

the committee on agriculture in the house. The purpose of the bill is to preserve watershed by conservation of trees and reforestation where necessary.

A. J. Halford, formerly a newspaper man of considerable prominence, and in recent years editor of the Congressional Directory, died in Washington, after several weeks' illness. Mr. Halford was a brother of Major Elijah W. Halford, private secretary to President Harrison. Several years ago he was connected with various metropolitan papers as a political writer in Washington. Mr. Halford was a native of Ohio, and was 59 years old.

The Pickett conservation bill, authorizing the president to make withdrawals of public lands for purposes of conservation, was passed by the house.

The senate committee on public lands purposes to make unpatented railroad grant lands, which lie within forest reserves, subject to taxation. Senator Hughes has reported to the senate the Nelson bill, which would require the railroads to supply the money for re-surveys of such lands.

There are between four and five million acres of these railroad grant lands in the United States. The railroads having property that was not taxable have been content to hold the lands for the natural increase in value.

A Washington special to the Lincoln, Neb., Star under date of April 18 says: "Congressman McKinley of Illinois, who has recently been through Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota, came back to Washington today with gloomy news for the republican congressional committee. Congressman McKinley states with confidence that the next house would be democratic if the election were to be held at the present time. He thinks the chances for democratic success in the middle western states have never been so dangerous to the republican forces."

Miss Mary Katherine Letterman, a clerk in the state department, has been selected to serve as social secretary to Mrs. Taft. Miss Letterman succeeds Miss Spiers, who resigned after two weeks' service in the White House. Miss Letterman is a native of Pennsylvania and was educated in France.

should operate its public utilities, the motive and the opportunity for bribery would be gone, even if minor evils and breaches of trust might continue, owing to the corrupting influence of the capitalistic system which makes money getting the sole aim of life.

"The social democracy therefore, objects to more competition in public utilities; more competition means more corruption.

"We stand for the public ownership of public utilities; but until we reach this, we will enforce the utmost extension and possible service from these utilities, as far as the present laws will permit.

"We look upon the contract system also as a danger. It constantly induced contractors to bribe city officials on one hand and to exploit their workmen on the other. Moreover, it is always in the interest of the city that citizens earn decent wages; therefore, instead of contractors, the labor unions ought to be encouraged.

"The city should stand pledged, so far as the charter permits, to employ only union labor, at eight hours a day, and should require that the same of all contractors doing city work.

"The money made out of the city by contractors will better go toward the relief of the unemployed:

"First, by the improvement of the streets; second, by the establishment of public coal and wood yards, and a public ice house.

"In this climate ice is as necessary in summer as coal is in the winter. These necessities should be sold at cost. The city could easily harvest an abundance of ice during the winter months, thus employing many citizens who would otherwise have to receive public aid. We realize that giving work to the unem-

ployed can solve no industrial problems, but it is the least that can be done as a humane duty toward those in distress.

"Free education is essential to a high civilization. Free books are much a part of free education as free teachers and free school houses. The social democracy demands that books and school utensils be furnished free to all pupils attending the public schools.

"This naturally leads us to the question of taxes. If corporations bore their share of taxes—figured even at the present valuation—the taxes of all citizens could be reduced 20 per cent, and there would still be enough money left in the city treasury which could be used for public improvements of all kinds.

"Public health requires more attention to factories and workshops, better plumbing, more public baths and a system of public street closets, such as is found in European cities.

"Public health also demands an extension of the free medical service. At the present time, many a disease and even epidemics get their origin from the fact that poor people shrink from consulting a physician because of the expense, until it is too late.

"This is a general outline of the principles that will guide the social democratic administration.

"As to the working details we shall have to refer to our platform and the message of our mayor, Emil Seidel.

"We are hampered by an obsolete charter and laws made in favor of the capitalist class, and the capitalist class only, but we again promise the best administration this city has ever had, and as far as human effort can secure it, we will make good our promise."

Socialist Plans in Milwaukee

Victor E. Berger, leading socialist and one of the new aldermen elected in Milwaukee, has given to the Associated Press a statement outlining the principles that will guard the Seidel administration during the next two years. Mr. Berger's statement in full is as follows:

"A detailed review of what the socialist-democratic administration of Milwaukee intends to accomplish during the next two years will be contained in the mayor's inaugural message. I wish only to state the general principles upon which we were elected on April 5. I, of course, will not repeat the platform.

"In the first place, the social-democratic party of Milwaukee is an integral part of the socialist party of America. In Wisconsin we are officially named the 'social-democratic party'—which is the customary international name.

"The socialist party of America is the American expression of the international movement of modern wage workers for better food, better houses, sufficient sleep, more leisure, more education and more culture.

"The founders of the republic declared for political freedom. But we call attention to the fact that since the birth of this nation a revolution in industry has taken place. Formerly hand labor and individual effort produced the necessities of mankind. Today machine labor and social or associated labor are the means of producing those necessities. And while in that former time it was the imperative duty of the government to protect the individual in possession of the property he had produced so today it is equally the duty of the government to protect associated labor, that is to say, the whole body of working people in the possession of the products of their toil.

"The present system of social production by individual ownership has produced two classes—the propertyless class and the capital class. The middle class, once the backbone of this great nation, is fast disappearing in the mill of competition and the issue is now between the first two classes. All attempts to obscure this issue or to delay the settlement are futile, for all other issues will be speedily absorbed by it. Thus it de-

velops that the battle for human rights has become a battle to determine which form of government we shall have in the future—plutocracy or democracy.

"Political liberty alone has become inadequate; we must have both political and economic liberty. To secure this is the aim of the social-democracy.

"In city affairs, we stand for the public ownership of municipal utilities. We are well aware, however, that Milwaukee does not enjoy self government, and that, as a rule, no steps can be taken in that direction without an appeal to the state legislature at Madison.

"In municipal affairs, the social democracy stands also for radical change that will bring about means of production into the hands of the people. It believes in self government for the city, the initiative, the referendum, and the right to recall, in a just and equitable taxation, in efficient sanitary inspection on workshops and houses and in the public control of the food supply in the interests of the public health and in the highest development of a reasonable public service. At the proper time the social democracy will initiate this and other things.

"We call attention to the fact that measures we urge are in no way a complete cure for existing evils, nor are they necessarily socialistic measures. They are to be viewed rather as needed palliatives capable of carrying out even under present conditions. Under no circumstances should the working people rest content with municipal improvements, which are merely temporary in their nature and must be entirely inadequate. They should move onward to the conquest of all public powers, to an entire change for the present system for one which shall secure to the people collectively the means of production and distribution.

"The main spring of corruption in municipal affairs is found in the fact that a few aldermen or officials have in their power to give away or sell franchises to capitalists, who thereby make millions. The temptation thus offered our public officials to secure a share in the millions thus given away is too great for the average man to withstand. If the city

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