

NO FLORIDA PENITENTIARY

Prisoners Taken to Isolated Turpentine and Lumber Camps to Slave Under Merciless Overseers.

Special to the Appeal to Reason.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 30.—

One of the most aggravating of the Florida statutes is the vagrancy law. By means of this law any person of any color, without apparent means of support, can be arrested at any time, held before a justice of the peace, and sent to the chain gang for a period of from thirty days to one year.

In season, the great desideratum with the turpentine operators is to get the gum from the trees gathered and marketed as speedily as possible. The months of June, July, August and September are devoted to the boxing of trees and the gathering of the gum.

In nearly every justice and police court in Florida agents for the lumber and turpentine operators lie in wait. A batch of vagrants, white and black, are arraigned for trial, convicted and sentenced to the chain gang for six months.

By arrangement with the court, the agent steps up to the convicted prisoner and agrees to pay his fine if the prisoner will sign a contract to work out the amount in a nearby or distant lumber or turpentine camp.

Suppose a young white man, attired in the humble garb of a mechanic, sets out with a workman one town to another in search of employment. He may have a watch and chain and a few dollars in his pocket.

Standard Oil in Control. This system has been in operation ever since northern capitalists came south to develop the resources of the country.

Standard Oil controls the turpentine output of the south. The turpentine operators, large and small, are completely at the mercy of the trust.

From the testimony taken before a United States commissioner, it appears that the negro, January, was in debt to Levy D. Carter, a white farmer, living in Rankin county, Miss.

More horrible than the Dan January case, perhaps, is the case of a negro woman, who has been held in actual slavery in Lower Peach Tree, Ala.

One Question Suggests Another. It may be asked, Why don't the negroes and poor whites politically unite to abolish the vagrancy laws and pass remedial legislation?

You will have no difficulty in getting your neighbor to give you his subscription to the Appeal. It is the only paper in the United States that told the truth about the present situation, and it's the only paper that will continue to print the plain, unvarnished facts.

and make their own laws for their own benefit? An answer to the second question would probably answer the first.

But today the workers of Florida, and most of the other southern states, are hampered by a situation that has not yet been inaugurated by the capitalists in the north. Here, the worker is compelled to read and write in order to vote; in addition, he must pay a poll tax.

Quite frequently it happens that no opportunity arises which would enable the turpentine operator to recruit men through the vagrancy laws. Then it is that another expedient is resorted to. Warrants are sworn out against a negro, or several negroes, charging them with the commission of some imaginary crime.

Victims Charged With Crime. Cases of this character are continually being disclosed, but are suppressed by the newspapers, which dare not offend the powers that be by giving the facts.

It is alleged that Thomas went to Tyler and swore out warrants against the negroes for theft, living in adultery, and for other offenses.

Numberless instances of peonage that have come to the attention of the federal courts, in Florida and other southern states, might be recited here, would save permit.

The National City Bank (Rockefeller) bought \$15,000,000 of bonds and gave its check for \$15,000,000.

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The Adams Trial.

The second trial of Steve Adams, like the first, has resulted in a disagreement of the jury. Of the first jury seven were for acquittal and five for conviction; of the second jury eight were for acquittal and four for conviction.

Can't Change Employers. Baldwin, Johnson and McDuffy had been in the employ of Brinson, who is a turpentine and tie man near Lake City, but quit their jobs and entered the employ of J. L. Sparkman, another turpentine and tie operator at Perrine, sixteen miles south of Miami.

Adams was technically on trial for the murder of a common claim-jumper, a crime that would ordinarily be looked on with favor in the locality where it was alleged to have been committed.

As soon as Adams realized that he had been used as a tool he appealed to his relatives to free him from the penitentiary, where he had been held by order of McPartland without any charge lodged against him.

In March of the present year, Congressman Frank Clark, of Florida, delivered a speech in the national legislature condemning the proposition of the federal government to investigate the system of peonage that was alleged to exist in the south.

After a week spent in the selection of a jury the taking of testimony began November 6th. Four days were consumed in the attempt to prove that Tyler was dead and that certain remains found in the woods a year or more after his disappearance were his remains.

The "Panic Edition." The "Panic Edition" will be dated December 7th. Prices started December 19th. Rates are as follows:

A NAPOLEON OF FINANCE. Comptroller Metz, of New York, has just sold \$30,000,000 of revenue bonds bearing 6 per cent interest.

The checks drawn for the city's payroll are refused payment in money. Nominally the city has an available cash balance. In reality the city has suspended paying its policemen, firemen and school teachers except in bank credits.

Morgan, the Philanthropist. Many papers referred to J. Pierpont Morgan as the savior of our country during the recent financial panic.

FIFTEEN IS FINE. Please send me, as early as possible, fifteen (15) copies of Walter Hurt's "Scarlet Shadow"—M. H. Spangler, Seattle, Wash.

QUESTION BOX

If a man has voted the Socialist ticket for three years and has had, during that time, no connection or affiliation with any other party, is he a Socialist, though he does not hold a membership card in the party organization?

Such a man would not be a Socialist in the full sense of the term, for it is just as important that he take part in the nomination of the Socialist ticket as it is for him to vote it.

You should note the fact that not voting, while important in itself, is only one of the means of furthering the cause, and of preparing the working class for its mission of capturing political power, and using it as a means of establishing the Co-operative Commonwealth.

The educational work of the movement is fully as important as the voting, which at this time amounts to little more, if any, than an indication of the growth of Socialist sentiment.

Would the Socialist Commonwealth abolish the right of the judiciary to nullify the constitutionality or unconstitutionality of the laws passed by the legislatures of other law-making bodies?

The Socialist conception of the Co-operative Commonwealth is a pure democracy in which the will of the majority is the supreme law.

It is evident from the foregoing that society under Socialism would never permit a judge or a court to set aside the will of the majority, as expressed in legal enactments.

This is followed by an attempt on the part of the author to show how Socialism will work in actual practice.

Editor Appeal—Your last issue is just splendid! Your tribute to the memory of our new-world martyrs is all that the most sanguine could wish.

GRAND OLD WALT. Editor Appeal—Your last issue is just splendid! Your tribute to the memory of our new-world martyrs is all that the most sanguine could wish.

EXCHANGE POINTERS.

While thousands of men and women are being thrown out of employment, and while banks are refusing to meet the obligations of depositors, some minister of the gospel should deliver a sermon demonstrating how "Socialism Destroys the Home."

The present financial "furry" and industrial crisis will crush thousands of small business men to the wall. The corporations and trusts will become fewer in number, but more powerful, while on the other side the middlemen will be thrown into the wage workers' ranks.

Rev. Morrell, of Buffalo, is setting an excellent example before the ministers of the country this winter by having a course of lectures on live issues by able men. One is a debate on "Public Ownership of Public Utilities."

If politics is corrupt, rotten, shall we blame the politician, or the capitalist who corrupts him? Shall we not rather blame ourselves, the working class, when we refuse to attend to our own political business and allow the rogues to run things in a way to suit themselves?

The Mexican government is continuing to butt into industrial fights, and always in behalf of the capitalists. The peons of that rotten republic are beginning to revolt against the harsh conditions under which they are forced to live.

The same capitalist papers that are shouting there is no crisis, when they wish the workers to accept scrip, are editorially advising the same workers to accept lower wages because of the crisis.

Do You See The Point? Every wage-worker should read this editorial paragraph from the Wall Street Journal a second time, and then think about it:

There are evidences that some employers of labor are giving attention to the question of curtailment with a view to preventing anything like unnecessary unemployment, though others believe only a "hard winter" will serve to correct the labor market conditions.

MARXIAN ECONOMICS. This book, by ERNEST UETEMANN, first announced over a year ago, and unavoidably delayed, is now just ready, and all orders for it will be filled by return mail.

CHARLES H. KERR & CO., 204 1-2 Kinzie Street, Chicago.

FREE

DON'T WEAR A DRESS. RUPURE OUBED BY STUART'S PLASTER. RUPURE means a permanent cure, absolutely guaranteed.

Advertisement for Stuart's Plaster, featuring a picture of a man and text describing the product's benefits for various ailments.

THE PANIC

Yes, the panic is still in progress. True, little is said about it in the daily papers which are read by "the dear people..."

Little attention is noticed in quotations of iron and steel, reduction in prices being averted by restriction of the supply...

Beaver, Pa.—Application has been made here for the appointment of a receiver for the local bank...

Philadelphia, Pa.—The Baldwin Locomotive Works, which has been closed since...

Pittsburg, Pa.—Decision has been reached by the United States Steel corporation...

Pittsburg—Clarence V. Tiers, connected with a local banking house, sent a letter to Governor Hughes...

Atchison, Kas.—Since the new crop currency has come into use, Ernest Klosterauer...

New York—Advises received by the Wall Street Journal from Chicago...

Baltimore—Most lines still feel the effect of the acute financial situation...

Cincinnati—The market for pig iron is dull and unsettled...

New Orleans—The disposition is to curtail business pending an improvement in monetary conditions...

Adanta—Lumber manufacturers have reduced prices to an extent...

Boston—The monetary situation is still acute, and business operations are prospected on the whole...

Patents—Inventors are offered best opportunity for their ideas...

National Headquarters—Established for the purpose of disseminating information...

THE PARTY

THE DAVENPORT PLAN. Comrade Shepherd, of Davenport, Ia., local, writes the Appeal as follows...

Tennessee—John M. Ray has been elected state secretary for Tennessee. Retiring Secretary J. T. McMillan...

Indiana—Indiana's election of state officers closed on the 23rd ult. Comrade S. M. Reynolds is retained as state secretary...

Ohio—Napoleon is the last town in Ohio to apply for a Socialist party local charter...

Income at state headquarters during October was \$292; expenses, \$214; balance, \$111. A total of forty-three new members were admitted...

In the last quarter the Kansas Socialists organized seventeen new locals. That's going some.

John M. Work's dates are as follows: December 7, Jersey city, N. J.; 8, Philadelphia; 9, Reading; 10, not filed; 11, Pittsburg; 12, not filed; 13, Toledo.

Hungarian societies, either avowedly socialist, or with strong socialist leanings, are scattered throughout the United States in our industrial centers.

Every little bit helps. Comrade Dean, Colorado Springs, Colorado, has received a letter from Comrade...

The labor unions want certain measures enacted into law and enforced; but, instead of electing legislators and executive officers in sympathy with the interests of labor...

Philadelphia—The financial stringency restrains production among textile manufacturers...

Wanted Ten Copies. Appeal to Reason, Vol. 1, No. 1, will please consider this order for ten (10) copies...

SEND NO CHECKS.

Readers of the Appeal will please send no bank checks or bank drafts. They are no good...

AGITATION LEAGUE. Reported Nov. 20th. Collected since last report.

Do you think the Panic Edition should go to every business man, every lawyer, every lawyer, every editor...

THE BUNDLE BRIGADE. Are you aware, gents, that time is passing swiftly—that it is now less than one year until the Big Battle of Battles is to be fought?

THE MARTYR BAND. When looking through the mist of years, I hear the people's thunder-voices...

WHAT TIME IS PROVING. From the Daily Astorian, Astoria, Ore., Oct. 10, 1917. The despised code of the Socialist, like the stone that was cast out by the builders...

"MASTER AND SLAVE." By Col. Dick Maple. Truths as old as Christ dressed in new garments are the heralds of modern times...

Touched Funny Bone. From the Pittsburg (Kas.) Herald. The proposition of Editor Fred Warren of the Girard, in the federal court, is responsible, at least for this good pun...

Robbers and Robbers. Mr. Editor: I have kept track of all the money stolen and robbed by highwaymen...

FROM A PRISON CELL. If God designed this human world, and God has made this world a great one...

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1918. You should by all means have a weekly bundle coming to you. Remember that it is less than a year until the next election...

WANTED TEN COPIES. Appeal to Reason, Vol. 1, No. 1, will please consider this order for ten (10) copies...

THE ARMY

THE BIG TEN. Thomas G. Strickmons, Cleveland, O., writes the Appeal for four of his neighbors...

CONGRATULATIONS. Comrade Stutz, Philadelphia, Pa., writes the Appeal for four of his neighbors...

"I am still in the battle." writes Comrade Mitchell (Carthage, Mo.), as he enclosed a couple of hot catfish.

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INJUNCTION DISSOLVED.

Our readers will remember the account of the injunction placed against Comrade G. H. Lockwood of Kalamazoo, Mich., because he started a school of drawing in opposition to the Acme school...

Lockwood also has a long and honorable record of service in the cause of Socialism; he has lectured for many years throughout the country...

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Here's Money! If you are honest and ambitious, no matter where you live, or what your occupation, we will train you in Real Estate work thoroughly by mail; appoint you our Special Representative; start you in a profitable business of your own, and help you make as splendid income. Men without capital have here an opportunity to become independent for life.

SAMUEL MILLER was sentenced to ten years in prison for stealing twelve thousand stamps by Judge Whitman, in New York, November 14th. I wonder if the Judge never used as many as twelve thousand stamps belonging to the public for his private affairs?

Many Make Over \$5,000 Yearly. One Month's Earnings—LET US SEND YOU THEM. One Month's Earnings—\$500.00. Am now in financial straits. My wife is getting desperate. I need \$500.00. I wonder how many of you have made \$500.00 in the last month?

DEAFNESS CURED By New Discovery. "I have demonstrated that deafness can be cured." Dr. Guy Clifford Powell.

BLOOD POISON FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS we have made the cure of blood poison a specialty. Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Blood Poison Permanently Cured. You can be treated at home under our guarantee.

Cook Remedy CO. 1059 MARINE TERRACE, CHICAGO, ILL.

Best Birds, Best Eggs, Lowest Prices. A.W. Miller's Complete Assortment of Eggs.

RHEUMATISM Cured by Dr. Shaw's New System of Treatment, based upon the Chemical Analysis of the Urine. No charge for analysis.

AGENTS GET \$200 Taking only one order a day for our high-class, exclusive... \$200 per month and expenses \$25.00 a month.

MEN WANTED Reliable men to sell our goods. We are looking for men to sell our goods in every territory.

GREAT MONEY MAKER FOR AGENTS Sell our goods for \$200 per month and expenses \$25.00 a month.

33 a Day Sure. We furnish the work and teach you the system. You can make \$33 a day.

AGENTS EARN \$200 PER MONTH. \$100 PER MONTH and expenses \$25.00 a month.

LADIES' Hair Sanitary Soap. \$1.00 per box. Keeps hair soft and shiny.

WE PAY \$36.00. We pay \$36.00 for every 100 copies of our paper.

