

# HEROIC WORKERS FIGHT DESPITE DREAD DISEASE

## City of Consumptives and Scenic Beauty

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

DENVER, Colo., (By Mail.)—Denver is one of these towns with a climate and scenery, and very conscious of it. It is a tourist town and well-to-do Americans come from all over the United States to see its wonders. Among these tourists, however, not all are well-to-do. Many of those who come for the "climate" are tragic victims of the capitalist system. I met scores of workers during my brief stay in Denver and most of them were consumptives. Three of the members of the executive committee of the Workers Party here are victims of the dreaded T. B., contracted in the unsanitary factories of the great industrial centers of our country. Some of the most active spirits in the union movement here are the same. It is a testimony to the unconquerable will of the working class and its awakened fighters that even that dread proletarian disease does not break their will and determination to struggle . . .

I visited a cemetery in the outskirts of the town and on a tombstone, I found, not a cross, but a hammer and sickle. "A consumptive," my companion explained, "a veteran fighter in the Jewish labor movement who died here a couple years back. Contracted T. B. in the sweatshops of the East."

### Climate Suitable.

The labor movement is not strong here. A constant stream of broken down invalided workers come to Denver because they must live in such a climate, and they are willing to work for almost nothing in order to stay. The supply of available workers is greatly in excess of the demand. Yet the class conscious workers struggle with the double handicap of disease and an overstocked labor market and keep a labor movement alive here. At the present moment a labor lyceum is under construction in Denver to serve as a rallying center for a movement absolutely without adequate headquarters. The \$25,000 necessary to build the labor temple was raised mostly by the left Workmen's Circle (one of the branches expelled by the right wing bureaucracy of the Workmen's Circle) and by the Workers Party. But the whole labor movement will benefit by having a rallying center.

### Klan Is Licked.

Until recently, the ku klux klan had control of the administration of Denver and the entire state. From Senator Means down to the local "dog catcher" they were all members of the night gown brigade. The word of the Grand Kleagle was law, and there were nightly burnings of a fiery cross on Table Mountain overlooking the city. But the klan split over the division of the booty and the former boss of the klan organized the Minute Men of America. Now the grip of the klan on local life and politics is broken, Senator Means was defeated in the primaries in his own party, the fiery cross burns no more on Table Mountain.

The state federation of labor has a weekly here of large circulation—the Colorado Labor Review. It is in many ways considerably more progressive than the average official organ of a state federation. But it and the leaders of the official labor movement here are supporting the democratic candidate, Mr. Sweet, for United States senator. Sweet is a one-time socialist, and his father is still the lone socialist of Denver, Colorado.

### The Millionaire Sweet.

But Sweet is a millionaire as are the present incumbents, Means and Phipps. These days it is as easy for a rich man to get into the senate as into the kingdom of heaven and the Colorado labor leaders seem to be used to being represented by millionaires. Because of the split in the republican ranks on the klan issue, the election of Sweet is highly probable and he will probably line up with Reed and the progressive democrats in the next senate. But in spite of the sweep for Sweet, the Workers Party has succeeded in getting the necessary petition signatures among the workers to put a full ticket in the field with Ayres for senator and Dietrich for governor.

Two years ago "Governor" Dietrich got about 2,000 votes even tho there was a LaFollette ticket in the field.