

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

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BRYAN ANSWER?

Eugene V. Brewster Asks Several Awkward Questions.

A LIST OF ECONOMIC POSERS.

The Apostle of Free Silver, Anti-Trust, Anti-Imperialism, Etc., Asked to Give Reasons for His Faith.

Here are a few questions for my old and esteemed friend, Mr. W. J. Bryan: 1. Some of your followers claim that your doctrines are a step toward socialism. Is this true or untrue? When did you believe in socialism, you answered in writing, "No." Do you hope and believe, then, that your program is a step away from socialism? You say that you are opposed to trusts and would crush them. You believe in competition. Is not the post office business the greatest trust and most complete monopoly? If so, do you destroy it and go back to isolation, where every man is to defend his own mail?

Do you believe in economy—in cutting waste, in doing away with the labor, in getting the greatest from mother earth with the least effort? If so, how can you continually destroy the trusts, which are doing all this? If not, why do you propose to destroy all improved machinery also? Do you know that competition means enormous waste, means paralyzing railroads, useless clerks and drummers, wasteful advertising, innumerable small and needless plants, etc.? If you are a friend of labor why put it to all this useless work? If you simply want to give employment (regardless of its usefulness) why not hire men to dig holes and then hire them to fill them up again?

Do you believe in land monopoly? If not, why not say so? Do you believe that the tools of production should be owned by a class who do not use them or did not make them? And do you not see that the monopoly of these tools has made labor dependent upon this class for work and therefore existence?

Do you really want to destroy the money lender? If so, must you not destroy interest? And if you would destroy interest, why don't you favor letting the government issue and lend all money direct to the people without interest?

Are you really opposed to wars? If so, why did you enlist? If not, why not?

Are you opposed to imperialism? Do you believe in capitalism? If so, you must know that wars and imperialism are necessary to capitalism. If not, why do you not say so, and show how you would remove the capitalist system and what you would substitute?

Are you satisfied with the present wage system which is turning out such as the man with the hoe? If you are, how are you going to make the slave owners give to their slaves anything more than a mere living wage? If you are not, what other system than universal co-operation do you propose?

You speak of workingmen as producers. Is the producer entitled to his product or not? If he is, how do you propose to get it for him? If he is not, how are you going to prevent an idle rich class that you so much condemn?

Do you believe in a system that permits a large class to consume without producing? If not, what other system do you favor? Or, how do you propose to make them produce?

In '96 you said you wanted free silver because it meant rising prices. You say you still want free silver. Do you want any higher prices than we have now?

You say the trusts have arbitrarily raised prices to the consumer, and you would therefore destroy the trust. Do you want higher prices, or lower prices, Mr. Bryan?

You say free silver is a blow at the money lender and a favor to the money borrower. In which, if either, of these classes does the wage earner belong, and if to neither, how will it benefit him?

If free silver means double the volume of money, and this means doubled prices (according to your quantitative theory), and if the holdings of the monopolistic capitalists are mostly invested in land, machinery and commodities, and if these are all to be doubled in price, how would free silver be a blow at monopoly?

Granting that free silver means rising prices, and admitting that wages are always last to rise, which you, of course, admit, when will labor benefit by free silver and how much more will his increased wage buy the higher priced necessities?

Granting that the theory of bimetalism is sound, granting that it is the proper ratio, granting that we need more money and that bimetalism will yield more, granting that it will make rising prices and that rising prices mean better times and better

(money) wages; granting that the bullion price of silver would soon rise to the mint price, making a 100 cent dollar, while we now have less than a 50 cent dollar—granting all this, and I believe it to be true, show me, if you can, how there can possibly be any more prosperity under bimetalism than there is today. We now have about all the prosperity we can possibly have under the present wage system. Can there be any other than a class prosperity under this system?

19. You say you believe in equality, but you say it means only equality before the law. Don't you believe also in equality of opportunity? If so, how can this be when, nearly all of the means of production are owned and controlled by the capitalist class? To have equal opportunity should not these social instruments be owned by the collectivity—by all?

20. Do you believe in a step at a time in the industrial evolution? If so, won't you admit that everything points to combination, to solidarity, to co-operation, and that competition and individualism are doomed? If so, if you would take a step at a time, shall you take a step forward or backward? Are you now stepping backward by seeking to destroy these marvellous industrial organizations known as trusts. Can you not see that they are both proper and natural, that their present evils are due only to mismanagement by the few when they should be a blessing to the many—to all? Can you not see the inevitable finality of the trusts—that they are permanent, indestructible fixtures, and that their natural and final place is beside the first and greatest trust of all, the post office trust?

Curse not then the trust makers, because they are unconsciously, perhaps, doing the world a great benefaction. To quote from the scripture: (1 John, 1:11): "He that hateth his brother is in darkness and walketh in darkness and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blindeth his eyes."

Eugene V. Brewster, Brooklyn, May 5, 1900.

The above article has been reprinted as a neat leaflet and is for sale at the office of The Workers' Call for fifteen cents a hundred or one dollar a thousand postpaid. Big discount on large orders. A blank space is left on which to stamp place and date of mailing. Every Democratic neighborhood should be sown with them.

SIZING IT UP.

The Present "Prosperity" Dissected for the Inspection of the Working Class.

Just now we hear a great deal of prosperity. "The mills are running full time, the merchants are doing a good business and the people are happy and contented." These are about the words used to express the conditions of certain localities, by one of the "men of affairs" in the locality that happens to be under discussion. According to this definition prosperity means to a given locality or trade, that condition of affairs in exchange which stimulate production so that the factories or mills in that locality or trade are enabled to be operated to their fullest capacity and give employment to the workers for full time or over, during its force. This condition enables the workers to at least live up to their wages (providing they have no past debts to pay off), which makes business good for the merchants in the locality. The worker has enough work to keep him going at least full time (which means giving his labor power over to his employer for the limit of time conserving his physical power), and with his wages is enabled to get enough to eat and wear for the time being, and therefore the merchants from whom he buys his necessities do a good business. Conditions are such that he is enabled to use his labor power daily: first for the benefit of his employer, that he may reap profit from his toil, and secondly for the wages which he receives, that he may feed and clothe himself and family. In order to be able to work there must be a chance of profit for his employer, and in order to eat there must be a profit extracted from his wages by the merchant. This is the condition of prosperity: profits for the employer extracted from the labor of the worker; profits for the merchant extracted from the wages of the worker; plenty of work for the worker, and enough food and clothing to keep him in working order.

"The people are happy and contented." Workingmen this is your share of prosperity. Are you so easily made happy and contented?

M. J. W.

While throwing bricks at the man who takes away your job don't forget the scoundrel that is taking away your freedom.

Capitalism will fall because it attempts the impossible task of producing contented slaves.

It is a curious paradox that the laborer who is always most successful in a hide bound community.

The pirate craft of capitalism is in danger of being swamped by waves of reform.

ON THE FIRING LINE LABOR AND POLITICS

Pouring Hot Shot Into the Old Capitalist Parties.

"GO THOU AND DO LIKEWISE."

Characteristic Letter Received From a Socialist Fighter in a Small Community.

We take the liberty of reproducing in our columns a letter received at this office last week from California, for the good and sufficient reason that it is characteristic in the highest possible degree, of the actions and ideas of a determined socialist worker, one who never allows his energies to be slackened by the fact that his surroundings are apparently unfavorable for the propaganda of socialism. It is printed here mainly for the purpose of setting an example to those who are engaged in socialist work in localities where the pressure of modern capitalist development has created a more favorable field for the spread of socialist principles. We have no hesitation in giving it as our deliberate opinion, that given one thousand workers of equal determination in the socialist cause, for the next six months, and the November elections would result in a socialist vote running into the millions. We reproduce the letter verbatim, with the exception of our correspondent's name and address, which as we have no direct permission, therefore do not feel at liberty to publish.

May 20th, 1900.

Comrades: I received your letter with the applications (blank subscription forms), enclosed, at 10 o'clock today, and after dinner I went out soliciting. The results are 15 subs for which you will find enclosed postal order. Four years ago when I commenced to talk socialism here, I was quickly told that I would have to keep my mouth shut, or leave the county to make a living. I plainly told them to go to hell, that socialism was my principle, that it was just and right, and that I proposed to stay here, and if the people would not give me work, as I was ready and willing to make an honest living, and if I could not, then I would be compelled to kick a hole in something and then they would have to support me in the county jail. Four years ago we polled four socialist voters in this place, two years ago eight votes, and I really think it is going to be over thirty this year, and I can be found any Sunday and every Sunday on the streets of this county, pouring hot-shot into the old capitalist parties. So you see what a little ball dog-gait will do in a hide-bound community of 168 voters. I find no one man, not even a preacher, that will face me in an argument. It is coming our way, and it is coming fast. Yours fraternally,

We don't wonder in the least that even the preacher hesitates to tackle this kind of a socialist, or that the vote in the community where our comrade has pitched his tent, doubled in the last two years, and promises to quadruple this year. It may be admitted that the foregoing letter is more forcible than polite, and that it doesn't quite represent the highest effort of literary skill, but it is not hard to see that the writer understands the subject that brings him on the street "any and every Sunday." He knows what is good for him, he knows that he wants it badly, he knows also that the way to get it is to go after it and spread the ideas amongst those of his fellow workers who don't yet know what socialism is, but who won't remain long in that state of ignorance if he can help it; and better than all, he doesn't make any apology for the course which he pursues. Our correspondent is just about as "scientific" a socialist as we want to know, and our only regret is that his field of usefulness is circumscribed to 168 voters. But judging from the vigorous tone of the writer we feel rather certain that when the community spoken of, emerges from the "hide-bound" state through the persistent effort of our comrade, he will strive in some manner to enlarge his radius of action. We would in conclusion call the attention of our other comrades to the fact that most of them have an infinitely larger opportunity for socialist agitation than this Californian workingman, and that the expenditure on their part of a modicum of the energy which he displays would show marked results for socialism in a very short time. For instance there are practically two millions in this city of Chicago alone who are still in the same "hide-bound" state as those referred to by our correspondent. As he has found The Workers' Call an efficient instrument in loosening up the cuticle of the community in which he resides, we might suggest that the same instrument might be made as efficient here, if given wider scope. A word to the wise is sufficient.

Thieves are never so sure of success as when their victims' sympathy and attention are turned away from their own pockets. It is a good idea for the laborers of America not to get so busy with the troubles of the Philippines and the Boers to lose sight of their own labor power.

LABOR AND POLITICS

Unions to Try at the Ballot Box in the Coming Election.

WHERE WILL THEY STAND?

Junction with Either Capitalist-Freedom Means Continued Slavery—Freedom Lies in Socialism Alone.

"Labor dips into politics" is the flaring headline that appears in a late issue of the Chicago Daily News. At first sight the socialist might be disposed to throw up his hands and rejoice when he sees these words. He has all along been preaching that the only salvation of the laborer lay in his going into the political struggle. Over and over again he has pointed out how the question of food and clothing was a question of laws and social organization. In season and out of season the socialist writers and speakers have proclaimed in their press and shouted from the street corners the fact that the wage question was a political problem and that the economic fight was often won at the factory only to be lost at the ballot box.

Now then it would appear that the laborers had at last heeded his advice. But hold on, there are "politics" and "politics." One of the old ways in which the fetters of the laborers have ever been riveted tighter has been by deceiving them into dividing their strength in the presence of the enemy. While the labor question is one of slavery or liberty the slave owners need never fear a revolt if they can get the slaves to simply disagree as to the relative desirability of different kinds of slavery.

So before we rejoice at this new turn of affairs in Chicago let us see what kind of politics the laborers are supposed to be going into. Here is the way the opening paragraphs of the article above referred to read, and we hope that every union man in the city of Chicago will read them at least twice before he lays this paper down:

Organized labor has determined to carry its fight to the ballot box and preparations have already been made to insist on the nomination of a state attorney friendly to organized labor at the democratic county convention June 22.

A prominent labor leader said today: "We have allowed the bosses to nominate and elect candidates friendly to themselves long enough and now propose to do something for ourselves along that line. We have already started an agitation to secure nominations for men friendly to organized labor and we have every reason to believe we will not only succeed in nominating but in electing them. A letter embodying this movement has been sent out by one of the strongest labor organizations in the city. Owing to the report that many members of trades unions have been unjustly punished for petty misdemeanors, and some of them instead of being tried before a police justice have been sent to the grand jury by having the charges against them exaggerated, we suggest the advisability of demanding that the next democratic convention, which meets June 22, nominate for state attorney a man friendly to organized labor."

Then it is only the same old story for all. It is not to be a valiant battle for labor's rights and free workmen waged beneath the banner of labor, but simply the old story of the enlistment of another battalion of laborers in the ranks of a division of the capitalist army; it is the labor lamb going over to lie down beside the capitalist lion and be benevolently assimilated and digested.

One would think from the blare of trumpets with which this action is announced that it marked a revolution in the tactics of laborers of this city. The writer of that article must have thought that the workers of Chicago had never heard of electing "men friendly to organized labor" before. Has the memory of the campaign which elected Carter Harrison so quickly passed away? Have the laborers all forgotten how he posed as the one great and only "Friend of Labor"? Do they not remember how this same ticket on which the present state attorney was elected was endorsed by these same "prominent labor leaders" and how these same leaders received political jobs after the election was over? Is there any laborer who has been a voter in the city of Chicago for the last ten years who has so short a memory that he cannot recall at least a dozen times in which labor "dipped into politics" in this same way?

And many a "famous victory" has been won through these tactics—BUT FOR WHOM? Ticket after ticket has rode into power upon the shoulders of the endorsement of "union labor," but what has union labor received for its endorsement? To paraphrase Southey's familiar words it might all be summed up by saying:

"And everybody praised the laborer Who this great fight did win. 'And what good came of it at last?' Quoth little Peterkin. 'Why that I cannot tell,' said he, 'But 'twas a famous victory.'"

The socialist demands that these farces shall cease. He declares that the

time has come when the laborer should do something more than merely "dip into politics." He should plunge into it to his full depth. He should make it the great business of his life. He should begin to realize that unless he does so, and that quickly, the last vestige of his freedom will be swept away and he will find that he has himself forged the fetters that bind him. But the politics into which he should throw his life and his strength are not CAPITALIST politics. He should not waste his strength in fighting the battles of his masters. His energy is too precious to be exhausted in a contest to decide which set of overseers shall wield the whip that flays his back, when the same amount of energy would abolish all overseers. The political question in which labor is interested is not of good or bad masters, but of the abolition of all masters. The political problem before the worker of today is not as to whether he shall be held by democratic or republican slave-drivers while he is being robbed, but it is the problem of how to abolish all robbery and secure for himself the products of his toil.

Union men of Chicago—have you not tried the plan of "dipping into the politics" of capitalism long enough? Have you not seen a Carter Harrison, elected by your votes, resting on the strength of your support and bound to you by a host of pledges, forced by his masters to break those pledges and become the instrument that is at present bending every endeavor to destroy your unions, crush out your organizations and reduce you to a servile enslavement to your employers? Think you that any man elected in the same way and belonging to the same party dominated by the same class—the class of your masters—would or could do any better? Will you allow yourselves to be for the hundredth time led like lambs to the slaughter within the Democratic or Republican shambles?

Can you not see that the man who dares to come into a union or to go among union men and advise them to work for either of the great capitalist parties is a traitor to his union and an enemy of his class, beside of which the poor devil who steals your job while you are out on strike is a comparatively harmless individual? The "labor leader" who dares to suggest that the union workers of Chicago should go into either the Republican or Democratic nominating conventions and work there to secure the success of either organization is a "scab" whose contemptibility and villainy is as much worse than that of the man who betrays his class by selling himself to the employers during a strike, as the political field is wider and more effective than the economic in its results. The economic "scab" only makes the conditions of an existing slavery a trifle worse; the political "scab" betrays the whole class of slaves and stands between them and freedom. The laboring class of today is bending beneath a mighty burden that it is struggling to throw aside. The economic "scab" stands idly by and now and then casts a few ounces additional weight upon the burden, while the political "scab" leaps upon the shoulders of his class along with the capitalist master and assists the latter in binding the burden still tighter with bonds of perpetual slavery.

Which of these two then is entitled to the worst treatment? Will you give them what they deserve? When at the approach of the coming convention some member of your union asks your aid in selecting stool-pigeons of your class to run upon the Democratic and Republican tickets will you treat him as you would treat the man who helps the boss to beat your wages down by betraying you during a strike? If you do we shall soon have an end of laborers dipping into capitalist politics.

"Sympathy" for a "Sister Republic."

Captain Streeter has been deprived of his "independence." He had set up a republican form of government on a strip of land on the shores of Lake Michigan, and like Oom Paul, laid in a stock of war-material wherewith to defend his "property." This aroused the ire of two millionaires, owners of soap factories and sweat shops respectively, who declared their suzerainty over the gallant captain's possessions and invoked the public powers to aid in expelling the backward community who had encamped on the strip. The public powers, which belong exclusively to the class represented by these two local Cecil Rhodes, promptly responded, and the captain's entrenchments were carried by storm, at the point of the bayonet, by four hundred policemen, after a most heroic resistance upon the part of the patriotic defenders. The millionaires aforesaid may gloat over their ill-gotten conquest, but the "sympathy" and "moral support" of the "public" will be unanimously tendered to the gallant Streeter, not only as a tribute to his patriotic virtues, but as a well-merited rebuke to the "imperialistic" and "expansionist" principles exhibited by his greedy conquerors.

The surest way to keep capitalist politics out of the union is to fill it chuck full of laborers' politics.

Is it chance of masters you want, or no masters?

SOCIALIST POINTERS

If prosperity were here there would be no need to prove it.

Under socialism we could all play golf a part of the day if we wanted to.

The Methodists were so busy denouncing the army canteen that they forgot to denounce war.

Perhaps the steel mills have closed so that Mark Hanna can promise to have them opened after election.

If you have a friend who is out of the fold, a party paper sent to him for a few weeks may bring him in.

It is so much easier to get workingmen indicted than contractors because they belong to a different class.

No one seems to have time to pause and consider the servant girl question from the servant girl standpoint.

A million votes for Debs and Harrison will make somebody wake up to the fact that socialism is an issue.

Perhaps we will cease to point the finger of scorn at Mohammed for spreading his religion by means of the sword.

Forward, march! Two thousand men are not going to impede the progress of a party that expects to cast a million votes.

Rockefeller considers that he holds the oil of the world in trust for you, but he don't let you have it except at profitable prices.

Mayor Harrison has been working so hard at being the "friend of the laboring man" that he has been obliged to take a vacation.

Can a man live on \$100 a month? He can if he has to, but it is tough on him to be obliged to, if he produces values equal to \$200 a month.

The oft-repeated declaration that the country was never so prosperous goes to show that prosperity is exclusively for those who do not work.

Western miners have resolved to take up the study of political questions. The Bryan party might as well prepare to bid them good bye.

In many of the states the different factions of the party have united regardless of the sentiment of central bodies. Union is in the air.

In addition to "denouncing" and "deploring," populist leaders also "view with alarm" the way their vote is going over to the socialist party.

Was there ever before such an exhibition of hypocrisy? The trusts of the East want Bryan to drop silver and make the fight against trusts.

Why get excited over the Cuban postal frauds; the same practices obtain to a greater or less degree wherever the spoils system prevails.

In case of a strike a democratic or republican official is allowed to "play politics" just so far; then his masters force him to call out the troops.

The man who makes automobiles can not have one; the man who builds good roads cannot ride on them; he has to be thankful if he is allowed to live.

The way department stores with millions of capital are squirming under the present strike should demonstrate to the workingmen the power they possess.

It may not have been as a reward but Thomas Cratty was appointed a park commissioner two days after he advised starving the workmen into submission.

Business men who are being hurt by the strike will probably be accommodated with a loan to tide them over by their friends the bankers, provided they have security. It will be observed that the bankers think the strike is a good thing.

Across the Pond.

Just now the capitalist press is full of the doings of the European socialists. On last Sunday the Belgian comrades made heavy gains in their election, although just how much is not reported and indeed will not be known until the mails arrive. Owing to the system of proportional voting by which the capitalist class have a plurality of votes it is difficult for the socialist strength to make itself actually felt.

In France a great demonstration was held on the same day to commemorate the fall of the Commune. Thousands of socialists gathered at the graves of their murdered comrades and paid honor to their memory. The police as usual were present and did all in their power to prevent the celebration being carried out.

Look out for the political scab these days.

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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Advertisements: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted.

Editorial Announcements: To secure the return of unmailed manuscripts postage should be enclosed.

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

Labels of the Lockout: Day by day the lines are drawn tighter in the lockout in the building trades of Chicago.

The laborers have been trying in vain to get the grand jury to act regarding the illegal acts of the contractors.

Many of the locked out laborers are still going to other cities to obtain work. Forty of the plasterers union have already found work in Buffalo.

With the coming of convention time and the opening of the campaign there are continuous efforts to drag the unions into capitalist politics.

One thing which continues to attract notice on every hand is the rapid spread of socialism among the locked out workers. In every union there is now to be found at least a few members who have been able to see far enough to recognize that so long as the boss is supreme in the political field he can determine the conditions of the fighting in his favor.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME.

The Joint Committee in New York elected for that purpose, have decided upon a plan for union. They have submitted this plan to a referendum.

The fact that three members of the S. D. P. committee saw fit to bolt from the body on which they had been

able to serve, or that they have been able to get an apparent vote of confidence on an abstract proposition, should not be allowed to act as a factor of any significance in this matter.

IMPOSSIBLE TERMS.

The failure to understand the real nature of the struggle between capitalist and working class gives rise frequently to strange offers of compromise between the spokesmen of both classes in economic disputes such as at present is proceeding in this city.

They Won't Strike.

A whole column in the capitalist press is devoted to a report of the hard, weary, irksome, life which the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York and several other parasites of the same type, are condemned to endure.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

The postal frauds, the customs frauds, and other scandals now being unearthed in Cuba are good evidence of the sincerity of the capitalist administration in their self-imposed task of helping that unfortunate island to a "stable" government.

The officials of the Tammany Ice trust are now held under bonds of \$2,000 by the grand jury.

The spirit of the age is getting in its work in the churches. Consolidation is the order of the day.

Strikes among miners in Bohemia and Moravia have left an opening for the profitable exportation of American coal into these countries.

It is not strange that the sympathetic strike should be obnoxious to the capitalist class, for it contains all the elements which will eventually bring the workers to a correct understanding of their economic interests against the common enemy.

The lockout is never sympathetic. It is simply the naked application of the right of private property by the men who own the factories, mills, mines, and other means of production.

The capitalist press is trying to make the public believe that the Building Trades Council is about to dicker with the Democrats regarding the office of state attorney.

Workingmen should understand that the alleged "friends of labor" in either the Republican or Democratic parties, are in reality their deadliest enemies.

Let us suppose one of those "friends of labor" is nominated. What would be the result? If the capitalists could rely on him, he would receive the party vote and his success would hinge on the fact as to whether the wing of capitalism represented by his party is successful or not.

The fact that the great mass of the workers is still unfortunately for themselves, divided between the Republican and Democratic parties, makes such action upon their part absurd and ridiculous.

The cable dispatches say that many of the prominent Boers, Kruger included, have interests in the Rand mines. If this is true it will go far to explain why the mines in question were not destroyed long ago.

The press informs us that "everybody" is leaving town for the season, but this doesn't include the thousands of nobodies who have had to leave town on account of the lockout.

Our Chicago capitalists from time to time, commiserate the condition of the working class, who they claim, are being preyed upon by the "walking delegate."

gradually preparing them for the shock they will experience when the working class return socialist representatives to congress to voice their interests at Washington.

THE SHADOW OF PROPERTY.

How the Interests of Capitalism Skulk Behind the "Poor Man's House and Lot."

The Chicago Tribune which is perhaps the ablest and most unscrupulous enemy of organized labor in this city, and which never fails to champion the interests of capitalism against the workers in every possible manner, now comes out with a plea for the settlement of the labor troubles by a declaration whose falsity can be easily proven.

If there are ten per cent of the working class who come under this category it is certainly the outside figure, and those who know what is meant by "in part" as regarding the ownership of the little frame hovel called by courtesy "a house," the possession of which the workingman is taught to consider as the one object of his life, know well that it is the mere caricature of "property," and that the chances that the workman can ever become sole owner of even this miserable share of the wealth which his labor has created, becomes constantly more uncertain.

At stated periods every year the Inter Ocean comes out with from 12 to 16 closely printed pages enumerating the number and location of lots and residences against which tax titles are recorded or which are to be sold for taxes, and these are almost entirely the property "wholly or in part" of the small middle and working classes.

It is an old trick of the ruling classes to shelter themselves behind the "poor man's house and lot," but the development of the system of legalized robbery known as capitalism, has itself converted this bulwark into a mere fiction, the remembrance of what at one time had some reality.

It is true that many workingmen yet pretend to see a distinction between paying interest on a mortgage and paying rent to a landlord, and that they themselves with the pleasing illusion that they are "property owners," and have a "stake in the country," but every weak that passes sees some part of this illusion crumble away.

It is too late for the champions of capitalism to postulate defenses which don't exist, and for whose destruction the system, which they advocate is wholly responsible.

The Tribune is too late. The working classes are beginning to distinguish between the shadow and the substance of property, and the old falsehoods are fast losing their effect.

Calling the workers' share of the product "salary" instead of "wages," often conceals from the victim the nature of the robbery perpetrated upon him.

ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIER!

The Anglo-Saxon Christians, with Gatling gun and sword, In serried ranks are pushing on the gospel of the Lord.

On Africa's soil they press the foe in war's terrific scenes, And merrily the hunt goes on throughout the Philippines.

What tho the Boers are Christians! The Filipinos too! It is a Christian act to shoot a fellow-creature through;

The dead and mangled bodies, the wounded and the sick, Are multiplied on every hand, on every field are thick;

The pulpit, blees the victor arms and praise the bloody work, As, after an Armenian raid, rejoiced the pious Turk;

The Christian applauds the use of bayonet and knife, For how can social order last without the "strenuous life?"

The Jesus that we reverence is not the lowly man Who trod in poverty and rags where Jordan's water ran;

Our Saviour is an Admiral, upon the quarter-deck, Or else a general uniformed, an army at his beck.

How natural that a change should come in 1900 years, And bibles take a place behind the bullets and the beers;

Then onward Christian soldier! thro' fields of crimson gore! Behold the trade advantages beyond the "open door!"

The profits on our ledgers outweigh the heathen loss; Set thou the glorious stars and stripes above the ancient cross!

Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Boston.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOCIALISTS TOWARDS THE TRADE UNIONS. By N. L. Stone. Published by the New York "Volkzeitung," 134 William St., N. Y. Price, 5 cents.

This excellent pamphlet should be read by every socialist who desires to know the history of the relations between socialism and the trade union movement in the United States during the last ten years.

It does not rightly belong in the province of a review to dwell upon omissions which the reviewer may think important, and perhaps do not exactly come within the scope of this little work, but we cannot help suggesting that the function of the union in quickening the material development of capitalism might have profitably been given a few paragraphs, and above all the fact that the organized socialist political movement will exercise a dominating influence on the economic movement expressed in trade unionism only when it has demonstrated its superior numerical strength at the polls, and not before.

When organized labor engages in a strike, and "drives capital away from the city" that's an unpardonable crime, but when organized capital engages in a lockout and drives the laborers away from the city, that's—well that's "for the best interests of the community."

The boa constrictor also finds it necessary to "pacify" his victim before "benevolent assimilation" can proceed.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Minneapolis.

S. L. P. and S. D. P. organizers within Minnesota are invited to delegates to a conference to be held Sunday, June 17th, at Minneapolis, for the purpose of effecting union of the respective organizations of the state, and also to take steps toward placing a state ticket in the field.

To Socialist Editors: Comrades—Our S. D. P. National Executive Board refuses to furnish a list of branch officers to those of our members favoring a union of socialist forces which looks very much as though they were afraid to trust the judgment of the membership—a flat contradiction of the name for which we contend.

Social Democrats Attention: All members and branches of the Social Democratic party that are in favor of a union of socialist forces are requested to send names and addresses to the secretary of the Ohio State Union S. D. P., Chas. R. Martin, P. O. box 359, Tiffin, Ohio.

Illinois State Committee, S. L. P. To the Officers of the S. D. P. of Illinois, Greeting:

We have received and considered report of the action of your recent convention, and the resolutions it adopted and ordered sent to this committee for consideration. The substance of your proceedings and resolutions regarding S. L. P. to retire from the political field in this city, county and state to assume an attitude of political antagonism as an opposition party, consideration you offer for the postponement of the S. L. P. is the substitution of a few names of S. D. P. members for S. D. P. members of a state ticket. While such considerations are good in capitalist politics, they are not as yet been adopted in the socialist movement.

The Unity Conference. The Unity Conference reassembled in New York on Sunday, May 20th, with eight members present from each party. Heath and Benham of the S. D. P. and S. L. P. respectively were the only members absent.

It was decided to send the treaty of union to a general vote, the voting time to be extended to June 26th, the issue being clearly defined "Union or no Union." The majority of the S. D. P. delegates voted in favor of this action, but three, Stedman, Haile and Berger, bolted.

The Chicago contractors and property owners, "only" ask the Building Trades Council to give up the sympathetic strike. Only! What moderation! Why that's all that "Bobs" asks of Kruger—unconditional surrender.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM.

Those Who Scoff at the Word "Scientific" Are Those Whose Ignorance Makes Its Use Necessary.

About every so often it becomes quite the smart thing for some "socialists" in this country to get off snarling remarks on "scientific socialism." The point of the joke is supposed to be, that there is no such thing and that those who use the term are guilty of a sort of pedantry that should be laughed down.

From time immemorial human beings have yearned after a better society, and it has been characteristic of these yearnings that whenever they have taken definite form as to the object desired, the society pictured has been of a more or less communistic nature.

This has been true from the time of Plato to that of the latest painter of "duodecimo" editions of the New Jerusalem, and sneerer at "scientific socialism" of the present time. But none of these have been or are now able to give a consistent reason for the faith that is in them.

They know what they want in an indefinite sort of a way and of late years there has been such a great diffusion of the principles of this despised "scientific socialism" throughout all sociological literature that they have generally come in contact with more or less of it and are able at times to repeat its phrases in a semi-parrot manner.

There was a time when "socialists" were in some degree justified in their position. The material out of which to construct a science of society founded on common ownership was not in existence and they could not be blamed for not constructing such a science. But with the development of capitalism and co-operative production with individual distribution, the world-market and concentration of industry it was possible to postulate the principles of a co-operative society with scientific accuracy from the conditions existing in our present society.

This was done by Marx in "Capital" and to still greater degree by Engels in his "Socialism, Utopian and Scientific" and their work has been carried on, modified, strengthened and developed by a whole host of thinkers and workers since their time.

The result of all this has been that there is today a body of principles and demonstrated facts, embodied in a literature of millions of volumes, printed in every language into which capitalism has found an entrance, developing and discussing this truly scientific socialism. It has been a peculiarity of the English language that it has not held its own, so to speak, in this development.

While it has its literature of scientific socialism (even though it be a small one in comparison with the wealth of works in other languages), alongside of this solid and substantial contribution to the study of the subject there has grown up a mass of fantastic vagaries utterly unknown elsewhere. This literature partakes of the nature of the old Utopian save that, as was said above, the writers have in spite of themselves learned more or less of the principles of scientific socialism.

The result is that their productions are a strange mixture of science and Utopia, a sort of hybrid that is neither "fish, fowl, or good red herring." Far be it from us to say that such writings have played no part in the preparation for the social revolution. There is no doubt that Kingsley's "Water Babies" has helped many a child to a better understanding of biology, but lest the writers of "unscientific socialism" take too much credit by the comparison we would point out that before writing "Water Babies" the author at least knew what science had to say on the subjects he proposed to treat and if he did not teach the whole truth he at least kept himself as free from positive error as the state of knowledge at the time he wrote would allow.

But too many of those who claim to be teaching in the "Kindergarten" of socialism are so ignorant of their subject as to teach much that must be unlearned in the higher courses. It is at least suggestive of the state of mind of those who cast slurs at the "scientific socialists" that the very issues of two periodicals which have recently contained such smart remarks also contained laughable blunders arising from the ignorance of their editors of this very much despised "scientific socialism."

as being transported with surprise and admiration at its recent discovery, and is at present for sale in a three cent edition at every news stand in France or Belgium. In view of these facts would it not be well for these scoopers of "scientific socialism" to take another look before they leap into their "funny column" with further bright remarks on this subject. It seems to us that up to date the "scientific socialist" has the best right to laugh.

"THE MANY--THE FEW."

Written by One Who Wished Not to Advertise Himself.

A great fire occurs. Blocks of buildings are destroyed. Property worth millions goes up in smoke, is the way the morning papers head their accounts of the conflagration.

"Several persons are dead, others are reported missing." "What a pity!" "How shocking!" "How did it happen?" say those who think only along conventional lines, also those who think they think.

But the unemployed and the poor and those who know--what do they say? "Little waste, little work, little to eat."

Will not that fire rejoice those engaged in the building trades? Will it not make work for brick and stone masons, hod carriers, structural iron workers, carpenters, roofers, plasterers, plumbers and painters?

Have not these mechanics and laborers the same reasons for combining to waste, burn and destroy property that capitalists have for combining to prevent waste, and restrict production?

If "the many" have nothing to sell but their labor, if "the few" combine to lessen both the demand for labor and the price of it, what in your judgment ought "the many" to do?

What is it that divides society into classes, into "the many" and "the few"?

Why must "the many" sell themselves?

Why may "the few" buy them, and for a mess of pottage, for bread and cheese, which already belongs to "the many," because they produce everything?

Why should "the many" produce everything, hand it all over to "the few," and then accept (as wages) a small part of their own product?

Who invented this Do your neighbor--he'll do you, game, which both "the many" and "the few" call business? How long will it be before "the many" see that "the few" have changed the venerable, time-honored, every fellow for himself rule, the particular feature of the game (the law of competition) which it has always been claimed was God ordained, therefore sacrilegious to question or think of changing?

Now that these vicereagents of God, "the few," have begun to co-operate with each other (combining against "the many"), will it not be in order for the various "divinely ordained" earthly potentates to grant letters patent on the whole process, making it a crime against both God and the government for "the many" to infringe upon the patented (vested) rights of these holy men?

As an emergency measure and in case "the many" should actually and unlawfully attempt to co-operate, the co-operative organizations of "the few" (the trusts) might be declared unconstitutional.

The spread of sickness and the prevalence of ill health under the present social system, does it not mean more business, hence good fortune for druggists and doctors?

Must not the undertakers and the grave-diggers secretly rejoice because of the opportunities which the deaths of your loved ones afford them?

Are not the keepers of prostitutes and their patrons glad to welcome fresh young women, newly initiated? Is there not, therefore, a demand for the seduction of your wife and your neighbor's wife, for the betrayal of your sisters and his, for his daughters and yours? Is not the traffic of the sex relationship due wholly to our system of profit and private wealth?

If the sudden deaths of half of the laborers now at work could be brought about, would that not result in increased wages and lower rents, thus improving the condition of those who survived?

If some of those who died suddenly, say one-fourth, or even one-tenth of them, were qualified to enter into the eternal happiness which orthodox promises, would not even the temporary improvement of the conditions of the surviving half, and the permanent bliss of those who chance to enter the pearly gates, more than offset the speculatively worse condition of those who chanced to die without any of the beyond the grave, life and fire insurance?

The conditions which admit of these questions are the legitimate results of our competitive business game. As long as wages, interest, rent, profit and private ownership of land and tools shall continue, so long will society be a "house divided against itself."

The world is to be saved from selfishness, just as the individuals who comprise it are to be saved from self. Co-operation, unselfish co-operation, is the way of salvation, the way out of the self-life into the all for each and each for all life. In co-operating we can bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

That "the few" already combine, is a most encouraging sign.

The capitalist class have "sympathy" to expend on everything, except the sympathetic strike.

Don't subscribe to help out the editor. Subscribe to help out yourself.

A ROYAL "DEMOCRAT."

A Monstrous Tale of a Country Where There Is Said to be "No Room for Class Distinctions."

When the capitalist journals of the "yellow" stripe get tired of regaling their readers with silly stories of the "democratic" millionaire and labor-skinner, when they conclude that the recital of the yarn that Russell Sage wears a \$6.35 suit, and the number of years that he wore it, becomes a trifle stale, they go over to Europe for examples of "democratic" kings, wherewith to pull the wool over the eyes of the working classes of this country, who are rapidly waking up to a sense of the real conditions under which they live, and the causes therefor.

Up till the present the working class have been persuaded that a monarchial when compared with a republican form of government showed a decided inferiority, and the average American workman for a long time considered himself fortunate in being a "citizen" instead of a "subject." But seeing that "kings" in an economic sense are now to be reckoned amongst our institutions, and that they exercise a power far greater than that of their European namesakes, the workmen must be taught that kings after all are a very essential and important part of society. Hence the following tale of a "democrat" who is at the same time King of Denmark appears in the daily press:

Denmark's octogenarian king is said to be the best-loved ruler in Europe, and he certainly deserves all the affection and respect lavished on him by his subjects. Denmark is a democratic country--perhaps because, as its inhabitants will smilingly tell you, it is too small for class distinction--but, oddly enough, no more democratic than exists in this sovereign. His people regard him perhaps more as a father than as a ruler; a man to whom they can turn for wise counsel whenever difficulties arise.

They don't always act on his advice, it is true, but they know that the chances are, when their opinions differ, the king is in the right, and he is happy in the knowledge that sooner or later they will come round to his way of thinking. The want of ceremony with which the king goes about among his people is remarkable. One morning, to give an instance, his majesty was taking a walk in Copenhagen, as usual without a single guard. When he came upon a number of workers discussing their grievances. It was during a strike, and the men were much excited. Suddenly one of them cried: "There's the king! Let us ask him what he thinks."

In a moment the king was surrounded by an eager throng, who explained to him that they were being almost starved, while their employers were simply rolling in riches. When the recital of their grievances was finished the king looked kindly at the men, whose appearance showed plainly that the straits of the country. For an hour he patiently argued with them, in fact, and thrashed out the case with them. He was perfectly up in the whole thing, and clearly proved to them that they exaggerated the wealth of their employers, and that the granting of higher wages and shorter hours would ruin the trade of the country. For an hour he patiently argued with them, and though they were still unconvinced when he left them, they were all agreed that he was the best of men, and that not a king in Europe could be compared to him.

We are first informed that there are no class distinctions in Denmark, that the country is so small for them, and yet the writer tells us there is a king there. There is also a court and a nobility in that country which is said to be "too small for class distinctions," and there are also workers who "discuss their grievances" and employers who "grant" wages. But there are no class distinctions there, oh, no!

Only very recently there was a strike fought out to the bitter end by the majority of the working-class in Denmark, and they won out, too, but we never heard that their victory was secured by taking the advice of this royal "democrat." We never even heard that it was tendered, but if it was, we can assure our readers that the "fatherly" advice was declined, probably without thanks.

The thousands and thousands of Danish workmen engaged in this strike proved up to the hilt that class distinctions can find lots of room in Denmark, even though the country be small in extent. More than that, these striking workmen also proved that the class distinctions in Denmark were precisely of the same nature as those elsewhere, and that they brought out the same result as elsewhere--a class struggle. Yes, there are capitalists and laborers in Denmark, and they engage in the same sort of conflict as capitalists and laborers in other lands, and the "democratic" monarch of Denmark stands where most of the "democrats" of his type stand--that is to say, on the side of the capitalists and against the workmen.

When the striking workmen, as this fairy story goes, saw the "democratic" king, they determined to lay their case before him--their father--their wise councillor--their best of men. And he, of course, was perfectly up in the whole thing, and showed them clearly that the robbery of their labor product by the capitalist couldn't be stopped, except at the risk of ruining the trade of the "country"--which means as it does here, the capitalist class. Therefore the kindly democratic old gentleman concluded that the robbery must go on, just as many benevolent labor skinner told the workmen of this land. He was patient about it, too, though unfortunately he wasn't able to convince them of the righteousness of legal robbery, but he did convince them that he was a "father" and sponsor of capitalism.

Just so. And now it remains for the workmen of Denmark to convince him that he doesn't quite come up to their idea of what a "democrat" should be. There are a very great number of them who are preparing to get rid of dem-

ocrats of that type, and they call themselves socialists. And incidentally they are also trying to make a fact out of what is at present a lie, namely, that there is no room for class distinctions in Denmark.

When they succeed in this, and it may not take very long, either, the capitalist decoy ducks who serve up this flapp-doodle about "democratic" kings in the columns of the daily press, may have to fall back on that good old standby, the J. Jay Gould-Russell Sage type of millionaire, who swept his own store, swung a pick or saved up a dollar a week till he had twenty millions or so to his credit in the bank. But by that time the workmen of this country may have sized up for themselves the value of "democracy" under capitalism, and in that case the fable makers will have to get out and hustle for a living.

A "GIANT" ISSUE.

Attempts to Divert the Attention of the Workers From Their Real Interests.

Capitalism rests upon the continued deception of the workers. Once the question of the continuance of wage slavery is brought before the laborers of the world and they are enabled to intelligently voice their opinion upon that subject, the victory for freedom is gained. Hence every effort is being made to divert their attention from this question. They are told that there are other problems that must be first settled, that there are other "issues" of more importance, etc. So long as the worker can be kept busy thinking of other things, his masters are sure of their position. The following quotation from the last number of the Arena is a good illustration of this "side-tracking" process:

"The problem of the trust and the problem of private monopoly in finance are questions of vital moment; but the giant issue now is whether our flag shall stand for freedom or oppression. It is vastly important to know whether our governments and industries are to be managed in the interests of a few or the interests of all; but it is still more important to know whether the people approve this policy of abandoning the Declaration of Independence, turning the republic into an empire, and transforming a peaceful democracy into an imperial conqueror."

In other words, the laborers of America are asked to keep their eyes on the Philippines and leave their pockets unguarded for the capitalist pickpocket. According to this writer, it is of vastly more importance to the laborers that the abstract principle of the Declaration of Independence be left in good condition for Fourth of July orators, than that their stomachs be filled and their backs covered from the heat and cold. He believes that the workers of the United States should be patient in slavery until the big and little masters have decided whether it is better to sell the products they have taken from these workers, in Manila under a process of "expansion," or in China, under the policy of the "open door." Will the laborers bite at such poor bait?

Don't Want a Tutor.

It is curious how reformers try to persuade themselves that the capitalist class don't know how to perform their special function, the extraction of surplus value. The late Presbyterian conference in St. Louis in one phase brought out this point admirably. The conference in deploring the "desecration of the Sabbath" requested capitalist owners of railroads to discontinue running passenger trains and other rolling stock on that day, on "economic as well as moral grounds." The idea that these "reformers" entertain of their ability to give pointers to the capitalist class on the art of extracting profit is not a whit more ludicrous than the action of the little boy who set out to teach his grandmother how to suck eggs. The fact that Sunday traffic exists is all the proof that is needed to show that it pays. The capitalist class have had ample time to prove this, and they have nothing to learn from the "reformer," regarding it.

A Good Place to Go.

All comrades who can conveniently attend the Tanners and Carriers' Union picnic, which will be held at Kuhn's park on Sunday, June 3rd, should not miss the opportunity of being present. The membership of this union has long been noted for its progressive tendencies and furnishes a favorable field for the propagation of the principles of socialism, which form the high watermark of progress amongst the working class. Those who have the management of this entertainment in hand, have left nothing undone to secure an enjoyable outing for those who will be present, and there is every reason to believe that it will be the most successful which the union has ever held. These social meetings of workmen, their wives, and families, are one of the most important means in solidifying the ranks of labor, and as the socialists have always had as their central object, the endeavor to attain better and ever better conditions of life for the class to which they (or the vast majority of their membership belong), they lose no opportunity of promoting so far as they are able the enjoyments and pleasures which the world's workers are yet able to attain, never losing sight of the object of socialism, to show that these pleasures can be almost infinitely multiplied under the just and rational system of distribution of things produced, which socialism advocates. The advertisement of this picnic can be found in another part of our columns, and we hope that it will be successful as it deserves to be, and that our comrades, so far as lies in their power, will aid in making that success attainable.

Subscribe to the Call for your neighbor.

FOREIGN NEWS.

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

BELGIUM. "Voortuit," the socialist paper of Ghent, calls attention to the small wages paid to women workers in the Ghent cotton factories. Children get from four to eight francs a week, young women from eight to ten francs and women from ten to 12 francs! Yet these factories pay very large dividends. Unfortunately the workers are not at all organized and the masters can do just as they like.

ENGLAND.

It is said that Mr. Cecil Rhodes, during his recent visit to this country, made very close inquiries regarding the Angora weaving industry, with a view to establishing a factory in the neighborhood of Kimberley. It is understood that, before leaving for the Cape, Mr. Rhodes ordered a full installation of weaving machinery and left instructions that it should be sent out as soon as the war was over. It looks as if Rhodes was going to run this factory at Kimberley with black labor and enter into competition with the weaving industry of this country.--London "Justice."

FRANCE.

Some time ago the church at Aubervilliers, near Paris, was injured by fire and the religious papers stated that the crime had been committed by the anarchists. It appears, however, that the deed was done by the sacristan, an official of the church, who has been arrested.

GERMANY.

Great efforts are now being made in Berlin to organize the women workers, many of the conditions of their labor are very unsatisfactory, but it does not appear that any good is likely to be effected until the women have good unions. Fighting without organization is quite useless.

ITALY.

The social state of Italy is deplorable; the other day in the village of Velletris the goods of over 50 peasants were seized and sold by auction though each debtor only owed 4 francs (about 3c.) to the government. The misery is very great all over the country. Italy is a poor country and cannot keep up its ruinously large army and navy. Liberty is at the mercy of the government; opposition papers are regularly seized for spreading disaffection (a very elastic word), and private citizens can be and are forcibly removed to other towns. It was not for this that Garibaldi fought and Mazzini suffered. The true remedy is a free but a federated Italy.--London "Justice."

LABOR ITEMS.

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

Toronto unionists have declared for independent political action.

Seven hundred and eleven strikes occurred in Great Britain during the last year.

In the mines around Nevada, City, Cal., Japanese are being introduced, who are paid \$1 a day, boarding themselves.

Prof. Mural, of Tokio, is doing the United States. The gentleman is quite a student, and has written a book on socialism, which proved to be a good contribution for the cause in Japan.

There are said to be 6,000,000 working people in the German empire, 800,000 of whom are connected with trades unions. Socialists have 57 representatives in the Reichstag, agitating labor interests.

Funds for the support of the striking cigarmakers in New York are continuing to flow in, and while the workers are becoming more hopeful at this manifestation of solidarity, the bosses are beginning to weaken.

Harberger, Homan & Co.'s Philadelphia cigarmakers, 400 strong, went out on strike in sympathy with the firm's New York employes. The employers who have pooled their interests to support Kerbs, Wertheim & Schiffer are sorely disappointed over the solidarity displayed in behalf of the locked-out cigarmakers in New York.

The capitalist press have been telling us that the French socialists lost in the recent municipal elections. Now "Le Socialiste" comes to hand with reports from 153 cities and in by far the great majority the entire socialist ticket was elected, while with the exception of barely a dozen cities great gains were made. This was on the first ballot only. What the result was on the second ballot we will not know until another issue.

The French chamber of deputies has decreed the enforcement of the ten-hour law of 1892 by a vote of 468 to 50. About 1,112,325 men, 633,185 women and 433,637 children, employed in 158,000 establishments, will be affected. Those bad socialists in the French legislative body are constantly harrasing the capitalist class by clamoring for enforcement of labor laws, and if they persist in their pernicious effort they will eventually drive capital out of France.--Cleveland Citizen.

Would you rather be kicked by the Democratic mule, or crushed by the Republican elephant? If you really know enough to desire neither, you will join the socialists and chase both animals out of your neighborhood.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES.

The 24th ward French holds outdoor meetings at N. Clark and Walton place every Thursday evening at 8 p. m.

That offer of Comrade Ballard, in regard to the construction of platform for outdoor speaking, still holds good.

Meetings are held at the corner of Peoria and Madison streets every Sunday evening at 8 p. m. Good speakers at every meeting.

Thomas J. Morgan will address the "Federation for Social Justice" at Hull House, Halsted and Folk streets; Tuesday, June 5, at 8 p. m.

The North Side branches of the S. L. P. will hold a picnic for the benefit of the propaganda fund, at Simon's Grove, Lawrence avenue and N. Clark street, Sunday, July 15, 1900.

Meetings at the corner of State and Quincy Saturday nights are doing good work for the cause of socialism. They will be continued on the same ground every Saturday evening during the campaign.

The Polish branch of the Socialist Labor party will hold a picnic on Sunday, June 10th at Laznowski's Grove, Irving Park, for the benefit of the Workmen's Reading Room and Library, as advertised elsewhere in these columns.

You should secure the latest edition of the Pocket Library, "Socialism and Farmers," by A. M. Simons. It presents the causes of poverty amongst the agricultural community in a clear and startling manner. Copies can be obtained at this office. Single numbers 5 cents. A large discount given on quantities.

The books in the hands of the Committee will be given to the holder of No. 165, on presentation of same. This was decided on Sunday, 27th of May, at 65 N. Clark street, according to the notice formerly given in these columns. Those present when the decision was made, were Comrades Thornberg, Ballard, Dunkelberg, Veght, Waren and Kenny. Order of Committee.

The next issue of this paper will appear as a special educational number, and will contain eight pages of reading matter. The whole issue will in the main be devoted to the task of bringing socialism to the notice of school teachers and those engaged in public educational work. Orders from branches and individuals requiring copies of this special number should be sent in immediately to this office, 36 N. Clark street.

To Branches and Sections.

We have adopted a plan to assist the comrades in soliciting for subscribers that we believe will be a great convenience. Postal cards have been prepared which when sent to this office will be received in payment for subscriptions. These cards are made good for either six months or one year, and are held at the rate of twenty cents for the former and forty for the latter period. All you have to do is to sell these cards to the subscriber and he can write his own name in and drop it in the nearest mail box. No receipt is necessary, no trouble required, or payment of postage needed. If you live in Chicago you do not need to come to the office with every sub or spend time and money in writing letters. Just the thing for use on the streets. They can simply be sold by the speaker to anyone in the crowd and we do the rest. They will be sent on credit to branch secretaries or regularly appointed agents of branches or sections. But when so sent the full subscription price will be charged and no commission allowed. The best way to do is to send the cash in advance at the rate of twenty cents for each six months card and forty cents for each yearly and then sell them at the regular subscription rate and retain the commission. Not less than two dollars worth at a time will be sold in this way when the cards have to be mailed.

Every section should at once order a few dollars worth of such cards and sell them at their meetings. There is not a subscriber to the Call that could not get rid of five dollars worth of them in the next few weeks. The labor of soliciting and forwarding subscriptions is reduced to a minimum and if the plan is not taken advantage of by any comrade it simply shows that he does not care to do anything for socialism.

Life and Liberty.

What is life without its material basis? And what is an equal right to life but a right to an equal material basis for it? What is liberty? How can men be free who must ask from their fellow-men the right to labor and to live? How else can ANY GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE liberty to men, save by providing them a means of labor and of life, COUPLED WITH INDEPENDENCE? And how could that be done unless the government conducted the ECONOMIC SYSTEM, UPON WHICH EMPLOYMENT AND MAINTENANCE DEPEND? Finally, what is implied in the equal right of all to the pursuit of happiness? What form of happiness? What form of happiness, so far as happiness depends on material facts, IS NOT BOUND UP WITH ECONOMIC CONDITIONS? And how shall an equal opportunity for the pursuit of happiness be GUARANTEED to all, save by a GUARANTEE of ECONOMIC EQUALITY?--(Bellamy's "Equality," pp. 17.)

The "favorable balance of trade" is to be further augmented by the export of domestic servants from New York to London. Send in a club of ten this week.

WHY THEY DON'T GO.

A Few Suggestions Which May Help Solve a Question Much Debated in Clerical Circles.

In the reports of sermons preached on Sunday which appear in the press on Monday morning, there is one topic which the man of God frequently handles in his pulpit talk, and which is usually propounded in the form of the question, "Why don't workmen go to church?" or "How can the church be made more attractive to the working class?" All sorts of solutions are offered and many schemes have been put in operation which their inventors fondly hoped would have the effect of getting this problem, yet all have failed miserably, and still the "workmen don't go to church" is acknowledged by those who have tried every possible scheme to induce him to do so. The reason for this is quite apparent to the average workman, who if questioned as to his non-attendance, would generally reply that "there's nothing in it for him," or words to that effect, but with few exceptions the absolute truth of this answer never seems to strike the clerical mind. It is of course most probable that the workmen who give such answers, has never made any regular analysis of the reason which he puts forward, but one thing is certain, that the arguments advanced to show him that there is "something in it for him" have had no effect whatever in convincing him of the error of his reasoning.

We have seen honest and sincere men in the ministry attempt to found "Labor Churches," "Peoples Churches," etc., and go out like the disciples of old into the highways and byways and compel or persuade the laborers to come in. We have seen a few weeks' persistent effort on the part of these "fishers of men," rewarded with a very scanty catch, which, scanty as it was, could even then by no means be permanently secured. At some of these meetings in which the question of catching the workers was discussed at length, we can distinctly recall the vigorous onslaught of the "radical" workman who positively insisted that the church was a "rich man's club," and that it had "no use for the poor." And all the eloquence of his educated antagonist failed to shake his conviction.

There is a reason for this feeling upon the part of the working class, whether it is expressed as indifference or hostility, and this reason lies in a fact, which, so far as the working class are concerned, the clergy have always ignored, though they are as a body completely dominated by it as regards themselves, the fact that mankind as a whole, follow their material interests and that whatever threatens, opposes or neglects those material interests, they will seek to avoid.

This fact, it seems to us, is fully sufficient to answer this problem in its every aspect. It explains why the churches have to depend for support upon the propertied classes, why the workmen are estranged from it, and why the preachers of the gospel as a body, consciously or unconsciously range themselves upon the side of the class whose material interests are identified with their own.

As an illustration of this, one phase of the proceedings at the Presbyterian Assembly held in St. Louis, may be here quoted which bears directly upon the foregoing remarks:

The report of the Special Committee on Sabbath Observance, presented by Rev. Dr. I. W. Hathaway, secretary of the American Sabbath Union, as usual condemned "seven-day journalism," Sunday excursions, and the appropriation of money for expositions which remain open on Sunday. Resolutions were adopted, as presented, reading: "Resolved, That we deprecate the rapidly increasing Sabbath slavery of corporate employees in this country; so that today by careful estimate no less than 4,000,000 men are thus enslaved and robbed of their inalienable rights to this day of rest."

"Resolved, That we call upon the railroad companies of this land that are engaged in running Sunday excursions, or allowing their road and rolling stock to be used for such purpose, to reconsider their action in this regard, so as to secure the minimum of transportation and service of their employees on this day, both on economic and moral grounds."

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"Slavery" was softened to "employment" and "forcibly deprived" was substituted for "enslaved and robbed" in the first resolution, and earnestly requested for "wall upon" in the second. But these changes were not made until Dr. Hathaway and Dr. McKibbin had expressed their opinion of the terms employed by the committee. These ministers thought they should stand, but others wished to modify them for fear the St. Louis strikers should receive unintended encouragement.

When the average workman reads this account, and more particularly the closing paragraph, is he not fully justified in the position of indifference or enmity which he assumes towards modern Christianity and its recognized representatives?

It is probable that the workman in question will not care to exercise his mental faculties sufficiently to go into a lengthy examination of the causes which impelled the reverend gentlemen to "modify," "substitute" and "soften down" those phrases with which they in the first place expressed their righteous indignation at the deprecation of the Sabbath. He will not perceive that the special reason for transforming this forcible charge into a mild request, was the dread of incurring the displeasure of the owners of the means of production and distribution, whose economic supremacy places them in the position of dictators as to the utterances of the theologians, who by this retraction recognized the fact of their own dependence upon this class, and the danger to their material

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interests which might ensue from the use of too vigorous language. But the reluctance to give any encouragement to the St. Louis strikers will at once appeal to the workman as a confirmation of the ideas regarding the church which he had formerly held, and he will not inquire farther. If he did, candor compels us to say that the conclusion reached would strengthen and intensify his first opinion, which though apparently superficial is none the less correct.

The church cannot stand neutral in this conflict, this class struggle, which the progress of "civilization" brings out ever more distinctly. While capitalism continues to exist, the modern church which depends upon the upholders of that system for its support, cannot, in spite of its professions, in spite of the fact that its ranks contain thousands of honest, sincere, devoted, and self-sacrificing men, stand towards the interests of the working class in any attitude but one of antagonism.

And furthermore, while this state of economic dependence continues, the most perfect example of life and conduct upon the part of the individual laborer in the Lord's vineyard, will afford no shield against the taunt of the "radical" workman whose confused conception of class antagonisms enables him to partially see the dominating influence of material interests even in those who profess to expound the principles and imitate the example of One who said that his "kingdom was not of this world." While capitalism exists the workman in question will merely see in the clergyman of the present day, the modern prototype of the Jewish adventurer, who for the satisfaction of his physical necessities, implored his friend, "Put me, I pray thee, in the priest's house that I may eat bread."

For Teachers and Pupils. The issue of The Workers' Call for the 9th of June will be a special number for use among teachers and pupils in the schools and colleges. For this purpose an extra supplement of four pages will be inserted containing among other things Kropotkin's "Appeal to the Young," omitting those few sentences inciting to violence or attacking religion. In addition to this there will be special articles by various comrades on the connection between modern pedagogic philosophy and socialism, on the overcrowding in our present public schools, the closing of opportunities to the young under capitalism, the economic position of the teacher, the attitude of capitalism toward popular education, etc.

It will be a number that will reach a class that is ready for socialism and among which little propaganda has been made. It will come just at the time when graduating exercises are going on in all the schools and when its circulation will be sure to attract a great deal of attention wherever it is distributed. There is not a town in the country where there is not some sort of exercises at this time and if the occasion is taken advantage of it can be made an opportunity for first class propaganda.

Owing to the fact that a comrade has made a donation for this purpose large enough to pay for the extra expense incurred in sending this double number to the regular subscribers we are able to make the following very low rates on bundle orders to single addresses. One hundred to five hundred, 70 cents per hundred; five hundred to one thousand or more, 50 cents.

Arrangements having already been made to send all the sample copies of this issue the postal authorities allow, no single numbers can be mailed to separate addresses.

Additional Book Offer. Already many of the comrades are bringing in their second and third list of campaign subscribers and are asking for some other book as a premium. In response to this request we will make the following additional offer: To anyone sending in two clubs of ten on the campaign offer, we will send a copy of Lissagaray's "Commune," or Sembrat's "Socialism." These books are cloth bound copies on first class book paper and their regular price is \$1.00 and \$1.25 respectively. It is perfectly easy for any comrade to get either one or both of these books for his library and at the same time help the Call to reach many prospective converts.

Attention! Women! The use of the hall at 55 N. Clark street is offered for the use of women's meetings. All women interested in socialism, and all whose husbands, fathers and brothers are interested, are urged to attend the meeting on June 10, at 3 o'clock p. m. COMMITTEE OF WOMEN.

Always remember that the main bulwark of capitalism is the ignorance of the workers. They are in darkness only because they do not know the way out. Are you doing all you can to show them the path?

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW.

Editorially the Review will be strictly in accord with the principles of the International Socialist movement.

FREE DISCUSSION. The pages of the Review will be open to any writer of ability, friendly or hostile, who wishes to discuss in a scientific spirit the theory and applications of Socialism.

SOME OF THE WRITERS. Editor, A. M. SIMONS. France—Paul Lafargue, Jean Jaures, Jean Longuet, Belgium—Emile Vandervelde, Henri Lafontaine, Emile Vinck, Mme. Lilla Kufferlin.

England—H. M. Hyndman, Walter Crane, Samuel Hobson, H. Quelch, Keir Hardie, J. R. McDonald. Denmark—Dr. Gustav Bang, Italy—Dr. Alessandro Schivi, United States—Job Harriman, Rev. Charles H. Vail, N. I. Stone, Leonard D. Abbott, Rev. William T. Brown, Gov. Andrew E. Lee, Ben Hanford, Jos. Washhope, Frederick C. Strickland, Marcus Hitch.

Germany—Arrangements for German correspondents will shortly be concluded.

Europe has many able editors expounding the principles of Socialism, and enabling students of social problems to exchange their ideas. America needs such a review, and to this end A. M. SIMONS, lately editor of the Workers' Call, and now vice-president of the Chicago publishing house of CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY, has in a recent journey arranged with the leading European socialists to assist in establishing The International Socialist Review, the first number of which appears July 1, 1900. Every civilized country will be represented by its ablest socialist writers, and some forty-eight of the sixty-four pages of the Review will be given to the interchange of opinion. The following departments will be regular features:

- 1. Review of the events of the month from the socialist point of view. 2. News of the socialist movement in America. 3. Review of economic developments and labor troubles, with special reference to the trade union movement. 4. Foreign correspondence: News of the socialist movement the world over. Every student of socialism, and also every opponent of socialism, will find that he needs to read THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW.

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The International Socialist Review

On the first of July we shall issue the first number of the monthly Review under the editorship of A. M. SIMONS, until lately editor of The Workers' Call, who has recently returned from studying social conditions in Europe. The socialist movement has more reached the point where it can claim to offer the only philosophy pointing the way to a positive solution of present-day problems. Its constantly increasing strength at home and abroad makes it a force with which all must reckon. In Europe the best minds of the colleges and universities are devoted to expounding its doctrines and a majority of the leading economic reviews are under the direction of socialist writers and thinkers.

Under these conditions it is felt that there is great need for a publication in America that will bring the works of the best foreign minds in touch with those who are here attacking the same problems and place the results of such discussions before the great body of people who are interested in social questions. Here is the field of the International Socialist Review. It competes with no existing publication. It will, we trust, prove itself indispensable to every honest student of social problems, whether his sympathies be for socialism or against it.

Editorially the attitude of the Review will be strictly in accord with the recognized principles of international socialism. Signed articles will, however, be welcomed from writers of all schools and parties who accept the socialist ideal, however they may differ as to methods and tactics. We are convinced that a free and full discussion is the shortest and best road to the general acceptance of the methods and tactics of international socialism by all who aim at the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth.

The International Socialist Review will be the first periodical in the English language to bring together to any extent the original contributions of the great socialist thinkers of the different countries of Europe. It will also publish each month letters from foreign correspondents giving the latest news and a review of the situation in each country. Here is a partial list of those who have already promised to write: France—Paul Lafargue, Jean Jaures, Jean Longuet.

Belgium—Emile Vandervelde, Henri Lafontaine, Emile Vinck, Mme. Lilla Kufferlin. England—H. M. Hyndman, Walter Crane, Samuel Hobson, H. Quelch, Keir Hardie, J. R. McDonald. Italy—Dr. Alessandro Schivi. Denmark—Dr. Gustav Bang.

Arrangements are now being completed for correspondents and contributors from Germany and Holland, and we hope to announce their names before the first issue. It will be seen at once that this list of contributors places the International Socialist Review in a class by itself so far as periodicals in English are concerned.

But it must not be supposed that the American situation has been neglected. Ready articles have been promised by Job Harriman, Rev. Charles H. Vail, N. I. Stone, Leonard D. Abbott, Rev. Wm. T. Brown, William Mailly, Gov. Andrew E. Lee, Ben Hanford, Marcus Hitch, Jos. Washhope, W. H. Noyes and others, and no effort will be spared to secure the best work of the best thinkers upon the problems of socialism in America.

The plan of the magazine will be approximately as follows: About forty-eight pages will be given to contributed articles and the remaining sixteen pages will be divided as nearly equally as possible among the following departments: First, Review of the events of the month from the socialist point of view. Second, News of the socialist movement in America during the month-just passed.

Third, Items concerning the struggle in the economic field, including trade union news and labor troubles. Fourth, Foreign correspondence, giving news of the socialist movement the world over.

The need of such a periodical as this is apparent to every socialist. We believe that once it is brought to their notice every comrade will be willing to take hold and help. There are two ways in which such help is wanted at once. In the first place further capital is needed for its establishment. A comrade has agreed to give \$250 for this purpose as soon as an equal sum is raised elsewhere. Of this sum \$150 has already been raised leaving one hundred more to get if this offer is not to be allowed to lapse. To raise this one hundred dollars it is proposed to sell ten shares of our capital stock at ten dollars each—their par value. That the money thus invested offers immediate and desirable returns aside from being an aid in the establishment of the magazine is shown by the following special prices on books published by us which are made to stockholders only:

Five cent books in small lots, 245 cents; 100 assorted copies, \$1.75; 500 assorted copies, \$5.00; post free in the United States outside Chicago. Ten cent books in small lots, 5 cents; 100 assorted, \$2.50; post free in the United States outside Chicago. Twenty-five cent books in small lots, 12 1/2 cents; 50 assorted, \$3.00; post free in the United States outside Chicago.

Other books at half list prices; post free on paper books; on cloth 10 to 20 per cent by mail postage; will average about 10 per cent of the retail prices.

Once the magazine is established it will be run without further expense to the party, and will be distributed, not only through the ordinary socialist channels, but also through regular trade channels to thousands of people entirely inaccessible to the ordinary socialist propaganda. It will be a means of capturing and holding the intellectual proletariat for socialism as well as an organ for the education and training of socialist speakers and writers.

Every section that intends to do any distribution of literature will find the ownership of such a share of stock a good investment, while individuals who wish to assist the socialist propaganda will scarcely find a better opportunity or greater need than this present one.

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FIFTH WARD, 5930 Wentworth Ave.; business meeting every Monday night; public meetings every Sunday at 8 p. m.; Sec. Joseph Trentz, 59 29th St.

SIXTH WARD meets at 8 p. m., Sunday, May 6th, May 20th and June 3rd at 1901 34th St. C. F. Lowrey, Sec., 1794 96th St.

SIXTH WARD NO. 11, meets at corner 33rd and Morgan Sts every 1st Thursday and 3rd Sunday of each month; Sec. Joseph Koda, 845 32nd St.

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