

On Ben Hanford's Death:
Telegram to the *New York Call*
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[Omaha, Nebraska]

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The death of Comrade Ben Hanford removes from the socialist movement one of its most gifted writers, eloquent speakers, and loyal supporters. For many years he served with pen and tongue with all the ability and energy at his command. He never wearied in the struggle, never uttered a disheartening word, and never lowered his colors.

Ben Hanford was a perfect type of the proletarian revolutionist. He had the clear head of a philosopher and the brave soul of a warrior. His personality was virile and magnetic, his character unique and commanding. His enthusiasm, notwithstanding his frail body, was contagious. Wherever he went, he was respected and loved and wherever he was heard he won converts to the cause.

During the past few years he did his work under the extremest difficulties. Almost any other would have yielded to pain and torture and given up in despair. But Ben Hanford had sprung from the loins of the working class and knew no such word as surrender. Many an agony was wrung from his emaciated body, but he never halted in his march and never wavered in his devotion to duty and his fidelity to the movement.

He had patience, fortitude, serenity, and unconquerable heroism. He did as much as any other and under circumstances more than any other, to make the socialist movement in the United States what it is today, and his life of splendid service is an example and his unflagging devotion to principle an inspiration to us all.

The death of this brave comrade is a distinct loss to the socialist movement. Personally, I keenly feel his taking off, and my deepest sympathy goes to his widowed comrade.

There is consolation in knowing that Hanford's unselfish services will preserve his memory and that his heroic soul is in the great movement he lived and died to serve.

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