

THE CHICAGO SOCIALIST.

VERY SPECIAL

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FIFTH YEAR—WHOLE NO. 253

CHICAGO, ILL., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1904.

PRICE ONE CENT

FEDERATION OF LABOR

Discuss the Cause of Crime.

The written request for a better general observance of law and order made last week by the Citizens' Anti-Crime Committee aroused a storm of resentful comment at the Chicago Federation of Labor meeting yesterday afternoon. Excited delegates termed the letter an "insult to organized labor" and warmly applauded an apology made from the floor of the house for the recent murderous hold-ups that have terrified the city. Less aggressive speakers urged that the federation appoint representatives to act with the citizens' committee in order that "labor might have representatives in the camp of the enemy," and this course was adopted.

"The men that inspired that communication must learn that young Americans will not starve peaceably," shouted T. P. Quinn. "They have forced our young men to go out on the highways with pistols and to demand the money wherewith to feed themselves. And I respect the hold-up man far more than the despairing workman who weakly submits and takes his own life in his cellar. The reformers said in '93 that we ought to be fed on bullets and bread flavored with strychnine, and they are trying to give us a little of the same medicine now."

Quinn's outbreak was greeted with thunderous applause, which was continued when Barney Berlyn said that the suppression of crime planned by the citizens' committee was a blow at trades unionism. Berlyn asserted that the capitalists of the city were its greatest criminals and that when the federation attained its object of organizing all wage-earners, crime necessarily would be eliminated.

"Let the committee have its own kind of law and order," said a delegate, "and let us work to establish our kind. They are working to bring about what the majority of the people refuse to consider as law and order."

The more conservative labor leaders urged that the federation accede to the request presented by Arthur Buraage Farwell and Father Sherman and appoint representatives to work with the anti-crime committee. James J. Linehan and John C. Harding took this view of the case.

L. M. Washington said that in refusing to join in the present crusade the federation would be putting a weapon in the hands of its enemies.

"GET IN ENEMY'S CAMP." He urged that labor take advantage of this chance to "get in to the councils of those hostile to it." J. J. Ryan, of the Building Trades Council, excited applause by saying that such a step would give the federation an opportunity to "damn the capitalists at close range instead of from afar," as it had been doing.

"Let's get on the committee with them," said John W. LaVine, "and ask the rich merchants why they don't pay their taxes. Ask them why the grand jury spends a month looking up union pickets who may have been doing a little slugging, instead of devoting its time to the forty-eight hold-ups of the past few weeks."

By a close vote the communication from the anti-crime committee was accepted and the following committee appointed to represent the federation in the crusade:

T. P. Quinn, L. W. Washington, J. J. Linehan, Thomas F. Kennedy.—Record-Herald.

Two facts stood out prominently in this discussion. The first was that the present carnival of crime has an underlying economic basis. In times of depression like the present, when other means of getting a living are closed, those with the least tendency towards crime naturally turn to that method of warding off starvation. And further, many without so-called criminal tendencies will have such tendencies speedily developed under the lash of cold and hunger when denied the opportunity to produce food, clothing and shelter for themselves and their families. It is absurd to remedy this state of affairs by punishing the victims. Socialism, by guaranteeing to every individual the opportunity to produce and the right to all he produces, will take away the excuse for crime and eliminate at least nine-tenths of it.

The other fact which stands out just as prominently is that this effort to suppress crime is to be made an excuse to suppress the trades union. Under the guise of a crusade against the holdup man, a war against the union picket will be inaugurated. Even the "conservative leaders" were forced to recognize this fact.

Grand Clearing of Caps and Gloves. Comrades should go to this store for their headwear, 97 Madison street, northwest corner Dearborn. All hats guaranteed union. CURNY BROS.



THE PRICE OF PROFITS.

BY SEYMOUR STEDMAN.

About the middle of last November the Iroquois Theater was opened to the public. It has a beautiful granite front of simple but elegant architecture and sculpture. It was regarded as the most replete theater in the world and advertised everywhere as being absolutely fireproof. The interior was richly decorated and draped, and was of a most inviting appearance, but akin to almost everything under present conditions of pretentious men, it was as false as

the blushing cheek of a consumptive. Excepting an alley, it was surrounded by buildings, the foyer, or a projection into the auditorium, filling it with gas, smoke and flames. Crossing the parquet, it filled the galleries and swept into the balcony, the flames drawn in that direction by the ventilating apparatus at the top of the balcony.

The bill boards of Chicago, in large type, had announced the BLUE-BEARD, JR., and BRING THE CHILDREN. Nearly two thousand women and children gathered in holiday attire to witness the performance. During the performance, through some

defective mechanism, a fire started upon the stage. It soon enveloped all the fragile scenery and belched forth into the auditorium, filling it with gas, smoke and flames. Crossing the parquet, it filled the galleries and swept into the balcony, the flames drawn in that direction by the ventilating apparatus at the top of the balcony.

The whole world knows the best-selling story in minute detail—six hundred dead and five hundred wound-

ed, children and women and men crushed, mangled and suffocated in piles ten feet high, charred heaps of what shortly before was a happy and joyous audience.

The whole city was paralyzed by the inexpressible woe which had befallen the unfortunate victims, and all talk and thought whirled around this awful horror.

The flames vanished, the smoke had lifted, the dead are buried. One great

object remains for meditation, THE CAUSE.

There are two approximate causes, minor causes and the major. The emergency exits were not marked, but were concealed by damask curtains and were painted and rust locked.

Fire escapes were not finished and were useless.

There were no separate stairways from the top galleries to the street.

There were no automatic sprinklers. There was no asbestos curtain, only

a cheap curtain veneered with asbestos.

There was no fire fine on the stage. There was no fire alarm box on the stage.

The skylights at the dome of the stage were stationary.

The windows at the top of the stage would not readily open.

No aisles between the boxes and orchestra chairs.

The stairways were not of the required width.

The theater was overcrowded, the aisles packed.

Hemp ropes were used instead of wire.

The foregoing constitute some of the minor causes, and these conditions prevailed in conflict with the express provisions of the city ordinances relating to the construction of theaters.

These deficiencies of construction which contributed to the holocaust are but branches and offshoots of the great primal cause.

Theaters are operated to make money for the owners. Amusement and instruction are the MEANS of making money.

The major cause was the aim and the object of the owners to earn a profit upon their investment. The building, ushers, ticket seller and taker, the electrician, the actress and entertainment are but tools and methods to acquire the supreme object, PROFITS.

If the reader will now place himself in the position of the theater proprietor and reason from his standpoint, he will readily understand the controlling motive.

Men do not, like the wild beast, bite the stick with which they are struck, nor do they condemn the bullet. They reason to the dominant controlling cause—the man who wields the stick or discharges the revolver—and he becomes the object of the attack, and they must follow this process to analyze and discover the reason of the Iroquois catastrophe.

Let us examine the man who owns the theater. He is dressed like the ordinary citizen; he can feel the same pains, pleasures and sufferings, and is as generous and kind as the average man, so we must go beyond the individual to find the motive or cause of his conduct which has led to such terrible results and see if it is peculiar to him or common to a whole class of men.

The capitalist is in business to enhance his fortunes. It is his object to buy labor, bricks, iron curtains, tapestry, chairs, tickets, programs, advertising and all that contribute to an attractive place, as cheaply as possible. If it will answer the purpose in APPEARANCE, that is sufficient, because the genuine article will cost too much, and the more cheaply the cost of construction and operation, the greater will be the return or profit on the investment.

This struggle for profits permeates present society from center to circumference. It runs through every industrial and political fiber. It is the Atlas upon whose shoulders the present "system" rests. To check the calamities which are a natural outgrowth therefrom, laws national, state and municipal, have been enacted for the regulation of railroads, factories, semi-public buildings and countless other industries. These laws are circumvented and evaded because capitalist politicians recognize that their enforcement often minimizes profits, and as all laws must be amenable to the prevailing economic system and its prosperity, their rigid enforcement, in so far as they curtail the profits of industry, must not be expected from present office holders.

Train wrecks, fires, wars and avoidable disasters will continue as long as the god of capitalism thrives within the society of mankind. Sacred property! Depreciated life!! Dear capital and cheap humanity!!!

When industry is operated to supply the wants, necessities and pleasures of the people, when production is for use and not for profit, when life and comfort is no longer subordinated to capitalist gains, when the motive of production is revolutionized, when capitalism falls vanquished by socialism, then and NOT until then will the life destruction which follows each hour in the wake of the past and present cease, and the whole race, standing erect, upon the carnage of the past, come into the full possession of its heritage—the co-operative commonwealth, and that day stars shall join the chorus of a great and happy world.

SOCIALIST NATIONAL CONVENTION COMES TO CHICAGO.

May 1st Date Set for Convention—The National Committeemen Voted, for Chicago, 15; St. Louis, 9.

Barney Berlyn, National Committeeman from Illinois, has been instructed to obtain a hall that will accommodate 500 delegates. There are many questions of national importance to come before the convention of 1904.

THE CHICAGO SOCIALIST

Published every Saturday at 212 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

The Chicago Socialist is published under the control of Local Chicago of the Socialist Party of Chicago...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: One year \$2.00, Six months \$1.25, Three months \$0.75...

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS: To secure a return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed...

Entered at the Post Office, Chicago, Ill., as Second Class Matter, March 18, 1902.

PHONE FRANKLIN 454.



The earth is ours, who are we? That's the question, you and me. We are workers, can't you see? Working to make workers free.

WHEN FOUND, MAKE A NOTE OF IT.

For once the Chicago Chronicle is non-phussed, beaten to a standstill. It has not been able to blame the Iroquois Theater fire on the Socialists...

As a rule, it is the working class who get burned to death, scalded and smothered, because of the capitalists' insatiable greed for profits.

The Iroquois Theater fire has created considerable stir among the capitalist class. Their efforts to shift the blame on the working class are too obvious to be overlooked.

The victims of this fire have been sacrificed to the hurry-up of the capitalists to make profits off the workers, whose only alternative under this system of wage slavery is to obey or to starve.

The efforts of the capitalists to place the responsibility on the workers should in itself cause an awakening among the workers and make them realize what their duty is.

"If we only had an opportunity like our fathers had," it is often lamented, "we could do wonders."

THE RENT IN THE CURTAIN.

Capitalist thought is a curtain which conceals from the proletariat the true nature of Capitalism. Behind its heavy folds, the magic lantern, of delusive reasoning holds up phantasmic pictures to the astonished gaze of the working class...

But the fire at the Iroquois Theater tore the curtain from top to bottom. The lie on the curtain vanished like a flash. The true individuality of capitalism showed its stony features in the hellish struggle for existence...

Capitalism produces two main individualities: The bully and the slave. They alone are fit to survive under its individualist ideal. But this ideal, when stripped of its cunning drapery, is the statue of Moloch.

By the canons of Socialist thought, those men were the fittest to survive who scorned their chance of escape from the Iroquois fire...

Those are the heroes whom a better society will call its fittest members, AND THEY WILL THEN SURVIVE.

Capitalism sometimes praises such heroes, but it takes their lives. It denounces the miser, the ghoul that sneaks into the house of woe and mutilates the bodies of the dead to secure a few glittering trinkets...

When the first effect of this disaster will have worn off, the "fittest" of this system will be left themselves. They will punish a few individualists for the crimes of individualism.

But what of that? The criminal is not any the less guilty, though they may persecute the accused. Come on with your persecution, you worshippers of individualism.

GREED VS. PUBLIC GOOD. Commercialism, the curse of the world! The private ownership of public utilities. Greed! The incentive to make all the profits possible!

Why were the ordinances violated in the first place? For profit. Some one betrayed and caused the death of 584 people by selling out. Now it is proposed, as usual, to lock the bar door after the horse has escaped.

Socialism means the collective ownership of all publicly used utilities. Under Socialism the people would have at the very beginning what the public servants, the press and the pulpit are now "going to give."

Abolish the system of capitalism. That is the remedy the Socialists offer. Mankind as a whole believes in the sacredness and safety of human life, and that it is to be placed above the dollar.

Very likely no investigations will be made outside of the gallery play of attacking the theaters, and in a short time it will be forgotten only to be brought up again when another catastrophe occurs.

HISTORY OF SOCIALISM IN THE UNITED STATES. A complete exposition of Socialism in the United States treating the circumstances of its origin, the manner of its growth, and the tendencies of its future development.

An overwhelming majority of the voters are opposed to panics, but vote for the system that is responsible for them.—Labor.

IN MEMORIAM.

At the great Socialist demonstration held in the Coliseum on Dec. 6, while passing among the thousands of people who had gathered in that great hall, I was stopped by a young man who asked me, "Isn't this Alf Mance?"

The incident brought back a thousand recollections of my boy life. In a few short moments, as we talked to each other, we lived our lives all over again.

At this juncture, Debs was about to begin his speech; we exchanged cards, shook hands and promised to meet again in the near future.

There is little more to tell. We found his body in a North Side undertaking house; his brothers arrived from Canada and identified him.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST REVIEW. Because of numerous requests from individuals and locals for the November and December numbers of the International Socialist Review, which we are unable to fill, we ask the Socialist press to notify its readers that owing to the extraordinary demand for these two issues the supply was exhausted a few days after they came from the press.

THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM. Capitalism sometimes praises such heroes, but it takes their lives. It denounces the miser, the ghoul that sneaks into the house of woe and mutilates the bodies of the dead to secure a few glittering trinkets, the politician who sells his integrity for pelf, the prostitute who sinks into the abyss of shame—but it produces them in ever new numbers.

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WHAT IS SOCIALISM?

BY JAMES ONEAL.

"Modern Socialism is, in its essence, the direct product of the recognition, on the one hand, of the class antagonisms, existing in the society of to-day, between proprietors and non-proprietary workers; on the other hand of the anarchy existing in production."

It is not a scheme or a plan no more than feudalism or capitalism are. Great stages or economic systems are not the result of deliberate plans formed by theorists, they are growths. They do not come through conscious selection of "great men," but by a historic process which uses them instead of being used by them.

On reading your history you are struck by the fact that at different periods which are classified by the historian, the organization of the wealth productive power of society and the forms of government, customs and beliefs of the time, present such a marked contrast to each other that it seems they can have no historic connection and must have had a separate and isolated origin.

But look again and follow the thread of historic change and we see an old society being slowly modified by the economic changes at its base, by the shifting of its labor power and increase of productive forces till it finally fades with the passing of time into another system which we thought at first glance was isolated and disconnected with its predecessor.

This development is sometimes retarded by the persistence of old forms, no longer in keeping with new conditions, surviving the period of their usefulness. This brings revolution, which is simply orderly development bursting asunder that which would hold it in check.

If this historic drama with its scenes of carnage, class struggles and all the incidents that it involves, is the result of a plan, then whose is it? Who planned feudal production and who originated the capitalist production of our time? No one. The "statesmen" and generals and all those conspicuous in historical events, instead of shaping history, were themselves the instruments of the ruling class of their time or of others struggling to possess their advantages.

For example, the capitalist class are the successors to the productive power generated in feudal society which was no longer adapted to it. They secured control of government, the instrument of class rule, and shaped it and all other institutions till they assumed that form which guarantee the preservation of their class interests.

This view of history which seeks an explanation of all social progress in the economic changes constantly taking place, has its justification and proof in history itself. Socialism is, therefore, not a plan, but a forecast of impending changes based upon an accurate analysis of historical development, and especially that development that is taking place under our very eyes.

What has Socialism, from this point of view, to say of the capitalist system of our time? The answer comes that it cannot escape the fate of the other forms of production on whose ruins it is built. What are the facts? It exists by the exploitation of propertyless wage workers who sell their labor power to the capitalist owners of the instruments of wealth production.

The working class sell themselves at a disadvantage, by the day, week, or month, as the case may be. Their vast numbers result in a struggle for the jobs the capitalist class have to dispose, with the result that the tendency of wages is downward.

Capitalism is like other systems we have mentioned, the organization of a class ruled society devoted to the exploitation of its wealth producers. Government in all its forms is the instrument by which the ruling class prevents the working class from making an effective resistance to this exploitation.

But capitalism, like its predecessors, is developing the conditions and the

necessity for its overthrow. The task which the capitalist class had to perform in succeeding to the productive powers of an earlier time, was to perfect and organize them, which they have done in the great factory system, with its minute division of labor and the trust organization of industry itself.

But this colossal productive power called into existence under their rule implied the passage of production from an individual to a collective form. This also made necessary its centralization into fewer hands and the crushing of small producers no longer capable of struggling for a place in the market.

The wealth productive power flows to one pole of society and the propertyless workers to the other. The class struggle between the exploiters and exploited grows more acute as this development proceeds.

The parasitic character of the ruling class—a symptom of their impending overthrow—now becomes apparent.

The surplus values they appropriate they are unable to sell to their victims because of the limited purchasing power that a "living wage" gives. The ruling class cannot consume the Midas stream and is forced to conquer and "civilize" barbarians in order to dispose of some of it. This may help, but it does not prevent an inevitable crisis. The capacity of foreign markets is insufficient to absorb the vast volume of surplus values accumulating in the hands of the capitalist class.

The means of wealth production has reached such colossal proportions that it escapes and defies direction and control of the class under whose rule it evolved. Instead of controlling it they are carried off their feet by it. This paralysis of industry implies the incapacity of its owners to direct it in an intelligent manner.

Their parasitic character is further seen in the fact that the dominant form of capitalist production has left the capitalist class without any useful service to perform. The whole complex mechanism, from the function of superintendence down to the humblest laborer, is now operated by the working class. The capitalist owner tours the continent or engages in yacht races and other amusements and his absence, though it extends for years, is never missed. Industry goes on just the same as though he never lived.

Collective production necessarily implies collective ownership and control by the workers who now operate it. If they are competent to operate it for a few owners they are competent to operate it for themselves under popular control.

As capitalist production has evolved the necessary economic structure so is it developing the conditions and organizing the class that will bring it about. The working class is constantly being recruited from other classes whose petty productive power becomes extinct when coming in contact with large scale production.

The class antagonism assumes a more glaring character each day. The working class strike and rebel against capitalist exploitation which grows keener with every improved method and machine that is introduced. They leave the mines, factories, etc., in great droves and leave the capitalist in control. A strike is on. The class antagonism is apparent. The police, armies, judges and all the machinery of government are called into action by the class that controls them. If the workers are fortunate to win against these odds it merely results in an armistice. The struggle is resumed again in a more violent form only to meet with a firmer resistance of capitalist government. This directs the attention of the workers to the control of government in their interests and abolishing capitalism forever.

The strike in its final phase assumes a new form. The ballot is added to the strike and the workers get in line for political action in the interests of their class. Capitalism spurs them on by the growing antagonism.

The last strike will be one in which the working class succeed in controlling the powers of government and instead of leaving the factories, mills and mines with the owners in control, they will stay inside and assume the ownership and control themselves.

Through the power that government control gives they will abolish the parasitic appropriation of surplus values and appropriate it for themselves. The wealth produced will go to the actual producers which will be guaranteed by collective ownership of the means of wealth production. This will be the termination of the class struggle and

class rule, and the triumph of Socialism.

It is not a plan, but an accurate analysis of an inevitable historical development and a logical prediction or forecast based upon it. The working class is now at the task of building the party that will usher it in. This is the answer to the question, "What is Socialism?"

JAMES ONEAL.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY'S FINANCIAL REPORT FOR DECEMBER, 1903.

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 1, 1904.

Table with columns for 'RECEIVED' and 'EXPENDED'. RECEIVED includes National dues from State Committees (Arizona \$23.00, Arkansas \$5.00, etc.) and From unorganized States (District of Columbia \$2.00, Georgia \$4.70, etc.). EXPENDED includes Exchange \$1.83, Expense \$35.41, Freight and express \$9.85, Office help \$128.00, Postage \$53.01, Printing \$290.00, Telegrams \$87.78, Salaries \$88.05, Wm. Mally \$86.00, W. E. Clark \$60.00, C. R. Martin \$205.00, On account \$55.65, etc.

Table with columns for 'RECAPITULATION'. Dec. 1—Balance \$163.87, Receipts for month \$1,569.89, Total \$1,733.76. Jan. 1—Balance \$168.49, National Secretary \$1,565.29.

REPORT OF THE LABOR DEMONSTRATION.

Table with columns for 'INCOME' and 'EXPENDITURES'. INCOME includes Tickets sold at office \$1,169.25, Tickets accounted for at Coliseum \$216.25, Tickets sold at Coliseum box office \$468.75, Total \$1,854.25. EXPENDITURES includes Rent \$500.00, Decoction \$100.00, Tables, rent \$30.00, Chairs, rent \$75.00, Constructing stage \$50.00, Janitor service \$30.00, Door keeper \$4.00, Total \$722.00.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Beer \$121.25, Cigars, R. Berlyu \$120.00, Pop and whisky \$50.00, Bar attendants \$50.00, Constructing bar \$50.00, Bar help \$35.00, Head waiter \$30.00, Rent five cash registers \$10.00, King's Laundry bar suits \$12.50, Miscellaneous, Larsen \$25.00, Total \$550.65.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Banquet tables, chairs, hallings, etc. \$35.00, Rent dishes and utensils \$100.00, Gasfitting \$4.00, Wages cooks and kitchen help \$100.00, Kerwin Bros. printing \$2.25, Aprons and ribbons \$9.82, Eight dozen carnations \$2.60, Other help and expenses \$16.00, Groceries, bread, ice cream, etc. \$80.52, Miscellaneous \$1.17, Total \$770.16.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Music \$286.00, Quartette \$1.80, Wards and attendants \$100.00, Printing \$11.10, M. M. Rothschild \$98.75, Lucy \$178.75, Total \$883.00.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Daily papers \$9.95, Five m. window hangers \$0.58, Billboards \$100.00, Total \$110.53.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Office help \$4.00, L. Warr \$25.00, Total \$29.00.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Miscellaneous expenses \$33.00, Jurgens Bros., half tone \$21.37, E. V. Debs \$75.00, Total income \$3,098.70, Total expense \$3,815.02, Total income \$3,815.02, Total expenditures \$2,099.70, Profit \$1,715.32.

Table with columns for 'EXPENDITURES'. Respectfully submitted, JAS. S. SMITH, National Secretary.

RUSSIANIZING OF AMERICA.

(From the advance sheets of the Socialist Review.)

In spite of the organized system of suppression of news and distortion known as the Associated Press...

The following quotation from the Associated Press report of the meeting of the National Employers' Association...

"Blows at the Western labor organizations are to be struck repeatedly, and the American Federation of Labor is to be invited by the employers to step into the movement."

J. C. Craig, secretary of the Citizens' Alliance of Denver, who attended the employers' conference at the Auditorium Tuesday, said yesterday:

The plan of action here laid down once understood, all subsequent actions are easy of comprehension and form but part of one continuous, nefarious plot.

The miners becoming convinced of the impossibility of securing any assistance from capitalist legislative bodies, went on strike to secure what the supposed sovereign power of the State had declared was legally theirs.

"Victor, Colo., Dec. 9.—Brig. Gen. F. M. Reardon, retired, postmaster of Victor, has received orders from Gov. Peabody to muster in a new company of the Colorado National Guard at the army here to-morrow night.

In the territory under military law, outrages which still further demonstrated this point occurred. Fifty of the miners who were out on a strike at Telluride, were arrested in their homes on charge of vagrancy, thrown into the "bull-pen," as the military stockade is called, denied the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus and were

BY A. M. SIMONS.

financed various sums, which they were compelled to work out with ball and chain, under military guard, on the streets. They were all informed, however, that if they would either leave the city or go to work as scabs the fines would be remitted.

At Victor, Colo., on Sunday, the 22d of November, while the president of the local union of the W. F. M., who had died during the strike, was being buried, the funeral procession was stopped by the militia and twelve men were taken from the carriages in which they were riding with their families and thrown into the "bull-pen."

Since practically the entire mining population of the West is included within the membership of the W. F. M. the usual talk about "peaceable men anxious to enjoy their God-given right to work," and being debarred of that right through union tyranny, was hardly suitable to the occasion.

"Thirty men, the remnants of the once proud Company L, First regiment, of the National Guard, State of Colorado, are out at the Berkeley Army, near Elitch's Gardens, almost totally without food, with only such fuel as they can scrimp up around the country, and without bedding or sufficient blankets."

"These men have been at the armory since Saturday night waiting. They claim that the State owes them an average of \$50 each in pay for their services. Since their arrival in Denver the men have been furnished nothing whatever by the State or anybody connected with the military department of the State."

Having turned over the regularly organized militia to the mine-owners and organized the heeled and hangers-on of the local capitalists for the purposes of murder under the authority of the State, it only remained to arm and turn loose those dupes and tools of the employers who were too disreputable for military discipline and arm them with authority to carry on a guerilla warfare upon unarmed strikers.

"Florence, Colo., Dec. 10.—J. M. Hower, Jr., manager of the Dorcas Mining and Milling Company, received yesterday from the Mine Owners' Association of Cripple Creek a letter to the effect that he must discharge every employe who would not sever his membership with the Western Federation of Miners, and that in future he was to employ no man who was a member of that organization.

The Railway Employes Journal, issued by the United Brotherhood of Railway Employes from their headquarters in San Francisco, has been converted into an illustrated monthly magazine containing a great quantity of live matter, of much interest to workmen.

Comrade Charles Debs, the well-known Socialist writer, has resigned his position as assistant editor of the Louisville Times and taken a position with "Wishire's Magazine."

Your paper is doing good work here. I cannot do without it. Clear out Socialism is what we want, and you furnish it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Jeffersonville, Ind., Dec. 28, '03. The Chicago Socialist, Chicago, Ill. Gentlemen—Please send me samples of your paper. I am waking up to Socialism. Yours, etc.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 29, 1903. Editor Chicago Socialist: Enclosed find postoffice money order for one (\$1.00) dollar, for which please send me four (4) yearly subscription cards.

Dear Comrade—In the Socialist, dated Jan. 2d, I notice a letter written by Comrade Untermyer, in which he makes known, to the sorrow of our comrades here, that two motions were passed by our County Central Committee, the 27th ult., "relative to a dictatorship or bosswork" on part of said committee.

I should stand pat on doing as I saw fit any time, especially when challenged to a debate. I cannot conceive anything so small as the action of our Central Committee.

On the face of the motions above referred to, it looks as though we are to ask our committee "how to approach a 'Single Taxer,' when, where and how to speak." If "we hereby prohibit from inserting any notices in the Chicago Socialist for debates, etc., etc." is the sense "our worthy bosses" wish us to stand by, no Socialist belonging to the movement would be permitted to debate Socialism with a Single Taxer or any one else unless he first obtain a permit from the boss.

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 2, 1904. Editor Chicago Socialist:

Dear Sir: I take the liberty of forwarding this letter to you, as I think it may be helpful to our cause. In these times, strikes and lockouts being so prevalent, and unfortunately in some cases lost principally through the lack of effort on the part of some of those so-called unions, who will not render any assistance when they are asked, saying they have no grievance, so why should they assist, which practically means encouragement to the employers, then they resort to cheap police protection, and last but not least, injunctions, which are so easily obtained.

Now, what I am getting at is this, that no union man should work in a building where there is an injunction issued, or police, private or otherwise, employed around a building when there is a strike or lockout on. I believe the action of our union in calling out its members in the Barnhart & Spindler strike is a good move, we have no grievance, but we will not work where there is an injunction issued, no matter who it is rendered against.

I would like to see some of our members who are delegates to the Federation, advocate this at the next meeting.

Trusting you will give this letter space in your valuable paper, I remain, yours sincerely,

WM. BAELTZGER, of Franklin Union.

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 4, 1904. Editor Chicago Socialist:

Dear Sir and Comrade—Many thanks for your kind favor and contribution to our modest home for Socialists and Socialism.

It would seem that we get more assistance and encouragement to do good from the outside than we do at the headquarters of our friends in Milwaukee.

Last Sunday we entertained Comrade Franklin Wentworth from Chicago; also Comrade May Wood Simons, who were delighted with the home and wished that every branch in the country had one equally as good.

We extend a cordial invitation to all visiting comrades and friends to make themselves at home at 382 Washington street, Milwaukee, Wis. Yours fraternally,

State Secretary Oneal of Indiana suggests to the National Secretary that the following regarding Calvin C. Ross be reported in the weekly bulletin:

"Ross turned up at Evansville and 'borrowed' a sum of money from a comrade in that city, which amount is still unpaid. Comrades should be careful of Ross and not allow him to collect loans from them."

National Headquarters, Dec. 6, 1903. (Bulletin No. 8, 758, 69.)

The State Secretary of Timbuctoo suggests to the National Secretary that

the following regarding a certain Dr. Karl Marx be reported in the weekly bulletin:

"Karl Marx has turned up at London, England, and borrowed a sum of money from Comrades Frederick Engles and Ferdinand Lassalle, which amount is still unpaid. Comrades should be careful of Marx and not allow him to collect loans from them."

In the name of common sense what next? I think I had better go to work at once and pay my debts, or a notice will be printed in all the party papers to beware of PHILIP ENGLE, Of the First Ward Branch Local, Cook County.

ATTENTION, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY READERS.

Comrade John Collins, State organizer of Socialist party, will lecture on the subject, "Socialism, What It Is and What It Is Not," at following places and dates:

Antwerp Hall, Moline, Monday evening, Jan. 11. School house, E. Moline, Tuesday evening, Jan. 12.

Van Deale's Hall, Moline, Thursday, Jan. 14. Coal Valley, Friday evening, Jan. 15, and Saturday evening, Jan. 16.

How are we going to emancipate ourselves from this degrading and intolerable slavery? It cannot be done under the present capitalist system, for the whole basis of that system is wage slavery and the robbery of the many by the few through profit, interest and rent.

The merchant calls it profit. And he hinks the other eye. The banker calls it interest. And he heaves a cheerful sigh. The landlord calls it rent. As he tucks it in his bag: But the honest old burglar. He simply calls it swag.

Don't forget Comrade Conklin sells a 15-jewel Waltham movement in a 20-year Duerber gold filled case at \$10, or \$7.50 for solid silverline screw case. For Sale—Course in English branches in correspondence school of Scranton, Pa., on account of sickness; otherwise could not be gotten. Address J. F., this office.

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All Comrades and Friends are invited to the Grand Opening of our Labor Lyceum

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SOCIALIST DAILY FOR CHICAGO The Bohemian Central Committee who now conduct a weekly Socialist paper in the Bohemian language and own a printing plant valued at \$4,000, have decided to enlarge their business and convert their paper into a Bohemian Daily. A volunteer fund is being raised for this purpose and you are invited to contribute your mite. Send all money to BOHEMIAN SOCIALIST PARTY, 721 1/2 Belmont St., Chicago, Ill.

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LECTURE Illustrated by Chart, by THOMAS J. MORGAN Attorney, before the S. S. S. Friday Eve., Jan. 15, 1904, Flynn's Hall, Robey St. and North Ave. All Welcome.

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