

# SPECIAL NEWS

## FROM FRANCE

### OLD AGE PENSIONS A FAKE—BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

One of the leading topics now being discussed in French political and journalistic circles is whether or not it will be advisable to enforce the recently enacted old age pension law, which goes into effect in July, 1911.

This law is the beautiful socialist scheme fathered by Viviani, socialist minister of labor, in the Waldeck Rousseau and Briand cabinets, that oblige all workers to pay assessments of six to nine francs a year, according to sex and age—for thirty years, which in turn entitles them to a pension of sixteen cents per day after they have reached the age of 65 years.

Whilst the law was pending passage the C. G. T. administration (confederal committee) waged a vigorous campaign against it. Among other measures taken was the planning of a great demonstration for May 1, 1910.

This was suppressed and forbidden by the government, which was confident that in the approaching C. G. T. Congress at Toulouse the C. G. T. administrator's stand in the matter would be condemned as a result of the efforts of Niel and the rest of the reformist element, and that the pension law would be indorsed in lieu of a better one. However, this hope was disappointed. The government plan was tried at Toulouse, but the reformist element backing it were routed, the position taken by the C. G. T. administration was indorsed and a resolution adopted condemning the pension law in unmeasured terms and urging the workers to resist its application by every means in its power.

The C. G. T. officially declared war on the fancy socialist legislation.

The "powers that be," wise from past experiences with the lawless C. G. T., became alarmed, and although the threatened campaign against the law was not yet started by the C. G. T., the pension law, so lately considered an ideal one by its advocates, fell into disrepute amongst its creators immediately after the close of the congress at Toulouse. It was attacked from all sides. A thousand reasons (except the right one) were urged in objection to its being enforced. So vigorous has this warfare on the law become that at present it appears very likely that the law will remain a DEAD LETTER.

The following quotation from "La Lanterne," a crooked socialist sheet, will give an idea of how widespread the agitation is against the law, and the thinness of at least one of the pretended reasons for not enforcing it.

"For the moment there is but one question: Shall we apply the old age pension law? There has been 10 years' work put into it. It has not been improvised, as everyone knows. In the senate and chamber of deputies the matter was examined in all its aspects and it was only with difficulty that these bodies arrived at this decision. Are we now going to destroy all this work under the pretext that it is imperfect? That would be madness."

It will be intensely interesting to watch the fate of the OLD AGE PENSION LAW.

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