

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

VOL. 1, NO. 13.

CHICAGO, ILL., JUNE 3, 1899.

PRICE ONE CENT.

A SLAVE PEN

Carpenters in the Stock Yards Raise a Protest.

PUNISHMENT SWIFT AND CERTAIN

A Few of G. F. Swift's Carpenters Contemplate a Modest Request for a Raise in Their Beggary Wages—Unceremoniously Kicked Out—Political vs. Economic Strikes.

There was a time when misguided fanatics called this a free country, and when the "oppressed of every clime" were invited to its doors. And they came. Some of them settled down in a section of that ingenious hell of capitalism that was described in these columns a few weeks back and known as "Packingtown."

In our discussion of the Stock Yards we pointed out that one of the rules of its masters was "no unions need apply." The last few weeks have seen two startling illustrations of the application of that rule.

A few weeks ago the brick layers in Armour's were organized under the Building Trades Council of Chicago, and as they were compelled to work with "scab" carpenters they struck. The sequel is short and sweet. Scab bricklayers came from neighboring states and towns, and are now sleeping in barracks inside Armour's works, while the willom unionists are looking for prosperity and wondering what hit them.

Two weeks ago the carbuilders went in a body to Shaw, the superintendent in Swift's, and asked for a raise and were insolently told that if they did not like what they were getting, to get off the plant and get quick. They are now quite satisfied.

But this week furnished a far more startling illustration of the abject slavery of the workers in this great prison pen. Swift's carpenter's are receiving 22½ cents an hour for a ten-hour day. The present union rate in Chicago is 42½ cents for eight hours. On Saturday last these poor devils foolishly imagining that they should have a share in prosperity did a most desperate and daring thing. They did not blow up the works with dynamite, as men less oppressed and more foolish might have done; they did not call a strike or even organize a union, but they dared to dream of acting together. A card of which the following is a copy was circulated:

A STAG PARTY

given by
All Carpenters Employed by G. F. Swift
& Co.
at
McCarthy's Hall, 4215 Ashland Ave.
Saturday, May 27th, 1899 at 6 P. M.
Every MAN is expected to come.
No excuse will be accepted.
Committee.
(union label.)

The poor fools thought to thus delude the spies that follow every movement of the wage-slaves working here. How badly mistaken they were the result will show. When they met they did not dare to suggest a union, or dream of a strike, or even think of demanding an increase of the beggarly pittance they were receiving. No, they only appointed a committee to go humbly to their master and beg him for the means to get a few more victuals and a little better clothes. The negro slave before the war would scarcely have been punished for this. No Turkish sultan or Russian czar ever denied his subjects the right of petition. But this sovereign king of Porkdom was more despotic because more powerful than these.

Before the men had time to present their petition the faithful spies had informed the ruler of the actions of his subjects. There was no hesitation; no delay. With the same precision and certainty that a beef killer feels his victim, punishment descended upon these discontented slaves. Early the next morning a man visited each carpenter and generously anticipated their demands by making him a present of his time. They were told that the firm had decided to forego some intended work and so would not need them. But in one instance the man was plainly told that "Some of the men have been making trouble and will have to be laid off." All were discharged except a few old and "safe" hands, from whom all trace of manhood had been crushed and who could therefore "be depended upon."

And what did those do who were thus thrown upon the street and with their families condemned to suffering because for a moment the spark of manhood had flickered in their breast? Did they continue to fight? Did they register a determination to use their rights as men in defence of themselves and their class? No, they crawled like whipped puppies to the feet of the hand that struck them and meekly begged for re-instatement in their old slavery. They fawned around Alderman Tom

Carey and begged his influence with their master for another opportunity to receive the means of existence for themselves and family while they coined their life-energy into dollars for Swift.

And Swift, is he not a good Christian, Methodist gentleman? Did he not give \$6,000 but a short time ago to the "little struggling church" at 47th and Marshall, in the midst of the Stock Yards district, and thereby insure that his slaves should be taught proper respect for his royal presence? Did he not give thousands of dollars to the Union Avenue Methodist church located in the neighborhood? Is he not a member in good standing of the St. James' Methodist church, the "finest Methodist church of America," and has he not given tens of thousands to its support?

Shall we blame him? And in all seriousness we answer No. He is acting in strict accord with his class interests and according to the rules of the game he has established. Who then? The contemptible theological and philanthropic lickspittles who take his money and do the dirty slave-driving work for him? To some extent Yes, for they are traitors to the class to which they belong and prostitute their talents to the destruction of those they pretend to minister to. Upon whom then shall the blame rest? UPON THE LABORERS THEMSELVES. They have it in their power to deliver themselves whenever they are intelligent enough to use their strength. So long as they continue to vote for Carey, McInerney, McCarthy and others of the same stamp, whether with a republican or a democrat or an independent label upon them, they have no right to any sympathy. They are a thousand to one at the polls in a contest with the owners, yet they vote themselves into new slavery each year. And so long as they do this they simply get what they vote for.

It is the height of idiocy for them to attempt to meet their masters upon the economic ground where he is supreme. It is certain victory if they meet him on the political field where they are invincible. Labor—a helpless victim in the shop—an absolute king at the ballot box. How long will these contradictions continue?

If the laborers of the Yards will unite under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party and send a socialist alderman to the council instead of the present creature of the capitalist class, they will soon have their employers coming to them for terms. They will be striking at a vulnerable point. Will they know enough to do it now, or must they be kicked again and again? How long must their sufferings and slavery continue ere they strike a blow for freedom?

Public Meetings.

Below is given a list of the out-door meetings to be held in Chicago this week. Every socialist should make it a point to attend, as many of these as possible to assist in making the meeting a success:

The 5th Ward Branch holds out-door agitation meetings at 33rd St. and Wentworth Ave., every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Tenth Ward Branch at California Ave. and Madison St. every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Wards at California and North Ave., every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Eighteenth Ward, Peoria and Madison Sts., every Sunday at 8 p. m.

Thirteenth Ward—Corner of Western and Grand Aves., every Thursday evening.

4th Ward Club will hold a special discussion meeting next Monday evening at their rooms, 2701 Wentworth Ave. Comrade Wanhope will speak. All comrades and others interested are invited to be present.

Twenty-fourth Ward—Washington Square, Clark street and Walton place, every Thursday at 8 p. m.

The 33d Ward Branch will hold an agitation meeting at the corner of 93d street and Commercial avenue every Saturday evening, at 8 o'clock. Speakers for June 3, Comrades Berlyn and Wanhope.

Good speakers present at all meetings. Everyone invited. Free discussion.

Strikes in Cuba.

Who says that we are not getting anything out of expansion? We are constantly learning new methods of doing things. We have already learned that the Declaration of Independence is a back number and that humanity is synonymous with murder and now we are getting pointers on how manage rebellious strikers. The following is a telegraphic report from Cuba concerning a strike of the stevedores employed by the transportation companies there who are being supported by the other trades:

"Admiral Cromwell has received word that the respective trade unions intend to order out the masons, plumbers, and other workmen. In his judgment Major General Leonard Wood's policy regarding the dock laborers' strike last October in Santiago is the best in dealing with such problems, giving the strikers twenty-four hours in which to work, with the alternative of importation from Jamaica of all the labor necessary."

The receipt of a sample copy is an invitation to subscribe.

TRUSTS

A Study of the Pressing Problem of Today.

A NATURAL, USEFUL EVOLUTION

How the Socialist Foresew Present Developments—Process of Concentration—Evil Lies in Location of Ownership, Not in Fact of Existence—Preparation for Socialism.

If there is one word more than any other that is in everybody's mouth today it is the word "trust." From Oregon to Florida and from Maine to Texas there is an average of one new scheme to the square mile for the treatment of trusts. In every direction the frightened "little fish" of the industrial sea are crying for help. In the midst of this confusion the socialist quietly smiles and points to the fact that fifty years ago socialist writers laid down the laws and foretold the result of their operation that have resulted in the modern trust. During all this half a century its writers and speakers in every land having been repeating this philosophy and elaborating its effects and predicting its results. It would seem as if today they would be the ones to whom society would turn for light instead of to those blind leaders of the blind who during all these same years have been declaring that there never could be such a thing as a trust, who have been trying to check their growth by idiotic legislation, or elaborating systems of political economy to prove they were impossible.

At a time when everyone else was declaring that "competition was the life of trade" the socialist was calling attention to the fact that competition was self-destructive. It was shown that when a number of firms were struggling for the mastery in a competitive field the larger ones had a great advantage and that this advantage was in direct proportion to their size. Thus when once differences in size had appeared, every succeeding day added to these differences until whole classes of firms found it impossible to longer continue in business. The larger firms were left no choice in this crushing out business. Competition among the great industries compelled them to sell their products at the lowest possible prices and as these prices were less than the little firms could afford to sell at, the latter passed out of existence. Since the larger firm the cheaper the rate of production, each firm was compelled to grow or die, as it would otherwise be undersold by its larger competitors.

As this process went on the competition among the great industries at the top became fiercer and fiercer. They were so large that the market was the world. In order to introduce their goods to the distant points they were compelled to expend enormous sums in the support of traveling representatives and advertising. As all were operating in the same market these soon became duplicates of each other. Take any great firm and its "drummers" traveled the same routes, its advertisements were painted along the same lines of railroad and printed in the same newspapers as those of a half dozen of its competitors. Its branch houses were located in the same towns, its agents put up at the same hotels and talked to the same individuals as those of all other firms selling the same things. This very fact, that the competition was so close and so evident, caused a continuous and fierce struggle to over-reach each other in advertising. Untold millions of wealth were thus expended in a manner that brought no good to anyone. No one was ever better clothed because of the multitude of pictured clothing that adorned (?) the dead walls, stones and literature of that time and to a great extent of today.

As time passed and the number of great firms in each industry became fewer this process of duplicate waste became more intense and its idiocy more evident. The result was that after a while the heads of these great firms came together and decided that since the results of all this multiplied waste was to give each one about the same trade he would get if it were all simultaneously stopped it would be a wise thing to stop it and save this tremendous and ridiculously useless expenditure of human effort. The fact that the motive which prompted them to act was to have this waste, which would be thus saved, turned into their own pockets, in no way alters the fundamental fact of the desirability of their action. Nothing is ever gained from a useless expenditure of productive power, and whatever saves such expenditure is a thing in and of itself to be desired, no matter how much such action may appear to be detrimental, owing to the unjust social institutions under which it operates.

To return. These firms came together and made arrangements by which their businesses were to be run as one industry—the sales to be adjusted according to prearranged schemes, instead of, according to the wasteful process of com-

(Continued on page 2.)

FRANCE

A Glimpse of the French Comrades' Enthusiasm.

TRIUMPHAL TOUR OF SOCIALISTS

A Piece of News the Capitalist Press Failed to Publish—A Few Incidents That Show How Close the Social Revolution Now Is—Cheer for Pessimistic Workers.

In these days of beginnings, these days when the socialist movement is in its formative state in America, some of us probably experience discouragement from time to time at the lack of enthusiasm among the working class for the new regime. Each country has experienced the same period of lethargy, but also in each country has there grown a marvelous movement that is now the wonder of the world. It may be encouraging to read an account of the enthusiasm that socialism is able to inspire elsewhere, and thus be able to forecast some of the scenes that will enliven American cities in the near future.

About the middle of May Jean Jaures, Gerault-Richard, and one or two other socialists left Paris for a little agitation trip through France. At Grenoble their reception was such as to temporarily well-nigh stop the business of the city, and in the evening the largest hall obtainable, with a seating capacity of six thousand, was packed to the doors. From Grenoble the route led to Marseille, and the special correspondent of the Paris Petite Republique sent the following graphic description of the entrance into the city:

Marseille, May 12.—Jaures, Gerault-Richard, and Zeveas, escorted by Deputy Mayor Coulet and Municipal Councillors Farguier and Quillet, of Marseille, left at this morning at forty minutes after eight. At all the stations along the route from Grenoble to Valence, and especially at Moirans, Tullins, Vival, and Saint-Marcellin, delegations from the socialist groups of the rural communes of Isere came to greet them. At Valence more than two hundred militants were massed on the platform of the station to welcome the socialist orators. Citizen Rouge, municipal councillor of Bourg-de-Peage, greeted them in the name of the organized socialists of the Department of the Drome, and Valence, de Pressense and Pichari, who came directly from Paris and who are to speak at the great meeting at Marseille tomorrow night, joined Jaures, Gerault-Richard and Zeveas.

The train reached Marseille at a quarter after six. Since half past five the approaches to the station had been invaded by a large crowd of socialists. The interior of the station was filled with delegations from socialist groups, unions and other organizations from Marseille and the neighboring departments. When the train entered the station a most remarkable enthusiasm prevailed, and the great crowd broke forth with cheers, and shouted till the station shook: "Vive Jaures! Vive Socialism! Vive the Socialist Republic!"

At the moment when Jaures and the others got into the carriages the socialist band, under the direction of citizen Noble, began to play the Carmagnole, and with the accents of this revolutionary hymn the enthusiasm redoubled. The police attempted to force a passage for the street cars, but found themselves powerless to do so. With this evidence of our strength these gentlemen took their cue and made no further attempt to interfere with the organization of the parade.

In the first carriage were Jaures, Gerault-Richard, Zeveas, and Municipal Councillor Larguier; in the second, de Pressense, Pichari, Deputy Mayor Coulet, and Municipal Councillors Nod and Quillet. The other members of the municipal council and the general council occupied a dozen more carriages. The cortege began to move. At the head of it marched the socialist band playing the Carmagnole and the International, while the crowd applauded and took up the chorus. We marched slowly, very slowly, and as we advanced the people along the street greeted us with cheers and then joined the procession. The train was black with men and women, and the crowd looked like human grapevines, so filled were they with our enthusiastic friends. Again and yet again the air echoed with the cheers: "Vive Jaures! Vive Gerault-Richard! Vive the Socialist Republic!" And what a crowd there was all along the Avenue de la Gare and along the Boulevard du Nord! And the cheering never let up. At times it had the violence of a whirlwind. From the windows of the stores the men tossed their hats in the air and the women clapped their hands. Jaures standing up in the carriage responded with a wave of his hand, and like a clarion call his voice rang out with the cry: "Vive the Socialist Republic!" and was lost in the cheers of the enthusiasts. And Gerault-Richard and Zeveas were joining in the chorus of the Carmagnole.

It took half an hour to get from the station to the hotel. From time to time we had to stop, so great was the crowd that wished to get close enough to the carriage to shake hands with Jaures.

On through the Boulevard Dugommier, and then what a sight! The Rue de Noailles and the Rue de Melhan were black with people as far as the eye could reach. Here more than thirty omnibuses were brought to a standstill by the crowd. The coachmen and the passengers, however, had no complaint to make, for they too applauded, and cried till the street fairly trembled: "Vive the Socialist Republic! Vive Jaures! Vive Gerault-Richard! Vive de Pressense! Vive Zeveas!" Not a discordant note to be heard.

When the immense cortege left the Rue de Noailles at the entrance to the Grand Hotel the orators fell away and cheers for the orators were blended with the revolutionary verses of the Carmagnole.

At the door of the Grand Hotel a compact crowd of women was unseated by the superbly beautiful bouquets, palms, and baskets of flowers, and greeted ardently the champions of the Socialist Party. We entered the hall of the hotel, and there the presentations took place. The women and girls of the Tobacco Workers' Union presented Jaures with two magnificent bouquets and welcomed him and his friends in the name of the women proletariat of Marseille. The women retailers presented the orator with a beautiful basket of flowers, and the market women gave a superb palm. Jaures thanked them and said with feeling that he was profoundly impressed by this manifestation of sympathy coming from the women workers, who were joining their brothers in misery and servitude in the common struggle for justice and the common fight for the overthrow of capitalist exploitation.

In front of the hotel more than fifteen thousand persons were massed, covering the Rue de Noailles, the end of the Boulevard Dugommier and the end of the Rue de Melhan. The demand for the orators could not be withheld. When they stepped out on the balcony they were met with a burst of applause that lasted several minutes. Then Jaures, with his powerful and resonant voice, thanked the socialists and working class population of the great city, which had affirmed with so much emphasis, with so much force and unanimity, its sentiments of justice and its revolutionary and socialist convictions. And in closing he cried: "Vive Marseille! Vive the Socialist Republic!" Then de Pressense spoke briefly. He declared that he only wished to second all that Jaures had said, and that he, too, could but cry: "Vive Marseille! Vive the Socialist Republic!"

For more than twenty minutes the orators were cheered by the crowd without the militarists, reactionists, or clericals giving the faintest intimation of their boasted strength and unanimity. The valiant socialist population of Marseille has done justice to its calumniators, and the latter have learned that they are powerless before the unanimity of this magnificent demonstration. The impression caused by the reception given to Jaures is profound. Marseille has proven this evening that she is ever one of the impregnable citadels of French socialism.

Tomorrow evening the great meeting is to be held.

Every time a French aristocrat gives a reception in Paris the news is cabled to every daily paper in America, but we look in vain for any cable messages giving an account of the marvelous work the French socialists are doing. For this news we are compelled to rely on the socialist press.

Julian Pierce.

Washington, D. C.

DEWEY'S COUSIN

One of the Contrasts of Society Today.

Our present Society presents many striking contrasts but it is seldom that they appear with such dramatic unity as is shown by the following clipping from a Chicago daily:

While Admiral George Dewey is sailing homeward to be honored as the greatest hero since Grant, his cousin, Miss Ida K. Dewey, sits in the window of a Brooklyn shop sewing all day as an advertisement for children's clothes. She is a dominie's daughter, born in Montpelier, Vt. She came to New York two years ago to begin a stage career. She had little success until the battle of Manila, and then, when the nation was clamoring to know all about George Dewey and his family, the newspapers discovered Miss Dewey, wrote of and interviewed her. She got a prominent place in the "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" column, but it did not last. She became ill and had to do something to earn her living.

Automobile Development.

A recent automobile race in France of over three hundred miles gave an average speed of over thirty miles an hour. Another machine has penetrated far into the interior of the Sahara desert. A permit has been secured for the electric cab service in Chicago and the Studebaker wagon Company has made a \$400,000,000 addition to their plant for the manufacture of such vehicles.

The day of the horse is over. And with the introduction of this new method of transportation the process of concentration will be carried many steps further and the coming of the social revolution hastened.

A few weeks ago those lazy, worthless, lounging Cubans were all simply hanging around the American armies seeing what they could get for nothing and willing to sell their souls for a chunk of hardtack or a slice of "embalmed beef," and today not one can be found that is willing to barter his right to carry arms and defend his country for what, in that tropic land, is an almost independent fortune. This is either a most wonderful transformation or else—but no! who would dare to insinuate anything about the truthfulness of our war correspondents. It is forever at least suggestive just at present when we are receiving all those reports about the cowardliness and cupidity of Aguinaldo and his followers.

UTOPIANISM

Its Development Into Modern Scientific Socialism.

THROUGH UTOPIA TO SOCIALISM

The Growth of the Scientific Spirit in Social Study—A Clear Statement of Scientific Socialism and of the Modern Socialist Position—The Class Struggle the Solid Basis.

(Continued from last week.)

In the next period there arose a school of philosophers who discussed political forms. It would be foreign to this essay to consider, even in general, the peculiarities of these political philosophies. The important thing to note is that a new spirit is arising of research in governmental and even indeed, social problems.

In the next half century between the publication of Rousseau's "Origin of Inequality" and the day of St. Simon there was an unequalled period of luxuriant growth in every kind of social theory. The awful social conditions resulting from the Napoleonic wars, the industrial and agrarian revolutions filled the French and English literature with a harvest of political and social theories. The death agonies of the feudal lords, the weary battle cries of the militant capitalist, the low sobbing of working women and children, and the infuriated mobs of starving unemployed drove the statesmen and the poets, the scholars, and economists to panaceas and Utopias from Communism to Anarchy. The period is a tangle of political effusions which no one has been able to unravel satisfactorily.

However years later as St. Simon comes into the arena the thread begins to disentangle. True to the French genius St. Simon and Fourier after him captured admiration by their remarkable generalizations of social happenings. Their economic philosophy was limited by the immaturity of economic development.

Frederick Engel speaks of the historical insight of St. Simon in these words: "As early as his 'Letters from Geneva' St. Simon laid down that all men ought to work, and that the Reign of Terror had been the reign of the non-producing classes. To face the fact in 1802 that the French Revolution was a struggle between the noblesse, the bourgeoisie, and the non-producing classes was a discovery of genius. In 1816 he asserted that politics were but the science of production and predicted their absorption by economy. The knowledge that economic conditions serve as a basis of political institutions never shows itself here in the germ; nevertheless, the proposition contains clearly the conversion of the political government into an administration of things and a direction of the process of production; that is to say, the abolition of the state of which such a noise has been made."

Saint Simon was remarkable at times for his historical insight. It was he who wrote that there had been three successive stages in the exploitation of the workers; slavery was the first, serfdom the second, and the proletariat or modern wage-slave the third. He further remarks that this growth has been in the line of advance, but today the necessity to live compels a bondage hardly better than the lowest stage—of pure slavery.

Fourier was supreme in his critical and satirical examination of the society of his own period. In his first book, "The Theory of the Four Movements," he shows that human nature is perfectible if freed from restraints imposed by society. The shortcomings of individualistic society are shown with keen shafts of bitterness. His plan of social betterment was a species of industrial co-operation which he elaborated in infinite detail. His plan was put to a test after his death but failed because of insufficient funds.

Robert Owen is another of the forerunners of socialism. Unlike the Frenchmen, he was a practical rather than a theoretical reformer. He has left no such contribution to history as St. Simon, nor to economic criticism such as Fourier. He was a man who loved the people and spent his early life in brilliant reforms for their benefit. (Engel's Utopia to Science, pp. 6, 7 and 8.)

Possibly some will see the sequence between the various groups of social writers. Plato, More and the earlier writers were remarkable for weaving the liveliest of social fancies in contrast to the horrible realities of their day. The political philosophers, Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau treated superficially the growth of governments and drew arguments to support diverse opinions concerning the best form of government. Saint Simon brought a true knowledge of historical events; Fourier showed the shortcomings of capitalism. And Owen demonstrated the tremendous productivity of human labor under healthy economic and hygienic conditions. All three of these were imbued with the presentations of a coming solidarity of the exploited classes and foolishly attempted

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THE WORKERS' CALL.

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Editorial Announcements.

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

A. M. SIMONS, EDITOR.

The Socialist Vote.

Table with 2 columns: Year and United States. Rows for 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899.

Copies sold last week 4,475.

GOOD PEOPLE.

Perhaps for no one thing are we so continuously called to account as for our attitude towards those who "are coming our way."

All during the Altgeld campaign we heard this but since he was defeated and we printed an expose of the men who were back of him, and in an hundred other ways the hand of the shrewd and unscrupulous politician was shown, his sympathizers have grown fewer, and protestations of his innocent intention more rare.

Regarding Pingree—over and over again we are told that he is so sincere and honest but that he is ignorant of economic phenomena. All this may be true, but a man who has shown political shrewdness sufficient to turn down the oldest and most unscrupulous politicians of the state of Michigan and keep them turned down for years, and who claims to be a close student of social facts and theories, should certainly have a little more sense than Pingree has yet shown in regard to the conditions with which he is surrounded.

But then there is Jones. When every other reformer has been exposed the apologist always falls back on "Golden Rule" Jones. We are told by many who understand the principles of socialism and are in accord with the views of the S. L. P. that here is a man whom we should try to get not to antagonize, and they assure us that he is simply ignorant of social phenomena and that if ignorant he is still honest. Now honesty is a decidedly negative virtue at any rate. No one ever heard of a dishonest donkey or a corrupt statue. In and of itself honesty is small recommendation in one who seeks to be a political leader. The greatest crimes and mistakes of history have been made by those who were "sincere in their motives."

But ignorance may be excused under some conditions. With a laborer, working fourteen hours a day, and entering work at twelve years of age with no education, we can have patience if he refuses to recognize his own interests but continues to vote himself and his fellows into slavery year after year. We may grow impatient with him yet we feel that he is entitled to entry in the "fool" rather than the "knave" class.

How about Jones in this respect? Has he been shut out from all opportunity to educate himself? Has he been compelled to toil long hours until his brain refused to work? We know that on the contrary he has had unlimited opportunity for education, boundless resources from which to obtain information, a wide experience from which to draw conclusions, and yet he displayed an ignorance of social facts and theory in his recent speech in this city as well as in his published utterances in other places that borders almost on the realm of idiocy. So utterly flat and without point, so entirely contradictory in its conclusions and ridiculous in its premises was his effort when here, that several, even of those who brought him to this city, have since apologized in private for his logic, while they praised his "spirit." But at least three of these have personally told us that whatever else could be said of him he was simply "naive," "innocent," and "so sincere." Now as we said before, all these are negative virtues, that are very desirable in a receiving teller at a lunch counter, but are hardly sufficient recommendation for public office and responsibilities.

But let us look further. If Jones is so "naive and innocent," he is a most dangerous "innocent" to have at large. A man who opposes political machines even to the absolutely silly point of proposing the abolition of political parties, while at the same time catering to Tammany Hall in national politics and organizing a political machine at home in the form of "Golden Rule Clubs," more despotic and automatic in its action than anything ever dreamed of by old line politicians must be very much of an "innocent" indeed. Still further, the man who poses as a great friend of labor and then ransacks the United States to find all the contemptible labor skates, fakirs, embezzlers (witness Pomeroy), stool pigeons and political hangers and calls them together to help him "swing the labor vote" is either a tremendously big fool or else—well he is getting into the neighborhood of the knave. More than this the history of the actions of these precious gentlemen has been that they never work for nothing. Where the buzzards fly there is carrion, and when that "labor convention" is called this week in Columbus, somebody "greases the wheels."

terly flat and without point, so entirely contradictory in its conclusions and ridiculous in its premises was his effort when here, that several, even of those who brought him to this city, have since apologized in private for his logic, while they praised his "spirit." But at least three of these have personally told us that whatever else could be said of him he was simply "naive," "innocent," and "so sincere." Now as we said before, all these are negative virtues, that are very desirable in a receiving teller at a lunch counter, but are hardly sufficient recommendation for public office and responsibilities.

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But has Jones ever shown any of this "naiveness" in his other lines of activity? Has he been a commercial failure? Did he show ability to succeed in the midst of our present competitive system? How did one so "pure and innocent" succeed in defeating those who had made political trickery a life-long study? It is answered that Jones simply expressed a great popular feeling which overwhelmed opposition. Hold on, there is just the difference between the true leader and the contemptible demagogue in politics. One seeks the truth, and hews to the line, the other seeks to find out the public mind and then put himself in accord with it. This latter is exactly what Jones, Pingree and Altgeld have done. They were shrewd, keen politicians, who saw further than the more ignorant class of politicians and realized that here was a great public feeling which could be seized and turned to their advantage. With all the skill given by the superior advantages of education, wealth and position that had been given to them they were able to foresee economic development further than the ordinary ward heeler. They saw that if they could but side-track this tremendous revolutionary force that was gathering they might turn it to their own personal advantage and ride into power and fame on the wave of popular revolt. A more contemptible prostitution of talents, a more disgusting bit of demagoguery the world has seldom known. If it was done through ignorance—a more criminal ignorance has never been seen in history, and what shall be said of those who under the shelter of philanthropy and interest in labor's troubles lend their influence to this awful farcial tragedy. Which alternative do they want to take—fool or knave?

No, we shall continue to denounce as forcibly as lies in our power those who are actually doing the most to keep labor enslaved. There is no need of pouring out fierce denunciations on the heads of Rockefeller, Armour, Swift or Yerkes, they are not misleading labor, they are products of economic conditions and are recognized as oppressors by all. As soon as they start a "political reform party" we shall get after them personally, until they do we shall denounce them as representatives of a system and reserve our personalities for those whose personality is the cause of the evil they are doing.

As one reads of the trials that our comrades in other countries are undergoing for the sake of socialism, and then sees the laborers of America submit humbly to a despotism equally galling, but more subtle than that of any European nation, he almost grows disgusted with his countrymen. As we read of the shooting of Italian socialists, the imprisonment of German, Austrian and Polish comrades, and realize their sufferings, we almost wish that a little open persecution might take the place of the continuous crushing despotism of capitalism in America, that would awaken the laborers to a realization of their condition.

Throughout Poland the entire movement must be secret. Yet two papers are continuously published and circulated in great numbers by the personal exertions of the socialists. In Bohemia,

a heavy tax is laid upon all newspapers, with the specific intention of crushing out obnoxious periodicals, yet several papers are kept up there at a tremendous sacrifice to the Bohemian comrades. Yet here in America, where it can be shown that the rule of capitalism is more merciless than anywhere else on the face of the earth, simply because the rulers have been shrewd enough to cloak their despotism under the form of freedom, the laborers meekly follow whichever stool pigeon flies the nearest to them, and vote themselves into deeper slavery each year.

The commercial travelers in their recent convention at Sioux Falls passed a resolution asking "that every commercial traveler unite in an effort to enact into law such a measure as will not only prevent the promotion of trusts, but also to protect the individual, trusts being declared detrimental to the best interests of commercial travelers." There is no doubt about the last part of the resolution, as the profits of the trusts is rapidly rendering the commercial traveler an extinct species, but we are still waiting to hear what particular form of law they think will accomplish their ends. Finally what little glimmer of intelligent class-consciousness the above resolution shows was completely destroyed the next minute by a resolution on the Philippine war and President McKinley that "As true American citizens we appreciate the nobleness and courage of our executive and uphold him in his policy." Poor fools! As well might they say, "We hate to be killed but we admire and support the knife that cuts our throats." Guess they will have to "strike the road" for a few years before they get a little sense.

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SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

"Free Silver" is dead—"Anti-Trust" killed him. The democratic war cry for 1900 is to be "Bust the Trusts." This is a rather large contract for the already "busted" middle classes to undertake, but as an "issue" to gull the working class once more, it is probably all sufficient.

Boy Orator Bryan declares that he who fights the trusts is as much a hero as those who charged up San Juan hill. If this is so, there will certainly be "glory enough to go round" in 1900, when the words "hero" and "idiot" become synonymous.

The Baxter Investigating Committee have discovered a paragon of innocence and purity by placing Hinky Dink under examination. This gentleman declared that he did not know personally of the existence of gambling in Chicago, but admitted that vague rumors had reached his ears that the Union League Club was not entirely guiltless in this matter. Being well aware of Mr. Dink's spotless reputation, high political ideals, and straightforward simplicity, we must admit the truth of the first part of his statement without further question. But regarding his insinuation against the Union League Club, we greatly fear that Mr. Dink has committed an indiscretion, and that his language might be justly stigmatized as unpatriotic and un-American. It has always been a mystery to us why respectable persons (as Mr. Dink and the members of the Union League Club undoubtedly are) should thus calumniate each other, but we suppose the frailties of human nature are responsible. We have not heard that the Baxter committee intend to investigate this charge in order to verify its truth or falsehood.

The ex-premier of England, Lord Rosebery, decries the advantages of wealth, by declaring the millionaire could only eat one dinner (but a good dinner), wear one suit (but a good suit), and live in one house (but a good house) at a time. Good dinners, fine clothes and splendid houses are not obtained by virtue of exchange of the products of labor for labor, but by the power embodied in the fact of being a millionaire.

A celebrated prodigal has just returned to his father's house, and the fatted calf will be served up in due order. Peffer, long whiskered Peffer, has written the obituary of populism, and is back again in the Republican Party. Our memory goes back to the grand old days of 1891 when this whiskered deliverer was announced as the herald of freedom, and Mary Elizabeth Lease led the chorus of "Good bye old Parties." Times have changed. Populism is gone, and like the dog of the scripture, the bused "savior of society" returns to his vomit, but the Socialist Labor Party still stands unshaken, more aggressive and virile than ever before.

Nothing so broadens the mind as a course of miscellaneous reading. We have just dropped on a new suggestion for socialist propaganda, through perusing the columns of one of the "Rational" publications, which are devoted to expositions, on the noble art of organized gluttony. The theory that a man's character is moulded and formed by the food he eats is supported by the assertion that the socialists and agitators of Europe chiefly consume horse beef, pork and rabbits. Hence their revolutionary tendencies.

Would it not be worth while to give this theory a chance? Let us suggest that the class struggle be put out of sight for a while, and a restaurant established in every socialist branch, where the above mentioned diet can be served to the guests. Then stand by and see the working class absorb horse beef and horse sense, pork and proletarian class-consciousness, rabbits and revolutionary ideas, all at the same time. Care should be taken to have the food properly embalmed (after the Alger method), as thereby its socialist making properties would be considerably increased.

Of course there are many prejudices to overcome before this scheme can be put in action. We have often heard socialists say that the lack of food (not to mention other necessities), has really more connection with the socialist movement, than its quality. Seeing that it is stated that at present in Russia, one million people are dying of starvation, and as we know that socialism is spreading rapidly in that country, this opinion seems to be based on good grounds. But perhaps our suggestion could be utilized by Eugene V. Debs, who, we believe, has a fondness for similar experiments.

The Scottish Trade Union Congress has fallen in line with the labor organizations of the balance of Europe. The Scotchmen declared for the "nationalization of the land and the means of production and distribution," and appointed a committee to meet with other labor organizations and socialist bodies to convene a special congress during the current year for the purpose of deciding upon "united working class action at the next general election." That looks like business. And it's a sorry spectacle that the American Federation of Labor is now about the only organization that is strenuously attempting to keep workmen out of the great international socialist labor movement. But there is a day of reckoning coming, and certain "leaders" will meet their well-merited reward from their misled constituents and from posterity as well.—Cleveland Citizen.

COLLINSVILLE

Situation in An Illinois Town.

A Little Band of Class-Conscious Socialists in the Midst of a Muddled Middle Class.

Collinsville, Ill., May 25. Editor Workers' Call.—In response to the request for party news, by the wish of Section Collinsville, I write the following brief account of the movement here and the conditions under which it has to labor. Collinsville is called a mining town, the phrase originating twenty years back, when it supported eleven coal mines with over one thousand miners. To-day it has but four mines, with less than four hundred miners. But the miners have been replaced by zinc smelters and brick makers, making a total at present of about 1,000 wage-slaves in the crafts above mentioned, including farm hands, teamsters and common laborers.

Collinsville is an incorporated city of 5,000, including the former vote of the township. This spring 1,900 votes were polled. The political complexion is and has been for years democratic of the middle class type; in short, it is an out-and-out middle class community. About the time the S. L. P. organized some twenty months ago, unionism pure and simple began to organize, making a total of six local unions, together with a central trades and labor assembly, are supported as follows: U. M. W. of A. L. U. N. B. A. Zinc Workers' Protective Association. Teamsters' Union. Clerks' Union. Federal Labor Union.

About one-quarter of the brickmakers belong to the union, and three-quarters of the 200 zinc workers; the rest are thoroughly organized. Unionism is on top, however, and controls the town. The above, together with the different nationalities, with religion peculiar to each, seasoned with middle class politics, go to make up the wall of the fort which the S. L. P. must bombard with shot and shell until it begins to crumble, before attention can even be obtained of those inside.

The religions are: Two German churches of different types; two evangelical protestant of different tactics; two colored, with opposite views; one Russian, and a large catholic church—eight in all, and each one moves within itself socially, steeped in superstition out of sight. In the midst of this good, religious, temperance inhabited town, seventeen saloons are supported, and the proprietors thereof live fat. These are used during campaigns for votes in effect. Now the capstone on the wall is and has been for years the independent ticket in elections. The Section is at work doing all it can under the circumstances. It has but ten dues-paying members, but counts on eighteen class-conscious socialists; thirty-two in different party papers—come here weekly; 100 of the May Day issue of the New York People was distributed. The Section is represented in membership by Germany, France, Italy, Bohemia, Sweden, and the Yankee, with a few others, all things considered. The members all belong to unionism pure and simple, and are considered good members thereof. We are looked upon as moral men and good citizens—in short, we answer to the standard of men—in all except politics; in this all the forces above mentioned fight us a way, but will not meet us before the public. Everything in the town has been challenged to public debate—the lawyer, preacher, priest, professor, mayor, and Labor leaders, all decline. Everybody knows we are here (and that to stay, too), for we make the fact known. The Section meets every other Sunday in the afternoon. The public is invited, pamphlets are scattered, containing subjects for discussion. Pamphlets of all kinds are distributed weekly from door to door. Good speakers have been here well advertised, but it has always resulted in but a handful to talk to. Picnics, mass meetings and lunches occur frequently in which speakers are obtained. We used to work in a speaker on them, but it don't go now. Last Fourth of July and Labor Day Comrade Fry of St. Louis was the speaker of the day. On the 22d of February Comrade Peeling of St. Louis spoke to a crowded hall. We have two local speakers, who get a chance once in a while, our organizer and the writer, but attention seems impossible to obtain, the movement is treated with utter contempt, "stay away from the d-d socialists," is the watch word. Our position is first, last and all the time this: "They that are not for us are against us, and any one who desires to meet us on twenty-four hours' notice, we will discuss publicly any phase of the question."

Our first candidates were two aldermen in the 3d and 8th wards last spring a year ago, polling 7 and 22 votes. The same wards this spring received 7 and 11 votes. We put up but one candidate last fall, namely for congress. He received 138 votes in six counties, running 37 ahead of the ticket. Of these 114 was in this (Madison) county. The same comrade polled 15 votes for supervisor in this township this spring. We are by no means discouraged, for we know, being a class-conscious band, linked to and a part of a world-wide class-conscious movement that victory is sure. Though we be last on record, we shall share in the benefits of those who lead the way, for the first shall be last and the last shall be the first.

WILL W. COX.

Cheering Words.

Wichita, Kan., May 25th, 1899. To The Workers' Call:

I have received a few copies of the Call and have just finished reading the issue just mentioned is full of thought paper would hardly express it. The issue just mentioned is full of thought making food. The editorials are especially to the point: "Salvation Army Philanthropy" a keen-edged sword in laying out the lick-spittle methods of the lackeys of our capitalist masters. Your "Call for Hustlers" I like. It is the good solid ring of the long suffering, whole-hearted socialist in it that is the inspiration of the hardest workers and gives the clear cut lines of the party which is not so broad as to have no lines of distinction, yet is broad enough to hold all that great class known as the disinherited—that class which does not know enough to carry on an enterprise, but yet could "carry a message to Garcia" without first asking where he was at. "A first mate with a knotted club seems necessary; and the dread of getting the bounce on Saturday night holds many a worker in his place." Ye gods! What things do run loose in the upper story of some empty shells on legs. The fear of the bounce is all the incentive I know of at this stage of the game that keeps any worker at his post, so long as there are not masters enough to go around. For a wage-slave to lose his master now means trampdom pure and simple. The semblance of a man that will uphold and pity the employing or robber class at this stage of the game is either

a fool or a knave. The highwayman that holds up his victim at the point of a gun is more honorable than our "captains of industry." I am a woodworker by trade; have spent the best years of my life as a wage-worker, and now I get discharged because I am an agitator for socialism. The company said I did my work all O K and that I was a nice fellow all right, but that my agitation for socialism HURT THEIR BUSINESS.

What is that you say? Haven't we been taught all along that the interests of capital and labor was one? But here is a company that says socialism hurts their business!

Fellow workmen, it is not about time we unite on our own class lines, for our own interests, and give these worthy masters of ours a much needed rest? We can readily see that with the machinery we have made and given to them, which enables them to get along, by working our wives, sons and daughters, and making us tramps, that one has nothing in common with that one, the other must finish. Which will it be?

We have the labor power, the will and the brains. Why not turn the tables and, say, we need you now. I am sure we will, and that by and through the reading room is good and aided by the S. T. & L. A., which is the school that shows up the schemes of our misleaders, or the capitalist decoy decoy ducks, known as "fakirs," or by C. T. and S. T. R. R. steers, see? I am fraternally yours, A FAKIR SMASHER.

California.

San Jose, Cal., May 29.

Mr. Editor: The progress of the movement in California is very rapid, cheering reports are received each week from the north and from the south. At a municipal election just held in Stockton an average of 200 votes were cast for the S. L. P. ticket, a gain of 100 per cent since November last. State Organizer Comrade Harriman is doing glorious work in the southern part of the state.

We have just received our new-chapter granted to Section Santa Clara County and will now get to work to thoroughly organize the county before November, 1900. Branch San Jose has a hundred members, holds Progressive meetings every Sunday and business meetings every Wednesday. It maintains a headquarters and free reading room. The latter is well stocked with all the party papers in the several languages, and other socialist literature. The free distribution of party papers, with thousands of leaflets, platforms, manifestos and back date party papers. A large stock of socialist literature, also tobacco, cigars, etc., is on sale, the revenue from which materially aids in keeping up the expenses. The attendance at the reading room is good and outsiders are dropping in now as they learn our location and purpose. We welcome visiting comrades and sympathizers to our headquarters situated in Music Hall building, 22 North First street.

Fraternally, Oscar M. Gibbs, Sec.

Will You Help?

Only six more weeks in which to get those ten thousand subscribers. But we are going to have them, if our subscribers who really want to help along the cause of socialism take hold in as good shape as they have for the past two weeks. Just remember the offers we are making. Four copies three months for a quarter. You can surely use that many and help to spread the news; then, if you really love your liberty one dollar's worth, you can become a power for socialism by investing one dollar in twenty copies every week for three months. These offers we shall not agree to keep open more than a few weeks longer, as they are intended only to get subscribers.

To Sections we will sell bundles of one hundred or more per week at 50 cents a hundred. If you cannot afford to take a hundred each week, but will send us \$2.50 in advance, we will send you forty copies every week for three months. All bundle orders must be at the office by Tuesday of the week in which they are wanted.

We are in these offers trying a new plan in the circulation of party papers. We propose to put bundle orders at cost and then depend upon the wide circulation thus secured to get us subscribers to carry the paper. In this way a very large agitation for socialism is carried at very low cost. But to continue this we must have the co-operation of all socialists. Will you not give us a lift with a club from your locality?

Liebkecht's Socialism.

In response to wide-spread and numerous requests, Mrs. May Wood Simons' translation of the pamphlet by William Liebkecht on "Socialism, What It Is and What It Seeks to Accomplish," which ran through the first four numbers of this paper, has been placed in pamphlet form. It is neatly bound in strong manilla covers, with a portrait of the author and an introduction by the translator, and is for sale at this office for 10 cents each.

It is safe to say that there is no one pamphlet in the English language that is to be compared with this for a general accurate discussion of the German socialist movement, and a scientific but easily understood explanation of the socialist philosophy. It consists of two speeches by the great German leader, one in May, 1875, upon the Gotha platform adopted at that time, and the other upon the present Erfurt programme of 1891. Both platforms are given and a thorough discussion of the principles involved. The document is valuable historically, as showing the early influence of LaSalle and the later dropping of that influence and the introduction of the present clear-cut position that is so rapidly carrying our German comrades to a glorious victory.

A new civilizing agent has just been introduced into the German army, in the shape of a self-acting revolver capable of dispensing the blessings of a Christian civilization at the rate of ten doses a second and with a sphere of humanizing influence one mile in diameter. Its arguments are so penetrating that in a recent missionary trial it penetrated clear through one corpse at 1,000 feet and part way through another.

Are YOU still hustling for subscribers?

RUSKIN

An Analysis of the Colony Idea.

The People of this week has an article by Com. Julian Pierce, of Washington, on the Ruskin Colony, and a pretty story it makes. We would especially commend it to those who have been abusing the S. L. P. papers and speakers for being too "severe" on the Ruskin colonists.

Here we have the entire story in cold print, supported by irrefutable evidence. Much of the article has been common knowledge before this, but never, has it been so thoroughly summarized as in the article by Comrade Pierce. Here it is shown how Wayland, now of The Appeal to Reason, duped the public first and the colonists second with worthless land. Then there was the Ruskin "College of the New Economy" which succeeded in obtaining \$20,23 more out of a confiding public, and is now but a beautiful dream.

One of the most interesting "exhibits" is a statement issued in The Coming Nation of July, 1897, giving the following figures: Assets when incorporated... \$18,040.99 Assets Jan. 1, 1896... 23,114.54 Assets Jan. 1, 1897... 60,109.95 This statement is signed by the same names that are appended to an affidavit last month to the effect that there "are no funds in the treasury," and that the colony has "no money to pay off debts."

Among the signers of these interesting documents is A. S. Edwards, now editor of the Social-Democratic Herald. These same precious individuals who five years ago were calling upon sympathetic enthusiasts all over the country to help establish a "socialist community," now file a sworn affidavit to the effect that "this corporation was impracticable in its conception, and is now manifestly incapable of execution."

But this is not all. In January, 1899, Allen Fields, president of the Ruskin Co-operative Association published a sworn financial statement in which the assets are given as \$94,072.19, and liabilities practically nothing. Now they are about to be sold out for liabilities of \$15,000.

On May 6th The Coming Nation issued a statement that they had never been more prosperous. Along with this statement was printed some insulting remarks about the editor of The Workers' Call, who had dared to intimate that the financial condition of Ruskin was not perfect, and a marked copy was mailed us for fear we might not see it in the regular exchange copy. Two weeks later this same paper comes out in a despairing wail for \$15,000 to save them from dissolution.

Oh, these are all "honorable men," and we ought not to be so "severe" on them. We should not "abuse" them. Poor fellows, we can do no better than give the conclusion of Comrade Pierce's article here:

The history of one colony is the history of all. The rise and the collapse of Ruskin is a type of the rise and the collapse of all other utopian schemes to revolutionize modern society on a small scale and behind its back. We have no objection to gentlemen forming a partnership for private profit, but we have serious objections to their labelling that partnership "socialism," and appealing to socialists to support them in their efforts either to live up to a social principle or to secure for themselves a competence.

Colonization has never been a principle of socialism. The international movement has not only never indorsed it, but has, on the contrary, at all times and in all cases, proclaimed its fallacies. The reason is evident. The first place, a co-operative colony of the Ruskin type differs but little from other business undertakings. If ten persons put in \$500 apiece and start a paper, two doing the editing, two the reporting, and the other six, with the agreement that after each has received enough of the proceeds to pay his living expenses, the profit, if there be any, shall be devoted to enlarging the business so that the company can make more profit, would that company be an experiment in socialism? Certainly not—no more than would be any other partnership. Yet when ten or a dozen people migrate to the backwoods somewhere and start exactly the same kind of a business, that business is labelled socialism by the calumniators of socialism. Ruskin has never been anything else but a manufacturing concern. They have conducted a manufacturing business on a small scale and have competed in the market for the sale of their products on just the same principle as any other corporation competes. They have bought where they could buy the cheapest, and have sold where they could sell the dearest.

Socialism is that social condition of society that will exist when we have the collective ownership and co-operative operation of all the means of production by all the people, and for all the people, with complete political control of the same from the municipality to the nation. The co-operative colony is the collective ownership by a few people of a few of the means of production and none of the means of distribution. It is without economic power to hold its own in the field of competition, and without political power to enforce its decrees.

The co-operative colony is not socialism—it is not even an experiment in socialism: IT IS A DENIAL OF SOCIALISM, and, with few exceptions, where the members have been held together by religious ties, it has been driven out of existence by the superior economic force of private capitalist production.

Socialism is broader than a colony. It is broader than a municipality. It is broader than a state. The nation itself is the smallest unit for the proper development of the co-operative commonwealth; for the nation is supreme. Even though a municipality be controlled by socialists, that municipality is still under the domination of a capitalist nation. But when the political power of the nation is controlled by the socialists, socialism is supreme. The nation has no superior. It is sovereign, and it is alone, in the instrument whereby the co-operative commonwealth can be realized.

JULIAN PIERCE, Washington, D. C.

Are you going to send in a club to The Workers' Call this week?

IDAHO MINERS.

Denounce and Defy General Merriam's Authority.

The mandate of General Merriam, that no more union miners shall be employed in the mines of Idaho, is unquestionably the greatest usurpation of civil rights by military power that has yet taken place in the United States. Socialists are well aware that there is a wide-spread capitalist conspiracy to dominate the masses of this country by military force. The capitalist class has long been perfecting the scheme to force its will upon the people, and the mandate of General Merriam may be considered the first open act in the drama to be inaugurated. Things have reached a pretty pass when an army officer, to all intents and purposes a servant of the law, should attempt to Russinize a large section of the country by an autocratic act in conflict with all our national traditions. The quietness of the capitalist press upon this outrageous assumption of power by General Merriam is a strong evidence that his act has the complete sanction of the capitalist class.

That an army officer, when called upon by the civil power, has the right to suppress a riot and protect life and property will not be questioned by the most radical, and trades unionists have no more right than others to create a disturbance. But the presumption is far fetched that all the trouble of Idaho was caused by the union miners, and the mandate denying them the right to a chance to earn a living if they organize into a union to protect their interests, is in perfect harmony with the widespread conspiracy to also disfranchise the workers, depriving them of the political power necessary to redress grievances.

We consider it fortunate that this experiment in autocracy should have first been tried upon the miners. We know the miners pretty well, and no class, properly led, are more capable of making a stubborn resistance to any encroachment upon their rights. The Western Miners' Federation, in session at Salt Lake City, have already "passed the buck" to General Merriam and his co-partners in autocracy in a set of resolutions defying that military despot. The general has stirred up the wrong horns' nest this time:

"Resolved, That the industrial conditions are bad enough when it is necessary for men who are willing to labor to ask permission of those who have means for employment to have the privilege to work to maintain their families, but when it becomes necessary also to secure permission from the military authorities before the right to work is secured, we believe we have arrived at a condition of despotism that augurs ill for the future welfare of the people, and we denounce, in the strongest terms at our command, such assumption of power and dictation as General Merriam and his co-workers have arrogated to themselves; further

"Resolved, that we appeal to the organized wage earners of the west to stand firm under the present crisis for the protection of their homes, wives, children and dependents against the aggression of organized capital and greed as illustrated by the tyranny of military government in the Coeur d'Alenes, for if such things are to be allowed to go unchecked, liberty will soon be forever lost.

"Resolved, That we stigmatize the order of General Merriam and the civil authorities that men seeking employment in the mines of this district "must renounce membership in the Miners' Unions" to be worthy only of a despotic ruler, and declare that the miners' union had nothing whatever to do with the destruction of the Bunker Hill mill and will defend its right of organization.

"Resolved, By the seventh annual convention of the Western Federation of Miners that we pledge the full strength, financial aid and moral aid, of the Western Federation of Miners of America, backed by the Western Labor Union and every national and subordinate labor organization on this continent, to support, maintain and defend our fellow citizens and brother miners now in prison as being illegally and unjustly coerced by the inquisition of arrogated military authority in violation of the provisions of the constitution of these United States, which holds that the civil law is supreme and above all military assumption; therefore be it further

"Resolved by this convention that the executive board of this federation is hereby directed to employ the best legal counsel to be had in the land to defend our brother miners, now held incarcerated in the military prison in the Coeur d'Alenes, and to test in the civil courts the rights of any military despot to declare any local union of this federation to be an illegal and criminal body."—Class Struggle.

A telegram from Toledo says that only half a dozen out of 70 unions voted to send delegates to the "labor" convention in Columbus June 1. All the older unions—those of printers, cigarmakers, carpenters, etc.—turned down the Jones pluggers, and the few that will send delegates are mostly young unions and no doubt largely on paper. There will be a bona fide labor convention in Columbus, but it will be held by the Socialist Labor party on May 28. —Cleveland Citizen.

There is no surer way to spread the news of socialism than to place a good socialist paper in the hands of the unconverted. Just look over your pocket-book, now that prosperity has struck you, and see if you cannot afford to take advantage of our four-copies-for-three-months-for-one-dollar offer. If you then hand these to your friends and neighbors you will soon have fellow socialists for company.

UTOPIANISM

(Continued from page 1.)

to guide the classes out of the path of their natural expression of social dominance.

After this survey of Utopian thought we come at last to socialism—not the dream of nobles, not a Utopia of sentimentalists and philanthropists, but a philosophy, based upon history and guided by economic reasoning. It is not the socialism of a Bellamy, which is an anachronism of Utopian literature, but a theory of economic development which observes the growth of democracy beyond the lines of politics and into the lines of economics.

In order to gain a clear conception of socialism we must sketch hastily the development of the present capitalist class and its antithetic class the proletariat. We must do this in order to fairly represent socialism because scientific socialism is indissolubly linked with economic evolution—that is to say with facts.

From the 5th century up to 1760 social processes which ended in capitalism were slowly but significantly active. Before and during all this period industry was in that stage of development called the Domestic System. The tools and the land were in the possession of the laborer. It was, literally speaking, a period of manufacture—that is, a making by hand. Where wages were paid, which was very exceptional, they were usually confined to that class of workers, serving as apprentices. The tools were simple but efficient withal to produce an entire article. Weaving, shoe-making, tailoring were the trade lines. A simple worker made all of a pair of shoes, from the soiling to sewing on the buckle. Production was therefore simple in the extreme and the question of the ownership of the product was undisputed. The product by right of production belonged to the producer. The primitive custom of barter and exchange between the producer and consumer was simple and equitable. The shoemaker and the tailor exchanged wares and the farmer exchanged with both. A capitalist was an anomaly, if we do not include all workmen, even in the most harmless sense. When he existed at all he was as a rule a master workman and worked at the same bench with fellow laborers. He held no class distinction from that of his employees and it is recorded that apprentices frequently married the daughter of the employers. Despite the fact that production was on the whole meagre and paltry the situation was very natural and quite admirable.

The peasants working upon the farms were the remnants of the old feudal serfs. However, they had many rights, as well as wrongs, some of them of a very manly character. Not infrequently they owned their own homes, produced on allotted land their own food, and grazed upon common lands, their own cattle.

By the forces of human development these things were not permitted to remain long when once those forces became active. Evictions consequent upon the inclosures of the land for various reasons became the tyrannous custom of the landlords, and from the 15th century up to the 19th the most deplorable hardships fell upon the outraged peasants robbed thus of their freeholds. The process of land enclosures reached its climax in the period from 1760 to 1800.

The years about 1760 were notable for more reasons than the one of peasant evictions. It was during this time that the beginnings were made in all those economic tendencies which culminate in the monopolistic production of today. The genius of Watt, Arkwright, Hargreaves, and others by the invention of machinery and by the application to it of steam transformed the tools of the laborer until, as it has been said, "they produced beyond the wildest dreams of former days." Soon the nations saw dotted all over their land small and large factories flourishing with multitudes of laborers. There is no great service in mentioning the awful slaughter of men, women and children caused by the crises, wars, riots, and massacres incident to this silent industrial revolution. Those things are not to be emphasized in history when the sufferings are the agonies of the laborers and the poor. It serves quite enough to forget those awful days of the dawn of the 19th century.

The growth of factories regulated by the pulse of profits, law of supply and demand, followed the genius of great captains of industry. Consolidations among the greatest producers grew apace and small producers were sucked into the vortex of pools and trusts and destroyed. Competition and anarchy, wedded in production, periodically gave birth to an abortion called over-production. After each crisis the capitalists were sifted as coal in a sieve, dust and small coals, slipping through into the ranks of the proletariat. Each day of commercial and industrial crises added wealth to the wealthy. Then pools became trusts, and trusts in turn monopolies. Crises are the milestones of great aggregations of capital and the tombstones of the small. Controllers of large resources by strong organizations among themselves reinforced each other. The battle was between the larger and smaller capitalists. Fewer and stronger grew the largest capitalists; fewer and weaker grew the small producers. The proletariat grew steadily to enormous size and of unknown strength. Slowly society resolved itself into two classes, the capitalist and the proletariat, the master and the slave.

Every advance of capitalism adds recruits to the proletariat. As the middle class disappears it is almost wholly absorbed into the wage-working class. The management and control of industry is given over to the proletariat. Great skill from the colleges, trade-

schools, etc., give to the capitalist the crew for his ship of industry; as the crew become thoroughly skilled the capitalists become wholly confident of their absolute ability to propel and guide the ship of industry. Little by little the sphere of action narrows for the capitalist until he becomes an absolute parasite upon the laborers of others. A class-consciousness is awakened in the workers which brings irresistibly to the heart of every worker a sense of pride as a producer, a sense of shame as a wage-slave. Slowly a knowledge grows into their common consciousness that from the highest producer to the lowest there is one common interest, the interest of common slaves against their master, the interest of workers robbed of these products against the idle robber. Slowly growing as this feeling is the producer, the proletariat, meanwhile becomes daily more and more and control of industry.

The word of socialism to all of this is, "Observe the growth and prophecy the result." There is no necessity for haste. The industrial revolution which destroyed the domestic system of industry did not hurry. Socialism says, when a complete solidarity of interest is aroused in the producers against the non-producers, whatever is wanted can be had by an exercise of the ballot. The democracy of the ballot will bring about the democracy of property.

Such are the tactics of socialism. For some time to come every day of delay is a day of gain, since both production and the producers are being trained in the very best way for the advent of socialism.

What, therefore, will socialism be? No human being knows. Those socialists who are Utopian will attempt to tell you—but no one knows. The international party of socialists, numbering about 30,000,000 strong, and growing, with a steady conviction of the right and the might on their side, have their programme of social reconstruction. The central thought of it is an abolition of all private property. The means of production, the tools, land, machines, and factories will be taken in the hands of the workers represented in the state and utilized for the benefit of all workers. In other words, the programme of this workers' party is for the proletariat, by political dominance, to socialize all forms of production; to substitute a system of collective capital for the present system of private capital, which now necessitates anarchy in production, a reserve army of unemployed, constantly recurring crises, and, worst of all, a great majority of mankind in a condition of wage slavery. The socialists would continue the present social form of production—that is, the general lines of industrial development, but with the change of ownership from the hands of the few into the hands of the workers. This system of individual distribution would be superseded naturally by a social distribution for the great benefit of the workers.

In conclusion it is significant to compare the on-coming revolution for the welfare of mankind with the pitiless relentless revolution of the first days of this century. The slikeness of capitalism has brought more misery, with its silent, peaceful revolutions, than the bullets of a thousand wars. Besides the agonies of a revolution we suffer the hunger of disinherence and of unpaid toil. And yet we who have seen this revolution shudder at the thought of socialists and their revolutionary tendencies. We shudder at the thought of fighting wrong with a blow. And yet better a revolution bloody and long than a slavery of mankind. Blame not the slave. Lay censure where it belongs—and if you pray, pray God that His mercy will see the great heart of the common people strong enough to fight and tender enough to inflict no wanton cruelties.

Then with Walt Whitman we shall sing:

I hear America singing the varied carols I hear
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong,
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank and beam,
The mason, singing as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deck hand singing on the steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the plough boy's on his way in the morning, or at noon intermission, or at sun-down,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him to her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day—at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.

The German socialist singing societies are to have a meeting in Milwaukee from the 1st to the 4th of July next. In preparation for this the Chicago representatives will hold a picnic on the 11th of June at Excelsior Park, on the corner of Irving Park boulevard and Elston avenue. All their friends are cordially invited to be present.

The Russians are prosecuting work night and day at Port Arthur. The harbor has been dredged to accommodate ships drawing twenty feet of water.

An urgent telegram has been received from Governor Jao Kashgarin stating that Russian smugglers have been caught smuggling firearms to the Mohammedan rebels. The governor asks for 15,000 men. —Associated Press Dispatch.

Who said the czar was not the great and only peace advocate? But to paraphrase the Russian proverb, "Heaven is high and the peace conference a long way off" from China.

TRUSTS

(Continued from page 1.)

petition, and the profits to be distributed in the same way. So far no one is injured, and everything is lovely; but it did not take a genius to discover that this combination, which had stopped competition among its members, was a tremendous weapon for competition with outsiders. Having eliminated all the wastes mentioned, they were able to sell much cheaper than those smaller firms who were still outside. They bought their raw material cheaper, had a better view of the markets of the world, utilized waste products to greater advantage, subdivided labor further, introduced better machines, and in every way improved and perfected production until they were easily able to wipe off the earth those smaller firms who were still producing in the old wasteful manner. THE TRUST BECAME UPON THE MANAGING SIDE OF INDUSTRY WHAT THE MACHINE HAD BEEN UPON THE MECHANICAL SIDE. It was a new system of production which vastly increased its power over nature; but, owing to the system of private property in the instruments of production and distribution this benefit was shared by only a few at the expense of the great mass of society.

As the trust grew in size, it soon found that there were many points in which its internal organization could be improved so as to make its position more stable and its effectiveness much greater. Many of these were pointed out to it by the silly efforts at repression by law, which forced the weaker organizations out of existence and left only the largest and most effective ones alive. Incidentally this is a good illustration of the way middle-class muddledom usually operates when it gets into power—it simply speeds up and greases the machine that is crushing its members. As soon as a form of organization had been perfected which would withstand the legislative attacks of the small fry who were annoying the great capitalists at times, but whom it was not desirable to hit too hard politically, because they were always valuable as stool pigeons to lure the laboring vote on, the process of trustification went on at a lightning speed. But before we go further it is well to examine the social conditions that helped in the recent rapid growth of trustification.

There are times during which consolidation goes on with accelerated speed. We are just in the midst of one of these. The crisis of 1894-98 was simply a means to clear the way. As has been frequently pointed out in these columns, the investigations of Lucien Sanial, of New York, has shown that of all the failures that took place during the above period, 88 per cent were of the firms with less than \$5,000 capital, 97 per cent with less than \$20,000, while only a quarter of one per cent had over \$50,000 capital. In 1897 this process was still going on at such a rate that nearly 250,000 firms disappeared during the year. The ground being thus cleared of rubbish, the process of erection of great combinations could go on undisturbed.

There is no need to point out the rapidity with which that process has gone on. Everyone has seen and heard little else for the last few months than details of "terrible epidemics of trusts," which we were at present passing through.

The class of small producers are frightened almost to death at the prospect before them. They are organizing innumerable conventions, committees, etc., to discuss their predicament, yet they carefully exclude from their discussions the only class of people who have ever made anything that could be called a scientific study of the thing of which they claim to be seeking an explanation. In many cases this is undoubtedly the work of designing politicians. To a Jones, an Altgeld, a Pingree or a Bryan, the entrance of the socialists would mean instant death to all their most cherished hopes. Hence we can easily understand their attitude in this direction. With others, if they but knew it, their only hope lies through the class of despised socialists. But so carefully has their poor, scraggy capitalist class-consciousness been cultivated that they really feel an innate repugnance to anything so terribly plebeian as socialism, and so go cringing and fawning at the feet of the stool pigeons of their oppressors, and then meekly wonder why they are not led out of the bondage of Egypt. One scarcely knows whether kicking, contempt or pity is the proper treatment for those whose snobbish servility is allowed to obscure their intelligence until they invite to address them and hang upon their words as if they were inspired, the very ones who are leading them on to destruction.

The politicians were not slow to catch the significance of this new movement. They saw a great popular prejudice upon which they could play—an unreasoning terror that was driving whole masses of voters hither and thither in search of protection. One after another the old line politicians have been getting into line. Some few who saw the point earlier than others (the Altgelds, Joneses, Pingrees, et al.), are now much envied by their less clear-sighted rivals. A good illustration of this process is seen in the following extracts from W. J. Bryan's speeches which were published in the Chicago Times-Herald of the 27th inst.:

"I do not believe the youngest child within my hearing will live to see the 16 to 1 plank taken out of the Chicago platform."—Speech at Quincy, Ill., last Tuesday afternoon.

"I am sure of one thing, and that is that silver will not be relegated out of sight."—Extract from interview at St. Louis last Thursday afternoon.

"The trust issue will be ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT of the

issues."—Extract from signed statement at St. Louis yesterday.

On every hand the "trust" is the latest bugaboo with which to scare the voter into the capitalist net. All the old capitalist political stool pigeons are singing in concert, "The great big trust! Get ye if ye don't watch out!"

The socialist, on the contrary, simply points out the inevitable character of the trust, its desirability as a method of conducting business, and the foolishness of attempting any opposition to it. But he does not stop there. He goes on to show how it is the last step in a course of evolution that is to end in the entire abolition of monopoly under private control by the establishment of the rule of labor and the co-operative commonwealth. He points out that under the trust the functions of ownership and management are completely separated; that the owners of trust certificates may not even know the nature of the industry from which they derive their income or the location of the factories they "manage," and in many cases they receive an income because their factories do not run. The socialist calls attention to the fact that the trust completes the division of society into two far separated classes—the producers and the idlers, the laborers and the capitalists, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. He shows how the trust makes production completely social, while distribution is individual with almost all the product going to those who produce nothing but own all. He explains how these divergent class interests are such that the great mass of people will be compelled to use their political power to save their economic existence. Then instead of calling upon those who have the political majority to use their power to batter their brains out by legislating against the inevitable and the desirable, he demands that they use that political power to overthrow the owners of the trusts and to put in power those who must use the trusts and produce wealth with them.

He seeks to vest the ownership, which is now but a power of oppression and class domination, in the hands of those who are now oppressed and then making all persons members of that class to raise all to the level of producers. He would thus provide access to the marvelous powers of production furnished by these improved commercial machines as well as the perfected mechanical ones for all who wished to produce. He would make them instruments for the good of all instead of for the oppression of the many by the few. He says that since the ownership now requires no intelligence, no initiative, but is purely a passive function and a means of controlling distribution it should certainly be vested in those who create the product that they may decide upon the manner in which what they produce shall be distributed.

BENEVOLENT GREED.

Cuba the Next Country in Line to Be Civilized.

What intellectual acrobats the capitalist editors must be. At one time the Cubans were a brave, intelligent, oppressed people calling for deliverance, and so Dewey was sent to Manila to free them. Then they were lazy, worthless hounds who fought and breathed only for what "there was in it." Then they grew intelligent and Brookes was making a marvelous government out for them. But through it all the farce has been kept up that the United States was really going to "withdraw" as soon as a stable government was established. But now the mask is thrown off and Herbert P. Williams, in the June Atlantic Monthly raises the "responsibility" cry and says:

Are we to learn nothing by experience? Have we a right to wash our hands of a responsibility which we assumed not only voluntarily but aggressively and in a march away from that powder magazine, when we know beyond a reasonable doubt that there are those who only wait for our departure to fire it? Europe has already taken it for granted (unofficially) that we are in Cuba to stay. Putting aside the enormous expense and the disturbance connected with moving our troops away from Cuba and then sending them back, are we called upon to put Cuba at the mercy of a half-barbarous rabble, with the inevitable result of having to go back there in force, reconquer the island, and do all over again the splendid work of the last year?

He declares that there is a strong sentiment for annexation, but the Chicago Tribune really lets the "cat out of the bag" when it sums up his position on this point as follows:

While he thinks a plebiscite on the subject would probably result in a majority against American rule, it would be a majority of the irresponsibles. Every man of property as well as every merchant or shopkeeper is an earnest advocate of American control.

That no intelligent man has any faith in Cuban self-government is shown in a curious and convincing way. There are miles and miles of rich land that can be bought today for prices ranging from 15 cents to \$12 an acre, yet nobody ventures to buy it; for, cheap as most of the land is now, it would be worthless if Cuba were to be handed over to its inhabitants. Americans in Cuba must be thoroughly convinced of this, or they would not neglect such an opportunity. Mr. Williams says the same is true of the business chances; capital fears the experiment of Cuban control.

That settles it. If "capital fears the experiment of Cuban control" it will never come for capital rules, there is here, and is the only interest to be considered.

In a Connecticut lawsuit to recover damages for the loss of a laborer's life in a railroad accident, the lawyers for the railroad advanced the plea that if the death was instantaneous and therefore unattended with pain, only nominal damages could be recovered. To this view of the law the court assented, and the damages were fixed at \$16.

Railroads in Connecticut will therefore take notice that when killing friendly laborers they may find it to their pecuniary advantage to make the death instantaneous and painless.—The Public.

"The trust issue will be ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT of the

A TOUCHING APPEAL.

With Suggested Alterations From Socialist Standpoint.

The following is the climax of Senator Davis' recent appeal for the United States to go out and "civilize" the Philippines:

"I appeal to all the forces of civilization, those forces which by some occult and powerful influence have for 300 years moved the West to the East, which sent the British into India to the infinite advantage of the Indian people, and which for the last twenty years has sent European nations into Africa, a continent larger than North and South America, and which in the process of time will redound to the interests of humanity, Christianity and civilization—an influence which has taken Madagascar, an influence which is in the process of extending its spheres of influence over China, however cruel and unjustifiable may be the incidents which have led to these influences which we know, looking over the history of the last 500 years, in the process of time will conduce to a better Christianity and a higher civilization than those countries have ever yet seen for they have seen none at all of either."

We would respectfully suggest the following amendments in order that its premises may accord with existing facts:

"I appeal to all the forces of capitalism, those forces which by virtue of the powerful influence of greed, have for two hundred years forced its hellish influence upon every nation of the world, which sent England into India to blow Sepoys from the muzzles of cannon, and bring famine and scurvy to curse its people, which sent Cecil Rhodes into Africa and plundered the villages, tortured and hung the men and outraged the women of that country; which is today inciting rebellion, murder and rapine in China that the blood of its citizens may be coined into dollars; which has made of every country it has entered an inferno; which in every great city has packed human beings together in foul abodes of horrors that breed pestilence and disease which has dragged the wives and children of every race it has touched from the cradle and the home to sweat their flesh into profits for its rulers; which drives men to the road, women to the brothel and children to the grave—in the holy name of Mammonism I call upon you to go forth to the gathering of yet greater profits, to the exploitation of yet more victims, to the creation of yet greater hells."

Entire Town Out of a Job.

Crested Butte, Col., May 29.—The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company has closed its coal mines at this place and indefinitely throwing 300 men out of employment. The mine, which is one of the principal properties owned by the company, was the sole support of the town, and unless work is resumed soon great suffering must ensue. Officers of the company say their reason for closing the mine is that they can produce coal more cheaply at other mines. — Daily News.

This is another proof of the truth enunciated by the class-conscious laborers that it matters not to the capitalist what the form or policy of a government is, be it republican, democratic, on a silver or gold basis, because he produces not for "use," but for "profit." Therefore (as in the above article), when the cost of production is too high to leave him large enough dividends, he closes up his mines (or business), and signs up, "No Trespassing," and he goes and does business with those who have a better investment. He does not go into anything for fun. He must produce as cheap as possible, and above all, always sell at a profit. If labor can not be bought cheap, then the machine must take the place of labor. It is stated that unless work is soon resumed great suffering must ensue. This shows what prosperous times they must have had while engaged. They are now left in such a condition that there is no getting out of the "little hell" in which they dwell. No doubt they would be glad to freight out while the profit mongers ride in Pullman palace cars to make better investment, and leave greater hells behind. (Communicated.)

Mayor Jones and the S. L. P.

Over two weeks ago the following appeared in an interview as the statement of Mayor Jones:

"I can't tell at all how that will be. Something will undoubtedly be done by the socialist labor party with regard to a nominee. When the republican convention meets in Toledo, June 1, the socialist labor party will present a statement of its principles, asking for the endorsement of the convention. If the endorsement is not given, as it probably will not be, and if the democrats treat us in the same way later, an effort might be made to run an independent ticket, although that, too, is uncertain."

It is as a great bundle of lies as ever were combined in the same number of words. It has been copied from one end of this country to the other. Mayor Jones must have seen it repeatedly. He knew its falseness. His paper has had two issues since. But not one word of explanation or denial. Will some of the "highly moral" socialists who follow him rather than the "materialistic and selfish" S. L. P. rise and explain.

Is it possible that he actually said it, or if he did not say it recognized it when it appeared as the shrewdest possible political untruth that could be circulated to help his cause. If he could but make the laborers of Ohio believe that the S. L. P. was a shift, compromising, bargain-driving crowd like the gang of vultures that follow Jones he would have discredited the only enemy that dared to attack him where he is really weakest. We will open our columns for any reply, but until we receive it we shall consider him as—and we weigh the words well—a lying political trickster masquerading under the name of morality.

REMEMBER YOU HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT FOR JULY 9TH, at 123d and Michigan Ave.—Gardner's Park—Picnic for the benefit of The Workers' Call.

Belgium.

'Never was a strike more orderly, more systematic or better managed than the present coal strike in Belgium. In this fact lies the great strength of the miners. The tone of the following manifesto issued today shows the calm spirit in which the workmen's party has taken up the struggle:

"The general council, the authorized representative of the working classes in Belgium, has decided to support you in the struggle. They give you the assistance of the press, the propagators, the deputies of the workmen's party and all the moral influence they possess. Miners, your cause is a just one! It is holy. You have with you all the wage-winners of Belgium, who are awaiting with anxiety the result of this struggle, and who follow you with their good wishes. You have not only these, however, but a great portion of the bourgeoisie with you, who are disgusted at the unwarrantable, unjustifiable attitude of the mining companies. Miners, do not depart from the splendid, calm attitude which you have assumed and which is astonishing the whole country. Be united, disciplined. Be all as one man from one end of the country to the other and you shall win. This has created a profound impression. The Belgian miners mean business, but in their own calm way. The funds of the workmen's party are large and swelling every day, and the mining companies are beginning to think of compromise. They have, however, decided to institute suits against all the members of the mining federation for breach of contract, as an attempt at intimidation. But it is said that the workmen's party will pay all costs and damages if any be awarded. Antwerp, April 27.—Chicago Record.

We would call the attention of the American public to the fact that the above item is a capitalist report of a socialist strike, and gives some idea of the manner in which labor disputes are fought when directed by intelligence instead of fakirism.

Russian Famine.

London, May 27.—Appalling accounts of the famine in Russia continue to reach London. The Rev. Alexander Francis, pastor of the British-American Church in St. Petersburg and chairman of the Relief Fund committee, addresses today an appeal to the English people, and the Chronicle suggests opening a Lord Mayor's fund to collect subscriptions. Mr. Francis' letter bears out the information cabled to the World last Sunday that one million people are starving to death and that every donor of \$2 saves a life.

Scurvy, typhus fever, typhoid fever, and other diseases in their more aggravated form have broken out, and are rapidly spreading among the starving people. The mortality, especially among the children, is alarming.

Princess Lieven writes from the distressed Christopol district, eastern Russia: "I cannot imagine what they eat. Anything is looked upon as good enough to fill the stomach. Bad typhoid fever and scurvy in the most virulent form are the natural results of the bad and insufficient food. There is constant bleeding from the roof of the mouth, which is swollen, and the gums also bleed. The teeth get loose in their sockets. Open sores appear on the feet. Death comes from internal hemorrhage."

"About 70 cents is sufficient to buy food to keep up the strength of a man during a month. So little the money goes for! But thousands are to be fed and speedy help is needed, for people's lives are at stake."

At the rate mentioned how many lives would be saved if the expense of the grand stand act now being played at the Hague had been turned into food for the starving subjects of the czar.

Authorized Agents.

The following comrades are duly authorized agents for The Workers' Call and are entitled to receive money for subscriptions and advertisements.

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Socialist Labor Party OF THE United States. PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor Party of the United States, in Convention assembled, re-asserts the inalienable rights of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

With the founders of the American republic we hold that the purpose of government is to secure every citizen in the enjoyment of this right; but in the light of our social conditions we hold, furthermore, that no such right can be exercised under a system of economic inequality, essentially destructive of life, of liberty and of happiness.

With the founders of this republic we hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be owned and controlled by the whole people; but in the light of our industrial development we hold, furthermore, that the true theory of economics is that the machinery of production must likewise belong to the people in common.

To the obvious fact that our despotic system of economics is the direct opposite of our democratic system of politics can plainly be traced the existence of a privileged class, the corruption of government by that class, the alienation of public property, public franchises and public functions to that class, and the abject dependence of the mightiest of nations upon that class.

Again, through the perversion of Democracy to the ends of plutocracy, labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life. Human power and natural forces are thus wasted, that the plutocracy may rule.

Ignorance and misery, with all their concomitant evils, are perpetuated, that the people may be kept in bondage. Science and invention are diverted from their humane purpose to the enslavement of women and children.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party once more enters its protest. Once more it reiterates its fundamental declaration that private property in the natural sources of production and in the instruments of labor is the obvious cause of all economic servitude and political dependence.

The time is fast coming when, in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalistic combinations on the other hand, shall have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, and upon all other honest citizens, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class-conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them by taking possession of the public powers; so that, held together by an indomitable spirit of solidarity under the most trying conditions of the present class struggle, we may put a summary end to that barbarous struggle by the abolition of classes, the restoration of the land and of all the means of production, transportation and distribution to the people as a collective body, and the substitution of the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder; a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

IMMEDIATE DEMANDS. With a view to immediate improvement in the condition of labor we present the following demands: 1. Reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the progress of production. 2. The United States shall obtain possession of the railroads, canals, telegraphs, telephones and all other means of public transportation and communication; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under the control of the Federal government, but no employee shall be discharged for political reasons. 3. The municipalities shall obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, gas works, electric plants and all industries requiring municipal franchises; the employees to operate the same co-operatively under the control of the municipal administration and to elect their own superior officers, but no employees shall be discharged for political reasons. 4. The public lands declared inalienable. Revocation of all and grants to corporations or individuals, the conditions of which have not been complied with. 5. The United States to have the exclusive right to issue money. 6. Congressional legislation providing for the scientific management of forests and waterways, and prohibiting the waste of the natural resources of the country. 7. Inventions to be free to all; the inventors to be remunerated by the nation. 8. Progressive income tax and tax on inheritances; the smaller incomes to be exempt. 9. School education of all children under fourteen years of age to be compulsory, gratuitous and accessible to all by public assistance in meals, clothing, books, etc., where necessary. 10. Repeal of all paper, tramp, conspiracy and sumptuary laws. Unabridged right of combination. 11. Prohibition of the employment of children of school age and the employment of female labor in occupations detrimental to health or morality. Abolition of the convict labor system. 12. Employment of the unemployed by the public authorities (county, city, state and nation). 13. All wages to be paid in lawful money of the United States. Equalization of woman's wages with those of men where equal service is performed. 14. Laws for the protection of life and limb in all occupations, and an efficient employers' liability law. 15. The people to have the right to propose laws and vote upon all measures of importance, according to the referendum principle. 16. Abolition of the veto power of the executive (national, state and municipal) wherever it exists. 17. Abolition of the United States Senate and all upper legislative chambers. 18. Municipal self-government. 19. Direct vote and secret ballots in all elections. Universal and equal right of suffrage without regard to color, creed or sex. Election days to be legal holidays. The principle of proportional representation to be introduced. 20. All public officers to be subject to recall by their respective constituencies. 21. Uniform civil and criminal law throughout the United States. Administration of justice to be free of charge. Abolition of capital punishment.

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