the apologetic, so-called economists who can say that prices can be raised at will. Price raising is not the prerogative of anyone with a commodity to sell, be it the lowliest shopkeeper or Giant Steel. Market and productive conditions, competition and substitutes are the Alp that must be crossed before one can reach that capitalist Shang-Ri-La of unrestricted price raising.

S. O.

A MATTER OF HARD CASH!!

We acknowledge receipt of 500 Australian pounds ($1100.00) from Ethel Lee Haing, a socialist from Down Under in response to our appeal for funds.

This is a big help BUT we are in the middle of an expensive campaign to build up the circulation and influence of The Western Socialist:

* We are advertising in several newspapers and magazines in the United States.
* We are contacting public and college libraries to display The Western Socialist.
* We are arranging an organizational tour of the U.S. and Canada next Fall.

The above is in addition to our regualr heavy expenses.

ALL THIS COSTS MONEY! Where can YOU spend it more usefully??

CIVIL WAR ECONOMY

When an earthquake hits a city it does something to the landscape that was never expected. Old buildings that had been decaying for decades, and would in the course of time have tumbled down, are suddenly and decisively shattered. Unsightly landmarks are erased by the soil upheaval and something of a more utilitarian nature is reared on the ruins. A new civic foundation is provided by the "rock and roll" of natural forces.

The Civil War* had much the same effect on American Society that an earthquake has on the civic landscape. The slow, ponderous pace of industrial development was sharpened and hastened. What would have come about in the process of time was accelerated to the extent of becoming the vogue in a single decade. The state of industry was revolutionized almost as soon as the war was over.

PREWAR NORTHERN ECONOMY

The American capitalist in the period prior to the Civil War was not the industrial or financial tycoon that we know today. He operated on a much lower level. He was burgeoning into becoming something bigger and greater but was still confined to a less than dominating position in the social system. He was essentially a merchant or commission man rather than a banker or industrialist. This merchant capitalist was not the outright owner of whatever means of production existed. He didn't have control of factories, machines, railroads, and banks with which he could tell the rest of society what to do and how to do it. An actual middle man, he functioned in a social way by purchasing the things produced by numerous small independent manufacturers, who did the work in cottages and workshops, and moving them out into the channels of trade where they could be sold or exchanged.

The worker of the period also varied materially from the type encountered today. He was not mixed up in jurisdictional disputes to see who had the inalienable right to be exploited on a certain job. He had no occasion to pass resolutions for unemployed insurance or more overtime. There was always more than enough work to do around the premises if he was in a mood to do it. The bughouses and jails, where they existed at all, were not overcrowded, with a long waiting list of applicants craving admission.

* The April issue of the Socialist Standard is to be devoted to the 100th Anniversary of the Civil War. Order your copy from Circulation Manager, 11 Faneuil Hall, Boston, Mass. for 25c. Better still, order a $1.00 sub for 12 issues.

This worker, in fact, was not a real undiluted proletarian. He didn't engage in anything resembling modern social production. He didn't depend for his livelihood on selling labor power to a factory boss. He often had a small shop or mill of his own, surrounded by a shabby farm with an ungainly shack he could call his home. There was plenty of fishing and hunting in the neighborhood where he could release his tensions instead of watching TV or listening to horse operas on the radio. Even in his recreation with rifle or fishing rod he was erasing part of his food supply problem.

This worker was half way on the road to being a small independent producer and decidedly petit bourgeois in his social outlook. He probably wouldn't seriously consider the legend that every American child born in a smoke-filled room had a fair chance of becoming President, but he did have a hunch that he could become something bigger than he was at the moment, even if he couldn't anticipate the modern miracle of a guaranteed annual wage.

POSTWAR NORTHERN ECONOMY

The Civil War changed the social scene. It expanded the market and, through the medium of government borrowing and spending, so increased the capital fund that it was feasible to industrialize production in a relatively brief period. By the end of the war the iron, clothing, boot and shoe, meat packing, and woolen industries had attained a status similar in kind to what we have today.

Iron production in the pre-war years was carried on in small country plants with a working force only partially dependent upon wage labor for its subsistence. In his novel — "The Three Black Pennys" — Hergesheimer vividly portrays the process. The furnace, forge, charcoal, ore, pigs, blooms, and bars owned by the iron master and under his tutelage everything was as carefully assembled as a baby's breakfast. The organization of furnaces, forges, and mills for a common purpose was the first step in the direction of modern capitalist production.

In the meat packing industry vast changes were brought about during and after the war. It was in the household stage prior to this time. The creation of home necessaries is an obvious function in an agricultural economy. Even when the packers made their debut on the scene they were not just what the term currently implies. Cattle raisers, farm traders, provision dealers, and commission merchants were all listed under the title—packer.

With large armies in the field that had to be supplied with meat rations a revolution in method was imperative. The distribution had to be scientifically regulated and financed by the national rulers. All the different functions of slaughtering and packing had to be bound together. The rural butchers and provision merchants had to make way for enterprising packers on an industrial scale.

The boot and shoe industry was in the household production stage before the war. The conversion of this cottage production into a mill and factory business was a transformation achieved by war conditions. Large quantities of ready made boots of uniform make were demanded for the soldiers in the field.

The old method where the individual proprietor employed a few journeymen and helpers on a piecework basis to get the leather prepared for the process, to cut the soles and uppers, and leave the sewing to outworkers in their homes was no longer sufficient to supply the demand. The organization of all participants under one roof in a factory system where the entire process from hides, leather, thread, tools, warehouse, packing, and shipping departments became the private property of enterprising capitalist companies was the logical outcome.

PREWAR SOUTHERN ECONOMY

In the South the owners and producers had problems somewhat at variance with those in the North. It would not be correct to say that they