

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. 95.

CHICAGO, ILL., DECEMBER 29, 1900.

PRICE ONE CENT

OLD AGE PENSIONS

Three Cents Per Day After the Age of Seventy Is Reached.

A POWERFUL "INCENTIVE."

Its Adoption An Admission of the Robbery and Pauperism of the Workers Under Capitalism.

As the working class gradually begin to perceive the truth of the statement that labor produces all wealth, and as this perception shows signs of materializing in political action, so in like manner the ruling class begin to see the necessity of compromises, which they hope will retard the coming of the time when millions of workingmen demand the full product of their labor, and make that demand through the medium of the ballot.

Just at present the scheme known as the "old age pension system" is becoming a matter for consideration amongst the possessing classes, and already one railroad company has established an arrangement of this sort some years ago. Another, the Chicago and Northwestern, is about to follow suit, and has just drafted a plan for pensioning its employes, the outlines of which have recently appeared in the daily papers.

"The capitalist is a capitalist—for the benefit of the working class," as Marx cynically declares, and like every other scheme ever invented, this particular pension system of the Chicago and Northwestern is heralded as an enormous boon to the railroad men for which they should be eternally grateful. A glance over the provisions of this philanthropic scheme, (which by the bye, is said to be modeled closely after that adopted by the Pennsylvania railroad company), will show that the owners of the road expect their employes to be thankful for small (very small) mercies.

The best knowledge and ability that the officials and managers of the road could devise, to quote the words of President Hughitt, produced the following generous scheme, according to the press report:

Any employe who is between 65 and 69 years of age who has been thirty years in the employ of the road, and who is disabled in service, will receive a pension of 1 per cent per month for the last ten years of his service with the company.

Any employe who has reached the age of 70 years, and who has been thirty years in the employ of the company, will be retired upon a pension of 1 per cent a month calculated upon the monthly rate of wage paid him for the last ten years of his service with the company.

Working in harmony with this plan is another rule of the company that it will not employ any man over 35 years of age.

It is hardly necessary to analyze this offer to show that it amounts practically to nothing. The reader may be left to judge for himself as to the percentage of railroad operatives, brakemen, switchmen, firemen, engineers, etc., who constitute the great bulk of the employes, who attain the age of 70 years. A little calculation will also serve to show that a man earning \$50 per month during his last ten years of service would be entitled to six dollars per year, a trifle over one cent and a half per day. However, as it is the best that the knowledge and ability at the disposal of the company could provide, it may be passed over without further criticism. Socialists at least expect nothing from the capitalist class, except its surrender.

As might be expected, the press comments upon this scheme are invariably written in a tone of approval. And as also might be expected, they show a marvellous contempt for the intelligence of the working class, in attempting to make this beggarly gift appear as something worth striving for. If the most ridiculously false assumptions can help out in this matter there is never any scruple about adopting them. The necessity for deceiving the working class has become so much a part and parcel of the existence of the capitalist press, that every succeeding falsehood is generally more barefaced than the last. As a proof of this, the following editorial comment from the Tribune, on this subject is here inserted:

One of the main features of the plan outlined by President Marvin Hughitt is the retirement of employes at the age of 70 on a pension of 1 per cent a month calculated on the monthly wage of the preceding ten years. To a man who has been receiving \$100 a month this will amount to only \$12 a year, but this is far better than nothing, and when applied to 27,000 employes it will reach a considerable annual total which the company binds itself to pay.

Here we have two most astounding assertions. The first implies that the average employe on the Chicago and Northwestern railroad earns \$100 per month, and that they will continue to earn this sum up to the age of 70 years. The second, (and they are both connected), implies the probability of the whole 27,000 reaching this age and qualifying for a pension of 2 cents per day.

We venture to say that if amongst workingmen, there is a majority so utterly imbecile as to accept these implied statements for facts, the advent of socialism might be postponed for ages.

But it is not to be supposed that this generous provision for old age is to be made without due compensation for the philanthropic donors, the parties who magnanimously "give" employment. They expect that the employe himself will, by increased attention to their business, "probably" earn the extra sum to which he is entitled after reaching the allotted three score and ten. After stating that thinking men have concluded that the pension system is both "wise and humane," the editorial proceeds as follows: "It" (meaning the prospective three cents per day).

"tends to promote loyalty to the employing firm and to encourage faithful service. An employe who has a definite reward of this sort to look forward to is more likely to try to keep his position by doing conscientious work, and by his increased efficiency he will probably earn the extra amount to be received by him when his working days are over."

It may be justly observed that the "wisdom" of this proceeding (from the capitalist point of view) is considerably more evident than the "humanity." Socialism cannot present any such "incentive" to work as is here set forth. The entire product of labor for the laborer would inevitably lead to laziness and demoralization, while the very uncertain prospect of two or three cents per day, after the age of seventy, is expected to spur him into increased and constant activity. The bait is hardly large enough to conceal the hook, but the experienced fishermen seem confident that the gudgeons are not very particular as to what they bite at.

These so-called "old age pension schemes" are in reality a confession by the capitalist class that the wage system is no longer adequate to the means of present society. It is an admission which directly antagonizes the theory so often put forward, that the working class can, by the exercise of thrift, sobriety, prudence, economy and other alleged virtues, secure by their own labor sufficient to keep them in existence when their services are no longer profitable to the employer. The chattel slave when his labor power became exhausted by age, was by law entitled to subsistence for the rest of his life. The modern wage slave, when the same period is reached is dependent upon the "charity" of those who have used his labor power to build up their own fortunes—a fact which the latter now finally admit, and which they are even clever enough to turn to account by posing as philanthropists and humanitarians.

As time passes and it becomes more evident that the capitalist classes are unable to feed their slaves in the midst of their slavery, it may be reasonably expected that these pension schemes for an old age which is seldom reached, will be come more universal, until no wage worker can truthfully say that he is without hope, (such as it is), for his declining years. And in such case it may become necessary for the Socialists to revise the old call to the working class so that it shall read: "Workingmen of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose (after you have attained the age of seventy), but a possible three cents per day; you have still a world to gain."

Modern Cannibalism.

The following glimpse of the "New South" is taken from Miss Jane Adams' recent speech before the Political Equality League Club:

"A few years ago I paid a visit to the great cotton mills at Columbia, S. C., and I saw sights which really shocked me. I found little tots working in the factories from morning until night and when I inquired why it was permitted I was told that they were all children of poor people and that they were better off at work than they would be running about the streets cultivating vicious habits.

"I visited one of the mills at night and was horrified to find a little child scarcely 5 years old at work in the weaving room attending twenty-four spindles. The child worked thirteen hours and received little or nothing for his labor. Because of his extreme youth three nights a week was his limit for work. This is but a sample of what may be found today in many parts of the South."

This is not slavery. Slavery is abolished in the South. It might be mistaken for cannibalism, but it isn't that either. It is the result of "freedom"—principally "freedom of contract." It prevents "vicious habits." Columbia, S. C. must be an exceedingly "moral" locality.

Remember that if you wish to attend the Workers' Call ball on the 5th of January next, it will be necessary to procure tickets without further delay. They can be obtained from August Klenke at this office.

You may have an "inalienable right" to join a labor organization, but don't forget that the boss also possesses the "inalienable right" to fire you for doing so. That is the law in Illinois. "Freedom of contract" must be upheld at all costs.

IN WORKING ORDER AWAITS AN ANSWER

City Central Committee Meets for Business.

ADDRESS BY PETE CURRAN.

Constitution and By-laws Formulated for the United Socialists of Chicago.

The first meeting of the Provisional City Central Committee of the Socialist party took place last Saturday night at Jung's Hall, 106 E. Randolph street. The delegates to this body were elected along with the delegates to the city convention, at the various ward conventions held three weeks ago, in accordance with the call issued at the unity mass meeting at Brand's Hall, on October 18. Thirty-three out of the thirty-five wards of the city are represented in the Provisional committee. The meeting Saturday night was for the purpose of formulating a constitution and by-laws for the Socialist party, the new political organization formed by the united Socialist forces of Chicago at their city convention held December 15, at Ulich's Hall.

The meeting was called to order by City Organizer August Klenke. Comrade J. B. Smiley was elected temporary secretary. Comrades A. Somerville, R. A. Morris and August Klenke were elected a committee on credentials. Their report having been accepted and the delegates seated, the following comrades were elected a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws: F. W. Knox, E. Richter, A. Bismo, F. G. Strickland, Jas. S. Smith and R. A. Morris.

While the committee were occupied drafting the constitution addresses were made by Comrade Pete Curran of London, England, and by Comrades Walter Thomas Mills, John Collins and Thos. J. Morgan. Comrade Curran's address was of especial interest because it dealt with the progress of socialism in Great Britain and explained the tactics of the English Socialists in regard to trade unions. Comrade Curran has been identified with the Socialist movement in Great Britain for a number of years and is also a prominent trade unionist. He was a fraternal delegate to the recent convention of the American Federation of Labor from the Federated Trades of London. Since the convention adjourned he has been traveling under the auspices of the National Executive committee of the Social Democratic party with headquarters at Springfield, Mass.

COMRADE CURRAN'S ADDRESS.

The speaker told of the difficulties which the Socialists of England had encountered and the manner in which they had overcome them. There are at present two Socialist parties in England, each one having its separate sphere of action. The Social Democratic Federation is the oldest organization and the most active in straight Socialist propaganda. The Independent Labor party is the largest and takes the most active part in politics. The two organizations work in perfect harmony with each other in accordance with a unity agreement made a year ago.

After years of failure and discouragement the Socialist forces of England have at last succeeded in obtaining the active co-operation of the labor organizations. This result has been attained through years of patient and persistent agitation. A system of permeation in the labor movement has been gradually established among English Socialists, and it was this system of permeation which the speaker especially commended to the American comrades. The most important feature of this method of bringing the unions into socialism was that the work of agitation and permeation should be confined to the rank and file of the trades. The leaders were expected to come last. In the early days of socialism in England the mistake was made of fighting the unions and conducting a campaign of abuse instead of one of argument and reason.

In consequence of these better tactics a strong Socialist sentiment has been built up within the unions, and the unions are swinging into political action. In September of last year the British Trades congress passed a resolution that the time was right for labor organizations to collectively support a political party whose aim was to establish the collective ownership of all the means of production and distribution. An executive committee of eleven members was established to direct this political action. This committee is composed of two delegates from the Social Democratic Federation, two from the Independent Labor party, and seven from a like number of the largest and most powerful trades unions.

There are 40,000 proletarians affiliated with this executive board. At the last general election they tried their

(Continued on page 4.)

AWAITS AN ANSWER

Mr. Bryan Is Invited to Reply Through His Paper.

TO AN OBT-EVADED QUESTION.

Inquisitive Socialist Wants to Know How the "Consent of the Governed" Applies to Georgia.

Sir:— Having noticed in the daily press an announcement that you intended in the near future to establish a newspaper called The Commoner, I take the liberty of hoping that you will, in the first issue, answer the question which is here proposed.

As you say that the paper which you intend to establish will "keep in touch with social, economic and political problems," you will doubtless see at once that the inquiry which I make falls distinctly inside these categories. It has during the time that you were making your presidential campaign been proposed for your consideration, more than once, but on no occasion have you attempted to answer it. You have, on the other hand, invariably evaded or flippantly dismissed this question by referring to matters with which it had no connection.

There is one plank in the Kansas City platform which affirms that no country should be ruled "without the consent of the governed." In other words it means that every man shall have the right to express himself at the ballot box as to whom he prefers as official in town, city, state, or nation. Now, I wish to call your attention to the fact that in Democratic states and by Democratic officials, black men have been deprived of this right. You know this. You knew it when questioned about it during your campaign speeches. If you are competent to explain it, and show that it is consistent with the aforesaid plank, let me hope that you will do so in the first issue of The Commoner.

These black men have been disfranchised upon the flimsy pretext of a so-called "educational test," which means that if a man cannot read or write, he is disqualified as a voter.

Now, sir, if these people are ignorant whose fault is it? Whose province is it to furnish opportunity for the education of the people? Is it not the function of the state? I think you will hardly deny that this is so.

Do you know that the school system in most southern states is most painfully inadequate to furnish opportunity for the education of a very large proportion of black people?

You do. Every sane man does. If you are at all interested in "social, economic and political problems" this fact cannot have escaped your notice.

Let me, however, call your attention to an article which appeared in the "Outlook" for December, dealing with this matter. It deals with educational facilities in Georgia, a thoroughly "Democratic" state, absolutely in the hands of Democratic officials, and which gave you an enormous majority in the recent presidential election. Here is the text of the article:

A bill has been reported favorably to the Georgia senate proposing a constitutional amendment to reduce still further the appropriations for negro schools. The scope of the bill is set forth with clearness in a memorial drawn up by Professor Du Bois, the Rev. H. H. Procter, and several other leaders of the negroes in Georgia. At the present time, says this memorial, 48 per cent of the school children of the state are blacks, yet out of \$1,318,000 spent last year for teachers' salaries only \$233,000 went to negro teachers, and out of \$446,000 worth of school property controlled by county boards only \$89,000 worth was used for negro schools. In other words, out of every dollar spent the white children received eighty cents and the colored children but twenty cents. In part, of course, this difference was due to the inability of negroes to keep their children in school as many years as the whites, but in still larger part, it was due to the providing of poorer buildings for the negroes, the paying of smaller salaries to their teachers, and the crowding of nearly twice as many children into each class. These discriminations against the weaker race, however, do not satisfy the Senate committee, which recommends the adoption of the proposed amendment. At the present time, we are informed by Professor Du Bois, the state school fund of Georgia is made up as follows:

Poll taxes.....	\$230,000
Levy of 2 1/2 mills on all taxable property.....	800,000
Indirect taxes from State railroad, liquor, convicts, etc.....	268,000

The amendment offered assigns to negro schools only the sums paid by negroes under the first two items. As the negroes OWN HARDLY FOUR PER CENT OF THE PROPERTY IN THE STATE, the division of the property-tax levy gives to their schools barely \$30,000 a year. It is almost as if the children of tenants in this city were restricted to schools supported by the direct taxes paid by their parents—in which case 25 per cent of the children in the Borough of Manhattan could not attend public schools at all. Yet the memorial of the negroes does not especially complain of the inhumanity of denying to the poorer race any share of the school taxes paid by the richer. If the negro race were

allotted the share it actually contributes of the indirect taxes, it would still receive as much as now; but, as the memorial puts it, "The pending bill is more unfair than this; for it proposes to give the negro no share at all of the income from the state railroad on which he rides, from state fees which he helps to pay, or from the income from liquor and convicts, to which he contributes too largely, and by which many of his white fellow citizens profit."

Now, sir, in defending the Democratic party do you defend the action of Georgia Democrats in this respect? Do you believe in the righteousness of an "educational test" to determine the question of whether a citizen shall have the right to vote, when the opportunity for education is deliberately withheld from those those who have been marked by Democratic officials for disfranchisement? Does this tally with your idea of the "consent of the governed?"

What have you got to say about it? Don't tell us what the Republicans have been guilty of. We know that they have remained and will remain passive while the "Democrats" work their own sweet will upon the southern negroes, but their guilt does not absolve you. Answer the question—if you can. You have heretofore dodged it. Now that you have leisure, and an organ in which to express your views there is no reason why a straightforward answer may not be reasonably expected from you.

Labor organizations are now inviting black men into their unions on an equal footing. Is this democratic? If so, how does it agree with "Democracy" in Georgia?

I await with interest the appearance of the first issue of The Commoner to see if you have sufficient courage and honesty to deal with the question.

Respectfully,
R. A. Morris.

PHASES OF GIFT-GIVING.

How It is Prostituted to the Service of Capitalist Profit Making—Its "Diplomatic" Side.

There are some things which the capitalist press laugh down and others which they laugh up, according to their interests. One of the customs which is laughed up is the custom of gift-giving at Christmas-time. All kinds of jokes are sprung about shopping in crowded stores; the anxiety occasioned in selecting presents and the anguish of receiving unbecoming wearing apparel; the discussions as to the desirability of continuing the Santa Claus delusion with the children, and hundreds of other matters incident to the custom are brought up and disposed of in a humorous vein, resulting finally in the triumph of the old customs. Some sensible people resolve that the whole proceeding is a farce and conclude to be out of it, but before the day dawns the newspapers, through ads and otherwise, have succeeded in changing their minds and with the thought "why not be with the crowd," they fall from grace and patronize the counter. Of course this thing pays the newspapers, (the moulders of public opinion), and so they keep the old thing up as much as it is in their power.

And then the custom gives a few of the large employers of labor a chance to be diplomatic with their men. One firm, (the one which is advertised as giving the most to its men), gave its employes 5 per cent on their year's wages. It was reported that this averaged \$33.00, showing that the average wages paid by this concern was \$660.00 per year, or \$2.12 per day. Five per cent would mean then an addition in wages of 10 1/2-16 cents a day. The Tribune points out that this is the proper way to treat employes in advising employers, and in advising employes it recommends that (the whole thing resting with themselves greatly whether they get fairly treated or not) this shining example is what they should aim to emulate—the good conduct of the Crane employes—to be thus handsomely rewarded. Yes, wouldn't it be nice for the employer, for the additional wage of ten and six-tenths cents a day to be paid only in the event of the employe's being good for a year, to get a greater amount of the flesh and blood of his wage slaves? And yet no doubt this additional will make many a wage-hor contented with \$2.12 a day out of his product of \$12.00 a day. For this purpose it is a good investment for the employer, as he knew in advance, and the discontented slave in his employ will have to keep pace with the ones who take the bait.

"Inexpensive Animals."

What pleasures are in store for the inhabitants of the congested river and tenement wards of Chicago! Mayor Harrison is just about to consider the advisability of proposing the establishment of small parks, about five acres each, in those unsalubrious districts. Each of these beauty spots will "be provided with a few cages of inexpensive animals to divert and entertain old and young." If we can't have bread, our masters are evidently willing to provide us with the "circus." But why not fill the cages with the children of the wage earners? They are certainly the most inexpensive animals that could be possibly obtained. They are worth but \$1 each, according to Judge Gummere of New Jersey.

Socialist Pointers

The new century will bring socialism whether you work for it or not.

Remember that you have a date for the ball to be given for the benefit of the Workers' Call.

John D. Rockefeller is doing just what the state could do, only he is getting all the profits.

The kings of the earth should not fail to celebrate. This is the last century on earth for them.

It is surprising how easy a Call subscription card may be disposed of. Try a few and be convinced.

Suppose you turn over a new leaf by seeing that all of your dues to socialism are promptly paid up.

McKinley is coming our way, too, but only so far as to have the state look after the interests of the rich.

Pete Curran of England must have shocked many laboring men in Chicago by telling them to go into politics.

The next time the Socialists capture Haverhill it will be because a majority of the voters of the town are Socialists.

It is time to start the city campaign, considering the fact that we must gain several hundred thousand votes to win.

The British workingmen are going into politics on their own account, but they have no Mark Hanna to look after them.

What a joke it would be on the council if it should redistrict Chicago so that the Socialists would elect a few aldermen.

Wasn't it a shame for the Salvation Army to feed all these hungry men on Christmas and encourage them in their shiftlessness.

The King of Sweden has lost his mind; if he were a workman he would lose his job also, and his family might starve.

Under our beautiful capitalistic system it will be impossible to run the city campaign without dollars. Do you see the point?

Tell your friends that now is the time to subscribe. The next issue of the Workers' Call will be a 20th century newspaper.

The people who live without work do not particularly enjoy Christmas. They have such things to eat every day if they want them.

John Collins will not receive a hearing in many parts of the city just because he is a workman. How do you like that workman?

Those who think Bryan is coming our way will be disappointed when they don't read all about socialism in the first number of his paper.

Some day we will have progressed so far that hungry men will not crowd some big barn-like structure to get a cold meal at the hand of charity.

Socialism is penetrating the backwoods, thanks to the United States mails which are handled for the benefit of the people and not for profit.

Considering the fact that there are seven or eight million Socialists in the world it will be seen that no single individual counts for much in the movement.

The powers evidently think that all China needs to be civilized is a big public debt. The bankers who run the world think so, at least, and that settles it.

If the Boers can only hold out until the Socialists capture England they can be assured of exact justice, which they will also be required to render to the black man.

The delegate from Hawaii to congress represents the natives of the islands instead of the business men, and will therefore be probably thrown out on some charge or other.

No workman is mentioned for senator from Illinois, owing no doubt to the fact that there are only a few workmen in the state. The lawyers being in such a vast majority naturally take all of the offices.

Carter Harrison believes that Cleveland's efforts to restore the Democratic party will not result successfully, and accuses the ex-president of being the very man who "killed the party." Can it be possible that our mayor does not believe in the resurrection of the dead?

THE WORKERS' CALL.

Issued every Saturday at 26 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Entered at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., as mail matter of the second class.

Subscription Rates: One year, \$3.00; Six months, \$1.75; Three months, \$1.00; Single copies, 15c.

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

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

THE LAW AND ITS OWNERS.

There is hardly an event occurs in which the power of the law is invoked which does not reflect the fact that present society is completely dominated by class rule. Within the last two weeks several negroes have here and there been taken by force from the custody of legal officials, and executed by "well known citizens" of this or that locality, and the law remains passive, or at most, makes a pretended effort to discover and punish the offenders.

owned and operated by all for the benefit of all, classes would become impossible, and the law would equally represent the interests of all. And in consequence they organize for the purpose of securing the law-making power through the united efforts of their class, the working class, which is only a class because non-working classes exist. When they have accomplished their object all classes, as such, will disappear, their own included.

the introduction of improved machinery of production, the increasing bankruptcy of the small capitalists, the discharges of multitudes of salesmen and other unproductive laborers, was too palpable to be ignored. Had the Democratic party followed the advice of Cleveland, and confined itself to "eternal principles" and other dead issues, its defeat would have been still more disastrous.

clients of a \$5 bill or a turkey are described by the press as being made exceedingly happy through the generosity of the boss. If workmen were in reality as prosperous as these Journals would have us believe, why should the receipt of such trifles evoke excessive demonstrations of thankfulness?

BOOK REVIEWS. SOCIALISM AND MODERN SCIENCE (DARWIN-SPENCER-MARX), by Enrico Ferri. Translated by Robert R. LaMonte. 212 pp., cloth, \$1.00; International Library Publishing Co., 23 Duane St., New York.

CORRESPONDENCE. Father McGrady v. Mark Hanna. Editor of the Workers' Call: Dear Comrade:—I hope that you will pardon my long delay in replying to your kind letter of the 8th, as I have been very busy. It was with some surprise that I read the clipping from the Chicago Times-Herald, of the 8th, wherein Mark Hanna quotes the Roman Catholic church as the adversary of socialism.

WAIL OF THE "HAS BEEN."

That defeat always requires explanation from the defeated, is no less true of politicians than of prize fighters, and the latest pronouncement on the political disaster which has befallen the Democratic party bears no little resemblance to the excuses of the heroes of the prize ring, who, having gone down in defeat before the fists of a more powerful or skillful slugger, feel called upon to let the public know just how it happened, but always with the understanding that some unfortunate mistake was made in the preparations for battle, which can be easily rectified if the fallen idol is only permitted to get another chance in the roped arena.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Reports from the big department stores on State street as to business conditions during Christmas week show that year by year the chances of the small distributor grow continually less. The latter may make up their minds to accept the inevitable. It is useless to howl for the abolition of the department store or for restrictive legislation to hamper its operations. The public undoubtedly feel that the department store provides better service, and therefore patronize it in crowds, in spite of any sentiment which the small business man may have succeeded in creating against it.

Standard Lubricator.

President Harper of the Rockefeller university announces the amount which John D. has decided will be sufficient to run that part of his business for the coming year, \$1,500,000. Not a great sum considering the returns. How complacently did the Doctor smile when announcing the amount, is well set forth in the widely-circulated publication of the proceedings.

"WHAT IT WOULD MEAN."

Hanna Wants the Shipping Subsidy Bill Passed in the Interest of the "Unemployed." As an argument in favor of the shipping subsidy bill, Mark Hanna is quoted as follows, in the daily press: "We must either find foreign markets for our surplus products, or we must curtail our productions of agriculture and manufactures one-third. Think what that would mean. It would mean the throwing out of employment of thousands and tens of thousands of men and the consequent increased competition for employment."

Motion Endorsed.

The following resolution was adopted by Local Chicago at the last regular meeting on December 18: Resolved, That the motion of Local Boston calling for a national convention be endorsed by the Central Committee of Local Chicago, with the following amendment: That the convention take place about May 15th, and that the place of holding convention be centrally located; Chicago preferable.

The Campaign Fund.

Week ending December 22nd: Previously reported \$5.06; Painters' union, per Aug. Olsen, 10.00; L. Schur, 1.50; A friend, .25; H. Wieduwit, .25; Collection at Central Committee, 5.30; Total, \$21.30.

Harc and Tortoise.

Representative Crumpler of Indiana will submit a bill to congress asking that the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution be enforced, in order that the representation of those southern states which have disfranchised their negro population, be reduced in proportion. A bill asking that kidnapping or ransom be made a capital crime will at the same time be brought before the Indiana state legislature. It will be interesting to note the speed at which both will travel, particularly if another successful kidnapping case occurs in the meantime.

Fact "Fake Fighters."

The workmen of Chicago need not want for a friend so long as the Chicago American is on the scene. Always on the lookout for their true interests, it has in the matter of exposing prize fights which are not on the "square," shown once more that it is reliable. It does, and will continue to relentlessly oppose "fake fights." The workmen absolutely shall not be imposed upon in this matter. They pay their hard-earned money expecting to get full value, and the American will not stand by and see injustice done them. Therefore fake fighters are warned that the true friend of the workmen is on the alert and stands ever ready to brand them as "fakers." The workmen should appreciate this, even if it does not put the money back into their pockets. Then let them go a little further, and expose "fake" newspapers. But "self-preservation is the first law of nature."

Rich. Kitchell.

Dear Comrade:—Peter Curran, fraternal delegate to the A. F. of L. convention will speak at Shoemakers' Hall, 17 Andrews street, the evening of January 2nd. Delegate Curran's address before the convention was so interesting, that at its conclusion many of those present begged him to continue. He is reported to have been one of the most entertaining speakers who have ever appeared upon the floor of an A. F. of L. convention, and we may consider ourselves fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear him in Rochester. All men and women are invited to attend; and those who have read this, are requested to extend the invitation to those who have not.

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THE ENEMY'S ADVICE.

Attempt to Discredit the Ballot As a Political Weapon in the Hands of the Working Class.

Under the heading, "Labor Disfranchising," the Tribune recently printed a rather remarkable editorial. It began by stating that the address of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor "contained three features of special interest." The three features are given as, first: the spread of labor organization within the last year, showing a net gain of 3,027 local unions and an increase of 294,323 members; second, the increasing centralization of business managements, which necessitates increasing combination among employees, for "the large concern is a more formidable antagonist for employees to deal with than a small concern" and "every stage of advance in the 'association' of capital naturally implies a corresponding advance in the 'association' of labor;" third, President Gompers' warning note to organized labor to shun the idea of compulsory arbitration, he advising that the "convention should emphatically and without any ambiguity declare its position" in the matter. The third feature comes in for a correct sipping up by the Tribune as indicating "the deep-seated suspicion" which exists "on the part of organized labor towards the courts or toward a proposal for any similar governmental body." Then comes an effort to sidetrack the logical course which organized labor ought to pursue in view of the fact of their having good grounds for their suspicion of the courts and similar governmental bodies. It says that the sentiments expressed in advising against the idea of compulsory arbitration show "a consciousness that political action... is a disappointing experiment in the hands of labor," and then as if it so had settled the matter for the unions, it would have the unions believe that they (the unions), "virtually assert" by their attitude on compulsory arbitration, "that, despite its theoretical advantages, political organization is less available at the present time than trade organization," and that they "place conciliation and the strike above the ballot as effective agencies." If the comments of the Tribune refer to the participation by the unions in capitalist politics, its advice, given under cover of its interpretation of the sentiments of organized labor, is good—that as effective agencies, conciliation and the strike go above the ballot. But that the Tribune sees of another form of political organization, where the ballot is the most effective agency, is evidenced by the following paragraph:

It cannot be denied that this preference challenges the too frequent tendency to attribute unlimited capabilities to political action and suggests doubts as to what may be expected therefrom. In other countries, however, the experience of the workers in their distinctive organizations, while provoking their demand for a wider exercise of the suffrage, has served to train them for a wiser use of it. It is the country which is one of the chief grounds for the permanent hope reposed in the principle of manhood suffrage.

In other countries the workers' experience in demanding manhood suffrage, so that the members of their organizations might make a wise use of it, ought to teach organized labor here of the waste they are making of their birthright. This being the period of centralization, and waste elimination by its utilization, the centralizers simply make use of the waste ballots of organized labor by decoy labor issues inserted into both of the old party platforms, thus insuring a dumping ground in either party, according to whatever divisional disposition the aforesaid labor may make up its ballots. It certainly is attributing unlimited capabilities to political action to expect political action, such as has been experimented with by the unions to redound to the benefit of labor. The capabilities of political action are limited by the strength of those who show a capability for a wise use of the suffrage. The right of suffrage implies the right to waste it against one's interests, but Socialists hope to instill into the minds of the workers that it is better to conserve it by political action, such as has produced results in the older countries, where the workers who are organized industrially as workers, are also organized politically as workers. When organized labor comes to a realization of the proper course to pursue, either through the stress of industrial conditions or by the labors of Socialists to convince them, then and then only can results be achieved. The Tribune has wittingly or unwittingly given organized labor the cue, if they will but reflect on the meaning of the matter contained in its editorial, to what is best for it in the way of political action. And in ending its dissertation with the following:

Those who are anxious for the realization of that hope and are, perhaps, sometimes disappointed, should remember the great educational results for which, with all its failings, labor association really stands.

The Tribune voices the Socialist position that, labor organizations, whatever their failings at the present time, necessarily conduce to class solidarity, which will eventually lead to class political action of the sort which will justify our hopes, for which end we are striving against even the prejudice and ignorance of those who will be most benefited.

W. Socialists will favor "compulsory arbitration" when they possess the compelling power—but on second thoughts there wouldn't be anything to arbitrate then.

SOCIALIST NIGHT SCHOOL.

Eager Pupils Attend the Second Lesson—"Primitive Industry" the Topic for Discussion.

The second lesson of the Chicago Night School of Political Economy, on last Tuesday, was even more eagerly attended than the opening meeting. The subject of the evening's lesson was "Primitive Industry Prior to the Coming of Slavery." It was contended by Comrade Mills in this lesson that whenever man made his appearance on the earth he did not come naked, helpless and without experience. On the contrary he began his career with the inheritance from his animal ancestry of all the skill, experience and instinct now possessed by the most highly developed creatures outside the human family.

Comrade Mills further contended that under primitive industry the private ownership of land, of any enterprises where large companies of men were employed, of great herds or of slaves was unknown; that private property in land and in slaves were both developed during the later years of barbarism and introduced the coming of the era of civilization.

One of the most striking and convincing things of the evening's work was the long list of authorities on primitive industry in whose books there does not occur even an index reference to the subject of slavery. The evening's lesson was closed by Comrade Mills by reading the following from his new book on "How to Work for Socialism":

In the infancy of our race our ancestors fed themselves from roots and fruits and nuts gathered from the wilds which no man called his own. From an incoherent babel of unformed words, aided by gestures and grimace, in associated effort they produced a language, by associated effort they fought off the beasts of prey and, standing together, they preserved the race of man from annihilation. To nuts and fruits they added fish and built and kept a common fire from which each could carry living coals, and no one said "This fire is mine." They contrived and used the bow and arrow and no one claimed returns from another's toil. Woman's ingenuity and skill and toll made iron, wheat and corn, rye, rice and barley, wheat and corn, rye, oats, peas, beans and onions, gold and silver, iron, tin, brass and bronze, the sickle and the pruning knife, the distaff, spindle, shuttle and the loom, the harp and the shepherd's pipe, the dike, bridge and irrigation ditch, garments of cloth, shoes of leather and houses of stone; the dog, sheep, goat, hog, cow and horse, the wagon of four wheels, the basket, mill and bakery—and "the white-winged ships, such as come down from the sea"—these were among the things man had contrived and learned to use during the years which modern scholarship calls years of savagery and barbarism. In all this the private ownership of the means of life were never known.

After that the Phoenicians gave the world an alphabet. It was civilization's birthday and it looked up and smiled with a written record in its hand. But civilization brought us more than that. Lewis H. Morgan, and there is no better authority on the primitive life of man, says that the ideas of property, or its dominance as a passion over every other passion, marks the commencement of civilization. "With the passion for property came war, slavery, and the thirst for dominion and power, and for five thousand years it has been written in letters of blood and fire over the smoking centuries—the love of gain is the root of all evil."

Comrade Mills desires us to announce in reply to numerous inquiries that if he can secure two hundred students at points outside of Chicago he will have the lessons regularly printed and will carry on the work with non-resident students by correspondence. Those interested should send their names and six cents in stamps to Comrade Mills, in care of the Workers' Call, and they will receive a copy of the little book, "How to Work for Socialism," and will be kept posted on the plans for correspondence work.

State Labor Commissioner of Massachusetts reports that of the 33,000 cotton mill operatives in the state about one-half are women and children. Skilled men average \$1.10 per day; unskilled, 66 cents; skilled women, 65 cents; unskilled women, 47 cents; and children, 21 cents—working from ten to twelve hours a day. At these wages a man and wife and three children would earn \$1.75 per day. Here is a hint to those notoriety-seeking reformers who loudly bawl about the social evil—Cleveland Citizen.

Notice.

Notice to organizers and secretaries in Chicago and throughout the state.—You are requested to send me immediately dates and addresses of secretaries and organizers. This data is for use in revising the directory of locals published in the Workers' Call.

Aug. Klenke, State Organizer, 26 N. Clark St., Room 1.

Eastern railways are experimenting with a new discovery to increase the power of steam. The claim is made that the invention will prove a success and that the saving will be immense in the matter of consumption of coal and water.

FOREIGN NEWS.

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

BELGIUM. The Socialists have introduced a bill in favor of manhood suffrage at the age of 21, and abolishing the system of plural voting.

FRANCE. The makers of tulle at Calais are on strike. They are receiving subscriptions from the workers at Nottingham who are engaged in the same trade.

DENMARK. Statistics have been published relating to the number of workmen who are trade unionists. It appears that 76.7 per cent of the men and 21.1 per cent of the women are unionists.

GERMANY. Several municipal Socialist councillors were successful in the second ballots at Stettin.

A Socialist has been elected a member of the Landtag of Saxo-Gotha. There are now nine Socialists in that assembly.

The Socialists have also won several seats in the Wurtemberg Landtag.

A trial has recently taken place in Berlin in which several members of the upper classes were charged with keeping a gambling house, and they have been sentenced to short terms of imprisonment. But the evidence given shows that the gambling house was frequented by many members of the "upper" classes, those very people who always allege that the more wages workmen get, the more they spend in waste. Those who are so fond of preaching thrift always take care not to show the example; I suppose it does not pay them to act up to their principles.

"Vorwaerts" tells again the story of the Emperor's telegram to President Kruger after the Jameson raid, and shows how the cause of the Transvaal has been sacrificed to the desire of the German Emperor for expansion in the East. The writer says that capitalism is not governed by ethical principles, that international imperialism in every land is merely brutal, and that its principles—if they can be so called—are simply those of robbers who wish to grab all they can.

RUSSIA.

The Russian press has been allowed to inveigh against German cruelty in China; the German press exposed the cruelty of Russian troops in Manchuria; the English press is shocked at the doings of all the other armies in the far East; while all the foreign papers are disgusted at Kitchener's Weyerism in the Transvaal. The pot calls the kettle black. The Russian government is developing trade in Siberia at the national expense, while starving its moujik. Mr. Noble the inventor of dynamite, has left a bequest to be given to the man who has done most for international peace. It is said that Verestchagin, the realistic Russian artist, will probably receive the prize.

AFTER SERIOUS THOUGHT

Banker Gage Discovers that the Trusts "May" Exploit the Many for the Interests of the Few.

At the banquet of the members of the Associated Banks of New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria on the 19th of this month, Lyman J. Gage, secretary of the treasury, spoke on the combinations of capital forming in the industrial world, known as trusts. He said that there is great danger in any attempt to "block the path of natural progress." On the other hand, there is danger that these combinations may "prove to be engines of power by the aid of which the few can exploit the many." But Lyman thinks that notwithstanding these two dangers the country is safe, for it has the banker as an "intermediary" in affairs; his interests are in the direction of the general welfare, and these interests bind him to do all he can to uphold that welfare. "Upon his character, intelligence, fidelity and truth, as applied to all these questions, the country has the right to rely with confidence," he closes.

Up to this point, inferring from Mr. Gage's remarks, the many are not exploited by the few, but now there is great danger of the thing happening, and the bankers who are responsible in great measure for the pass things have come to, are told that they are the ones also, who will see to it that things don't go too far. For this purpose it is their "interests" which will guide them as those interests have guided them in the past.

But is not Mr. Gage speaking too late and hasn't this thing gone too far already, to permit of any "blocking" in the interests of the bankers? The danger is that the "prejudice and ignorance" which is blocking the path of progress may be the very thing which will hasten the process of sweeping the whole host of parasites from their feeding grounds, and the bankers will bite the dust with the rest. This is the danger which Lyman averts. To the general welfare this is not a danger, but a decided blessing. Therefore, let the bankers continue in their ignorance and prejudices.

Notice of Postponement.

On account of the Socialist banquet given at Hull House, December 24, in honor of Pete Curran, the Socialist reception, which was to have been given at Hull House New Year's Eve, will be postponed to some later date.

LOCAL NEWS AND NO

Branches are requested to take notice that they are required to pay the care of speakers.

All locals throughout the state and city who wish to appear in the directory column are invited to send in their name, place and date of meeting with the secretary's name and address to Arquist Klenke, 35 N. Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

The meeting at Roseland at One Hundred and Eleventh street and Michigan avenue, last Sunday evening, was a success despite the inclemency of the weather. An audience of about 200 people listened to the addresses by Comrades Peter Curran of England, and Walter Thomas Mills.

Proletariat Hall, the headquarters of the Twenty-fifth Ward branch, was crowded to its utmost capacity on Thursday, the 20th inst. The entertainment given by the branch was an unqualified success. In every respect Holberg's band supplied excellent music for the occasion, and those present enjoyed a most delightful evening. The treasurer of the branch was especially satisfied with the results.

A German branch was organized on last Saturday in the Thirty-third ward, by Comrade Wm. Figoiah. Thirty-six members joined the new branch, which makes the third in this ward. Before the formality of organizing took place the meeting was addressed in German by Comrade Julius Whiteich. The next meeting of the new branch will take place on January 5th, at 8 p. m., Schraeder's Hall, 9190 South Chicago avenue.

The Young Men's Socialist Educational club, with rooms at 1122 Milwaukee avenue, held a most interesting meeting last Sunday afternoon. Snows and wintry gales cannot cool the enthusiasm of the young people composing the organization. The speaker for the afternoon was Walter Thomas Mills. About 150 people were present. What was remarkable as well as promising was that the audience was composed almost exclusively of young men. The club will continue to hold meetings every Sunday afternoon at the above address.

The organization known as the "Twenty-third Ward Scandinavian branch of the Social Democratic party" has been reorganized into an English speaking branch in order to enable all Socialists within the ward to connect themselves with the organization. It is now known as the Twenty-third Ward branch of the Socialist party. All Socialists residing within the ward are kindly requested to send their names and addresses to Chas. H. Sand, 243 Wells street, organizer of the Twenty-third Ward branch of the Socialist party.

Comrade Olaf J. Jorgensen of the Fifteenth Ward branch, writes enthusiastically on the great work being done in that section of the city. The prospects for socialism in the Fifteenth ward certainly look very bright. The branch contains some of the best workers in the city, and the action of the city convention has put new life into the work. Comrade Jorgensen writes "Three cheers for the SOCIALIST party. The Fifteenth ward is with you, and we are going to poll a vote for our candidate to the city council which will surprise everybody."

The funeral services for Comrade Michael Britz of the Cigarmakers' union was held last Sunday at Garfield Turner Hall. Addresses were made by several speakers, Comrades Morgan and Berlyn, amongst the number, while President Perkins of the I. C. M. U. delivered the principal address. The devotion of our dear comrade to the cause of labor, to which he had given the best of his life, was the principal theme of the speakers. Michael Britz died at the age of 58 years, nearly forty of which were spent in this city. Committees from many trades unions were represented at the funeral. The body was taken to Graceland cemetery for cremation, no religious services of any kind being held.

The members of the Thirteenth Ward branch have determined upon an aggressive propaganda in their district. At the last meeting they decided to assess themselves for a certain sum weekly to put a permanent organizer in the field. The branch now numbers forty-two members and is growing steadily and rapidly. It was decided to appoint a committee to assess the ward for the purpose of carrying on the propaganda for the coming campaign, and the branch has selected Comrade F. G. Strickland as permanent local organizer within the two wards. He will be provided with literature for sale and distribution, and will commence active work on the 1st of January, 1901, in both districts.

Comrade John Collins addressed a large meeting of the Twelfth Ward branch at 1023 W. Madison street on last Sunday. The speaker outlined the position of Socialists regarding trades unions, and urged upon his hearers the necessity of joining the respective organizations of their trades, as thereby most effective agitation could be made for the cause of socialism. The Twelfth Ward branch expects to do vigorous work during the winter, and invite all Socialists in the vicinity to attend the next meeting, Sunday, December 30th, at 1023 W. Madison street at 3 p. m., where Comrade F. G. Strickland will make the address and offer some suggestions as to making still more efficient propaganda during the winter.

A large assembly of trade union members gathered at 17 Washington street last Sunday, to hear the address of Pete Curran of England, fraternal delegate from that country to the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Louisville. The speaker talked straight from the shoulder, and showed conclusively the superiority of the ballot compared with the strike as a weapon for the emancipation of the workers. He said that the British laborers were fast learning by bitter experience the uselessness of depending upon their organized strength in the economic field alone, and that their attention was now turning towards political action as the only effective method. His address was listened to with marked attention by the audience, and was supplemented with speeches by T. J. Morgan and A. M. Simons.

The shooting of "Red Corbett" is perhaps the "step at a time" method of suppressing vice. We are inclined to believe that this is so, from the fact that only six hold ups occurred on the day following.

Besides the two Socialists, Hardie and Bell, there are nine trade unionists in the British parliament, and they will likely stand together on all important questions.

Are you still hunting for subscribers?

THEY WERE ALL ON HAND.

Brilliant Array of Capitalist Stool Pigeons at the Steinway Hall Pow-wow.

Franklin MacVeagh, labor-skinner and arborer on "the responsibilities of wealth," as chairman, called on the conference of the National Civic Federation to order at Steinway Hall one week ago last Monday. He took occasion to bring up that old humbug Third Estate—the public—which he said gets the worst of it whenever workmen strike for enough to enable them to live decently. This is the same "public" to which the workmen are so offensive when, if they are made destitute by the stress of economic conditions, they appeal to the country for relief. If the workmen are going to listen to F. MacVeagh and try to please the "public" they will have to stand in readiness to have the ground swept from under their feet at any and all times.

What an array of talent the capitalists had on hand at this conference to see that their interests were properly guarded! Capitalist employer, opening up the proceedings with capitalist public in the chair, was reinforced by capitalist-statistician, and they told how hard labor was on the public and what great blessings labor now enjoys in comparison to labor a hundred years ago, (shown from the statistics). Then capitalist-economist stuck his narrow head in the conference, and told what he had done on a little island and that he couldn't see why labor did not jump at the chance to try his plan. Labor, the great lion, was present in the person of his representative, who, although ignorant of his own strength was nevertheless aware of the weakness of the plans of the capitalist schemers. The tone of the speeches of the labor representatives gives evidence that they felt out of place there and were restraining something, as if, knowing the foolishness of their opponents, their presence there reflected that foolishness upon themselves, hence the tolerance on their part. How stupid it is for workmen, who have the power to run things for the benefit of the producers, to send their delegates to a conference of idle parasites who are gathered together to formulate plans whereby they may contrive to dictate to labor! It is as if the lions should send one of their number to plead with a pack of wolves. Why not be somebody, union men, by controlling the government yourselves, thus making it unnecessary to try to please those who would skin you?

"IMPORTANT FINDINGS."

A Discriminating Santa Claus Selects Gifts for the Good Capitalist and Naughty Laborer.

Acres of space have been devoted in the capitalist press to attempting to show that no "classes" exist or possibly can exist in this country. Not infrequently the contradiction of all that has been said on the subject appears in the same column, while the various items of news gathered from different localities often expose this contradiction still more distinctly. It is only necessary to glance over any issue of the daily papers to substantiate what has been said. Here, for instance, are two extracts from the Chicago Record, December 21st, which are placed one above the other in the same column:

New York, Dec. 21.—Stored away in the vaults of New York city banks is the enormous sum of \$150,000,000, estimated by bankers as the amount required to meet January disbursements. Temporarily there will be a stringency in the local money market. The sum of \$150,000,000 is the earnings on invested capital, the returns to the people who twelve months ago put their money in profitable channels and left it there.

They "left it there." Hung up their stockings so to speak, and waited the coming of the capitalist Santa Claus. And the fellows who by their labor produced this "enormous sum," what was their share in the "dividing up"? Is it possible that they were utterly forgotten by the distributor of Christmas gifts? Not at all. Their portion appears in the very next news item. It is labeled "A Most Important Finding," and is as follows:

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 21.—In the case of Charles Gillespie of Vermillion county against the people the supreme court has made a most important finding. It declares the act of 1898, entitled "An act to protect employes and guarantee their right to belong to labor organizations" unconstitutional. The supreme court holds that the act deprives an employer of the right to terminate a contract with an employe.

"The 'just claims of labor and capitalist' are always attended to impartially and without discrimination. Both receive 'important findings,' though of a different character. There are no classes in this country. Perish the base insinuation!"

WAGES AND PRODUCT.

Capitalist Boasts Bring Out the Fraud of Higher Wages Paid to American Workmen.

A member of the firm which controls the Baldwin Locomotive works, John H. Converse, said, before the industrial commission, December 19, that his company employed a capital of \$10,000,000 and 8,500 hands, and that the capacity of the plant was 1,200 locomotives a year. He said that the wages of his firm's employes were higher than those paid abroad and that on account of being able to deliver quicker a better type of locomotive at a cheaper price they were able to introduce their locomotives abroad. The reason that could be done in spite of higher wages paid was because of the "intelligence and industry of the American workmen."

and the much larger use of improved machinery here than abroad." It is always noticeable that while the pathway of these great corporations is smooth they attribute their success in competition to the "industry and intelligence" of their workmen, and the use of more modern machinery, (which is another way of saying the same thing about American workmen), showing that when off guard and likely to speak the truth they give the lie to the assertions, (made when the said workmen try by striking to get some of the benefits of their industry and intelligence), of the unreasonableness and arbitrariness of American labor. The facts brought out by Mr. Converse prove that American labor is underpaid which produces a better article and delivers it thousands of miles across the ocean and sets it down at a less price than it can be produced for at the point of destination. The tariffs of the foreign countries against cheap American competition did not operate against locomotives for the reason that most foreign countries have government ownership of railroads. In bringing out this point Mr. Converse proves another contention of the Socialists, that capitalist ownership is of no value to the working class. Here foreign governments overstep their own tariff laws to discriminate against their own workmen.

Things of "Serious Import."

It is the undivided opinion of the press and most individuals of high standing in legal and political matters, (according to the published expressions of opinions from those sources), that the pending cases before the supreme court in regard to the status of Porto Rico and the Philippines under the constitution, and their settlement, involve questions of tremendous import to the future of this country. "If the government's contention that those islands can be governed as apart from the constitution is upheld, we enter upon imperialism. If it is decided that they come under the constitution and are to be treated the same as the states of the Union, with free trade and citizenship for their inhabitants, what baneful effects will not their competition with home labor create?" It is the fear of what will then ensue which causes the serious import.

What will be done if ruinous competition threatens in the events of its possibility? No doubt agitation will begin to revise the constitution so as to protect home labor. But this is dangerous and for that reason these powers that be are alarmed. For in the discussion which would precede any action in the matter there would be great chances for the laboring men to get their eyes opened, and that is what the plutocrats don't want. Wait and see. No, don't wait, you will see anyway, for whichever way the thing is decided there are events ahead, so what is needed is to gird our loins for the conflict. Get the ammunition ready to instruct the ignorant as soon as the golden opportunity is presented.

Special State Convention.

To all Locals and Branches of the Social Democratic Party in the State of Illinois.

Greeting.—In accordance with a resolution adopted by the municipal convention of the Social Democratic party, held at Ulich's Hall, December 15, 1900, you are hereby requested to send one (1) delegate to a special state convention, to be held in the city of Chicago, Saturday, February 9th, 1901 at 8 p. m., for the purpose of bringing about a more effective union of Socialists of this state.

In battling against capitalism it is of the utmost importance that the Socialists of this state have an effective organization so that a systematic agitation and distribution of literature may be made possible. The vote cast for the Social Democratic ticket at the last election has disclosed the fact that a large number of industrial centers having no organization contain a sufficient supply of material to make a good organization. These places must soon be visited by an able organizer, who shall unite the Socialist voters into a local so that they can propagate the principles of socialism in their respective neighborhoods. To do this and more, however, we must have an effective organization with a state committee slave to the necessities. Provision will also have to be made to collect funds, as without that nothing can be done.

The Socialists of Chicago, realizing the need of systematic organization, have already taken active steps in this direction, so far as their local work is concerned, and the rapid growth of the movement here has already shown the wisdom of this action. Like results may be looked for from like action all over the state, and to arrange for this promptly it is necessary to have a delegated convention.

As the traveling expenses of delegates will be too heavy for small locals at long distances from this city, it is proposed to equalize the burden by calling on each local of the state and each branch of Local Chicago to pay \$3 toward the traveling expenses of delegates.

It is necessary that the locals and branches should at once put themselves to the task of collecting this amount, as it must be in the hands of the committee not later than the 31st of January, as this convention MUST be made a success. So comrades, TO WORK!

Fraternally,
The Joint Campaign Committee,
F. G. Strickland,
Secretary.
R. A. Morris,
Chas. H. Kerr,
Jas. B. Smith,
Sub-committee.

In Working Order

(Continued from page 1)

strength at the polls on a straight Socialist program. The Socialists had candidates in 12 out of the 600 constituencies. They polled 65,000 votes and elected two members to parliament. In the year 1895 they only polled 24,000 votes.

The speaker predicted a great growth for the Socialist movement in England in the next few years. The proletariat, at present drunk with patriotism and jingoism, would presently wake up and find that they had the piper yet to pay. Besides England industrially was on the verge of entering into one of its periodical eras of depression. This period of depression would open up a great opportunity to Socialists. There will be a great revulsion of feeling against the Conservatives, and the Liberal party, being the intermediate force between capital and labor, has been smashed irretrievably. From now on the political struggle will more and more assume the character of the straight class struggle. The speaker assured the American comrades that English Socialists would be ready for the coming crisis in their country.

Comrade Curran finished by predicting that America would take the lead in ushering in the co-operative commonwealth. Capitalism was further developed in this country than elsewhere and in consequence the climax would come sooner. He congratulated the American Socialists upon their position of world-prominence and upon the able manner in which they were educating the proletariat to the coming clash.

The committee on constitution made its report which was adopted after some discussion and a few minor changes. The constitution and by-laws, subject to the referendum vote of the party membership, is as follows:

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This organization shall be known as the Socialist party of Chicago.

ARTICLE II.

Composition.

Section 1. This organization shall be composed of the various branches of the Socialist party now existing, or that may hereafter be organized in the various political subdivisions of the city of Chicago.

Section 2. The business of this organization shall be conducted by a General Committee, composed of delegates representing the various branches.

Section 3. The representation shall be as follows: Each branch shall be entitled to two delegates for the first twenty members or fraction thereof, and one additional delegate for each additional twenty members or major fraction thereof.

ARTICLE III.

Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be a Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman and an Executive Committee of nine.

Section 2. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and proceedings of the General Committee and Executive Committee, call the roll of delegates and members, attest all bills, vouchers and orders drawn on the treasurer, sign all official documents and within one week after the meeting of the General Committee, transmit a copy of the minutes to each branch of the party in the city.

Section 3. The Financial Secretary shall receive all moneys in the name of the organization and pay the same to the Treasurer, taking his receipt therefor, including all such moneys and such funds as are received in the regular course of business by the party published by this organization. The Workers' Call or any other paper that the Local may hereafter publish, and all such moneys or funds intended to be used for the publication of said paper or papers. He shall keep account of all receipts and expenditures, and shall receive all the party stamps and sell them to the branches represented in this organization.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive from the Financial Secretary all moneys belonging to the organization and give his receipt therefor. He shall make no disbursements without an order signed by the chairman and attested by the Recording Secretary. He shall keep an account of all moneys received and paid out and make a quarterly report of the condition of the treasury, and submit his books to the auditing committee whenever required by the General Committee. Before assuming office, he shall file a satisfactory bond with the Recording Secretary.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have charge of and supervision of the paper published by the organization—The Workers' Call—or any such paper that the organization may hereafter publish. They shall also have a voice in the editorial management of said paper or papers, and the editors are to be guided by their suggestions. They shall also carry out all instructions of the General Committee.

ARTICLE IV.

Standing Committees.

Section 1. The standing committees of the organization shall be a Grievance Committee and an Auditing Committee, each composed of three (3) members.

Section 2. The Grievance Committee shall investigate all charges against officers, members or branches, and shall report the result of their findings in writing to the General Committee.

Section 3. The Auditing Committee shall audit the accounts of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer quarterly.

ARTICLE V.

Branches.

Section 1. A branch shall consist of not less than ten (10) persons, or less where the General Committee permits, who shall meet at least once a month to transact such business as may properly come before them.

Section 2. They shall elect such officers as they may deem necessary.

Section 3. At the last meeting in the months of June and December of each year they shall elect their quota of delegates to the General Committee for the ensuing term of six months.

Section 4. The branch shall not issue cards to new members until the General Committee shall have first indorsed the application of such members.

Section 5. Branches shall submit a list of membership and their standing to the General Committee in the month

Third Annual RECEPTION AND BALL THE WORKERS' CALL.

(Organ of the Social Democratic Party.)

SATURDAY EVE., JAN. 5, 1901

BRAND'S HALL, corner Clark and Erie Sts.

Tickets in advance, 25c a couple; at the door, 50c.

Tickets can be obtained at the Workers' Call office, 36 North Clark St., room 1.

of January of each year.

ARTICLE VI.

Election of Officers, Committees, Etc. Section 1. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary, the Executive, Grievance and Auditing committees shall be elected at the beginning of the term of the General Committee.

Section 2. A presiding officer shall be elected at each meeting by the delegates assembled.

Section 3. The General Committee shall have power to nominate the editors and submit to the branches such nominees for election, who shall hold office during term of good behavior and until recalled by a vote of the membership of the organization, or by the General Committee.

ARTICLE VII.

Conventions.

The General Committee shall call all nominating conventions for city officers and the branches for such officers as are within their political subdivisions.

ARTICLE VIII.

Membership.

Section 1. Affiliation with any capitalist political body, or the acceptance of any office therefrom, shall be held to dissolve membership in the Socialist Party.

Section 2. All applications for membership shall be made to the branch in the ward where the applicant resides, or, in case of unorganized ward, to the nearest branch.

ARTICLE IX.

Miscellaneous.

Section 1. The referendum vote shall be taken up on any vote or proposition acted upon by the General Committee upon demand of one-third of the delegates present or upon the demand of three branches of the organization.

Section 2. The officers of the branches shall see to it that all members requiring naturalization papers apply for and receive the same within six months from their admission. Otherwise such members shall stand suspended until they are naturalized.

Section 3. No member shall belong to more than one branch.

Section 4. Any amendment to this Constitution must be presented at least one meeting before it is acted upon by the organization. No such amendment shall be valid until it has been approved by referendum vote.

Section 5. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary shall be members ex-officio of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. The imperative mandate shall apply at all times to all officers and committeemen of this organization.

BY-LAWS.

Article 1. Delegates from five different branches shall constitute a quorum for any regular meeting of the General Committee.

Article 2. All credentials of delegates must be signed by the Recording Secretary and chairman of the branch, and bear the address of the Secretary and delegate, the date and place of meeting of branch, and where more than two delegates are sent from any one branch a statement of the number of members in good standing must accompany the credentials.

Article 3. All complaints against officers or members must be filed in writing with the Recording Secretary and referred to the Grievance Committee without debate.

Article 4. Should any officer be absent from three successive meetings without reasonable excuse his office shall be declared vacant and the General Committee shall proceed to fill the same. Should any delegate be absent from three successive meetings without a reasonable excuse his seat shall be declared vacant and his branch notified.

Article 5. Any proposed change or alteration in these by-laws shall be presented to the General Committee at least one regular meeting prior to that in which said change or alteration is to be acted upon. No such change shall be valid until approved by a referendum vote.

The following resolutions were presented before the committee and adopted:

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That the General Committee shall have power to issue due cards and stamps and sell same to branches for 10 cents each until further provided by state committee or national convention of the united Socialists.

Resolved, That clubs of non-English speaking Socialists may continue as heretofore and that the members of such clubs upon presentation of their membership card in the Socialist party and due proof of residence in the ward, shall be permitted to vote in the meetings of the clubs of the ward they live in, upon all questions pertaining to politics of the world; that however all questions regarding national or state politics or the party at large shall be voted on by them in their respective clubs; it shall be expressly understood that no member of any non-English speaking club shall have any further rights in the meetings of any ward club but that conceded to him as above mentioned.

The committee adjourned to meet at 52 N. Wells street, Saturday evening, January 5.

A Baltimore dispatch says all the independent telephone and cable companies are being gathered into a trust with \$50,000,000, and that it is not the intention to fight the Bell company.

THOMAS J. MORGAN, LAWYER.

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Meetings for the Week.

The following meetings have been arranged for the coming week:

Saturday, December 29th, 8 p. m., Twenty-fourth ward, 52 Wells street; Aug. Klenke will speak.

Sunday, December 30th, 3 p. m., Twelfth ward, 1093 W. Madison street, northwest corner of Western Avenue; speaker, F. W. Knox.

Sunday, December 30th, 3 p. m., Sixteenth ward, 484 Noble near Walsh's hall; speaker, Aug. Klenke.

Sunday, December 30th, 3 p. m., Socialist Educational Club, 1132 Milwaukee avenue; speakers, John Collins and J. R. Smiley.

Sunday, December 30, 3 p. m., Twenty-third ward, 208 N. Franklin street; speaker, A. Bisno.

Sunday, December 29, 3 p. m., Twenty-fifth ward, 939 Sheffield avenue, near Belmont avenue; speaker, R. A. Morris.

Sunday, December 30, 3 p. m., Twenty-fourth ward, 52 Wells street; speakers, W. Andrews and F. H. Bard.

Sunday, December 30, 3 p. m., Fifteenth ward, Socialist hall, Armitage avenue, four door east of Milwaukee avenue; speakers, Goodspeed, O. W. Bartels and M. Stewart.

Wednesday, January 2nd, 8 p. m., Garfield Hall, corner of Chicago and Hamilton avenues; speakers, G. D. Evans and D. H. Daly.

Thursday, January 3rd, 8 p. m., Mill's night school of political economy, Schiller building, 190 E. Randolph street.

Friday, January 4th, 8 p. m., Thirtieth ward, Miehle's Hall, southeast corner of Grand and Western avenues; speaker, R. A. Morris.

Friday, January 4th, 8 p. m., Twenty-first ward, Garfield Turner Hall, Larabee and Garfield; speaker, A. Somerville.

Friday, January 4th, 8 p. m., Fifteenth ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage and Milwaukee avenues; speaker, Walter Thomas Mills.

Friday, January 4th, 8 p. m., Tenth ward, 118 W. Twenty-fourth street, west of Oakley; speaker, F. G. Strickland.

Wednesday, January 2nd the old central committee will meet. All delegates are urged to attend. The meeting will be held at 52 Wells street.

Supreme court of Ohio, in dismissing contempt proceedings against the Standard Oil trust, is regarded by some lawyers as paving the way to declare trusts legal institutions.

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SOCIALIST PARTY.

Secretaries will please send notice of any omissions, changes or corrections in the following list and notify the editor of The Workers' Call, 36 N. Clark St.

ILLINOIS STATE COMMITTEE, 36 N. Clark St., room 1, Chicago, Ill., meets 2nd and 4th Friday every month, at 39 N. Clark St.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF LOCAL CHICAGO, 59 N. Clark St., 1st and 3rd Tuesday; Sec. A. W. Lindgren, 1477 Boscoe St.

BRANCHES.

SECOND WARD meets every Friday at 8 p. m., 2212 Wabash Ave. Rice Washbrough, Sec., 175 E. Twenty-second St.

FIFTH WARD meets every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 8 p. m., at 2701 Wentworth Ave. (entrance on 37th St.). Joseph Trent, Sec., 359 24th St.

SIXTH WARD. Business meeting at 803 Hooper St., 2nd and 3rd Wednesday, at 9 p. m. Geo. Mitchell, Sec., 1323 33rd St.

SEVENTH, EIGHTH AND NINETEENTH WARDS meet at Schwartz's Hall, 602 Jefferson and Fourteenth Sts., 1st and 3rd Monday each month. H. Rodomanski, Sec., 106 Gilpin Pl.

TENTH WARD, 116 W. 84th St., every Friday night. G. J. Sindelar, Sec., 1193 S. Lundy Ave.

TWELFTH WARD. Holds meetings every Sunday afternoon at 2:30 p. m., 1003 W. Madison St. Jas. Lambert, Sec., 1012 Washington Boul.

THIRTEENTH WARD BRANCH. Meets every Friday evening at 8 p. m. at Miehle's Hall, 876 Grand Ave. Ed. B. Cope, Sec., 182 Emerson Ave.

FOURTEENTH WARD holds meetings in Schoenhofen Hall, corner Milwaukee and Ashland Ave the 2nd Sunday in each month at 10 a. m.

FOURTEENTH WARD (Scandinavian) meets at Brewster Hall, 790 W. North Ave. at 8 p. m. every 2d and 4th Wednesday of each month. A. P. Nielsen, Sec., 884 Maplewood Ave.

FIFTEENTH WARD. Meets every Friday evening at Educational Hall, formerly Garfield Hall, corner Armitage and Milwaukee Aves. J. W. Bartels, Sec., 918 N. Washenaw Ave.

SIXTEENTH WARD. Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays at 484-486 Noble St., Walsh Hall.

SEVENTEENTH WARD. Meets at Norman Hall, corner Green and Milwaukee, every Monday, 5 p. m.

NINETEENTH WARD. Meets at Hull House, corner Halsted and Polk, in the Music Room, every Thursday evening. Joseph W. Allen, Sec.

TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST WARD. Business meetings 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month, at 202 Blackhawk St. Rob't. Baur, Sec., 202 Blackhawk St.

TWENTY SECOND WARD, 380 Larabee St., 2d and 4th Mondays, Sec. O. Gritchke, 657 N. Halsted.

TWENTY-THIRD WARD holds agitation meetings at 308 N. Franklin St., every Sunday at 3 p. m. F. Ekensberg, Sec., 311 Orleans St.

TWENTY-FOURTH WARD holds business meetings 1st and 3d Fridays each month at 53 Wells St. H. Jenson, Sec.

TWENTY-FIFTH WARD BRANCH. Agitation meetings every Sunday at 3 p. m.; business meetings 1st and 3rd Sunday, 6 p. m., and 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 8 p. m., at Proletariat Hall, 939 Sheffield Ave. G. A. Harold, Sec., 877 Osgood St.

TWENTY-SIXTH WARD meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday. Eugene G. Knaut, Sec., 861 Lincoln Ave.

TWENTY-SEVENTH WARD NO. 1. Business meetings 1st Sunday each month, at Mittog's Hall, corner Albany and Belmont Aves., 10 a. m. H. Bolte, Sec., 1629 N. Spaulding Ave.

TWENTY-SEVENTH WARD NO. 2. Meets at 2487 Bernard St., 1st and 3rd Saturdays. F. Lund, Sec., 2623 Kimball Ave.

TWENTY-SEVENTH WARD NO. 3. Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday at 223 Armitage Ave., near Grand Ave. John Shilovsky, Sec., 1935 Castello Ave.

TWENTY-NINTH WARD. Meets Friday evening. Nic. Krump, Sec., 412 W. 42nd St.

THIRTIETH WARD, 5439 Paulina, every Saturday night; Sec. H. Phillips, 5439 Paulina.

THIRTIETH WARD No. 1 (German), meets 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 4837 S. Ashland Ave.; Sec. H. Steiner, 240 W. 46th Pl.

ENGLEWOOD (30 and 31st wards), meets every 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 8 p. m., at Elke's Hall, 1148 W. 63rd St. A. Raennusen, Sec., 6345 Central Ave.

THIRTY-THIRD WARD meets 1st and 3rd Mondays at room 19, 2906 Commercial Ave. Sec. M. H. Tark, 7919 Escanaba Ave.

THIRTY-FOURTH WARD, 119th St. and Michigan Ave., every 2d and 4th Wednesday at 8 p. m.; Sec. G. F. Denne, 11487 Perry Ave.

THIRTY-FOURTH WARD NO. 2; Sec. M. L. Klauer, 6356 Drexel Ave.

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POLISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE—meets every Monday at 484-486 Noble St., 3 p. m.; Sec. A. J. Borkowski, 709 W. 21st Pl.

SIXTH WARD (Lithuanian), meets 1st Thursday of each month at a c. corner 33rd and Morgan Sts.

NINTH WARD meets every Saturday at 500 S. Ashland Ave. (Polaski's Hall), 8 p. m.

FIFTEENTH WARD, meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month, at Lee and Humburg Sts. (Sobieski's Hall).

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