

(skilled and) unskilled), union and non-union labor.

Perhaps some of this information will be Greek to you as most of it is to me. These are not the things I understand.

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But a baby dead from starvation because its mother had no milk in her breasts, a mortality rate of 35 per cent among the children born to the wives of the strikers, men and women and little children suffering for lack of food and shelter and clothing—I can understand these things.

When the strikers could no longer pay their rents, they were evicted from the company houses, of course, and found such shelter as they might in miserable shacks. They had not been any too comfortable before. Their condition was pitiable now. A camp for the unmarried men was established in the country on a piece of rocky land which the miners' officials were able to lease for this purpose. The camp overlooks two beautiful small lakes on property controlled by the coal operators. The State constabulary patrols the property and prevents the miners from using any of the water in these lakes. The campers are obliged to go a mile for water. They get it from a spring on land which the operators are now trying to buy in order to shut off this supply of water too. If they succeed, the men will have to go two and a half or three miles for water. The operators have also tried to buy the land on which the camp is located, but fortunately for the strikers their lease prevented this.

Those things I can understand too.

But not why we have surrendered to private ownership and control, coal and water and land which should belong to the children of the earth in common.

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As I walk among these dispossessed ones I learn that the only thing between them and actual starvation is the meagre allowance sent regularly by the United Mine Workers of America—an allowance provided from the assessments levied by the unions upon their members throughout the country. I learn of the destruction not of property only, but of life and liberty and happiness. I learn of tragedies I had not dreamed of. I realize that this is civil war, and civil war is hell.*

And I who said with you on the mountain top, "It is the fool who saith in his heart there is no God," add here, among my brothers, "But what

*Persons who wish to aid in the relief of the victims of the strike should send contributions, whether of clothing or funds, to Secretary McCartney, care strike headquarters, Greensburg, Pa.

shall we call the man who tells us that with this sort of world God bids us to be content?"*

ELIZABETH J. HAUSER.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

PENNSYLVANIA AWAKE.†

Pittsburgh, June 18.

Although the candidates for office in Pennsylvania will not be nominated until after the primaries in September, the people are preparing for the battle now. Usually it is difficult to create any enthusiasm over political questions before the candidates are thought of, and this is especially true in Pennsylvania, but during the past year the people of this State have caught the spirit of Insurgency, and as a result they are preparing to give the Republican machine the hardest battle of its life.

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The reorganization elements of the Democratic party met in Harrisburg last week, and formed the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Clubs. Nearly every county in the State sent a strong delegation, and they paid their own expenses—something entirely new for either a Democratic or a Republican convention in this State.

Congressman William B. Wilson of Blossburg was chosen president, and W. N. McNair of Pittsburgh was elected secretary.

It is the purpose of the Federation to organize clubs in every city and town throughout the State. Arrangements will also be made to affiliate the State clubs with the National League of Democratic Clubs.

The meeting of these delegates was the most enthusiastic gathering of Democrats in Pennsylvania for a quarter of a century.

A mass meeting was held in the Casino Theater in the evening, and every seat was filled to hear Speaker Champ Clark, Gov. Woodrow Wilson and Congressman A. Mitchell Palmer. Speaker Clark and Gov. Wilson, speaking from the same platform, were at their best, and each made a favorable impression. Wilson had the advantage in that he had no occasion to defend anything that had been done in the recent session of the New Jersey legislature; whereas Clark was compelled to use up a great part of his speech in defending the wool schedule.

If Clark and Wilson should campaign for the Presidency together, it would be an interesting race, with the odds in favor of Wilson.

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While the Democrats were thus auspiciously mustering their forces at Harrisburg, the new Keystone party that polled 380,000 votes in this State last fall was opening its campaign in Pittsburgh. On Friday evening Senator Moses E. Clapp of Minnesota addressed a crowd that completely filled the Lyceum Theater. The enthusiasm of the audience at this early date bespoke the interest already created in the welfare of the Keystone party movement.

*See "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George.

†See "The New Pittsburgh" in The Public of April 7, 1911, page 318.

We have reason to rejoice over these beginnings of the insurgent movement in both the Democratic and Republican ranks. The Federation of Democratic Clubs adopted Direct Legislation as its cardinal principle; and as the Keystone party has already written the Initiative, Referendum, and Recall into its platform, there are signs of better days in Pennsylvania, where public servants have with astonishing indifference ignored the rights of their constituents.

BERNARD B. MCGINNIS.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 20, 1911.

Federal Initiative, Referendum and Recall.

At the opening of the day's session of the Senate of the United States on the 12th, two memorials with reference to the Initiative, Referendum and Recall for national purposes were submitted by the Vice-President as having been adopted by the legislature of Wisconsin and duly certified by the President of the Wisconsin Senate, the speaker of the Assembly, and the chief clerk of each House. The first of these Wisconsin proposals is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 43, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps toward a Constitutional amendment providing for Initiative, Referendum, and Recall.

Whereas the principle involved in the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall, is thoroughly democratic and American; and whereas the American people have repeatedly evidenced their desire to have an opportunity to voice their sentiments through these forms of expression: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States speedily to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States providing for the Initiative, the Referendum, and the Recall in relation to Federal legislation and officials; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

The second Wisconsin proposal is as follows:

Joint resolution (J. Res. 42, S.) memorializing Congress to take proper steps for the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative.

Whereas the Constitution of the United States should be rendered somewhat flexible in order to meet changing political and economic conditions;

and whereas the amendment of such Constitution by the Initiative is a method founded upon thoroughly democratic and American principles: Therefore be it resolved by the Senate (the Assembly concurring), That we respectfully memorialize the Congress of the United States promptly to take such steps as will result in the adoption of an amendment to the Federal Constitution providing that such Constitution may hereafter be amended by the Initiative; and be it further resolved, That a copy of the foregoing be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of State to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each of the Senators and Representatives from this State.

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La Follette for President.

At a meeting on the 17th of the Minnesota Progressive League at Minneapolis, a resolution was adopted indorsing Senator La Follette of Wisconsin as the Progressive candidate of the Republican party for President, and recommending favorable action to all of the Progressive Republican organizations in the State. [See current volume, pages 34, 417.]

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Canadian Reciprocity.

When the report of the Senate finance committee, on the Canadian reciprocity agreement, came before the Senate on the 13th—a report without recommendation—the chairman of the committee, Senator Penrose, was heckled by other Senators as to the committee's reason for failing to make recommendations. Senator Williams, in behalf of Senators Stone and Kern and of himself, presented a statement favoring the agreement. Senator McCumber presented one in opposition. Senator La Follette presented one representing the Insurgent attitude. Senator Nelson filed a protest from farmers. Mr. La Follette's statement appears in full in the Congressional Record of June 13, at pages 1990, 1991 and 1992. Mentioning the Canadian agreement, it declares:

It is perfectly consistent for one who believes in free trade to support it. I respectfully submit that no man who believes either in a tariff for revenue only or in a protective tariff can consistently give it his support. In the belief that duties should represent the difference in the cost of production at home and abroad, with others I contended, when the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was pending, for reductions in duties to that level in so far as the information then at hand furnished any safe criteria to determine rates upon that principle. I shall continue to advocate tariff legislation based upon that principle. I believe in reciprocity. I believe in reciprocity with Canada. The mutual give and take of tariff concessions between our country and our world neighbors, along the lines laid down by Blaine and McKinley, is a policy that has in view the best welfare of all concerned. The fair exchange of commercial privileges between the people of two great producing and con-