

# THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

SECOND YEAR.—WHOLE NO. 61.

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 5, 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS

## MAY DAY IN CHICAGO

### Monster Meeting at West Twelfth Street Turner Hall.

## INDORSE DEBS AND HARRIMAN

### Socialists of Chicago Express Their Approval of the Proposed Union of Socialist Forces.

One of the most successful and at the same time most significant socialist meetings ever held in this city took place on Sunday the 29th ult. at West Twelfth Street Turner hall. This meeting, in which the comrades of the Seventh Ward Branch, S. L. P., took the initiative, was called together for the purpose of celebrating May Day as expressing the international brotherhood of labor, and at the same time endorsing Comrades Eugene V. Debs and Job Harriman as candidates for president and vice-president respectively, presenting the combined forces of socialism in the United States at the coming presidential election. The audience was large, enthusiastic and only alive to the necessity of presenting a united front to the common enemy, the capitalist class, in the coming political struggle. The chairman, Comrade Peter Sisman, declared the meeting open, and after a few explanatory remarks introduced the first speaker, J. Wanhope, editor of The Workers' Call, who in a short address, pointed out how the necessities of the present political and economic situation, demanded that socialist workingmen should lay aside all personal differences and other non-essential details, in order to concentrate their entire strength upon the main issue, the objective point of the socialist movement all the world over, the struggle with the ruling classes for the possession of the means of production, in which struggle the victory of the working class must result in the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

The next speaker, A. M. Simons, well known as a socialist lecturer and writer, followed with an eloquent descriptive address upon some features of the working class movement in France and Belgium, from which countries the speaker had recently returned. An outline of some of the incidents occurring at Paris during the funeral of the Russian revolutionist Pierre Lavroff, and a description of the schools at Roubaix in which the children of the proletariat are boundfully fed and clothed through the action of the socialist workingmen, was well received by the audience, who were much interested in the graphic picture drawn by the speaker. Comrade Simons concluded his address with a powerful appeal for the support of the party press, which met with a very satisfactory and practical response from those present.

The secretary of the national convention of the Social Democratic party at Indianapolis, Fred'k G. Strickland, followed with an address, during which he made some very telling points which elicited much applause from the audience. Comrade Strickland laid particular stress upon the necessity of encouraging women to participate in the movement, pointing out that here was a source of strength which had been to a large extent neglected in the past, and which, properly taken advantage of, would mean a decided gain for the socialist cause.

The following resolutions were then read and proposed by Thos. J. Morgan, and seconded by Fred'k G. Strickland:

Whereas, The S. L. P. and S. D. P., each assembled in their respective national conventions, selected committees to formulate a plan for the union of all socialists in the United States in one socialist party, and

Whereas, Said committees performed the duty assigned to them and prepared a joint report to be voted on by a referendum vote of the members of both parties; therefore,

Resolved, That this mass meeting of Chicago socialists of both parties, hereby approve of the proposed union of socialists; and

Resolved, That, as socialists, we declare for the fullest recognition of the principle of self-government, and the use of the referendum as the best method of ascertaining the individual and collective will of associated socialists on the question of union; therefore, we declare that all assumption of leadership exceeding the limits of proper suggestion, that all claims of individual members, committees or officials to superior intelligence, virtue or self-sacrifice, which are set up as a warrant for forestalling, controlling or defeating the free will of that membership, violates socialist principles and injures the cause of socialism, and we fraternally suggest that the membership of the several socialist parties, seek for information in the official reports of the several conventions and the report of the Joint Committee and from these legitimate sources draw their own conclusions and make their judgment known by the referendum; and

Resolved, That pending the vote for union, this mass meeting hereby ratifies the nomination of Eugene V. Debs and Job Harriman as socialist candidates for president and vice-president of the United States.

On the motion for adoption being put, it was carried unanimously, not a single dissenting voice being heard. Thos. J. Morgan who was listed as

the next speaker, asked the permission of the audience to substitute in his place Mr. Isaac Cowen of Cleveland, O., who is well known in the trades union movement as organizer of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and Machinists. Mr. Cowen spoke vigorously, pointing out the increasing influence of socialism in trades union bodies, and citing many instances in proof of his statements; the speaker concluded by urging his hearers to keep up the struggle both on the political and economic field, until victory rewarded their efforts. His remarks were applauded again and again by the audience, who seemed to relish the vigorous and uncompromising method with which this veteran fighter handled his subject.

The closing address was made by Thos. J. Morgan, who in well chosen language pointed out the ease with which the necessary transition from capitalism to socialism could be effected, when the intelligence of the workers had been sufficiently aroused to grasp the nature of the coming change. Comrade Morgan held the close attention of the audience all through his address, and from the liberal applause with which his remarks were greeted it was evident that they were well appreciated.

The meeting concluded with a rendering of the Marseillaise which was given by the Sangerbund who were in attendance. Much socialist literature was sold and distributed, and a liberal sum collected for the support of the party press. We believe that from now onward a period of local socialist activity will result, that will best prove that the action of the socialists of both bodies who participated in this meeting, in giving expression to the desire for socialist unity and endorsing the candidacy of our comrades Eugene V. Debs and Job Harriman, was both judicious, expedient and in accordance with the best interests of the socialist movement.

When it was discovered that the rental of billboards in some instances pays more than the taxes on the vacant lots where they stand, the bottom was promptly knocked out of the "crusade" which was going to abolish them in the interests of "art."

Mr. Harrison desires the justices to give the strikers the "full limit." The reason for this is that he has gone the "full limit" himself as a "friend of labor."

The "slow and painful process of evolution" cannot be too slow for the capitalists, but it may be so painful to the workers that they will be induced to give it a shove.

There are a thousand and one reasons why you should vote against the capitalist parties, and none that you should endorse them.

The survival of the fittest is a good thing. When the working class get hold of all they produce, they will survive.

Why pay a Chinaman eight cents for washing a shirt, when you can get a white man to do it for four?

The expression "civilized warfare" proves that those who use it are barbarians themselves.

If "sympathy" were as effective as Mauser rifles, what a fight the Boers could put up.

Capitalism doesn't love the "scab" half as much as it fears and hates the socialist vote.

The "army of the unemployed" is the "salvation" army of the capitalist class.

### Injunction Run Mad.

If the fact of capitalist class rule is not clear to your mind please read the following, showing how the powers that be use their authority, when the rebellious workers seem likely to curtail profits and disorganize business by going out on strike:

Striking cigarmakers today received their strike benefits, notwithstanding Justice Freedman had enjoined union officers from paying the money. On the application of S. Levy & Co., cigar manufacturers, Justice Freeman of the Supreme court granted a temporary injunction prohibiting the payment of strike benefits by the Cigarmakers' International union to the firm's striking employees.

Acting on the advice of their counsel the officers of the union today disregarded the injunction and paid each of the eighty strikers formerly employed by S. Levy & Co. the regular benefit of \$3 a week.

Union men say if the injunction is made permanent it will endanger the existence of all labor unions. This occurred in New York a few days ago and the above account appeared in the capitalist press of this city. It is quite possible, too, that many workmen read it, but how many saw in it the lesson that the machinery of law moves solely for the benefit of the ruling class? In this case the judge seems to have attempted something so glaringly outrageous, that even those against whom it is directed, have felt that it could not be enforced. But it nevertheless serves to show that the courts of law and the officials who preside there are merely the puppets through which the material interests of the capitalist class are preserved and perpetuated.

## COMING OUR WAY

### Socialist Workingmen of New York in May Day Celebration.

## 40,000 IN LINE OF MARCH.

### Speakers Urge Their Hearers to Strike at the Ballot Box for Economic Freedom.

New York, April 29, 1900. The trade unions of not less than thirty different trades marched last night in a grand parade arranged and led by the united socialists of New York. It is estimated that 40,000 men and women took part in the parade. There were children too, some of them babes in arms making their first protest against industrial slavery. The socialists, S. L. P. and S. D. P. led showing transparencies with such mottoes as these: "You remember the Maine; why don't you remember Homestead and Pullman and the Coeur d'Alene?" "There were no Spaniards at the Croton dam, so the Seventh regiment was not afraid to go there." "Don't vote for the Bull-pen," and many others.

They came division after division of trade unions, each with its appropriate banners and mottoes. The greatest interest was shown in the striking cigarmakers and Typographical Union No. 6. The infamy of Judge Freedman's injunction against aiding the strikers financially, gave zest to the enthusiastic shouts with which this marching protest was greeted. Young men and women marching arm in arm, and singing the Marseillaise, fathers and mothers with babes in their arms, refusing to be enjoined was a sight to thrill the multitude, as it did thrill them last night. Typographical Union No. 6 (Big Six), filled the air with tiny dodgers calling on us not to patronize the Sun which locked out 276 men because they were members of this union.

"Boy-boy-boy-coit the Sun" rang through the air as they marched along. A common advertisement in the street cars here reads: "If you see it in the Sun it's so."

Scores of transparencies last night repeated: "If you see it in the Sun, it's SCAB."

As the procession wheeled into Union Square, the bands one after the other took up the Marseillaise, and the crowd sang it till they were hoarse.

And yet, though the whole plaza was packed, there was not the slightest disorder. Short speeches were made by a carpenter and cigarmaker, a tailor, a typesetter and a dentist. Several of the speakers paid their compliments to Judge Freedman, and declared that while they would obey laws of legislators they would not obey judge-made laws. A strike at the ballot box was the mark they all aimed at. A ringing set of socialist resolutions was passed, and the meeting broke up with three cheers for international socialism. N.

## HE'S AFTER IT.

### John Bull Hears of a Golden Stool and "Benevolent Assimilation" Is Now in Order.

Last week witnessed fighting between British troops and the natives near Kumassi, the capital of Ashanti, now called the British Gold Coast Colony. Kumassi is about 150 miles from the coast. There has been a renewal of the troubles which necessitated the British expedition last year, and several hundred British troops have been despatched overland from Accra, the main Ashanti port, to the scene of conflict. Ever since the capture of Kumassi in 1874 the British have been trying to locate the Royal Golden Stool, an enormous nugget of gold which takes the place of a throne in Ashanti. These efforts finally provoked the natives to resentment, and there now appears to be a general uprising in the northern part of the colony. In 1886 the last king, Premeh, was forced to abandon Ashanti and to live henceforth in the British colony of Sierra Leone; he managed to conceal the Golden Stool, and his followers have kept it hidden from the British ever since.—The Outlook.

Another case of "benevolent assimilation." What scoundrels these natives must be not to give that gold up immediately to these defenders of law and order. Cannot they be made to understand that "the earth is the capitalists, and the fullness thereof" and that all gold, whether in the wilds of Ashanti, the mines of the Rand or the vaults of the banks has been consigned to him by "manifest destiny" and that he keeps soldiers, policemen, governments and other handy weapons to see to it that destiny is never allowed to miscarry.

The earth belongs to the children of men. How much of it do you own?

Workingmen unite! The capitalists are uniting right along.

Those who wait for leaders will always be misled.

Is it possible the big political capitalists have begun devouring each other?

Are you wearing the label of any political boss?

## SOOTHING FLATTERY

### Sugar-coated Pills for Consumption by the Working Class.

## GENEROSITY OF CAPITALISM.

### American Wage Slave Asked to Believe That He Gets Three Times as Much as Other Workmen.

Those who are to some extent familiar through reading or personal observation with the ideas and habits of thought peculiar to the negro race in the southern states, can hardly fail to have noticed many stories in which the colored man in detailing his reminiscences of the old slavery days was wont to extol the good qualities of the master to whom he belonged, feeling that in so doing, some of the distinction with which he endowed his owner in some way reflected credit upon himself. The wealthy planter, who was also possessed of liberality, local prestige, and an ancestral record which entitled him to be considered as one of the "old families," often stood in somewhat the same relation to his human property, as what is known as "his country" does to the white workman of the present day. The pride with which the old darkey spoke of his particular owner and the contempt and disdain with which he looked upon "niggers" who belonged to an inferior brand of white master, finds its counterpart today in the wage slave whose "patriotism" consists in a fixed belief in the superiority of his conditions of life when compared with those of wage earners of other lands.

Human nature is much alike after all. This feeling produced a similar effect upon both white and black. It made them overlook the fact that they were slaves, and as such of the lowest value to the masters. Chattel slavery being now a thing of the past, the system of wage slavery which now exists is partly supported by this feeling, and as a consequence comparisons tending to prove the superiority of material conditions of the workers of one country over those of another find great favor in the capitalist press, and are greedily swallowed by the majority of workmen, who complacently accept the flattery of their exploiters in this respect, not understanding the causes which prompt it.

An instance of this occurs in the daily papers of last week, where a report on wages in Germany by an American consul is made to imply that American workmen live over three times better than Germans. "American labor," says the report, "receives treble the wages paid in Germany, although the cost of food is from ten to fifty per cent cheaper in the United States than in that country."

It is an undeniable fact that a few weeks idleness brings the greater number of the American working class face to face with financial want, involving the possibility of hunger, cold and nakedness. Those who have observed the chronicles of distress among the workers during the winter when employment is scarce or when labor troubles are prolonged for a few weeks will admit the truth of this statement.

Does the American workman then on the average consume three times more than the German, and is it because of his "improvidence" in this respect that want appears instantly at his door when a period of idleness ensues? It is not necessary to settle this question by an array of figures; a glance at the physical appearance of both workers is sufficient. Does the German workman show marked signs of hunger or insufficient food in his material make-up that are absent in the American workman? Would it be possible to judge from the appearance of both as to which were the best fed? We hardly think so. If anything, perhaps the German has a shade the better of the comparison.

Is it true that the American workman consumes three times more in the matter of clothing than the German? Is the former so much better dressed on the average that he can be readily distinguished from the other? No one who is at all competent to judge will declare that this is so. Does the average American workman live in a house noticeably superior to that inhabited by the average German workman? Has he more real leisure? Is he so much better educated? Does he get more real happiness and comfort out of his conditions of life than the other? Has he more pleasures? Does he go to the theater oftener? Does he get more beer to drink? Do his treble wages enable him to enjoy three times the amount of all the good things of life, which the German can secure?

Does the American workman get as much in proportion to what he produces as the German? Which of the two shows most plainly in his features the intensity of the labor process to which both are subjected? Which of the two wears out the soonest? These

are some of the questions, the answers to which will give the truest guide to a comparison of material conditions. While on the whole it may be admitted that the standard of living is somewhat higher in this country, we imagine that taking all things into consideration the difference is not only trifling, but that the trifling advantage may be on the other side.

At any rate, the implication that the material conditions stand in the proportion of three to one in favor of the American workman is a most deliberate and ridiculous falsehood, devised for the sole purpose of keeping the former in a state of ignorant content, by pointing out in grossly exaggerated press articles, how much better off he is than his fellow wage slaves in other lands.

The fact that more than eighty per cent of the working class of this country are absolutely without property of any kind (if we except a few miserable sticks of household furniture), gives the lie direct to the statement. While capitalism can command the services of statisticians versed in the art of juggling figures so that misleading conclusions can be inferred from them, the workers will not be permitted to know the truth regarding these comparisons. It is necessary to carefully conceal the fact that under the wage system, the tendency is towards that point where the worker receives the cost of his reproduction; that is, sufficient to keep him in a state of normal health and strength, so that (apart from natural decay) his labor power may be reproduced from day to day, and to allow him to reproduce his species, in order to furnish the system with a renewed supply of wage slaves. This point is practically reached in every capitalist country in the world, as well as the United States and Germany.

There are more than two million German workmen who understand this, and who cannot be flattered by their masters with specially prepared statistics showing the superior conditions which they enjoy. Those two millions have got through and long the praises of their masters in the old slave method, and are determined to get rid of them and appropriate the whole product of their labor to their own use.

They don't waste time discussing comparisons of their condition of life with those of other wage earners. Whatever those conditions be, one thing they are determined upon is to make them better, by owning all that their labor creates.

And the American workmen are also getting ready to follow their example, as the next socialist vote will show.

### The Socialist Position.

It is at the door of the wage system that the socialist lays the vast majority of the present crimes, industrial wars and social problems. Under the wages system wages is purchased at a price less than the value of its product. The individual receiving this price (wages) is, therefore, unable to purchase either his own product or its equivalent in value. But since this is the base of the present industrial system, it causes the so-called overproduction and the concentration of capital in the hands of a few.

When capitalists cannot sell their goods, production is stopped and men are discharged. This increases the army of the unemployed, and leads, first, to the lowering of wages; second, to strikes; third, to impoverishment; fourth, to crime.

When the people of a country are barred by such a system from consuming their own products, then the capitalists are compelled to look to other countries for a market, and thus the expansion issue and other political issues arise.

The socialist would organize and socialize the industrial system, to the end that each producer should receive an equivalent for his product. The hours of labor would be reduced in proportion to the development of machinery. There would then be no overproduction, no industrial crises, no men discharged, no unemployed, no expansion issue.

With these principles in view the socialist program may be easily understood.—Job Harriman, in New York Evening Journal.

It will be remembered that it was pointed out in the columns of the last issue of the Call that the United States became interested in the "Eastern Question" and began to bully Turkey, just as soon as Russia began to bother English claims in India. Events since then have proven the correctness of the suggestion. Russia is protesting against the American claims and Germany is joining in with her. Things seem to be lining up for the last great war for plunder between capitalist nations, with England, United States, and perhaps Japan, upon the one side, representing the most advanced capitalism, and Russia with her allies upon the other representing the more backward nations. The laborers of those countries are of course but the counters in the game. Will they permit themselves to be so used?

A call for the Workers' Call will always receive prompt attention, which is an invitation to call again.

## SOCIALIST POINTERS

It is not likely that any of the federal judges will vote for Debs.

It is a mighty hard thing to inject sentiment into \$1.25 a day.

Have the Call, call weekly on the friend you wish to convert to socialism.

Besides being William the First, McKinley should also be William the Last.

After the example set by New York, Chicago comrades should be up and doing.

No system can be defended that will let little children die for want of fresh air.

Why discuss union? It has already been accomplished in the hearts of SOCIALISTS.

Populists may as well follow the middle of the road into the socialist camp first as last.

The semi-frost which greeted Dewey shows that Chicago is gradually recovering its senses.

The politician who undertakes to deliver the labor vote this fall has a big contract on his hands.

The big May Day parade expressed the opinion of the New York comrades on the subject of union.

If Senator Clark secures a vindication after the late exposures, manhood must be at a low ebb in Montana.

Some day the people will go to the polls and tell John W. Gates and his kind what they are going to do about it.

The party of Lincoln is not sitting up nights to have spasms because the negro is practically disfranchised in the South.

A vote for Debs and Harriman will most certainly not be thrown away if it helps to lay the foundation for victory in 1904.

Workingmen are not so much interested in saving the small capitalist from the big capitalist as in saving themselves from both.

Perhaps there are no classes in this country; still, it will be observed that no one who disgraces himself by working was invited to the Dewey ball.

How relieved the constitution must feel when it realizes that it came within one vote of turning a double back summer suit just to please Matt Quay.

New York cigar manufacturers should have secured an injunction forbidding the men to eat while on strike if they wanted to bring them to time.

If the trust organizers work as hard in the next four years as in the past four they will have all of the industries nicely organized for the people to take hold in 1904.

Taking all things into consideration the contest over the question of party union has been conducted with a spirit of good nature that augurs well for a harmonious future.

The Democrats will have need of skillful word jugglers to write a platform that will capture the workman and also the fellow who contributes to the campaign funds.

It means something when more men marched in a socialist demonstration in New York last week than there were votes cast for the presidential candidate in the entire country four years ago.

It did not matter so much about the strike in Chicago when only the workmen were suffering, but as soon as the department stores began to lose trade things immediately assumed a serious aspect.

The pressure of the interests of capitalism has once more unmasked that "friend of labor," Carter Harrison, who has lately requested the justices of the peace to impose the limit—\$100 fine upon all union pickets found guilty of bodily assault during the present labor troubles. Capitalist law and order, and the "freedom of contract" must be maintained, even if the unions are to be rendered powerless. Scratch the average "friend of labor" and you find a capitalist. It cannot be otherwise. No man can serve two masters, and he who professes to serve the interests of capitalists and workers at the same time will eventually and invariably be found on the side of the former.

### Notice.

Members are requested to attend their respective branches and vote on the unity question.

Secretaries will please fill out the return blanks and mail same to Jas. S. Smith, 245 W. Monroe street, not later than May 28th, as the vote MUST reach the national secretary by May 30th.

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 unneeded manuscripts postage should be enclosed.

Contributions and items of news concerning the labor movement are requested from our readers.

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that cannot send in at least one such club between now and the middle of June. If you cannot get the fifteen cents from everyone do you not think that your freedom is worth the few extra cents it will take to make up the necessary sum so as to have the paper sent from now until after election to ten of your fellow workers?

To help arouse the interest of every subscriber and give him some reward for his trouble we will give a cloth bound copy of Engel's "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific" to everyone who sends in such a club of ten. This is the Aveling translation with the introduction complete and is a book that next to "Capital" forms the foundation of the socialist philosophy.

This offer will close promptly on the 30th of June and it is hoped that as many as possible of the clubs will be sent in at once so that the mailing list may be set up in the course of the regular work of the office and all extra expense be spared. Now comrades, it is up to you. We have done our share.

THE STRIKE SITUATION.

To all outward appearances there is little change in the strike situation in Chicago. But to a close observer the last week has brought some very important changes.

The building trades have been making a most noble fight. They have stood together like heroes. They deserve the support of every sympathizer with the cause of labor wherever he may be. They have recognized for many years the point that the socialist has so often preached that the real strength of the capitalist class lies at the polls.

They have made a faithful trial of this position. They have with few exceptions solidly supported the Democratic administration of Carter Harrison. On his side let us be fair to him and say that as an individual he did all he could to fulfil his share of the bargain. We will suppose for the purpose of this article at least that everything was done in good faith on both sides.

Harrison in return for the influence of the unions appointed a large number of labor leaders to city offices. He also instructed the police to be lenient with strikers who were trying to prevent those traitors of the laboring class, the scabs, from taking away the means of life from the union men.

For a time this has worked fairly well and many small concessions were secured. But at last there came a time when the capitalists thought it worth while to make an actual fight.

They not only refused to make any further concessions but announced their determination to smash the union. The men struck and the present long struggle was begun.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Governor Pingree who has hitherto been a Republican is quoted as declaring that the "hope of the people lies in the Democratic party." He says the Republican party will do nothing with the trusts. That's where Pingree is mistaken. With the trusts they will sweep away the last vestige of property in the means of production which the small producers (whom Pingree calls "the people") have still managed to hold on to.

The secretary of war has declared that the United States will within a few years be involved in war for the support of the Monroe doctrine. It seems far more probable though that the next war may more likely result from the capitalist government of this land attempting to smash up the Monroe doctrine (or the idea corresponding to it), amongst other people.

Eight thousand washwomen in Paris have gone on strike for better conditions and altogether 25,000 people engaged in the laundry industry are involved. It is said that to such a pass have things arrived that a clean towel is not to be had in Paris. It would be a terrible catastrophe indeed if the French capitalist class were forced to wash their own linen.

The Chicago Daily News of the 28th ult. gives in its columns a description of a peculiar revolver known as the "king killer" which is alleged to have been found on a union picket when arrested. This weapon we are informed is of the type commonly used by anarchists, nihilists and socialists of the old world when some crowned head or other eminent person is to be removed.

Nearly 1,000 United States soldiers have been sent from the Philippines to the military insane hospital at Washington during the past two years. Eighty-three suicides have also taken place in the army of occupation during that period. Not content with the destruction of the body capitalism destroys the mind in addition.

A threatened strike on the New York Central promises to affect thirty thousand men who declare they will accept no compromise, but will insist upon their terms being acceded to. Perhaps the unctuous Chauncey Depew who resigned the presidency of this road for a seat in the Senate could be induced to give the strikers one of his celebrated "coon" talks, and thus throw oil on the troubled waters.

Siegel, Cooper & Co. have decided to introduce the co-operative plan into their department stores in Chicago and New York. The scheme also includes a profit-sharing plan to be operative among employees of more than three years standing and an old age pension for those who have been ten years in service.

John W. Gates, it is stated, is about to be prosecuted for his unbusinesslike conduct in playing ducks and drakes with the interests of the Wall street gamblers through his manipulation of the Steel and Wire stocks.

steel and wire instead of gambling with it who were also inconvenienced by the action of Mr. Gates, but the power of prosecution lies not with them. Yet they have a means of forever preventing the class to which Gates belongs from making victims out of them.

The Middle of the Road Pops attempted to hold a convention at Springfield, Ill., last week. Of 1,500 delegates expected just 30 presented themselves.

When the convention was in session a letter was received from Mr. Hess, bewailing the fact that the former Pops have been torn apart and have lined up on one side or the other of the coming struggle.

As the class struggle becomes more clearly defined the middle of the road will be about the worst place to encamp.

But Mr Hess' conception of socialism that puts Uncle Sam in the business of raising oats, corn, etc., etc., puts him to his wit's end; he wants the surplus value of the farm hand. He (the M. of R.) wants to exploit the industrial workers in the cities.

The skeleton of the new postoffice building is still untouched, and Brother Wm. McKinley, honorable member of the Bricklayers' union, who has it in his power to compel the contractors to proceed with the work and give employment to thousands of workmen, still keeps silence.

Some people will think it strange that the Centrists (church party) in Germany will aid the emperor in voting for the naval bill, but there is really nothing strange about it.

The grand jury of Cook county is to investigate the labor troubles in Chicago. We advise the workers to look out. There is something brewing. The capitalist snake is not sleeping; it may strike with fangs at any moment.

Workingmen, don't get excited about the Boer-British war. The English thieves are trying to make themselves masters of Africa, and the Boers so far as they are masters show how much there is in them for workers to interest themselves in their behalf.

At the Ohio Republican convention Mark Hanna said there must be no change. Just think of four years more of hell. If you want to get out vote the socialist ticket.

The head of the Franklin syndicate who swindled the little business men in New York with the promise of 50 per cent profit on their investments, has been sentenced to the penitentiary for ten years.

Involuntary poverty is the result of involuntary idleness. When natural opportunities are free none need be poor who can and will work.

LETTER BOX.

Editor of The Workers' Call:—

Socialists of America, so long as we are divided, the enemy will triumph. The enemy is united, and therefore continues to hold the workers in servitude. "Amalgamation of all socialists" that is the watchword of the hour, of all earnest, intelligent, and class-conscious socialists in both parties.

Comrades, take advantage of the opportunity, for we shall be divided much longer if we will not prove our little faith in ourselves; as a result we shall undoubtedly lose the confidence of a large number of our present supporters, and prove ourselves incapable of properly carrying on the great class struggle.

The opportunity now presents itself to socialists to show that they have the interest of the cause at heart. We have many more things which should draw us together than we have to thrust us apart.

The newspaper trust in this city is at its wit's end how to harmonize its duty to the capitalist class interest and not break their bargain with their creature, Mayor Carter H. Harrison.

The evidences of prosperity are as much in evidence as the signs of spring. Every day the papers contain accounts of closing of mills and factories, lock-outs and strikes.

Whereas, The question of choosing a name for the proposed united party of the S. L. P. and S. D. P. has been submitted to a referendum vote, and Whereas, The members of the S. D. P. earnestly desire the retention of their name to secure harmony in the ranks of their party, and

Resolved, By the Central Committee of Section Chicago in regular meeting assembled, that we recommend to the membership of Section Chicago to vote for the name "Social Democratic Party."

We regret to announce the death of our old and tried German comrade Adolph Kundt, who passed away on Tuesday the 1st of May, after a week's illness.

When will the people learn to use their ballots to break their chains, and not as rivets to make the shackles of their slavery more secure?

A CAPITALIST IDEAL.

Conception of the "Intelligent Union Man" Who Loves Long Hours and Low Wages.

In our present society with its economic distinctions, it is interesting to note that in all discussions of the labor problem by those who belong to, or identify their interests with the ruling class, any initiative or action taken by the workers on their own behalf, is continually denounced by such individuals, as injudicious, foolish, and productive of nothing except evil to those who engage in it.

For instance, during the present labor troubles, the columns of the capitalist press persistently spread the idea, that all the disastrous effects of the local struggle can be clearly traced to the influence of a few professional agitators, amongst whom the "walking delegate" is conspicuously denounced.

Not every individual workmanman but at all to be listed in the above catalogue. The capitalist press cheerfully admit that there is such a thing in existence as an "intelligent" union man.

Therefore, according to this theory, the worker can only demonstrate his intelligence by hoping for results that would bring him longer hours, more intense labor, and a lower wage.

From the socialist point of view, the course pursued by the union is intelligent, though certainly not the highest intelligence. The failure to see that only a very limited success, and then only for certain groups of workers, is the most that can be hoped for, and that the possibility of the worker obtaining the whole, instead of a part, of his product, can be realized by the use of political methods, is the point at which the intelligence contained in the union method reaches its limit.

While it may be said that the actions and tactics of the unions have not been always guided by the highest judgment it may as safely be said that they will never be guilty of the folly of acting upon the advice of those whose only care is the perpetuation of the system by which the workers are plundered.

There is always room for more subscribers.

# Socialism Among Quakers.

Address Delivered by Comrade Oliver Troth, of Branch II, Camden, N. J., Before Friends.—First Day School Conference Held at Moorestown, N. J., March 31st, 1900.

Can friends consistently neglect the consideration of social questions involving the welfare of humanity?

They certainly can NOT. No thoughtful, conscientious person can. I do not believe that many of them want to. The conditions under which most of us live—the amount of energy and force we are compelled to expend to keep abreast of business demands, is so great, that the whole tendency of life is to produce a sort of lethargy in all other directions. The struggle among the masses for food, shelter and clothing is so severe that the majority are satisfied when that is accomplished, and have no inclination or desire for anything else. They are content if they can make buckle and strap meet, and are perfectly willing to let some one else, who has more time, do their CONSIDERING. The battle for livelihood with the masses deadens their sensibilities and saps their moral vitality.

Believing that all are willing to consider when they realize the importance of it, the whole gist turns upon "what are questions involving the welfare of humanity?" The subject for discussion is worthy of our most profound thought. In considering it let us refrain from all that tends to cloud or befuddle. Let us endeavor to let the spirit of truth guide us, and then have the courage to acknowledge and maintain the convictions it forces upon us. Let us call things by their proper names, so that we can sooner come to a better understanding of the subject and of each other. Let us not shield ourselves behind superstition, selfishness or ignorance, and above everything else, let us shake off indifference and apathy. I shall endeavor to present the subject, as I see it, in a clear cut, concise manner. I believe in using words to express thought, not to conceal it. In considering any question, greatest headway can be made by recognizing certain self-evident truths. In geometry we have "a straight line is the shortest distance between two given points." In mathematics, "one and one make two." In after calculations, no matter how correct or to what untold lengths it may be carried, the result will be wrong if these self-evident truths have been ignored in the beginning. So in considering this question, let us start out with some economic axioms that are so plain that the way-faring man, though a fool, can understand.

FIRST. That which nature provides is the common property of all God's children.

SECOND. That which the individual creates belongs to the individual.

THIRD. That which the community creates belongs to the community.

Are the forces at work today calculated to make these simple axioms operative? Is the present method of production and distribution in accord with common sense and scriptural teachings? A little examination will reveal the facts. Last year the Standard Oil Company declared dividends to the amount of about \$60,000,000. Did an all-wise providence put the oil in the earth for this purpose or did he make a free gift to all mankind? In the last thirty years the aggregate wealth of the nation has increased about 330 per cent. In the same period of time the wealth of the Standard Oil Company has increased about 55,000 per cent. The NET PROFITS of this gigantic corporation today are greater than the GROSS RECEIPTS of the government were after it had been established 73 years. The people who have made the building up of this vast sum possible are the masses—they burn coal oil. Is this in accord with common sense? There is not a productive mercantile business that you can engage in today that is not controlled by a combination. If you make more money than they think you ought to, or interfere with them in any way, you are squeezed to the wall. Certainly this is a question that involves the welfare of humanity. The trusts are the logical outgrowth of competition. All the "Be it enacted" will not dissolve one of them. The recent steel combination of Messrs. Carnegie, Frick & Co., have forestalled all possible anti-trust laws by allowing all property to be held by the original owners and by making provisions for doing business in each state according to the laws of that state. There is but one solution to the problem, and that is the public ownership and management of the means of production and distribution.

The present system of production is planless, wasteful; a sort of hide and seek game with demand. A heavy crop of cotton sends the price below cost of production, and an effort is made next year to diminish quantity to maintain prices. A full crop of wheat everywhere brings the grower in debt. Our present economic order is so full of contradictions that men go without clothes if there is too much cotton grown, and people go hungry because too much grain is raised. When production is carried on to satisfy wants for material things, poverty will have no place among an enlightened people except the earth refuses to give up her bounties or men refuse to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

The waste under our competitive manner of production and distribution is simply appalling. Every fellow for himself—no system, no attempt to estimate the possible demand and then endeavor to supply it—just a planless, haphazard,

slipshod, hit or-miss struggle for supremacy. This certainly involves the welfare of humanity. It cannot go on much longer. The trusts have solved the problem for their benefit. The people themselves must become the trust or sink still further into industrial slavery. The competitive system has run its course in the industrial evolution. The people must own the trusts or be owned by them—there is no alternative between socialism and barbarism. You may poultice and plaster but you can only stave off the inevitable a short time. The trust magnates saw that consolidation was their only business salvation. Will the people see that it is their only safety before it is too late? The inventive genius of man is in the main responsible. The machine has taken the place of the man, and society as a whole must own and control that machine for society's good. As John Stuart Mill says, "Hitherto it is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being." This is a significant and tremendous indictment of modern industry. The difference between capitalism and socialism is this: in the former the workingman exists for the machine; in the latter the machine exists for the workman. Formerly the employer and workman worked side by side; mutual sympathy and respect prevailed. The apprentice looked forward to being a journeyman, and hoped soon to have a shop of his own. The employer and the employed were on familiar terms. But now production has passed out of the shop and entered the factory. Turn to the great mills and you will find hundreds of operatives who rarely if ever come in contact with their employer. In fact the employed in many places are not even known by a name but by a number. Instead of any longer being treated as flesh and blood with a heart and stomach, he is only a THING feeding a machine. The man who manages the great establishment may become rich; the man whose labor helps to make him rich loses capacity to do anything else. His occupation admits of little interest and no enthusiasm in his work; and, worst of all, it cramps the mind and belittles the man. The separation of the laboring and employing classes, is indeed, one of the most painful and dangerous tendencies in society.

In the competitive system money not man becomes the center and circumference of all trade. Mammoth swallows up humanity. The wage worker is regarded as a commodity subject to the law of supply and demand. Yet no provision is made for the feeding of the many mouths when the demand diminishes; nor does the system remember that laborers do not stop being born the moment they are not wanted.

Are we told that we are prosperous. So are the great combinations of productive capital. No prosperity is worth talking about that does not include the whole people. A prosperity that merely utilizes the workers, as did the slave masters of old, in producing wealth for a few is no prosperity worthy of the name, and yet that is the only kind possible where capitalism has developed to its present stage. No one claims that the wage earners today receive a larger share of the wealth they create than formerly. In fact they get less. This will continue in the present wage and profit system and can only be abolished by socialism.

It is not uncommon for the managers of cotton and woolen mills to receive salaries of \$10,000 per year, while many of their employes barely receive enough to keep body and soul together. Is it any wonder there is discontent? We are developing side by side two hostile forces; socialism is the advance guard carrying the olive branch of peace.

Competition shuts our markets. It converts a nation of brethren into a mass of warring, isolated units, and finally involves capitalists and laborers alike in one common ruin. It is social anarchy. It is utterly unfit for a higher civilization. Society should not be an unrestricted hunting ground for avarice, cupidity and dishonesty. Social control replaces chance. What socialism really proposes is not a division of property, but the CONCENTRATION OF PRODUCTIVE PROPERTY; in fact its complete unification. It does not propose a grand divide. But it does propose that the wealth which co-operation will bring into existence, shall belong to those who bring it into existence.

Do not confound socialism with anarchy. They are as far apart as the poles of the earth. Socialism is anarchy's most inveterate foe. Do not form your opinions by what its enemies say of it. Examine it and learn of its wondrous beauties.

dens and so fulfil the law of Christ." Is it impracticable? Is it impossible? Is it visionary? Is it an idle dream? If so, then Christianity is of no use because we cannot use it. We are told that "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world." This is made possible by socialism as it wipes out every incentive for one man to rob another. It fulfills what has been declared to be the royal law according to the scriptures "thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Jesus declared the kingdom of heaven to be within, and instructed his disciples to preach that it is at hand, to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils. He preached for a bettering of conditions among men as well as preparing for a future life. The spirit of commercialism has seared the public conscience. Might has usurped the place of right. Let us turn, Christward while it is yet day.

The spirits of Fox, Barclay, Woolman and Penn. buckled on the armor of faith and fought for religious freedom. The spirits of Lucretia Mott, Isaac T. Hopper and hosts of other friends that have gone before did valiant service for the black slave. Can we, believers in their faith and enjoying the blessings of their service do less than consider questions making possible the brotherhood of man? In approaching the throne of grace we acknowledge the Fatherhood of God. It is OUR father; not mine, nor thine. We pray "thy kingdom come," then let us endeavor to do something to make this life like His kingdom. We ask, "thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven." What an idea we must have of what God's will is like in heaven if we are satisfied with the things which are done here. How I hope that death draws the curtain so closely that the departed spirits of humanitarian and philanthropic friends that have passed away cannot look back to earth and see the lethargy of us who profess to be their followers.

## FOREIGN NEWS.

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

### BELGIUM.

Brussels, April 29.—Thousands of workmen, many accompanied by their wives and children, paraded in the central streets and boulevards of Brussels today, their demonstration being organized in favor of the workmen's old-age pension scheme. The manifestos were headed by bands and made a liberal display of red flags. Forty thousand persons came into town by way of the Southern station, where they formed in procession. M. Vandervelde, the socialist leader, at their head, and marched to the workmen's palace. At frequent intervals were carried boards with the inscription "Each prisoner costs the state 300 francs (\$160) per annum, each beggar 55 francs (\$31)."

At the workmen's palace M. Furnemont made an eloquent speech. "The government," he said, "grants old men of 55 to 65 centimes (3 1/2 cents) a day. We shall fight to obtain our rights. If the present chamber refuses to grant what we demand the composition of the next parliament will bear witness to our obstinate intention to obtain it."—Chicago Record.

And in the case of Furnemont this threat means something. The Belgian workmen are organized along political lines and Furnemont and Vandervelde are their representatives in the Chamber of Deputies and can make their protests heard there where they must be heeded.

### DENMARK.

There have just been some elections at Copenhagen to fill vacancies on the municipal council. The socialists won nine seats and the Radicals four, and these two parties now hold between them 27 out of 36 seats.

### FRANCE.

The Parti Ouvrier of France is making preparations to add still other victories in the municipal field in the elections which take place next Sunday, the 6th inst. It is this party (popularly known as the Guesdists) that today controls so large a number of French cities. In the call to the comrades to rally for the coming fight which is to be found in the columns of Le Socialiste the socialists are careful to call attention to the fact that none of the proposed municipal movements are to be considered as a part of socialism. They only justify the attention given them on the ground that a proletariat must be well-fed to be good fighters and so they place foremost in their demands the feeding of the school children.

### GERMANY.

The Socialist party has suffered a great loss by the death of Karl Oertel, who was a member of the Reichstag and also a member of the Bavarian local parliament. He was only thirty-four years of age but had been an active member of the party for many years. He was first elected to the Reichstag in 1897. The socialists will contest both seats.

"Vorwärts" publishes the usual monthly list of convictions obtained against socialists. During March they were sentenced to four, years, seven months, four weeks and four days' imprisonment and fines amounting to \$65.

### ITALY.

Socialist congress is to be held at Rome shortly. The Socialist and Radical deputies have published a manifesto explaining that they have been forced to have recourse to obstruction in order to defeat the tactics of the government.

### POLAND.

The Polish socialists of Germany held a convention in Berlin last week and finally decided the question whether the Poles nationalistic issue shall re-

main a leading part of the party creed. The "table cloth was cut in two." After a boisterous session, the imperialistic denunciation that found expression in the nationalistic cry was thrown overboard, and the body became an integral part of the Social Democratic party, holding that the economic question was paramount. The government considers this action as of the utmost importance as strengthening and unifying socialism.—Cleveland Citizen.

### SPAIN.

The Socialist party is organizing a series of meetings on May Day. "El Socialista," the organ of the party, published the manifesto signed by Paul Iglesias, the president of the Socialist party in Spain.

## LABOR ITEMS.

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

Typographical union of Toronto, Can., has declared for independent political action.

The combined socialists have issued a call for a state convention in New York in June.

Carpet weavers of Philadelphia are asking for an increase of seven per cent in wages.

The National Cash Register company has gawlooned the Hamilton concern that manufactures registers.

In legislative bodies in Austria and Germany the socialists are striving to force through eight and nine-hour bills.

Cigarmakers' Union No. 192, of Manchester, N. H., have won their strike against the R. H. Sullivan Cigar factory.

The miners of Kansas continue to whoop'er up for the united socialist ticket. They claim they will sweep the mining region for the new movement.

The strike of the job prossem feeders and assistants in Detroit has assumed still larger proportions. Half a dozen leading job offices have recognized the union.

The Washington Post concludes that "the flopping from Bryan to Debs is becoming a rather serious matter. It may be necessary to coax Debs off the track." Well, start your coaxing!

The British socialists and trade unionists have issued a manifesto showing the relative wage rates that exist in the Transvaal and her Royal Majesty's possessions. In the land of the Boers wages are highest.

The railway magnates are still scheming to reduce operating expenses. It is stated that 37 combined lines will dispense with 15,000 ticket sellers, agents, clerks, etc., at a saving of at least \$6,000,000 annually.

Duluth now contains the biggest ore docks in the world. These docks are capable of handling many thousands of tons of ore per day, and are equipped with the latest devices for the most speedy and economical methods of loading and unloading.

Gov. Roosevelt has signed the bill providing for shorter hours of the drug clerks in the city of New York. Under its provisions the clerks are prohibited from sleeping in the stores. This reads like a chapter from a history on slavery. "Bah for the great liberator! Rats!"

A new cigar-making machine has been given a successful trial in Germany. It is claimed for the new device that it overcomes all objections of other machines regarding the rolling and other technical imperfections. Some of the large factories are introducing the machine.

The American Federation of Labor recommends that the first of May be observed as an appropriate date for public meetings in behalf of the cause of labor. The federation is evidently trying to catch up with the procession believing that it is "better late than never."

The reported combination of the Carnegie and Cramp interests, and that the former are gaining a strong foothold in other iron and steelworks is followed by a statement that the Rockefeller-Morgan interests will form a closer alliance with the Carnegies. "See the drift—amalgamation of trusts?"

The strike of Italian laborers in Croton Dam, N. Y., where the militia has been attempting to defeat the workers, has been greatly misrepresented by the yellow journals. The New York Volkszeitung investigated the trouble and found that the rumor of the blowing up of the dam started in the empty head of a sensational reporter, the latter admitting that he dreamed that the blowing up would occur, and thereupon he "faked" the story.

Eighty glass manufacturers of Germany, Austria, England, Norway and other countries assembled in Dresden recently to watch the operation of a new blue-glass blowing machine. The device increases production 800 per cent and displaces about 50 per cent of labor, while the waste of glass is also materially lessened. The entire glass-blowing industry, according to trade journals, is being revolutionized, and they lay much stress upon the fact that capitalists now possess "the advantage of not being dependent exclusively upon skilled workmen." Still they say labor-saving machinery is not a great issue! It is so great, however, that it has raised the question of socialism or slavery.

The report of the Cigarmakers International union shows a gratifying increase in membership and funds, but nevertheless it is essential that mem-

bers should be enlightened on the subject of the coming climax in the present class struggle, and it would do no harm to Brother Perkins if he should call attention to the fact that DeLeon and his S. T. and L. A. have been repudiated by the socialists of the United States, as they will be by the International Socialists.

Socialists will never cease to call attention to the insufficiency of pure and simple trade unionism to emancipate the working class, but no socialist will take a job under the cover of "gating guns on paper." Those who do that are DeLeonites and we ask trade unionists to understand it.

The trust is the union of capital; the trades union is the trust of labor. Both are the natural outcome of our present system of competition and wage slavery; so next fall when you hear the political fakir and the labor fakir howling to smash the trust pay no attention to him, he is only a servant of the small middle class labor skinner, the rotten fringe of capitalism who are shaking in fear of their coming doom. On the other hand, if it were possible to smash the trust, which it is not, the very first trust to be smashed would be the trust of labor, namely, the union. That would be the revenge of the trust of capitalism, and then the capitalist would not be smashed, as its owns, you might say, body and soul, every judge in the land. So, you see, it is only waste of time and votes.—Machinist's Monthly Journal.

## THE MAGICIAN'S WAND.

An Allegorical Story of Conditions as They Exist at Present.

A stranger stood upon the shores of a great and beautiful country. As he was contemplating the beautiful scenes before him he heard ominous murmurs of discontent throughout the length and breadth of the land that at times rose to such volume that many of the people near him turned pale with fear; and the stranger wondered much why there should be so much discontent in such a beautiful and fruitful land.

An old man, seeing he was a stranger, engaged him in conversation. The stranger expressed his wonder at the murmurs of discontent where everything seemed so beautiful and prosperous. The old man said to him:

"I am a magician, and if you so will, I will draw aside the veil that obscures your vision and show you this beautiful land as it really is."

"But," says the stranger, "there is no veil before me. I can see everything there is to be seen, and I see no cause for the murmurs I hear."

The old man smiled and touched the stranger with his magic wand, and lo! the veil was rent and, while yet seeing the same scene he saw before, he saw so much more that it made him sick with horror.

He saw grand churches costing thousands filled with fine ladies and gentlemen whose raiment cost untold wealth, pretending to be following the teaching of our meek and lowly Saviour, while within ear-shot he could hear starving babes wailing their lives away in the arms of parents from whose hearts all hope had fled.

He saw men spending thousands upon a supper, while on the curbstone outside a mother stood with her little babe in her arms starving and freezing to death.

He saw a woman at a public gathering whose costume and ornaments cost \$250,000, and within a stone's throw another woman starving and freezing, whom \$5 would have made comfortable.

He saw rich girls sell themselves to foreign rulers for a title, and the people all shouted their approval. He saw poor girls sell themselves for the means to keep life in their bodies and the people shouted "For shame!"

He saw rich girls guilty of an indiscretion spirited away until their "trouble" was over and then received by society with open arms, and he saw poor girls guilty of the same offense ground into the dust by public opinion.

He saw innocent childhood and decrepit age compelled to compete with strong and unscrupulous manhood for the means of existence.

He saw honest girls compete with girls with "friends," and homeless girls compete with girls who had homes and just wanted pin money.

He saw men competing with their own children, and the children competing with the machine.

He saw honest men trying to compete with thieves; honest dealers with dishonest ones; the man with small means trying to compete with gigantic combinations of capital.

He saw throughout this beautiful and fruitful land a terrible struggle between nine-tenths of the inhabitants struggling for the means of existence, while the other tenth, which had all the means of existence, sat just above them and idly watched their struggle.

He saw the lower class, when they became desperate, approach the idlers and ask for some of their plenty. This he saw refused, but the idlers made a proposition to them to let them use the idler's means of production, provided the idlers should have all that was produced except enough for a bare existence for the worker.

"as you have been touched with the wand you will see the cause."

He therefore looked again. He saw what was supposed to be a free government, where the common people were supposed to elect men to make laws for their benefit; but he also saw that the common people had the same veil over their eyes that he had formerly had, while the rich people had been touched by the magician's wand.

The rich people hired tools to spout to the poor about some empty reforms, such as free silver, single tax, tariff, gold standard and down with the trusts, telling them that if they only got these reforms they would cure all their troubles.

The name given these tools was "politicians." They would spout about another country oppressing its people, while their own army was in a foreign country with a sword in one hand and a chain in the other, offering the natives their choice between the two. They would spout about the starving people of a neighboring country, while their own country was filled with tramps and their cities with starving women and children. They would spout about imperialism and the indignities offered this country by another nation to detract the common people's attention from a law that places the bankers hand upon the throat of every man, woman and child in the nation.

They would spout about the oppression of militarism abroad, while forcing citizens of their own country to sign a petition for a continuance of it at home or leave their homes.

They would spout about protection and allow one corporation to rob the people of hundreds of millions. And the stranger wondered much at all these contradictions and subtleties, and looked for the cause, and he saw that the whole rotten construction of intrigues, thievery, lying, starvation, murder, oppression, long hours of labor, lives of idleness, ignorance and suffering was built upon one small point: The private ownership of the means of production.

The magician then said: "We have seen what is, let us see what will be, and he touched all of the people with the magic wand. The change was wonderful. They rose up as one man and did away with one thing, private ownership of the means of production. And the whole rotten structure fell of its own weight."

The law books were thrown away; the lawyers, judges, politicians and plutocrats went to work; jails and court houses were turned into schools; everyone had plenty; children had play time and schooling; old age had rest and care; fathers had employment and assurance of their children's welfare and of their own maintenance in old age; mother's hearts were satisfied—all done by the magician's wand.

The veil is ignorance. The wand is Knowledge. The magician must be Yourself.—R. R. Tripp, in Electrical Worker.

## As Others See Us.

A cold-blooded truth crops to the top once in a while, and though it may not be pleasing to contemplate, it may be fraught with more than common interest owing to the source from which it emanates. The story is going the rounds that a banker, taking alarm at the rapid spread of trade-unionism and the awakening of the working people to their class interest, wrote to a friend, who was an extensive employer of labor, and asked him whether nothing could be done to check the spread of the new gospel. What could be done to avert the danger to their class interests which would come when the workers were thoroughly awake, was the point emphasized in the banker's communication. The answer he got is well worthy of perusal and study. Read it and see if there isn't just a trace of the living truth to be found in it. Read it with care and ask yourself whether you haven't thought the same as this employer of labor does in his brutally blunt epistle. Here it is:

A slave is no more willing to have the shackles struck from his limbs than the working people are to lift a hand in behalf of their rights. Some of the leaders howl and try to arouse them, but it's all wind. Nothing will come of it. One-half derides the rest, and hence will remain helpless. Their votes tell the tale. They want masters, and don't desire to be free. All we have to do is to smile on one and kick the other. The fact of the matter is that they think they are helpless. It's our duty to make them believe it. An empty stomach and a naked back is our argument. That is all we need to remain masters. With all their growlings during their secret meetings, next day they say first to discredit their leaders, who work for principle and without remuneration. The whole thing in a nutshell is that they are too cowardly; they are unwilling even to vote for themselves. They realize they are our slaves. Let them believe it—it pays us. We would be fools not to use them in every way to coin money out of them. Have no fear of the workingmen, as they'll never disturb our mastery, for where cowardice is added to ignorance, resistance to power is impossible.

If it was a labor agitator who had penned the above, or even one of those much-maligned disturbers, "the walking delegate," who had been guilty of such an expression of opinion, it would not be of such value as it is; but coming as it does from one as directly interested, it is worth more than passing consideration. Read it over again, and think. Then do a little more thinking. Then vote.—Machinist's Monthly Journal.

"My country 'tis of thee,  
Still land of slavery,  
To thee I sing;  
Land where the rich and high,  
Thy sacred laws defy—  
Where thousands starve and die,  
Where Gold is King."

It is time the workingman stop licking the foot that kicks him.

"Look again," said the old magician,

THREE GREAT IDEAS.

Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, the Hope of the Human Race.

The hope of the human race has embodied itself in the three great words, liberty, equality, fraternity. Words are things; things are the historic manifestation of the degree of consciousness attained by man in the conquest over and in the analysis of what he deals with; words name the forms of material substance; words name the forces to which substance conforms; words express the design which is impressed in substance by force. The ideal state which liberty, equality and fraternity connote is still a vague dream, while the real state slowly shapes itself according as the ideal design reveals itself and as the necessity of economic development thrusts it upon the actors.

Liberty! That ever progressive condition which gives us freedom from restraint! The extent of our freedom depends upon our confine of liberty. In the world of emotion liberty may mount high and yet higher to the top rung of human aspiration. If emotion fall below the normal poise, liberty turned to license may descend down to the bottom of the bottomless pit. Only man himself puts bolts, bars and chains on the activity of the mind. The greater the capacity to feel and think, the larger the range of liberty, of reason. The environment which sustains and stimulates capacity gives the possibility for larger liberty.

Let us hail liberty as the first prerequisite to the establishment of a state in which vastly improved environment will again react, by increased capacity, in the elevation of that ideal state to which we all look for the pattern by which to work.

Equality! To accept the anarchistic philosophy of independent individual action is to cut off reciprocity, therefore to break down physical structure—to annihilate mankind. To accept the fundamental principles of socialist science, the organic unity of the race, (which is demonstrable whether one believe it or not), admits of the manifestation of equality in opportunity, up to the point of capacity, on the basis of citizenship.

A democratic state is reasonable and obtainable! Fraternity is a social quality! Only great men who are conscious of their own inherent right to life, in interdependent relationship with mankind are able adequately to respect the rights of other men. Only lofty souls who will not rule and who cannot be ruled attain the commanding virtue of fraternity. To be a dominant leader amongst men is to be great in contrast with the company of the servile. To speak the SOCIAL VOICE of executive power and to perform the social act of authority according to the command of a fraternal body of men of various stations and attainments is proof that liberty, equality and fraternity are living factors that are playing great parts with great men.

The combined qualities of these three words have been and still are forcing recognition, first in emotion; second, in thought, then in action which registers its pathway throughout all the ages. The sharp analysis of the great republican, Victor Hugo, brought the motive power of the three words, as applied directly to citizenship, to this statement: "The rights of one citizen end where the rights of other citizens begin." So powerful is the combination that kings tremble before it even when men cherish it in secret. It sees the light in the stormy days of revolution, when personal consideration is flung to the winged winds. It is passion; it is power. It is the fine mantle of democratic courtesy; it is grace. The love of citizenship, it is, that is gradually embedding itself in the institutions of men—in governments. Upon the proclamation of our republic of equal rights to life, to liberty and to the pursuit of happiness for all, we still build. Its flame burns brighter and ascends higher as the years go by. The love of liberty, the justice of equality, the dignity of fraternity in action, hastens a higher civilization, made possible, nay, necessary by the evolution in industry. The individualistic methods of producing wealth with its hand tools and its puny power is a thing of the past and along with it has gone the isolation of men. Today wealth production is social in its character. Chains of activity are set up that link men of different crafts and minute subdivisions of different crafts throughout the country and throughout the world to the performance of a single task. Each person who performs useful labor aids in sustaining each and every other worker in the civilized world—while it is equally true that those who are able but do no work are paupers living by the subsistence of the workers.

Says the artist, La Farge, "Art is the love of certain balanced proportions which the mind likes to discover and to bring out in what it deals with, be it thought, or the actions of men, or the influences of nature, or the material things in which necessity makes it to work."

Socialists have discovered that the qualities of liberty, equality and fraternity in balanced proportions may be maintained in the relations of men from the world of bread and butter, ascending up through the commercial, political, social, artistic, moral and spiritual life of man. The Co-operative Commonwealth is resolved upon. Wage-workers, because their necessity is greatest, first speak the fraternal voice at the polls, that wage slavery and economic mastery shall be abolished, and that social liberty and economic equality be instituted. The flaming light of liberty rests on

the deep foundation of science. The great discoveries of Marx makes conscious and confident the band of worldwide socialist workers that the best of all things and enough of all things to take the burden from the back, to smooth the brow of the world that is weary and sick of hollowness and strife, will be given. Victory will one day translate the ideal state into the real state. Our responsibility is equal to our opportunity.

Martha Moore Avery.

CAPITALIST "PEACE."

A Military Display Intended to Impress the Striking Workmen.

"Resplendent in natty uniforms with buttons glittering in the noonday sun, two thousand stalwart warriors marched in grand review. The chief, with his hair whitened by years of service, appeared the typical soldier, as he rode a handsome grey horse, leading the procession. All the men moved along like a cavalcade of veterans long used to the intricacies of army life. "Trailing along in the rear came a battery of artillery, consisting of four guns and a galling mounted on caissons and drawn by four fine horses. Capt. Adam Barber, the old artilleryman was in command of the battery. They followed the ambulances and patrol wagons."—Chicago Record.

Let the above might possibly be mistaken for some of the scenes that are now taking place in South Africa, we hasten to assure our readers that such is not the case. The spectacle in question appeared on the streets of this city on the 25th inst., and although peace, apparently reigns in the United States, curiously enough it evoked very different manifestations of feeling amongst the spectators. The ranks of the marchers were composed of men who are generally dubbed "guardians of the peace," and this demonstration of the instruments of war, was intended to give evidence of the ability of the aforesaid "guardians" in preserving the "peace" which is entrusted to their care.

One portion of the spectators along the line of march expressed their approval by cheering and handclapping, while another portion welcomed the marchers with groans, hisses, and catcalls.

This warlike display was given to emphasize the fact so well known and so often repeated amongst those who are known as "labor leaders," that the interests of the employer and employee are identical.

Sometimes the latter show a tendency to disbelieve this fundamental proposition, and at such times these demonstrations become necessary. They can be reasonably expected to be effective so long as the belief in these identical interests, upon the part of the workers, asserts itself on election day, by a majority of ballots cast for either the Republican or Democratic parties. It is interesting to consider the solicitude with which the ruling classes upon all occasions persist in instilling into the minds of the workers this theory of identical interests. Over in Europe when the faith of the laborers in this dogma shows signs of weakening, it generally becomes expedient to hold a grand military review which is often effective in restoring to some extent this portion of the old economic faith.

That part of the spectators who expressed their disapproval of the demonstration, were well aware that its purpose directly concerned them. They knew well that the force here displayed was intended for use against them, that the cannons, galling guns, and trained artillerymen, were trained in the procession as a distinct warning that they should behave themselves; and knowing this they resented it accordingly.

But they were not aware that this force which was used as a threat of coercion against them, could only be so used as a direct consequence of the political action of the class of which they formed a part. Believing on election day, that their interests as workmen were identical with those of their economic masters, they, by their votes, placed the public powers in the hands of the latter only to find it used against themselves when they attempted to further their interests—which they foolishly believed were also the interests of the bosses.

And until these men recognize the fact that these interests are not only not identical but absolutely opposed, and give expression to such recognition at the ballot box, by voting for socialism, which will secure to them their highest interests, the full product of their labor, so long will they greet these demonstrations with impotent curses and futile demonstrations of anger.

And just so long also will these spectacles of the power of the capitalist class appear in the streets when necessary. The parade of the police force with its artillery detachment, is in itself a lesson on the necessity of socialism, which workmen will ultimately have to bring in any case. Once learnt, such spectacles will disappear forever, along with the class in whose interest they are now being employed.

QUITE SIMPLE.

Mr. O'Hoolhan Gets a Pointer on How to Avoid Poverty.

Some North Side women became interested in the case of a man who, in the face of ill health and with the handicap of a large and growing family of children, was struggling to make a livelihood. The women put their hands to their purses and aided in that way, but that was not what the man wanted. He wanted work indoors so that he could keep his health and not be laid up every week or two as the result of exposure. He was a peddler, and by telling from the rising to the setting of the sun he managed to earn a few cents profit. There was never on any day of the year enough of a margin to give the family three satisfying meals. The children's clothes were ragged and there was want covering at night, notwithstanding the constant toiling of the father. The interested women appealed to the charitable organization to try to secure inside work for the worthy man, that would pay enough to give adequate food and shelter. An agent was dispatched to look up the case. His report was turned in and was sent last week to the charitable North Side women. It contained this comment and this recipe for the removal of the poverty of the peddler: "I have seen Mr. O'Hoolhan. He is honest, hard-working and worthy. As a way out of his troubles I would suggest that he save enough in summer to carry his family through the winter."—Chicago Tribune.

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. We affirm our steadfast purpose to use those powers, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery, abolish the institution of private property in the means of production and distribution, and to establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

In the United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, the possessors of all the modern means of production and distribution, (land, mines, machinery and means of transportation) and the large and ever-increasing class of wage earners, possessing no means of production.

This economic supremacy has secured to the dominant class the full control of the government, the pulpit, the schools and the public press, thereby making them the arbiters of the fate of the working class, while it is reducing it to a condition of dependence, economically exploited and oppressed, intellectually and physically crippled and degraded, and its political equality rendered a bitter mockery; and the contest between these two classes grows ever sharper. Hand in hand with the growth of monopolies, goes the annihilation of small industries and the middle class depending upon them. Ever larger grows the multitude of destitute wage workers and of the unemployed, and ever fiercer the struggle between the class of the exploiter and the exploited, the capitalists and the wage workers.

The evil effects of capitalistic production are intensified by the recurring industrial crises, continually rendering the existence of the greater part of the population more precarious and uncertain, which implies the huge modern means of production have outgrown the existing social order based on production for profit.

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