

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM ALL PARTS

PUBLIC TELEPHONES IN MANITOBA.

By Geo. A. Watson, Commissioner of Telephones, Winnipeg.

Under Government ownership, the telephone system of the Province of Manitoba has expanded year by year, the local and rural lines extending into the most remote corners of the country, until at this time but few districts remain to be developed, they being the new and very sparsely settled parts, the inhabitants of which are mostly foreigners who have not yet adapted themselves to the customs of the country. The underlying principle in connection with the development of the telephone system has been to furnish this great convenience to the people, and make it possible for them to enjoy in the fullest sense the advantages which invariably accompany telephone service, and to furnish the service at a price which will be within the reach of all. The idea of the system being a money making proposition has not at any time been a consideration, revenue sufficient to meet the expense of operation and maintenance, the interest on the investment, and a reasonable amount to provide for depreciation being all that is required.

It is nearly ten years since the Provincial Government acquired control of the Bel system, and during that time development has been continuous, until at the present time more than 50,000 business places and homes in Manitoba are connected with the system, and nearly 8,000 miles of long distance wire circuit link the Province together into a vast neighborhood.

It is not conceivable that a private corporation would have extended the system into the rural districts as has the government. Corporations usually want to see handsome dividends in sight before money will be forthcoming for development. With a government owned utility the case is different. The principle object is to provide the people with something which will ameliorate local conditions and thereby save them many dollars to put the dividends in their pockets. The bare cost of operating and maintaining the utility is all that the government requires.

After nearly ten years' test the people of Manitoba are perfectly satisfied with the operation of the telephone system by the government, and nobody would voluntarily change to private ownership.

SOCIALIST VICTORIES.

The increase of the Socialist vote at the recent election was immense, in many cases reaching as much as 400 and even 500 per cent.

In New York City the vote for Morris Hillquitt, the Socialist candidate for mayor, was 134,890. In the preceding election the Socialist had cast only 32,133, so that the vote this fall was an increase of over 400 per cent. Ten members of the State legislature were elected. 7 members of the city council and a municipal judge. The vote for Hylan was elected was 288,000; for Mitchell 145,000 with Hillquitt running third with 134,890.

This is a splendid showing. True, some over-enthusiastic Socialists had predicted the certain election of Hillquitt. But such hopes were unreasonable and based upon the usual exaggerated and unreliable reports in which too many of our Socialists, in common with most politicians, are inclined to indulge. Those who are accustomed to these matters were not misled by these reports and there is every reason to regard the Hillquitt and the general New York vote as a

very satisfactory and encouraging result.

In Chicago the Socialist vote was unusually large. It averaged about 77,000 which was an increase of nearly 500 per cent. over the vote in recent judicial elections. Six of the thirty-five wards were carried by a clear majority, and in several other words the Socialists came within a few hundred votes of a majority. The Socialists also carried 19 out of 29 of the outlying towns. This is quite remarkable in view of the fact that these districts do not as a rule have much of a Socialist vote.

In Cleveland the Socialists increased their vote nearly 400 per cent. and elected two aldermen and a member of the school board.

Rochester, N. Y., elected two Socialist aldermen, two supervisors and three constables, increasing their vote 500 per cent.

Toledo, O., elected four Socialist aldermen.

Byesville, O., elected a Socialist mayor, clerk, marshal and four out of six aldermen.

Piqua, O., elected the mayor and two aldermen.

Hamilton, O., elected two Socialist aldermen.

Elwood, Indiana, elected the entire Socialist ticket except one alderman. Those elected were the mayor, city clerk, assessor, two aldermen at large and two ward aldermen.

Eureka, Utah, elected a Socialist mayor.

Jenera, O., elected a Socialist mayor.

Several other small cities report Socialist victories and a large increase in the Socialist vote.

Taken as a whole the results of the election indicate a very decided swing of the voters of the country to the Socialist movement. Of course it is well understood that a very large proportion of this increased vote is due to the anti-war, pacifist and pro-German element and is not, therefore, a real Socialist vote. It is rather, what is called a "protest vote," with perhaps less of real Socialist sentiment behind it than is usual in such cases. Much of it will not stay with the Socialist party after the war, and therefore we must not be surprised if after the war there is another recession of the Socialist vote. However, of those who are joining the Socialist party and voting the Socialist ticket now for the first time, a large proportion will stick to the party. So, in any event, Socialism and the Socialist party have made a very decided gain in this election.—C. D. T.

PRESIDENT WILSON TO POPE

"Responsible statesmen everywhere must now see, if they never saw before, that no peace can rest securely upon political or economic restrictions meant to benefit some nations and cripple or embarrass others, upon vindictive action of any sort, or any kind of revenge or deliberate injury." —From President Wilson's reply to the Pope.

JOTTINGS

Would it be confiscation or restoration to take from the capitalists the industries they have created by social effort and that are properly the property of society? Restoration, we think—a word the capitalists would do well to learn the meaning of.

The paper sole on your shoe is a mute tribute to the glorious efficiency of a system which makes things to sell instead of to use.

CLASS-CONSCIOUS COMMENTS

(By Phillip Thompson, Oakville.)

The question is sometimes raised as to the name by which this war will be known in history. Why not call it the "Big Business War"?

Even the vilest person has some good points. There is one thing I like about the "Mail & Empire"—its editor is no hypocrite. He is frankly Jingo and doesn't cant about this being a war for democracy and freedom.

The public is rapidly getting wise to the prostitute Capitalist press. Practically all the big New York, with the exception of the Hearst, publications opposed the candidature of Hylan for the Mayoralty, with the result that he was elected by an overwhelming majority.

Two Halifax, N. S., clergymen, Revs. Harold Roe and R. C. Tait, recently disguised themselves as mechanics and visited several dives where they incited the proprietors to break the law by supplying them with liquor. Then they laid information against the keepers and had them punished, thereby placing themselves on a level with the sneaks and blackmailers who make a profession of informing. Which goes to show that the moral standards of the churches which tolerate such contemptible actions in their ministers are considerably below those of a decent man of the world. And yet some people wonder why the workman doesn't go to church.

The professional moral reformer, finding the most lucrative branch of his occupation gone owing to the enactment of Prohibition, is now turning his attention to sexual vice and its consequences as a promising field for exploitation. The newspapers are publishing column upon column of unmitigated rot upon the subject, from people whose real or simulated zeal is only equalled by their ignorance—most of them carefully ignoring the cause of nine-tenths of commercialized vice, Capitalist, exploitation, low wages, depressing social conditions and the general demoralization due to the war.

The utter failure of the attempts of the reactionary American Government to crush out Socialism by restrictive legislation, and the more brutal campaign of riot violence and outrage incited by Capitalism is shown by the result of the New York Mayoralty election. The vote cast for Morris Hillquitt was 152,178, as compared with 32,100 given to Charles E. Russell in 1913.

We don't hear our opponents arguing that Socialism will break up the home these days. In view of the wholesale breaking up of homes by enlistments and drafts even the most brazen-faced of the pimps of Capitalism hasn't the effrontery to reiterate this stale and silly lie.

Quite a number of preachers of the leading Protestant denominations have been telling their congregations to vote for the Unionist candidates. But what a howl these hypocritical clerical fire-eaters set up about "Romish aggression" and "priestly domination" if a Catholic priest ventures to touch on politics from the pulpit!

The windy-war political stumblers who are doing the dirty work of Big Business are threatening the workmen with the loss of their jobs if the Borden outfit is defeated. They are asked to sacrifice their sons and brothers for the benefit of the profiteers and the glorification of the Jingo ballyhoos and the stay-at-home patriots.

At Midland yesterday the Hon. Newton Rowell asserted that Canadian industrial concerns would possibly be forced to close down if this country failed to continue carrying on the war, because of the refusal of the United States to forward raw supplies here.—Hamilton Times.

Yesterday's noonday meeting in the interests of H. M. Mowat was at the plant of the S. F. Bowser Company on Fraser Avenue, where Major Mowat was given a very attentive hearing. He emphasized the fact that if the Union Government were not returned to power there would be an absolute cessation of orders, with a resultant injury to business of grave importance.—Toronto Globe.

A KEIR HARDIE STORY.

The references in the press to Socialist "experiments" in Russia recall to the writer a good story told by Keir Hardie in the course of a lecture given in Hamilton when on one of his Canadian trips. One of the wealthy Bairds of Gartsherrie (an ill-favored name in Scotland) lay a-dying. Having lived the life of pleasure common to his class he had begun to speculate as to how he would fare at the hands of St. Peter. Feeling uneasy, he commanded that the "minister" be brought. To him he confided his trouble, and concluded by asking the man of God what he thought of his proposition to leave a good sum of money to the kirk in order to ensure considerate treatment from the keeper of the pearly gates. "The minister," said Hardie, "being a fairly truthful fellow, could not allow himself to answer 'yes,' yet being Scotch, he could not say 'no' and thus lose the money, so he cannily replied, 'Weel, Mister Baird, it would be an experiment worth tryin'.'" —J. A.

Hunger is often a powerful thought stimulant for a Henry Dubb. It makes the blood go from the stomach to the head and enables ideas to circulate in the latter portion of his anatomy.

...PARTY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Kitchener Local No. 4, S.D.P. of C. intend holding their annual Christmas Entertainment on the evening of Dec. 27th at St. Mary's Hall. There will be a program of music, dialogues, drills, recitations etc. by the children and adults. Lunch will be served and an all round good social time. Socialists and sympathizers from near by places are invited to be with us. Yours in the Cause, A. W. BOWLES, Fin.-Sec.

The Dominion executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

The Ontario provincial executive committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 363 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, secretary, I. Bainbridge.

Local No. 71, Toronto—Meets at 165 Van Horne street, every Sunday, at 2.30 p.m. A hearty invitation is extended to all friends and sympathizers. J. CUNNINGHAM, 12 Boustead Ave., Secretary.

Saskatchewan Provincial Executive Committee—Meets on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All comrades desiring to join party or organize Locals are requested to write, F. G. Wetzel, Box 151, Vanguard, Sask.

Locals and Executive Bodies may have their Advs. in the Directory for the sum of \$3.00 per year.