

Platform of the Socialist Party

Preamble or Declaration of Principles of the Socialist Party of America---Adopted at the National Convention Assembled at Chicago, May, 1908.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

"Human life depends upon food, clothing and shelter. Only when these are assured are freedom, culture and higher human development possible. To produce food, clothing and shelter, land and machinery are needed. Land by itself does not satisfy human needs. Human labor gets raw materials and food out of the soil by creating machinery and using it upon the land. Whoever has control of land and machinery has control of human labor, and with it of human life and liberty.

"Today the machinery and the land used for industrial purposes are owned by a rapidly decreasing minority. So long as machinery is simple and easily handled by one man, it does not make its owners so powerful that they can dominate the sources of life of others. But when machinery becomes more and more complex and expensive, and requires for its effective operation the organized effort of many workers, its influence reaches over wider and wider circles of life. The owners of such machinery become the dominant class.

"In proportion as the number of such machine owners compared to all other classes decreases, their power in the nation and in the world increases. They bring ever larger masses of working people under their control, reducing them to the point where muscle and brain are their only productive property. Millions of formerly self-employed workers thus become the helpless wage slaves of the industrial masters.

"The more the economic power of the ruling class grows, the less useful does it become in the life of the nation. The overwhelming bulk of the useful work of the nation falls upon the shoulders of the classes that either have no other productive property but their manual and mental labor power—the wage workers—or that have but little land and little effective machinery outside of their labor power—the small traders and small farmers. The ruling minority is steadily becoming useless and parasitic.

"A bitter struggle over the division of the products of labor is waged between the exploiting propertied classes on the one hand and the exploited, propertyless class on the other. In this struggle the wage working class can not expect adequate relief from any reform of the present order or from the dominant class of society.

"The wage workers are therefore the most determined and irreconcilable antagonists of the ruling class. They are also the class which suffers most from the curse of the class rule. The fact that a small number of capitalists is permitted to use all the country's resources and social tools for their individual profit, and to make the production of the necessities of our lives the object of their competitive private enterprises and speculations, is at the bottom of all the social evils of our time.

"In spite of the organization of trusts, pools and combinations, the capitalists are powerless to regulate production for social ends. Industries are largely conducted in a planless manner. Through periods of feverish activity the strength and health of the workers are mercilessly undermined, and during periods of enforced idleness the workers are frequently reduced to starvation.

"The climax of this chaotic system of production are the regularly recurring industrial depressions and crises which paralyze the nation every fifteen or twenty years.

"In its mad and reckless race for profits the capitalist class is bound to exploit the workers to the very limit of their endurance and to sacrifice their physical, moral and mental welfare to its own insatiable greed. Capitalism keeps the masses of workmen in poverty, destitution, physical exhaustion and ignorance. It drags their wives from their homes to the mill and factory. It snatches their children from the playgrounds and schools and grinds their slender bodies and unformed minds into cold dollars. It wantonly disfigures, maims and kills hundreds of thousands of workmen annually in mines, on railroads and in factories. It drives millions of workers into the ranks of the unemployed and forces large numbers

of them into beggary, vagrancy and all forms of crime and vice.

"To maintain their rule over their fellow men, the capitalists must keep in their pay all organs of the public powers, public mind and public conscience. They control the dominating parties and, through them, the elected public officials. They select our executives, bribe our legislatures and corrupt our courts of justice. They own and censor the press. They sway our educational institutions. They own the nation politically and intellectually just as they own it industrially.

"The struggle between wage workers and capitalists grows ever fiercer, and has now become the only vital issue before the American people. The wage-working class, therefore, has the most vital and direct interest in abolishing the capitalist system. But in abolishing the present system, the workingmen will free not only their own class, but also all other classes of modern society: The small farmer, who is today exploited by large capital more indirectly but not less effectively than is the wage laborer; the small manufacturer and trader, who is engaged in a desperate and losing struggle for economic independence in the face of the all-conquering power of concentrated capital; and even the capitalist himself, who is the slave of his wealth rather than its master. The struggle of the working class against the capitalist class, while it is a class struggle, is thus at the same time a struggle for the abolition of all classes and class privileges.

"The private ownership of the land and means of production used for exploitation is the rock upon which class rule is built; political government is its indispensable instrument. The wage workers can not be freed from exploitation without conquering the political power and substituting collective ownership for private ownership of the land and the means of production used for exploitation.

"The basis for such transformation is rapidly developing within the very bosom of present capitalist society. The factory system, with its immense machinery and minute division of labor, is rapidly destroying all vestige of individual production in manufacture. Modern production is already very largely a collective and social process, while the great trusts and monopolies which have sprung up in recent years have had the effect of organizing the work and management of some of our main industries on a national scale, and fitting them for national use and operation.

"In the struggle for freedom the interests of the workers of all nations are identical. The struggle is not only national but international. It embraces the world and will be carried to ultimate victory by the united workers of the world.

"To unite the workers of the nation and their allies and sympathizers of all other classes to this end is the mission of the Socialist Party. In this battle for freedom the Socialist Party does not strive to substitute working class rule for capitalist class rule, but to free all humanity from class rule and to realize the international brotherhood of man."

II. THE NATIONAL SOCIALIST PLATFORM.

"The Socialist Party, in national convention assembled, in entering upon the campaign of 1908, again presents itself to the people as the party of the working class, and as such it appeals for the support of all workers of the United States and of all citizens who sympathize with the great and just cause of labor.

"We are at this moment in the midst of one of those industrial breakdowns that periodically paralyze the life of the nation. The much-boasted era of our national prosperity has been followed by one of general misery. Factories, mills and mines are closed, work is abandoned, and millions of men, ready, willing and able to provide the nation with all the necessities and comforts of life are forced into idleness and starvation. Within recent times the trusts and monopolies have attained an enormous and menacing development. They have acquired the power to dictate to us the

terms upon which we shall be allowed to live. The trusts fix the prices of our bread, meat and sugar, of our coal, oil and clothing, of our raw material and machinery, of all the necessities of life and even the prices of our coffins.

"The ruling class has seized upon the present desperate condition of the workers as an opportunity for a renewed onslaught on the Organized Labor movement. The highest courts of the country have within the last year rendered decision after decision depriving the workers of rights which they had won by generations of struggle.

"The attempt to destroy the Western Federation of Miners, although defeated by the solidarity of Organized Labor and the Socialist movement, revealed the existence of a far-reaching and unscrupulous conspiracy on the part of the ruling powers against the organizations of labor.

"In their efforts to take the lives of the faithful leaders of the miners the conspirators violated the state laws and the federal constitution in a manner seldom equaled even in a country so completely dominated as is the United States by the profit-seeking class.

"The Congress of the United States has shown its contempt for the interests of labor as plainly and unmistakably as have the other branches of government. The legislation for which the labor organizations have continuously petitioned has been rejected.

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WHAT THE SOCIALISTS WANT

We are constantly asked to explain the philosophy of Socialism in a few short simple words that can be read in a few minutes and easily understood.

This is impossible. Socialism is an elaborate system of thought that touches every phase of human life. It has a literature of tens of thousands of volumes. There are men who have spent years of their lives on single phases of Socialist philosophy and still have not touched its depths.

The same thing is largely true of every great system of thought. None of them can be understood in a moment. There is no royal road to knowledge. Yet there are certain fundamental principles of every philosophy and science that can be explained so that anyone can understand them. The same thing is true of Socialism. Its basic principles can be stated in plain simple words.

First let us state some plain facts. Indeed, nearly all there is to Socialism, as to science in general, is a system of arrangement of certain facts.

Men are working today with wonderfully productive machines. The user of a modern locomotive transports a thousand times as much each hour as the driver of an ox-team could move in a month. The child tending a battery of Northrup magazine looms weaves miles where the old hand-loom worker wove feet. The steam thrasher turns out car loads of grain where the man with the flail threshed bushels.

This is the story that meets us everywhere. With relation to these wonderful machines the members of society are divided into two classes—those who OWN and those who DO NOT OWN the machines.

The class that own the machines do not need to work. They may be, like the owners of the great Marshall Field estate, wards of a court. They may be insane, infants, in jail. This does not interfere with their ownership.

The class of owners does not need to do any work, yet its income flows in. This is because of the existence of the other class—the class that DOES NOT OWN anything.

This non-owning class cannot live unless it can use the property of the owners. It cannot even set foot on the earth unless it uses the land that belongs to the owning class.

The non-owning class cannot live unless it produces wealth. In order to produce wealth it must use the land and machines of the owners.

For the opportunity to use the property of the possessing class long enough each day to produce a subsistence for itself, the propertyless class agrees to keep on producing wealth with these wonderfully productive machines all day.

The portion which the propertyless producing class creates for itself and is allowed to keep is called WAGES and all the remainder flows into the pockets of the possessing class as RENT, INTEREST AND PROFITS.

In return for this the owning class do nothing but hang on to their legal titles to the property. This possession makes it possible for them to lay tribute upon the organizing, directing, managing labor as well as upon the most menial, unskilled manual toil.

The Socialists point out that since no function is performed by these owners, and since it requires neither brains nor ability of any kind to hold titles, therefore it would be easy for the workers collectively to hold these titles. The workers could just as well appoint the state as their agent to hold the titles as the capitalists can appoint banks, corporations and trust companies for that purpose.

Since it is only this private, legal title that prevents the propertyless working class from gaining access to the wonderful productive machines, and using them to produce wealth for the producers, when once the title was transferred to the working class government, then all could use the tools and land and retain the product.

The present title is a law-made one. It can be unmade by changing the laws. Therefore the workers are asked to make use of their political power, their overwhelming majority to gain control of the government and use it to transfer the title of the means by which wealth is produced and distributed from the present idle owning class to the working propertyless class.

Unlike the present private ownership, the collective ownership to be established by the victorious Socialist working class will not be EXCLUSIVE but INCLUSIVE.

There will be none shut out from ownership. All will be owners and all will be users. THIS IS WHAT THE SOCIALIST PARTY IS SEEKING TO ACCOMPLISH.

The scant legislation apparently passed for their benefit has been so distorted as to injure those whom it pretended to help.

"The working class of the United States can not expect any remedy for its wrongs from the present ruling class or from the dominant parties. So long as a small number of individuals are permitted to use the common resources of the nation's wealth for their private profit in competition with each other and for the exploitation of their fellow men, industrial depressions are bound to occur at certain intervals. No currency reform or other legislative measure proposed by capitalist reformers can avail against these fatal results of a system of utter anarchy in production.

"So long as the wealth production of the country is based on individual competition the fierce struggles of this competition will inevitably lead to combinations and trusts. No amount of government regulation, or of publicity, or of restrictive legislation will arrest the natural course of modern industrial development.

"So long as our courts, legislatures and executive offices remain in the hands of the ruling classes and their agents, our government will be used in the interests of these classes as against the toilers.

"Political parties are but the expression of economic class interests. The Republican, the Democratic and the so-called 'Independence' parties and all parties other than the Socialist Party, are financed, directed and controlled by the representatives of different groups of the ruling class.

"In the maintenance of class government both the Democratic and Republican parties have been equally guilty. The Republican party has had control of the national government and has been directly and actively responsible for these wrongs. The Democratic party, while saved from direct responsibility by its political impotence, has shown itself equally subservient to the aims of the capitalist class whenever and wherever it has been in power.

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Astoria Too, Sees the Fleet

A Celebration Long to Be Remembered---One of the Undesirables Expresses Himself on the "Fleeting" Patriotism.

Astoria, Ore., May, 20, 1908.

I presume that the 20th of May, 1908, will go down through the history of the coming centuries as one of the greatest days that Astoria, (Astoria too, the Venice of America, the oldest town of the Northwest) has ever known.

The mayor, our mighty Mayor Herman Wise, has declared a holiday and the banks and stores are going to close, even including the mayor's own store, and profits are going to be thrown to the wind (maybe).

All the river steamers, and the coast steamer, the Roanoke, have been engaged for the celebrators of this great holiday. The river steamers will take you to some lighthouse or other and the coast steamer will take you right out over the Columbia River bar onto the briny deep, (the fare on the river steamer is \$1.00 and on the Roanoke \$5.00). Not every one can go on the Roanoke, as the mighty Astoria Citizens' Alliance, excuse me I mean Ananias club, please excuse me once more, I mean the Chamber of Commerce, has first choice and the common scrubs with their \$5.00 then stand a show. Our railroad also is going to run special trains to points on the beach where there are high places and lots of wind and rain for the benefit of the patriotic people at so much per head.

Thousands of working people are going (at least that is the hope) to patronize these various excursions and blow their hard earned dollars. (Somehow or other those profits keep intruding themselves). And for what are they going to blow their dollars. Why the ones that go to the lighthouse and beach points will see, (provided the weather is clear) several little streaks of smoke far out on the sea with maybe (Oh, joy!) a speck of something visible beneath the streaks of smoke, and the ones that go on the Roanoke will see many people hanging their heads over the railing of the steamer and feeding the fishes the breakfast that they ate, (they the people) before going aboard the ship, and also provided they get here when advertised, also will see what it is

that is making the above said streaks of smoke, viz. the Atlantic Fleet of slaughter houses.

Wonderful sight, machines of destruction made for no other purpose than to destroy things of usefulness, things that we have been countless generations studying out and perfecting. Made to kill and cripple and make widows and orphans, to separate families, and to make out of those who serve and are not killed, sodden, senseless, drunken, mindless brutes. Made to make working people at a word of command not only kill other working people that they have never seen and who could not and would not harm them except for this brutal training, not only this but if commanded to kill their own father, their own brothers or even the one that brought them into the world, their mother. All this that capitalistic profits may continue.

Does the workingman that is in the navy (or army) have the excuse even that he is making any kind of profit for himself. Not at all. He is fed like a brute, treated and kicked like a brute, and paid wages that barely keeps him in tobacco and booze. And being cut off from all home surroundings and influence, becomes of course, a brute in time himself.

And who will do all this celebrating? A few of the masters who are class conscious, and a great mass of working people who are (well to make it easy), densely, stupidly ignorant. They will whoop and hurrah at the sight of machines made for no other purpose than to kill members of their own class. They will think they are patriotic and talk about their country, when nine out of ten of them, depending on what they themselves have, do not possess enough country to be buried in and have to depend on the charity of their friends to keep out of the potters field. They will spend their last penny celebrating the machines that have made paupers and slaves out of them and think they have done a praiseworthy act.

Can these kind of slaves be awakened? GOD KNOWS, but he won't give it away. —JOHN BEARD.

NOTHING DAUNTS THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTIONIST.

Six months ago I saw an old man upon a platform. At midnight employees took the chairs from the stage and let down the curtain. Annoyed at being kept up so late, they moved the furniture noisily. But the white-haired patriarch did not stop. He stepped to the front and spoke louder. He wildly waved a paper. His beautiful bearded face was illuminated as if with an aureole. He was the apotheosis of enthusiasm. His voice quivered—but with passion, not with fear. His hands trembled—but from emotion not from age. One expression constantly recurred in his speech. It was the word "svoboda"—what other word is necessary?

Russia is famous for its circles, but the circle of Tchaykovsky was the most important of them all. Sophia Perovskaya, Stepanik, Kuprianoff, Kropotkin—these belonged to it. Its influence was felt in every province of Russia. The government trembled before it. Yet time and treachery crushed it. Nearly all its members were tortured in prisons, hanged on scaffolds or exiled to Siberia. A few escaped. Nicholas Tchaykovsky was one of the few. For thirty years he has lived in other countries, preaching the one thing in the world worth preaching—Freedom! He is known by the noblest title that man has given to man—"Father of the Russian Revolution." Since he fled from his native land another generation has arisen, but they, too, are his children. The veteran pined to be among the youths. At last desire conquered discretion, and old Tchaykovsky went back to Russia. So did Breshkovsky go back, and Leo Deutsch went back, and Olga Liubatovitch went back, and Nicholas Morosovitch went back, and Hermann Lopatin went back. So do they nearly all go back—to death.

Tchaykovsky tonight is in that hell of horrors—the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul. More sublime characters, more exalted martyrs, more profound thinkers have languished in this ghastly tomb than in any other that

was built to hold captive the lovers of liberty. Hundreds of names I could quote you, and every one of them a loftier soul than the heroes whose exploits are sung by poets and whose features are carved by sculptors.

Father, you could have spent the evening of your life in the rays of a shining sun. You could have sat quietly beneath the olive, enjoying the singing birds and the flowing brooks. A cosy armchair, a glowing fireside, a well-filled library, a loving comrade, care and comfort, peace and plenty—all these could have been yours. Instead you chose that grim coffin where the living are buried, that ghostly grave where the feet forget to walk and the tongue cannot speak, but where the heart always suffers and the brain can snap at any moment.

Father of the Revolution, you will perish among your children.

Father, farewell.

Father, with tears and love and outstretched arms and saddened souls, farewell.

Father, with our young spirits praying that the flame of your fire may leap up and burn in us, farewell.—Victor Robinson in The Public.

CO-OPERATIVE STORE MEETING.

The committees from the different labor organizations of Helena met last Sunday in the parlors of the Workers' Club and inaugurated a movement for a workingmen's co-operative store in Helena.

Michael Corbett was elected temporary president and John Taylor temporary secretary.

Over \$300.00 was subscribed at this meeting. Next Sunday, May 31, another meeting will be held at the same place to draw up by-laws and effect a permanent organization. It is the intention to hold meetings every Sunday night to discuss matters pertaining to the welfare of the organization.

Meetings called promptly at eight o'clock. All union men and those in sympathy with the movement are cordially invited to attend.

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THE PUBLIC.

An editorial in the Independent of May 18th on "Arbitrating Labor Disputes" says that in any Labor difficulty, either strike or lockout "there are always three sides, the employer, the employees and the public." That is about as true a statement as to say that in the South, during the war of the Rebellion there were three sides, the Northern army, the Southern army and the planter who wanted to be let alone. But his economic interests would not allow him to be let alone and sooner or later he discovered that one side or the other was HIS side and he lined up accordingly. We hear too much talk about the rights of the public. It assumes that the public has no responsibility in the matter of labor disputes except the right to kick whenever it is discommoded. The public is a big baby; always trying to shirk its responsibility yet ready to blubber whenever its toes are stepped on. Mrs. A. wants to talk to Mrs. B. and she calls up central. The girl connects them promptly and they have their talk. Suppose you say to Mrs. A. that the girl at the central station is not getting enough wages to live decently. Do you suppose you could interest her? Not once in a thousand times. But some morning Mrs. A. wants to talk with Mrs. B. and there is no girl at the station to connect them. Then she begins to wonder what is the matter. She enquires and finds that there is a strike on. By the time she has walked over to Mrs. B.'s every time she wants to talk to her for a month she may begin to see that somehow or other she is interested in the wages that are paid to the girl at the central station.

There never was a labor dispute in which there were three sides. There never was and there never will come a time when the "public" was not interested or should not be interested in any dispute between employer and employees. But if the public will take no interest in times of peace then it deserves no consideration in times of war. A public that is too cruel, and selfish and lazy and indifferent to consider how its servants are fed has no right to any consideration when those servants rebel.

There is a class struggle going on in this world today. The hosts of Labor and the hosts of Capitalism are in arms. Today, perhaps, a flag of truce may be flying, and the public sleeping peacefully between the two contending armies, dreams of peace and good will forevermore. But there can be no permanent peace so long as the wage system prevails. No question is ever settled until it is settled right, and so sure as the sun shines, tomorrow the battle will be on again and the dreams of the dear public will be disturbed. Every member of the public belongs to one or the other of these armies, and the sooner they find out which side their economic interests determine as THEIR side and line up accordingly, the sooner the war will be ended.

The idle, the vicious, the lazy, the drunken, the improvident, the ne'er-dwells that the opponents of Socialism dwell so much upon are all the products of capitalism. They were sired by greed and suckled by graft and can never be eliminated under the present system of society. They are the ulcers of a diseased social body and will disappear when the social body is restored to health. It is not to be expected that these social ills can be cured in a day, but the tendency of Nature is ever upward and two generations of Socialism will rejuvenate the world.

The associate editor of the News confesses to being a little bit swelled over an article in The Chicago Daily Socialist of May 20th which gives him a great boost as the author of the "Join the Party" leaflet we are sending out. The only trouble is, he didn't write it. The advertisement for "Eight Million Men" was written by Comrade Harry Nevills of Great Falls while the other side of the leaflet, "Join the Party" was written by Lena Morrow Lewis and has gone the rounds of the Socialist press. But then those who read the article in the Daily will give us credit for it for a little while and most of them will never read this answer so I will get the credit for it anyhow—from those who don't know me.

Don't talk so much about fighting for your rights. It takes a good deal more grit and stamina to WORK for your rights than it does to fight for them but if you work for them right you may not have to fight for them.

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS.

The room adjoining the superintendent's office in a large department store was crowded with women and girls. All were seeking employment. In gold letters the word "Private" appeared on the great massive door, the door which separated the crowd of waiting, anxious, unemployed women from the man who was to decide their fate. In the private office a keen, aggressive, unsympathetic appearing man sat at a mahogany desk. The carpet was of Brussels. The furnishings were expensive in the extreme.

Without arising from his chair the superintendent pressed a button, and one of the women was shown in.

He scowled at her and almost demanded her name, age, place of residence, experience, and salary expected.

The answers were given promptly, politely, and with no attempt to deceive. The superintendent was satisfied with the applicant, but he did not say so.

The position to be filled was in the ribbon department, and the man behind the mahogany desk gave his instructions as follows:

"We will expect you to dress in a black skirt and white waist, unless we advise you to the contrary."

"It will be necessary for you to be vaccinated."

"The hours are 8 to 6 with 30 minutes off for lunch."

"Whenever necessary you will be expected to work evenings until 9 o'clock without extra pay."

"We will give you \$4 a week to start with, and advance you if you prove to be a good saleslady. Many of our girls are paid \$6, \$7, \$8 and even as high as \$10 per week."

"Oh, yes, I know it is hard to dress well, and obtain board and lodging on \$4 a week, but it can be done. Other girls manage it, and after you get acquainted with some of them, they will explain how easy it is—to arrange such matters."

The prospective employee blushed. The superintendent had not said in so many words that he was at the head of one of the greatest schools of prostitution in the world, but his meaning was clear.

Thanking him in a trembling voice for his kind offer, the woman arose and left the room—another woman was shown in.

How the former gained the street she never knew. Everything whirled before her eyes. All she could hear was an offer of "Four dollars" a week, and the insult which followed.

The world moved on. The position at the ribbon counter was filled.

A week later a woman committed suicide.

In her room—a cold and desolate room—they found her. Also there was a brief note which read:

"I prefer death to life, as life has been revealed to me. I pity the shop girls. So would the world if the world knew all."—E. W. H. in Common Sense.

INGERSOLL'S GOLDEN PLEA.

I do not know what inventions are in the brains of the future; I do not know what garments of glory may be woven for the world in the loom of the great ocean of discovery; I do not know what science will do for us. I do know that science did just take a handful of sand and make the telescope, and with it read the starry leaves of heaven; I know that science took the thunderbolts from the hands of Jupiter, and now the electric spark, freighted with thought and love, flashes under the waves of the sea; I know that science stole tear from the cheek of unpaid labor, converted it into steam, and created a giant that turns with tireless arms the countless wheels of toil; I know that we have taken advantage of fire and flame and wind and sea; these have no backs to be whipped; they have no children to be sold, no cradles to be violated; I know that science has given us better pictures and better books; I know it has given us better wives and better husbands and more beautiful children; I know it has enriched a thousand-fold our lives; and for that reason I am in favor of intellectual liberty.—Robert Ingersoll.

IDAHO

T. J. COONROD, Secretary, Emmett, Idaho.

Local Boise sends \$7.50 for dues stamps.

Local Falls Store and Florence each send \$5.00 donation. Thanks.

Local Tahoe admitted three new members May 2 and are planning a picnic July 4th.

Sent 40 Red Cards to Local Twin Falls not long since and now comes an order for 20 more. Some "Undesirables" down there, I guess.

The Local at Mullan (Finnish) is about 50 strong and now comes the (English) Comrades of Mullan wanting to join the Party in a separate body and we bid them welcome as an English branch.

The first ballot of the State Central committee failed to choose a date or place for holding the State convention and only elected one State Executive Committeeman, John Chenoweth, leaving three to be elected. Second ballot closes June 3. Lewiston as place and July 4 as date was in the lead for State convention first ballot.

Comrade W. H. Gleason of Orofino writes: "Our Reading Room is running in full blast. We have about \$30.00 worth of books and more coming. We have the 'Plutes' on the run, as they don't say 'Anarchist' or 'Divide up' to us any more. We are going to elect our county commissioner and state representative sure'."

WISCONSIN NOTES.

The Wisconsin Social-Democrats have called their state convention to meet June 13 in Milwaukee. The basis of representation will be one delegate for every branch of the Social-Democratic party, and one additional delegate for every 100 Social-Democratic votes (or major fraction thereof) cast in the respective county of the branch; in counties containing more than one branch these delegates to be divided according to branches, wards and townships. A good program has been provided. The convention will assemble the evening of June 13, and after singing by the United Socialist Singing societies, consisting of 100 members, music by the orchestra and an address of welcome by Assemblyman Thompson, the convention will proceed to organize. This session will be followed by a social and dance. The forenoon session of the next day will take up the platform and resolutions. The afternoon session will be given up to five minute reports from the locals, plans for the state and presidential campaign, and methods of organization and propaganda, this program to be interspersed by music by the orchestra. Then will follow a banquet with toasts. In the evening session the state candidates will be nominated.

Since the Social-Democrats showed their strength in the Milwaukee Charter convention, Mayor Rose insists that it is not a legal body. He claims that the Socialists have captured the convention, and thinks this is a good reason why it should be put out of business altogether. Evidently he is afraid that the new charter will have a Socialist tinge. But the Social-Democrats will not be so easily bluffed and will hold the ground they have gained, which may lead to such important results in the future.

CAPITALIST "MORALITY."

Vote-brokerage thrives in Chicago, and especially now, under the Republican mayor, Busse, and his corrupt police administration. For Chicago is regarded as having the rottenest police administration in the United States. It is estimated that the vote brokers in Chicago can furnish from 12,000 to 15,000 fraudulent votes on short notice, and the large, floating population offers excellent opportunities for transferring fraudulent votes between that city and St. Louis, Milwaukee, Cleveland and other cities! In St. Paul the floaters are exchanged with Minneapolis.

In Louisville every voter must have a registration certificate. These certificates are bought in large numbers and supplied to the colonizers and repeaters who go from precinct to precinct, many of them voting from ten to thirty times a day. It is by this continuous performance that a body of one hundred trained repeaters can have such a tremendous effect at an election. Louisville is believed to be in a chain with Cincinnati, St. Louis and Indianapolis, whereby the different sets of politicians provide their brothers in the other cities with fifty or other numbers of "citizens" for use in swaying elections.—The Vanguard.

The income at national headquarters of the Socialist Party during April amounted to \$6,413, including \$4,100 for convention assessment; expenditures were nearly \$2,000, leaving a balance of about \$7,000.

PLATFORM OF SOCIALIST PARTY

(Continued from Page 1.)

The old chattel slave owning aristocracy of the south, which was the backbone of the Democratic party, has been supplanted by a child slave plutocracy. In the great cities of our country the Democratic party is allied with the criminal element or with the Republican party in maintaining the interest of the possessing class.

"The various 'reform' movements and parties which have sprung up within recent years are but the clumsy expression of widespread popular discontent with the present system of exploitation and graft. They are not based on an intelligent understanding of the historical development of civilization and of the economic and political needs of our time. They are bound to perish, as the numerous middle class reform movements of the past have perished.

"As measures calculated to strengthen the power of the working class in its fights for the realization of this ultimate aim, and to increase its power of resistance against capitalist oppression, we advocate and pledge ourselves and our elected officers to the following program:

WORKING PROGRAM CONTAINING THE GENERAL DEMANDS.

- 1. The collective ownership of railroads, telegraphs, telephones, steamship and all other means of transportation and communication.
2. The national ownership of all industries which are organized on a national scale and in which competition has virtually ceased to exist.
3. The extension of the public domain to include mines, quarries, oil wells, forests and water power.
4. The scientific restoration of timber lands and the reclamation of swamp lands.
5. The Socialist movement is primarily an economic and political movement. It is not concerned with religious beliefs.

Industrial Demands.

- 6. The improvements of the industrial conditions of the workers:
(a) By shortening the workday in keeping with the increased productivity of machinery.
(b) By securing to every worker a rest period of not less than a day and a half in each week, including Sunday when practicable.
(c) By securing a more vigorous inspection of workshops and factories.
(d) By forbidding the employment of women in all industries harmful to their morals or health.
(e) By forbidding the employment of children under sixteen years of age.
(f) By forbidding the interstate transportation of the products of child labor, of convict labor and of all un-inspected factories.
(g) By abolishing public charity and substituting in its place compulsory insurance against unemployment, illness, accidents, invalidism, old age and death.

Political Demands.

- 7. The extension of inheritance taxes, graduated in proportion to the amount of the bequests and to the nearness of kin.
8. A graduated income tax.
9. The political emancipation of women, the initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall.
10. The abolition of the senate.
11. The abolition of the veto power of the president.
12. That the Constitution be made amendable by majority vote.
13. Government by majority. In all elections where no candidate receives a majority the result should be determined by a second ballot.
14. The enactment of further measures for general education and for the conservatism of health. The elevation of the present bureau of education into a department, and the creation of a department of public health.
15. The separation of the present Bureau of Labor from the Department of Commerce and Labor, and its elevation to the rank of a department.
16. That all judges be elected by the people for short terms, and that the power to issue injunctions should be curbed by immediate legislation.
17. The free administration of justice.

MAGAZINE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS.

"The Little Socialist Magazine" for Boys and Girls is the latest craft that has spread its sails to the Socialist breeze. It is published by The Little Socialist Publishing company of Lawrence, Mass., 25 cents a year, and is just the thing to put in the hands of the boys and girls. It should have a hundred thousand subscribers in less than a year. Once we get the children to understand Socialism and we will have a changed world in twenty years. Success to the Little Socialist. May its pennant wave till it sails triumphantly into the harbor of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Anton Miekush John Gollmyer THE PARK BEER HALL BEST BEER IN TOWN EIGHT YEAR OLD PANAMA CLUB RYE AND LEXINGTON BELLE SOUR MASH WHISKY Livingston 105 East Park Montana

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me for further information so that a general plan of procedure can be worked out. A Socialist Stage Society can be formed by any number of people in any town. The first number of the "Socialist Theatre Magazine" will contain full information as to how the New York Society is organized; the constitution will be printed in full and the plan of our organization will be outlined so that your organization may follow in our foot steps. Any Local or Comrade desiring further information will do well to communicate with me, asking any question that may arise in the minds of the Comrades, or making new suggestions so that I may reply to them in the first issue of the magazine. The magazine can then be made the mouthpiece and central organ of this National Socialist Dramatic Movement. To carry on this far-reaching but simple plan, I request all Locals and individuals interested in helping this attractive and significant work to order copies of the first number of the magazine, so as to make the magazine a success at the very start. The price per copy is ten cents; annual subscription one dollar. Please fill out the attached order slip and forward it to me so that I may proceed with the execution of the work. Fraternally yours, JULIUS HOPP. 126 West 23d St., New York City.

ANOTHER MINERS' STRIKE. The 17,000 miners in the Indiana coal fields went on strike last week. The chief question at issue was that of loading impurities in cars sent from the mines to be weighed. The operators suggested a fine of 50 cents for loading impurities to the amount of fifty pounds, \$1.50 for the second offense and discharge for the third offense. The miners also wanted to do away with the clause under which they may be fined \$1 each for each day a miner is idle through an unauthorized strike, but the operators declared that the clause was their only protection against unjust strikes and refused to do away with it. No sooner did the national convention of the Socialist Party adjourn when 11 organizers and lecturers entered the field under the auspices of the national office. The number will probably be increased in the near future. The various states will also throw speakers into the field during the next few weeks.

Poet's Corner

COURAGE, STRENGTH AND LOVE.

By Charlotte Perkins Gilman.
It takes great STRENGTH to live where you belong
When other people think that you are wrong;
People you love, and who love you, and whose
Approval is a pleasure you would choose;
To bear this pressure and succeed at length
In living your belief—well, it takes strength!

And COURAGE, too. But what does courage mean,
Save strength to help you face a pain foreseen?
Courage to undertake this lifelong strain
Of setting yours against your grand-sire's brain;
Dangerous risk of walking lone and free
Out of the easy paths that used to be,
And the fierce pain of hurting those we love
When love meets truth, and truth must ride above?
But the best courage man has ever shown
Is daring to cut loose and think alone.

It takes great LOVE to stir a human heart
To live beyond the others and apart.
A love that is not shallow, is not small;
Is not for one, or two, but for them all.
Love that can wound love, for its higher need;
Love that can leave love, tho' the heart may bleed;
Love that can lose love, family and friend;
Yet steadfastly live, loving to the end.
A love that asks no answer, that can live
Moved by one burning deathless force—to give.

Love, strength, and courage; courage, strength, and love
The heroes of all time are built thereof.

WHAT WENDELL PHILLIPS SAID.

William Lloyd Garrison was the first man to begin a movement designed to annihilate slavery. He announced the principle, arranged the method, gathered the forces, enkindled the zeal, started the argument, and finally marshalled the nation for and against the system in a conflict that came near rending the Union. * * * This boy (Garrison) stood alone, utterly alone, at first. There was no sympathy anywhere! His hands were empty; one single penniless comrade was his only helper. Starving on bread and water, he could command the use of types, that was all. Trade endeavored to crush him; the intellectual life of America disowned him. * * * No sooner did the church discern the impetuous boy's purpose than out of that dead, sluggish cloud thundered and lightened a malignity which could not find words to express its hate. The very pulpit where I stand saw this apostle of liberty and justice sore beset, always in great need, and often in deadly peril; yet it never gave him one word of approval or sympathy. During all his weary struggle, Mr. Garrison felt its weight in the scale against him. In those years it led the sect which arrogates to itself the name of Liberty. If this was the bearing of so-called Liberals, what bitterness of opposition, judge ye, did not the others show? A mere boy confronts church, commerce, and college; a boy with neither training nor experience! Almost at once the assault tells, the whole country is hotly interested. What created such life under those ribs of death? Whence came that instinctive knowledge? Where did he get that sound common sense? Whence did he summon that almost unerring sagacity which, starting agitation on an untried field, never committed an error, provoking year by year additional enthusiasm, gathering, as he advanced, helper after helper to his side!

I marvel at the miraculous boy. He had no means. Where he got, whence he summoned, how he created, the elements which changed 1830 into 1835—1830 apathy, indifference, ignorance, icebergs into 1835, every man intelligently hating him, and mobs assaulting him in every city—is a marvel which none but older men than I can adequately analyze and explain. He said to a friend who reproached him with him on the heat and severity of his language: "Brother, I have need to be all on fire, for I have mountains of ice about me to melt."

International

India.
Famine still persists, and there are over 1,385,000 persons on relief works, a considerable increase having been shown during the last week reported on.

Germany.
The growth of the Socialist influence on the youth has so alarmed the authorities that Conservative and other brigades, and homes for the youth are being started at a feverish rate. Anything to keep the youth from Socialist peril. No part of the Socialist is followed by the capitalist press with such interest as that of the organization of the youth, and it may well be that not the least of the services of the Socialist Party, in the near future, will be in the fact that its competition will cause the capitalists to make serious concessions in the hope of maintaining their influence on the growing youth. The greater these concessions the better for us if we can show that it is due to our competition, and to the need of countering our influence.

The Prussian Landtag election has been set for June. The three-class system prevents considerable gains for the Socialists. By some Comrades, extra parliamentary measures are advocated. The majority, however, believe in the political agitation.

England.
An American is struck by the evangelical energy which characterizes the Socialist propaganda in England; it would be hard to match it on the continent or in this country.

The party papers have set themselves to raise 20,000 shillings for a campaign throughout the country. The Clarion has organized a chain of cycling clubs which make frequent runs to hold meetings or distribute literature, and various Party Locals have organized choirs which furnish music at public meetings. But the chief weapon of the English proletarian is argument. There probably never was in the world such an epidemic of debating as rages now in the British Isles. Before clubs and into public gatherings the Socialist is sent by his organization to defend his faith. The Party papers give a constant moving picture of English economic conditions. The horrors of unemployment, underfeeding, lack of housing and other atrocities, are revealed in articles that leave little to desire in the way of detailed information and vigorous statement. There is disagreement within the ranks in England, even as here. But internal dissension is not allowed to turn the attack from the capitalist system.

Italy.
The Italian railway employees have finally turned their backs on pure and simple tactics. They met in convention at Rome near the close of January. The convention accepted a straight revolutionary program; the purpose of the union organization is, it is declared, the preparation of the workers to take over the railways and operate them in the interest of society. The most significant resolution proposed, however, was one which represented the Socialist program. Since the Italian railways are owned and run by the state the government is watching developments with a good deal of uneasiness; and the bourgeois papers have been plunged into a most undignified state of excitement.

The May celebrations at Rome were numerously attended, and great enthusiasm prevailed. In the Parma district a strike of peasants was declared, which has since continued. The number of the strikers is said to be 40,000, and the town population is taking sides. Large bodies of cavalry and infantry have been drafted into the district; some conflicts have already taken place between strikers and blacklegs. Women are taking a most aggressive part in the struggle.

France.
The government called out a very large number of soldiers on May Day in Paris, but there were no disturbances. M. Clemenceau will no doubt claim great credit for having saved society, but we may also congratulate the leaders of the workers on having abstained from any action which would furnish a pretext for the use of force.

We heartily congratulate our French comrades upon the results of the municipal elections in Paris and in the provinces. The Socialist vote cast shows a considerable advance not only in the metropolis and the great industrial centers, but in the smaller towns and country districts. The summary of results given by Longuet in "L'Humanité" proves this conclusively. Of course the reactionary journals, Liberal and Conservative, in England as in France, declare that this means a setback for Socialism, especially as the elections passed off quite quietly. That is all right. If our enemies are thankful for such mercies as these, they must be in a terrible fright.

National

By recent referendum, May Strickland of Anderson, Ind., was elected State Secretary and S. M. Reynolds of Terre Haute, a member of the National Committee.

By a recent referendum Tom Clifford, 3517 Fulton Road, Cleveland, and H. H. Caldwell, 309 Bank St., Dayton, were elected members of the National committee for Ohio.

The Woman's committee, elected by the National Convention, recommended the appointment of Comrade Anna Maley as National Organizer. The same has been confirmed by the National Executive committee.

All the hatters of Orange, N. J., nearly 3,000 in number, have been locked out by the bosses' combination. The immediate cause is that the hatters stood by the women trimmers, whom the bosses attempted to victimize.

Comrades Eugene V. Debs and Ben Hanford, the candidates of the Party, will meet a sub-committee of the National Executive committee at National headquarters within two weeks, to arrange the general plans for the speaking campaign.

Eight thousand union railroad men in the United States and Canada were represented by 120 delegates at the fourth biennial convention of the International Brotherhood of Railway Employees in Boston last week. The convention lasted four days.

The railway trackmen are planning for the establishment of a home for their aged and indigent members. It is proposed to acquire a tract of 500 acres near Fort Scott, Kan., as the location for the institution.

The National Executive Committee in accordance with the instructions of the Convention has provided for the submission of the platform and Constitution to a referendum vote of the entire Party membership. The latter to be submitted in the following form: "That amendments adopted by the Convention shall be submitted together with the corresponding sections of the old Constitution. The amendment to be printed in italics."

Contrary to the reports sent to the rest of the world by the capitalist press agencies, the municipal elections in France have resulted in a satisfactory increase in the Socialist vote. In Paris, for instance, the vote increased from 95,164 in 1904 to 105,461 in 1908, on the first ballot. In the northern part of France the increase in the Socialist vote was noteworthy. In Lille the vote increased from 12,610 to 16,506. The returns from some other towns are as follows: Roubaix, 9997 to 11277; Leus, 2995 to 4051; Lievin, 2901 to 3621; Tourcoing, 1733 to 3150; Wattrelos, 1741 to 2276, and Limoge, 14000 to 18000.

HOW THEY DO IT IN MILWAUKEE

Read the following and find the sort of politics that made Milwaukee famous. But those people work. They go in debt. They don't sit around and let evolution evolve.

The total amount of literature distributed by the Milwaukee Socialists during their recent city campaign amounted to 1,200,000 pieces of literature. Now do not think this is a misprint, and read it twelve thousand pieces. It means just what it says, one million, two hundred thousand papers, leaflets, dodgers, etc.

Add to this, the Comrades in the Tenth ward of Milwaukee have devised a fine scheme of propaganda. A Comrade leaves at every house a copy of "Socialism Made Plain" and "Socialistische Briefe", in order to reach both English and German readers. With this he leaves notice that he will call again next day for these books, and that any one wishing to purchase them can leave the price in an envelope, which accompanies the books. The first experiment resulted in a sale of every third book left for inspection.

With all this stirring up of the public it is no wonder that an assistant librarian in our public library reports that never in the history of the Milwaukee City Library were so many Socialist books consulted and taken out on cards as during the last month. When you can once get the people to reading, you are making Socialists very fast, and intelligent Socialists at that.

An organization of young people's auxiliary Social-Democratic clubs is now on foot in Wisconsin. The object is to give the young folks social and educational centers, and at the same time to train the children of Socialists and others for activity in the party as soon as they become fit for party membership.

The total cost of the Milwaukee campaign, roughly speaking, was between five and six thousand dollars. Literary campaigns are expensive, but the results are lasting.

Women's Clubs

FOR FREE MOTHERS.

One of the most interesting movements of the present century is the struggle which English women are making for the right of suffrage. The usual reply of the legislator to the plea for women suffrage is that "the women themselves don't want to vote." The irrepressible activity of these energetic women has answered that argument most emphatically.

Indeed the eagerness with which these women brave arrest and imprisonment shows a very deep-seated discontent with the present condition of woman. True, from our standpoint, the game is not quite worth the candle. The suffragists are beginning at the wrong end. Political liberty is good with economic freedom. Without economic freedom it is nothing. This holds just as true for women as for workmen.

But, in the case of women, the question of economic emancipation is doubly complex. It is not only the question of class emancipation. It is also a question of women's natural duties and functions, and whether these make her a natural dependent.

At present two totally different types of women are being evolved. There is the wage-working woman, who joins in the social labor of production, and is more or less developed in character and independence by this social contact, but is childless. And there is the mother, who is giving the world its next generation, but who is punished for this by economic dependence, by isolated and therefore uninteresting labor, and by the mental degeneracy which is its natural result.

It must be confessed that each type is only half a human being. And till some system can be worked out which will unite the two, which can permit the working woman to be a mother, and the mother to be a free woman, the woman question will never be settled.

There are some scientists, and even, we regret to say, some Socialists, who claim that this cannot be. They insist that the very function of motherhood tends to mental inferiority and that for this reason woman must always remain a dependent.

If this were true, if humanity could only be perpetuated by sacrificing one-half of it, then it would be well for the human race to come to an end at once. If the world is so constructed by nature that it must necessarily be composed of two classes, a superior and exploiting sex and an inferior and exploited sex, then surely there could be nothing better than Schopenhauer's "universal suicide", or rather universal race suicide. That would be the only way of getting even with such a cruel and cynical law of nature.

But fortunately there is no such natural law.

The greatest intellectual triumph of this age, the discovery which has revolutionized all branches of science and is opening wide doors on every side to new and startling scientific truths—the discovery of radium—was made by a woman and a mother.

It is not motherhood that dwarfs the brain and cripples the intellect. It is the narrow round of isolated, un-social labor which keeps the housewife in the same identical, antiquated old treadmill in which her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother wore down their lives, generation after generation. The world's industry has moved on with giant strides. Hers has remained at a standstill.

What to do? Take her out of her little narrow prison-kitchen and make her a social worker? Alas, under the wage system that also is a cruel treadmill. If domestic labor dwarfs the woman, wage labor crushes her.

So in the end we find that the same economic problem confronts the woman as the man. If the abolition of the wage system is necessary for the workingman, far more is it an almost life and death necessity for every woman. Until that is brought about, no woman can complete a happy and well-rounded existence.

And that is why we say the suffragists are beginning at the wrong end. By all means let them work for universal suffrage, and good luck to their efforts!

But at the same time let them remember that economic freedom is the only security for political liberty. Let them know that for men as for women the one open door is through the abolition of wage-slavery. First of all, let them become convinced that the real salvation for them and their sisters is through a new economic system. And then let them work and fight for the Socialist Republic!—The Vanguard.

Women find it hard all the centuries through so far as personal liberty goes. A woman is indeed free who has a hard choice between marrying a wage slave and competing with him in the labor market for a job.

What difference does it make to a woman how fast the world develops while she retains the same relative position that she has held for ages in regard to the general push.

Perhaps women do have their hands

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full, but still there is room in them for the ballot.

Do you think food adulterations would receive any check if women had the franchise?
A woman's idea is that it is more profitable to raise healthy boys and girls than it is to raise the general average of interest on investments.—Grace Woodward Smith in The Socialist Woman.

JANE ADDAMS ON POLICE ADMINISTRATION DESPOTISM.
The response of Miss Jane Addams of Hull House, to the more than usually bitter attacks upon social settlements in connection with the Averbuch affair in Chicago, rises to the needs of the time. It appears in Charities and the Commons, and it stands as a well founded indictment of police practices that have had the effect of impressing upon our immigrant population a conviction that there is little difference between American liberty and Russian autocracy except the name. The specifications of Miss Addams' calm indictment will come as a surprise to readers who have depended for their news of the Averbuch affair upon newspaper falsifications. All the more should they command attention. One of her statements and comments should be spread far and wide until everybody with an American soul realizes its significance. It is this:
"There are many hundreds of adherents in the colony (Russian Jews) to the theory that the boy (Averbuch) was obscurely induced to go to the Chief's house by a man in the employ of the Russian government. Certainly nothing could happen which would so well serve the purpose of the Russian government, and the American public is taking it in exactly the way which makes it most valuable to the Russians. Would it not provoke to ironic laughter that very Nemesis which presides over the destinies of nations, if the most autocratic government yet remaining in civilization should succeed in pulling back into its own autocratic methods the youngest and most daring experiment in democratic government which the world has ever seen?"—The Public.

The phenomenal progress of the woman suffrage movement in Europe continues. Now it is The Netherlands which comes forward with votes in national elections for all tax-payers over 25 years of age, men and women alike, and for all married women whose husbands are tax-payers.

The Wisconsin state convention has been called for June 13 and 14. The basis of representation will be one delegate for every branch and one additional delegate for every 100 Social-Democratic votes cast in the respective district. It is intended to make this a record-breaking convention. A splendid program has been prepared and a large attendance is expected.

Efforts are being made to prepare the way to amalgamate the journeyman tailors, garment workers, shirt waist and laundry workers and ladies' garment workers. The four organizations have a combined membership of nearly 150,000. If the plan succeeds this new industrial body would become a power and it would be the third largest body in the A. F. of L.

THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING.
The laborer has brief time for thought, And the demagog finds him easy prey;
But facts are stubborn and come unsought,
And experience teaches us all one day.

What are the facts? Let us give them room.
Whom does protection protect? Let us see.
O weary woman at spindle and loom,
O strong man toiling on land and sea,
O puny child at the coal-pit's mouth,
O wage-worker, east, west, north and south!
Do you think the tariff was made for you?
Was framed to give Labor its honest due?
Did you ever compare the duties laid
On the rich man's fads and the poor man's food?
Do you know what duty on rice is paid,
And how much on the bright gems, many-hued?
Did it ever strike you that flannel pays more
Than stockings of silk or a sable boa?
Don't you think that you have failed to see
That pauper labor comes duty-free?

Whose child do you think is that bloated trust?
Protection begot it as sure as fate,
Begot it in greed and in fierce gold lust,
And it lives on the blood of the "Third Estate."

What has high tariff for Labor done?
Will you weigh the results, O Child of Toil?
Which is it—the rich or the poor—has won?
Who is the victor? To whom is the spoil?
Ah, friends, your birthright you've madly sold
For a mess of pottage you never got:
Your vote gives the rich man still more gold
And hangs at your hearth an empty pot.

So long as Capital molds the law,
And of protection there's left a rag,
The pudding will fall in the rich man's maw;
And the laborer's share will be—the bag.
W. E. P. FRENCH, U. S. A.
Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York.

FARM LABORERS ORGANIZE.
Something new is occurring that will cause the labor-haters to chatter like a flock of magpies. The farm laborers near Vincennes, Ind., have caught the organization fever. They announce that their craft will be formed into unions and demands will be made for an eight-hour day, \$1.50 per diem and keep, and if refusals to grant the concessions are met with strikes will be inaugurated. The Parry-Post-Van (Cleave aggregation of saviors are in a quandary. If the farmers go on strike, how can court injunctions be made effective and pickets kept moving by the policeman on the beat? It is a problem that will try the souls of the open sweatshoppers.

State Department

Comrade McHugh sends back two of those sub cards already—and the News goes on.

Comrade Platt of Como Local sends in \$3.60 for dues and says they can take speakers in August, September and October.

Roy Pennicott says he can't do without the News and encloses 50 cents worth of Livingston postage stamps to renew.

W. C. Officer of Hunters Hot Springs sends in \$1.00 to renew his subscription and says he is in the fight till the end.

John Beard, one of the old timers in Montana, sends us a few lines about the way to "See the Fleet" in Astoria, and which appears in another column.

Comrade Friday of Manhattan is in evidence with \$1.00 to renew his own and Comrade Weinert's sub. Manhattan will be in line with a local pretty soon.

Comrade Hudson sends for application blanks. He says he intends to organize Bear Creek and Bridger. John is always planning some good for the movement.

Comrade Kopelman of Fargo, N. D., dropped in the News office on Sunday on the hunt for Socialists. He is a good clear Socialist and was pleased to find the News plant in such good shape.

The only McHugh of Butte sends in five dollars for sub cards and \$3.00 for himself and Comrade Bromley on the press fund. In view of recent legislation he wants to know if our new machine will be all right for UNDERGROUND work.

"Enclosed find two applications for membership in Socialist Party. Also cash to pay dues for one year and for one year's subscription to the Montana News." This is the word we get from Carlson Bros., two ranchers of Oswego, Dawson county. How does that sound to some of you people who think there are no Socialists out of the sight of factory smoke?

Well, well, Comrades, isn't it about time the locals began to plan for strawberry and ice cream socials. No reason why every local can't give a social, have a good time and raise some money to push the campaign along.

Comrade Geo. H. Goebel writes from Newark, N. J., to renew his sub. Among other things he says: "Glad to note progress toward getting the outfit you need. If the Montana Socialists would sit down five minutes and realize what your getting it meant to the Party work, you would have the money 24 hours later, even though they had to pawn their shirts to get it for you." Comrades, what can be said, what can be done to make us each and every one realize the importance of rallying to the support of our own party paper. Why, we ought to go at this thing like a gang of kids going at a game of ball. Think what it means to us who have been in the fight for years doing what we could in an individualist sort of a way—think what it means to us to have a press of our very own to sow the seeds of Socialism thick over the brown prairies and evergreen hills of Montana—to carry the message of human brotherhood to every miner and prospector and shepherd and farmer that is struggling in the black morass of capitalism. Comrades, we need your help, we need it now. Your reward will come in the consciousness of having helped in the remodeling of the world. Our opportunities are great. Let us rise to them.

Mrs. Hazlett is making a few dates on her way back from the National convention. She speaks at Fargo, N. D., Glendive, Miles City and Billings, Montana. From Billings she goes down to Sheridan, Deits, Carneyville and possibly some other towns in Wyoming. She will probably be back in Helena to take charge of the editorial work again about June 1.

Comrade Brunner of Ovando, has been in Deer Lodge doing jury duty, and writing from that town he says: "I find this town no good—too much prosperity. Sold two sub cards. So far as I can see it would do no good to send an organizer in here. Only found one good Comrade here and he does not know of any other. I took a lot of reading matter with me that will do some good later on."

Writing from Bliss, Idaho, to renew his subscription, Comrade Shimp says: "Today the convention meets. I had always promised myself the pleasure of attending the convention, but can't possibly get away now. But economic conditions are doing excellent work for the cause, and while the capitalist parties are doing their best to make the masses believe that each can beat the other in reducing exploitation there is no hint of ABOLISHING it, and the Socialist duty becomes plain that to abolish the evils of exploitation it is absolutely necessary to abolish exploitation itself."

The following encouraging letter comes from Sparks, Nevada:

Sparks, Nev., May 19, 1908.
Dear Comrade:—The outlook for the Socialist movement in Nevada is very promising. January 23 of this year our two locals was 43 members and our total locals now we have eight locals with 262 members. Sparks Local had 18 members when Comrade Hazlett visited us about February 1, and we were only a week old. Now we are nearly four months old with 87 members.

The Socialists of this state have hopes of emulating the very laudable example of Montana and establish a state Party newspaper of our own. We are preparing for a state convention and a state ticket this coming election and hope to do better than last election, when we polled .073 of the total average vote. Collected estimates place the probable percentage for the state, at this coming election, at about 25 per cent of the total vote and a majority in some precincts, such as the Socialist Third ward of Sparks.

Fraternally yours,
W. P. EVARTS,
State Organizer,
Sparks, Nev., Box 234.

CHANGING MEETING PLACE OF FEDERATION CONVENTION.

The following communication was received from Lewistown with a request that it be published:

The changing of the place of holding the State convention of the Montana Federation of Labor is an old, old story. Last year the convention was to meet in Lewistown. Suddenly, without being allowed to vote on the proposition, or even being consulted in any way, we were informed that the convention would meet in Helena. To Helena we sent our delegate with charges against the management of the Montana Federation of Labor, and asking explanation and accounting of the funds. Result? Our delegate was not allowed to take his seat, altho we were in good standing. President Fairgrieve would not even allow the delegate to use the floor for a few minutes and would explain nothing.

So the Local No. 7 of the Montana Federation of Labor simply dissolved, and after our dissolution we were informed that our charter was revoked—without a hearing.

President Alex. Fairgrieve made a trip to Lewistown and surrounding

territory a few weeks ago, hoping to reorganize, but he is too well known and his reputation was so frigid that he quickly left—nothing doing.

JOHN A. ROADES, JR.,
Sec'y. of Local No. 7, M. F. of L.,
at time mentioned.

Butte, Mont., May 24, 1908.
To the Comrades of the Socialist Party of Montana.

Comrades:—In the following letter and resolutions, we do not mean to cast any reflections on our worthy Secretary, far from it. But we of Local Butte do wish to arouse our next convention, and ask that they get busy and help our Secretary out of the financial difficulties he has been so long laboring under.

We feel that the entire State Membership wants to know the exact financial standing of our State Party and of the Montana News. And we know that under the present handicap of our State office, we will never be able to get the reports we so wish for.

We believe that by bringing the matter forcibly before our next convention we will obtain knowledge otherwise impossible to get. We believe further that this knowledge will awaken a new energy in the Comrades throughout the state and that much financial good will come of it. In order that our next Convention can have no excuse, we of Local Butte, in regular meeting assembled, May 29, 1908, offer the following resolutions to be submitted to the Party Membership of Montana:

"Whereas, our State Office is in sore straits for financial help; and

"Whereas, our State Membership as a whole is unacquainted with the financial standing of the State Office, and of the Montana News;

"Resolved, that the next convention of the Socialist Party of Montana, be instructed to thoroughly audit the books of the State Office and of the Montana News; and

"Be it further resolved, that said convention report their findings back to the State Membership; and

"Be it further resolved, that said convention be given full power to take such steps as may be necessary to place the State Office and the Montana News on a sound financial basis; such action to be submitted to a referendum of the Party.

FRANK CURRAN, Chairman.
C. C. McHugh, Secretary.

WARNING TO MINERS.

Nome, Alaska, March 1, 1908.

To all Wage Workers:
The capitalist press and steamship companies, in order to further exploit the working class, will spread and are now actually spreading false reports as to the conditions at present existing in this country.

They desire to flood Seward Peninsula with unemployed working men in order that they may reduce wages, winter and summer, below outside prices, and are endeavoring to show that work will be plentiful and wages high this coming season. Employment sharks in the states are likewise circulating such reports.

As a matter of fact prospects were never worse and conditions here are an exact counterpart of those outside. But little money has been in circulation since last December; the banks have issued clearing house script which is used instead of U. S. currency; no important discoveries have been made this winter, while some of the largest mines employing the greatest number of men have been worked out. Miners and prospectors returning daily from other diggings report nothing doing, and thus swelling the army of unemployed, which consists of at least seventy-five per cent of the laboring population.

The Western Federation of Miners by thoroughly organizing the camp and strictly enforcing the closed shop, have been thus far partially able to maintain the winter scale of wages.

The employers and transportation companies, knowing these facts, are trying to allure working men here, as has been stated, to so reduce wages as to compel them to work for what in reality amounts to their board. To prevent such a calamity to the working class the Western Federation of Miners warns all working men to keep away from this country during the coming summer.

North, east, south and west of the peninsula most unfavorable reports as to the alarming conditions from a miner's point of view are constantly arriving. In fact, every working man who arrives here is one more out of work, and he himself is his passage money out of pocket.

And once here, how are you going to get out? Hundreds here are daily asking themselves the same question.

Take heed therefore of this warning, fellow workers; stay away from the Seward Peninsula during 1908. If you have contemplated coming up here, change your mind and stay where you are.

Published by authority of
Local 240 of the Western Federation
of Miners.



Kaysville Canned Tomatoes,
Per can - - - - 10c
Per case, 24 cans - \$2.35
Bow and Arrow Corn, Fine
Quality, per case - \$2.25
Kaysville Stringless Beans,
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READ IT
6 Cans Tomatoes, 6 Corn,
6 String Beans, and 6
Cans Pumpkin for - \$2.40

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KLEIN & BOURNE
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.
All retail stores in Helena will close at 12 o'clock noon Decoration Day. Do your shopping early.

A LETTER FROM BURGESS.

Missoula, Mont., May 20, 1908.

Editor The News:—I left Missoula on the evening train for Hamilton, Ravalli county, on the 11th of this month. The train reached Hamilton about 6 o'clock, and I at once proceeded to hunt for Socialists, but most of those to whom I bore letters were not in town. However, I did find Comrade O. B. Jones, but his engagements were such that he could not accompany me to the street corner, and I did not find any one that could do so until a late hour. Comrade Baecus came boldly to the front, and I held a rather large meeting for a town of the size of Hamilton. Our collections were \$1.75.

On the 12th, I took the train for Como, and found Comrade Platt very busy and somewhat anxious about his work, but he finally decided to make an effort to hold a series of meetings in and around Como. Rain interfered with two dates, but I held a meeting in the Conner's school house, where some of the farmers assembled and took some interest in the exposition of Socialism.

At the Como school house there were about 30 lumber jacks; collection was \$2.45. At Darby there were about 75 people, and the attention was perfect, and many asked me to return. Collections were \$7.30.

On the evening of the 19th, I held a meeting in a hall in Stevensville, but as the meeting had not been advertised, we had not more than 30 present, but the attention was all that could be desired, and I was asked to return. At all valley points time is needed to advertise a meeting, and the present is not at all favorable for propaganda work in the valley. The Comrades are widely separated in this valley, and they are anxious to do all that is possible for the cause of Socialism, but they feel that it will be necessary to adopt different methods in the future from those that have prevailed in the past.

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CLOTHING Bears the Union Label
THAT DON'T HURT
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I should like to mention the Comrades that entertained me, but they insisted that I must not do so, and having made a promise not to do so, I feel that it is best to refrain, but I cannot forget the many kindnesses shown me by all the Comrades.

I shall probably remain in Missoula until next Monday, May 25, and then I shall go to Phillipsburg and from there to Drummond.—D. BURGESS.

Socialism as a topic of public interest transcends all others just now. Not only are newspaper readers confronted with references to the subject on almost every page, but magazine readers also are having the subject steadily drilled into them. Take the reviews as an example. In the International Mr. Walter Crane has been writing on "Socialism and Art." In the Fortnightly Review Mr. Robert Blatchford crosses swords with Dr. Crozier. In the Strand Magazine Mr. H. G. Wells has one of a series on "Constructive Socialism." In the Nineteenth Century Mr. H. W. Hoare gives a caricature sketch in an article entitled "The Importance of Socialism." In the Magazine of Commerce Mr. W. Breffitt gives the readers a business man's view of Socialism. In the Edinburgh Review a long article is devoted to the fallacies of Socialism. Then there are the subsidiary topics. "The Quarterly Review has an article on "The Right to Work"; in the Albany Review Mr. Masterman, M. P., writes on "Causes and Cures of Poverty"; while in the Contemporary Miss Edith Sellers deals with the subject of "Old-age Pensions."

We sent Joe Somers of Chimney Rock a couple of the "First Voters" cards and here they come back with a request for two dozen more. Must be a few young men down in that neck-of-the-woods. When they get Joe after them it is safe to say that their first vote will be for Debs and Hanford and one that they will be proud of all their lives.

LOCAL GREAT FALLS, of the Socialist Party.
Meets every Sunday at Union Hall at 8 p. m.
Wm. PALSGROVE, Sec'y.
815 7th Avenue

LOCAL HELENA, of the Socialist Party
Meets every Wednesday evening at 15 North Park Ave. AUGUST JOHNSON, Secretary

LOCAL LIVINGSTON, of the Socialist Party
Meets every second and fourth Monday evening in Trades & Labor Hall, opp. Opera House.
All transient comrades invited to attend.

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