

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

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PRICE ONE CENT.

FOOLS AND SLAVES

Hard Names But Well Deserved
By Many.

ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?

Do You Do Your Own Thinking or Is
Your Brain Run By Someone
Else? Think It Over.

More and more as one works in socialist propaganda does the inefficiency of any ideologic work press upon him unless it is aided by material interest. Even when it is so aided that material interest must be of the clearest possible kind to really give point to the truths advanced. Most disgusting of all is the almost asinine stupidity with which persons whom the present system is rapidly crushing to death or who have already passed through the mill and stand stripped of their last possession still humbly kneel and kiss the foot that kicked them.

It seems difficult to believe that whole bodies of men can be found who are standing naked and helpless before a system that has ruined their every aspiration, closed every avenue of opportunity to their children, condemned them to live lives of helpless toil or at the most given them a few of the simplest comforts of life as a reward for unceasing slavery, in the midst of a civilization that were its energies but used could give everyone all the luxuries desired by mind or body, but who raise their hands in holy horror at the suggestion of the abolition or change of that system, or worse yet refuse even to listen to any indictment or explanation. When the history of the rise and fall of capitalism is written the central point of the great tragedy will be the helpless long-continued idiocy of its victims who all the time had the power of changing it in their own hands.

Never was there a stronger proof of the doctrines of the new psychology that teaches that a man can only think over and re-arrange the impressions that his senses have conveyed to his brain. A secondary law of this same psychology is that the more frequent he has received these sensations and the stronger they have been the greater prominence they will occupy in his thoughts. Their truth and falsity are of no account in the operation of this law save as he has been taught to respect and uphold the truth and heavens knows that under competition although the preachers of morality harp often enough on those virtues every step in the life of the individual in the competitive system tells him that they are a hollow mockery and so long as the system continues the impressions gained in practical life are much stronger than those preached by theoretical moralists.

Now if you who are reading this are one of those who have refused to listen to the teachings of socialism, just keep those laws in mind until you have marked their operation on your own process of thinking. You are one whom the advance of socialism would benefit immensely, and although you may deny this that simply shows that you have no comprehension of the subject, and before you say it over again put in a few hours that you ordinarily spend on the lying dailies in finding out what it means. Until then at least have the brains to keep your mouth shut about it. You have no right to an opinion. Now the one feature of our present system that is particularly rough on you is private ownership in the things with which men make and distribute goods. Just here you probably get on your dignity and begin to expose some more ignorance by talking about socialists wanting to "divide up" and make everything common, but as no socialist ever proposed such a thing or anything else that was of the same caliber as your imbecile objections we will not stop to consider them until we get to the point of finding out how the origin of this particular brand of idiocy got into the place where you are supposed to have brains. But perhaps you raise a whine because you have a few acres of ground or a house and lot or perhaps a few dollars in the savings bank and you are afraid someone will take it away from you. Let me ease your mind. The socialists are not such fools as to suppose that you have anything worth considering as an instrument of production and distribution. What they are after are the really effective instruments. They do not want to fool with those who are merely playing at producing and who are being smashed all to pieces by every turn of the industrial wheel, who really do not own anything but a chance to slave, but who in the insufferable conceit of the worshipper of property imagines that they are really capitalists. In fact, so far as I know anything about it, all socialists would be willing that you should retain "private property" in your little playthings, although in all probability it would be a dangerous step to attempt under the co-operative commonwealth because the co-operative

in the presence of the marvellous opportunities of associative effort would be overwhelming evidence of the fitness of the retainer for an insane asylum.

To get back to our line of argument. You cannot work except you find somebody who can make a profit on your labor, which means that he must take from you practically all you produce. Or perhaps you do own a little store or a few acres of farm land. Then you think you are free. But hold on a minute. Do you think that you have finished all your production when it is ready to leave your shop or farm? If you do just forget that idea as quick as possible. When you are done with it it is not completed until it is in the hands of someone who can use it. You have changed its form but the time and place of the article must also be changed before it is of use. And by the time it is in the hands of the consumer you are getting just what the day laborer gets—a bare existence. In other words all you own is a certainty of continued slavery and if ever your slavery gets so easy so as to make it of sufficient importance to crush you you will lose that certainty. But never mind you are a "property holder" and must be "protected." You begin to have fits the moment anything else is suggested.

We are not going to stop just now to prove that you are a fool. We are simply going to take it for granted and then show you how you came one which will amount to the same thing in the end, because if we show that a certain course of thinking destroys a man's power to think and then show that he has taken that course it is not necessary to prove that he then no longer reasons. Now just remember that law of psychology with which we started—that you can only think over the ideas your five senses carry to your brain and that the more frequent and vivid these impressions are, the more prominent place they will occupy in your thinking. Now where have you obtained most of your brain material? From the world around you, have you not? But that world is the present capitalist system. Everything in it is controlled by those who own the tools, machinery, land, railroads, mines, etc.—the instruments and the materials with which men make and distribute the things necessary to life. They are the ones who own the newspapers and the editors and who decide what you shall find in your newspapers. They are the ones who occupy the leading social positions and determine what is "proper" in both "manners" and "morals." They are the ones who, in short, furnish you with your brain material. They have been doing this since childhood. They have stuffed you with all kinds of lies since they first told you in the public school that EVERY boy had a chance to be President and you swallowed the whole ridiculous proposition, never thinking that this would be a nice sort of country with about 10,000,000 of its population President at the same time. Then they told you in Sunday School that "honesty was the best policy" and you still believe it while the great corporation and trust steals the bread from you and your children and calls it "business"—which it is. You absolutely shut your eyes to the fact that to be honest, or generous or humane or truthful today is to commit suicide unless you are in some particularly good position to steal on so large a scale that you can afford to be honest in little things where people see you. We are here using the words "honesty," etc., in the sense in which your present capitalist teachers of morality use them and not in any exact scientific sense. But you still continue to take your opinions from them and to act as they would have you. Finally they bring you up to the ballot box and then they tell you that there is a terrible struggle on between different divisions of all the "people" on political questions of vital interest to "society." But when you come to look at the matter closer you will see that the questions being discussed are really of no interest to the great mass of society—the workers. The only question interesting the laborers is that as to whether they shall longer continue in wage-slavery. This question is kept carefully in the background.

But there is one thing that is strong enough to break through this crust of custom that rules the minds of the worker. That is the development of a new organization of industry and the growth of the sentiment of self-interest in anew class. This capitalism has done in developing the laboring class and making their interests identical with the destruction of the capitalist system.

At the recent visit of McKinley to Canton, Ohio, it was thought necessary to have a procession to welcome him. So the employes of the Duober-Hampden watch works were given a "half holiday" to march in the parade. Some of them who did not march or who were a little too outspoken in their objections have since had their services dispensed with. But they were "free American citizens" just the same.

If you are not a regular subscriber to this paper look it over and see if it is not treating a subject in which you are interested. If so send in your subscription at once.

BEAUTIFUL CHARITY

Suffering of Labor's Children Exploited for Advertising.

USES OF PHILANTHROPY.

Keeps the Laborers Quiet and Advertises the Philanthropists The Way It Works Today.

"Where do you keep this baby at night?" asked the Sanitarium nurse, as she ministered to the comfort of a tiny mortal—a picture of misery, poverty and dirt.

"In the front room, ma'am," promptly answered the mother.

"Is the room cool—is there a chance for fresh air in it? This baby's face shows signs of it's being almost stifled at times."

"Well, the front room is the best of the three we have, but I guess it wouldn't be good enough for Phil Armour—my husband used to kill for him. It's a frame house we're in and it's blistering hot in summer and freezing in winter. Why, last night the walls of the room were hot after 12 o'clock and the air was thick, and the baby there just choked and choked. My husband called to me to take Mamie the baby down on the front stoop, and I did, but that was as hot as the house. And do you know, the sidewalk across the street was that filled with men, women and children sleeping that the policeman walked in the street. On our side there were only a few sleepers, because they're building next to us and the sidewalk is gone. If anybody on our street has slept in a bed for four weeks past I don't know it, except Mrs. McManus, and she's been in bed these two years with spine trouble—yes, ma'am, the county sends a doctor to her. No, ma'am, there's no cooler place for this baby tonight. I'd keep her in the park over on the west side if the corner would let me stay after 11 o'clock, but he says he has to shut up the park at that time."

What a picture for the gaze of those who have fairly comfortable homes? The air was thick and the baby "just choked and choked!" And even the public parks must "shut up" their poor comforts!

Maybe you think that this is an extract from some socialist paper and is intended to excite the "hatred of the poor against the rich." But it is not. It is simply the beginning of an advertisement for the "Fresh Air Fund" of a Chicago newspaper. It is in no way intended to arouse in the workers whose condition it pictures a sense of indignation against their conditions. Far from it. If they should rebel, what would become of the "philanthropy" (and the advertising) of this newspaper? No, it is simply intended to act as a "toucher" for a few more dimes and dollars from the philanthropic individuals whom the suffering workers described have elected to become their rulers. That it is published in a paper which has a circulation of several hundred thousand copies daily among the workers of Chicago is a strong commentary on the stupidity of those workers, and the subservience with which they take their ideas from the daily papers.

From another point of view it is a proof that the laborers of those philanthropists have not been wholly in vain who have sought to foster in the dwellers of the Chicago slums a "pride in their neighborhood." They are earning their salary if they can but make the slaves proud of their chains and contented with their quarters. To a man with any sense of decency who is forced to live in such surroundings as are here described their description should act in altogether a different way from what it does at present. Instead of its either causing him to feel ashamed of a condition into which he has been forced against his will by the stupidity of his class, or to feel a sense of pride in being sought out for notoriety, or worst of all a sense of indignation at bearing the rottenness of "his neighborhood" exposed, such a description should be like a whip that stings him to a determination to never rest until he has aroused his fellow workers from their ignorance and their lethargy and forced them to unite to abolish the system which gives rise to such neighborhoods. "Not charity but justice" must be the battle cry of the worker.

McKINLEY A LABORER.

He Has Just Joined the Bricklayer's and Stone Mason's Union.

President McKinley has been elected a member of the Bricklayer's and Stone Mason's International union, No. 21, of Chicago.

He will be the first president of the United States, and the first ruler of any building trade affiliated with the Chicago Building Trades council.—Chicago Journal.

And this is a thing to be proud of. That the representative of the incarnated capitalism of the most capitalist nation on earth has condescended to grace the rolls of a labor organization with his name that he may toy with a silver trowel for a few minutes. But what he will fasten more secure than any corner stone will be the chains of wage slavery on the hands of the laborers who will about his praises. So long as such stop doodle is indulged in the day of labor's deliverance is postponed.

PAST REVOLUTIONS

Whv They Have in No Way Helped the Laborers.

NEVER LABOR'S STRUGGLE.

Other Class Interests Causing a Counter-revolution by Those Have Something to Lose.

Why have not past revolutions helped the laborers? Why have they not brought socialism? The doctrine of the co-operative commonwealth and the sufferings of labor have been fairly well understood ever since the time of Plato. Indeed the revolting Protestants of Munster and the followers of Wycliffe had the future society figured out with nearly as much clearness as has Bellamy. For long centuries the co-operative ideal has been held up to men as an object to be aimed at. For as long a time the sufferings of the laboring class has engaged the attention of sentimentalists. Yet it is safe to say that all these movements and all this preaching has not helped the laborer in the slightest degree. What reason has he to expect anything from the present agitation and coming change?

Before this is answered let us look at the history of some of these revolutions for an explanation. The French Revolution so overwhelms all others in the public mind that it might be as well to take this as any. There is no use of going into the details of that time. There is but one point of significance for our purposes. That is that the class that rose to power through that revolution and that directed it from the beginning was not the laboring class at all. Although it was the poor workers of Paris who manned the barricades, and perished in the streets and in the massacres, they were in no way its moving spirits. The class that led and inspired that time of blood and carnage was our present sanctimonious bourgeoisie. It was the shop-keepers, the just arising capitalists who used this means to attain their ruling position and who have ever since been accusing the laboring class of seeking to "inaugurate another French Revolution." It is characteristic that they can find no worse standard of comparison to act as a "bogey man" than their own acts when they are seeking for the mastery. But the point to be noticed is not the means that were employed but the fact that the class which dominated was the class who still "had something to lose." No matter how fine the phrases about liberty, equality and fraternity the class interests which controlled were for private property and so when the battle was fought and quiet again restored the laborers found themselves in practically the same condition they were before the struggle began. There had been a change of masters but no alteration of the fact of slavery.

In the Commune it seemed as if things must be different. Here the talk was all of socialism. Many of the leaders were followers of Marx and the International took an active part. But when the struggle was over wage-slavery still continued and labor's sufferings were unchanged. The reason is not far to seek. The ruling force was still composed of those who had "something to lose" in the field of private property, and hence dared not to lay the ax to the root and the whole poisonous plant sprung up again. All this was but an indication of the deeper fact that the time for the co-operative organization of industry was not yet. Capitalism had still to further develop. The ridiculous hesitation, trifling and confusion of the Communists was not traceable to a lack of theoretical training. Neither was it due to physical or moral cowardice as subsequent events well proved. It was simply a reflex of the confused economic condition in which they lived. While competition lasted and industry had a multitude of heads, and society was governed by a host of minds everything would be subject to these same conflicting interests. Each one having his own individual interests to conserve, those interests were sure to dominate the great class interests which must be the absolute ruler in any great revolutionary movement.

All this goes to prove that the painting of ideals no matter how beautiful, or the preaching of any doctrine no matter how clear or revolutionary will produce a revolution unless the events have prepared the way. This, it may be said, is but a truism, but few socialists even today seem to see its significance. They still insist in catering to reactionary elements within the laboring class and to build their movement upon those portions of it who have the most to lose. Let this not be misunderstood. It does not say that the clearness of any individual socialists is to be determined by the size of his income, but only this, that the impelling center of the movement must be in the interest of those who have only their labor power to sell. If the socialist

movement ever comes to center around those members of the working class who have still the privileges of a trade education to lose or who are still protected by trade union privileges, then the time has come when it is no longer a proletarian movement and if a revolt occurs or a victory is gained by the socialist organization standing upon that position the whole battle must be fought over again.

THE SLAVE.

Poor, stooped and broken human, warped by toil; Weary and aching, and longing for the night, That he may crawl in sweaty garments home. His smile steals o'er his sullen face; he grins In bitter irony and turns away From pleasantries; his sense of joy is dead. The very food upon his humble board Awakes not appetite; his stomach yearns For some keen liquid that will stir the brain. While burning out the little life it holds. Sleep: soothing luxury of toil-worn limbs. Cannot undo his stiff and heavy joints And smooth the ruffled spirits and renew His flagging strength; toil makes too deep inroads Upon his aching frame and steals too much Of life, in the dark hours of dusk and dim; Too much of that fine force that moves the man, And gives him such creative art and strength. Meditation finds no welcome in his soul; His mind is phantomed with a thousand cares. Thought—treasures of the ages cannot reach His watery vision; Love's tender smile Cannot bestir his heart to softer themes; The dread drudgery of the mill consumes Alike the strength and finer sensibilities. That once like high-tuned strings were played upon By the soft touches of the beautiful world; Consumes the man and heaves a clender out Into a pauper heap that carts remove. Aye, scold and spit upon his servile head. Ten thousand taunts heap on his dirt and grease! You pinks of fashion, strike the poor hunchback. Pull your silk skirts aside that they touch not The grimy man with battered dinner pail! Call him harsh names for being poor and rude. Sneer at his brutal ignorance, and hector him! At his abjectness, you soft lords of earth. But all you painted butterflies of ease Would not have time to waffle, were it not For the poor wretch, who struggles on In pain And tireless patience through the heavy years, Bearing the dread tortures of incessant toil For beggarly pittance. Your massive blocks Of stone and glass, and marble palaces, Had not been reared but for the workman Whom you scarce deign to know or recognize. Ah! Idleness and Ease shall some day learn Industry is the owner of the world!

—J. R. Armstrong in Truth and Freedom.

At the meeting at 31st and State last Sunday night while Comrade Knight was speaking a man by the name of Garity, a little property owner in the neighborhood and who claimed to belong to the Central detective detail joined in with a number of other toughs to break up the meeting. Garity announced that he had no objection if they were talking religion but that he was not going to have any more politics talked. When Comrade Figolia showed the permit from Chief Kippley he was unceremoniously arrested, and after a lot of insulting talk about anarchists, etc., from Garity, Comrade Figolia was taken to the station with instructions not to let him out until morning. The comrades however succeeded in securing bail and released him in a short time.

In the meanwhile Garity and his gang of toughs in their search for more worlds to conquer had arrested Comrade Peplin who was present at the meeting, and who was also bailed out. In court the next morning a continuance was taken until the 11th when the case will be fought out. There seems to be a concerted effort to annoy and break up the S. L. P. meetings by the "guardians of peace and honor." But the comrades are not so easily discouraged and it may be depended upon that the agitation will be kept up and the matter of liberty of speech fought at every point.

And right here it might be well to point to the extremely active outdoor agitation that the comrades of Chicago have carried on during the past summer. It is safe to say that more meetings have been held, more literature distributed each week during the past summer than in any previous six months. Chicago is waking up to the truths of socialism as never before and will make herself heard when the next election day comes around.

Now that Labor Day is past just think over what the capitalists' politicians said when they spoke to you and see if it was about anything that concerned the laborer.

MORE LABOR SAVING

Another Step Toward the Granting of Leisure to Workers.

A NEW EXCAVATING MACHINE

A Marvelous Mechanism That Burrows Like a Mole Under Ground and Does the Work of Hundreds.

Work on the main intercepting sewer on the north side has begun in earnest, and will be pushed to completion rapidly. The tunnel-boring apparatus designed by John Ennis, for the perfecting of which the contractors, Farley & Green, have been holding back the work on the Lawrence avenue sewer for over a year has been made practically beyond the hopes of the inventor and the contracting firm which had been backing him, and it is now in operation.

The successful use of this machine means much to Chicago, with all the tunnel and subway work yet to be done for sewers, water supply, and other purposes. Commissioner of Public Works McGann is profoundly impressed with the importance of this machinery, and says, if it does half what is claimed for it, the subway problem in Chicago is solved.

By the use of this machinery five men can accomplish more than hundreds could by the old method of digging out the earth. It requires but a 100-horse power engine, and its work is wholly automatic, from the moving of itself forward as the excavation is completed in front, to the hauling away of the earth and dumping it on the outside.

The machine digs away 165 lineal feet a day, working the entire twenty-four hours. This is faster than three shifts of bricklayers, each as large as can work to advantage, can lay the five rings of brick to inclose the sixteen-foot sewer. It is estimated that the bricklayers can lay about forty feet a day of this five-ring work. So, allowing for all break-downs and obstacles, it is pretty certain the machine can keep ahead of the fastest work of the bricklayers.

The particular feature of this tunneling machine which makes it faster and more practicable than any hitherto devised is the way it boosts itself along as fast as a way is opened. Other machines have to be projected forward by hydraulic jacks at the expense of great power and much time and labor. This machine jerks itself along much like a man lifting himself by his own straps. The apparatus weighs 250,000 lbs. and consists of an immense iron cylinder, within which plays a master gear-wheel. The outside of the cylinder is equipped with 234 long iron bars, with a chisel-like end, and each revolution of the wheel drives forward twelve of these bolts four inches into the clay. When all are driven forward they form a steel frame, which holds back the earth while great knives fastened to iron shafts cut the earth away from the inside. This earth is scooped up automatically by buckets and carried to a trough in the bottom of which is a canvas conveyor, which carries it back to the shaft, where it falls in a dump-car, which is hauled to the surface and dumped, much like a dredger. The car is then loaded with brick and cement for the mason work, and then carries a load both ways.

After the steel bars have been projected four times, making an opening of six feet ahead of the machine, the master gear-wheel is reversed, and this has the effect to withdraw the steel bars, "I beams." But, by a device which effectively prevents their withdrawal, the effect of this reverse motion is to drag the wheel, shield, and all after the bars. So it goes plunging along with sixteen-foot jumps, piling up the earth in a steady stream, until a chunk of clay falls out and blocks the way. If it is removed, or water seeps in, something else happens, when the monster is given a breathing spell while the earth is removed, the water pumped out, or the breakage repaired. Then it plunges on.

Right behind the big cylinder, within twenty feet, the bricklayers are piling in the brick, five rings thick. All the way going on forty feet under the surface in Lawrence avenue, just east of the North branch of the Chicago river. Work is progressing on the other end of the same sewer, two miles east, on Evanston avenue, in an open cut, and at the west end a cut of forty feet through heavy clay soil was deemed impracticable, and the tunnel plan was adopted. The big machine has cost Farley & Green over \$75,000 to date, but they have it well-covered with patents, and expect to be able to underbid all competitors for tunnel work by its use.

The entire bore made by the machine is twenty feet in diameter, the brick walls of the sewer requiring about four feet. After the brick work is completed, it leaves but four inches between the outside wall of the sewer and the outside of the bore.—Inter Ocean.

By the use of this machinery five men can accomplish more than HUNDREDS could by the old method of digging out the earth! Wonder what is the life of this machine. A couple of years is an extremely low estimate, and if it takes the hundreds DISPLACED by it digging into the foundaries, machine shops, etc., for a couple of years to build one, and if it does it cost more to build it than its saving amounts to, because mechanics that build such machines get a little better pay than their less fortunate brother workers with the pick and shovel, and how can these contractors "expect to be able to underbid all competitors. Hence we see that there would be no "profit" in taking men out of the ditch and putting them making a machine to dig in the ditch. Likewise the theory that machinery does not displace labor that is used by economists, politicians, and who is only a delusion.

Walter J. Jacksonville, Ill.

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

Editorial Announcements. To secure the return of unused manuscripts should be enclosed.

A. M. SIMONS, EDITOR.



The Socialist Vote.

Table with 2 columns: Year/Category and Amount. Includes rows for 1898, 1899, and various categories like 'Copies sold last week'.

Copies sold last week 22,500.

PROSPERITY.

Scarcely a newspaper can be opened at the present time without being met with a long loud shout about the "prosperity" of the laborers.

However this fact is undeniable, that not for many years has there been as many opportunities for slaves to find masters or have the wage-slaves been better fed and cared for than they are by their present masters.

The trust, which has cheapened production at home, will be a powerful weapon in the hands of capitalism to press the laborers of America down to the level of their Oriental competitors.

Your slavery rests on your neighbors' ignorance. Give him a Workers' Call to help break your fetters.

lowing a larger portion of the product to be absorbed by the capitalist class and thus enabling them to again begin production.

In America this process has been repeated at fairly regular intervals for nearly a century. At different times the "recovering" process has been marked by peculiarly American features.

We see both of these features present at this moment. The "frontier" has been extended and the most tremendous improvement in production ever dreamed of has been introduced.

But what of the permanency of even present conditions? It has been the invariable rule up to the present time that the more rapid the pace at which industry proceeded the quicker it reached its limit and fell into the abyss of industrial panic.

The "frontier" which is now being exploited is not a virgin wilderness but is a densely inhabited country whose inhabitants are capable of furnishing the cheapest labor power in the world.

A new folding machine is being placed in the big book printing houses by the operation of which two men can turn out as much work as 24 did formerly.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Chicago Tribune, Sept. 4th.

GIRLSTRIKERS WITH KNIVES.

Quit Work at Canning Factories and Create Strange Spectacle at Salem, N. J.

Salem, N. J., Sept. 3.—(Special).—Two hundred girls and women paraded the streets today, brandishing knives.

So women are out on strike, and they demand better conditions. There is no new or old trades unionism in that.

They have been receiving 4 cents a bushel for peeling tomatoes and they want 5 cents. Will they get it?

In this era of prosperity our sisters have something to contend with. The men displaced by improved machinery more perfect organization of capital through combinations and consolidations are after your jobs girls.

Daily News, Sept. 1st.

TAKE MEN FOR HOUSEWORK.

Families Unable to Get Servant Girls Accept Applicants of the Other Sex.

Good Results Are Reported.

All of our capitalist papers have headlines in a similar strain, and give it as an evidence of prosperity that men CAN be had to act as second girls in our present economic hell.

Woman cannot be used for plain labor, juggling with pick or shovel or pigs of iron is not exactly suited to them, but they can displace men in office work, and work that is simple attendance to a machine.

Under a similar heading one of our Chicago dailies noted as follows, "the wife of a prominent board of trade man said that she employed three young men at house work, and they gave her satisfaction.

How is this for prosperity. But let us see what gives this woman the power to have three young men serve her. Did her husband help to build up this great city. Did he endanger his life at the Coliseum.

Those who do, or are willing to do, useful work for society are fortunate today if they can obtain sufficient for a miserable existence. That is caused by the system of private ownership of the means of production.

The Building Trades picnic has been utilized to launch the gubernatorial boom of Richard Yates for the republican nomination.

Chicago Tribune, Sept. 4th.

Three hundred and fifty thousand Americans labor in mines. Iron and steel industries employ 150,000 Americans.

When they rebel against starvation wages these Americans are foreigners.

Four million American women earn their daily bread by their labor. This does not include wives.

But when they demand better they send the police after them.

The productive capacity of the labor-saving machinery of the United States at the present time is equal to a hand working population of 400,000,000.

And the private appropriation of the results make servant girls of men.

Japanese workmen must wear on their caps and backs an inscription stating their business and their employer's name.

The American worker can make it easy by labeling himself with a badge with this inscription: "I work for the capitalist class when they allow me."

the many strikes this year Rockefeller was not troubled much. The American Tobacco company simply discharges every union man as soon as they take hold of a plant.

MILL'S HOTEL.

A New Philanthropic Movement for the Benefit of the Poor Laborer.

Some Chicago capitalist philanthropists are proposing to establish a Mill's Hotel in this city where board and lodging for single men can be secured at very low rates.

Let us look this project over a little. To begin with a similar experiment in New York has yielded good profits, so that even from the individual point of view there is no question of philanthropy at all save in the newspaper talk advertising the promoters.

But let us see what the effect is from a class point of view. Every socialist knows that the effect of cheapening the cost of living is always to lower wages.

Then there is another side to the question that might not attract notice at first sight. The proposed hotel is for single men only.

The result of this is to put a premium on the desertion of their families by married men. A man finds himself unable to support his family owing to the pressure brought upon him by "Mill's Hotel" boarders.

DANISH STRIKE.

The Long Conflict of the Danish Pre-letarians Ended at Last.

Copenhagen, Sept. 5.—The agreement between the employers' union and the building trades unions, closing the lockout which for nearly four months has kept between 40,000 and 50,000 men out of work, was formally signed at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Valdemar Frederiksen. (This labor difficulty had its origin in a strike of the joiners of Copenhagen, to fight whom the employers immediately organized with the avowed intention of crippling the labor unions.)

The southern negro is rapidly taking away the job of the northern white man and the capitalist is not saying a word about the color line. And while the white laborer is idiot enough just now to try to kick the negro instead of the system that brought him north or carried the factory south, he will soon be joining hands with him in a brotherhood of misery when the labor of the Philippines, Japan and China begins to get in its work.

THE COMING CENSUS.

Preparations to Fix It Up in the Interests of the Ruling Class.

At the head of the department for taking the census of 1900 is ex-Gov. Merriam of Minnesota, a man who knows nearly as much about statistics as he does about the government of Mars, but who knows all about Republican and all other kinds of capitalist politics.

Do not be afraid to take this paper from the mails. No bill will be sent you. Some one has paid if you have not.

the capitalist class of the United States wish to enter into competition with the nations of the world it is of importance that they be able to move with as exact a knowledge of their condition as it is possible to obtain.

COAL CONSOLIDATIONS.

One More Step on the Road to Concentration Taken.

Two consolidations of coal-mining interests have been completed within the last fortnight which will affect the consumers of bituminous coal throughout the Mississippi and Ohio valleys and the great lakes region.

The second is the Pittsburg Coal company. It includes what are styled railroad coal companies, owning 102 concerns and all their various interests, including coal docks at various points in the mining regions and over 89,000 acres of coal lands, most of it in fee simple.

The railroad company owns and controls land which in 1898 yielded 15,274,433 tons of coal. The mines are distributed along the lines of the Pennsylvania system, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Vanderbilt roads.

The question arises as to what chance these 26,000 men will have in a struggle with this tremendous organization of capital. Will they not be practically helpless?

Will they always continue to be slaves or will they dare to strike where they can never lose?

That the men who at present have their headquarters at 61 Beekman street are in no way seeking to advance the cause of socialism but are aiming simply at their personal advantages—that they are placing their individual interests above the class interests—that in short they are fakirs is seen in the desperate efforts they are making to kill The Workers' Call.

In Cleveland the "socialistic" post office is trying to force its employees to ride on the street cars against the boycott.

The Chicago comrades took advantage of the special issue of The Workers' Call by selling them on the street. Comrade Ballard broke all previous records by selling 700 copies alone and unaided.

Do not be afraid to take this paper from the mails. No bill will be sent you. Some one has paid if you have not.

LETTER BOX.

Can you use the herewith? I think it is time for ALL socialists to get together.

If the comrades in Ohio will unite, the real fight in that state will be between the Socialists and Republicans. The Democrats will not be in it for the bulk of the Democrats, and Republicans too, are with the socialists in sympathy.

Yours for the elevation of the race, A. A. C., S. L. P. at large.

All who are or claim to be socialists, whether S. L. P., S. D., or any other brand, should immediately unite under the name of Socialism, organize the Socialist Party, for the evolution of politics in the U. S. Can we unite on the following?

- 1st. The state shall employ every person who wishes to work, whether by hand or brain.
2nd. No private individual or corporation to be allowed to employ any person for wages.
3rd. Work and wages shall be co-operative.
4th. The product of labor shall belong to the state.
5th. The State shall care for, educate, feed and clothe its citizens.
6th. Capital is the unexpended product of labor, or its accumulations, and is as sacred as life.
7th. The imperative mandate, the initiative and referendum.
8th. The operation and control by the state of all public utilities.
9th. Socialists proclaim freedom to all. Freedom to frame laws, and collect taxes. And freedom to choose their public servants.
Let the Socialists of Ohio get together and try conclusions with the exploiters in the coming state election.

The above is a very good sample of the position of those who want "everybody to unite." For that reason we want to very briefly go over some of the propositions offered and point out their ridiculousness.

The first one has little meaning by itself and might be taken in a number of ways, but as far as it means anything it is a call for the present capitalist state to act as a sort of a step-father to everybody and to GIVE them work. What socialism demands is that the laborers shall take possession of the machinery of industry and government and organize them so that the entire product shall go to the laborers.

The third, fourth, fifth and eighth statements are, like the first, simply a rather mixed "state socialism" or more properly "state capitalism" and has no connection with the class-conscious movement of the workers represented by the S. L. P., but is simply the paternalism of bourgeois reformers.

The seventh is already demanded by the socialists but it is rapidly becoming a "blessed word" with which bourgeois reformers would conjure and deceive the laborers into believing that these things in themselves may relieve the laborer while retaining capitalism intact.

The final proclamation starts out well but we object to anybody having the freedom to "collect taxes" under socialism. That would instantly raise the question of "who pays the taxes" to a prominence it has not yet attained and we most decidedly rise to object.

No, comrade, you must excuse us. We could not unite on that platform by a good deal. In fact up to the present time, about the only practical scheme of uniting we have seen is for all the laborers to unite on the platform of the Socialist Labor Party and push that on to victory. In that we have a point of union that will be really effective.

A mistake was made in Comrade Wanhope's article last week which wholly changed the meaning. In the last sentence which was made to read: "In the meantime while capitalism exists the capitalist system of 'dividing up' will of necessity continue, that is to say, for the capitalist class an ever increasing wage supplemented by the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table."

The last clause should be changed by the insertion of an additional line so as to read, "that is to say, for the capitalist class an ever increasing surplus product, and for the workers a relatively decreasing wage supplemented by the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table."

Just keep the fact before your mind that we are still offering three months trial subscriptions in clubs of ten at ten cents each.

LITERATURE.

Effect of Capitalism Upon the Character of Literary Productions—Contrasted With Socialism.

There is no sphere of human life that is untouched by the socialist philosophy. This is because it is built upon the fundamental principle that all other spheres of society spring from and have their form determined by the prevailing industrial relations. It has long been recognized that the literature of any period was a natural product of that period, but it has remained here, as in so many other instances, for socialism to show that this was a casual and not a coincidental relation. The socialist shows that the subjects treated, the author writing, the readers whom it is sought to please are all products of a certain economic development and hence each economic system will have its peculiar literature along with everything else. Here and there will be an individual who will write from a future or a past standpoint but these will not be characteristic in any way. Now what is the characteristic feature of present literature? What would we expect it to be? This is an age when our economic system is built on deceit, depends upon trickery, and is maintained by exploitation. The literature of the time may then be expected to reflect this condition. Let us see if this is so. The most prominent feature of the literary world of today, the one that is most widely read and which has the most to do with forming the character of the people is the daily newspaper. Is there anyone who will deny that it fulfills all the demands made upon it to represent the economic system from which it arises.

But this influence reaches further. It forbids a majority of the population ever reaching the point where they have any interest in or power to comprehend anything of actual serious value. The result is that in the realm of fiction the dominant feature is the "penny dreadful" and the paper-back novel. The writer who should produce anything of real value would find himself catering to a much smaller circle of readers and hence be compelled to put up with much smaller rewards than the man who bends his talents with the tide and writes the trash that capitalism has educated the public to demand.

The result of all this is that the great majority of the literary talent of the time is worse than wasted. The powers that might be used for the education and upbuilding of the race are prostituted to the task of mentally enslaving it. The author does not write to educate, amuse or instruct but to secure royalties. Here as everywhere else production is for profit and not for use.

If the reverse were true and books were produced only because the writer had something to say that would add to the sum of human enjoyment what a difference it would make. There no longer being any profit to be secured by deceit truth could for the first time in history be the aim sought by all workers in this realm. Might we not expect that a flood of light would be let in upon the multitude of questions that now puzzle the student in every sphere of life? More than this with the profit system destroyed in all lines of life and opportunity offered for all to develop their faculties each writer could be sure that he was speaking to an intelligent appreciative audience to whom he need never "write down." More than that he would be subject to a discriminating criticism that would be bound to develop the best in him and bring the truth to light. In other words the economic environment being changed there would be a new literature to suit that environment and this literature would be as much superior to our present one as the co-operative commonwealth is superior to the present competitive system.

PROF. HERRON.

Some Rather Questionable Economics in a Recent Article By Him.

In a recent article in the New York Journal Prof. G. D. Herron has the following to say upon the trust problem:

Combination, either by and among the capitalist class or by and among the people, will continue and increase as surely as the stars will move in their courses. Anti-trust politics and legislation are either quackery or ignorance or humbuggery. The law of association is elemental and Christian. Applied to the problem of trusts it would mean:

The entire abolition of all special privileges upon which industrial combinations rest, in order that the people may be liberated from economic forces and associate themselves in economic freedom. The abolition of special privileges would mean that no public franchises or public utilities would ever be committed to private or corporate hands, but should all be operated by the people and for the people without profit, and at last without money and without price.

Furthermore, special privileges can only be eliminated by the abolition of tariffs and all methods of indirect taxation. The matter of taxation is far more important than the socialist recognizes. The history of governments is largely the history of taxation, or of the power of the few to forcibly levy tribute on the nations.

I believe socialists would be wiser to use the agrarian socialism of Mr. George so far as it goes, and to advocate the operation of schools, highways, street and finally even national railways out of economic rent. Perhaps this idea of the collective use of economic rent is the cue to a new socialism that shall be at once Christian and American. Of course the socialization of the land means the common ownership of all the sources of production. Private ownership of natural resources is an elementally immoral destructive and tyrannical. No man nor class has any greater right to the earth's resources than another. The earth and its resources are given to all men in com-

mon and can only be owned and administered for the common good.

But I should also wholly agree with the Marxian socialist in saying that the social ownership cannot stop with natural resources. The single taxers or agrarian socialists would be much wiser and in the way of a truer individualism if they would recognize that society has exactly as much ownership in the machinery of production as it has in natural resources. The tools is no longer the creation of the individual but is the creation of society. Modern society is specifically an industrial development. As truly as the earth is the gift of God or nature to all men in common, so truly is the machinery of production the creation of men in common. As the law of association can be fulfilled only through common and equal participation in the benefits of nature, so that law of association can only be fulfilled in the equal participation of men in the benefits of the machinery of production. The common right to the earth extends to the common right of the machine which makes the earth worth having. For without the common ownership of the machinery of production the common ownership of the earth would be of no social avail.

It is not often that Prof. Herron approaches as near to earth as he does in this and he here shows most clearly that when he does so approach it is only to create further confusion. In fact we think it would be hard to find a much better example of honest confusion than is displayed in these few paragraphs.

To begin with he apparently sees the trend of economic concentration and its benefits as clearly as could be wished. But in the very next paragraph he begins to talk about the abolition of "special privileges" to enable people to "associate themselves in economic freedom," a phrase that when carefully examined becomes an absolute jargon of fine phrases. "Special privileges" are but examples of the exercise of class rule by the capitalist class. The ones which he names are mere incidents in the division of the spoils among the capitalists and have no more relation to the social problem from the laborer's point of view than the wrangling of a gang of thieves over their plunder has to their victim. The only "special privilege" that is of any interest is the right of private property in the means of production and distribution, and while that is unaffected it is a waste of time for workers to discuss the private quarrels of their masters. Another sentence that is particularly characteristic of the Professor in its meaningless use of technical phrases and its rhetorical expression is that "The history of governments is largely the history of taxation, or of the power of the few to forcibly levy tribute on the nation." Now who is "the nation?" If by this is meant the whole body of the people then the statement is ridiculous for it includes both those who reap the benefits and those from whom it is supposed to be taken and the robber robs both himself and his victim. But of course what he is trying to say is that the laborer is so robbed. But as a matter of fact the exploitation of labor is carried on by the owners of the things necessary to his life and it is carried on by securing his labor power for less than that labor power produces. But to state this would be to recognize the fact which Professor Herron and all of his kind are so careful to dodge—the fact of a class struggle—and if this is once recognized all of these fine phrases lose their meaning and are seen in their true meaninglessness.

The remainder of the quotation but illustrates the points referred to. The phrases "Agrarian socialism," and a "Christian and American socialism" are as silly as the expressions "Agrarian astronomy" or "American and Christian physics." It has been pointed out a thousand times that such adjectives are always ridiculous when applied to science are doubly so when the most cosmopolitan and universal of all sciences is under discussion. If Professor Herron would only base his rhetoric and his fine phrases upon the solid scientific rock of the class struggle and the historical development of society he might be of much value in the solution of the social question of today and not a source of confusion as he now is.

"WHO IS JONES?"

No "Deliverers" Needed by the Laborers in Their Present Struggle.

The Toledo Saturday Night, Jones' organ, has at the head of its last issue in words running across five columns, "Who is Jones?" And this question forms the whole center of the movement led by Jones in Ohio. It is not a question of principles of social questions but simply "Who is Jones?" It is to be a purely personal campaign.

It does not seem to occur to the blind followers of this new god that the time is past when great individuals can inaugurate social changes. Today is the day of the group and the class not of the individual. This is more true in the socialist movement than anywhere else and the very fact that such a question is asked as "Who is Jones?" in the sense in which it is asked is as strong a proof as could be offered that Jones is many a long step from socialism. It would be a fine preparation for self-government by the laborers to have to be led out of their industrial bondage by a divinely appointed Jones.

In a recent article on Japan it has been pointed out that while the foreign population of that country has remained practically stationary numbers during the last eight years the value of its exports has increased over three fold. That simply means that the Japanese industry has started from the beginning on so large a scale that so far as foreigners are concerned there is no new opportunities for investment left, while of course only Japanese laborers are employed.

MILWAUKEE.

An Active Agitation Being Carried On By the Comrades There.

Last Sunday afternoon Com. J. Wanhope of Chicago came to Milwaukee to assist in the agitation here. He held a meeting that evening at the corner of Second and Grand avenue which was well attended. There was quite a large crowd to begin with and this increased as the meeting progressed. Comrade Wanhope was followed by Comrade Knopfnagle and then a large number of questions were asked continuing the meeting until nearly midnight. Many papers were sold and distributed among the audience.

On Sunday another meeting was held at 3 p. m. at the corner of Third street and Prairie avenue. This, like the first meeting was well attended and much interest was shown. The meeting was interrupted by a religious fanatic who poured out personal abuse upon the speakers and denounced them as "drunkards" and "men of no character." He was made use of as a foil and an example from which to preach still further lessons in socialism. This meeting lasted until nearly six o'clock and the comrades then went directly to their former meeting place at Second and Grand avenue. Here a larger crowd than ever was present and listened attentively to addresses by Comrades Wanhope and Knopfnagle. Here again a number of copies of The Workers' Call were circulated and great interest manifested by the audience.

It is hoped that these meetings may be continued as long as the weather permits as they seem to be more of a success each time.

Yours fraternally,
Richard Koopel,
Secretary Chicago Milwaukee.

"TYRANNY OF SOCIALISM."

A Nightmare That Disappears on Closer Examination.

Many people have an idea that under the socialist organization of society there will be a sort of east iron despotism that will say to each one where he shall go and what he must do. This idea has largely arisen from a reading of Bellamy, although to do Bellamy justice it must be admitted that he never described any such a condition. But the idea arises from the conception of "state or Glasgow socialism" which would simply make of the present government a gigantic employer for which all must work or starve. Now no one on earth knows what the future form of society will be save in its broadest details, but this can safely be said that there will be no reason to compel anyone to enter into the co-operative form of production unless he wishes. With a scientific apportionment of the riches of nature it will not be necessary, for many hundred generations to come, to utilize all the powers of production and there would be no reason to refuse permission to anyone who wished to use these individually. But it is hard to conceive human "cussedness" even after generations of competitive training reaching such a degree of idleness that any sane person would want to do such a thing. With production perfected to the point to which it will be when co-operatively managed the reward which would be given to the person who would associate himself with the great co-operatively organized industry would be so many fold what he could secure by working individually that he would be indeed a preverse sort of an anarchist to want to go off and work by himself.

CRIME AND PROSPERITY.

Why the Number of Criminals in Chicago Has Fallen Off.

A few weeks ago a report of the Cook County jail showed that fewer criminals were confined there than had been for many years. Shortly after it was pointed out that there were fifty per cent less crime being committed each month at the present time than had been the case for a long time. The chief of police came to the front immediately with an "explanation." It was all owing to the excellent administration of the police force. It seems strange(?) that it did not occur to any of our capitalist press to attribute these facts to their true cause—that there was a greater opportunity for men to get work and fewer were driven to lives of crime. They have been so in the habit of ascribing everything to "prosperity" that we thought it possible some of them might make a step and tell the truth. But not a single one stumbled. All stood in perfect class-consciousness, as far away from the facts as they could get.

Moral Cowardice.

There certainly is nothing which has so retarded the evolution of mankind as the inherent laxness and a certain moral cowardice which rule the thoughts and actions of man. All through human life these features, their hold on man and the effects are visible and ever and always prominent. Most men, and how many are there not amongst our readers, will, when they start thinking, and digest form ideas, and develop their thoughts, shrink involuntarily as if it were from the snoring labor and difficulties, which would attend them if they set to the accomplishment of their own conclusions. It is our moral laxity and moral cowardice, which makes us sit still where we ought to work, which makes us abide where we ought to protest, agree where we ought to remonstrate and which in the end draws us in greater perplexities, in immensely greater difficulties, for the thing we know to be right, the cause we know to be just and the truthfulness of which is absorbed by our brain and heart. It is when totally shaking off our cowardice that we become men and that we are strong in our sight. It is the moral courage of the socialist that maintains

the socialist organization and brings in new recruits every day.

The people must admire the spirit which pervades the socialist party. Now the cry for emancipation has been raised and is heard from shore to shore, from the banks of the Hudson to the far off Rio Grande; from mountain top to mountain top, re-echoing in the valleys with increased sound. Wake up then, O men, shake off your mental lassitude, and above all your moral laziness.

Be done with cowardice and self-deceit and underestimation of your own strength. For the cry once raised in old-monarchical Europe has been raised in young America, in this land once called the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Wake up then, O workers, for the shackles are being fastened to your limbs; the air is foul with the smoke of shops and heavy with the reports of strikes. You know your misery, but ask not how; you perceive the evil conditions of today but ask not, why is this also.

There is not the slightest doubt to the thinking man that conditions as they are now, are not as they ought to be. There is no excuse for the existence of poor houses, of beggars, tramps and prostitutes in this age. But the greivous facts are that these things are here, and the workingman is hardly better off than these degenerates of society. What is your future workingman of America?

It all depends upon yourselves. Too long have you cried things have always been this way and always will be so. Things have always changed and always will continue changing. It depends upon ourselves how great or how small the change will be; whether it will be for the better or the worse. Drop your cowardice; your passive attitude; be a man and fight with us as a man, in the intellectual fight of socialist education and be with the foremost to conquer the bulwarks of capitalism to plant there the flag of the co-operative commonwealth.

H. T. Doelemare.

PHILANTHROPY.

The Kindheartedness of Russel Sage Exemplified.

Even Russel Sage has some good traits. He recently gave a picnic to 2,000 children, and it is said this is an annual custom of his.

So says the Duluth Herald with evident satisfaction at the "generosity" of Russel Sage. It seems every so often some member of the capitalist ruling class conceives the notion to "do something" for his fellow man, knowing full well every defender of capitalism in the land will forthwith raise him to the seventh heaven as a "noble philanthropist" who feels for his unfortunate brethren" enabling him with the mantle of hypocrisy to better cover his parasitical existence.

To the clear-headed thinker such an act as the above well typifies the rascality of the modern capitalist. Why take these 2,000 poor children (for such we must infer they are—poor, hungry, ily clad children of the working class), and for one day suddenly remove them from their state of poverty, ignorance and degradation, treat them to a full day of fresh air, plenty of eatables, delicacies, and the enjoyment of each others company, free from the cares of life, etc.,—only to send them back again the next day to their former state, where surely they must feel their lot with more bitterness and humility than before. To allow them to taste of heaven only to push them again into hell, is the work of a brute, not a "philanthropist."

But it is the fault of the workers themselves. They it is who hold the power in their hands to put an end to wage slavery. With their votes on election day they could gain possession of the wealth which has been stolen from them by the capitalist robber class. Labor could then enjoy the abundance of wealth created by it, because labor would be the owner. Instead, to day labor, who created all wealth and supports just such miserable blood-sucking parasites like Sage, contents itself with the crumbs that fall from the table of the capitalist class. Smash capitalism!

Louis Dworschak,
Duluth, Sept. 4th.

AN INSTANCE.

A Passing Example of the Conditions Produced By Wage Slavery.

As Chief Clerk Metzger of the General Land Office was finishing his luncheon in his private office recently a woman walked in unannounced and seated herself at his right. She was almost an apparition, being gaunt and hungry, with eyes which sparkled with brightness behind dark circles. Her small, delicate mouth was firmly set and her thin fingers clutched a faded umbrella. There was about her poverty depicted in every garment, and the thin black material hung in folds about an emaciated figure. The Chief Clerk wheeled his chair and faced his strange visitor. Without waiting for an invitation to speak the woman commenced in a determined voice:

"I am in search of work, and I must have something to do. For three days my little ones have been without food, and this morning the landlord turned me out of doors. I have been to every department and could get no work. Now I must have bread. This government must give me a seamstress, and for over a month I have been working for the family of a member of Congress, but they have gone away for the summer and left my bill unpaid. When I applied to the housekeeper I was turned away. For God's sake, help me."

The Chief Clerk was called to the door at that moment. As he was leaving he glanced in the mirror over the washstand and there saw reflected the woman cramming into her mouth the remains of a biscuit he had left. She did not seem to chew the food, but gulped it down as if starving. This was convincing proof that the woman's story was true. Mr. Metzger told the

story to Commissioner Hermann, and the latter, with his big, sympathetic heart, ordered the woman to be immediately employed if there was a vacancy. One was made, and now the woman is showing her gratitude by loyal service. The news of her employment was too great a surprise and she swooned when she learned of her good luck.—Chicago Tribune.

Just note the dramatic conclusion to the above. You see it was necessary to make it a better story and even if true it is the exception while the first part is but the type of countless others.

ONE MORE SCHEME.

Another Plan Launched to Regenerate the World.

James Eads How is a grandson of the famous engineer who built the Mississippi river jetties and bridges. His father was president of the Wabash railroad. His own personal fortune amounts to about a million dollars. He is a graduate of Harvard and was a famous athlete during his college days. Now he has renounced his fortune, is earning his living as a day laborer, and announces that he will spend his life in promoting the interests of a new monastic order, to be called the Brotherhood of Daily Life. Mr. How started his work by walking into the office of the Mayor of St. Louis and handing him a check for every cent he possessed, with the request that he get the check cashed and spend the money for the benefit of the poor. The Mayor thought him insane and refused to take the money. Now he is in New York, walking about the streets with a tin bucket looking for work. His new order, the Brotherhood of Daily Life, is to have no connection with any of the churches, though it will not be antagonistic to them. He hopes that the members of the brotherhood, will in time, be called upon to do work for all the denominations. He refuses to spend any of his fortune, because he says he did not earn it, and therefore has no moral right to it. He has secured many members for his new brotherhood in New York.—Chicago Tribune.

Here is another way to reform the world. Undoubtedly there will not be lacking those who will praise this act of "self-sacrifice," and it is not at all unlikely that he will find quite a number of dupes to follow him. In fact he has only carried to its logical conclusion the sort of stuff that countless "philanthropists" are every day repeating.

To give it a moments sober consideration the question might be asked as to what will be come of his accumulations? Under the system of competition and private property it will be absorbed by the large capitalists a little quicker than it would if its owner had retained possession and fought to increase it in the competitive world. As such it will be a means to the more rapid and complete enslavement of the laborer and incidentally to the abolition of the whole system, though not by any means in the way in which this eccentric philanthropist seeks to do it. Had he retained possession of his property, exploited it to the utmost and used the proceeds in showing the laboring class how to free themselves he might have accomplished something.

MEN SERVANT "GIRLS."

How Capitalism Is Equalizing the Wages of the Sexes.

The "domestic service" question has now taken on a new phase in Chicago. Men are being hired as servants instead of girls. Several advertisements have recently appeared in the evening papers for men to do housework, and the manager of one of the free employment bureaus says, "Week after week we place many men in housework situations—five during the week ending last Saturday—and they seem to render good service and please their employers."

It will be remembered that about a year ago one of the large railroad companies displaced the women it had previously employed and filled their places with men. This all simply means that when women have been used to force down the entire level of wages to the subsistence point and that when the wages of the two sexes are equal, the one will be taken who is the cheapest. If the woman wishes to retain her place in the industrial world she must simply live still cheaper and work for less. And as she has no choice in this matter but must reduce her expenses it may be safely predicted that this will be the next result.

The most daring and what will probably be the most successful trade combination ever formed in this country will come into operation Monday. All the manufacturers of wallpaper, with the exception of four firms in London, have agreed to pool their profits.

The capital aggregates \$15,000,000. The promoters have guarded against foreign competitors by an agreement with the retailers who have signed the contracts not to deal with foreign manufacturers for ten years. By the end of ten years it is expected that the syndicate will be strong enough to ward off all competition.

The price of the cheapest sorts of wallpaper is to be raised immediately 250 per cent. About one-third of those engaged in the trade will be thrown out of employment. The syndicate expects immense profits.

No, that is not a New Jersey news item. That is from the foreign correspondence of an American daily and the combination referred to is in England. Now if we only had no protective tariff on wallpaper there would never be any danger of a trust being formed in it.

When any movement begins to center around a man or when any man in a socialist movement begins to talk about a "great leader being needed" he has reached the point where his usefulness to the laborers has ceased, and the quicker he is killed, so far as the labor movement is concerned, the better.

BELGIUM'S CLASS STRUGGLE

Statement of the Situation There by Com. Emil Vandervelde.

The following extracts from a letter by Emil Vandervelde, the Belgian socialist, recently published in La Petite Republique contains many interesting items:

"Recent events in Belgium have been very instructive from the point of view of the relations which may or ought to exist between the socialist and bourgeois parties. For some weeks the Liberals, Radicals and Socialists formed apparently a single solid mass in opposition to the government. The temporary community of political interests disguised the permanent antagonisms of class interests. Everything seemed to indicate that in the elections of next year there would be an integral coalition of the enemies of the governmental party.

Today all is changed. It was only necessary for the ministry of Vandenberg to disappear and for the new government presided over by that ancient Liberal, M. de Smet de Nayer, to propose the establishment of the proportional representation, to separate the great majority of the Liberals clearly from the Socialist party. It is not simply an electoral reform that has done this, but a change of front in general politics, or rather a return to the natural grouping of parties on the basis of class interests.

Furious at being cut off from the advantages of power, exasperated by the increasing audacity of "our masters," the Liberals sought to find for a moment a relief from this domination in universal suffrage. When the status quo has been maintained and the electoral project repudied the coalition reforms itself. All the socialists are united for the conquest of universal suffrage but immovably opposed to the project of proportional representation which is to be discussed in the next few weeks. But for the present, the Liberals, the Christian Democrats, and even the majority of the Radicals—in spite of their solemn agreements with us—have turned tail at all points and are hurrying for proportional representation and are vying with one another in their adherence to the project of the government.

If this project becomes a law the new chamber will differ profoundly from the present one. By applying the results of the elections of 1896-98 to the mechanism of the proportional representation that is proposed by the government, it is seen that the Clerical majority will be reduced from 72 to eight or ten votes. The Christian Democrats, the party of Abbe Daens, will have a half dozen seats, the Socialists and the Liberals will divide the remainder. Still it is very probable that the situation will be modified to the advantage of the various parties of the opposition.

As for the Socialists, they as ever, have nothing to lose in any event. If the status quo is maintained perhaps the victory of universal suffrage will be more rapid. If on the other hand proportional representation is carried it is the end of electoral coalitions, and beginning of a much more energetic and clear affirmation of the socialist ideal; the class struggle will be disengaged from all secondary factors and from all the complex circumstances which renders the concept less clear in the eyes of the masses. In place of a capitalist government masked under the veil of religion, we are face to face with a conservative government which is the more easy to fight in that it claims to follow no ideal. Whatever may happen the great effort that we have made against the project of Vandenbergism will not have been lost. For the present the Clericals have an opportunity to choose between two solutions, each equally dangerous to their party. If they resign themselves to the present situation our program will be more rapid. If they support the proportional representation, if they oppose to the Social Democrats the coalition of the bourgeois parties protected by the plural vote, our advance will be slower, but our progress will be more sure, and to those who are frightened at the obstacles along the route we would respond with the words of Dante, "It is a hard road but it leads to the end."

Attention is called to the issuance of two more numbers of the Pocket Library of Socialism—Robert Blatchford's "Imprudent Marriages," and Carl Marx' "Wage Labor and Capital." Both are reprints but neither are at all well known in this country. The work by Blatchford embraces two articles first published in this country in the New Charter, now the Class Struggle, and are perhaps about the best thing ever written by the author of Merrie England. They contain none of the economic weaknesses that infect his more pretentious works while they have all the brilliancy of style that has made his writings of such wonderful popularity. The pamphlet by Marx is perhaps the best short statement of the economic theories of Marx that exists. It is a good thing to have in your pocket to hand to a man who wants to know "What the Marx Philosophy is anyhow" but who will not take the time to read a larger work.

Do you believe in the "survival of the fittest?" Do you think you are yourself fit to survive? If so what do you expect to do about it?

Remember that we send The Call in clubs of ten for three months at ten cents each.

Where did you send your wages on a vacation? Where did your children go?

Are YOU still hunting for a better life?

Kansas City. Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 31st, '99. Mr. Henry Kuhn, Nat'l Sec'y S. L. P. 61 Beekman St., New York City.

AN OPEN LETTER.

Addressed to Daniel De Leon's Letter Box in Quest of Information. Proof having been demanded that you are a liar and a fakir, but knowing that the majority of your followers are so blind that they believe only what they receive from your lips we propose to give you an opportunity to furnish them with the desired evidence by answering the following questions:

At the regular meeting of Section Kansas City convened August 24th and continued over Aug. 27th and 31st; the propositions for general vote were submitted; but it was decided not to consider them, as explained by the following resolution which was finally passed this evening by a vote of 12 to 3:

RESOLUTION.

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee did on August 1st, 1899, submit to the membership of the party certain propositions being published in the "Henry Kuhn" edition of THE PEOPLE in the issue of August 6th, 1899, and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee did append to said propositions a resolution passed by itself, the preamble of which reads as follows:

"WHEREAS, The only possible settlement of the pending issue—inasmuch as such an issue has been brutally forced upon the membership of the party—is for the said membership to stand up and count itself, namely:

1. On one side those who fully imbued with the spirit of revolutionary socialism, stand by the National Executive Committee, and are determined to maintain at any cost and at all hazards, the constitution, platform, tactical resolutions and self-enforced discipline of the S. L. P.; to exact from the officials of the party organizations, national, state and local, the utmost vigilance and honesty in the enforcement of the party policy; to strongly uphold the hands of such of those officials who are faithful to their trusts, and to sternly deal with such as may show weakness, indecision or treachery, under the guise of tolerance and freedom;

2. On the other side, those who countenance factional opposition to the party policy; coups d'etat a la "Volkszeitung"; and exploitation of the socialist spirit of brotherhood and self-sacrifice for the benefit of private, corporate or handed schemes."

WHEREAS, Section Kansas City is fully in harmony with the clear-cut, class-conscious principles and tactics of the Socialist Labor Party, which have in general been carried out by the National Executive Committee, but

WHEREAS, We consider that the National Executive Committee, has, beginning with the submission of the proposition to separate from the Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association on June 6th, 1899, and continuing up to the recent time, assumed powers not given to it by the constitution of the party, first in submitting propositions to the membership of the party upon its own initiative, and secondly in "suspending" and "expelling" whole sections of the party without any trial whatever, in this latter case assuming power which has never been delegated to any committee of the party; and

WHEREAS, We do not consider that any action, however unconstitutional on the part of any section, faction, board, committee or individual of the party is an excuse for this unconstitutional procedure on the part of the party; and

WHEREAS, The National Executive Committee, has, beginning with the submission of the proposition to separate from the Socialist Co-operative Publishing Association on June 6th, 1899, and continuing up to the recent time, assumed powers not given to it by the constitution of the party, first in submitting propositions to the membership of the party upon its own initiative, and secondly in "suspending" and "expelling" whole sections of the party without any trial whatever, in this latter case assuming power which has never been delegated to any committee of the party; and

WHEREAS, We do not consider that any action, however unconstitutional on the part of any section, faction, board, committee or individual of the party is an excuse for this unconstitutional procedure on the part of the party; and

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WHEREAS, We do not consider that any action, however unconstitutional on the part of any section, faction, board, committee or individual of the party is an excuse for this unconstitutional procedure on the part of the party; and

First. Did you or did you not lie in the "Letter Box" of July 30th in the reply to "F. W. K." about not having received the resolution of the Central Committee of Section Chicago?

Second. Why did you recall your bluff in the "Letter Box" of August 20th regarding the publication of the "Maywood matter"? Was it not because you knew that Hickey, in a spirit of drunken bravado, had sent a copy of the same scurrilous and criminally libelous lies to The Workers' Call and to The Class Struggle, thus preventing you from "editing" it, and that you dare not attempt to publish it because so to do would be such an exposure of your whole gang as would forever disgust every decent socialist in America?

Third. Why do you not tell the whole story of the connection of members of your gang with the alleged Mahlon Barnes scandal? Is it not because so to do would be an exposure of a depth of hyena-like ghoulishness in political tactics never touched by any bourgeois politician?

Fourth. How did you doctor up the minutes of your so-called N. E. C. so as to account for the suspension of Section Chicago between the hours of midnight and morning? Before you answer this question you had better consult with your followers in Chicago so that you will both tell the same story.

Fifth. Will you now admit that you lied in your statement in your "People" when you denied that you and your followers had boycotted The Class Struggle?

You have endeavored to force your personality upon the workers of America and to make yourself the leader of the socialist forces. You have in so doing made this fight purely a question of personality and your personality alone. Therefore we, the delegates of Central Committee of Section Chicago, Socialist Labor Party of America, desire the above information concerning your personality and those whom you have gathered around you.

Awaiting your reply, We are, Yours for Socialism, City Central Com. Sec. Chicago, S. L. P. per Jas. Smith, Sec.

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 covenant assembled, re-affirms 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, 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 we trace 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 millions 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 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 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 classless 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 employee to operate the same co-operatively under the control of the Federal government and to elect their own superior officers, but no employees shall be discharged for political reasons.

3. The municipalities shall obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water 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 and mineral resources of the United States shall be reserved for the benefit of the people, 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 providing for the reclamation of the local railroads, ferries, water 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.

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, trap, conspiracy and summary laws. Unabridged right of combination.

11. Prohibition of the employment of children of school age and the employment of female labor in hazardous and immoral occupations, and the abolition of the contract 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 employer's 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 other 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 sect. 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.

22. Laws for the protection of life and limb in all occupations, and an efficient employer's liability law.

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SECTION MINNEAPOLIS holds its regular business meeting at the Labor Lyceum, 34-36 Washington avenue S., on the last Tuesday evening of each month.

SECTION ST. PAUL holds its regular business meeting at the Assembly Halls, Third and Wabasha streets, on the first Wednesday evening of each month.

MINNESOTA STATE COMMITTEE meets regularly at the Labor Lyceum, Minneapolis, on the first Monday evening of each month.

Section Minneapolis holds public agitation meetings at the Labor Lyceum, 34-36 Washington avenue S., every Sunday afternoon.

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK.

SECTION ONONDAGA S. L. P., meets first Wednesday each month at Socialist Labor Party headquarters, room 14, Myers' Bldg.

BRANCH 1 meets 2d and 4th Thursday each month at Stauff's Hall, cor. Buiternut and Knual St.

BRANCH 2 meets 3d Friday each month at headquarters, 14 Myers' Bldg.

BRANCH 3 meets 3d Thursday each month at Haas Hall, cor. N. Salina and Ash.

BRANCH 4 adjourned meetings until September.

Socialist Labor Party headquarters in Syracuse are room 14, Myers' block. Open afternoon and evening. A large stock of socialist literature and reading matter always kept on hand. All interested in the study of the economic question always welcome.

SECTION PHILADELPHIA, S. L. P., Labor Lyceum, 809-17 N. 6th St. Meets every 2nd Sunday of each month at 8 p. m.; Ed. Kupplinger, Rec. Sec., 1226 Brown St.

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

Directory of Section Chicago.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF SECTION CHICAGO, 65 N. Clark St., 1st and 3rd Tuesday; Sec. Jas. Smith, 367 W. Madison St.

BRANCHES.

FOURTH WARD, 3638 Armour Ave., 1st Thursday each month; Sec. N. Krogh, 3550 La Salle St.

FIFTH WARD, 459 31st St., every Monday night; Sec. Joseph Trentz, 339 24th St.

SEVENTH WARD, 496 S. Halsted St., 1st and 3rd Monday each month; Sec. Jos. Stone, 395 Fortuner St.

NINTH WARD, 427 W. 18th St., every Sunday; Sec. John Benda, 88 Fish St.

TENTH WARD, 116 W. 24th St., every Friday night; Sec. R. Finstrom, 1004 S. Wood St.

THIRTEENTH WARD, S. E. Cor. Grand and Western Ave., every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m.; Sec. Aug. Klenk, 865 Grand Ave.

FOURTEENTH WARD (Danish), 739 W. North Ave.; 1st and 3rd Friday each month 8 p. m.; Sec. Lauritz Olson, 744 N. Artesian Ave.

FOURTEENTH WARD, 384 W. Division St.; 1st and 3d Sundays, 9 a. m.; Sec. E. M. Stangland, 650 N. Washenaw Ave.

FIFTEENTH WARD, 992 N. Tolman Ave.; 2nd and 4th Friday evening each month; Sec. Adam Harvey, 992 N. Tolman Ave.

SIXTEENTH WARD, 518 Milwaukee Ave., every 2nd and 4th Friday evening.

TWENTY-SECOND WARD, 380 Larabee St., 2nd and 4th Mondays; Sec. O. Gritchek, 94 Reese St.

TWENTY-THIRD WARD (Scandinavian), holds out-door agitation meetings; Sec. A. B. Gulberg, 135 Oak St.

TWENTY-FOURTH WARD, 65 N. Clark St.; every 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening.

TWENTY-SIXTH WARD, corner Southport and Belmont Aves., every Mon. evening Sec. Thos. Carr, 678 Oggood St.

TWENTY-EIGHTH WARD, Brett's Hall, cor. 48th Ave. and Lake St.; 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings each month; Sec. Carl Peterson, 2494 Lake St.

THIRTIETH WARD, German, 1718 W. 51st St., 1st and 3rd Mondays; Sec. H. Steinert, 240 46th Pl.

THIRTIETH WARD, Scandinavian, 1148 63d St., 2nd and 4th Fridays; Sec. A. Rasmussen, 6947 Ada St.

THIRTY-FIRST WARD, 6730 Sangamon St., 1st and 3rd Fridays each month; Sec. J. Wahne, 6630 Aberdeen St.

THIRTY-THIRD WARD, room 19 Commercial Block, Cor. Commercial Ave. and 92nd St., South Chicago; 1st and 3rd Mondays each month; Sec. M. H. Taft, 7919 Edwards Ave.

THIRTY-FOURTH WARD, 113 S. Michigan Ave., every 2d and 4th Sunday, 3 p. m.; Sec. G. F. Denne, 11437 Perry Ave.

THIRTY-FOURTH WARD NO. 2, 118th and Wallace (W. Pullman); 1st Wednesday eve., 3d Sunday, 3 p. m.; Sec. Dr. Gladman, 11817 Union Ave.

POLISH BRANCHES

POLISH CENTRAL COMMITTEE—meets every Monday at 571 Noble St., 8 p. m.; Sec. A. J. Borkowski, 700 W. 21st Pl.

NINTH WARD meets every Saturday at 800 S. Ashland Ave. (Pulaski's Hall), 8 p. m.

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

SIXTEENTH WARD, meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month at 1371 Noble St., 8 p. m.; Sec. M. Pisch, 53 Elston Ave.

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THIRTY-THIRD WARD meets at 8419 Superior Ave. (second floor front), every 1st and 3rd Sundays at 8 p. m.; Sec. Majk Pieck.

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THROUGHOUT THE STATE