

### Socialist Columns.

These columns are published every Saturday, and controlled by the Socialist Local of Asheville, which alone is responsible for the opinions expressed.

#### Socialist Speaking at Brevard.

William R. Trull of Idaho, made a talk on Socialism at the Brevard court house on Wednesday night, January 27. Comrade Trull will be remembered by North Carolinians as an actor at large for the republicans during the Blaine campaign. He moved to Idaho some 20 years ago, and has been enough of its apostasy to the interests and welfare of the people to desert the republican party and embrace socialism.

The central thought in his address was the international feature of socialism—making of the entire civilized world one nation, something similar to the government of Uncle Sam over the several states. Such an international government would prevent all future wars, while each nation, or state would be free to enact its own laws and govern its own people.

The weather was inclement and only a small audience came out, but the few who were there were attentive listeners.

J. J. MINER.

#### Our 1914 Vote.

The socialist vote at the congressional elections last November totalled a little more than 600,000. The estimated total falls just a little short of the total vote of 609,521 cast at the congressional elections of 1910.

While the returns from only 27 states are official, and while an estimate had to be made for six states, the result may be accepted as practically correct. This of course does not allow for the fact that many socialist votes were never counted. But this condition prevailed in previous elections and will continue to prevail until the socialist party becomes strong enough to force a count of all the ballots cast for it.

The 1914 congressional elections were featured by a general despair that swept the entire country. This grew out of the terrible carnage that arose practically over night and laid its bloody hand over nearly all of Europe. It was augmented by the terrifying prospects of meeting another winter accompanied by a growing industrial depression.

This resulted in a much decreased vote and reactionary political wave that obliterated the progressive party, robbed the democratic party of much of its power and stampeded a return to the disappearing republican ranks.

It is therefore no idle explanation to claim that the socialist party did well to poll more than 600,000 votes in the face of this reaction, and a big falling off in the total vote. In many states where there were no gains the socialist vote this year was bigger, proportionally, than in 1910.

As a result of this election the socialist party is again represented in congress and increased the number of its members in the state legislatures 50 per cent. While the industrial depression has also resulted in a temporary decrease in the dues paying membership, the party is in a better financial condition than it has been for a long time. The party membership is united and facing the future and preparing for the 1916 presidential campaign with an eager enthusiasm.

On every hand the desire is to start the campaign now that will result in the doubling of our vote in 1916, that will send a large delegation of working class representatives to the national congress and increase our representation many times in the state legislatures.—National Socialist.

#### Socialists and the War.

By W. J. Ghent. Is there anything in history quite comparable with this general howl against the socialists because they did not prevent the war? Has hypocrisy ever shown itself on so universal a scale?

This howl of complaint and detraction is raised by those who have always fought the socialist party—who have striven to keep it small in numbers and impotent to obstruct a war. By those bourgeois anti-militarists who have always ignored or minimized the work of the socialist party for peace, and who now profess to find that party all-powerful in its ability to prevent the use of arms.

By priests and persons who conveniently ignore the utter failure of Christianity to exert the slightest influence for peace.

By those who know that the socialists are not in a majority in any national representative body in the world.

By those who know that the socialists have less than one-third of the membership of the Reichstag.

By those who in past times have labored to show that the Reichstag is without power, and that even if the socialists controlled it they would be helpless against the monarchy.

By those who know full well that a general strike in the face of a mobilized army of millions would be sheer madness.

By those who know that the war was hurried on by the ruling powers faster than any human agency could organize to resist it.

By those so soft and timid that they shrink from a policeman and who yet declare that the socialists in Europe should have stood up to be shot rather than go to war.

By those who shout for Old Glory but who denounce the nationalism of other men.

By those who themselves nurse the pride and prejudice of race feeling but who censure it in men of other races.

By so-called socialists who have persistently antagonized the party organization here and elsewhere and whose verdict would be sure to be adverse, whatever the facts.

By those who, under like circumstances, would have done exactly what the men in Europe are doing.

By syndicalists and so-called "direct actionists" who declare that parliamentarism is at fault, in the face of the fact that their European comrades of like faith are fighting quite as resolutely as are any of the others in the ranks.

By those fomenters of anti-socialist feeling to whom any charge against the socialists is good and serviceable so long as it supplies the moment's need.

And lastly by those idle-brained persons who do no thinking for themselves but who merely shout what they are told to shout.

Surely in no recorded history there has been so much universal outburst of hypocrisy as now vents itself against the socialist party.

#### Farmers Get Less Cash Than City Workers.

Back to the Farm! The inducement under capitalism is so great. An official farm bulletin says: "Extensive investigations into the profits of farming have indicated that the amount of money which the average farmer receives for his year's work is little more than that which he would be paid if he hired himself out as a farm hand to one of his neighbors." The actual cash receipts from the average farm, according to this report, are \$395. Of this amount \$173.91 was paid out of the sale of products for things bought that were not raised on the farm. And an average of five persons contributed toward producing this wealth! At the same time the farmer is being robbed until he can barely exist, the never-endingly collecting from him tribute on transportation and manufacture based on stocks watered ten times above their actual value; and the government assists them in the direct steal. Then these infernal highwaymen have the nerve to shout that the American farmer is not efficient, and that unless he gets a move on him the people will starve. The nation is threatened with starvation, but the only thing that makes it a possibility is the wholesale robbery of the toilers, on and off the farm.

We are rapidly forcing the producers to the condition they suffered under feudalism, when the robbery was more open, but not the less actual than it is today. Unless there is a change soon, the world will return to the dark ages—to barbarism.—Appeal to Reason.

#### Farmer, Like Wage Worker, Is Exploited.

The wage worker, if he has brains enough to fertilize two hairs, can plainly see how he is robbed by the private owner of his job, but in the case of the farmer it is different; the farmer is robbed more scientifically—the method is more complicated—and he cannot see so clearly how he is robbed as the city, factory and mine worker. This is especially true where the farmer owns his own farm. A capitalist owned press and a capitalist owned school system has taught the farmer that he is free and independent. If he lives in poverty he is taught that it is because he did not work hard enough, did not farm scientifically, because crops were poor, or some other similar tommy-rot. It never occurs to the average farmer that he is practically working for wages as truly as the worker in the mines or the factories, that he is robbed by the private owners of the market in which he works. The factory worker sells his labor power direct while the farmer first stores his in his wheat and corn in a market he does not control any more than the wage worker controls the market in which he sells his labor power. Both are skinned, but the farmer is skinned more scientifically and in more different ways. Both must look to socialism for relief.—Appeal to Reason.

#### WAR LITTLE AFFECTS SCHOOLS OF BERLIN

Berlin, Feb. 1.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—War has made very little change in the aspect of the 310 public schools of Berlin, which continue their educational work without interruption. Of the 5,000 men teachers a large percentage was called to the colors and of them over 100 have been killed or have died of their wounds. Their places in the schools have been taken for the most part by temporary substitutes, many of them women, but in some cases it has been found necessary to combine classes.

The high schools and the university have been more severely affected, as 1,500 university students were of military age and many high school boys enlisted as volunteers. The total number of students entered at the university for the current winter term was 1,915 instead of over 10,000 as in times of peace. Women students number 360, about the same figure as usual.

Six hundred women in the New York workhouse will be set to knitting socks, bands and mufflers for the soldiers in Europe.

### FERTILIZERS FOR CAROLINA SOILS

Prof. J. N. Harper Advances Some Ideas of Value to W. N. C. Farmers.

Prof. J. N. Harper, director of the South Carolina experiment station at Clemson, recently prepared a bulletin treating of the use of commercial fertilizers for Carolina soils which contains much valuable information for the farmers of this section. Says he:

"The most important plant food for the soils of this state is nitrogen (ammonia). All of our soils are deficient in this element. This is due to the fact that the nitrates are soluble in water and are constantly leaching out of the land. Therefore unless crops are grown in rotation with the legumes, the farmer must use some form of commercial nitrogen and he should insist that this nitrogen be available. Nitrate of soda, sulphate of ammonia, blood, cottonseed meal, fish scrap and tallow are splendid sources of nitrogen. Cottonseed meal is one of the best and at the present price it is one of the cheapest. Nitrate of soda is also a good source of nitrogen and it will liberate a certain amount of potash in the soil. When applied early in the spring it greatly increases the yield of grain.

"It also pays to use acid phosphate on all types of soil found in this state, excepting where it has accumulated from previous fertilizations. Acid phosphate is not only a valuable plant food but it is also valuable in that it hastens the maturity of plants, especially cotton, and prevents cotton from running to stalk or weed.

"On account of the European war our source of potash which comes from Germany, has been cut off, causing the price to increase considerably. At the present time it will not pay the farmers of the Piedmont section to use any potash in their fertilizers. The sandy soils of the coastal plain are very deficient in potash and what is on hand should be used for the soils of that region.

"Fertilizers are not amendments or stimulants to plant growth, but furnish the necessary elements of plant food without which they will not grow. Our staple crops take out large amounts of plant food from the soil which must be replaced. The farmers of the state have not acted unwisely in that they have been using fertilizers in large amounts for a number of years. However, under the present conditions with the low price of cotton, we advise the farmer to reduce the amount of fertilizer they will use this coming season.

"There is a considerable amount of plant food stored in our soils as a residual from previous fertilizations which can be called on in this time of need. Practically all of the phosphorus that has been applied in acid phosphate to the soils in this state is still in the first 12 inches excepting that which has been taken out by plants. Acid phosphate does not wash out of the land as does nitrogen. In our present financial stress we must make good use of the plant food stored in our soils and reduce our fertilizer bill as much as possible.

"We recommend to the farmers of the Piedmont region that they apply to their corn, 200 pounds of fertilizer composed of equal parts of acid phosphate and cottonseed meal—this to be applied at the time of planting, and when the corn is waist high a top dressing of from 50 to 75 pounds of nitrate of soda. For cotton, we recommend 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of cottonseed meal applied at the time of planting. For oats and wheat, we recommend 100 pounds of acid phosphate, 100 pounds of cottonseed meal and 75 pounds of nitrate of soda. The soda should be applied early in March.

"For the coastal plain we recommend for corn 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of cottonseed meal, this to be applied as recommended by the Williamson plan; and 100 pounds of soda to be used when the corn is bunching to tassels. For cotton 200 pounds of acid phosphate, 200 pounds of cottonseed meal and 25 pounds of muriate of potash and 75 pounds of nitrate of soda, to be applied when the squares begin to form. For oats we recommend 150 pounds of acid phosphate, 150 pounds of cottonseed meal. In addition to this, 100 pounds of nitrate of soda should be applied in the early spring.

"Where it is considered advisable

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<p>to use more or less fertilizer per acre than here recommended, we advise that the materials be mixed in the above proportions, due regard being made to previous fertilizations, rotations, etc."</p>	<p><b>REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS</b></p> <p>Mary L. Lance and husband to W. C. Morris, property in Avery's creek township; consideration \$200.</p>	<p>S. G. Bernard and wife to D. R. Millard, property in Jackson park; \$10 and other considerations.</p> <p>N. H. Melton to Buena Vista Watkins property in Swannanoa township; \$5 and other considerations.</p>	<p><b>LICENSED TO WED</b></p> <p>Olympe Mathias to Cinnie Nelson.</p> <p>H. E. Hall to Carrie Ball.</p>
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Asheville Gazette-News, Asheville, N. C.

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