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THE WORKERS' CALL.

THE WORKERS' CALL was issued by the SOCIALIST PARTY of Chicago and New York for the education of the working class in the principles of scientific, class-conscious revolutionary socialism. For this purpose only it appears.

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

THIRD YEAR.—WHOLE NO. 141.

CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1901.

PRICE ONE CENT

News of the Week And its Philosophy.

The football season it at its height and the pick of young American physical manhood is pitted from week to week on the field of friendly battle where the idle wealthy may look on and applaud. And who are these young men who are given every advantage that money can buy in the way of food and training to give them perfect physical development which will not only give to them the keenest enjoyment in youth but will also fit them to fight the battles of life? They are the sons of the rich. The children of the poor, stunted in mind and body must snatch their enjoyment from the hours that should be devoted to sleep. One of the immediate demands of the socialist party and one that is partly carried out in French municipalities where the socialists control, is equal educational advantages for all. While under socialism we will not be a race of football players, every child will have an equal opportunity for a perfect physical and mental development.

Visitors at the White House are charmed with the gracious and captivating manners of Mrs. Roosevelt. No doubt she is a model woman but it is easy to be gracious and captivating on \$50,000 a year. The poor widow who is obliged to wash for others that her children may live until they have arrived at an age where they may enter the factories and department stores is somewhat handicapped though she might be possessed of many natural charms.

Grover Cleveland, fat, self-satisfied and all important as though he had just made a new discovery said last week that capital and labor should be friends. It was probably to impress this fact on the workmen that Mr. Cleveland sent federal troops into Chicago during the Debs strike, at the behest of the capitalists.

Election returns from San Francisco show what is possible when the workmen are united; results will probably show how futile and barren are their victories when they are not united to accomplish a well defined object. Instead of some reforms in the police force which the new mayor promises, they might have the government of that city conducted solely in the interests of the workmen, who being in the majority could in justice demand such a state of affairs.

What appears to be a spasmodic growth of the socialist vote in certain cities did not just happen. In nearly every instance it was the result of heroic and self-sacrificing work on the part of a small branch in the circulation of party literature. What is possible in one city may be done in all other cities of the country. The workmen of the land are hungering and thirsting for the truths of socialism even if they don't know it.

Mark Hanna went down to Washington in his private car last week to tell the president a few of the things that will be in his message. Mr. Roosevelt did not tell Mark to submit his recommendations in writing as he had requested Mr. Gompers to do a few weeks before; he held a cabinet meeting waiting while he talked over matters with the representative of the business interests of the nation. If the president was not exactly certain what his convictions were on certain subjects they were made clear to him at that half hour's interview.

It was heads of departments, bosses, and superintendents who shared in the recent distribution of Carnegie's wealth. None of the bounty reached down to the men who had shoveled the ore or handled the hot metal.

No doubt it is true as Lerado Taft declares we are living too fast to properly cultivate our taste in art. It is to be hoped that the workers in the sweatshops and in the department stores will take the hint and quit working sixteen hours a day that they may devote a few more hours to cultivating the graces and to studying sculpture and painting. Then they should move from the inartistic dwellings on the back streets to modern and harmonious real estate on the boulevards. There is only one thing in the way of a complete carrying out of the program: the workmen, strange to say have an unworkable desire to purchase food for their families.

Bridgeport, Conn., has elected a coal heaver as mayor and the event is so unimportant that it is telegraphed to all parts of the country with the explanation that it resulted from what was meant to be a joke. It is not the custom to elect workmen to office, they not being of the ruling class and Bridgeport will probably see to it that such a thing does not occur again.

Shame on the people who are sending begging letters to Andrew Carnegie, why don't they go to work for \$1.25 a day and accumulate a few millions of their own.

The International Association of Machinists has decided to go into politics. Will it be the bosses kind of politics or the workmen's kind?

That the socialist propaganda is finally penetrating the hides of the capitalists is shown from the large number of arguments against it now appearing in pamphlets, in magazines and in the newspapers. And if one will read carefully between the lines in many of the articles one will discover that the arguments against socialism are written by paid writers who do not put any heart in their task. Certainly if they believed what they are saying they would at least attempt to put the case more strongly.

Don't be alarmed about the Democrats nominating Gorman or Hill. Their game will be to nominate for the presidency some great reformer like Tom Johnson to help head off the socialist vote.

Free text books are opposed on the grounds that the measure tends toward socialism, when in fact it does not tend that way half as much as 100,000 votes for socialism does.

Alabama's new constitution disfranchising the negro has been adopted by a large majority although it runs counter to the constitution of the United States. The incident serves to prove that constitutions are only instruments to be used by the ruling class to their own advantage.

Gov. Jeff Davis of Arkansas, who threatens to go hunting with a shotgun for a newspaper editor that he does not like, would probably sign any old kind of a bill for the suppression of anarchists.

The Catholic church will please remember at the proper time that the fight it is forcing with socialism is not of the seeking of socialists. The latter are busy with the things of this world and are willing that the church should have a monopoly on the things of all other worlds. However the church having forced the fight must not be surprised if it receives an occasional jar.

News of the Movement

The comrades throughout the country have been so busy with elections the past week that there is not much other news. But read the election report in Socialism coming. "In our time!"

Canadian Socialists will meet at Toronto on Thanksgiving day for the purpose of forming a national party.

Children are working in factories at Kearney, Neb., for ten cents a day.

The Socialist party in Germany now has 140 newspaper organs, of which 82 are daily.

The Tocsin, published at Melbourne, Australia, has just entered on its fifth year.

John Spargo of New York will make a tour of Canada for the Canadian Socialists.

The railroad unions of Ontario recently passed a set of resolutions endorsing political action. The resolutions were quite socialist.

St. John, N. B., is developing a strong socialist movement.

British Columbia has two new locals, at South Wellington and Ladysmith on Vancouver Island.

Rev. H. W. Smith, Massachusetts, has joined the Socialist party as a worker.

Mahikoba and the Northwest Territories has quite a socialist movement, but lack speakers.

CHARTERS ISSUED.

The following charters were issued by the National Committee last week: North Dakota State Committee, Pennsylvania State Committee, Michigan State Committee, Sandy, Salt Lake County, Utah; six members.

Guthrie, Logan county, Oklahoma Territory, 13 members.

Acton, Logan county, Oklahoma Territory, 13 members.

Blodgett, Maine.

Election Returns

The following are partial returns of the Socialist vote throughout different parts of the country, in the recent elections. Most of the items are unofficial and therefore subject to correction. Woodbury county, Ia., gave Jas. Baxter, the Socialist candidate for governor, 175 votes. In the preceding election this county polled 29 Socialist votes. Over 150 of the county votes were polled in Sioux City. The comrades are jubilant and expect a still heavier increase in the spring campaign. There was little variation in the Socialist vote for the other offices. No S. L. P. ticket in the field.

Comrade W. R. Fox of Cincinnati, O., writes to say that the vote of the Socialist Party in that city is approximately 3,100. The S. L. P. polled about 900, making a total of 4,000 Socialist votes, which our correspondent says is a very great gain.

Unofficial reports state that the Socialist Party vote in Rochester, N. Y., was 946, the S. L. P. polling 259.

Partial reports from New York show that while the Socialist Party has made considerable gains, the S. L. P. has lost heavily. The following incomplete returns are taken from the Worker: Manhattan and Bronx, Socialist Party, 6,764, a gain of 377. The S. L. P. polled 3,941, last year 5,395, a loss of 1,454. This covers the 35 assembly districts, but is very incomplete. In Brooklyn the same report appears. In 13 assembly districts the S. L. P. polled 2343, a gain of 130. The S. L. P. got 1119 votes, a loss of 256. These returns are also only partial. Thirteen out of 21 districts in the borough of Queens, shows 233 votes for the S. P. and 21 for the S. L. P.; a gain for the former of 155, a loss for the latter of 82.

With five districts missing Richmond gives S. P. 157, a gain of 55, while the S. L. P. gets 57.

Throughout the state the returns run as follows: Corning, S. P. 84, S. L. P. 18; New Rochelle, S. P. 30, S. L. P. 5; Peekskill, S. P. 76, S. L. P. 55; Buffalo (79 districts out of 168), S. P. 239, S. L. P. (88 districts) 578. Syracuse, S. P. no information, S. L. P. vote fell from 950 to 357. Ticonderoga, S. P. 35, S. L. P. not known. Watertown, S. P. 400, a gain of 80. Utica, S. P. 52, S. L. P. 88. These reports are also unofficial and presumably incomplete.

Connecticut shows 574 votes for White as governor, a gain of 29 over last year. The election in Richmond, Va., gives Quantz, S. P., 23 for governor, while the S. L. P. polled 6 votes.

Incomplete returns from Baltimore show about 500 votes for the city ticket.

Socialist Party polled 1147 votes in Haverhill, Mass., for governor, and re-elected Representative Jas. Carey. Beat the democrats by 285 votes. S. L. P. candidate for governor (Berry) polled 159. Representative McCarty was re-elected for the third time, leading his opponent by 79 votes.

Other reports from Massachusetts on the gubernatorial vote are as follows: Chicopee, S. P. 141, S. L. P. 59; Fitchburg, S. P. 238, S. L. P. 224; Brockton, S. P. 657, S. L. P. 145; Malden, S. P. 70, S. L. P. 30; Melrose, S. P. 13, S. L. P. 13; Lowell, S. P. 163, S. L. P. 262; Woburn, S. P. 28, S. L. P. 36; Beverly, S. P. 66, S. L. P. 40; Fall River, S. P. 156, S. L. P. 322; Cambridge, S. P. 174, S. L. P. 343; Pittsfield, S. P. 35, S. L. P. 88; Northampton, S. P. 23, S. L. P. 38; Taunton, S. P. 69, S. L. P. 227; Medford, S. P. 25, S. L. P. 66; Everett, S. P. 48, S. L. P. 85; Newton, S. P. 54; S. L. P. 41; Salem, S. P. 114, S. L. P. 235; New Bedford, S. P. 127, S. L. P. 242; Waltham, S. P. 58, S. L. P. 44. This partial report, including Haverhill, but omitting Boston, shows 3608 votes for the S. P. and 2708 for the S. L. P. The prohibition vote in Massachusetts seems insignificant.

Later returns from Massachusetts show that in 24 towns and cities the S. P. polls 6634 and the S. L. P. 5480. The returns from the following towns are given: Webster, S. P. 112, as against 71 last year; Amesbury, S. P. 144; Adams, S. P. 25, S. L. P. 58; Lynn, S. P. 372, S. L. P. 228; Holyoke, S. P. 291, S. L. P. 345; Boston, S. P. 1231, S. L. P. 1387; Quincy, S. P. 188, S. L. P. 92; Lawrence, S. P. 258, S. L. P. 357.

Meigs reports from New Jersey indicate that the candidate for governor, Chas. H. Vall, will poll a larger vote than that of last year. So far the reports show 1700 votes or thereabouts, while the S. L. P. has lost very heavily.

Socialist vote at Kearney, N. B., was 67; at last spring election 49. Vote at Harrison, N. J., was 85; at last spring election 14; a gain for the two places of 113 in 8 months. Comrade Karns who makes the report states that the result is very significant when it is considered that all street agitation in these places was suppressed by the authorities.

Partial returns from Ohio read as follows: Cincinnati, 2170, a gain of 2100; Warren, 148, gain 103; Niles, 75, gain 59; Ashland, 64, gain 58; Bucyrus, 66, gain 49; Painesville, 32, gain 50; Portsmouth, 359, gain 114; Cleveland polled 77; Toledo 405, and Painesville 8, making a total for these ten places of nearly 5,000, which is close to the Socialist vote of the entire state last year. The S. L. P. vote in Ashland was 4 in Painesville 4, in Portsmouth 25.

THE TENEMENT EVIL

Extract from Report of an Investigator on Sanitary Conditions in Large Cities.

If landlords, with greed for profits and economy of ground space, continue to erect such tenements, the city man will soon have new conditions to confront. The factory by day, the tenement by night, will be his environment. By living in the city, man has divorced himself from the soil. He must now live in rooms where the sun never enters. The air he breathes must reach him through dark passages and foul courts. He must be content with about two yards square of earth's space for himself, for each one of his children, for each one of his thousand close neighbors, and for each one of their children. These restrictions of the crowded tenements, become all the more oppressive when they are viewed in the light of the past lives of most of the inhabitants of these crowded districts. Comparing the life of the dweller in the city to that of the olive-grower in Southern Italy, or the plowman of Roumania—the ancestors of many of the tenement house dwellers—the hardships of the present are more serious than those of the past; for people still had air to breathe and expanse of earth.

This overcrowding has been prevalent for many years in the older cities, and it partly explains why the death-rates of the newer American cities are so much lower than those of the older foreign cities. Here the newness and open construction of the dwellings have been important agents in preventing illness, and in keeping down the death-rates. In contrast to the sunny-short-lived frame cottages (now passing away) are the century-old stone and brick houses of foreign cities. The recently constructed dwelling houses, with their frame walls, are aired and purified by sun and wind. The old well built brick and stone houses of foreign cities, are filthy and alive with disease germs. One of the witnesses before the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, testified that: "In Liverpool nearly one-fifth of the squalid houses, where the poor live in the closest quarters, are reported as always infected, that is to say, the seat of infectious diseases. It is not surprising to learn that among the fever-dens of that city, over-crowding is growing less, owing to the fall of the population which mortality produces."

"The double-decker begins again this train of misery, which is a menace to the coming century, a force for evil creeping into the newer cities while the citizens are unaware, but which might be averted if they would open their eyes to see the danger and would assume the responsibility of its prevention. While we may congratulate ourselves on the past, we must forewarn ourselves of the future.—From 'Tenement Conditions in Chicago'—by Robert Hunter.

Missing Paragraph Restored.

The following paragraph from the minutes of the State Committee which appeared in last week's issue, was inadvertently omitted from the report and is hereby published.

A communication from the National Secretary accompanying the state charter was read, and some debate ensued over the fact that the National Committee reserved to itself the right to cancel the charter in the event of any violation of the National Constitution. At the conclusion of the debate the following resolution was passed, Comrade Smith voting in the negative: Resolved, That the State Committee of the Socialist Party of Illinois accepts under protest the charter issued by the St. Louis quorum of the National Committee: holding that the power to revoke a state charter for any cause should be reserved not to any committee but to a referendum of the entire Socialist Party of the United States.

The meeting then adjourned.

CHARLES H. KERR, Secretary.

Finding a Home.

Some time ago a philanthropist sent a circular to this office in which he stated that his only business was to "find homes for the people." He had it all figured out too, on a most elaborate scale, just how every workman could come into absolute possession of a comfortable home by becoming a member of the "American Home Finding Association," as his graft was called. We were rather skeptical of its efficiency, and paid little attention to the matter, but it now develops that at least one home was provided—for and by the industrious renter himself. It seems he is now charged with occupying a \$1,000 home for the last year, without paying a cent of taxes upon it, the place having been deeded to the "Association" in October, 1900. This is what the attorney who filed the petition says about the affair. "It certainly has been a big thing for Mr. Hoover (the philanthropist in question). He has shown to his patrons and supporters the picture of an elegant building owned by the Association, and no doubt has impressed a great many people thereby." And now it looks as if the "people" would have to do without "homes" until Mr. Hoover devises some new scheme to meet that long-felt need.

Progress of the Trusts

Early in the year 1900 the United States government sent a circular letter to its consuls in Europe instructing them to report on trusts and trade combinations in the various countries in which they were stationed. The replies received were published in a special Consular Report on "Trusts and Trade Combinations in Europe," which any of our readers can obtain by writing to the State Department at Washington. The following are a few extracts from these reports.

Mr. F. W. Hossfeld, U. S. Consul at Trieste, wrote as follows in July, 1900: "The formation of trusts has developed in Austria only during the past few years. In the last three years there syndicates have increased in numbers to such an extent that there does not appear to be at present any really important industry in the country which has not resorted to combination. And this in spite of the fact that during this time the legality of trusts has been repeatedly and emphatically denied by the courts."

Geo. H. Murphy, vice-consul at Madgeburg, wrote May 18th, 1900: "In this section of central Germany there is at present a marked tendency in favor of industrial centralization. Almost daily the newspapers contain notices of such combinations. The tendency, however, seems to be less towards the establishment of great trusts which have for their object the suppression of trade competition for the advantage of individuals at the expense of the public, than toward the formation of cartels and syndicates for the protection and development of individual industries."

Ernest S. Day, consul at Bradford, England, wrote May 19th, 1900: "The combine mania has smitten this district with almost the fury of an epidemic, and more than any other part of the country it is responsible for the flotation of trusts. To what extent these have been effected will be seen from the following table." Then follows a table.

Louis Dexter, consul at Leeds, England, in May 1900, sent an extract from the "Financial Times," which said: "Few people recognize how deep a root the principle of amalgamation has struck into our country (i. e., England). That of late years there has been a tendency toward following the American example has been patent to every newspaper reader, but the cumulative effect has not yet been borne in upon the public. In view of the importance, both commercial and financial, of the inauguration of this new era of company promotion, we think it well to bring vividly before our readers the extent to which the new movement has already gone."

Mr. H. P. Skinner, consul at Marsoilles, in May, 1900, wrote: "In spite of stringent legislation directed against the artificial manipulation of prices in France, and a popular conviction that combinations of capital in the nature of trusts are not to be found, I discovered that syndicates have been successfully organized, and in this city are in more or less undisputed control of the following commodities or utilities: Sugar, rice, sulphur, candles, coal, petroleum, tiles, matches, tobacco, transportation by land, and transportation of emigrants."

Dwight T. Reed, vice-consul at Madrid, wrote June 23d, 1900: "Trusts, as known in the United States, do not exist in Spain." (This is because Spain is a backward nation industrially. It is only in advanced nations like England, Germany and the United States, that trusts appear, and they come as the culmination of industrial development.)

Mr. Geo. W. Roosevelt, consul at Brussels, wrote May 14th, 1900, as follows: "An international glass trust has been formed, incorporating that industry in France, Germany, Belgium, Italy, Austria, and Bohemia, and negotiations are now being carried on with English manufacturers, with the ultimate object of embracing all the works of glass-producing countries in the trust."

"To anyone who will look over this consular report it will be evident, we think, that in Europe the same tendency is manifesting itself towards trade combinations that is so striking a feature of the industrial development of the United States, although in Europe the movement has not progressed so rapidly as with us."

We recently saw a statement by one writer that New Jersey, by its laws favoring the formation of corporations, was doing the country an irreparable injury, and this writer said that if he could have his way he would expel that state from the Union. Do people who entertain similar views imagine that the tendency to the formation of trusts is caused or accelerated by the laws of New Jersey? Some people need to brush the cobwebs off of their brains and do a little clear thinking.

The fact is that at the present we are in the midst of a great world movement. The railroad, the telegraph, the steam engine, and the other great modern inventions are transforming the whole method of production. To fight against it is like trying to stand on the sea shore and stop the incoming tide. And although the transition period will

cause much hardship to individuals in the end it will confer an inestimable benefit on the race, for it will usher in the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Competition is dying and co-operation is being born. This gigantic formation of trusts is one of the most tremendously important movements for the toiling masses in the whole history of the world.

The era of international trusts is just beginning. The international thread trust has been formed, and the international match, tobacco, salt and glass trusts are now being perfected. These are merely the forerunners of many others to follow. Capitalism is overstepping national boundaries and forming one great international combination. It will be faced sooner or later by the international Socialist movement. And then will come the tug of war.

ENJOINED.

By Wm. R. Fox.

"Go away back and sit down"—Popular saying. Two lawyers came and cried: "A word!" The judge put on a frown. To Work he said: "You will be heard." To Work: "You may sit down."

Wealth punned Work with expletive. Verb, adjective and noun. When Work arose reply to give, "Sit," said the Judge, "sit down."

"Your Honor, I would simply say—" "Terrific grew the frown: "Your place is simply to obey;" "And I have said, 'Sit down.'"

"I've heard complainant state his case. He did your clients brow. You needn't open up your face. You simply must sit down!"

If innocent, what need you fear? The guiltless will not drown. I'll pass my judgment now and here: "And while I do, sit down!"

"Your clients must not talk, walk, rest. In any part of town. Save as I say—" "Judge, I protest!" "Sit down, I say, sit down!"

"Judge, by your leave: In such an age. This land of great renown—" "White grew the Judge's face with rage. 'Sit down at once, sit down!'"

"You're here to hear, and not to urge. A single utterance, clown! Quake, therefore, while I wield the scourge. And hand my order down!"

"You have no rights, your client none! Wealth bears the rod and crown! And I'm his tool! Down and he done! Sit down! Sit down!! Sit down!!"

The Court proceeds with steady jerk. The ensa piece in the town. Where Wealth still gets in all the work. And Work the sitting down.

Meetings Postponed.

It was decided at the regular meeting of the Socialist Bricklayers Educational Club that the meeting for Saturday, November 16th, should be suspended to enable the Socialist Dramatic Club to perform without interference. The next meeting of the club will be held on Friday evening, November 22d, as it is expected that all the members will attend the grand ball given by the Socialist Party at the First Regiment Armory on Saturday, November 23d.

Lecture Series in Pullman.

The comrades of the 32d ward branch have rented Roseland Hall, cor. 111th Mich. Ave. for a series of twenty two lectures commencing Nov. 17 at 2 p. m. Comrades A. M. Simons and John Collins will speak on Nov. 17. Comrade Simons subject will be "Slavery past and present and the way out." All comrades of the 32d ward are earnestly requested to be there and bring their friends with them.

A full supply of the anti-Socialist pamphlet mentioned last week as being issued by the Catholic Truth Society, has been secured and is now on sale at this office.

Comrades of Chicago Heights have organized a branch of the Socialist Party with 36 members.

South Side Division requests the insertion of the following notice. The services of Comrade Saunders as paid organizer of the South Side Division were dispensed with for reasons of economy.

Will Nominato Candidates.

The Seventh Ward Branch will hold a convention on November 22d to nominate aldermanic candidates for the ensuing campaign. Branch meets at 602 E. 53d street, 8 p. m. Full attendance of members is imperative.

There are surely enough German Socialists on the North Side to provide ample entertainment for those German Catholic anti-Socialist campaigners now said to be organizing in that part of the city.

Remember that our WINTER FESTIVAL at the First Regt. Armory, must break the record. Get tickets and sell them, and then get more and repeat the performance.

WANTED!

5,000

Socialists and their Friends to Attend

Grand WINTER FESTIVAL

First Regt. Armory 16th St. and Michigan Ave. On Saturday eve. Nov. 23. Tickets 25 cents.

All members selling ball tickets are requested to report to their organizers as early as possible, as it is necessary to have \$175 in cash at the beginning of the entertainment. JAS. S. SMITH, Sec.

Socialist Pointers

Maybe those Bulgarian brigands have also captured the Democratic party.

Wonder how the modern Daniel will translate the handwriting on the wall to his devoted followers?

The reason why the Boers keep on fighting is that they have nothing—even to arbitrate.

You have only one week left in which to sell Winter Festival tickets. Better get a move on.

Only five persons were killed last Sunday by the street cars. This beats the day's suicide record by one.

Daniel (De Leon) came to judgment in New York last week and was sentenced to go away back and sit down.

The Socialist movement stands ready to utilize any "publicity" that may be left over after the trusts have been served.

There is such a thing as class consciousness, but you could never prove it by the mayor of San Francisco who was recently elected by organized labor.

Private property is so sacred that only about ten per cent of the population are allowed to have any. Sacred things must not be made common.

If the coal miners will be real good and work cheap enough, they may yet enjoy the privilege of furnishing England with all the coal she needs.

Sir Thomas Lipton evidently doesn't care to make himself a "jolly good fellow" with those employes of his who ask for more than eight cents an hour.

No genius has yet asserted that the interests of capital and labor were identical because of vitalist newspapers sometimes bear a union label.

Sunday golf has been announced officially by the Chicago Episcopal Churches. Who said the ministers were afraid of the wealthy pew holders?

What are you going to make the Winter Festival a success? Remember that there is but one week left and it should be put to the best use.

New York capitalism didn't find the struggle with Tammany so violent that it had to take its foot off the neck of the working class.

If anybody doubts whether Socialism is growing or not, let him just consider how the churches are squalling against the movement, and draw his own conclusions.

The story of capitalist efforts to "stamp out" Socialism in Massachusetts should be prefixed with Kipling's opening sentence, "We meant to state."

Father Rickaby, S. J., has just issued a pamphlet in which he characterizes Socialism as a "romance." Robert Rickaby, S. J., evidently confounds Socialism with Church history.

Ministers who are now engaged in discussing the whereabouts of the soul of Li Hung Chang don't seem to agree very well. But most of them are coal-seekers that the interests of capitalist and laborer are identical.

"Under Socialism the workmen would be the first to suffer," says Archbishop Corrigan. If that is true, it follows that under capitalism the capitalist is the first to suffer, only the Archbishop didn't have the nerve to say so.

The new major-etc. of San Francisco says he will rectify the inequalities of capital and labor during the term, but so far he has not started. He intends to regulate the movement of the planetary system.

THE WORKERS' CALL

Published every Saturday at 12 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Entered as second class...

Subscription Rates: One Year \$1.00, Six Months .60, Three Months .35, Single Copies 10c.

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

Editorial Announcements: To secure the return of unused manuscripts...

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

Phone Randolph 22.



A considerable amount of correspondence and other matter for publication is, through lack of space, being held over for next week's issue.

Those very energetic school teachers, Mesdames Haley and Goggin, are most probably doomed to see their recent "victory" in the tax revision case vanish into thin air...

On last Saturday an orator named Giles, addressing the Catholic Women's National League on "Capital," at the Masonic Temple, made the highly original and startling assertion that "powerful combinations of capital were a menace to our institutions."

That "property" in the hands of the working class is an anomaly under capitalism is shown by the fact that a workman named Smith shot himself last Sunday because he lacked funds to pay for the street improvements in front of his premises.

Because Joe Chamberlain attempted to justify the methods of conducting war in South Africa by alluding to similar proceedings upon the part of the German troops during the war with France in 1870...

Working class in other ways. In the first place it shows that workmen in spite of all that may be said against it are again and again irresistibly driven to the use of the ballot as a means of economic emancipation.

light on the "disposition of the bodies of hundreds of persons who are unknown or friendless." But it is strange that the "public" evinces no particular interest in these unfortunates while alive...

Last week a colored clergyman delivered a lecture to his congregation in which he advocated the "gospel of domestic service" as the newspaper reports have it.

Inmates of the County Hospital will apparently get direct evidence during the coming winter of the nature of capitalism, through the quality of the coal supplied to that institution.

We hope that all our readers who live in Chicago will make it their special business to devote the coming week to wards making the Socialist Winter Festival at the First Regiment Armory on Saturday, November 23d.

The election of a trades unionist to the mayoral chair of San Francisco as a result of the recent war between brother capital and brother labor in that city, contains several lessons for the working class.

working class in other ways. In the first place it shows that workmen in spite of all that may be said against it are again and again irresistibly driven to the use of the ballot as a means of economic emancipation.

But nevertheless the election of Mayor Schmitz will ultimately accomplish something of value. It has demonstrated beyond fear of contradiction that labor already possesses more than sufficient strength to elect its own representatives whenever it sees fit.

When a successful candidate declares his intentions to conserve the interests of both capitalists and laborers (as all of them generally do) the former know that he is their candidate, no matter under what name he may run for office.

While the election returns from the different states are still very incomplete sufficient indications exist for assuming that the Socialist Party has in general made substantial gains in the campaign.

In New York the situation is not exactly all that could be desired, although an increase of about one thousand votes testifies to the fact that the Socialist Party is more than holding its own.

Partial reports from Iowa, Connecticut, Maryland and Virginia, show satisfactory increases, while the returns in New Jersey for the candidature of Chas. H. Valli as governor, promise to break the record for that State.

the reverse. Our movement is establishing itself firmly as a factor in the political life of the country, despite the efforts of capitalism and its auxiliaries, and renewed exertion and concerted action may yet force our enemies in 1904 to confess that the issue lies wholly between capitalism and Socialism.

We hope in next week's issue to be able to present a complete return of the Socialist vote to our readers.

A LESSON IN "DIVIDING UP"

One of the peculiar contradictions of capitalism lies in the fact that it often illustrates by its own actions the charges brought against Socialism. For instance nothing so horrifies the capitalist soul as the pretense that Socialism means to "divide up."

When the question of making a contract with the Edison Company for a supply of electric current to light the hall, came up for discussion, it was discovered that the Edison Company was a scab concern.

Then came the dilemma. The Edison Company a scab concern. The Gas Company, run by the Gas Trust, also a scab concern. The adoption of kerosene? That would play into the hands of John D. Rockefeller.

When the working class learn that they must UNITE to accomplish anything for themselves instead of pulling in opposite directions? Once united against the entire capitalist class they are invincible.

It is perhaps just as well to state plainly that the day is past when the Socialist will give up his organization to assist the Trades Unions (who do not believe in a political class movement) to carry an election in which they fall even when they win.

It is better to have a clear understanding on these matters once for all, as there is now a tendency on the part of organized labor to enter the political field.

Socialists are often asked to give examples of what they would do in case they obtained power. Anyone who is anxious to know something on this question can get an object lesson thereon by attending the Socialist Winter Festival which will be held at the First Regiment Armory on November 23d.

valley of rum which Sambo and Quimbo received from Legree finds its counterpart in the \$2,000,000 which modern capitalism of the Carnegie type divides amongst its forty-nine overseers. It is merely a question of degree, not of kind; though it may be said in favor of the brutal planter that he was not sufficiently adept in hypocrisy to pretend that he dispensed his rum in the interests of the "niggers" who harvested his cotton crop.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE

The last meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor was a complete illustration of the utter helplessness of Labor when it fails to grasp the question of the class struggle, that is, the right of the working class to participate in the advantages accruing from intellectual and industrial progress.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

N. E. C. Announcement.

To the State and Local Organizations of the Socialist Party: Comrades: In accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution you are hereby informed that the first annual meeting of the National Committee of the Socialist Party will be held in the city of St. Louis, Mo., at 19 a. m. on Friday, January 24th, 1902.

Arrangements will be made by us for the reception, entertainment and meeting place of the National Committee, particulars of which will be published in due time in the Socialist press.

In view of the requirement that the expenses of the National Committee in attending this meeting shall be paid from the national treasury, the respective state and territorial organizations are expected to enable us to meet this obligation by contributing to us their regular monthly proportion of national dues.

As most of the national committeemen are likely to be effective speakers, some of them of national reputation, it is probable that they would accept invitations to speak at certain points on their route to and from St. Louis, under an arrangement whereby the organizations tendering said invitations would defray at least part of the traveling expenses.

To a Departing Comrade.

Resolution adopted at a business meeting of the Women's Auxiliary of the Socialist Party Saturday October 26th.

Whereas—Circumstances have transpired which necessitate the removal from the city of a valued comrade and faithful worker in the cause of Socialism, Mrs. Hall, who, together with her husband, also an active and efficient member, is migrating to the South, to be it.

Resolved—That we, the members of the Women's Auxiliary, desire to express the sincere regret, which we individually and collectively feel in being deprived of the assistance and companionship of this highly esteemed comrade, and wish her to know that she takes with her to her new environment the fraternal sympathy and best wishes of each and every member of this body.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY-SOCIALIST PARTY.

A Call to Women.

A new organization is being formed, the purpose of which is to teach the principles of Socialism, and to advance in every possible way the ethical and economic issues of the Socialist Party.

The influence of woman in politics is fast becoming a powerful factor. Already three states have extended suffrage to woman and in a short while her right to citizenship will be acknowledged and conceded.

It is not only has absorbed the wealth but seized the political power of the nation. It commands all the intricate machinery of political engineering. It controls the press, the pulpit and institutions of learning.

That which is true of the United States is also true of every great nation in Europe. They all have reached the stage of monopoly, the stage of competitive monopolistic power, and stand halting between two opposing tendencies, one leading downward along the path that other nations have traveled and perished—the path of imperialism, of centralization of wealth and power, of luxury for the few and poverty for the many.

Which tendency will gain the ascendancy is for the men and women of this period to determine.

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themselves members of the WOMAN'S NATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

As soon as place and date of meeting are decided upon, a National Convention will be called of which due notice will be given.

- Pro. Chairman, 126 Macon St., Brooklyn, N. Y. The following are the names of those who have enrolled themselves members of the League: Wconah S. Abbott, Oak, Cal. Marion H. Dunham, Pro. Secretary, Burlington, Ia. Helen Campbell, New York, N. Y. Miss E. Lohm, New York, N. Y. Martha Moore Avery, Boston, Mass. Rev. H. S. Geneva Lake, Olympia, Wash. Mrs. Corinne Brown, Chicago, Illa. Mrs. Mabel Kennon, Rochester, N. Y. Mrs. Lucia C. Barnard, Battle Creek, Mich. Mrs. Lucilla R. Kraybill, Winfield, Kan. Mrs. Julia Harris, Wellington, Kan. Mrs. Julia C. Lind, Yates Center, Kan. Miss E. L. Hall, Kansas City, Mo. Miss Sarah J. Wilde, Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. M. E. Garbutt, Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Luella J. Curtis, Mishawaka, Ind. Mrs. M. E. Clark, Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Ida Reed, Los Angeles, Cal. Mrs. Ange B. Lathrop, Belfast, Me. Mrs. Hattie T. Hadley, Naparino, Wash. Mrs. Lydia C. Campbell, Naparino, Wash. Mrs. L. M. Collette, Naparino, Wash. Mrs. B. H. Bassett, Naparino, Wash. Mrs. Bessie R. Keepers, Naparino, Wash. Mrs. E. Bell, Bentley Harbor, Mich. Mrs. W. S. O'Brien, Thomaston, Me. Mrs. C. C. Lodge, Stillwater, Okla. Mrs. C. C. Bentley, Logan, Ore. Mrs. Mary Williams, San Diego, Cal. Mrs. R. H. Keavey, Arlington, N. J. Mrs. Louise French, Brooklyn, Mass. Mrs. M. J. Brown, Manchester, N. H. Mrs. Marjorie Craig Westworth, Winnetka, Ill. Mrs. J. O. Whiting, Belmont, Ia. Miss Belle H. Mire, Danville, Ia.

Propaganda Suggestions

It has been suggested by comrades in the West Division that branches procure a rubber stamp, and stamp the place of meetings on Workers' Calls, leaflets, or pamphlets and divide them up among the comrades in each branch, who will distribute them from house to house in a given neighborhood.

The writer dreamed last night that there were fifty five branches of the S. P. in Chicago, every one having from twenty to fifty members and every one of those twenty or fifty members in every one of those fifty branches was working like fury, but with the greatest harmony, for socialism. Each man had his particular work to do and he did it. We were such a power that the old time politicians were scared to death.

It is not always wise to argue with a man, very often a paper, book or pamphlet can do it much better than you can. Never be without a supply.

The card system is the best for keeping track of members and prospective members.

Let your organizer have a map of the ward, with the name of every precinct worker marked thereon, then let him give these precinct workers definite work to do and keep after them until they finish the work.

Always concentrate your efforts. Sticktoiveness is the greatest element of success.

Don't start out with the idea that you are going to convert the world. You will find it hard enough to convert even a fraction of your precinct.

Are you making an effort to perfect the organization in your ward, in preparation for that great event which is to take place on January 2, 1902? It will be necessary to have workers in every precinct. It is something worth working for but will require a great deal of preparation.

The bundle order plan may be an old scheme, or it may be a new one, but it is a fact that it is the cheapest method of propaganda that has yet been discovered. That is, providing the papers are used systematically and economically. This method, properly pushed by the comrades, will mean a great deal of good done.

Make a canvass of your members and see if they will not give three or four cents a week, each towards taking a bundle order. You will get more returns for your money in this way than in any other. If this amount is too small, make larger donations, but let them be regular. Then divide the papers up among the members in proportion to their donations.

The press is seemingly very anxious that the result of the recent New York election should not be considered either a Republican "victory" or a Democratic "defeat" but the New York workingman who voted for his own interests is not in doubt as to who came out on top. To him capitalism is always the same whatever political label it may bear.

We must positively fill the First Regt. Armory on Nov. 23! See that every member of your branch is supplied with tickets.

EFFECTS OF ECONOMIZING.

A Story—By Dr. L. West of Moett, Mo.

I was down town this morning, wife, and the way the merchants and other business men are complaining about the falling off in trade the last two months was alarming. One would think the sheriff was expected to take charge of their establishments in a few days if things go on at the present rate.

Why, what is the matter now, John? I thought business never was so good as it has been since McKinley was elected and to hear you talk so this morning quite alarms me. What can be the cause of all this complaint of dull trade and threatened failures in business?

Oh, nothing much. You see the better class, that is, those having good incomes from business and manufacturing industries, have been telling the poor working people that if they would only save a part of their wages each day, they would soon be independent, not so hard up and so on, so some time ago they held a meeting and resolved that they would not spend all they received in wages, but would put that economy suggestion into actual practice.

It seems that they, by some subterfuge or other, have been able to partially carry their resolution into effect, though just how it is possible for people living off their wages to lay by anything has been a mystery to me, but somehow they have been able to do so. In conversation with them I found they had managed to keep about one-fourth of what they had received for each day's work for the last two months, and they had the cash to prove it, too.

Well, now, just see what effect that laying by has had on these same fellows that have been telling the working people what they should do to be prosperous.

You see this is a manufacturing town and those engaged in the different occupations depend on the working people for patronage, and the sudden falling off in trade of one-fourth the usual amount for two months, and the certain knowledge that this is to continue, brings these same business men up against a problem they cannot solve without estimating the cost of a bankrupt sale in the final outcome. I told Smith and Brown long ago what would be the effect on their business if the poor working class ever adopted their suggestions, but they said they would never do so simply because they could not, that they were only getting enough to get on, but somehow or some-how else they are making progress in putting that economy suggestion into practice, and the way the people are kicking would alarm anyone in danger of losing all he had.

There has not been a drummer in town for the past week, and the agent at the depot said there were very few freight bills coming to the office, that only one car of local freight had been received this week and most of it was for people who had ordered goods from Chicago and other places. Arnstein, the clothier, was swearing at the people for sending off for their clothing.

He discharged his tailor this morning because he had nothing for him to do, and that dress-making house on the corner has taken a vacation until trade picks up again.

The proprietor said he did not know when that would be if things kept on at this rate—not until after the next election no way, when he hoped there would be a change in the administration, just as if that would cause the poor people to become more extravagant and reckless again.

Seems to me he was very ignorant of the cause of the trouble or thought I did not know much. I asked the postmaster how his business was, and he said it was very much better, that he had to employ an extra assistant to handle the packages of merchandise and attend to other work in the office while he attended to the money order department.

You see the people are putting another motto into practice that business men have been quoting of buying where they could buy cheapest, and having found the great department stores can sell cheaper than these people here, they are sending away to the city for their necessities. I tell you this buying where you can buy cheapest is the biggest club the poor people have been able to use to grab a little sense into our merchants, although you could not get one of them to acknowledge it was not the very best thing he could do, however much he might object to other people doing so.

I stopped a few minutes at the bank and asked the cashier how everything was going with him. He puffed away a cloud of smoke and with a far-off look and hesitating drawl (something like Deacon Saunders gets off when he gets up in class meeting) he said the situation was not just as he would like to have it. The merchants and other business men were not making the deposits they used to make, and from what he could see business was falling off in every line, but he thought that after the next election and we get a change in the administration, business would pick up again. Same old chestnut; heard it all my life. He thought it very mysterious that the working people could manage to save anything out of their wages, but if that was the cause of this trouble beginning, it would not be long until they would not have any wages to save, for they had started the crisis by not being extravagant in spending their money, and in a very short time the manufacturers would close their factories and they would then have to spend their savings and in the end would not be any better off than they would have been had they kept on with their extravagance just as

they did before they decided to practice that economy proposition. That proposition sounded all right, but it don't seem to be the most desirable thing in practice, at least I wish they had not attempted it.

"Did you say anything to him, John, about drawing out that thousand dollars you had on deposit?" I heard Cass Elkins tell his wife this morning that he believed it would be a good idea to withdraw his money, for he did not think it was safe to let it stay there any longer, there might be a run on the bank if things kept on as they are."

No, I did not say anything about it, but I have been thinking I would better draw it out. I think it would be safer out of the bank than in it. Confound these poor working people anyway! I never had much sympathy for them, and to think they have by adopting that fool economy plan brought all this trouble on us, destroys all I did have."

"I expect it would be better to wait until tomorrow about that deposit, I might cause a trouble to start that would be serious, so I will wait and see if things don't take a turn for the better, though I do not see how they possibly can. But here comes the morning mail and I must take a squint at the papers and see how things are progressing in other parts of the country. Yes, here is the Journal. Hello! "Big run on the banks of New York. Thousands bankrupt. Great falling off in business everywhere, cause of the crisis." Well I will take time to look this article over before I go down to the bank. Guess there will be no danger waiting that long. "New York, Dec. 31, 1901—The present crisis now spreading over the country had its start in Chicago last fall, when the department stores agreed to let the working people have all their necessities at ten per cent. above cost. The wage workers who had organized the Great American Co-operative Purchasing Agency after their failure to secure more by striking, were in a position to become the greatest purchasing people in the country, and the department naturally felt inclined to give them the benefits of their expensive trade. The result has been to drive all the retail dealers out of business and of course others depending on them for trade have suffered along with the rest.

The middle class is suffering now from the general stagnation in business as the result of an attempt of the wage workers to lay aside a part of their daily wages by buying where they could buy cheapest. They have put that proposition into practice and have succeeded in laying by a part of their wages, and the result has been to start the worst crisis the American people ever experienced."

Well, what will I do? I have no more time now. I must go and get my money out of the bank as soon as the people get alarmed they will be clamoring for their money.

"Say! What is the matter, John? You look pale and sick. Why? What? How did you happen to return so soon?" "Oh, we are ruined! Bank closed! Depositors crazy! They started a run on the bank in fifteen minutes after I left. They tried a great bluff at first, but when they saw the great number of depositors, they knew they did not have half enough on hand to meet the demand and they closed the doors. I met Elkins down here; he got his money before they started the run. Confound that economy nonsense! I told Arnstein that if ever the working people got in a position to put that into practice that we could not get to shelter before a crisis would overtake us, and now I reckon he thinks of what I said. Well, as that thousand dollars is all we have and it is fast where we cannot get it, I might as well content myself and continue that article I commenced to read. "The working class it appears did not at first comprehend the effect their co-operative purchasing method would have, and thought as long as they were laying by something each day they were prospering and would soon be independent, but now they are beginning to see the effects of their attempt to practice economy. In the natural course of events the crisis would not have been due for a year or two, but here it is now in full blast. The mills are all closing. Wholesale dealers have stopped buying and the workers are standing on the street corners talking the situation over and wondering how a well-meant blow at the capitalist has become a boomerang, to knock them senseless."

Senseless! They had little enough sense before. Wonder what scheme they will try next? Trying to practice economy and the first concerted effort they make throws them into the ditch before they have time to tell about their prosperity!

"Say, doctor, there is a patient in the office wants a tooth extracted"—and my dream was ended. DR. L. WEST, Moett, Mo.

Thirteen Socialists were elected in Berlin last week in the place of capitalist municipal candidates, and we get a chance to say. Correspondent Wm. E. Curtis never seems to have noticed it. Perhaps he thinks the number is un-likely anyhow.

Fearing trouble over the universal suffrage agitation in Belgium the capitalist government in that country has provided the army with maps of the industrial and mining districts in order to "stop labor riots and avoid bloodshed." Formerly they used maps for that purpose, but as the maps are no longer reliable, thanks to the spread of Socialism in the army, they must now get along as best they can with maps instead. Belgium is a progressive country, all right.

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

How Capitalism Uses Race-Hatred to Facilitate the Continuance of Class Exploitation.

While the three P's—the press, pulpit and politicians—are ranting and tearing their hair over the Roosevelt-Washington incident, and it is quite the fashion now to express an opinion in regard to the matter, it might not be inappropriate for a Socialist to express an opinion thereon.

In 1860, after the war between the states had closed, Abraham Lincoln expressed himself as follows:

"As a result of the war corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow; and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the republic is destroyed. I feel at this moment more anxiety for the welfare of my country than ever before, even in the midst of war. God grant that my suspicions may prove groundless."

Lincoln's prophecy was only too true. An era of corruption did follow, and is now at its zenith. It has suffered no abatement whatever, but has gone on concentering and to conquer in all the avenues of life. Our legislative, judicial, executive, and military powers have all become as mere puppets in the hands of corporations, as putty are they in the hands of capitalism, to be formed and moulded into whatever shape they desire.

Senator Morton expressed his view of the capitalist free-booters in the following strong language:

"There is gathered around the Capitol of this nation a gang of miserable stock jobbers with no more conscience than pirates, inspired solely by a greed for gain, and they thundered successfully at these doors until they drove this government into the most preposterous acts of bad faith and legalized robbery that ever oppressed a free nation since the dawn of history."

The questions naturally arise, how was this accomplished? and why did not the people rise in their might and put an end to these shameful and destructive proceedings? Simply because the fire of prejudice was so constantly and successfully fanned as to keep it up to a white heat; and while the people were led on by the scheming farmers into an outbreak of sectional hate after another, the wily capitalists were playing their hands in one base venture after another in piling up of public debts, manipulating the treasury, tampering with the people's money, buying up legislators, corrupting the judiciary, and bringing everything under the control of the almighty dollar. The people, listening to the rhapsodies of forensic eloquence called forth by these outbreaks of sectional prejudice, were entranced and star-gazing while they were being robbed, in every conceivable way, and a web was being industriously woven around them from whose meshes neither they nor the succeeding generation have been able to deliver themselves, and that web is bondage to the money-mongers. The race question and bloody shirt have been so long and so constantly used, one would think they had been long since worn to a frazzle. But not so. If the bloody shirt failed to make frantic the American bull on either side of the dividing line, the woolly head would surely fetch them, and hence they were never at a loss for a "casus belli," so to speak. So long as the people's minds could be fastened on these plays to the galleries, the pirates could ply their game with safety, as everything else sunk into insignificance before these burning questions of the hour. The destruction of the greenbacks, the demonetization of silver, the granting of public lands and extraordinary privileges to corporations, the issuing of bonds, and everything else injurious to the people collectively, could be and was done with little or no opposition, so long as the flames of hatred burned brightly on the altar of sectionalism.

But a new light has arisen in the East, and its flamboyant rays are strongly reflected from the North and West, and are penetrating the befogged conservatism of the South, and that light is the torch of Socialism, held aloft by the proletarian hand as a beacon fire to light the way to emancipation of the disinherited of the land from capitalism. It is breaking down all barriers between the sections, and the common people are beginning to see eye to eye, and face to face; and they are reasoning among themselves as to the cause of their slavery to the few. Among the questions asked are: "Why do we who toil and produce get poorer and more insignificant politically?" "Why do the idle parasites, who produce nothing, get all, and grow so strong as to demand of our public servants whatever they desire?" This is a menace to the powers that be, and something must be done to quench the rays of this new light. Sectional hatred must be stirred up once more, in order to be distracted from this light, for its rays flash brightly on the only highway that leads them to freedom. The earth trembles beneath the feet of the advancing proletarian hosts, as they march upon this highway to encounter the horse and its rider, and the fire of determination in their eyes tells of a resolution to do or die. It is a desperate case. The oligarchy is in danger of being dethroned, and something must be done, and done at once. So the man of the hour hesitates not to lift on high the woolly head, which he knows has never yet failed to strike fire, and the Southern politicians and papers yell "Social Equality," and the Northern press, politicians and pulpit send back a 3-cent note defending the chief magistrate of the nation; and so the merry war to hoodwink the masses into array-

ing themselves into hostile camps goes on. Criticisms and reprimands fly thick and fast; casting dark shadows in the light of the gleaming torch; but, thanks be to God, it causes no halt in the march of the disinherited toward their goal. They have set out with the determination to gain the land of freedom, the land of plenty, where abundance waits for all the industrious, and poverty for none but the wretchedly idle. Comrades from the North and South, East and West, class hands more firmly, and bid each other "be of good cheer, and not listen to the ravings of the wily tricksters and parasites who would draw you aside and put enmity between you."

Forward all! and don't lose step. We'll get there by and by and win the prize if we faint not. The day is breaking, and the fast flying clouds of darkness are laden with the ominous croakings of the night birds of prey as they wing their way toward the realms of fatality, not knowing what it has in store for them. J. J. QUANTZ.

IS IT A "WASTE OF TIME"?

Observations on the Activity of the Working Class in Advocating a "Better System of Society."

Very few will deny that surrounding conditions are mainly the factors in shaping the ideas of any given individual. "Conditions make the man," is a phrase that is familiar to us all, but how many use it without understanding its significance? There are many such who, when they express themselves in this fashion would be much benefited were they to come in contact with those who would insist upon more than a superficial inquiry into the real meaning of such statements. In most such cases the speakers would discover that their remarks though true, were made largely without reflection or thought.

To illustrate this point the following may serve the purpose. The writer of this article was present at a discussion when one of the participants made this remark: "I don't think much of those people who are trying to advocate a better system of society. They are simply wasting their time. Why, the working class are but a set of ignorant mules who will kick whether they have reason or not."

Passing by that strange assertion that to "kick" when one has reason to is a sign of ignorance, let us see what there is in such a remark. We may allow the first sentence to pass without scrutiny for the present. But the next deserves some attention and is worth analysis.

A person comes upon the earth to maintain himself until he is buried in it, but until then he must struggle for the means of his maintenance; this he will do so naturally follows that he will try to obtain these necessary things with as little inconvenience to himself as possible. A system which will permit him to do so, of course seems to him a "better society." A system which places obstacles in his way in this matter he will just as certainly consider an evil one and try to remove it. And yet in trying to do so we are told he is "wasting his time." But the person making this remark is generally not logical enough to admit that the capitalist who thrives by the maintenance of the present system is also "wasting his time" endeavoring to preserve it. And yet the one action is the complement of the other, both working man and capitalist being forced by conditions to take a decided (though antagonistic) stand upon this question.

It would also be difficult to show that from this standpoint the working class have ever "kicked" without reason. The late steel strike may be quoted as against this. But let it be supposed that the strikers had been powerful enough to compel the employers to accede to their demands. Would the press or the average individual who was not directly interested in the exploitation of the men, then insist that there was no "reason" for the strike? No. Their demands would have been transformed into "just demands" merely because they were enforced. But as the strike was lost, it becomes exceedingly plausible to insist that there was no reason for it, and point to its outcome for justification.

As to the ignorance of the working class the charge may be admitted without offense or question. But it is this very ignorance that keeps them in subjection to capitalism. It is very easy indeed to condemn those who suffer on account of their ignorance, but generally speaking the people who indulge in this sort of thing don't usually come forward to enlighten their ignorance, and there are many reasons therefor, amongst which may be mentioned the fact that not only are they too indolent or conceited to make more than a superficial inquiry into the reasons for its existence, but are themselves unconscious of the fact that the ignorance they attribute to the working class is also their own. Were these scoffers to really make a sincere attempt to think out the matter for themselves, they would inevitably gravitate towards the Socialist Party.

It is the particular mission of Socialism to dispel this ignorance upon the part of the working class, just as it is the object of capitalism to preserve it. Slavery is only possible through this conscious ignorance on the part of the enslaved, freedom is only possible through its disappearance, and the working for this freedom inevitably takes on the form of an advocacy of a "better society," which critical ignorance can only see as a "waste of time."

So long as these critics are unable to comprehend that in condemning the working class for ignorance they are merely exhibiting their own, they will probably remain impervious to any argument. But for such people one positive, undeniable, and convincing disproof still remains which will yet pound the truth into their thick heads—the steady and rapid growth of the Socialist movement itself.

M. WELCHER.

SIGNS OF DECAY.

Disintegration of the Cohesive Forces in Capitalist Society Now Apparent.

Private ownership, the pivot of exploitation, relies for its perpetuation on two allies: physical force and mental misguidance. The physical factors that compel the disinherited proletarians to submit to exploitation by the capitalist owners of the tools of production, are hunger, the need of shelter and clothing, and the coercive power of the capitalist state represented by the judges, the police and the military force. The intellectual factors that help to keep the proletarian in his misery are the capitalist press, the political orators of the old parties, and the church.

Socialists are endeavoring to show that it is possible to furnish abundant food, clothing and shelter for all human beings without private ownership of land, machinery, and other forms of capital, and without either chattel or wage slavery. But in doing so, the Socialist agitators are, continually confronted by the repressive opposition of the judges, police, press and pulpit. During strikes, workmen find themselves face to face with the rifles of the regulars or the militia. On election day the whole political machinery of the ruling class tramples on the constitutional rights of independent citizens.

The more the increasing Socialist sentiment threatens the foundations of capitalist rule, the more ruthlessly is this oppressive and arbitrary denial of the right of free speech and free meeting backed up by the brutal force of arms. And when the critical moment arrives that completes the revolutionary education of a sufficient majority of the working class to defeat the capitalist minority at the ballot box, we shall see the capitalists, like the true anarchists that they are, throw all pretense of law, and order to the winds, refuse to abide by the result of the election, and resort to armed resistance.

The capitalist press, like all capitalist enterprises, is in business for the sake of profit. The private owners of the press are sure of their profits only so long as they can maintain the system founded on private ownership. Hence they strive by all possible means to prevent the working class from becoming aware of its slavery. They misrepresent the Socialists and their aims, that would put an end to human misery and profits at the same time. They suppress all news favorable to the emancipation of the working class. They try to interest working men in all kinds of trifling controversies so as to divert the attention of the exploited from the manipulations of the exploiters. And they are most prolific in their declarations that the capitalist system of the exploitation of the many by the few is the best in the world. It is the best system—for the few. The church makes a specialty of saving souls for money. It is the oldest centralized business in the world. It can flourish only so long as it can sell salvation at so much per blessing. It keeps different grades of salvation in stock which it retails at different prices according to the class to which the consumer belongs. Whenever the question of saving money comes into conflict with the question of saving souls, the church gives precedence to the money question. As the income of the church depends upon the supremacy of the wealthy members of society, the leaders of the church stand always and everywhere on the side of the capitalist class. The lower the wages of the working class sink, the less money can the church get out of the workers. So much more it confines its business to the salvation of wealthy souls. In consequence the church is opposed to the emancipation of the working class and adopts all means of spiritual coercion in its power to keep the workers in superstition and ignorance. In opposing the workers in their fight for industrial liberty, the church must also oppose the intellectual liberty of the workers. Hence all those brave ministers who place the man above the dollar, are forced out of the hierarchical organizations into the ranks of the proletarians. In adopting this course, the church unconsciously teaches the lesson that religion and church are not synonymous. The workers must get along without religion if they can not pay for it, so thinks the church. But there is more true religion outside of the church than in it. Therefore the Socialists in fighting the church are not fighting religion. It is not our fault that the church is on the side of the enemies of enlightenment and freedom.

Of the human factors that consciously oppose the workmen's march towards liberty, none are so powerful as armed force and the church. Armed force oppresses and maims the physical man. Superstition, the tool of the church, stifles and degrades the intellectual man. Weaken superstition and the coercive power of the capitalist state, and you weaken capitalism. Win the majority of the army and militia over to Socialism, liberate the minds of the majority from the yoke of superstition, and capitalism loses its stronghold in human society and collapses.

In those countries where militarism and ecclesiasticism are strongly developed, the Socialists have always directed their efforts towards showing the soldiers that they are workmen like all others, and to enlightening the workers on the relations of the church to capitalist society. Their work has been very effective, and we have not only the testimony of military and clerical leaders to prove this, but also the evidence of many recent incidents.

England's army is suffering loss after loss in South Africa, and the sentiment of the English workmen is thoroughly aroused against militarism. In France, the deep moral depravity of the

Military leaders was brought to light by the Dreyfus incident. The rank and file of the French army is no longer the pliant and submissive mass that will turn its murderous weapons thoughtlessly against its own fathers and brothers. During the recent maneuvers, men of the reserve corps demerred when they were treated harshly and sang the "Marseillaise" and the "Internationale." In Belgium the Socialist spirit has permeated the army, and other public organs of "safety" so thoroughly that the Socialists openly declare they are ready for a revolution. The fighting machine of Billy the bully, in Germany, also shows symptoms of disobedience and revolt against the "divinely" instituted authorities. And in the United States, where the militia is the mainstay of the present system, the chances for Socialist propaganda among patriots are exceptionally favorable. There is no doubt that the force on which the capitalist system relies for physical coercion is rapidly slipping out of the control of its masters.

The intellectual tool of capitalism, the church, is also losing its hold on the masses. The main forts of clericalism, France, Spain, Italy and Austria, are shaken to their very foundations. The public schools are no longer in the hands of the clergy. The patronage of the cloister begins to fall off. The religious orders are driven from country to country. And the Peter's pence shows such an alarming decrease that the Pope is preparing one statement after another on the "Evil of Socialism." The situation is regarded as so serious at the Vatican, that the clergy are being ordered to devote themselves more diligently to the formation of Christian democratic labor unions—for the purpose of instructing workmen how to increase their wages and shorten the hours of labor! Perish the thought! The purpose of the Christian democratic labor unions and the Christian socialist organizations in Europe is to teach the workmen the blessedness of obeying their masters, of paying their church contributions regularly, and the cussedness of listening to the Socialist teachings. These Socialist teachings, however, have a miraculous attraction for the working class, if we believe the testimony of the soul savers. The workmen fall easy victims to the siren song of the Socialists, who speak to them of healthy homes, pure food, agreeable work, happy children, culture and happiness. And neither the fear of eternal hell fire nor the prospect of everlasting Hallelujah singing in heaven, can make them deaf to those cursed Socialist doctrines. In all countries, the high officials of the church and the humble ministers are beginning to line up on different sides of the social battlefield. Socialists hail this evidence of decay of the second powerful ally of capitalism and devote themselves more zealously than ever to propagating the gospel of freedom and happiness on earth.

When the workers will have learned that they can enjoy all the beautiful gifts of this earth without the "protection" of men trained for murder; when the workers will have learned that they cannot buy salvation from other human beings, and that they can be religious without the assistance of a subsidized clergy; then they will be ready to throw off the yoke of capitalism and of superstition. Wage slavery can only endure through intellectual slavery. Both will be abolished in that new order of society toward which industrial development and Socialist agitation are driving humanity with elementary force.

ERNEST UTERMANN.

Error Corrected.

In last week's Workers' Call an error appeared in the article headed "Carl Rieck Explains," in which three lines were lost from a quotation in the Clinton (Iowa) Mirror. The missing lines should have read as follows: "Socialists generally deny the assertion that their doctrines lead to anarchy and bloodshed, yet it is not strange the charge is made." For instance in a Lyons store not long ago Mr. Rieck, the Socialist Party's candidate for mayor, we are credibly informed, said that, etc., etc.

We regret the accident that caused the confusion, and hope the above explanation will rectify it as far as possible.

Perhaps the falling off in the "Peters Fence" fund may be due to the fact that European workmen have discovered that they can get more action for their money by putting it into Socialist propaganda.

Conditions in the Congo country are simply frightful, says a press dispatch from London. The benighted natives are being forced by their white masters at the muzzle of rifles, to work rubber for two cents per pound which fetches 75 cents per pound in Antwerp. Somebody must have been telling these Congo exploiters all about the negro "stockades" in the Carolinas. It is remarkable indeed the way in which American ideas are being adopted.

No wonder Archbishop Corrigan objects to a system in which all men could enjoy the fruits of their labor. He rightly suspects that Archbishops wouldn't thrive so well under such circumstances.

Norwegian "Radicals" have refused to co-operate with the Socialists in that country in municipal elections, so the latter have determined to go it alone. Scatch a "Radical" and you find a capitalist every time.

Don't keep those Winter Festival tickets. Sell them instead—keep on selling them.

Socialist Party Platform.

The Socialist Party of America... National Convention assembled... reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism...

LOCAL PARTY NOTES

DISTRICT NO. 4.

District No. 4 meets next Sunday at Crofford's Hall, California and Elston Aves. It is important that all of the branches be represented...

Hall Meetings.

Friday, 8 p. m. Porges's Hall, corner Maxwell and Jefferson. Speakers, M. Kaplan, S. Levinson.

At Educational Hall.

Last Sunday evening Comrade Peter Sissman delivered a splendid address at Socialist Educational Hall, 52 Argmitage Ave., under the auspices of the 38th Ward Branch.

TEMPLE NOTES.

Both the evening lecture and the Temple School of Socialism were well attended last Sunday. Next Sunday Comrade John Collins will speak in the evening and Peter Sissman will deliver the lecture at 2 p. m. to the Socialist School on the subject of Marxian economics.

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CHICAGO. Branch Directory

- COMMITTEES. ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE. South Side—Sec. Paul Pierce, 6407 Rhodes Ave. Fin. Sec. E. Richter, 5485 Ellis Ave. Division Org. Arnold Hamusson, 6714 Loomis Street.

- THIRTY-EIGHTH WARD—Every Friday at headquarters, Socialist Educational Hall, Argmitage and Milwaukee Aves. Secy., O. K. Jorgensen, 1286 North Washburn Ave.

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