

THE MEYERSDALE COMMERCIAL.

VOL. 41, NO. 2, PRICE 2 CENTS.

MEYERSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA, JANUARY 26, 1918.

\$1.25 PER YEAR.

DRY FEDERATION NAMES CANDIDATES

At a conference of the Dry Federation of Somerset County, which includes the Anti-Saloon League, the W. C. T. U., the Prohibition Party, the County Interdenominational Sunday School Association and other temperance organizations, held in the Christian Church in Somerset last Friday, legislative candidates were selected to receive the support of the "Dry" forces at the coming Primary election.

The unanimous choice of the conference was:

John S. Miller of Somerset, former District Attorney, for State Senator. Paul D. Clutton of Meyersdale, merchant and secretary of the Meyersdale Boosters Club, and John P. Statler of Somerset, former Assemblyman, for Representatives in the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

The meeting was well attended by "Dry" advocates from all sections of the county. It was called to order by John S. Miller, Esq., president of the County Dry Federation, who stated the purposes of the gathering. On motion of Fred Groff of Berlin, P. D. Clutton was elected chairman of the meeting and presided in a very graceful manner, making such a good impression that he was later given the endorsement as a candidate for the Assembly, without one dissenting vote.

A committee of five, one from each of the various bodies comprised in the Federation was appointed to consider the availability of proposed legislative candidates and report to the meeting the ones they considered most desirable. Before the committee went into executive session, nominations were called for.

Only one name was proposed for State Senator, that of John S. Miller. H. M. Cook, president of the Mey-

ersdale Booster's Club, nominated Paul D. Clutton for the Assembly. Parker Trent of Somerset, in a very eloquent address, presented the name of Hon. Amos W. Knepper.

Hon. John P. Statler was named as sound in principle and of satisfactory record. His nomination was heartily seconded by several delegates.

John S. Miller stated that he was authorized to announce that Hon. Robert W. Lohr would be a candidate for re-election and was willing to run on the Dry platform.

No further nominations being forthcoming, the committee retired and presently reported that John S. Miller, for Senator, and Paul D. Clutton and John P. Statler, for Assemblymen had the unanimous endorsement of the committee. Several ballots were taken, however, before this conclusion was reached.

On motion, the report of the committee was accepted and Messrs. Miller, Clutton and Statler were unanimously recommended as the candidates to receive the united support of the "Dry" voters of all political parties at the forthcoming primary election. The three nominees are members of the Republican party, but petitions will be circulated to have their names placed on the tickets of the other parties as well.

Messrs. Miller and Clutton were the only nominees present. Each thanked the convention for the honor conferred upon him and pledged himself to make every honorable effort to be elected and to work earnestly for prohibition legislation if sent to Harrisburg. Mr. Clutton won generous applause by stating that he would consider it a greater honor to be compelled to stay at home "dry," than to go to Harrisburg "wet."

(Contributed.)

What's So and What Isn't

(Copyrighted by John M. Work)

PRIVATE PROPERTY.

No, Socialism will not prevent the people from owning private property. Capitalism prevents the people from owning private property.

A tombstone in an English churchyard bears the following inscription: "Reader, I've left a world to you. In which I had a world to do; Fretting and sweating to get rich. Just such another fool as you."

The rage for private property on the part of a certain minority of the people at the present time reminds one of the above inscription. They waste their lives fretting and sweating to get rich, accumulating all manner of private property which they cannot use and which is really a detriment to them.

But this inscription has no application to the great majority of the people, who lack the most essential private property and who fret and sweat and stay poor.

The most remarkable feature about the opposition to Socialism is that Socialism and the Socialists are charged with being guilty of all the evils of which the present capitalist system is in fact guilty and which Socialism will prevent.

For example, we are charged with wanting to divide up, whereas we want to prevent the dividing up that is now going on.

We are charged with wanting to destroy incentive, when in reality we want to abolish the system which has already destroyed the good incentives and introduce one which will restore them.

We are charged with attempting to destroy individuality and reduce the people to a dead level, but the truth is that the present system has to an alarming extent destroyed individuality and reduced the masses of the people to a dead level, and we want to destroy that dead level and give the people a chance to develop their individuality.

We are charged with having designs to ruin the home, which has already been largely ruined by the present system, and we are trying to elevate and purify it.

We are charged with stirring up class hatred, whereas the present system is the sole cause of class hatred, and we propose to abolish classes and thereby abolish class hatred.

We are charged with standing for an impracticable system when the present system has conclusively demonstrated by its own workings that it is impracticable, and Socialism is the only practicable way out of the mess it has got us into.

And so forth. Following up this peculiar custom, the enemies of Socialism charge us with wanting to abolish private property.

But the truth is that, for the masses of the people, the present capitalist system has already abolished private property.

Capitalism confiscates the bulk of the earnings of the wage-worker. This makes it impossible for the average wage-worker to own his own home, or anything else worth mentioning. He has the cheapest household furniture. He has the cheapest clothing for his family. He has the cheapest food for his table. He is not able to afford the things essential to the development of the higher faculties.

All of his property put together is not worth more than a hundred or two dollars. In fact, it is not fit for junk.

Capitalism prevents him from possessing private property.

In the cities and other urban communities of the United States there are over fourteen million homes—or alleged homes.

Of these, over eight million are occupied by renters.

Of the remainder, over one million seven hundred thousand are mortgaged.

Of the entire number, only about one-fourth are owned by their occupants free of encumbrance.

From these figures it is evident that the overwhelming majority of the urban families do not own their own homes.

It is needless to say that this overwhelming majority of homeless families consists chiefly of the families of the working class.

Even the farmers are gradually being stripped of property, over a third of them being renters already.

Capitalism prevents the useful many from owning property and permits the useless few to own vastly more than they need.

Socialism will give everybody a chance to own private property in sufficient abundance.

Not the kind of private property that can be used for the purpose of gouging other people, however.

There's the rub. The few useless people who loudly proclaim that Socialism proposes to abolish private property are afraid they will lose their graft, which is due to the fact that they own as private property the things which the working masses literally have to use in order to make a living.

Their private ownership of these industries makes the workingmen and working women dependent upon them for an opportunity to earn a living.

They therefore have the power, because of their private ownership of the industries, to compel the workers to work for them for a mere fraction of the value of their labor. They keep the remainder themselves without earning it.

No wonder they object to having the private ownership of these industries abolished.

It is the great merit of Socialism that will abolish the private ownership of these exploiting industries and make them the collective property of all the people.

No one has a right to own as private property the things that others must use to make a living. Such private ownership is the sole and only cause of the present industrial slavery of the masses of the people and the present on the one hand and poverty on the other.

Socialism will make the exploiting industries collective property, owned by all the people and run for the benefit of all the people. Then, the few will no longer have the power to rob the many, but the men and women who do the necessary and useful work, mental and manual, will receive the full value of their labor.

Whether any particular piece of property should be collectively or privately owned depends upon its use.

If property is used by an individual or a family for personal purposes, or for the purpose of making a living without exploiting others, it should be privately owned. Socialism will enormously increase that sort of private ownership among the masses of the people, by giving them the full value of their labor and thereby furnishing them with the wherewithal to secure such private property.

But if the private ownership of property results in the private owner having the power to exploit others who have to use it to earn a living, it should be collectively owned.

However, I do not mean that Socialism will forbid anyone owning and running any industry he pleases. But Socialism will own and run industries itself. It will give the workers the full value of their labor. It will sell the products at cost. Anyone else engaging in the same industries would therefore, in order to compete with the public industries, have to give the workers the full value of their labor and sell the products at cost. But he couldn't make any profit that way. Consequently, he wouldn't do it. If the industry were of such a character that he could carry it on by his own labor alone, he could do so. But he would not be exploiting anyone else then.

"But," I hear Mr. Capitalist complaining, "Will there be no way in which I can invest my money so that I can draw an income from it without working myself?"

No, you will positively have to quit stealing.

Socialism will enable all the people to have the private ownership of comfortable and healthful homes, if they want to—not absolute private ownership, however, for there is no such thing, not even now. It will also enable them to have the private ownership of substantial, beautiful and attractive furnishings for their homes. But, best of all, it will enable them to have the private ownership of all those things which are necessary for expanding culture and

MEYERSDALE

Entertained Club. Miss Wilhelmina Wiland entertained the Fortnightly Club at her home on Keystone St., Thursday evening. Refreshments were served.

Linon Shower. Mrs. Robert Downey and Mrs. Henry Shultz were hostesses to a linen shower Wednesday evening given in honor of the former's sister, Miss Margaret Shultz, who has announced her engagement to Albert Deist, Stubenville, O. Miss Shultz received many beautiful and useful gifts.

Funeral of Mrs. Henrietta Bowman. Mrs. Henrietta Bowman, aged 48 years, wife of Samuel Bowman, of Glade City, died at her home, Friday morning. Interment was made in the Union Cemetery Sunday morning.

She is survived by the following children: Mrs. John Blocher, Mrs. Simon McKenzie, Mrs. Harry T. Staub and Mrs. James Long all of Meyersdale; Mrs. Joseph Hersh and Eugene Bowman, Glade City.

Jacob Pritz. Jacob Pritz, aged 68 years, who died Friday morning, was buried in the Fritz Cemetery, Sunday afternoon. He is survived by his wife.

Death of Joseph Stacer. The remains of Joseph Stacer Charleroi, Pa., who died Friday morning from heart failure, were brought here Saturday by Undertaker J. R. Reich for burial. His wife and one son, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Stacer, and the following sisters and brothers, survive: Clara, Anna, Lucy, George and Ambrose Stacer of Meyersdale; Esther Stacer and Mrs. Joseph Grabenstein, Cumberland, Md., and Frances Stacer, Homestead, Pa.

Club Meets. The H. M. T. Club met at the home of Miss Gretchen Wilmoth, Friday evening. Knitting and refreshments were featured.

Death of Joseph Meihan. Joseph Meihan died Sunday evening after a short illness, at the age of 47 years, six months and three days. Funeral services conducted by Rev. A. E. Truxal, were held at the family home, Tuesday afternoon. Interment was in the Union Cemetery. He is survived by his wife and three children—two daughters and one son.

Joseph Reich was undertaker.

Death of Frank Boose. Frank R. Boose, aged 41 years, 9 months and 26 days died Tuesday afternoon, at his home on Keystone street after a long illness. Funeral services were held in the S. S. Phillip and James' Church at 9 o'clock this morning with Rev. J. J. Brady officiating. Interment was in the Catholic cemetery. He is survived by his wife and one son John. Joseph Reich was undertaker.

Attend Funeral of Dr. Livingood. Miss Martha Livingood and W. H. Dill went to Elizabeth, N. J., Saturday to attend the funeral of Dr. Theodore F. Livingood, the former's brother who was buried on Monday.

Mrs. W. H. Dill had gone to Elizabeth on the preceding Wednesday in response to a telegram informing her of the serious illness of her brother. Dr. Livingood's death was due to pneumonia. He was about 70 years of age. He was a native of Salisbury, Pa., where he began the practice of medicine. He is survived by his wife, one son, and his two sisters, Mrs. W. H. Dill and Miss Martha Livingood.

With the aid of federal mediators, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad telegraphers have secured an eight-hour day and increased pay with pay for overtime.

There are 5,000 women farmers in Missouri.

a wholesome, healthful life. In other words, Socialism will enable everyone to own all the private property he needs for his own use. It will abolish both luxury and poverty.

Luxury and poverty are both evil. Socialism furnishes the desirable middle ground between the two extremes—the golden mean—the happy medium—the condition wherein there will be luxury and poverty for none, but plenty for all, and the amplest opportunity for physical, mental, moral and spiritual development.

RAILROADS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COAL SHORTAGE

Commissioner Colver Refutes Statements That Miners Have Refused to Work Full Time Because of High Wages, As Charged by Employers.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Testimony recently given before the Senate Manufacturing Committee by Federal Trade Commissioner William B. Colver is of peculiar interest to labor unions generally, and to mine workers specifically. It refuted statements that the miners have refused to work full time because of high wages. Commissioner Colver's replies to inquiries of Senators investigating the coal situation emphasized conditions which make it impossible for miners to work six days a week.

Describing how coal cars have been misused, not properly distributed among the mines, and sometimes used as storage room for purposes of speculation, Commissioner Colver said:

Willing Workers Are Idle. "I do not think the cars are now used by speculators for the same purpose, because the President's prices and Dr. Gasfield's administration since has made speculation impossible, but the condition as to transportation not only is no better but it is worse than it was, right now, in the midst of winter. I say again that the measure of the production of coal is the supply, day by day, of empty coal cars at the mouth of the mine. A miner will not be sent into the mines to work unless there are cars delivered to receive the product of his labor, because the coal cannot be stored, and there is no place for it. That is the measure; so that now, and at all times—I say at all times, at least a year ago—the miners have been standing idle when they are ready and willing to work, from one to four or five days a week."

The examination continued as follows:

Unemployment Disorganizes Miners. Mr. Colver: "Why, Senator, there has been no time when miners could work six days a week. Now, it is true that in some mines the miners do work six days a week; but, as a rule, taking it right through, I think that the average idle time is at least two days out of the week. On the average right straight through the country, I speak of

bituminous coal—the average idle time for these miners is from two to three days a week; so, as far as the miners are concerned, you would not be ten per cent short in production. You can get the ten per cent more that he said we might need in time of war with the present mining force; but it is extremely disorganizing for miners or any other labor to have occasional employment, to work a couple of days and then be laid off for a day or two days."

Lack of Cars Cause of Idleness. Senator Kenyon: "If the miners are laid off for a couple of days a week, are they not producing less coal?"

Mr. Colver: "Oh, yes." Senator Lodge: "That is what causes the shortage?"

Mr. Colver: "There is where the shortage comes in." Senator Jones of N. M.: "The cause of the laying off of the miners, as I understand, is the lack of cars?"

Mr. Colver: "Yes." Senator Kenyon: "They had the cars, then, the miners could work the full time?"

Mr. Colver: "Yes." Senator Kenyon: "And then we would have any shortage of coal?"

No Need to Open New Mines. Mr. Colver: "Absolutely not, and there would be no need, Senator, as you suggested yesterday, of encouraging the opening of new mines. The present openings are sufficient. They must be, because all these miners can go to work if they are given a chance to do so."

During the examination, Commissioner Colver read into the record the following quotation from the Commission's recent annual report:

"The delay in the movement of coal cars, both loaded and empty, continues to limit the output of the mines. Movements of coal cars so slow as to average only twelve or fifteen miles a day are now matters of common knowledge. No effort at stimulation, either by way of exhortation to labor or increased prices to operators, can avail against the absolute limit of production set by the misuse of coal car equipment, of which, if properly used, there is an adequate supply."

WOMAN'S CASE STARTLES MEYERSDALE. A business man's wife could not read or sew without sharp pain in her eyes. For years her eyes were red and weak. Finally she tried pure Lavoptik eye wash. The result of ONE application astonished her. A small bottle Lavoptik is guaranteed to benefit EVERY CASE weak, strained or inflamed eyes. ONE WASH will startle with its quick results. Aluminum eye cup FREE. L. R. Collins, Druggist, adv.

PRESS FEEDERS ADVANCE. Chicago.—After a two-days' strike Press Assistants' union No. 4 raised wages \$1.50 to \$2.50 a week. In 18 months an additional \$1 a week will be paid. Membership in this union comprise cylinder and platen press feeders.

A strike of the tenters in Belfast (Ireland) power loom factories has rendered nearly 10,000 operators idle.

In the last three years the number of women employed in the German metal trade has increased 325 per cent.

Eighty-three thousand women are employed in the British government offices.

Satisfied with its experiment with women guards on its subway trains, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company will use women as conductors on its street cars.

Inverness (Scotland) joiners have been increased 4 cents an hour.

SOMERSET

Miss Wilda Skinner, of Indiana, Pa., spent the week end with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Wilhelm of The East End.

A. G. Heckman of Johnstown spent several days in Somerset.

Mrs. N. J. Swank, of Johnstown is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Craver, of East Main street.

A. W. Lowry, of Windber spent the week end with his family in Somerset.

Mrs. Alice Osborne, of Conneville is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Craver, of East Main Street.

I. S. Werner, of Rockwood, was transacting business in Somerset Saturday.

Mrs. Bert F. Landis and Mrs. Edward Weimer, have returned home after spending several days with friends and relatives in Johnstown.

Arthur Yost who is a stenographer in one of the regimental headquarters at Camp Lee, spent several days with Somerset friends this week.

John Kregler, Milton Bennett, and Paul Pritts, of Camp Lee are spending short furloughs with Somerset relatives and friends.

Josiah Beek has resigned his position with the Phillips Brothers, at Bakersville.

Edgar R. Smith of Bedford was a recent visitor to Somerset.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Berkebile have as their guests Mr. and Mrs. Harry Heeren of Pittsburgh.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union at Somerset will observe the day of prayer for National Prohibition on Thursday afternoon, January 24th, at 2 o'clock. The meeting will be held in the United Evangelical church.

Clyde Nicholson, of Pittsburgh, has returned home after visiting relatives and friends in Somerset.

Charles Frazee, of Johnstown was a recent visitor to Somerset.

PERSONALS

Mrs. N. B. Hanna, Rockwood, Pa., was a shopper, Thursday.

Miss Emma Finnegan has returned from Johnstown, Pa., where she visited relatives and friends.

Miss Martha Weimer, who was visiting relatives and friends here, has returned to Greenville, Pa.

Miss Mary Conrad spent Friday in Cumberland, Md.

Miss Elizabeth Caddell, Somerset, Pa., visited friends in Meyersdale, several days this week.

Mrs. U. F. Payne has returned from Baltimore, Md., where she visited her daughter.

Robert Boucher, Pittsburg, Pa., visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Boucher last week.

Miss Nellie Ross, Berlin, Pa., is visiting her aunt, Mrs. John Baer.

Miss Ada Lint, Johnstown, Pa. was the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Lint, Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Pearl Nickei spent Sunday at her home in Frostburg, Md.

Mrs. Elizabeth Younkin has returned from a visit in Boswell, Pa. Frank Wade spent Friday in Frostburg, Md.

Mrs. Myra Hay, who was visiting at the home of Rev. Robert Stahl, Baltimore, returned home, Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lenhart Conemaugh, P.Pa., are the guests of the former sisters, the Misses Lenhart, Glade city.

Mrs. Charles Shroyer, Rockwood, Pa. spent Wednesday in Meyersdale. Isaac Bradburn, Lonaconing, Md., is visiting at the home of his son, Isaac Bradburn, Jr.

Mrs. Anna Pike, Masontown, Pa. is visiting relatives and friends here.

Mrs. James Daugherty and Miss Ruth Gloss, Versailles, Pa., attended the funeral of Joseph Meihan, Tuesday.

The State Industrial Welfare Commission has ordered that no experienced woman or minor employed in a California laundry or dry cleaning establishment shall be paid less than \$10 a week. Hours of labor are limited to eight a day and 48 a week.

Butcher workmen at Bloomington, Ill., have a 100 per cent organization.

Patronize our advertisers.