

THE FRANK CASE.**A Socialist Plea for Justice Where
It Can Still Be Done.**

From the New York Call.

Down South there is a man named Leo Frank, under sentence of death for the murder of a girl. It is claimed by many who have investigated that the condemnation of this man is a sheer injustice, a gross miscarriage of the legal machinery. The man is a Jew, and down South a Jew has apparently a little better chance than a "nigger," but not so very much more. Among others who have investigated this case is Eugene V. Debs, a careful observer and a most outspoken man, and he declares frankly that the anti-Semitic prejudice existing in the South has had everything to do with Frank's condemnation—in fact, was the cause of it; that the evidence does not show the guilt of the condemned man; that his fate was sealed from the very beginning; that both press and pulpit in the locality are muzzled and dare not say anything favorable to the accused; that the jury was threatened with vengeance if they dared to acquit him, and that the entire trial was a farce. Debs calls on the public, Socialists included, to protest against what he designates lynch law. And, of course, we will do what we can in that direction, though it probably isn't much.

But the South has no monopoly of miscarriages of justice. Up North here, and not forty miles away, a man has been acquitted of a murder which he did not deny and for which the excuse was put forward in plain English that he was drunk when he committed the act. This man was a Tammany politician, Town Clerk, and political "boss" of the small town in which he murdered his daughter's husband.

It is not probable that we Socialists will take any hand in this matter, as most of us believe that the very worst use that any man can be put to is to hang him. But with the case of a man sentenced to death, whose guilt is exceedingly problematical, to say the least, it is very different. In such case, the Socialists will not keep silent, and we suggest, in consequence, that the members of the party, through their organizations, do the best they can to have this case retried impartially, as far as that is possible, and the previous verdict, if clearly found to be unwarranted, set aside.

We mention these matters merely to point out that, besides ourselves, many other people are frequently the victims of what is miscalled justice. It is not because this man is a Jew—no matter what his race, nationality, or color might be—that we interest ourselves in his behalf, but because of the dubious character of the "justice" meted out to him. And however feeble our voice may be, we raise it in protest just the same.