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Convict Labor Being Extended

The National Socialist Press. The day of getting Socialist news by slow freight is nearly past.

Efforts are being made to reduce the revenue of the national office of the Socialist Party.

In establishing the Socialist Press Bureau the Socialist Party of America has taken up a new line of activity

Whenever a working class crisis arises such as the McNamara kidnaping, the national office of the Socialist Party sends a reporter to the scene of activity.

An addition is being made to the penitentiary building, which of course is being built by convicts.

A railroad spur has been laid from the main line of the Northern Pacific railway to the quarry.

We are unable to learn who owns this piece of railroad, whether it belongs to the State of Montana.

We are unable at present to get any information from the state authorities on the subject.

The Good Roads convention held in Missoula recently passed resolutions endorsing, not only the use of convicts on state highways, but the working of all city and county prisoners in competition with free labor.

Papers were read at the convention by various state officials, endorsing convict labor.

The National Executive Committee of the Socialist party has now put the mandates of the national convention of 1908 into operation

As the revenue of the national office of the Socialist Party increases, the Press Bureau will be further developed

As Socialist papers increase all over the country, the need of the National Socialist Press will be increased until it becomes a large institution

The last legislature appropriated more money than was in the State Treasury or will be received for taxes during the coming two years.

To overcome this difficulty the State Board of Examiners have reduced the appropriation made to the Montana University to the extent of \$40,000

The workers of Montana will have to arouse themselves to action, if they would prevent a further extension of convict labor in Montana.

At present there are over 200 convicts at work on the State highways, competing with free labor.

Last February in the city of Helena, the city jail was crowded with working men every night enjoying a night lodging, men out of work, dead broke

At present plans are being laid to carry on a campaign among the unions of the state with the hope of breaking up the opposition against convict labor.

It is the intention of the labor skinner of the state to have the convicts worked in every way possible in competition with free labor.

The recent legislature would have passed a law to create a state highway across the state, to be built by convict labor, but resolutions passed by Farmers' unions against convict labor

A year ago the question of convict was a live one, and the political parties of the state pledged themselves to pass a law to abolish convict labor

At the convention of the Montana Federation of Labor held in Great Falls last August, convict labor was thoroughly discussed

This committee was to report to the legislative or executive committee of the Montana Federation of Labor

The chairman of the committee H. O. Smith Vice-president of the Montana Federation of Labor, informed the writer that he favored convicts working on the highways.

Had the union men of Helena been informed of this statement by Mr. Nolan before the election, it is more than likely that Nolan would not have been elected.

The work done by organized labor against convict labor did not bear fruit, as those entrusted with the legislative program against convict labor did nothing.

At present the State Prison Board have power to use the convicts as they see fit, provided they do not contract the convict out.

To limit the power of the Prison Board, and limiting convict labor, a bill was introduced in the last legislature by Representative John Baker

It was near the end of the session that the bill was introduced and died in the hands of the steering committee.

The law relating to the working of county prisoners is a very dangerous one and one that certain labor sharks will not hesitate to make use of.

The big mining corporations and real estate sharks are not paying their proper share of the taxes of the state, and in order to reduce the tax levy still lower, it is very desirable that state and county prisoners be used

and in order to reduce the tax levy still lower, it is very desirable that state and county prisoners be used as much as possible, whereas, if taxes were properly adjusted, or a just system of taxation in force, prisoners would not be required to do the work of competition with free labor.

There is another thing to be considered, and that is the element that composed the delegation of the Good Roads convention were mostly labor sharks, and men who have fought the unions bitterly

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Representative James E. McNally, of Butte, a member of the Carpenters union, McNally worked for the bill against convict labor, while it was in the committee and when the bill appropriating upwards of \$60,000 to reimburse Conley and McTague

M. M. Donohue, President of the Montana Federation of Labor, worked in behalf of the bill against convict labor, he worked conscientiously and to the best of his ability

The question is still open and it is up to organized labor in Montana to carry on a more aggressive campaign against convict labor, or else suffer the consequence.

Preparing For Hell

According to dispatches from Washington, the country faces today the prospect of having a standing and reserve army of from 500,000 to 650,000 trained men within a few years.

Before the end of another year there will be in the arsenals and the military storehouses of the United States 1,000,000 rifles and more than 150,000,000 rounds of ammunition

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The Rock Island arsenal is turning out 75 Springfield rifles a day and the Springfield arsenal 150. The various arsenals and manufacturing plants are making 265 three-inch field artillery guns a year

These field artillery guns cost \$21,000 each. The army wants 1,000 of them, so that it will have four to every 1,900 rifles and sabres.

An average of five three-inch field pieces, costing \$21,000 each are turned out every week, or a total of \$110,000 a week or \$5,565,000 a year spent in this country on the manufacture of field artillery

The authorized strength of the regular army is 87,276 rank and file, although at present the actual strength is 77,035.

The organized militia of the various states has a combined strength at present of 119,660.

The present plans of the army officers are to gradually increase this number and to create a militia reserve in all the states, and turn the country into an armed and military nation.

The reserve militia is to consist of all men between the ages of 18 and 45 not members of the regular militia and subject to being drafted into the regular militia at the orders of the governors of the various states.

What is all this preparation for war mean? Why the desire to develop the spirit of militarism in America? Economic development makes the possibility of war between America and Britain very remote, indeed, almost impossible.

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ty for Japan to beat America in a debate at arms. Japan has not the resources to enable her to withstand a long combat with America.

If war does take place between America and Japan, it will be this country that will be the aggressor, Morgan and the other big trust magnates are looking for new territory to exploit.

The working class of America is slowly but surely awakening to the fact that they are being exploited, that they are being robbed of the fruit of their toil, and trust magnates, the exploiters of labor realize that the end will be near, unless something is done

Shall the workers of America, for the sake of getting a job, go across the seas to thrust a bayonet into a fellow mortal?

Every working man in Montana, who is a voter should sign the demand for a referendum on the Donohue militia law, and thereby help to check the craze of militarism that is sweeping this country.

The Donohue Militia law is no accident, but a crafty plot to extend the influence of the military in this country.

Dr. Donohue of Glendive, who introduced the bill is an officer in the state militia, and it is a safe bet that he never drafted the Donohue militia law, but that the same was drafted by some one higher up.

Two years ago the legislature of South Dakota passed a law similar to the Donohue militia law, but the voters demanded that it go to a referendum and it was defeated by the voters at the polls.

The recent California legislature defeated a bill similar to the Donohue law, therefore, it is evident that a nation wide attempt is being made to wards conscription.

If the Donohue Militia law goes to a referendum of the people of Montana it will be defeated, and this will have a tendency to check the spirit of militarism in this country, and help make it easier for the wage workers

of other states to defeat the measure, if it makes its appearance in other legislatures. Moreover, by demanding a referendum on the Donohue law and defeating it, will teach the politicians of Montana that they must respect the voice of the people in future legislatures of Montana.

Every man who voted in Montana last November, or registered for the election can sign the demand for the referendum in the county in which he voted. Let every voter who has the spirit of manhood about him, demand that the Donohue Militia law be referred to a vote of the people.

Bishop Spaulding, the Episcopal of Utah, an ardent Socialist, tells an incident that occurred while he was attending the International Peace conference in London three years ago.

One of the speakers, a Hungarian Baroness, said that war had changed. Modern war was nothing like in the good old times when men's prowess in handling of arms counted for something; a man had a chance then to dispute the enemy's wish to chop off his head.

"Therefore," she said, "as war has changed, I propose we change the name of it. A prominent American once said that war was hell. Let us call it hell. Instead of saying that two nations are going to war together let us say they are going to hell together."

"Perhaps," commented the bishop, "men wouldn't be so anxious to identify themselves with such a name. Imagine reading in the papers, 'William H. Taft, secretary of hell, now occupies the White House.'"

Coming Nation. Let every union send in a protest to Senators Dixon and Myers at once.

All classes of labor as well as business and commercial institutions are organized into associations to advance their welfare. The farmers are the class that is not organized for mutual protection.

Organize a farmers union in your district. Further particulars can be had by sending a letter of inquiry to Union Farmer. Box 908 Helena

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