

THE WORKERS' CALL.

"Workmen of all countries unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have a world to gain."

VOL. 1.—NO. 52.

CHICAGO, ILL., MARCH 3, 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

AN EVENT IN PARIS

Description of the Funeral of a Famous Socialist.

TOLD BY CHICAGO COMRADES.

Omnibus Procession of the French Proletariat Strikes Terror to Parisian Capitalism.

Paris, France, Feb. 12, 1900.

Yesterday we were a part of those scenes which are peculiar to the European socialist movement and more particularly characteristic of the French. Pierre Lavroff, an old Russian comrade, a member of that great body of exiles from the dominions of the Czar, after having spent a long life in the battle of the proletariat had died at the age of 77 and was to be buried under the auspices of the French socialists. Long before the hour for the funeral the socialists and revolutionists began to gather in front of the home of the deceased, situated in the Rue St. Jacques in the Latin Quarter of Paris. The narrow street was soon crowded for blocks with those who had come to pay their last respects to the old soldier of the revolution. But what struck the American visitor was the vast number of police that were everywhere. Turn where you would you saw a mass of blue capes with the peculiar blue cap and white stripes that marks the Parisian gendarme. It so chanced that as we were on our way to the place we fell in with the secretary of the Guesdists, whom we had previously met, and who having been some little time in America, spoke English. He carried a long parcel, carefully wrapped in brown paper which it was easy to guess was the old red banner of the International Proletariat. We wondered at the wrappings but said nothing and later developments showed the reason for their existence. As we approached the house there was a sudden commotion among the body of police and an officer came forward and informed our companion that no red flag went—or at least the French equivalent for that expression—meanwhile the crowd grew continually larger. A marvelous wealth of floral offerings from the revolutionary workers appeared. To simply enumerate the bodies sending these would be to exhaust the space that this letter must take. The wealth and ingenuity of the famous French florists had been taxed to honor the bier of this despised Russian exile. Perhaps the most interesting and suggestive was a great wreath of thorns with red blossoms sent by the exiles of Siberia to their fellow sufferer in France.

Every moment that passed now added to the intensity of the situation. The police were massing, to the number of several hundred at the entrance to the house and were growing more officious. There began to be cries of "Vive la Commune! Vive la Internationale!" and when at last the procession moved on toward the cemetery with the long line of floral tributes, reaching several blocks and followed by thousands of enthusiastic socialist workers, and the tones of "l'Internationale" chanted by the whole vast body rose on their air, one could not help but feel that he was in the presence of a power before which the capitalist tyranny of Europe did well to shudder. As the procession moved on, the band of Russian socialists added still further to the thrilling intensity of the scene by chanting the Russian revolutionary hymn in the native language.

Suddenly this thrilling solemn scene was broken by shouts and cries. The army of police that had been marching on either side of the procession rushed toward one spot. Cries of "Vive la Commune! Vive la Sociale! A bas la Police," mingled with commands, curses and the tumult of fighting arose. The red flag appeared for but an instant and then sank beneath a horde of police, while the procession, with a few injured comrades in its ranks and two in the hands of the police moved steadily on.

The reason for this disturbance soon appeared. The comrades had been told that while the plain red flag would not be allowed on the streets, a banner with inscriptions might be any color. In compliance with this condition a socialist body had attempted to enter the line with such a banner. Undeterred by veneration due the memory of the dead or consideration for the rights of the living, the representatives of capitalism had pounced upon the emblem of the unity of labor and torn it from its possessors.

Arriving at the burial place, a number of the foremost representatives of the socialists prepared to pay their respects to the comrade who had finished his fight. But scarcely had they begun to speak when the noise and tumult of fighting again arose. Two memorial banners in the midst of the assembly seemed to display too much of the red color, and regardless of that sanctified tomb, and regardless of that sanctified of the tomb, which even the savage to some degree respects, these gaulish representatives of the

party which everywhere poses as the "party of law and order" had rushed upon those who were carrying them. The socialists rushed to their comrades assistance and then followed one of those scenes that testifies to the democracy of the French socialist movement. The tall hats of parliamentary deputies and municipal councillors were struggling side by side with the slouch hat and battered cap of the laborer, and if the truth must be told the tall hats were getting the hardest blows. At last Deputy Viviani succeeded in getting possession of the contested banner and wrapping it around his arm told the officer in charge of the police to touch it at his peril, and promising to account for any results that might follow to the officer by giving his official promise to appear in court if needed and also promising that the banners would not again be displayed.

So again the red flag went down and capitalism scored another victory, but I think that everyone who saw the combat felt that a few more such victories and the citadel of capitalism would fall. For such actions speak louder than words and although the speeches which followed, by Vaillant, Lafargue, Viviani and a number of others were full of inspiration and instruction for the suffering workers of Paris and the world, yet the wall of official blue that surrounded them and shut them out from those they were addressing, spoke more eloquently than they of the curse of capitalism.

As for the French movement in general, suffice to say that it is an inspiration to an American to be in the midst of it. Their wealth of periodicals; their dailies alone have a combined circulation of over 800,000 copies a day, while every little town has its local organ; their extensive literature, containing in translation all that is valuable in the English language and much from the German, together with whole libraries in the native French; the far-reaching and powerful organizations, and various and ingenious means of propaganda—all fill the American socialist with a sense of mingled pride and shame, pride as a socialist that he is a part of this world-wide revolt of the oppressed, shame as an American that his nation has contributed so little to the accomplishment of that revolt. Yet strange as it may appear we find that every European socialist that knows anything of the American situation looks to see the social revolution register its first victory in United States. But more of this later.

There has been much talk of the recent tendency in the European movement to become a reform movement and to drop its revolutionary character. Let me say to all who are basing either hopes or disappointments on such ideas to cast them aside as soon as possible. No one who even takes a look into the window of a book-store on the continent and who has any power to draw conclusions or to see facts, but will realize that the doctrine of so-called Marxist socialism, with the materialistic interpretation of history, the class-struggle and the proletarian revolt as a class-conscious body with the object of conquering political power for and by the workers, is so firmly entrenched that it can no more be controverted than can the facts from which it is deduced. A phenomena which is so often pointed to by American and English reformers of the appearance of Bernstein and his followers, if they but knew the facts of which they talk, would be kept as quiet as possible. It proves too much, it simply shows today, Marxism is the standard from which deviations are measured. It has now reached the position that biological evolution reached some years ago when it had become so thoroughly established that there was no denying its fundamental principles and yet the orthodox sentiment of the time was against it. It was then the fashion for pseudo-biologists to tell how they differed from the doctrine of evolution. So it is today in Europe (outside of England) with socialism. Every reformer or sociological worker, no matter what his relation to the social question must begin by stating his attitude to socialism. That it is sometimes a critical one is to be expected. That some of these critics will accept so much of socialism as to gain them admittance to the socialist ranks is inevitable, but that the doctrines themselves are affected is absurd. What Kautsky says of German economic science is true of all Europe, that "it only lives as it simultaneously plunders, snarls at or pretends to refute Marx or Engels." Of this point of view also I shall hope to have more to say at a later date.

On the 11th of February, we go from here to Roubaix to attend a congress of Guesdists. This is a city of about 125,000 inhabitants within a short distance of Lille and is completely in the hands of the socialists. It is here that the principal experiments have been carried on in the way of applying the alleviating program of socialism to municipal life and we anticipate a very profitable visit. We shall try to send a report of this congress with a short discussion of the municipal movement referred to, in time for the next issue of the "Call."

Fraternally,
A. M. Simons.
May Wood Simons.

Keep your eye on your subscription number.

PAYS SIX PER CENT

Socialist Significance of the Three Brass Balls.

THE MUNICIPAL PAWN SHOP.

Steps on the Road Toward Socialism—The Ballot Box Versus the Pawn Shop Route.

"Charity" "business" and municipal "socialism" are happily combined in the idea which was put in operation a few months ago in this city, and which resulted in the establishment of a municipal pawn office. This institution, it is declared, will pay to the stockholders a dividend of 6 per cent. profit on capital invested, and so certain are many of them of its ultimate success that it is already considered a "silt-edged security" amongst capitalists. It is a "charity" that not only pays, but which carries with it a reputation for "philanthropy" for those who have invested capital therein, which reputation is also a valuable asset in the business world.

Stripped of the humbug of "charity" which has been thrown over it as a cloak, it will be seen at once that it is purely a business venture, (and the result shows that it is a good one) that it is no more socialist or philanthropic than the department store, that bugbear of the small distributor.

In the world of "business" this venture is exactly on the same footing as all other combinations of capital. Like the department store it destroys its smaller competitors, by selling at a cheaper rate, doing a large business on small profit, rather than a small business at large profit.

The individual pawnbroker whose trade is being diverted to the municipal loan office, looks upon it with much the same feelings, as the small dry goods merchant looks upon the great department store, which threatens his existence as a distributor of commodities.

Amidst the general howl raised against the great producing and distributing concerns, there has been no voice heard in denunciation of the municipal loan office. Its character as an alleged "charitable" enterprise has enabled it to pass unchallenged, and the fact that the individual loan broker has never occupied exactly the same position in the public estimation as the ordinary "business" man, has also contributed to its immunity from public denunciation.

As far as the working class are concerned, the existence of the municipal loan office is not a matter of great importance. In countries where they have been established for many years, it has never been contended that the struggle for life upon the part of the proletariat has been noticeably eased. Even in France where the "profits" are used in aiding sick paupers, the tremendous significance of the working class movement, which results from the general condition of the proletariat, as a class, shows how utterly futile to relieve the vast mass of poverty which capitalism generates, are such institutions. And yet a concern in the United States which pays 6 per cent. in dividends to its stockholders, is heralded as a sovereign remedy against poverty.

The truth is, that generally speaking, the wage-earning classes are not possessed of much collateral upon which this municipal loan office would be willing to advance money. Furniture will not be received, and in the matter of jewelry and other portable valuables, the masses of the workers are not overburdened.

Like nearly all other schemes of municipal ownership, this idea of making the state act as pawnbroker, is in the main an effort to buttress the falling fortunes of the middle class, to make things tolerable for them, so that capitalism may have a somewhat longer lease of life, and to effect this it is dubbed a "step towards socialism" in order that its promoters may be able to cover themselves with the mantle of "charity" while extracting their six per cent., and that the working classes at the same time may be reduced to a state of silent and stupid admiration of the brand of "Socialism" inaugurated by their spoliators, who are only too eager to "do something for them" in this manner.

"Municipal pawnbroking" charity, and six per cent profit! If these things be socialism, a definition of capitalism is badly needed.

When the little middle class for whose relief this concern has mainly been established, are no longer in possession of any valuables upon which their "uncle" the state, will advance cash, they will begin to realize that socialism and pawnbroking don't hitch well together, that the pawn shop is a necessity of this capitalist "civilization" which will no longer be needed when its cause has disappeared, and that the "steps towards socialism" lead rather towards the ballot box instead of the pawnshop.

WANTED—About ten comrades who have evenings free, to help the Organization Committee in distributing socialist literature. Call at office of this paper, 36 N. Clark street.

Are you still hustling for subscribers?

CAREFULLY SIFTED

How Capitalism Cross-Examines Its Human Commodities.

"WANT TO KNOW, YOU KNOW."

Applicants for Employment Must Disclose Their Private Affairs, Past and Present, for Inspection.

For a long time past the machinists at this place have been working under conditions that, according to their statements, are so rotten as to beggar description. Each machinist must, from each week's pay, leave on deposit in the hands of the company one day's wages until the sum of \$25 shall have been reached. This sum of money they may be confiscated on certain conditions. Should the little brass check with each man's number, used to register in and out, be lost, the company deducts one hour's pay—whether it be 10 cents or 25 cents. The cost of this little sheet brass check, one inch in diameter, with a number stamped on it, is less than half a cent; all to this the trouble of replacing it, it would not reach one cent. Pretty good rake-off on brass chips.

One of the machinists informs us that there are no fractions of hours paid. That is, if he worked 10 1/2 hours, or 10 3/4 hours, or 10 hours and 55 minutes he would get paid for only 10 hours.

When a machinist applies for work, he is handed a blank, nearly a yard long, to fill out. Among the questions asked thereon are the following:

APPLICATION FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH SWIFT AND COMPANY.

Date of application.

Position desired.

Full name of applicant.

Age.

Post office address.

When and where were you born?

Are you single, married, or widower?

If married, how many children have you, and are they all dependent upon you?

Do you own or rent the house in which you live, or do you board?

How long have you resided at your present address?

Where did you previously reside and how long?

What position do you now hold and what salary do you receive?

If out of employment, what is the last position you held and at what salary?

If out of employment, why did you leave your last position?

Have you ever been discharged from any situation, if so give particulars?

At what salary will you accept a position?

Do you use intoxicating liquors, and to what extent?

What experience have you had in the packing and provision business and with whom?

Do you receive any income besides your salary? If so, state amount and from what source?

Are you possessed of or entitled to any independent means or private property? If so, give full particulars.

Have you ever failed in business or made compromise with creditors?

If so, give name of firm, giving amount of assets and liabilities.

Give name and present address of assignee.

Has final settlement been made? If so, on what basis?

Give name and address of three largest creditors.

Have you ever applied for a bond to any bonding company? If so, state the name of the company and the name of the employer who required bond.

Have you ever been refused the issue or continuance of bond by any employer? If so, give particulars.

Is there any circumstance in connection with your past record that would prevent your being bonded by a fidelity company?

State name, address and occupation of your parents or other nearest relative.

Give the name, occupation and post office address in full of five or more persons as references, not previous employers, who are well acquainted with you and who are not related to you.

Give full particulars of your occupations or employments during the past ten years. Give full disposition of your time for the past ten years, whether employed or not.—Machinists' Weekly Trade Reporter.

When the chattel slave mounted the auction block, forty years ago, for the inspection of would-be purchasers, his physical history and past career were elaborated upon by the eloquent auctioneer, whose duty consisted in selling the human commodity under his hammer, but the march of capitalist progress has reversed this process, and the wage slave of today, not only sells himself unaided, but also discovers every fact in his past life and physical and material condition, which might possibly be of value to his benevolent purchasers.

This constitutes one of the differences between the "free" laborer of today, and the chattel slave of the past generation, and it is not a distinction which the former can be proud of.

The machinist seeking employment, is inspected quite as rigorously as the machine which he hopes to expend his labor power upon, proving up to the hilt, the contention of the socialists, that capitalism looks upon the working class as a commodity—raw material out of which profit can be extracted, and consequently must seek to understand the quality of the commodity purchased, in order to know that it is up to the average standard, and that better material cannot be acquired elsewhere at the same price.

This degrading spectacle may be deplored and denounced, yet it is only one of the necessities imposed upon the owners of capital by the system which produces that capital.

The private ownership of the ma-

chinery of production, enables the Swifts, like all other capitalists, to make applicants for employment, disclose what they consider their own private affairs—to turn themselves inside out for the inspection of the employer.

It is useless to argue that the latter has no "right" to do this. He has the power and that is all-sufficient. It is to his interest, his class are supreme, and therefore what he says is "right," becomes so. It is a mere waste of words to question this.

It may be said that the applicant can refuse to answer. In that case no job is forthcoming. But those who want the job and want it badly, will be compelled to acquiesce in this inquisition. Men must live; must work to live; can not work except by permission of others, and therefore cannot live without such permission. The vast majority will and do submit to indignities, under this pressure, which they otherwise would fiercely resent.

Any remedy? Yes; one, and one only. Socialism, and only socialism will render these things impossible. Private ownership of the machinery of production (which machinery is the result of the labor of the hands and brains of the class to which the inspected applicants belong), is the power by which men are forced to submit to this as well as all other outrages. Collective ownership on the other hand, will give free access to all the social values created by man, no inspection, no questioning required. It being recognized that the product belongs to the producer, this shameful and degrading inquisition, will have no reason for existence.

The conditions under which these machinists work, is described as "rotten," a word which will apply to the general conditions under which most toilers live. But it is not "rotten" from the employer's standpoint, and as his power to enforce these "rotten" conditions upon his slaves, rests upon the action of the latter at the ballot box, the sooner the machinists take measures to wipe out this custom by taking away the power which enforces it, the sooner these "rotten" conditions will disappear. Go for them at the ballot box, boys! That is where you are strong with a giant's strength, and your capitalist inquisitors, weak and helpless. Go for them with the socialist ballot, and you will find that you have not only freed yourselves from this particular form of outrage, but from every other humiliation which this system of slavery imposes on you, as upon all your class.

Big Eddy's Straight Shots.

The gold bug and the silver beetle are only distinguishable from each other through a capitalist microscope. The worker wouldn't know them apart if he met them in his pay envelope.

"Access to the land" is an important step in the nationalization of industry. As an issue by itself it cuts no liquid air.

The "drink problem" is a fool alongside the eat problem. Drink is the result of poverty much more than its cause.

The "social evil" is an industrial evil. "The wages of sin are death," but not death by the pinching poverty and slow starvation too often accompanying the wage scale virtue.

The profit and honor of rescuing the fallen would peter out if conditions were such that the recruiting of their ranks should cease.

"Despite not the day of small things." Of course not. Just take in the rot about the importance of trifles. Then you will putter away your time with side issues and leave the great question of the day unapproached.

The logic of this "take care of the pennies" (and the pite will take care of the dollars) business is that small things are more important than great ones. The supposed axiom that "the whole is the sum of all the parts" is an old fashioned fake. The whole is less important than any of its parts.

Take care of the little things! A neatly tied cravat is more important than the possession of a coat; the shade of a visiting card overshadows the bill of fare.

Some of this trifle talk is founded on misapprehension. A great many people are poor judges of size. They look at things through the wrong end of the binocular and hug themselves for sages because they have discovered the importance of little things when they ought to kick themselves for fools for not knowing a mountain from a mole hill.

"I tell you, Balm-o' Gilead," you've got to look out for the big things. When some proverb vender brings the importance of trifles to your notice just go and ring the church bell on him. The chimes of St. Paul's are too big a chestnut bell to do justice to the hoary, moth-eaten fake of the importance of nothing.

The only redeeming feature of the man with the microscope is that he generally practices what he preaches. But in this instance his redemption is worse for himself and mankind than his damnation would be.—Ex.

A STERN NECESSITY

Trades Unionist Advocates the Use of the Ballot.

POLITICAL ACTION BY UNIONS.

Is An Economic Struggle Which Must Sooner or Later Express Itself Politically.

Labor's industrial emancipation through political action is not a new phase of the labor question. On the contrary, it is perhaps one of the first questions evolving out of the struggle between labor and capital, and has for years been discussed by the most earnest workers in the trade union movement who contend against such action.

It would be unjust to say these men are insincere. I know many who believe it would be annihilation to the trade unions to discuss politics in their meetings, to say nothing of entering the political arena as a class. Against those who hold these views we must discuss this question. It is not only in that of the health of our own minds that we should struggle to understand the succession of causes which has developed the labor question from that of a local struggle to that of a national struggle, finally culminating in the greatest international struggle of the human race. In vain call ourselves trade unionists until we comprehend these causes, for until we shall suffer ourselves to be led by selfishness, and therefore much of our energies is wasted fighting mere shadows. When we have penetrated the labor question far enough to see the absurdity of an individual fighting the evils of his craft singlehanded, it requires but another step to see the natural weakness of the strongest and best organized craft against the powerful influences that trammel the craft as a whole.

Previous to 1873 there was little agitation in favor of the working classes by the working classes themselves. Poverty was so slight that public and private benevolence sufficed to deal with it. It presented no problem for the solution of society. At this period there were few who were aware that evolving out of our industrial system were certain forces which were dividing society into two distinct classes. In the early development of industry in the United States, when the tools of production were adapted to individual use and each man owned and brought his own product to market, the worker could get on his dignity and demand more pay, and succeed. But this was not because his labor was worth more one day than it was another, but because he owned and knew how to use the tools of production. This was the dignified point. But things have changed. The implements of production have passed out of the hands of the workers into the hands of the capitalists. And so has the dignity of labor. It was at this period that the seeds of trades unionism began to germinate. Men began to realize that, though they still had the "declaration" few had independence, that, as they possessed neither land nor capital their only chance to earn a living was by selling their labor power to those who had now become the owners of the tools of production. With the increase of the capitalist system the unemployed increased. At this period another truth was forced upon the wage worker. Heretofore he was accustomed to look upon himself as something superior to the "pauper labor" of Europe, and largely sympathized with the chattel slave of the south. Now he sees himself their equal only, while the difference between him and the chattel slave appears as one of degree, for, while the chattel slave was placed on the block and sold to the highest bidder, he has an opportunity of selling himself on the installment plan. The appearance of independence is kept up by a constant change of employers and by the vain delusion called "freedom of contract."

The centralization of the implements of production in large factories and the sub-division in most every line of industry which limits the ability of the employ form the links of the chain which binds the toiler. Unable to secure the means to materialize his art, he simply becomes the animated part of a monstrous industrial machine and a dependent of the owner of the machine for an opportunity to earn bread. The centralization of the implements of production into factories brought with it a large saving in time, cost and energy, which, in its turn, brought about a general displacement of labor power. In proportion as this evolution proceeded, the problem of the unemployed grew in dimensions, forcing the thoughtful of the various crafts into organizations. In these days it required skill and long training to do the work, and only those engaged in a certain line of industry could endanger the positions of those engaged in that craft. But the machine has so simplified industry that today the whole army of the unemployed bears down on those fortunate enough

(Continued on page 4.)

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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Advertisements: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted. Rates will be made known upon application.

Editorial Announcements: To secure the return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed. Communications must reach the office by Monday evening preceding the issue in which they are to appear.

The Socialist Vote, United States. 1900 13,704; 1901 16,552; 1902 20,000; 1903 25,000; 1904 30,000; 1905 35,000; 1906 40,000; 1907 45,000; 1908 50,000; 1909 55,000; 1910 60,000.

A BIRTHDAY GREETING.

Last week an event was "celebrated" all over the United States, the day in question being observed in consequence of the fact that a very prominent personage in the history of this country was ushered into the world on that date.

THE "GOOD MAN" BOSS UP SERENELY.

The political tools of both great capitalist parties are getting ready to line up for their periodical sham fight commonly known as the municipal elections.

To get back to our subject. The "Workers' Call" is now a lusty infant of one year's growth, and differs from Washington in one remarkable and cheerful respect—that it is alive and growing.

During the last year over half a million copies of the "Workers' Call" have been put in circulation, in all parts of the United States and Canada.

any empty thanks or flattering compliments. They don't pose as martyrs or call upon all men to admire and appreciate their "spirit of self sacrifice."

This then is their course of action; they go down into their pockets and fetch up the nickels, dimes, and quarters, (and they are by no means overburdened with them) so that their fellow workers may see as they have seen, and a continual use of these plain and easily understood tactics, has steadily and persistently brought socialism to the notice of those who otherwise might have escaped its influence.

Those of our readers, who have grasped the essential necessity of spreading socialism are recommended to go and do likewise. Celebrate the anniversary of the "Workers' Call" by sending in subscriptions to increase its circulation.

The political tools of both great capitalist parties are getting ready to line up for their periodical sham fight commonly known as the municipal elections.

It is not wonderful that this law has been allowed to lie dead for the past year or two, before the scheme of extracting profit from its enforcement was discovered, which discovery accounts for its resuscitation again.

The solidarity of the working class on the economic field can only attain its highest and most effective form when transferred to the political field. As the workers have maintained their common interests by united action against those who would separate and weaken them, in like manner they can stand together at the ballot box for their own interests.

better in the material conditions of the wage earners could possibly ensue. Their denunciation of the "saloon-keeper" element is merely a case of the "pot calling the kettle, black."

THE WORKINGMAN'S STRUGGLE. When I see a workman with mouths to feed. Up, day after day, in the dark before the dawn.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE. The attempt now being made in Chicago, to enforce the child labor law by the factory inspectors appointed for that purpose, have created an intense desire upon the part of those capitalists who exploit the families of the working class, to "save the children."

One of the strangest comments on the "prosperity" which the community is supposed to be staggering under, is to be found in the increasing number of "poverty remedies" which appear as advertisements in the daily papers.

Who are the dependent classes? Those who perform no useful work, but live in luxury upon the product of the labor of others? Those whom the "industrious" capitalist himself sometimes denounces as a menace to the community—the idle rich? By no means.

When a remedy is brought forward with the object of relieving capitalism of the results of its system of robbery and murder, its author is dubbed a "scientist."

Now that the local elections are pending, the capitalist politicians are beginning to hang out bait for votes. Now is the period when the "friend of labor" dodge can be profitably employed, and with an eye to business the alderman from the Fifth ward introduces an ordinance which requires the city to pay a minimum wage of \$2 per

day to its employees. Rather strange that this "friend of labor" is able to discover only at the end of his term of office, that labor should at least have \$2 per day.

The insincerity of this move was so plain and palpable, that nobody took any stock in it, but the ordinance having been put up, was voted for by the majority of the aldermen who are candidates for re-election, and as a result, it passed.

Now in the executive chair sits another "friend of labor," Carter H. Harrison, and this "friend" promptly vetoes the ordinance. He says that paying \$2 per day to all city employees whose present wages do not reach that amount, would mean that one-third less work would be performed.

Kaiser Wilhelm, as representative of capitalist class rule in Germany has at last succeeded in accomplishing the expulsion of Dr. Arons from the University of Berlin.

In the third place, the name "Social Democratic party" would in itself be most inappropriate at this time to a united socialist party in the United States of America—for at least the following reasons: 1. Socialism in this country, and in the language of English speaking people generally, does not mean SOCIALIST.

A scientist called Dr. McKim has just published a book, advocating the extinction of the criminal and dependent classes, by the application of carbonic acid gas, which the doctor suggests, will bring about a painless death.

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LETTER BOX.

Chicago, Feb. 26, 1906. To the Editor of The Workers' Call: As the question of union with S. D. P. is now directly at hand, it seems most important that the hope of such union should not be wrecked by failure to see certain things.

In the first place, a union of two previously distinct parties implies, in its very nature, mutual concession. Not concession of principle, but concession in matters of form, and concession to the spirit of courtesy.

In the second place, the S. D. P. to insist on such an attitude (which I do not believe possible), such insistence would itself show a spirit opposed to real unity.

The word "DEMOCRATIC" has a long, bourgeois history behind it in the United States, far from any socialist character. Names are signs of ideas. The idea suggested by "Democratic Party" in America is that of Jacksonian Democracy, or at present of "Bryan Democracy."

One word in closing: As Comrade Simons showed in his article of January 6, on "Harvest Almost Ripe," a crisis has arrived in America in the history of the labor movement.

MUNICIPAL PLATFORM. Socialist Labor Party, Kansas City, Mo. 1906. The members of the Socialist Labor Party in Kansas City, in convention assembled, endorse the platform adopted by the national convention at Rochester, N. Y., Jan. 1906.

cially in municipalities. We hold that it is of paramount importance that the people shall retain the full powers of government themselves, and not delegate them to any individual nor set of individuals.

We denounce the provision of the city charter which requires members of the city government to be owners of real estate, as an insult to the interests of the working people, as it would restrict the functions of government to a very small class, the numbers of which constantly diminish while its power increases, and would eventually put the city government in the hands of the landlords.

"We pledge ourselves that this unlawful and dangerous provision of the city charter shall not be used to deprive any one of his rights as a citizen under the administration of this party."

"We will give no more contracts for work; but the city shall employ its own labor."

"We will absolutely refuse to give any more franchises to any corporation for any purpose, and will present charters of amendments that will allow the city to establish its own public conveniences, street railways, gas and electric plants, etc., and such industries as may from time to time be deemed necessary."

"We will establish and maintain public lodging houses, public bath houses, and orphan's and foundling's home, a home for abandoned women, and hospitals with all modern conveniences."

Resolution of Sympathy. The Central Committee, Section Chicago, S. L. P., at its regular meetings, 36 N. Clark street, on Tuesday, Feb. 26th, passed the following resolutions:

On the evening of the birthday of the "Father of His Country," while thousands of our class countrymen throughout the country were commemorating the man whom future history will present merely as a good example of one who knew the interests of his own class, and while this burg in particular was rejoicing that "it" was to entertain the next democratic convention, all the hotel keepers, saloon keepers and tobaccoists will be the only beneficiaries, a number of workmen met together; the city was entertaining its first municipal convention of this year—and the only one in which the participants were or will be thoroughly class conscious.

NOTICE. The town petitions must be filed with the respective town clerks of each. Admiration petitions must be filed with the city clerk. Last day of filing, March 17th.

Your slavery rests on your neighbors' ignorance. Give him a Workers' Call to help break your fetters.

MARX AND DARWIN.

The Great Italian Scientist Ferri, On Darwinism and Socialism As Related Truths.

(Continued from last week.)

The relation of socialism to sociology is treated in the third and last part of this book, entitled, "Socialism and Sociology."

In Chapter XII ("The Weak Point of Sociology"), the author remarks that the revolution caused in science by the theory of evolution and Darwinism, can be hardly noticed in the science of political economy.

Though, the science of sociology which, previous to Darwin and Spencer, was founded by Comte, has attained great results, and originated new sciences, such as criminal anthropology, yet as to the politico-social questions it has remained stationary. While biology, demonstrating in accord with the teachings of Darwin, the relation of the individual to the species, and sociology, drawing the analogy between the organic and social life, have already designated to the individual, its proper place in society as being similar to that held by the cell in the organism; still a sociologist like Spencer cannot get rid of the deeply rooted and purely Anglo-Saxon, individualism, which develops in him into theoretical anarchism.

Professor Ferri finds an explanation for this in the fact, that sociology yet remains in the analytical stage of its development, not having yet reached that of synthesis, and further that the consistent application of Darwinism and the theory of Evolution, to social questions, must necessarily lead to socialism, and from this a great many people shrink. The XIII and last chapter (Karl Marx as completing Spencer and Darwin, conservatives and socialists) shows the position of Marx on sociology and in social sciences generally.

The great merit of Marx, says Prof. Ferri, is the drawing of conclusions from the natural sciences for the social economy. He has performed this, especially by three master pieces of thought. The first is the law of surplus-value, which explains how, from the present structure of society, capital must result and constantly grow. While this thesis is yet of a more technical and purely economical nature, the remaining two as the thesis that economic circumstances are the basis and condition of all the activity on other fields, and the theory of the class-struggle are already of great sociological importance, and furnish, according to Prof. Ferri, the key to the understanding of all the questions of social life. Already in his "Critique of Political Economy" Marx pointed out, that the economic phenomena are the basis and the condition of the individual and social activity, in every field of social life, that morality, law, and politics are only products of economical forces, which manifest themselves at a certain given time. This thought is in accordance with the acknowledged biological law, that every function is conditioned by the respective organ, and that the man is but a product of the outward influences of his surroundings. Such a condition of the life of the whole humanity, will explain history not as an incidental succession of great men, but as a natural result of economical circumstances. Care should be taken however not to make a too one-sided application of this idea, which ever is met with, in Marx. It cannot be denied that all institutions and social phenomena are but reflections of the given economical circumstances, but it should also be kept in mind that every result may become in turn a cause, and that all the social phenomena are the results of reciprocal actions upon each other: of organic and anthropological peculiarities of a given society, as well as of the economical circumstances in which society lives. As a man who suffers from indigestion and understands the art of curing, may within the limits of his physical structure—influence the course of his disease, so may the scientific inventions or a change of the election-system influence the economical production, or change the condition of labor, though this, as in the above example, may only be achieved within the limits of a given social structure. The moral, legal and political forces, react, according to Prof. Ferri, more upon the reciprocal relations of the different social strata (as agriculturists, manufacturers, or men of finance) than upon the relation of the laborer to his employer.

The author says, that with the omission of the theories of providence and free will, as entirely unscientific, the interpretation of the history of mankind was onesidedly based upon two theories, viz: either upon telluric determinism (Montesquieu, and Buckle) explaining everything with the influences of nature or the anthropologic determinism, which draws everything from the organic and psychic peculiarities of the different human races. Marx has completed and unified these theories by his economical determinism. According to it, the economical conditions are the results of anthropological forces and the telluric surroundings, and that they in turn are the cause and basis of the whole human society, and all the ethical, legal and political phenomena in the individual and social life. This superior theory of Marx is able—according to Prof. Ferri—to face boldly all possible objections, because it is based upon the latest results of the sciences of geology, biology, sociology and psychology, and it is the only one which is able to explain the nature and functions of state and society.

Now the author enters into a consideration of the second theory of Marx, which is of importance in sociology, namely, the law of the class-struggle. The economical circumstances are for the individual as well as whole social

classes, the chief motive of action in the ethical, legal and political fields. Each social class therefore endeavor to form laws, social arrangements, traditions, and combinations in such a way, that they may serve their material interests. They thus build up institutions, which become by means of inheritance and tradition, lasting, and their economical cause comes to be forgotten; lawyers and philosophers represent them as eternal truths, without thinking of their material origin. Nevertheless however, class-interest remains the only positive explanation of laws, conditions and beliefs, which was discovered by the superior intellectual ability of Marx.

At the present time, continues Prof. Ferri, there are only two social classes, on the one side, laborers and workers of all categories, on the other: the non-working owners of capital. That is why, according to the Marxian theory of the class-struggle, there are in fact only two distinct political parties, viz: the socialist labor-party and the individualistic party of the owners of land and capital. In the capitalist party, there are numerous political subdivisions and differences of opinion, because of different kinds of capitalistic interests, which produce different views. The possession of great districts of land gives birth to conservatism; while capital and industrial production evokes the desire for change, improvements, general reforms, or so to speak, progressive ideas. All these however are only formal differences, different labels, because whenever the main question is raised, whenever the question of property is taken into consideration, then all the conservatives, progressists and even the radicals, provided they are owners of capital, become individualists and unite in the struggle against socialism. The complete union of all these fractions and subdivisions, is thus foretold by Prof. Ferri, and then the real class-struggle, which will necessarily lead to a transformation of the present economic-social organization, will begin seriously. The socialists know that there is no other party that is germane to them. One must decide to be, either for the present socio-economical organization, for the so called individualists, or for the fundamental transformation of it, namely for the abolishing of private property in the means of production, and then he is a socialist. While to the former direction one may be drawn by the numerous personal advantages, to the latter, namely to the protection of the weak and oppressed, one is tempted only by disinterestedness and pure altruism. Socialism therefore, which is based upon such a moral rock, is a great and powerful current, the like of which, humanity never witnessed. Christianity, at its beginning, was of a similar kind, but it extended its action to a much narrower field, than modern socialism.

Not in mysticism, to which the sceptic bourgeoisie has turned, like an old soldier to devotion—concludes Prof. Ferri, but in socialism, can be seen the strength that will regenerate the old world and lead to a better future.

(The end.)

CONFESSED WEAKNESS.

The Organs of Great Capitalism Sneer At the Feeble Efforts of Small Competitors.

The conference lately held in this city in opposition to the trusts, has indignantly fizzled out after accomplishing all that could reasonably be expected from it, which is to say—nothing. With one or two possible exceptions the speeches delivered were illustrative only of the material and intellectual bankruptcy of the middle class. The most remarkable aspect of the whole affair was, that while each and every delegate had some plan or scheme which "should" be put in operation immediately, there was not the faintest allusion as to where the power to enforce these measures was to be found. Men, professing to represent the "people," the "plain people," the "common people," in their painful efforts to ignore the existence of class interests, were compelled to fall back upon futile resolutions, freakish schemes, harmless denunciations, and impossible advice. The necessity of concealing the distinct class character of our present economic system, left them without lever or fulcrum, harmless and ridiculous, an object of contempt and derision, alike to great capitalists and revolutionary socialists. And this is the only possible position that the reactionary "reformers" can hope to occupy.

The rough, sarcastic and bitter criticism of the socialists on such matters is often fiercely resented, but every incident like this convention, justifies their disagreeable comment. And if the socialist is justified it must be admitted that on the other hand the position taken by the organs of great capitalism upon the same subject is equally correct. An editorial which appeared in the Chicago Tribune of February 14th voices the opinion of the dominant classes upon the Anti-trust convention in the following contemptuous manner:

A glance at the personnel of the conference called in this city by the American Anti-trust league will dispel any hope of a broad, non-partisan discussion or of any practical results. Whatever the intentions of the leaders of the movement may have been, they have brought together a narrow-minded collection of Bryanites, Populists, and advocates of crank theories. The anti-trust conference held in Chicago last summer had some dignity of personnel and it discussed the subject with more or less judgment and practicality. Its speakers included Republicans as well as Democrats, capitalists as well as theorists, business men, as well as dreamers. The aggregation of talent now to be found in Central Music hall is chiefly drawn from the silver wing of the Democratic party, and its deliberations cannot be expected to result in anything better than the ideas al-

ready vociferously announced by Colonel William Jennings Bryan. The president of the conference thinks the cure for trusts is to be found in national ownership of the railways. Another wants "the repeal of all special privileges." Still another calls for the impossible in the shape of the initiative and referendum. Congressman Sulzer is sure every trust in the land could be destroyed under the act of 1890 if the President would only enforce it. He should inquire of ex-President Cleveland why he did not do so. The Governor of South Dakota wishes the mines and the means of transportation to be "transferred from the few to the many." Another, less modest, would do away with all vested rights in property. Still another sees salvation in the suppression of bank notes, and several pin their faith to the single tax. The only idea on which there appears to be anything like unanimity is the excellence of a debased free silver currency.

Is it possible to conceive of a socialist criticism couched in more derisive language than this? This editorial is one long sneer of unceasing contempt for the folly, incoherence and feebleness displayed at this convention, and it is completely justified. It is the attitude of those who occupy a position which cannot be captured except by one method, and who see with delight that the enemy is too cowardly or ignorant to use that method, and know that all other attacks must necessarily result in ridiculous failure.

While the system of the private ownership of the means of production and distribution remains intact, the fortress of great capitalism stands impregnable. Those who yet control small amounts of capital, of private property, cannot and dare not challenge the existence of the capitalist system by which they acquired it. The development of that system must, will and does act as their teacher by making their petty means of production impossible, by stripping them of their property, and by forcing them into the great army of the wage workers, born then at length to identify their material interests with those of the working class—the only class which has power to abolish the capitalist system by which they were created.

No amount of talking about the "people" or the "plain people," will for one moment frighten the dominant classes. They well know the worthlessness of such generalities. They know that the dying middle class is not the "people," "plain," "common" or otherwise. When they hear these preposterous assumptions, they remember the frog in Aesop's fable, who tried to swell himself to the size of the ox, or Jack-Fallstaff's eleven buckram men grown out of two, and then call upon their "kept" writers to produce editorials like the above.

Those who are interested in upholding the most modern methods of production expressed in the trust, those who are really the ruling class and for whose interests government exists, know well where their power comes from, and are careful to manipulate the "patriotism," "national pride," etc., of the working classes in their own interests. The phrases attendant on capitalist development such as expansion, the invasion of foreign markets, the crowding out of foreign competitors, the "glory" reaped in the war with Spain, the planting of the "flag" in other lands, the "balance of trade," the Monroe doctrine, the alleged "prosperity," etc., etc., are the trump cards held by the ruling class, in their fight against reactionary remnants of capitalism. Knowing their own strength they also know the weakness of their enemy, and despise him accordingly.

Yet every day that passes brings home to individuals of the middle class, the impossibility of checking or controlling the development of capitalist production, while trying at the same time to preserve the system. Every day that passes brings them nearer to that point, where the issue becomes plain, distinct and undeniable—socialism or capitalism.

There is no other choice; no intermediate position is tenable. The power which lies in the modern proletariat cannot be used by reactionaries; it can only move for progress, the higher development of the capitalist system—and finally its overthrow. As for the socialists, there is no possibility that those who would turn back the hand of progress, may expect any help from them. Standing firmly upon the historical class struggle, knowing that in the hands of the now dormant working class alone, lies the power necessary to carry to its logical end the development of modern industry, they can calmly wait while the wreckage of the middle class drifts nearer and nearer towards socialism. Already this tendency is plainly observable; a few more useless attempts like this Anti-trust conference, will enable the small capitalists to discover that their position as a class or sub-class is hopeless, and that the day of the wage earner is nearly at hand.

Federation for Social Justice. This organization hopes to fill the need in Chicago of a society to give expression to the ethical phase of socialism. Its meetings are as follows: Hygiea Hall, 494 Ogden avenue, near Robe and Harrison streets—Sundays, 10:30 a. m., economic class and general discussion. Sundays, 11 a. m., address by Frederick G. Strickland.

Brotherhood House, 1541 Central boulevard, corner St. Louis avenue—Sundays, 3 p. m., Christian Citizenship meeting. Fridays, 8 p. m., economic meeting, addresses and general discussion.

Garfield Hall, corner Chicago and Hamlin avenues—Sundays, 8 p. m., address by Frederick G. Strickland.

Public Meetings. March 6th, at 8 p. m., at 146 N. Union street. Speaker, T. Morgan; subject, "The Paris Commune." March 7th, at 3 p. m., at NW corner of 113th street and Michigan avenue. Speaker, T. J. Morgan; subject, "The Workmen and the Land." March 30, at 8 p. m., at 194 92d street. Speaker, J. Wanhope; subject, "Socialism and the Poor." Free discussion.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Glimpses of the World-wide Struggle of the Proletarian Army for Its Liberty.

AUSTRIA.

During the early part of the great strike of the miners at Klado, in Bohemia, the Communal Council made common cause with the strikers, and refused to lodge the gendarmes sent in by the government. On January 19, a collision occurred between the regular troops and the wives of the strikers. Several hundred of them, after a meeting, had gone to see the managers of the mines, to present the wrongs of their husbands. The commissary of police ordered them to retire, and they not obeying, he gave the cavalry orders to charge. In the panic ensuing several women were mortally wounded, one received a sabre cut and broke her skull, and another, with her child, was trampled under the hoofs of the horses. The Counsellor of Mines, afterwards intervened and promised to examine the strikers' claims; and begged the authorities to retire the regular troops, and replace them with the gendarmes. During this strike, which has extended to nearly all the collieries of the country and includes over 80,000 men, the socialists issued a manifesto in which occurs this passage:

"The moment is come to claim the normal eight-hour day, which ought long since to have formed part of our legislation. Wages have remained stationary while the cost of coal and animal life ceases not to rise. It is necessary, therefore, that the exploiters concede a minimum wage. It ought to be recognized that the miners have only had recourse to the strike, by extreme necessity. The conquest of a larger sum of well being has already cost blood. Do not render this new expenditure of proletarian power useless."

The socialists are doing everything in their power to turn this strike to account for the education of the proletariat; they have appealed to every class of workers for help, and are demonstrating, as usual, that the oppressed toler can always depend on them in the hour of need.

Business of all sorts has been paralyzed by the coal famine; and the government has sent the Minister of Agriculture to the scene of trouble.

Later.—The strikes in the Moravian coalfields has now spread to Bohemia and Austrian Silesia, and it is estimated that about 90,000 men are on strike. So far there have not been any riots, but the situation is a very serious one. Owing to the lack of coal, many factories in Austria have had to cease working, and this contributes to make the matter worse. The government has at last become alive to the importance of the question, and is making efforts to secure arbitration. The workmen appear to be resolute in their demands for the eight-hour day, and though very poor and enduring great hardships, are very firm. It is satisfactory to note that workmen of other trades, both in Austria and Germany, are helping the strikers by contributions out of their poor wages. The government may well be anxious because there are so many discordant elements in Austria, owing to the different nationalities forming the empire, that the whole system may fall to pieces at any moment.

BELGIUM.

A new paper, the "Conscript," has appeared in the socialist field. It is the organ of the Young Guards, an organization devoted to fight militarism. It is artistically got up, and is exceedingly vigorous and bold in its propaganda. A design by Henri Bodart, on the front page, pictures a "son of the people" on guard before a palace. A workman, passing by asks him: "What are you doing, comrade?" To which the soldier replies: "I am guarding the wealth carried off from the toilers." A striking compendium of our regime of armed peace.

The journal contains an eloquent appeal to the conscripts, powerful articles on the Boer war, the Peace Conference, the conscription drawing, the tortures of the army, delusions and statistics on war, and socialist maxims.

The election at Waremmé, Belgium, Feb. 4: Today in the agricultural district of Waremmé, the struggle was between L. Meysman, socialist, and M. Ancion, Clerical candidate.

M. Ancion received 11,660 votes, and Comrade Meysman 19,399. The candidate of the Workingman's party (Mayensan) was defeated by only 760 votes. Of the 5,673 votes obtained by the Liberal candidate at the first ballot, 2,677 went to the socialist candidate, and 3,996 went to the clerical candidate.

This was the most admirable socialist campaign that the party ever carried on in this district. Our candidate in '94 received only 1,200 votes. The vote of today is a veritable socialist victory.

GERMANY.

Municipal elections in Berlin, Feb. 14, 1900: The complementary election for the municipal council of Berlin takes place Feb. 14th in the 35 and 41st districts of that city.

The socialist candidate in the 35th district is E. Wurm, deputy to the Reichstag, and in the 44th is Comrade Glocke.

FRANCE.

Lille, Feb. 7.—After considerable agitation lasting a day or more at Avesnes-Aubert the weavers have gone on a strike with a demand for higher wages. Many brigades of police and one squadron of soldiers have arrived here, as usual, to keep capitalist peace.

What have you done to help spread the news of socialism? Have you sent in a club of ten to The Workers' Call? If not, why not?

LABOR ITEMS.

Notes From Trades Union Journals and Exchanges, Throughout the United States.

Wow! A New York printers' paper charges that DeLeon's Beckman street People is produced by non-union printers and is a scab sheet.—Cleveland Citizen.

Once a socialist always a socialist. That is one great secret of the growth of the movement. Reps and dems swing back and forth like a pendulum and even the pop sometimes rises to the free silver bait but the socialist goes straight on. He may not have an opportunity to vote his convictions but he preaches them in season and out of season.

It looks as though the granite cutters' union will not have smooth sailing to introduce their eight-hour day this spring. The employers of New England held meetings last week and decided to resist the demands of the workers. The latter, however, are a unit in standing out for their original demand of eight hours at \$3 a day, and from present appearances it looks like a fight.

The speaking tour of Job Harriman, the Socialist candidate for President, is meeting with marked success in Massachusetts. At Lawrence, James F. Carey, Social Democratic member of the Legislature, spoke from the same platform with Harriman, and both agreed that amalgamation of the two Socialist parties is now only a matter of arranging details. This view was enthusiastically shared by the big audience present.

The great building trades lockout is still on in Chicago. None of the men show any desire to go back at the bosses' terms, and the latter have started the cry that the unionists are unpatriotic because none of them will join the scab-protecting militia. Mayor Harrison has also notified the bosses that he does not propose to pull their chestnuts from the fire by supplying all the police they demand. The building material makers may be locked out next week, and the trouble may also spread to other cities.

The correspondent of the London Times in Berlin directs attention to the growth of socialism in Austria. "The party now includes almost the whole of the town laboring classes," he says. "Their meetings are well conducted, and when they turn out by tens of thousands on May Day they are as orderly and well behaved as a regiment of soldiers. This is not to the taste of the Christian Socialists or anti-Semites, who sneeringly call them the Imperial or Royal Social Democrats on account of their good behavior. If they would only indulge in an occasional street riot, smash a minister's windows or pillage a few Jew shops, they would give great satisfaction to their opponents, who would then have an excuse for demanding strong measures against the party. That is precisely what they will not do. Their leaders are sensible men, not at all disposed to allow their followers to play into the hands of Dr. Lueger and Prince Alois Lichtenstein. They have an ably conducted party organ, the Arbeiter Zeitung, which is an eyesore to the Christian Socialists. It would be ungenerous and unjust to deny that social democracy in Austria has displayed certain qualities which are those of a strong and intelligently led political party."—Cleveland Citizen.

(For further Labor Items see Foreign News.)

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES.

The 23d ward holds meetings every Sunday at 103 E. Chicago avenue.

The 24th ward holds good meetings every Sunday at 3:30 p. m., at 65 N. Clark street.

The 14th ward holds meetings at Shoenfeld's hall, Milwaukee and Ashland avenues.

The 5th ward holds agitation meetings every Sunday at 8 p. m., at 2509 Wentworth avenue.

The 33d ward branch holds good meetings every Saturday at 8 p. m., at Nelson Morris hall, 194 92d street.

The 6th ward Lithuanian branch was organized with 23 members. They will issue a paper in the near future.

The Town of Lake campaign committee has arranged for a number of meetings, and has issued 10,000 cards.

The Wood Workers' union local 84, granted the floor to Com. Klenke last Monday to introduce The Workers' Call. His remarks were well received.

The 22d ward (German) will hold a meeting next Monday, in Man's hall, 380 Larabee street, where Com. Klenke will speak on the "Trusts and the Working Class."

The 27th ward Workingmen's Educational Club, which meets every Saturday at 8 p. m., 713 Irving Park boulevard, has decided to put up a Town of Jefferson S. L. P. ticket.

Comrade G. Benham of San Francisco will speak at Elke's hall, 114 63rd street, next Sunday at 3 p. m. The Social Democrats are co-operating with the comrades in the district.

The meetings of the Chicago Federation of Labor are interesting. Comrades Collins, Keating, and Koop are keeping up a stiff fight for socialism. Meetings are always interesting when the socialists are present.

All comrades should be present next Sunday at the general meeting of the Section, when the delegates from the Rochester Convention will report. Com. G. B. Benham will also be present. The meeting will be held at Lauerbach's hall, 55 N. Clark street at 7:30 p. m., sharp.

The Socialist Sangrethud has arranged a Grand March Festival at Brant's hall, March 11th, two-thirds of the proceeds to be applied to the Campaign Fund, therefore every comrade should try to sell as many tickets as possible to make the affair a success.

Different singing and turning societies will participate in the program.

The Painters' Union, Local 194, decided to subscribe to a labor paper in a body. Supporters of The Appeal to Reason and The Workers' Call engaged in a debate as to which paper should secure the subscriptions. Com. Wanhope being a member of the Painters' union got the floor and cleared away some of the objections. The union then decided to divide it between the two papers. This union has 850 members.

The 23d ward, Polish branch, gave a play at 84th and Buffalo avenues, last Sunday, entitled, "The Secret Society Proletariat of Warsaw," written by Com. Barkowski. Speeches were delivered by Com. Barkowski in Polish, and Com. Klenke in English after which the floor was cleared for dancing. The hall was crowded. Over 100 signatures were collected. The affair was a great success financially and otherwise.

SECTION CHICAGO, S. L. P.

Statement of Immediate Measures to Be Supported by Socialist Candidates in Coming Election.

In view of the fact that the municipal elections in Chicago are to take place in April, the Socialist Labor party in presenting their candidates upon town and aldermanic tickets, once more affirm their allegiance to the principles of revolutionary socialism, as adopted at the late national convention held at Rochester, N. Y.

In calling upon the working class to rally to the support of the principle of socialism, the socialists wish to emphasize the fact so often reiterated, that until the complete triumph of the working class, which can only find expression in the total overthrow of the capitalist system, be accomplished, any temporary palliatives must of necessity be partial and insufficient. Therefore with this distinct understanding we present the following immediate measures, which our candidates will enforce according to the amount of power conferred upon them, for the consideration of all workmen who desire to achieve the emancipation of their class by means of the ballot:

1st. The employment of all unemployed citizens by the municipality, at the best possible wages.

2d. That the municipality shall furnish support and assistance to all workmen upon strike, and aid them with every public power which can be used to help them accomplish their object.

Regarding the first point, the employment of the unemployed, we propose that those who receive the benefits of our present capitalist system, shall bear the expense of the maintenance of those men and their families, whose present destitution is a direct effect of the system by which the laborer is deprived of the product of his toil.

On the second point, we call attention to the fact that workmen do not strike except to better their material conditions, and satisfy their wants. Living under a system of legalized plunder, this want sometimes becomes unbearable, and the workers are often forced to submit to the terms upon which their employers are willing to receive them. Therefore in order to make possible their success in these struggles, the public powers when captured by the working class, must be used in their interests, to achieve victory in such struggles, as it is now used in the same manner by the capitalist classes, to coerce and overpower the workers in the conflicts which are forced upon the latter.

The example of our fellow workmen in Europe, and especially France, on this matter, has been often pointed out in the columns of The Workers' Call and other socialist papers. Workmen who through their trades unions have expressed their dissatisfaction with their conditions of life, and resorted to strikes to emphasize such dissatisfaction, have in this city, often felt the heavy hand of capitalism, which has never scrupled to use the police, militia, and the machinery of law as aids to enforce the submission of the strikers. In France, on the contrary, where the workers have captured the local powers, such powers have been used to encourage, aid and support the striking workmen, and have made their victory more certain by supplying food, clothing and shelter during such periods, and giving adequate legal protection meanwhile.

What is possible in France is also possible in the United States.

It is to be remembered, however, that such palliatives are limited in effect proportionately to the power conferred upon the representatives of the working class. The object of the socialist movement in all lands being the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth through the political supremacy of the working class, the above measures are submitted in accordance with the concluding paragraphs in the platform of the Socialist Labor party, as follows:

"Pending the accomplishment of this, our ultimate purpose, we pledge every effort of the Socialist Labor party for the immediate improvement of the condition of labor, and also for the securing of its progressive demands.

"Workmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and have a world to gain!"

Section Chicago, Socialist Labor Party, February 25th, 1900.

Socialists, Attention!

The Workers' Call having completed the first year of its existence with this number, those comrades and subscribers who have supported the paper, from its first appearance, are earnestly requested to renew their subscriptions as promptly as possible. It is needless, perhaps to remind them of the difficulties which every clear socialist organ has to contend with in the present state of the movement, and that it is the duty of all socialists to continue the support of the press which votes their interests as a class.

Are you still hustling for subscribers?

A FOOL'S PARADISE.

Gage Tries to Bulwark Capitalism by Reciting "Old, Old Story" of "Higher Wages."

Secretary Gage in addressing the Association of Merchants and Travelers at the Auditorium lately, brought forward that good old capitalist stand-by which has been found so valuable in defending the continued robbery and exploitation of the working class.

"Such remarkable development," Mr. Gage said, "could not have taken place without great benefit to all the people of the United States. It had resulted in an enormous increase of capital, which, under fair circumstances, would be employed in the further development of the country's resources, giving larger employment and increasing rewards to labor."

"The condition of labor, as it now exists, is a vast improvement upon its condition at any other period. This might be proved by an exhaustive citation of wages and prices during the last 100 years were such citation necessary. It may, perhaps, be well simply to say that wages, even during the last half century, have increased on the whole something over 60 per cent, while the general course of prices has been downward."

It will be seen by the above that Gage depends for information upon that famous statistical juggler Carrol D. Wright, who has done more to mislead the working class than all other labor fakirs combined, seeing that half truths are more dangerous to meet than a full fledged lie.

It is one of the peculiar faculties of capitalist orators, to harp on the fact that wages have risen and prices fallen. Socialists on the whole do not dispute the fact but they challenge what is implied in the statement. The truth is, that in proportion to the productiveness of labor, labor has not held its own since the beginning of the century.

First, labor receives a smaller proportion of its product to day than it did one hundred years ago. To illustrate, if labor produced 10 cents it received 5 one hundred years ago. To day, while labor produces 100 cents it receives barely 10 cents of its product.

The great railroad systems, the giant steel works, the concentrated industries of the present, form an insurmountable barrier not to the individual workman alone but even to those who in a degree are yet favorably situated. The present form of modern industry absolutely precludes any independent action in the industrial field to those not possessed of large amount of capital-means of production.

This lack of independence, this state of dependence when recognized generally, (and that process of recognition is going on now) will bring the social change, for which the self-satisfied Gage sees no necessity. The great masses of the economically dependent workers will not for ever consent to remain hewers of wood, and drawers of water for an existence wage, so that a non-producing class may live in wasteful luxury, and the signs of this revolt are to be seen upon every hand in the growing strength of the socialist movement in all lands.

In his closing remarks Gage peers into the future; with the usual bourgeoisish he speaks of the grander brotherhood of man—which capitalism will certainly evolve—but only in its own death throes. The brotherhood of man will be established, only when the class-conscious workers realize the parasitical character of the class whose interests Gage upholds, and destroy the means by which they fetter the workers, to wit—private ownership in the means of production and channels of exchange.

But this will not be told them by Gage or McKinley or Bryan, but the fact will dawn on them, that in spite of the great progress made within the last hundred years, in spite of the advance of science, their class is denied the advantages of such progress. The spirit of revolt is being and will be still more fostered, when they comprehend that their class as the producers of all wealth, are compelled to live in vile and unsanitary surroundings, to wear shoddy and shabby garments, to maintain life on scanty and adulterated food, and when sickness strikes their families to see their loved ones suffer and perish because they are denied the opportunity of participating in the benefits which the progress of medical science has made possible.

These things, the unsatisfied wants of the working class, will at last open their eyes to the dog in the manger characteristics of capitalism, in spite of the flowery eloquence and soothing oratory of the whole tribe of Gage and his class. Looking into the future the socialist can say with certainty that these are the elements

upon which alone continued progress is certain for he understands that the intelligence of the working class will realize the necessity of social change, and necessity compels progress.

A STERN NECESSITY

(Continued from page 1)

to hold positions. Thus, we see, a new and more far-reaching danger has overtaken the wageworker. We see the skilled mechanic displaced by the machine and the unskilled laborer by the woman, and finally the woman is displaced by the child. On the one side is the ever-increasing improvement of machinery, which, once placed on the market, compels every individual manufacturing concern to adopt it, and on the other a constant increase of the unemployed, producing a condition which the capitalist takes advantage of to cheapen the cost of production.

It is an old and true saying that no stream can rise above its level. Neither can wages rise above the market price. In this case, the foregoing having been considered, there remains but one of two things to do. The laboring people must either sell themselves to the capitalist governments of the world as hired assassins to be used by them for the extension of markets, or they must federate into one irresistible, irrefragable compact, demanding the unconditional right of all men to work, and to each the equivalent of what he produces.

The development of industry in the United States has passed through five phases: First, man, then partnership, association, corporation and then trust. Each of these developments has had a natural tendency to divide society into two classes, namely, the capitalist and the wage worker. Another peculiarity of this development has been the growth of the wageworkers in numbers and political power, and the decrease of the capitalist (as per population) in numbers and political power, while they have increased in economic power a thousand fold, until today 71 per cent of the nation's wealth is owned by 9 per cent of the population while the working class, numbering 92 per cent of the population, own but 4 1/2 per cent.

Every economic struggle is a political struggle. THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL IS AN ECONOMIC STRUGGLE, WHICH SOONER OR LATER MUST EVOLVE ITSELF INTO POLITICAL ACTION. It is a waste of time and energy to continue the struggle along the old lines of pure and simple trade organization, with the labor market overcrowded and with no greater economic force back of them than will keep them as a whole one week from the poorhouse.

The capitalist class, with its 71 per cent of the nation's wealth will always be able to beat labor in an economic contest where labor possesses but 4 1/2 per cent. These figures fairly represent the fighting strength of both classes; hence the absurdity of continuing the struggle along these lines. Let labor once realize its political power; that it is through its political power—AND THIS ONLY—that they are to bring about their political emancipation; that the political machine of today is the force wielded by the capitalist to acquire economic advantages; that it is as effective a weapon today as was the physical force of nations in the ages gone by; that this weapon can be used as effectively by them to bring about their own emancipation, as it is now being used by the capitalists to insure to them economic advantages, and their efforts as a class will be much more progressive.

Trade unions should federate with this aim and object in view, leaving the local unions to adjust the minor details of the various crafts. There is nothing the wage-workers could not have should they use their political power to their own advantage.

It has been said of the ballot that it is the weapon pregnant with life and death. This is true. As cyclones scatter the leaves of the forests, so can the ballot sweep away the demoralizing influences of our industrial system. It can sweep away private trusts, syndicates, corporations, monopolies and all other abnormal developments of our industrial vassalage, designed to abridge the liberties of the workingmen, and enslave them by the degrading incident of poverty and enforced idleness.

"Slaves! the franchising weapon is in your hands. Use it, and the chains of bondage shall fall! As citizens it is for us to say whether this capital, which is the past and present, shall own us or we shall own the capital.—J. W. Brown, in Connecticut Craftsman."

A SOCIALIST LECTURE.

Comrade John Collins Speaks on "Socialism and Trades Unions." At the meeting of Feb. 18th by the 5th ward branch, which was fairly well attended in spite of cold weather. Comrade Collins lectured on "Trade Unions and Socialism." In the course of his lecture he showed clearly the existence of two classes in society, the laboring class and the capitalist class, each of these having different interests. The laboring class interest is to get as much wages as they can, work short hours and as leisurely as possible, while the capitalist class, those who own the mills, factories, mines and workshops, want to pay the least amount of wages possible, and work their slaves as long and as hard as they can, hence comes the strike,

Socialist Labor Party of the United States.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor party of the United States, in Convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of international socialism and declares the supreme political issue in America today to be the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain. Ignorance is fostered, that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of men, women, and children.

The lives and liberties of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit. Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned, in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and enhance its supremacy at home.

The introduction of a new and higher order of society is the historic mission of the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts are interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the means of production.

We, therefore, call upon the wage-workers of the United States, without distinction of color, race or sex, and upon all citizens in sympathy with the historic mission of the working class, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor party, as a party truly representing the interests of the toiling masses and uncompromisingly waging war upon the exploiting class, until the system of wage slavery shall be abolished and the Co-operative Commonwealth shall be established.

Pending the accomplishment of this our ultimate purpose, we pledge every effort of the Socialist Labor party for the immediate improvement of the condition of labor, and also for the securing of its progressive demands.

"Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and have a world to gain!"

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