

ADVANCE

WHOLE NUMBER, 357

SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 8TH.

50 CENTS A YEAR

THE PHILOSOPHER.

He wrote that man is at his best
When poverty assails;
In graceful words he sang the praise
Of strength that never fails;
He penned the wondrous benefit
Of labor's hoary hand,
And all who read asked other folk:
"Now, isn't that just grand?"

He wrote about the pride of work,
And what a noble thing
It was to see a man bear up
Beneath affliction's sting;
He argued it the better part
To starve most every day,
And they who read vowed to themselves,
"It's best to live that way."

And who was he who wrote this thing?
He was a millionaire.
He never worked in all his life,
And so had time to spare.
It was an easy book to write;
It also made a stir.
He was an easy thing to be—
A rich philosopher.

—Baltimore School.

Labor's Political Struggle

Notes Indicating the Progress of the World's Socialist Movement.

GERMANY.

The printing press at Hamburg, which belongs to the Socialist party, has been celebrating its silver jubilee. The business is flourishing, and no less than 250 persons are employed in the production of a daily newspaper, books, pamphlets, etc.

BELGIUM.

There was a rumor that an attempt had been made on the life of Eduard Anseele, Socialist leader in Flanders, and head of the Co-operative "Vooruit." Happily, it was a rumor only.

FRANCE.

In the French Chamber of Deputies a motion that the Declaration of the Rights of Man should be posted up in all schools was adopted by 542 votes to 1.

The Socialists of Paris commemorated the fall of the Commune of 1871 by processions to Pere Lachaise, bearing garlands to be laid at the foot of the wall where so many brave Communards were shot by the victorious butchers of "law and order."

Roubaix, a manufacturing town in the northeast of France, has a Socialist Mayor, who is anxious to abolish octroi duties; i. e., indirect taxes on food, wine, beer, etc. He proposes to do this by placing a tax on house property, on land, on carriages, on mules, horses, and also to largely increase the tax on spirits. If these proposals are adopted by the government the working classes of Roubaix will avoid paying some very objectionable taxes.

The French Socialist Congress at Lyons defeated, by a vote of 910 to 286, a resolution that Millerand, by accepting the position of minister of commerce in a bourgeois cabinet, had placed himself outside the party. The resolution was presented by the Parti Ouvrier or Guesdists who, after withdrawing from the Socialist Party and declaring that they

would not participate in the Congress, changed their course so far as to appear in that body to introduce their motion, and, when it was defeated, to raise a riotous protest. Their recent conduct has been in many respects similar to that of the S. L. P. in America, though not carried to such extremes and guided by better informed leaders. After the opposition had withdrawn a resolution was adopted by a vote of 904 to 42, declaring, in effect, that the position of Millerand in the cabinet is that of an individual Socialist, not of a representative of the Socialist Party.

SWEDEN.

The Socialist deputy, Hjalmar Branting, has called the attention of the chamber to the anomalies of the electoral law in Sweden. Under the present system property gets more than its fair share of power. The Chamber passed a resolution in favor of reform.

NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand government is raising wages of its railway employes to the extent of \$100,000. Bad as state socialism is, it is still preferable to capitalism.—Citizen.

BULGARIA.

The labor movement in Bulgaria is still young, dating only from ten years ago; but it is growing rapidly. Raphael Denkow writes on the subject in "Le Mouvement Socialiste" of Paris, saying that "Socialism is making great progress in Bulgaria, and in proportion as capitalist industry is developed the Bulgarian proletariat is organizing itself into trade unions and labor societies to defend its class interests." The Bulgarian Social Democratic Labor Party was formed in 1893, and now has local branches in all of the cities and in several villages. In 1891 the Social Democrats won two seats in parliament and carried the same constituencies again in 1896. After the fall of the Conservative ministry of Stoiloff in 1899 our comrades elected six deputies—including the two pioneers of the movement, Dimitre Blagoyeff, editor of the Socialist review, "Novo Vreme" (the New Time) in Philipopolis and Yanko Sakasoff, editor of the literary and political review, "Obechto Delo" (The Common Cause), in Sofia. The so-called "Liberal" majority, however, refused to seat any of the deputies. In the elections of last February, consequent upon the fall of the Liberal ministry, the Social Democrats had, in the industrial centers, to face a coalition of the capitalist parties. In spite of this, and in spite of the arbitrary suppression of Socialist papers, our comrades elected two deputies—G. Kirkhoff, editor of the party organ, "Rabotnichesky Vestnik" (The Labor Journal), at Sliven, and T. S. Bakaloff, a writer and poet, Tirnovo. The total vote was larger than even in 1899.

JAPAN.

Railway engineers, at their convention last month, unanimously voted that "this union should study and act on all the problems of labor, making Socialism as our ultimate goal." We nearly forgot to mention that this convention was held in Japan—not in America.—Cl. Citizen.

A Social Democratic Party has been formed in Japan, and the chief agitators are Iso Abe, Mitsujiro Nishikawa, Naoye Kinoshita, Kiyoshi Kawakami, Denjiro Kotoku, and Sen Katayama. The Labor World, of Tokio, says

a manifesto will be issued that will demonstrate that the workmen of Japan are not far behind their Western brethren. Those who launched the party are trade unionists. The little country has also joined the World's Labor Congress, having elected two international secretaries, Abe and Katayama.

UNITED STATES.

Indian Territory comes to the front with a new S. D. P. paper called the "Guertie News."

A. J. Lawrence, one of the chief workers in the Public Ownership party of St. Louis, has joined the S. D. P.

At the city election held in New Decatur, Ala., Comrade Jas. E. Morrow, Socialist candidate for city clerk, received 688 votes; Republican candidate, 162; Democrat, 151. Socialist plurality, 526; Socialist majority, 375. L. W. Allen, Socialist candidate for alderman in the Third Ward, was elected over the Democratic candidate.

The Socialist Lecture Bureau has been formed by A. M. Simons, T. J. Morgan, Charles H. Kerr, J. Wanhope, Mrs. A. M. Simons, Mrs. Charles H. Kerr, Walter Thomas Mills, George E. Bigelow, A. Klenke and F. G. Strickland, of Chicago, and lecturing circuits will be mapped out to cover the Middle West. Other speakers will be added to the list.

The Socialist Temple in Chicago continues to be successful. A. M. Simons has begun a series of lectures on "Scientific Socialism," to be delivered each Sunday at 2:30 p. m. On Sunday evenings the Social Crusade meetings are held. Music by the Socialist orchestra is given at each of these meetings. Throughout the week debates are held and ward and organizing committees hold meetings.

On Decoration Day the Social Democratic Party of Ohio held its state convention at Columbus and nominated a full ticket. After a warm debate it was agreed that the confusing "immediate demands" be tossed overboard to the floundering reform and capitalistic parties, and to make a clear-cut fight for the paramount question of complete Socialism. From reports made, it was shown that the old Socialist Labor Party was practically defunct, and, therefore, no confusion would result by adopting the straight name of Socialist party. It was also decided to levy an assessment of one dollar per member to place a state organizer in the field, and to take preliminary steps to establish a state organ. Secretary's books showed that the enrolled membership is 575, and that 16 locals exist in Ohio, exclusive of several independent bodies.

New Orleans is the center just now of the growing interest among Southern workers in labor organizations. The machinists were early organized, and they won in their contention for lessened work and increased wages without a strike. Unions of the bakers and confectioners, of the horse-shoers and of several other classes of workers, are being formed, but the most significant action is that of the white carpenters in urging a labor union of colored carpenters. The white workers in this trade have been making efforts in this direction for many months, and now see success near, as 500 Negro carpenters have promised to attend a meeting for organization.

Labor's Economic Struggle

Notes Showing the Strike Between Organized Labor and Capitalism.

GERMANY.

Berlin Tageblatt says one-fourth of the workingmen in Germany are idle.

SWEDEN.

The union seamen and firemen of Helsingfors, Sweden, have established a shipping office and will ship themselves without the interference of the crimps. The union members have also refused to sail with non-unionists.

GREAT BRITAIN.

According to statistics, coal mined in England last year sold for \$330,000,000, and wages received by the miners amounted to \$57,000,000, or about one-sixth. The ratio holds good in this country. It doesn't mean robbery; it is "business."—Cleveland Citizen.

In the West of Scotland mines during the year 339 accidents were reported as against 291 in 1899, of which 72 proved fatal, involving the loss of 78 lives, being an increase, in comparison, of 14 in the number of fatal accidents and of 18 in the total casualties. All the fatal accidents happened at collieries, with the exception of one each in a fireclay mine and an iron stone mine. Whether wages rise or fall, the sacrifice of life in the mines continues always to increase.

FRANCE.

A vigorous campaign is being waged in France against the use of white lead in painting, because it is a poison which surely destroys the health of the men who use it. The physicians have called attention to this fact and are strongly urging the abandonment of its use. The government has yielded to pressure in so far that the director of posts and telegraphs has forbidden the use of white lead in work under his control. In addition, the painters of Grenoble have gone on strike to demand that all employers should use zinc white instead of lead white. Zinc white is far less poisonous, but more expensive, as owing to its want of "body" more coats have to be laid on. The painters have sent out a circular to all medical men in France asking for their support. They also ask for the subscriptions of medical men to be paid into the strike fund, in the name of those principles of hygiene and sanitation upon which medical men are always insisting.

BELGIUM.

Brussels, May 31st.—An extraordinary scene occurred at Antwerp yesterday, when mutinous civic guardsmen paraded the streets singing the "Marseillaise," while the police had to be called in to protect the officers from the revolting troops. There has been friction for some time.

RUSSIA.

London, June 1st.—According to a dispatch received from St. Petersburg yesterday, it appears that the conflict on May 20th at Alexandrovsky, in the vicinity of St. Petersburg, between the strikers at the Obuchoff Iron Works and the authorities, when about 3,500 rioters attacked the police, had much more serious results than were admitted in the police report of the affair, issued on May 21. It was then said that after twelve of the police had been injured they were reinforced by soldiers, who fired three volleys, killing two men and wounding seven. The relatives of the strikers declare that forty of the men were killed and 150 others wounded. A reliable witness says he saw four vanloads of wounded persons covered with blood, and another spectator declares that he saw two tugloads of wounded taken to the hospital.

UNITED STATES.

G. B. DeBernardi, head of the "Labor Exchange," is dead.

The bank clerks of Troy and Cohoes, N. Y., have organized a union.

Iron manufacturers of the Saginaw Valley, Mich., combined to fight their employees.

Western mine owners are reported as considering plans to "resist the encroachments of the labor unions."

Amalgamated Wood Workers' International Union of America has five organizers in the field.

The New Castle, Pa., "Tribune" has been made the official organ of the Tin Plate Workers' Association.

The Central Federated Union of New York has indorsed the strike of rock drillers on the rapid transit tunnel.

Men in the building trades at Trenton, New Jersey, have won their strike for an eight-hour day at the nine-hour wage rate.

Garment workers of New York have had an injunction slapped on them. It prohibits them from bothering scabs.

Eastern cotton mill agents have gotten up an agreement to reduce wages ten per cent on June 3d, and to curtail production.

Machinery bosses of New York, Chicago and other industrial centers are combining with the avowed intention of disrupting unions.

Grain workers at Ogdensburg, N. Y., struck against the introduction of patent shovels, which enable five men to do the work of twenty.

A portrait of the late George Chance, one of the best known workers in the labor movement of the country, and a founder of the Philadelphia United Labor League, has been presented to the latter body.

William F. Sherlock, editor of the New York Unionist, is dead. He was persecuted by the New York "Sun," sent to jail, and there contracted pneumonia, from which he died.

Chicago Trades Union Label League wants names and addresses of secretaries of all similar leagues in America. Send to W. A. Campbell, Room 820, Monon Building, Chicago.

Brewers won another eight-hour victory in Lowell, Mass. This makes the thirty-second city in which the eight-hour day has been established among all brewery employees through the influence of the national union, without any reduction in wages.

The convention of the Western Labor Union at Denver, Colo., on the 31st ult., discussed resolutions for the formation of a working-class political party, calling for the enactment of an exclusion law against all classes of Asiatics, and favoring the adoption of a universal union label.

Notices were posted recently at the plant of the American Steel and Wire Company, Neville Island, Pa., to the effect that on May 31st every man employed in the plant would be discharged, and that on June 1st all the forces would be reorganized. It is understood that many of the present employees will be left out in the "reorganization."

Electrical workers are having a big fight throughout New England with a telephone monopoly that extends from Maine to Connecticut. In Brockton, Mass., the Social Democratic Mayor, Coulter, is aiding the strikers, having withdrawn all permits and threatens to tare all wires off public buildings if the combine doesn't settle with the men.

A gigantic British coal trust is talked of that may become international.

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Walter T. Mills School of Social Economy.

The Chicago School of Social Economy now has branch classes in Ogden, Utah, St. Louis, Mo., Terra Haute, Ind., Cleveland, O., New Castle, Pa., Pittsburg, Pa., Port Chester, N. Y., and many other places are taking steps toward an early beginning.

The fifth lesson in the series deals with the assumptions of the political economists. Here are a couple of the arguments: "The political economist assumes that the only duty of society toward industry and commerce, is to let it alone."

The answer is that all factory laws, all courts for the collection of debts, the enforcing of contracts and the punishment of crimes against property, are a refusal of society to let commerce and industry alone. In fact, the very organization of society itself is a refusal to let alone the things which concern the whole body of the people. Society does interfere. It ought not to do so in behalf of those who, by force, have monopolized the resources and forces of nature and plead a let-alone policy for those who have been dispossessed. If it is to interfere in behalf of all, then that is Socialism.

The political economist assumes that there is no possible provision for workingmen beyond the smallest wages for which the workers will consent to work in numbers large enough to do the work required.

The answer is that this is true under capitalism, but under Socialism there will be no such iron law of wages. Under Socialism the total of the largest product which the workers produce will be the smallest reward for the workers themselves, for, under Socialism, those who are workers will no longer be compelled "to divide up" with those who are idlers.

The whole lesson is full of exposures of the weakness and absurdity of the teachings of the political economists. The argument for the origin of capital, establishes beyond question the falseness and absurdity of the claim that it was the result of thrift and saving.

For full particulars concerning this course of study, send a stamp to Walter Thomas Mills, 6416 Ellis avenue, Chicago. 4

A "Calamity Howler."

After a review of the matter Professor Huxley has said: "Even the best of modern civilization appears to me to exhibit a condition of mankind which neither embodies any worthy ideal nor even possesses the merit of stability. I do not hesitate to express the opinion that if there is no hope of a large improvement of the condition of the greater part of the human family; if it is true that the increase of knowledge, the winning of a greater dominion over nature which is its consequence and the wealth which follows upon that dominion are to make no difference in the extent and the intensity of want with its concomitant physical and moral degradation amongst the masses of the people, I should hail the advent of some kindly comet which would sweep the whole affair away as a desirable consummation."

It is estimated that a million sales' agents and other middle men have lost their occupations during the past four years owing to the trustification of capital.

Last year the police force of New York, having 7,400 members, arrested 138,875 persons, an average of about twenty to a policeman, and yet the force is roundly scored for not doing its duty, having paid little attention to the Wall street dens.—S. D. Herald.

What "Reform" Did.

Buffalo reformers have decided to abandon all further agitation for Sunday closing of the Pan-American Exposition since the managers have announced that on that day the gates will be open only from 11 a. m. to 11 p. m., but the show has already been spoiled for the working people by the shutting up of the Midway and other amusement features on Sunday. Sunday is the only day the working people have to see the Exposition, and there is nothing particularly interesting in solemnly marching along looking at improved plows, pyramids of patent medicine bottles, corn palaces, polished pieces of machinery and the other routine exhibits. A ride on the camel and elephant, however, a trip on the merry-go-round and a sight of Bosco, the snake-charmer, who "eats 'em alive," give workingmen needed recreation after a hard week's work, and, having taken this much sweetness out of the workingman's life, the reformers can afford to retire on their laurels and cease from further agitation.—Southern Socialist.

The Extravagance of the Poor.

A bandit used to rob the peasantry, so that when they began to starve, they appealed to him for charity.

Said the bandit: "I will give you nothing; you are poor because you are thriftless; if you were industrious and honest," said he (as he lifted a sheep), "the country would be riches, and I could make more. You waste your goods, so that there is nothing to steal, and then we all suffer hard times. My Associated Charities inform me that you waste the bones of your meat."

"But, sir," replied the peasants, "you yourself throw away the legs, and eat nothing but the tenderloins."

"I can afford it," said the bandit, "because I do not have to work for my living; you lower classes would better pray to heaven for prosperity, instead of troubling me with your preposterous discontent."—Bolton Hall.

The Rochdale Co-operative Store.

We desire to call attention to the reading notice of the Rochdale Co-operative Grocery Store at 1896 Mission street (formerly 1818 Market street). We are informed they have a better store, better location and have been able to reduce their expense account \$100 per month by the change. This store started only last November and still is doing a splendid business. This is co-operative effort. We would advise any one who wishes to see better conditions prevail to investigate this movement. In Europe the Rochdale Co-operators are doing business by the hundred millions of dollars annually. Equity, Justice, Righteousness, is their motto. The books of the concern are open for investigation. This movement is deserving of your support and should have it. Our best endorsement is, we belong to it ourselves.

A successful experiment with the telephone was recently made between Chicago and New York. This new invention is a combination of the telephone and phonograph, and enables a person to talk into a telephone in Chicago, have his words recorded on a wax cylinder in New York and reeled off at the leisure of the receiver.

The Union Traction Company, which operates all the trolley lines in Philadelphia, has absorbed the Lehigh Valley Traction Company, which controls and operates the Easton Traction Company's and other trolley roads in the vicinity of Easton, Pa.

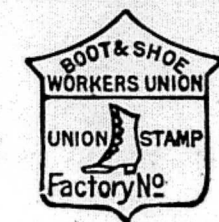
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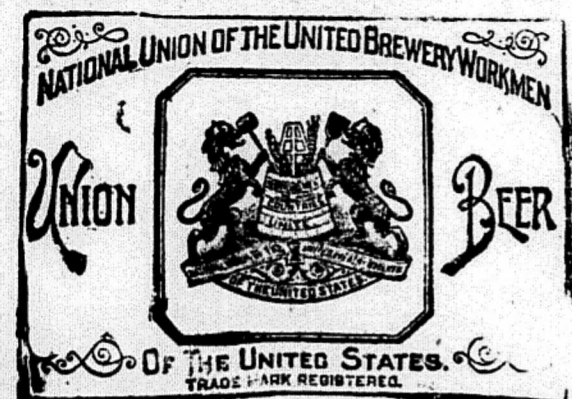


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ADVANCE



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That next-door neighbor of yours ought to read the ADVANCE. Drop in, right now, and get his sub. It costs only 50 cents a year.

San Francisco Comrades: Be sure to attend the propaganda meetings Thursday evening at the Academy of Sciences Hall, Market street, just below the Emporium.

Have you your petition blank? Are you getting signatures? This is important work, comrades; do your duty. You have an opportunity to force a referendum on two highly beneficial measures.

We wish to urge every reader of ADVANCE to become a member of the party and attend the various meetings of the Local. It is the least one can do to belong to the organization which strives to make one's ideals and principles realities and customs, and to encourage by one's presence the workers for the cause.

One of the features of modern life is the numerous conventions that are held. San Francisco has always desired to secure some of these, but lacks proper accommodations. The Palace of the People will fill a long-felt want by supplying a hall with decent acoustic properties, which will hold 5,000 people.

"Peace, blessed peace," reigneth in the railroad world. Community of interest has conquered. A lot of wise people are now wiser, knowing what fools they were. When Harriman made his assault on the Northern Pacific the bourgeois economists, ever anxious for some fact to support their notion of the impermanence of combinations, declared that that was the end of the community-of-interest idea. We suggested that Harriman was simply fighting for a more advantageous position in a new "community-of-interest" scheme which he saw forming. These economists seem to have learned something from the failure of their predictions about Carnegie "busting" the Steel Trust when he was only holding out for better terms. We perhaps flatter them in saying that now they are wiser, knowing what fools they made of themselves over Harriman's strategic assault on Hill's road. But if they are still blind the people's eyes begin to behold the true state. We may perhaps expect one or two more similar fights for stock between the giants of the railroad world, but cut rates are over with, and the railroad trust will soon own all traffic lines from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Hudson Bay to the Isthmus of Panama.

ADVANCE greets its readers this week in a new garb. The change has been adopted after considerable deliberation and in the hope that our subscribers will find it more convenient in its present form. Technical considerations have entered very largely into determining the choice of our altered appearance. Notwithstanding the reduced page size, the reading matter is as much as hereto-

fore, and it is confidently expected that by increasing the number of pages to twelve or sixteen by July, the reading matter will be doubled.

Some time ago we urged the comrades to actively engage in procuring new subscribers and promised to issue an eight-page paper if their efforts were energetic enough to give us guarantee of sufficient support. This new shape is the first step in the fulfillment of our promise. While the comrades have not been so successful as we hoped, yet the results are distinctly encouraging, and when combined with other plans the management has on foot, we feel quite sure of increasing the size of the paper to at least a twelve-page issue within the coming month. This will be equal to a six-page of the old size. There must be, however, no cessation of effort on the part of our enthusiastic friends who have been industriously rustling subscribers for us. Socialist papers seldom have the capital to invest in improvements that shall win them popularity. They can add new features only as their friends increase their income on the strength of their present appearance. "Advance" has had a long, hard, up-hill fight. Its predecessors, "The Class Struggle" and "The New Charter," were barely able to maintain those self-sacrificing comrades who did the work of publishing them. When Local San Francisco took "The Class Struggle," made it party property and changed the name to "Advance" last June, there was an accumulated debt of several hundred dollars against the paper. The Board of Directors and the Managing Editor believed their first duty was to get rid of this and they set themselves to the task of raising funds for that purpose. So well did they succeed that the only claims against "Advance" are now held by a few comrades in the party, and are for minor sums loaned to release the paper from the clutch of capitalist creditors. These will be paid off from the regular income, probably by the next quarter. Besides these funds, raised almost entirely in San Francisco, the Local has contributed out of its own funds over fifty dollars a month toward the running expenses. This has been a very heavy drain on the party here and has crippled its local propaganda. But it was a necessary sacrifice. Without it the state organization which was effected last fall would have been almost impossible of accomplishment and the work since done throughout the State, on economic and political lines, has been invaluable. San Francisco has no regret. Rather, it has cause for much rejoicing. Happily, this burden is now practically lifted. And at the same time that "Advance" stands upon its own financial legs it sees the path to success and prosperity opening up before it.

We again urge our friends and comrades to procure us new subscribers. The weekly paper is the best means of converting the unbeliever and it makes him pay for his own conversion. Then, as our circulation increases, improvements in size, appearance and matter will be made. We put this question to each reader, each individual: Would you like to get a sixteen-page paper for your fifty-cent subscription to "Advance"? To get it all you need do is to go to your neighbor or friend, who is interested in Socialism, and get him to subscribe. We have made the best possible use of what funds have come into the office. Additional funds will be disposed of in as economical and worthy a manner. We are in the hands of our friends.

A newspaper slot machine has been invented which will deliver a paper and make change for a nickel.

OSCAR WILDE AND SOCIALISM.

In the good old days when a genius annoyed the placid dreams of the shopkeepers, he was given the hemlock or the cross; today the shopkeepers let unfilled desire burn up the soul and fester the inner life of the world-mover, and smile comfortably at his undoing. In other words, they let him live and life is his martyrdom. "Genius," said Napoleon, who knew men, "is close akin to insanity." And the average philistine accepts the sentiment. He shrugs his shoulders when a Morris or a Wilde tells the truth in such manner that there can be no escaping it. But if the truth goes beyond satire of their dearest foibles, and becomes at once destructive and constructive, the shrug gives way to a mighty shout of protest. Lord Cadogan voiced the feelings of the genuine philistine when he looked at Morris' works and said, "If I had known the villain would turn Socialist, I should never have had him bound in Russian."

A little fiercer was the objection to Wilde. His "Woman of No Importance" and "Lady Windermere's Fan" were biting, though delicate satires, on the life of our so-called better classes. They were keen and cutting. The epigram was polished till it glistened. Men and women laughed at themselves and their own pet sins and some, let us hope, went home to weep. This play of manners showed that the manners were bad—and something worse. But though Wilde held the mirror up to these male and female butterflies and showed them themselves and each other stripped naked, so to speak, he had such an engaging way of standing truth on its head and making it pirouette for the edification of his audience, that the shrug of protest became the smile of toleration. Then it was discovered that the philosopher of the beautiful was a Socialist. His "Soul of Man under Socialism" was remembered and the protest came strong enough to hurl a giant from his seat. Anything that suggests confidence in the workers of the world being able to run their own affairs, or if a hint is put out that a change will come in the present status of society, much offence is given. Any concession to the low brows is treason against the natural rulers of the world. Wilde's Socialistic predilections gave a different tinge to his satire. The sting went deeper, the injury was greater. And yet his "Soul of Man Under Socialism" is as mild an essay as any Christian socialist might write, leaving the art out of consideration.

Wilde never studied enough of Marx's "Capital" to impair his eyesight or interfere with his imagination. Yet despite the attenuated dose of Socialism he gave, it is forgotten. Perhaps it might be inconvenient to associate so aristocratic a genius as Wilde with a movement that belongs to the lower orders. Socialism might become the vogue. Many third-class people are merely waiting the nod of recognition for Socialism from the aristocracy and they will embrace it. When that time comes most of the intelligent Socialists will be sorry they are not anarchists, for these people, as the Russians say, are neither a candle for God nor a poker for the Devil. They are snobs, but unfortunately they have noses. And all progress is marked in these days by counting the noses of those who hold the progressive idea.

The Detroit and Lima Railroad has been bought by New York capitalists in order to be consolidated with the Ohio Southern.

In the Industrial Arena.

BY JOSEPH J. NOEL.

The truth Socialists have been hammering into trades unionists for many years is at last being accepted. This truth contains practically all the doctrine of Socialism necessary to promulgate at the present time. It is: Independent political action by the working class. The co-operative commonwealth is a little too far distant and too intangible for the average worker. But the least intelligent can grasp the necessity for a working class political party, as opposed to the present capitalist class political parties.

There is enough Socialism in this to suit the most ardent Socialist. Whoever has read the classics of our movement and has thereby overcome his "looking backward" tendencies, must admit the Socialists have no plan for the society of the future. The nearest approach to any plan is the one outlined above, independent political action by the working class. There can be no complacency, there need be no toleration of abortive attempts to sidetrack the first efforts at independent political action by the working class; but the thoughtful student of social conditions can smile indulgently, nevertheless, when a stool pigeon of the Democratic party like P. H. McCarthy, for instance, puts his puny personality forward in an effort to block evolution. Among the avowed enemies of Socialism, who know or pretend to know anything, it is accepted as a fact that any class making itself socially indispensable will come to take a part in government. The only class that is absolutely indispensable to society today is the working class. This being the case, the working class will eventually take a part in the government and—here the indulgent smile finds its reason for being—if the working class takes a part in government, it will gradually but persistently progress till all the governmental functions are under its control.

It is passing strange how Socialism is tolerated by some kindly disposed clowns who have neither originality nor brains. The patronizing air is enough to make the judicious grieve, and also some who are not judicious. About the only explanation possible is a recent change in their fortunes. They forget, if they ever knew, that the duration of a man's principles is the measure of his manhood. It is for these the following clippings are inserted. The air of certainty may be slightly dissipated. For if the trades unions were equal to a solution of the problem, no change in their attitude towards political action might be expected. The clippings represent the extremes in trades unionism. The Western organization being the most radical trades union in the country, the eastern the most conservative. One Arthur is at the head of the latter organization. He is a millionaire with as fine a mansion on Euclid avenue, Cleveland, as Hanna, or Johnson, or any other exploiter of labor. His style is quite academic, showing a life of ease and an acquaintance with books. To the grosser bourgeois the hidden threat will mean more than the bald class conscious resolutions of the Western Labor Union. There is an unfortunate truth in the Locomotive Engineers' statement that no enmity is felt towards the capitalist class by their association, and it might be further improved by saying, "and no particular friendliness towards other wage workers." Solidarity is an unknown quantity to this association with little bourgeois ideals. That hint about the preservation of individualism is

absurd, but it is the only decent hook these anarchists have upon which to hang their objections to Socialism. The president of this organization imagines because he has liberty to develop an academic style, that the whole problem of individualism is solved. The aristocracy of labor, as represented by the Locomotive Engineers Association, will go the way of all aristocracies once the great combinations of capital get after it. The greatest factor in democratizing labor is the trust. The "superior persons" will realize very soon in what esteem they are held. In fact, they are beginning to realize it already. Here are the clippings to prove it:

"Denver, May 31st.—The annual convention of the Western Federation of Miners and of the Western Labor Union began consideration of committee reports in executive session today.

"The Labor Union convention spent the day discussing the union in politics. The resolutions committee has presented a resolution favoring more active political work and whether this may be done through a labor party or by forcing other parties to place labor candidates on their tickets is the point of discussion. The following is the text of the political resolutions which were adopted by the Labor Union late this afternoon:

"Whereas, The capitalist class is in complete possession of the means of production and thereby controls the Republican, Democratic and Populist parties to further its political and industrial ends; and

"Whereas, The working class has nothing in common with the capitalist class, either politically or industrially; and

"Whereas, The interests of the working class and the interests of the capitalist class are diametrically opposed to each other; therefore the working class cannot expect to derive any benefits from affiliating and supporting the capitalist parties, as has been proven in the past; and

"Whereas, We, the working class, by reason of being the real producers of wealth, and by reason of our number, should be the masters both industrially and politically; in our hands lies the destiny of the nation; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we take such steps politically as to completely separate us as a political body from all parties controlled by the capitalist class; and be it further

"Resolved, That the incoming executive board put forth every effort to assist the working people of the different States in furthering and establishing the political movement as above outlined."

"New York, May 30.—The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has issued a statement to the effect that the billion-dollar trust will be fought hard in the political field in case it encroaches on organized labor. The statement is in part as follows:

"The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers as a class is not jealous of wealth and it feels no enmity toward any employer unless the employer has given cause by unfair treatment. The managers of these great properties, while they control the wealth, do not necessarily control the votes of those they employ, and if the management is inconsiderate of the welfare of either the employees or direction of centralized government, the eradication of individualism may be reasonably looked for and the property rights of capital must suffer extreme restrictions."

And here at home there is a reaching out for something more satisfying, something that will bring more permanent good than either the boycott or the strike. Two unions have grown weary of the orthodox hot air artist, with the grand stand play and nothing more sincere, and have clamored for Socialist speakers to come and address them. These unions are the Bakers and the Machinists. Comrade Liess is a welcome visitor at the Bakers' Union. His clear-cut class conscious doctrine suits his hearers. They act as though they had been waiting for centuries to hear the glad news. Nor is there a murmur of protest when he tells them the genuine solution of their problem is not to be found in the strike or the boycott, but in political action by the working class. The effect on the machinists cannot be gauged at present; the Socialist speaker has just been invited to address a mass meeting of these striking mechanics. Other unions in this town are willing to listen to and learn from the Socialists the necessity for organization, solidarity and political action by the working class.

Messrs. Pierce, Rosenberg and Lane, directing the strike of the cooks and waiters, had a conference with members of the Restaurant Keepers' Association and terms for a settlement of the strike were submitted. It is said on good authority that the terms will be acceptable to the Association. The large restaurants feel the effect of the boycott rather seriously. And while they admit considerable falling off in their custom because of the boycotters, the full truth can be discovered by their anxiety to make peace. It is defeat for them and they lack the manhood to say so.

The machinist strike is in about the same condition it was last week. Nationally, the signers of agreements have repudiated their contracts, and work has stopped in a large number of shops where it was fondly believed peace had come. It was a suspicious action. The reason for it may be found in the so-called rush jobs. The capitalists hang together and in the case of a strike sacrifice themselves to help their brother capitalists fight the strikers. But there is a limit to the sacrifice even in such a case. The signing of agreements came to get this rush work out of the way. With the rush work done it was a simple matter to call a meeting and repudiate the agreement. Exception might be taken to this explanation, because the Eastern shops were warned almost a year in advance of the intention to strike, and could have undertaken no work that could not have been finished. But the contempt capitalists have for threats by the workers is proverbial, or should be. The elaborate preparations to strike were taken for bluff by a majority of the shop owners. These are the signers of the agreement. With the work finished that could no longer be delayed, the agreement could be ignored.

The capitalists have a convenient code of morals when dealing with their wage slaves. But the wage slaves, on the other hand, are as tender and considerate as a collection of sucking doves when dealing with their masters. The sooner workingmen wake up to the truth the better. This truth is that they are engaged in a battle in which there is no truce, a battle that means extinction for either one adversary or the other. There can be no peace, permanent or other; there can be only a momentary pause between the shots. And in this battle everything is fair, even to the repudiation of a signed agreement, or bringing

on a strike at an inopportune time for the capitalists. It is war of the most uncompromising kind. It is war for bread by one army, it is a war for millions of profit by the other. Every coin of vantage belongs to the side with strength enough and generalship enough to capture and hold it. To give notice a year in advance that a conflict will be started, suggests the middle ages. A great many of the leaders in these modern battles have intellects befitting the ages when the world merely beat time. We are not beating time today; we are making progress towards a wider, freer life for the working people, but first of all they must learn to fight. One of the first rules of warfare is to hit your adversary when and where he least expects it. The men who send notice of a conflict a year or six months in advance are fit to fight windmills.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS:

A. F. S. H., Australia (en route).—I will repeat one of the phrases above for your benefit: The duration of a man's principles is the measure of his manhood. Robert Louis Stevenson says, "To keep a few friends, but these without capitulation, and on the same grim terms to keep friends with himself, here is a task for all that a man has of fortitude and delicacy." Bon voyage.

M. R., Covina.—My time is too completely occupied to write personal letters. Read "Advance." You can get the information you want.

S. K., City.—It is an individual matter, though the ethics of the Socialist movement demand that you support the strike even if the cooks and waiters vote for their masters on election day. Evolution does not jump. These workmen have to be taught. We are merely handmaids, so to speak, of evolution; our duty is to teach. Forgive the bisexual metaphor.

BREWERS' UNION.

The regular meeting of the Executive on Monday, June 3d, Comrade Ponitz in the chair. Present: Comrades Kessler, Vogt, Ponitz, Muri, Ronecker, Guninee, Gessner, Keck, Brilliant, Miehle and Winter. Absent: Comrades Harth and Nugent; excused.

The minutes of the last Executive meeting and of Branches 1 to 8, inclusive, were read and filed. No minutes from Branch 9 were submitted. The meeting approves of actions of Branch 1 and 2, in fining two members \$25 each, two others \$10 each, and reprimanding one member. Comrade Dornberger was admitted to membership. Applications of Schwaegerl and John Messner were referred to Branch 1; also request of Beier to be put on list again. Application of Feodor Petermann was laid over until further information from the "Verband" in Germany is received.

It was resolved to renew fire insurance on banners, furniture, books, etc., for three years. Complying with request of Branch 7, the General Secretary is instructed to organize Brewery Coopers in Portland.

The Secretary reports that he succeeded in having the eight hours' contract signed by two Vallejo breweries (Solano and Philadelphia Breweries.) The proprietor of Pioneer Brewery in Vallejo could not be met by General Secretary, who left matter in the hands of Secretary of Vallejo Federation.

Benicia Brewery offered to unionize. Contract and necessary instructions sent to proprietors.

Actions of Secretary regarding Vallejo and Benicia indorsed.

It was resolved to raise weekly wages of

brewery coopers, who furnish their own tools, to \$19 in new contract.

Comrade Specks' bonds of \$500 was accepted. Application for membership of Louis Hug was rejected. LUDWIG BERG, General Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Los Angeles, June 3d.

Editor Advance:

The question discussed at the last meeting of the Karl Marx Debting Club was "Resolved, That Socialists should not vote for municipal ownership." Com. Holmes, who took the affirmative, said, "that municipal ownership is a good thing for the middle class; this will not help the working class, for whose emancipation we are fighting. It will not shorten their hours of toil, nor will it add one cent to their wages. If municipal ownership were established, there would only be more promised 'jobs' for which the workmen could sell their votes. In Australia, where there is municipal ownership, the condition of the wage earners is not one bit better than where there is only private ownership. Municipal ownership is not a step towards Socialism, but a step backwards, because, as long as the people do not recognize their only hope is Socialism, municipal ownership will only keep them from the 'right thing.'"

Com. Corey, taking up the negative, said in part: "As the second and third clauses of our platform demand the ownership of some of the things which are wanted for municipal ownership, it certainly seems as though we ought to vote for it, if we can thereby get control of some of the means of production and distribution now. Everything we do is to be judged by its effect on the purpose for which we are striving. Socialists should vote for municipal ownership, not because it is a 'step at a time,' but because it is something taken along the way; not as Socialism, but as something that will benefit the workingmen. At the present municipal ownership would benefit the workingmen. Private corporations only do business in order that they can make money; under municipal ownership the workers would have better pay, shorter hours, and better protection in dangerous work. Since it can be shown that municipal ownership does benefit the working class, all Socialists should vote for it, providing it does not jeopardize Socialism."

When the vote was taken, it showed that the majority favored the affirmative side of the question.

We are doing good work at the park. Meetings are held every day, and our comrades are always called for with great enthusiasm. The people at the park are interested enough to come to the crowded street meetings, and on our Sunday night meetings they fill our hall to overflowing. Last Sunday we were addressed by Attorney Earl Rogers, who spoke on "Why Socialism Will Prevent Progress." He said that to come to our meetings and to answer the questions asked by the audience, gave him what he called an evening of "mental gymnastics." I am afraid he had more gymnastics than he cared for. The comrades, in five-minute speeches, answered the questions asked by strangers, in their own way, and of course knocked out all of Mr. Rogers' arguments.

We are making preparations for a dance, to be given on the 22d inst. So you see we are not only doing everything we can to spread Socialism, but are also providing a good time for many friends and the comrades.

Olga Wirthschaft.

Dr. Christensen

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LOCAL SAN FRANCISCO, S. D. P.

The regular party meeting was held on June 5, 1901. The minutes were approved. Com. Johnson was appointed a committee to examine cards. The Organizer reported two successful street meetings—one Sunday night; the other Tuesday. Two new members were admitted. A motion was made to expel A. F. S. Hamilton; lost. A motion to withdraw his credentials or letter of recommendation to Australian comrades was carried. Comrade O'Brien was requested to put his charges against A. F. S. Hamilton in writing. Comrades Gavert and J. Geo. Smith were elected to State Executive Committee. A proposition to send two delegates from California to Unity Convention at Indianapolis was voted upon by the comrades present, the vote to be counted June 19th, and all comrades in Local requested to send in a vote by writing, "Yes," or "No," and affixing their names to the communication published in ADVANCE.

The following resolution was offered by Comrade G. B. Benham:

"Resolved, That, while in favor of unity, in view of the great expense entailed in propaganda in this State, we cannot afford to send two delegates to Unity Convention, but favor having a proxy representation if possible at said convention."

Petitions for building Palace of the People and furnishing employment to unemployed was presented to party meeting and given in charge of the Organizer. Comrade Simpson was appointed chairman for Thursday night's propaganda meeting. Comrades Noel, Scott, and King, critics.

JOSEPH J. NOEL, Sec.

"What is Socialism, anyhow?" Briefly, Socialism is the social, the collective, the public ownership of all the industries, all the means of producing and distributing wealth, their use on a co-operative fraternal basis, and management or administration on democratic principles, by popularly elected officials. This will secure to each man the full value of the product of his labor. It will secure the most effective application of the efforts of each individual and therefore cause the greatest possible amount of wealth to be produced with the least expenditure of energy. It will secure almost absolute material equality. No man will be dependent upon another for a chance to work nor be forced to pay a profit for the privilege. The right to work will be guaranteed and employment will always be open to whoso desires it. There will be neither master nor servant. There will be no paternalism. There will be the free and equal association of friends. Enslaved by no one, enslaver of none, each person will be free and independent. Fraternity, peace and good-will must reign. Plenty will smile upon the land and merriment will resume her residence amongst men.

Charles B. Spahr, the author of "The Present Distribution of Wealth in the United States," says that for the \$4,650,000,000 of railway stock now in existence the original investors paid no more than \$465,000,000, or only ten per cent of their face value. A railway that pays three per cent is actually paying thirty per cent upon the real invested capital.

Prof. Adams of McGill University, Montreal, demonstrates that by a temperature of 300 to 400 degrees centigrade and a hundred tons pressure to the square inch a solid block of marble can be fashioned into other shapes without breaking.

WAY TO SOCIALISM.

A Philadelphia firm is advertising a new painting machine warranted to do the work of sixteen men and is operated by two men.

In the purchase of Port Arthur on the Texas coast the Standard Oil octopus gets control of the outlet for the oil fields of Texas.

A New York paper says the movement of heating houses from central stations in winter months is growing, and that the economy secured will serve to introduce the system quite generally.

An Englishman has invented a pocket wireless telegraph instrument. The novelty is causing much comment. The day is apparently coming when a man will do his own telegraphing.

A new cigar-making machine has been invented by a genius at Lititz, Pa. The device occupies a space at 2x4 feet and weighs less than 400 pounds. It has fourteen distinct operations, and a two-horse-power motor can propel ten machines, which can be produced at a cost not to exceed \$125 each, but doubtless the market price will be 'way up.—Cleveland Citizen.

The "Coming Nation" describes a new invention of a rotary sheet feeder with a speed of 5,000 net per hour. It is entirely automatic, feeds separate sheets, and will take anything from French folio to nine point cardboard. As a job contrivance it is also a wonder, and will wipe out many press workers in large offices.

The Bessemer Ore Mine at Aragon, Mich., has been purchased by the United States Steel corporation for \$2,500,000 from Ohio capitalists, who have operated it for twelve years.

The electrical machinery trust is making machines in its Schenectady plant that, it is claimed, will revolutionize the production of bread. A \$25,000,000 combine is going to control the machines.

An invention is reported in England that allows of the manufacture of fire-proof and unbreakable glass. Under a test of 2,500 degrees of heat the glass remained unaffected.

The Vickers-Cramp deal is sure to go through, making an important step in the concentration of the shipbuilding industry. The Widener-Elkins Traction Syndicate is interested in the deal.

Edison's new electrical battery for automobiles has proven so successful that it is proposed to manufacture them on a large scale for heavy trucks and wagons. Two manufacturing factories are turning out the new accumulators.

The flour mill companies of Kansas and Kansas City, Mo., who are organized in the Kansas Millers' Hard Wheat Association, are planning the formation of a company to handle their whole product.

It is reported that a Dr. Ludwig Mund in England has discovered a gas which can be used for manufacturing purposes, and that it can be produced and sold at a profit of four cents per thousand cubic feet.

Edison announces the discovery of a new cement which can be utilized in building houses and will do away with brick and lumber to a large extent.

H. LOTZIN

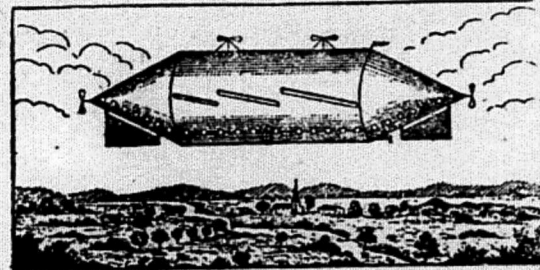
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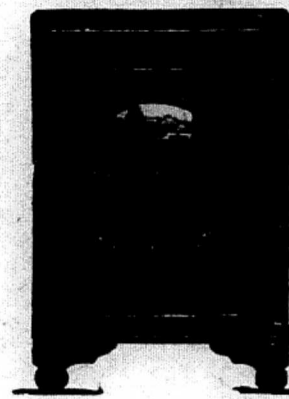
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Important! Referendum to California Locals.

It has been proposed by Local Los Angeles and seconded by Local Riverside, "That two delegates, one from the Northern and one from the Southern part of the state be elected by the state at large to represent us at the National Unity Convention; and that a fund be raised for that purpose at once."

In compliance with the provisions of the State Constitution S. D. P. the State Executive Committee now submits the above to the Locals of California for their vote.

The vote will be received and canvassed up to and including June 29 1901. The returns should read Yes. (giving number of votes.) No. (giving number of votes) and be signed by two members of the Local and mailed to State Committee, John M. Reynolds, Sec'y, 422 Sutter st. San Francisco.

The time being very short where in a call for nominations might be made and then a vote taken upon the nominations. It has been decided to receive nominations together with the vote, on June 29, 1901. If the proposition is approved the nominations will be submitted immediately. If the proposition is lost, the nominations will be declared void and no election held.

Nominations from each Local can be two in number—one from the Northern district of California, North of Salinas and Merced—and one from the Southern part of the state (south of these towns.)

John M. Reynolds, Sec'y.

Brisbane Walker, in his magazine, the "Cosmopolitan," declares that three powerful interests practically control the iron and steel, coal, oil, railways and other industries of this country, and they are grouped as follows: House of Rothschild's American investments, \$1,000,000,000; Rockefeller, \$800,000,000; Morgan, \$1,154,000,000. Paste this in your hat for future reference.

The Southern Cotton Manufacturers' Commission Company is a corporation formed to handle the product of all the Southern cotton manufacturers—not only yarn, but also cloths, hosiery and all other cotton products.

A New Orleans scientist has developed a method to solidify liquid air, forming it into cakes and as flexible as rubber, and enthusiasts are making all sorts of claims of the wonderful things that can be done with the new discovery.

A statistician furnished the "Appeal to Reason" with the following figures regarding the property and capital controlled by Morgan and his associates: Steel and subsidiary companies, \$1,540,000,000; coal combines, \$862,942,358; oil interests, \$717,735,000; railways, \$3,954,907,600; underwriting syndicates, \$200,000,000; dry goods, \$20,000,000; electric interests, \$30,000,000; banking, \$30,000,000; telegraphs, \$150,000,000; U. S. bonds, publishing and miscellaneous enterprises, \$15,000,000. Total, \$7,570,584,958. This vast sum is over one-third of the wealth engaged in all kinds of business, and the interest of which amounts to \$378,529,247 annually at five per cent. It is estimated that in eleven years Morgan will control the entire business interests of the United States.

State Organizer, Scott Anderson, will make the following dates in June: Oxnard, 9th and 10th; Santa Paula, 11th; Los Angeles, 12th to 18th. Comrades will please arrange for meetings upon the street or in a hall.

JOHN M. REYNOLDS, Secretary.

NOTICE.

There will be held a meeting on the corner of Grant avenue and Market streets every Sunday evening henceforth. Be present.

J. J. Noel, Organizer S. D. P.

The New York Gas and Electric Light, Heat and Power Company and the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York have consolidated under the name of the New York Edison Company, with a capital of \$45,200,000.

LOCAL OAKLAND, of the Social Democratic Party, holds regular weekly lectures every Thursday evening, 8 p. m. at Becker's Hall, 918 Washington st. Admission free. Address, correspondence to J. GEORGE SMITH, 312 Hearst Bld'g, San Francisco.

LOCAL SAN FRANCISCO, Social Democratic Party holds regular weekly lectures every Thursday evening on social and economic subjects at Academy of Sciences Hall, 89 Market street. Meetings begin at 8 o'clock. Open discussion follows each lecture. Questions answered; free platform; public invited. Admission free.

LOCAL ALAMEDA, of the Social Democratic Party, holds open educational meetings every Friday evening except first one of month which is devoted to business, at 2424 Central ave. room 8. Address communications to J. C. STAMER, 2061 Encinal ave.

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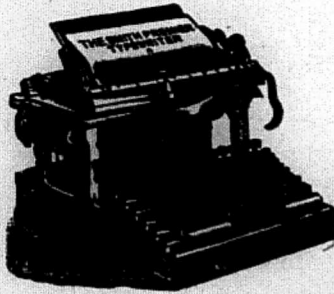
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