity than at any time. No one is talking of going back to work until the infamous rustling card has been entirely abolished. The latest phase of the situation is the visit of Jeanette Rankin, member of Congress of Montana, to Butte to make a personal investigation of the strike situation.

Reports are to hand that the big financiers of the belligerent countries have somehow been permitted passports to convene in Switzerland. The ostensible purpose of this meeting was to sidetrack the coming Social upheaval. Even the bankers see the handwriting on the wall.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Can any reader who gets Continental newspapers supply us with press cuttings about the recent International Financial Conference in Switzerland? Particularly we want the names of the financiers from belligerent countries, and any references to an item on the program dealing with means to check the spread of Socialism in Europe after the war.—Glasgow Forward.

FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF AN I.A.M.C. OFFICER.

"I never found men digging or filling sandbags with their overcoats off in cold weather. . . . The worst of the lot I found were Derby men or conscripts, especially those approaching 41, and these had a grievance that they were brought out unjustly, which, with the lack of discipline prevailing, enabled them to fill in their time with shirking and grousing. Sergeants informed me they were quite unable to

handle these men, and that a large number of them cared nothing whether we or Germany would win. I found men huddled up like hedgehogs on the ground of the trench where we could safely walk along, so terror-stricken at a few shells coming over that one has to shake them in order to remove them out of the way. . . . Men of the better class I have found broken in spirit by association with those of the lowest class. . . . One who had exceptional intelligence and education said his experiences had been such that, rather than join the Army again, he would rather see the British Empire at the bottom of the sea. . . . In such misery of mind and body (and labor is hard to such as these, for conditions were hard, but not unendurable), these men, educated and of superior class—to say nothing of the tragedy of the others—pass their lives, knowing there is to be no rest, no peace of mind, until some weeks or months hence they go over the top, there to meet an even chance of wounds or death, the happiest release of all. And for this agony of mind the Prussian is not responsible: Simply the fact, if you wish to blame them, that they have not in years gone by educated those who are now their rulers. . . ."

ANTI-WAR VICTOR IN DAKOTA

John M. Baer, civil engineer and cartoonist, who was elected to Congress in North Dakota a couple of weeks ago, is a nephew of the late James Whitcomb Riley.

Mr. Baer was the candidate of the Non-Partisan League of Farmers, which put the old parties completely out of business in last fall's election, news of which sweeping victory was withheld by the kept press.

In pleading for election, Baer announced himself as definitely and determinedly opposed to the war and in favor of the utmost effort looking toward an early conclusion of peace. He declared himself also against conscription.

BANKERS IN CONFERENCE.

German Financiers Said to be Attending Meeting Held in Switzerland. (Canadian Press Despatch.)

Berlin, via London, Aug. 27.—German bankers are reported to be participating in Switzerland at a conference of European financiers, but no information is obtainable. The Deutsche Zeitung of Berlin, learns that if such a meeting is taking place it is wholly in the nature of deliberations by financial groups of the belligerent countries who are interested in international holdings. The publication adds that if the political situation is being discussed any German representative who is there is acting wholly in a private character and without official authority.

We take it for granted from private information received at this office that the financiers referred to include both Entente and Allied bankers. We are fully aware of the fact that national boundary lines don't cut ice with bankers, not even in war time. The matter has been made occasion for a question in the British Commons by Philip Snowden—as to whether the bankers were not in secret conclave to defeat the efforts of the International workers in their demand for Socialism, and to solicit information as to the grounds for special privileges being conceded to these gentlemen, while denying the same terms to the workers who desire to meet at Stockholm in order to defeat the capitalists who are responsible for the war, in deciding a workers' peace.

Rest assured, gentle reader, that the latter solution is the most dreaded by all capitalist governments. The spectre of Socialism arises out of their ruin and desolation, even the Pope can read the handwriting on the wall—therefore his peace proposals. The incident has given occasion for many loud winks to be passed around amongst those who know, and we may confidently look forward for a dramatic ending of hostilities. By the way, we have not heard of Kaiser Bill's holdings (cleverly concealed) in the Sudbury nickel mines being confiscated up to the present time. Sh—! The bankers are fixing it.

RUSS ELECTION POSTPONED.

Petrograd.—The Russian provisional government has postponed until Nov. 25 the elections to the constituent assembly. The first meeting of the assembly will not be held until Dec. 11.

PROFITS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Sir Alexander Peacock points out that the profits of companies paying taxes on annual incomes exceeding £2200 amounted to £7,712,000 in 1912, to £9,439,000 in 1913, and to £10,963,000 in the year just closing. Some companies have made more than their working capital in one year.

TRADES COUNCIL DEMANDS RETURN OF DEPORTED MEN.

San Francisco.—Resolutions requesting President Wilson to have returned to their homes approximately 1,100 miners and others recently deported from Bisbee, Ariz., to Columbus, N. M., were adopted by the building trades council at San Francisco and made public Friday.

RADICAL ELEMENT OF LABOR REVOLTS AGAINST GOMPERS.

Aroused Against Federation Head's Refusal to Send Delegates to Stockholm.

Washington.—What promises to be a bitter struggle within the American Federation of Labor with the leadership of Samuel Gompers possibly at stake, is developing as a result of the decision of Gompers and the executive officials not to take part in the Russian-called International Socialist Conference, September 9 to 16. The federation, Gompers stated, will not participate in the Stockholm conference, believing it might prove embarrassing to the government. Gompers maintains the decision will remain unchanged despite the decision of the British labor congress to take part.

The decision of the British, it is asserted, will widen the breach between the radical and conservative factions in the federation.

The result of the struggle is now a question of time. The Workmen's Peace Council, which numbers some 500,000 members, most of them members of the American Federation of Labor is centering its activities around New York, but intends to carry them afterwards throughout the country. The leaders of the council assert there is widespread dissatisfaction with Gompers' policy. Gompers maintains that this dissatisfaction is to be found mainly among the foreign elements.

S. J. Farmer, Single Taxer, has been nominated as an anti-conscription candidate in Centre Winnipeg. This makes the second candidate, and still more to follow.

INFORMATION WANTED

Will A. E. Medley, of Harris, Sask., please communicate with the Dominion Secretary, as we have lost track of him, and communications sent to Harris, and Saskatoon have been returned.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

NOTICE

If your copy is marked X renew at once. Your sub. expires next issue.

ANTI-CONSCRIPTION CONVENTION

Port Arthur Anti-Conscription Convention is called off. All delegates take notice.

Charters Granted—St. Catherines, Ont., Ukrainian No. 124; Tarmola, Ont., Finnish, No. 123. Local No. 57 re-organized, name withheld by request.

Comrade F. G. Tipping has concluded his tour of Sask. and Manitoba, and according to the provincial reports satisfactory results have been achieved. The shortness of the tour no doubt robbed us of the benefit that might have resulted had the tour been of longer duration. We are satisfied that the time is ripe for a great forward movement to build up the organization. (Continued on Page 5).

"GENERAL STRIKE—SOCIALIST PLAN TO FORCE PEACE."

Will Call All Workers in Europe if Plea is Refused.

By James O'Donnell Bennett.) (Special Cable to Chicago Tribune.)

"Of the six delegates from the Russian Workingmen's and Soldiers' Committee who either are in Stockholm or enroute here for the Socialist preliminary peace conferences, five will proceed soon to London, Paris and Rome to work for peace on the program of no annexations and no indemnities, and for the nationality principle among the Socialists of those countries.

"No annexations, no indemnities, and the nationality principle are the fundamentals of the Socialists. It develops from to-day's discussions between the Russians and the German majority and minority delegates that the big immediate aim of all of the Socialists now conferring is to prevent another winter campaign.

"With this purpose foremost, the Socialists are agreed that, however much they may disagree in the preliminary conferences or in the general conference, they will unanimously support the decisions which the general conference finally reaches.

General Strike Weapon.

"Furthermore, if the warring governments refuse peace, Socialism will attempt to draw the weapon which it believes will enforce peace—the weapon of a general European strike.

"In other words, the representative Socialists agree that they are not obliged to agree on everything, but they do agree to give unanimous support to the conference's final decision.

"In defining their authority to entertain such a proposition, the Russian delegates said: 'We represent the power of the Russian masses,' and they pointed significantly to an editorial printed in a newspaper representing M. Kerensky, the leader of the Russians, which said:

"Vain are all of the efforts made in western Europe to distort the Russian democracy's aims. The Russian democracy will not even discuss it."

Would Give Back Colonies.

"After the Russian Socialists had been welcomed by Herr Branting, the leader of the Scandinavian committee, they went into a conference with Hermann Muller, secretary of the German Socialist party, representing the German majority, and with Dr. Adler, representing the German and Austrian Socialists. Later they conferred with the German minority.

"As a result of these conferences the Russians expressed the conviction that the German colonies must be returned to Germany. These Russian delegates were selected by the Workingmen's and Soldiers' Committee and later confirmed by the whole body."