

#### THE HAND OF THE TRUSTS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH ELECTIONS (p. 752).

The Pioneer (London, Eng.), November 9.—We see, behind our local opponents, the Woolwich Moderates, the force of the astute, powerful, and greedy capitalist trusts of London. It was not to capture the Borough Councils chiefly that all the corruptible London press has been used in a great campaign of falsehood, to vilify the Labor and Progressive parties of London. The trusts aim through the Borough Councils at the County Council. See what a prize the Electric Trust is contending for. Holding Newcastle in its grip, it extorts an ever-increasing profit already reaching £74,000 per annum. If Newcastle yields so much London surely can be made to yield £740,000 per annum, with the further prospect that in a few years no up-to-date business will be able to exist, except by good will of the trust. London must be saved. We in Woolwich must do our part.

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#### STANDING FOR THE RED AND BLACK BRETHREN.

The United Mine Workers' Journal (lab.), November 8.—The Journal is proud to say that in nearly every case that the coal miners stood by their guns and will have a voice in the next Congress and in several of the State legislatures. In the new State of Oklahoma the miners will have the framing of the organic law which will guide the ship of state in the future. In this happy state of affairs the Indians and Negroes stood manfully behind the coal miners.

The Journal would implore our members to stand resolutely for the rights and privileges of our red and black brethren. That it shall be imbedded in the constitution, so that no corrupt or venal courts can "construe" these people out of their rights and privileges in the manner that has obtained in South Carolina and Mississippi. Upon Peter Hanraty, for whom these red and black brethren have stood so firmly, has devolved the solemn duty to see that no trickster or corporation attorney can take any advantage of their guilelessness, candor and ingenuousness, and in all confidence The Journal reposes faith in him to see that justice is done to the red and black man.

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#### THE CHICAGO SCHOOL QUESTION.

Chicago Daily Socialist (Soc.), November 15.—It must have struck thousands of citizens as rather ridiculous that the press and the pulpit and a large portion of the population should be stirred up over the question of how the teachers should be examined and promoted. Perhaps few of those who wondered ever realized that this whole discussion was but smoke to conceal the real issue. It is safe to say that the Tribune and the Daily News and the Record Herald, and the other strenuous champions of the public schools are perfectly willing that the teachers should be permitted to be selected for promotion by pulling straws or saying "eeney, meeney, miney mo, you're it," if there was not something else troubling them. The deadly sin of the Teachers' Federation is not that it is opposed to an autocratic system of promotional examinations. But it committed an almost unpardonable offense when it unearthed several hundred thousand dollars' worth of back taxes and made some of our highly virtuous citizens "dig up" the money they had illegally and dishonestly withheld from these schools for which they are now professing so much love. Another terrible breach of law and order was committed when the Teachers' Federation exposed some of the methods by which previous school boards had leased school lands to some of these same newspapers. While these sins could never have been forgiven, they might have sometime been forgotten, if the Teachers' Federation had not affiliated with the organized labor movement of Chicago. Here the fatal step had been taken across the gulf of the class struggle. This was treason to the great god mammon. It was

leading aid and comfort to the enemy of exploitation and greed and capitalism.

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#### LAWSON PURDY AND NEW YORK TAXATION.

New York Evening World (Dem.), November 14.—For the first time a tax expert is at the head of the City Tax Department. Builders, lawyers, saloonkeepers, politicians, real estate agents and men of other occupations have succeeded one another in charge of the assessment of property values, which is the basis of the city's revenue. The new president of the Tax Board, Lawson Purdy, really knows something about the principles and the practice of taxation, its history and its results, its incidence and its fallacies. . . . What is meant by the incidence of taxation is that the final consumer pays the tax, and not the landlord or the storekeeper. The only tax that the landlord pays which he cannot shift to the tenant is the tax on ground rents. Every other tax is shifted and its burden falls on the ultimate consumer. Mr. Purdy has it in his power to alter the incidence of taxation so that the mass of the people shall pay less and the great landlords shall pay more, so that the small consumers shall be less heavily laden and the great corporations shall assume their rightful burden. Especially in real estate assessments should Mr. Purdy intelligently obey the law. The value of real estate is based on the income it would bring when improved to the best advantage. For agricultural purposes land in New York City is not worth as much an acre as a square foot of Broadway or Wall street now sells for. The high price is not based on its value unimproved or with old buildings, but when utilized to the most profit. Utilizing all of New York City to the best advantage would give every one a comfortable home, with ample space for all the office buildings, stores and improved factories that an intelligent system of taxation would permit profitably to be built. For the lots which Trinity Church owns on main west side thoroughfares to be assessed at half of an east side tenement-house lot makes east side rents higher and penalizes improvement. For the Fifth avenue palaces to be assessed at 60 per cent. of their value and a factory to be assessed at its full value, to that extent checks industry and diminishes employment. New York has never had the tax laws intelligently and fully enforced. Their fountain head has been muddled by assessors ignorant at best, subject to influence almost always and at times venal. Mr. Purdy has a great opportunity to do a vast amount of good by exercising to the utmost with intelligent honesty the powers conferred upon him by the tax law.

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#### BRYAN'S LEADERSHIP.

Springfield Republican (Ind.)—Mr. Bryan is therefore to find himself placed in the position of undisputed leadership of the Democratic party. If he is not himself the next Presidential candidate of his party he will name the one who will be. The defeat of Hearst, without the defeat of the general cause for which he stood, constitutes a vote of confidence in and a renewed commission of leadership to Bryan, and no small part of Hearst's defeat grew out of his poorly-concealed ambition to use an election to the governorship to push aside from the party generalship a far stronger and a better and safer man. The menace of Hearst meantime has made Bryan, by mere force of personal contrasts, appear fairly tolerable, if not even "safe and sane," to thousands of conservative Democrats who have before regarded him as almost a Catiline or a Jack Cade; and so it may be said that the elections have not only confirmed his renewed leadership of the Democratic party, but very considerably enlarged his following within the old bounds of that party