

SOCIALISTS IN OFFICE

(By National Socialist Press.) Washington, May 12—The following list of towns, cities and states that have elected Socialist officials has compiled by W. J. Ghent, partly from press reports and partly from private information. It does not pretend to be strictly accurate. Socialists who are aware of any omissions or inaccuracies in the list are urged to write at once to W. J. Ghent, 243 House Office Building, Washington, D. C. The list as compiled shows 1 member of Congress, 17 members of legislatures, 30 mayors or village heads and 225 other officials. ARKANSAS. Mena—1 alderman. CALIFORNIA. Berkeley—Mayor, 2 aldermen, 1 member of board of education. Neiderland—Mayor, 3 town officials. Pasadena—Mayor. Rancho—1 school trustee. San Bernardino—Mayor (election contested), 1 alderman. Sausalito—1 school trustee. COLORADO. Cold Creek—3 trustees. Victor—Mayor, 4 city officials. IDAHO. Coeur d'Alene—Mayor, clerk and police judge, treasurer and 4 aldermen. Pocatello—2 aldermen. ILLINOIS. Beckemeyer—1 trustee. Belleville—1 alderman. Canton—6 aldermen. Davis—Mayor, 2 trustees. Granite City—Mayor, 2 aldermen. La Salle—1 alderman. Marysville—Clerk, 1 trustee. Mattoon—1 alderman. O'Fallon—Mayor, marshal, superintendent streets, 2 aldermen. Pana—1 alderman. Portland—Clerk. Rockford—Park commissioner, 2 aldermen. Spalding—Clerk, 6 trustees. IOWA. Belle Plaine—Alderman. Colfax—1 member school board, 1 ald. Colfax—1 member school board, 1 alderman. Muscatine—2 aldermen. KANSAS. Altona—Police judge. Arma—Mayor, police judge, 4 aldermen. Columbus—1 alderman. Curranville—Mayor. Fredonia—3 aldermen. Fort Scott—City attorney, 3 aldermen. Girard—Mayor. Osage City—2 aldermen. Rosedale—1 alderman. MASSACHUSETTS. 1 member of the Legislature. MAINE. Mechanics Falls—1 alderman. MICHIGAN. Boyne City—1 supervisor, 1 alderman. Flint—Mayor, 3 school trustees, 3 aldermen. Greenville—Mayor, treasurer, 2 supervisors, 2 constables, 2 aldermen. Jackson—Mayor, 4 town officials. Muskegon—1 alderman. South Frankfort—Village president, assessor, clerk, 2 school trustees. Wilson—Mayor, 4 town officials. MINNESOTA. Brainerd—3 aldermen. La Porte—Mayor. Ten Strike—Mayor, 3 town officials. Two Harbors—Mayor, 3 aldermen. MISSOURI. Cardwell—Mayor, marshal, 5 school trustees, 2 aldermen. Gibson—Mayor, 2 school directors. Maplewood—1 alderman. Minden—Mayor, marshal, police judge, collector, 3 members board of education. Mountain Grove—1 alderman. Westport—1 member of school board. MONTANA. Butte—Mayor, treasurer, police judge, 5 aldermen. Helena—1 alderman. Kalspell—1 alderman. Lewistown—1 alderman. Walkerville—1 alderman. NEBRASKA. Beatrice—Mayor. Broken Bow—1 alderman. Havelock—Police judge. North Platte—Police judge, 2 aldermen. Red Cloud—Mayor. Wymore—Clerk, treasurer, 2 aldermen. NEW JERSEY. North Haledon—4 members school board. NORTH DAKOTA. 1 member of Legislature. Devil's Lake—3 aldermen. OKLAHOMA. Coalgate—Assessor, 2 school directors, 2 aldermen. Krebs—3 aldermen. Harrah—Marshal, police judge. Mc Alester—2 aldermen. Wilburton—1 alderman.

Government by Commission

(Continued from Page 1.)

ments have, by their constitutions, decreed that legislative, executive and judicial functions should be kept separate. Every corporation, conducted for private gain, retains in aboard of directors supervisory and legislative control over its executive departments. Every trades union or fraternal society, conducted for benevolent purposes, while conferring administrative powers to a few of its members, retains for the entire membership the power to direct its policies. Neither the capitalist class nor the working class, conducting their affairs under conditions where their interests are identical, have deemed it wise to lodge both legislative and executive functions in the same body of men. Certainly, in selecting officials for a city, where the interests of these elements in society conflict, it is less wise to do so, regardless of which faction may secure the powers of government. Individuals who have devoted their lives to study and practice of landscape architecture, civil engineering, sanitary conditions for cities and expert accounting, etc., usually are not good legislators. By training they are particularly fitted to make suggestions relative to their own line of work, but especially unfitted to legislate for any department beside their own. As a matter of fact, however, the experts which it has been contended the commission form would attract to its departmental positions, have failed to either seek or secure the offices. These are held in the majority of cases by old political war horses. ELECTION AT LARGE. Another characteristic feature of the commission form of government is the elimination of ward representation all of the commissioners being elected at large. To the extent that our national and state governments are composed of representatives from all parts of the state and nation, giving to these bodies a knowledge and insight into the conditions and desires of the people everywhere within their respective jurisdictions, it is desirable that a city's representation should also be composed of representatives from the various parts of the city. The remedy for existing evils—dishonest and corrupt officials—is not to reduce the number of officials necessary to corrupt. It is to enlarge such number and bring them closer to the people, as well as to remove the source of corruption, namely private ownership of public utilities. The comforts and conveniences incident to city life—transportation facilities, lighting, sanitation, police and fire protection, street sweeping and sprinkling—should be extended to all parts of the city in as nearly equal proportions as possible. Ward representation for legislative purposes is better assurance that this will be done. Under the exclusive election at large system the business and non-business sections are reasonably assured that they will receive an undue proportion of such benefits. NON-PARTISAN FEATURE. Government by commission, in various degrees, also aims to be non-partisan. By removing the labels and arranging all candidates alphabetically or by lot, Republican and Democratic sinners are presumed to become non-partisan saints. The public service corporations take an average of ten dollars per capita annually as profits on public service. To continue this plundering of the people they need franchises. They aim to evade all of the provisions in the franchise they now have that are in any way favorable to the people. It is to their interest to have officials that wink the other eye. They are non-partisan. The gamblers and the vice-merchants, likewise, are non-partisan. Their business is to plunder the people of both money and morals by illegal traffics. They want officials who will fall to enforce the laws for decency and morality. It is to their interest, as it is to the interest of the public service corporations, to get candidates in the field whom they can use. Consequently these two elements in society pool their issues. The alliance thus formed is a natural one. By the partisan method of nominating candidates for public positions,

either by primary or convention, the corporations and the crooks are not always assured of getting candidates of their choice in the race. By the non-partisan scheme there is absolute, by no doubt about it. They select their own candidates. Both of these factors have been in politics a long time. They know the game. They know how to boost for their own candidates among the innocent bystanders. They subsidize the press. Their chances of success are immeasurably enhanced when they are pitting but one set of candidates against a field of more or less obscure, but honest, individuals, who must depend on their own individuality and their own resources for the suffrage of the people. The common people, those that are plucked and plundered by the above elements, do not need a political party to represent their interests. To successfully combat big vice and little vice, not only candidates, but party principles and party organization are absolutely essential. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS. Other provisions usually contained in the commission form laws are the following: Initiative, referendum recall, civil service, publicity, etc. None of these features, however are essential to the scheme. In all of the instances that have come under the observation of the writer, the sections dealing with these reforms have been drafted by their enemies, and at best, are merely the sugar-coating for a distasteful pill. Furthermore, they are subject to repeal by the legislature. Provisions for the reforms enumerated above are contained in many city charters as well as in several of the state laws, having a general application, without requiring a sacrifice of democracy, ward representation and the right to nominate candidates in whichever way, the people may deem best, as well as the right to elect public officials. The Standard Dictionary defines "aristocracy" as "a form of government in which the sovereign power is lodged in a council composed of select persons or nobles as the ruling class, without a monarch, and exclusive of the common people." Government by commission is only another name for aristocracy. A WOMAN'S PLACE. By Robert H. Howe. The query naturally arises "Why does woman want to vote?" What use will she make of the vote if it is granted her?" Will she use it wisely or will she from the naturally conservative instincts of her sex use it in behalf of reactionary legislation." The old argument that many women own property upon which they are compelled to pay taxes without being permitted a voice as to what taxes shall be levied or how the money shall be spent after being collected, while sound in principle is not sufficient reason for the wholesale enfranchisement of women. There are relatively few women who own taxable property, and their economic interests are the same as the interests of the masculine property owners. There is no sex question involved in property rights that would divide the voters and no clash of interests between male property owners and female property owners. The most common, and to those who differ them the most convincing answers to all the claims of the women to equality with men at the ballot box are. A woman's place is in her home." "She has enough to do if she looks after her home and her children." "Her place is at the fire-side." The person advancing these ideas is very much in the position of the man riding in a railroad car with his back to the engine, he never sees anything until he has passed it, and cannot see anything in the direction in which he is travelling. And yet it is because it is true that a woman's interest still center in the family that she is forced to take a position in public affairs in order to protect herself and her children. The change in home life and home

conditions and industries, caused by the industrial revolution of the past one hundred and fifty years has brought new problems into existence, or rather brought old problems into a new aspect. The problems that confronted the wife and mother in the past were the same that confronts her today, but the solutions then were simple as the life most people lived was simple life. Our modern social and industrial processes are so complex and so different from the old life of a century or more ago, that new methods must be evolved to fit the new conditions. You cannot put new wine into old bottles. The old social order cannot contain the new wine of the modern industrial and commercial system in the midst of which we find ourselves. Old customs are giving way to new customs. Old habits of thought are being displaced by new ones. Old theories are being discarded and science and invention have transformed our whole social fabric. The old simple life has gone. The new complicated life has taken its place. The woman, her children, and her home have all been involved in the change. To understand how vast has been that change, what caused it, and what woman can and must do to secure for

herself and the race the greatest benefit from the past change, the past must be reviewed and the present understood, and then woman with her new found power will surely take her place in the ranks with those seeking to establish a better and higher civilization than mankind has ever known. (To be continued.) BARBAROUS MEXICO. This book by John Kenneth Turner tells the Truth about Diaz and his American capitalist partners which until now has been suppressed. It tells how men women and even children are bought and sold, worked to death, starved to death, beaten to death, all for the sake of PROFITS. This book will help you to understand the news of the Mexican Revolution, which even capitalist papers are beginning to print. If you cannot afford the price ask for it at the nearest public library and urge others to do the same until the library buys it. Extra cloth, 340 pages, besides twenty-five engravings from photographs. Price, \$1.50 ORDER FROM THE MONT. NEWS. Keep your eye on the Montana News, the Dreadnought of the working class.

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