



ADVANCE

The Conspiracy Against Liberty.

Infamous Means By Which the Existing System of Wage-Slavery is to Be Perpetuated.

Capitalism Seeks to Distort Truth, Control Education, Dominate Ethics and Suppress Free Speech For Its Own Vile End.

Day by day new evidence accumulates, tending to prove the existence of a conspiracy against the liberties of the people. The average American, accustomed to the exercise of certain civil rights, is loth to believe that these can ever be filched from him. The political liberties fought for by his ancestors and ingrained, as it seems, not only in the constitutions, federal and state, but even in the natural order of things—these he deems truly inalienable except by some violent coup d'etat which he feels the people could easily overcome. Resting quietly under this delusion, forgetting the motto, "Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty," which experience taught his forefathers, the citizen of today fails to see the cunning hand which the crafty, guileful capitalists are stretching forth to throttle freedom and defeat democracy. Yet to those who understand the measures to which ruling classes resort, who know how dangerous the republican institutions of America are to the industrial oligarchy that at present rules us, the stealthy, insidious measures now being taken to control the means of education and information, to restrict the right of suffrage, to hamper working class politics and to throttle free speech—these measures are links in a rapidly forming chain of evidence that binds on the capitalist class and its political lackeys the capital crime of traitors to liberty.

It is not necessary to assume a conscious, well-planned conspiracy to deprive the people of those political rights by means of which they can now remedy their economic wrongs. The class consciousness, the class-instinct of the rich, is sufficient to account for the simultaneous movement, east and west, north and south, to consolidate their power by the exclusion of the working-class from politics. Any one acquainted with the mental processes of the capitalists will understand that they consider themselves better and of more worth to the state than the workers. Heretofore they have always dominated governmental policy. Should any measure pass? How does it affect the business interests of the community? the press and politicians would ask, in a breath; and as the business men answered, so would its fate be determined.

For a long time no one thought of consulting the working-class as to how it affected their interests, and even today the great majority seem to consider that in politics the interests of capitalist plunderers and plundered workmen are inseparably bound together. Nevertheless, the wage-workers growing in numbers, forced by the increasing hardships of their lives to combine, began seeking protective and beneficial legislation from the capitalist parties. Furthermore, those proletarians who were crushed into the slums and augmented the criminal class, preyed parasitically on the capitalistic criminals who were forced to use them in the management of successful political campaigns. That this condition still exists and is by no means past history, is amply proven by the municipal corruption which spreads like a plague in a broad band across the continent, from Tammany Hall in New York to the Phelan machine in San Francisco. Naturally, the capitalists seek protection. The tools they use to control politics are not trustworthy. The pretorian guard of boodles—they are too greedy for gold themselves and turn on their masters when angered. "Cinch bills" are too numerous.

Easily, then, we can divine the source and reason of the cry which arose ten years ago for the entrance of the business man into politics. But entering into politics, these "business men" have found that to do the detail work of rounding up the voters the ward heeler is still a necessity, and the only inspiring motive that he knows is the opportunity for "grafting" and the reward of "dough." Clearly, since the business interests are the only ones worthy of consideration, say the men of the capitalist class, we are the ones to determine what they are, and the participation of the proletariat in politics ought to be discouraged and stopped. From this arose the movement toward restricting the suffrage to literate and propertied citizens.

But the mere inconvenience of controlling the party machines was not a sufficient incentive to capitalists to take active measures against popular government. The issues at stake were not serious enough. It remained for the fear of the growing class-consciousness of the wage-workers and their more active and organized participation in legislation to sting into action the capitalists and suggest to their crafty minds a conspiracy against liberty.

The formation of trades-unions and their demand for legislation favorable to the working-class was the first jolt the capitalists received, which awakened them to a realization of the entrance of a new power in the political field. The trustful simplicity of these organizations, however, that politely petitioned the lackeys of their masters and enemies to pass labor bills, allowed the first fears of the capitalists, and by fraud and deceit they jockeyed the pure and simple trades unions with unenforced laws and soon-to-be-forgotten promises.

It was the organization of the Socialist forces and the rapidly growing radical sentiment that brought true alarm to the hearts of the "captains of industry." All former labor organizations merely contemplated restrictions on the plundering of the working people. Socialists proposed the revolutionary program of abolishing the robbery altogether. Not only that, but

as the plunderers were becoming fewer and the plundered more numerous, the method of robbery was becoming more odious and the danger point approached nearer and nearer. Under such circumstances it is evident that the capitalists, not being fools, must act with promptness and decision. The people must be taught that things are all right as they are. While thus deluded, their political privileges must be filched from them. The military power of the government must be strengthened. The means of communication and information must be gathered under capitalist control. By these means the capitalists hope to prevent the growth of the socialist movement, and, failing that, to crush it with force. Let those who doubt this recall the words of Senator Hanna, the political leader of capitalism, who, but a few weeks ago, proclaimed that the next issue would be between republicanism, that is capitalism, and socialism.

Understanding thus the conditions and the moving impulse, we may now turn and examine the conduct of the capitalist governments in the glaring light of these facts.

Here are the steps in this infamous conspiracy to rivet upon expanding vigor humanity the throttling outgrown bands of capitalist property.

In nearly every city no precautions are taken to provide schooling facilities for the children of the poor, and amongst the native-born in cities the percentage of illiteracy is increasing.

Manual training schools are being established to teach the workers' children to become more efficient slaves and at the same time to be content with menial positions.

Universities are founded in which no heterodox economics are allowed, and those who dare with rebellious manhood to criticize the dictatorial heads are summarily discharged.

School books are furnished which teach bourgeois morals, bourgeois history and bourgeois economics. Thus, from the kindergarten to the college the only mental pabulum furnished is that which preaches contentment to the poor and glorifies the criminal exploits of the rich.

Hanna, for the Republican party, has been busily engaged in consolidating the interests of the heretofore independent country press, and more than in the past political editorials will uniformly issue from the press bureau of the G. O. P. and be printed simultaneously in many parts. But all this is not enough. There are men who will not prostitute their talents to the plutocrats and who more or less ably battle against the all-pervading monster of industrial monopoly. Failing to bribe these independents, they are to be crushed. The Loud postal bill is being pushed with might and main which, if it carries, increases eight times the cost of mailing to subscribers the issues of all weekly papers. It would be trite to instance the telegraphic monopoly which exercises a strict censorship over all news, or to call attention again to the subsidized hostility to labor of many clergymen.

In many States measures are contemplated which restrict the suffrage. Louisiana, Mississippi, South and North Carolina and Virginia have disfranchised Negro and poor white workingmen alike, while in Northern States the lengthening of the terms of residence tends to diminish the opportunity for voting.

But it is not by such direct measures that the capitalists work. They do not fear the WORKINGMAN in politics; they fear the WORKING-CLASS in politics. Hence, under the pretense of endeavoring to cleanse their own parties from the corruption that smells unto high heaven, they are establishing primary laws which interfere with party organization and destroy the secrecy of the ballot. This exposes the Socialist workingman to sure discovery by his "boss," and—such is the galling slavery under which we live—leads either to pretended recantation or dismissal from employment. We have not yet felt the full effect of these laws; but knowing the well established systems of blacklisting adopted by the greater industrial organizations, we know what we may expect.

Not only in the primary laws, but in the nomination of candidates further restrictions are being placed. Freedom of suffrage will not be destroyed, oh, no! You can vote for whom you wish. But, if you desire a certain candidate to appear on the official ballot, you must pay such and such a fee. So exclaim these political Jesuits, knowing well that the plundered proletariat has little money to expend and its scanty funds are almost insufficient to carry on the immense propaganda its cause demands.

Not even here rests the pernicious activity of the conspirators and their tools. Despite these limitations and hindrances the mighty movement of emancipation marches too swiftly forward toward its goal to allow them peaceful sleep.

On every highway they hear our orators denouncing the iniquities of capitalism, rekindling with fiery eloquence the light of hope in the workers brains and leading them on through knowledge to success. Under pretence, therefore, of guarding the rights of other citizens and of passersby, free speech is suppressed and public assemblies broken up. The guarantees of State and Federal Constitutions are set aside by municipal ordinances, and every petty policeman is vested with tyrannical power. The unpropertied working-class is prohibited the use of the public places

for their gatherings and are thrown on the mercy of the antagonistic landlord class to find means of exercising the fundamental rights of a free people.

Socialist propagandists are arrested by capitalist constables, tried by capitalist juries, sentenced by capitalist judges and imprisoned in capitalist jails—the villainy increasing as capitalist justice proceeds to its infamous end. And no redress can be had.

Finally, lest, in spite of all their efforts, the workers should rise in a mighty class-conscious party and overwhelm them at the ballot-box, the capitalists are quietly organizing a powerful standing army to use in the final necessity of the use of force to maintain their positions and retain their wealth.

The craft, the unscrupulous cunning which blew up the Wardner concentrator to secure military law in Idaho, which plunged the nation into the Spanish war to secure the fields of investment in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines, which holds the European wolves at bay, while it consolidates its own power, preparatory to seizing all of China for itself—that Machiavellian intellect will find some pretext in the troublous times to come to hurl the military force it now is fostering upon the revolutionary battalions of proletarian Socialism. The few men into whose hands the destinies of the billion-dollar steel trust and the billion-dollar railroad trust are now consigned are, not asleep nor resting. The immense revenues they derive from their present investments they immediately reinvest. The movement of consolidation is progressing with the most astounding rapidity. Does any one deem that these oligarchs will freely release their clutch upon the country's throat; that they will lightly relinquish their positions and possessions? Let no one be so deceived. By fraud as long as fraud will serve; by force when fraud shall fail—such is the program of the plutocrats.

Workingmen, citizens, can you not see the perilous rock ahead? Seize hold of the helm in time to save the ship of State from social shipwreck! Agitate constantly everywhere, for everywhere and constantly the capitalists exploit you. Educate your comrades with all possible speed, for the subsidized press is rapidly debauching their intellects with its yellow capitalistic rot. Organize the army of emancipation, for swiftly and surely the capitalists consolidate their power. Shout forth again the international battle-cry, "Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains; you have the whole world to gain. Unite!"

ONE OF THE OLD GUARD.

Lissagaray, Historian of the Commune Passes Away at the Age of Sixty-two.

Lissagaray died after frightful agonies in the arms of his devoted wife and of Dr. Dupont. He had reached an age of sixty-two years.

The old Socialist had all the qualities essential to a good historian, and his temperament was that of a fighter.

He utilized the painful time of the exile for research in the libraries of London, that are so rich in documents of the French revolution. Nobody knew the men of 1789 better than he. He was on intimate terms with them. His most hasty work, such as newspaper articles, bear the stamp of inexhaustible learning.

He had inaugurated the gatherings in the Rue de la Paix, where the most eloquent men of letters and politicians could be heard. His essays on "Musset and Youth" brought him renown.

He was imprisoned for several months in Beauvais with the majority of the sentenced members of the International, because he published aggressive articles in the "Reforme," of which he had become editor.

He followed Gambetta into the province, established the camp at Toulouse, fought in the army of the Loire up to the time of the cessation of hostilities, protested in Bordeaux against the outrages to which Garibaldi was submitted. Finally, he took his place in the ranks of the Confederates which he left only on the Pere Lachaise after the last shot had been fired.

He was sentenced to exile. In London, where he was on familiar terms with Marx, he eked out a living by giving lessons and writing. There he wrote the first edition of the "History of the Paris Commune" and "Eight Days Behind the Barricades."

Without fire, often without bread, Lissagaray brought this work of justification of the proletarian class to a successful close.

After the amnesty he founded the "Bataille." His contributors were Jeffrin, John Labusquiere, Victor Marouck and Brousse. Later on came Arsene Crie and Emile Violard. Suppressed in 1887, the "Bataille" made its reappearance two years later and fought its well-known unremitting battle against the Boulangist Cesarism.

Vigorous and well-made, an indefatigable walker, always on the lookout for a fight and taking delight in danger, gifted with a superb memory, alert and full of life, this Basque might have aspired to glory. He was endowed with qualities that might have taken him to the highest positions, but a most disagreeable disposition spoiled all his admirable abilities and condemned him to isolation and inactivity.

He should have been one of the workers of the Revolution and he was only its defender.

In spite of all this, he served a good purpose, and his services may be measured by the hatred he inspired in the ranks of capitalism. He loathed above everything the military and the clergy. His devotion belonged to the republic and to the proletariat which he served faithfully.—From "Le Peuple," Brussels.

A deal is on foot at Louisville, Ky., to consolidate the Louisville Gas Company, the Kentucky Heating Company, the Louisville Electric Light Company, and the Citizens' General Electric Company. The deal will involve several millions of dollars.

Labor and Politics.

Written for ADVANCE by JOHN PENNY.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

London, February 22, 1901.

Both Progressive and Moderate Parties are rather late in the day with their arrangements for the L. C. C. election, which takes place on Saturday, March 2d, and in some constituencies the candidates are even now not definitely fixed. The Moderates this year have decided to drop their name and come out as Conservative candidates, pure and simple. This determination has elicited from John Burns, M. P., the saying that "it is their intention to mix up a spirited foreign policy with main drainage," a pleasant remark which will not be without its effect on the fortunes of the election. The Progressives are running upon a program of a distinctly Collectivist nature. Municipal Houses, Trams, Docks, Water, Light, Steamboats, etc., loom very large, and the taxation of ground values will be a prominent item. Strange to say the Conservatives have practically adopted the same program, slightly watered down, showing how far Socialism is recognized as an important factor in municipal affairs in London. Both sides are very uneasy as to what the result of the election will be because a new element has come in this year, lodgers for the first time being entitled to vote. The Progressives are talking the more boldly, probably because they have come to an arrangement with the Labor and Socialist Parties and in all probability there will be no three-cornered contests. In several constituencies the Progressives, will stand as Progressive and Labor candidates, which indicates the hold the working-class electors have upon the political machinery in the metropolis.

THE PENRHYN DISPUTE.

Attempts are being made, I am informed, to reopen these great quarries, but so far without any tangible success, and Bethesda, one of the most peaceful and harmonious towns in the United Kingdom, presents an extraordinary spectacle in that the great bulk of its population is quietly taking its departure to seek livelihood elsewhere. The depopulation of a district such as this, owing to arbitrary and unbearable rules of working in the quarries, is greatly to be regretted because it means that overcrowding is taking place in other towns and districts.

That Bethesda should be the scene of such a dispute is simply astounding. Here have lived generations of quarrymen who have been famed for the strict performance of religious duties, for their love of music. They have been diligent servants and have piled up untold wealth for their employers. They have also added not a little to the comfort of mankind at large for their industry has been the supplying of one of the people's needs. And now the quarries are empty, the sound of pick and spade is heard no longer, and the town is gradually becoming deserted.

What can have caused such a change? Will naturally be asked, and it would be difficult to give a definite answer. The men themselves can only reply very vaguely, but their reply is to the effect that during the last four or five years the conditions of labor have become intolerable. They feel that they have been treated like felons instead of free men; petty tyranny has established espionage of such a character that the men have picked up their tools, saying, "We do not complain of this, that, or the other in particular, but life is simply unbearable here and we are going to quit."

It seems a pity that so important an industry, affecting the well-being directly and indirectly of many thousands of human beings, should be so controlled as to bring the whole concern to a standstill. Cannot the State intervene in the interests of the whole community.

POLICEMEN WITH SWORDS.

At the last meeting of the Edinburgh Trades Council attention was called to the fact that it was proposed to arm the mounted police of the city with swords, and the delegates discussed at some length the causes which could have led to this innovation, among the ideas being one that it was intended to arm the police in this way so that they might be ready to put down any labor troubles in future, while another was that this was the first outward and visible sign of the growth of militarism in our midst. As the Council could see no use for the swords and did not regard them as ornaments, it was decided to offer opposition to the proposal.

TROUBLES FOR THE LADIES.

Probably few among my readers will have much occasion for repining, but the fashionable ten thousand of Belgravia must be sadly put out at the serious news which comes from Paris where the ladies' tailors, male and female, have come out on strike and where the milliners are threatening to take sympathetic action. One can imagine the distress of Lady Gwendoline and the dowager at the thought that the new gown may not be home in time and how kindly they will think of the ill-bred workingmen and women who dare to strike for better wages.

But, seriously, the men and women employed in the trade in Paris mean to better themselves. They are demanding an eight-hour day with ten francs fixed wages for men and six francs for women. Really, if such demands were formulated by English dressmakers, they would have tons of political economy showered on them to prove they were driving the trade out of the country.

The Widener-Elkins syndicate has corralled the Cincinnati Street Railway Company.

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Communications must reach the office by Wednesday preceding the issue in which they are to appear.
The fact that a signed article is published does not commit the Editor to all opinions expressed therein.
Contributors and items of news concerning the labor movement are requested from our readers. Every contribution must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.
Short communications giving reports of organization and progress of the Socialist movement are desired from committees in all sections. No thing is of greater interest to readers than this feature. Our readers want it and will pay for it.

As a hatchman George Washington is no where with Carrie Nation.

As an item of news we have it on good authority that Marcus Hanna is opposed to Socialism.

Hail to William the First, by the grace of God Emperor of the United States, Cuba, Hawaii, and the Philippines!

Four years of political deception and diplomatic cunning have closed. Four years of imperial boldness and military brutality have begun.

The Australians have forbidden recruiting for the British army. That country is tired of having the bones of her sons bleached on the veldt of South Africa.

As the middle class dies out the Democratic party wanes. As the capitalist class consolidate their power, the Republican party grows bolder and more reckless. As the working class increases in strength and solidarity the Social Democratic party rises mightier and mightier until with the strength of a young giant it will hurl down the ancient wrongs from their shrines of blood and tears.

The Democrats in Congress were shamefully mistreated by their Republican confederates. After sacrificing their honor, their power and their political prestige on the promise of the Republican leaders that the rich appropriation plums of the river and harbor bill would fall in their laps—when they had yielded everything to secure this, at the last moment, their cupid hearts were heartlessly exposed and their bargain contemptuously ignored in the defeat of the bill. Ignominious and impotent they stand in the nation's pillory. Bribe and betrayal in their corruption by the authors of their disgrace, pitiful, indeed, is the plight in which they are placed.

"Sacramento, March 5.—The Senate this morning passed Taylor's bill requiring each parent and guardian to send to school all children between the ages of eight and fourteen years. The measure provides penalties for violation of the proposed law."

Very well, gentlemen, but have you made any provision to enable poor people to educate their children without great sacrifice? Are you not aware that many families need the few pennies which even these poor infants ten and twelve years old are earning? Necessity knows no law. It is very well to make education compulsory, but why not make such provisions that it shall be possible for the poor? We Socialists demand that free books, free noonday meals and free clothing be supplied to the children, that none shall suffer from ignorance, hunger or cold.

A. M. Simons in "The Workers' Call" has the following descriptive of the experience of the two years of existence and pointing the moral for the Socialist press. There are others:

"The little over two hundred members of Section Chicago has now grown to over 1,200, the half-dozen socialist papers in the United States have now become over a hundred. On every side, and over and over again, The Call has worked up a strong circulation in some city only to receive a little later 'Vol. I, No. 1' of a new Socialist paper, marked 'Please Ex.' and dated at the place where the large club had grown up. Then, as was to be expected, and as it should be, all our best workers would transfer their allegiance to the new friend and The Call list would fall off. So more and more The Call has been transforming itself into a local paper, believing that the time has come when every large city and every state at least should have its own Socialist paper. Chicago certainly has reached the point where it can support a Socialist paper, and in The Call it has the paper it needs."

WHERE THEY STAND.

A very significant telegram was flashed across the continent on the morning of March 4th. The wires had been kept busy with the news from Washington concerning the preparations made for the magnificent spectacle of the inaugural ceremony. Beauty and wealth and military pomp were being combined to produce one of the most imposing scenes that Washington has witnessed—a demonstration significant of the triumph of Imperial Plutocracy. The Democratic press was teeming with articles denouncing as un-American and anti-democratic the military pageant which the Republicans were marshalling for the honor of their chief.

The Democratic politicians in the halls of Congress, bribed, beaten and betrayed, were helpless before their legislative antagonists, but still hoped, out of the wreck of their organization, to hold to some principle on which to appeal to the people when the next election comes. Through this press of news, however, came a telegram which, though it appears small, is highly significant and which with many others con-

tributes to the final and complete overthrow of that aggregation of economic ignorance, political incompetence and moral turpitude, the Democratic party.

In Greater New York Tammany holds full sway. There the principles of Democracy are determined, for Richard Croker, boss of New York, dictated terms to the rest of his party at their last pow-wow. Without him they would have been helpless. When, therefore, the Democrats prate of their friendship for labor, their love of liberty and their devotion to the everlasting principles of democracy, we may be justified in turning to the city of Greater New York to discover how they there use their absolute power to benefit the masses.

It would be expected, were faith put in the heated eloquence of Democratic stump orators, that the liberties of the people would be regarded as of higher value than the privileges and property of the "soulless corporations." One would assume that a government controlled by a party with such humanitarian principles as they profess would throw the vast power of its wealth and authority on the side of those men who rose in industrial revolt against the hard conditions which their master, the "bloated monopoly," imposed upon them. Since in any conflict between labor and capital the victory rests with the more enduring, the one whose means of livelihood can longer be independently maintained—since employment is what labor needs to procure its life—supporting income and property is the means through which the capitalists derive their revenue—it would immediately suggest itself to the unbiased philosopher that a government favorable to the people and hostile to the plutocrats would aid the workers in their struggle by furnishing them temporary employment on some of the numerous public works that are always going on. At least, to only dispense even-handed justice with no show of favoritism, one would expect that, if men were dispatched at public expense to protect the property, the source of revenue of the capitalists, some measure would be taken to provide the striking workers with employment, their means of livelihood.

But to prove that the Democratic pretences are mere hypocritical rantings, that their protestations of friendship to labor are frauds and shams, that they are but the tools of capitalism and serve its ends and do its dictates as promptly and effectively as their sham antagonists, the Republicans; to add one more item of evidence to the great mass of facts that substantiate Marx's statement that "all bourgeois governments are but committees of the capitalist class," let the following telegram speak:

"Brooklyn, March 5th.—The Brooklyn police force was kept on hand over midnight, March 4th, as the authorities apprehended a strike on the Rapid Transit service. Trouble was feared with the employees."

THE POWER OF THE TRUSTS.

On recovering their surprise the college-crippled intellects of some of the bourgeois economists are making feeble attempts to show that the immense steel and railroad combines will be held in check by internal disruptive tendencies and the formation of competing concerns. Others are endeavoring to lull the people into quiescence by the assertion that the limit has been reached. It is probably quite useless to argue with these gentlemen. Few of them wish to learn the truth and those few are unfortunately of such weak intellect that they cannot comprehend it. The rest only wish to know enough to hold their jobs.

But there are those, not professors, but workingmen, who, though intelligent seekers after knowledge, are apt to be misled by the specious fallacies of the bourgeois economists. For the sake of these we wish to adduce a little more evidence as to the trend of events, to bring up a few more facts evidencing the concentration of capital and the power of the trust.

Readers of ADVANCE will find noted under the department head "On the Way to Socialism" the formation of new trusts, the extension of the scope of old ones and other items indicative of the downfall of the middle class and the aggrandizement of the capitalist.

But two items of especial value, as illustrative of our contention, we present here.

The first we present as indicative of what the future holds in the way of further concentration. George Gould, the railroad magnate, was interviewed in Nashville, Tenn. When asked if he regarded the tendency to railroad consolidation as having spent its force, and as to the ultimate result of the community of great railroad interests, Mr. Gould replied: "To the first section of your question I will answer no. The consolidating tendency will be alive for some time yet. I predict other and greater merges than have yet taken place. As to the effect of such concentration of interests I believe the public will be benefited thereby."

This is high authority. Mr. Gould should know whereof he speaks. And more than that, we are entirely justified in asserting that what Mr. Gould says will go. Doubtless there will be opposition. Demagogic politicians will howl and hostile capitalists will fight to prevent the increasing of the size of the railroad trust. But does any one seriously believe that these things will check or stop the movement? Those who do are hugging a delusion.

The Steel Trust was most bitterly fought. The vast wealth of Carnegie was brought in opposition and all the power of Wall Street was hurled against the manipulators who consummated this deal. Yet, what was the result? A complete triumph for the trust. The following dispatch clipped from Wall street notes in the finance department of one of the great dailies of this city bears ample testimony to the ability of Gould and Morgan and their confederates to put through any further scheme of consolidation and trustification they desire or trade conditions demand.

"New York, March 3.—The feature of the week in financial circles was the settlement of the terms upon which the existing steel companies should be taken over by the so-called billion dollar trust. Many obstacles were presented, particularly by the large stockholders in the American Steel and Wire and the National Tube Company, whose shares were not treated relatively as well as the outstanding stocks of other concerns. Negotiations at one time reached a standstill.

"The big steel combination has been carried through by brute force. Conservative bankers did not look with favor upon the proposition. It was in the influence of Mr. Morgan's personality and the enormous backing which he can command, which led many of the smaller banking houses in Wall street to subscribe

to the underwriting syndicate which may be called upon to furnish \$200,000,000. Those who are participating in this underwriting cannot dispose of their interests or withdraw their support, no matter what contingency may arise. In other words, the members of the syndicate agree to place in the hands of Mr. Morgan whatever money he may require, with the understanding that it must remain there until such time as Mr. Morgan may decide to liquidate and return the profits to the subscribers.

"Another provision of the underwriters' agreement, which is most unusual, is that Mr. Morgan has the right to deal in any of the securities of the various corporations to be acquired for a period of fifteen months before he will be required to make any report of the use of the money, what has been accomplished and what the profits may be. These two sweeping provisions have helped to break down the opposition which was preparing to fight the carrying out of the plan."—Examiner, March 4th.

In conclusion we may ask the intelligent workingman just how much liberty he expects when such tyranny as crops out in those two provisions can be exercised over the powerful millionaire financiers of Wall street? Do you believe, with Mr. Gould, that "the effect of such concentration of interests will be beneficial to the public"? Why not let the Nation own these trusts?

On the Way To Socialism.

A bluestone trust is being organized. The Baltimore and Ohio, Western Maryland and Reading railroads have pooled.

The Iowa Central Railroad and the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad will consolidate.

All the sugar plantations of Hawaii are being gradually but firmly brought under the beneficent protection of the Sugar Trust.

New cotton ginning machines enables two men to gin 4,000 pounds daily, and under the old system they could turn out less than a hundredth part in the same amount of time.

The North American Trust Company and the Trust Company of New York have combined. Assets, \$22,000,000.

Atlanta Constitution, leading Democratic paper in the South, says John D. Rockefeller's wealth can only be measured with \$2,000,000,000.

The Sugar Trust refused to bring its books into court at Toledo, Ohio. There was no contempt of court. The trusts have gone beyond the contempt of court stage of development.

But yesterday it seems we were borrowing money from England. Now Morgan & Co. have organized the British Electric Traction Company with a capital of ten million American dollars wrung from American workingmen.

Further evidence of what the trade is pleased to call an "agreement" between Arbuckle Bros. and the American Sugar Refinery Company was given today when announcement was made of an advance of half a cent in the price of the package coffees put out by the Arbuckles and the Woolson Spice Company.

Chicago, March 3d.—After three extensions of options on all the tin-can manufacturing plants in the United States, the plan of consolidation proposed nearly two years ago will go into practical effect within a fortnight. The capital required will be about \$20,000,000 instead of \$10,000,000, as given out by Eastern financiers.

There has been the most persistent and quiet accumulation of Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville securities in the market during the past fortnight. This property, which is now owned very largely by J. P. Morgan & Co., will ultimately pass into the hands of the Southern Railway, providing for the latter an entrance of its line into Chicago.

The American Smelter Trust, in which company John D. Rockefeller and J. Pierpont Morgan of New York are actively interested, with President Hill of the Great Northern, have closed the purchase of a majority of the stock of the Crows' Nest Coal Company. The investment is given at over \$1,000,000. The coke plant is at present the largest in Canada, and the famous coal mines are practically inexhaustible.

The Indiana Legislature has passed the Joss Railroad Consolidation bill, which it is generally claimed will put Indiana at the mercy of the big railroad combines. Railroad attorneys from New York and elsewhere helped make up a powerful lobby when the bill came up, and there was widespread talk of "boodles" used on the country members. The bill now only awaits the Governor's signature. It permits the consolidation of any railroads in Indiana, and virtually requires all suits against railroads involving over \$2,000 to be filed in a federal court.

The paper trust has scored another victory. Last week the twenty-six mills of the Columbia Paper Company, eighteen of them in Illinois, were sold under foreclosure and purchased for the combination, which had got hold of the bonds. The value of the mills is put at \$250,000, but they sold for \$40,000. As the companies had become insolvent in competing with the combine, so would any other small capitalist who should have attempted to continue the business. Yet paper, with lower cost of production, is selling for prices 50 per cent above those of two years ago.

The Standard Oil interests, which control the Consolidated Gas Company and the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, which in turn owns all of the gas and electric lighting plants in Greater New York, is only waiting until the Legislature adjourns before announcing the amalgamation of these two concerns. Wall-street rumors give two different plans under which these two properties are to be brought together. One is that the Brooklyn Union will be leased by the Consolidated Gas Company on guaranteed dividends, and the other a new corporation will be formed, the shares of which will be distributed evenly for the outstanding stock of both companies.

At any rate the situation is in the hands of the Rockefeller and every competition has been eliminated until the city establishes a municipal gas plant.

IN THE Industrial Arena

BY JOS. J. NIEL.

Wage-workers, who belong to any trade that is not yet organized should send their names and addresses to the "Labor Editor." These names will be organized into their respective trades and as soon as enough are obtained of any occupation, a meeting will be called and a union organized. All unions organized through the medium of "ADVANCE" will be affiliated with the Labor Council and the American Federation of Labor. Address all communications to "Labor Editor ADVANCE," 134 Murphy Building.

A writer with a fondness for the "blood red phrase," once said, "If seven men should stick together with the one object of conquering the world continually before their eyes, they would eventually conquer it." This may or may not be a great truth. But the fact that seven men organized the barbers of this city would incline one to a serious consideration of its possibilities. These seven pioneers in organization fought an uphill fight for almost five years. They met in a dingy room and exchanged views on the hopelessness of the struggle, but they never gave up. The barbers of the city were so overworked and imposed upon that few dared to speak their "honest thought in an honest way." Almost the whole of the night and all of Sunday was devoted to earning a small percentage of the proceeds and there was no guarantee that any certain sum would be forthcoming on pay day. A man took his chances and sometimes he got a trifle, more often he got nothing. Barbers were so plentiful that the proprietors of shops were independent to the point of insolence.

All this has changed. The seven men kept advocating union. They hammered the facts regarding progress by the craft organized in other states into the brains of their fellow workmen. Gradually the latter began to see the truth. They took the preaching of the seven seriously and today the Barbers' Union is one of the strongest in the city. Its membership is almost a thousand and is increasing every day.

The hours of labor have been reduced and wages have been placed on a stable basis. Every union shop in the city closes at eight o'clock in the evening and at twelve o'clock Sunday. The percentage plan carries with it now a guarantee to the barber of \$12 per week. Because of the reduction in the hours of labor more men are employed. Four and five dollars are offered for one day's work (Saturday) and there are few takers. The last legislature passed a bill to license and register barbers. The act, if it is not found to be unconstitutional, will put a quietus on certain "colleges" where, after eight weeks incubation, a rural could come forth and hack innocent people to death under the guise of shaving them. The five-cent shop, in whose towels and brushes lurk the deadly microbe will, by this law, be forced out of existence.

The union has made all these things possible. It is the duty, therefore, of every workingman to support the union. See to it that the shop you visit has a union card in the window or over the door. The unfair shop stands for wretched surroundings that bring disease. The union shop stands for cleanliness and for decent treatment of employees.

Several letters have come to our desk recently asking an expression of our attitude towards the early closing movement. Some attack the department stores and beg us to denounce them. Others wish us to express sympathy with the small store keeper and to advise a compromise between the Retail Clerks' union and the latter.

Our attitude towards the early closing movement is expressed in a word: We are with it, heart and soul. The slaves of the counter have discovered that they are workingmen, the same as the men who build houses. And like the men who build houses, they are struggling for greater liberty. Our correspondents fail to grasp the point that it is a whole class that is finding expression in these organizations of workingmen. Unfortunately most of them can see only the hour of leisure or the added poverty-stricken luxury the extra dollar will buy. They stay by the organization for these tangible, graspable things. The shorter work day and the advance of wages are the wisps of straw held before the nose that will eventually lead the workers out of the house of bondage.

Our attitude towards the small trader is one of sympathy. He stands between the upper and nether millstone, labeled respectively, working class and capitalist class. That he will be ground so fine between these two mighty forces only a memory of him will remain, is as inevitable as the setting of the sun in the west. There is very little consolation in this, but nature and the forces that make for evolution never stop to consider our tears. We are in a period of transition; we must suffer.

To denounce the department store, as some of our correspondents suggest, would be about as efficacious as throwing sand at the moon. The Emporium, where one can buy everything he wants under one roof, is analogous to the perfected machine that wiped out a thousand less effective machines. On the introduction of every labor saving device there is a displacement of men and much suffering. The Emporium is a labor saving device, and the only reason there is more noise about the suffering entailed is the fact that it affects another class. Actually there is more genuine misery in the coal mines of Pennsylvania upon the introduction of one machine coal-digger than there could possibly be if all the retail business of San Francisco were conducted under one roof.

The middle class is doomed, like the "dodo," to extinction. The members of this class have enjoyed a certain immunity for a long time. For so long, in fact, that their position, to themselves, became the highest possible expression of acumen and integrity. To become a shop keeper once carried with it a standing in the community. Now it brings a suspicion of one's intelligence.

If the small store keeper can not find a place for himself in the capitalist class, he must be content with a place among the workers. There is no middle course. He will experience the inexpressible thrill of begging from another man the chance to earn a dollar. He may suffer enough and become intelligent enough to vote for socialism.

The Social Reform club of New York offered a prize for the best essay on the union label. J. N. Bogart of the New York Evening Journal won it. He

gave the following reasons why the union label should be supported:

"Because it supersedes the strike, the lockout and the destructive boycott; it is the outward manifestation of harmony between employer and workman, binding both parties to maintain their friendly relations and the continued approval and patronage of a discriminating public.

"Because it condemns child labor and humanizes factory life.

"Because it minimizes convict competition with free and honest labor.

"Because it wipes out tenement and sweatshop systems of production.

"Because it has ferreted out, exposed and cleansed the unwholesome cellar bakery.

"Because it shortens the work day and gives the toiler time to read and think, and cultivate the social side of life.

"Because it guarantees a living wage and rational conditions of employment.

"Because it stands for equality and honest workmanship.

"Because it is not a weapon for industrial war, but an olive branch held out to bind the brotherhood of man."

Some of these reasons are true, some are not. We are suspicious of the last. If the label were "an olive branch held out to bind the brotherhood of man" there would be less war over its introduction. The union label is nothing more than a club, and is being used as a club. The master bakers recognize this and refuse to put it on their bread. They promised first with the intention of using it to the disadvantage of the French bakers, but reconsidered their determination. These French bakers work their men 14 to 16 hours a day, Sunday included, and the intention was to compel them by the use of the label to work their men on a union basis. But they feared the label and would rather compete with these bosses, who do not allow their men more than three hours' sleep at a time, than give a power into the hands of their men that would compel themselves to observe decent rules. The Bakers' Union is quite indifferent. The bosses are up against a strong organization and as long as the men act together decent shop rules will be observed in spite of them.

The Teamsters are in a fair way to win their strike. A committee of arbitration has the matter in hand and will bring every effort to bear on bosses and men to patch up a peace. A strike is an unfortunate thing. It compels many to suffer who have not a word to say in regard to the matter. Children and women especially are the innocent victims. The system is wrong. Any system would be wrong that blinds men to every sense but a sense of profits. The teamsters and other workmen will wake up, they must wake up, to the fact that a dollar or two a day for themselves and ten dollars a day per man employed for the bosses, is not only injustice but downright robbery. There is some hope for them. A body of men, meeting each other seldom and working with each other not at all, yet perfecting an organization in four weeks that could win a strike, is not to be considered other than with some respect. The way is open for all workers. Organization is the chief expression of this century. It means greater freedom, greater power, greater possibilities than are contained in an advance of wages or a reduction of hours. It means the products of the earth will belong to those who produce them.

The Retail Trades Council mentioned last week is a success from the start. Concentration of energy and rapidity of action are the guiding words of the organization. Thirty delegates were present from various unions connected with the retail trade and a working program adopted. The Council will have complete autonomy, though unions eligible must be affiliated with the San Francisco Labor Council and the American Federation of Labor. Only such boycotts as are endorsed by the San Francisco Labor Council will be pushed. Every union in the retail group that wishes to take advantage of the work of the council should send a delegation to the meetings, or address the secretary, at 526 Montgomery street.

BEER BOTTLERS' UNION,
1159 Mission Street, San Francisco, Calif.,
March 5th, 1901.

Dear Sir:
The regular meeting of the Beer Bottlers' Union, No. 102, was held this evening at the above address, Chas. Cantert presiding. The minutes of the Retail Trades' Council were read and it was resolved to use every effort to assist the Bakers in their efforts to introduce the Union Label, to call for the Union Cards of Waiters, and to assist the Milkmen's Union in its fight against the San Pedro and XL Dairy.

The Local Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast, consisting of Bottlers, Beer-Drivers and Brewery Workmen, reported progress in getting trades' rules signed by outside breweries. A considerable quantity of Beer is coming into the State from outside breweries that employ women and boys instead of Union Bottlers. Unless contracts are signed by the fifteenth of March unionizing all departments of these Breweries, the San Francisco Labor Council and the State Federation of Labor will be asked to levy a boycott on the same. As this beer does not carry the Union Label of the National Union of United Brewery workmen it will be an easy matter to teach these employers of women and children a useful lesson in common decency.

A committee consisting of Mr. L. Vogel and H. W. Cebel, representing the Picture Frame Workers' Union, addressed the meeting requesting assistance. The matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

W. Krickeberg was elected fourth delegate to the Local Executive Committee of the Pacific Coast and Mat. O'Brien was elected shop-delegate at Rapp & Sons.

It was resolved that the members residing in Oakland must attend at least one meeting in the month and stay until the Roll of the Union has been called.

Owing to the practice of some of the smaller bottlers of this city discharging their union men and replacing them with alleged partners, etc., it was resolved that any shop that has more than one representative of the firm working in the bottling department shall be considered unfair.

Respectfully submitted,
MAT. O'BRIEN,
Recording Secretary, No. 1.

Labor's Political Struggle

Notes Indicating the Progress of the World's Socialist Movement.

GERMANY.

At the municipal election in Brinkim the Socialists won a complete victory.

Ferdinand Bueb, editing a Socialist paper in Muehlhausen, Alsace, former deputy to the Reichstag, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for lese majeste.

Communal elections have been held in Saxony, and the Socialists have been successful in increasing their representation. They have representatives in 145 places, and 279 councillors have been elected.

Mass meetings called by the Socialists throughout Germany passed strongly worded resolutions against the prohibitive agricultural duties, branding them as most unjust and a most onerous burden for the working part of the nation, and dictated solely by the "brutal class of the empire and the lowest agrarian selfishness." They not only protest against increased duties, but demand their entire abolition.

SWITZERLAND.

In Schaffhausen, Switzerland, Socialists increased their seats to 10 out of 31 in municipal council election.

The Social Democratic Party of the Canton of Tessin has started a new weekly which is published at Lugano in the Italian language, and bears the name "L'Amora."

DENMARK.

The funeral of Comrade Mundberg, member of the Danish parliament, assumed the shape of a tremendous Socialist demonstration.

Both the Chambers have passed the bill instituting vote by ballot. It is generally thought that this measure will increase the number of votes for Socialist candidates.

Owing to the zealous agitation of the Social Democrats and the trades unions, the Government was compelled to submit to the Folkething (the Danish parliament) several bills which increase the wages of all railroad, postal, telegraph, telephone, etc. employes. These employes are strongly organized.

BELGIUM.

Very great efforts are being made to carry on a Socialist propaganda in the country districts, and with great difficulty several co-operative societies have been formed. The task is a very hard one, as the Clerical party is very strong in the agricultural districts.

FRANCE.

The Unification Congress of the Socialist parties of France will be held at Lyons during the month of May.

In Pantin, near Paris, the Socialist district councillor Noel was re-elected with an increased majority. He received 2,749 votes and the candidate of the united capitalist parties 2,690.

At Nimes a second ballot for the Chamber of Deputies was held. The Socialist candidate, Comrade Fommier, a blacksmith journeyman, carried the day with 8,792 votes against 6,712 which were cast for the Royalist de Bernis.

Lectures are now being given at one of the institutions in Paris by Socialists on: (1) The History of Socialism; (2) The Organization of Socialism in France and in other Countries; (3) Economic Organization; (4) Social Legislation.

The defenders of women's rights scored another victory in the Chamber, when it was decided by 376 votes against 161 to render eligible the election of women to the Conseils des Prud'hommes (the councils of experienced masters and workmen who settle trade disputes). The Chamber also decided that the jurisdiction of the councils should extend to the disputes affecting the workmen employed in the Government arsenals.

ITALY.

Socialist Words is the name of a new paper started in Leghorn.

The socialists at Leghorn are trying to found there a Maison du Peuple (Casa adel popolo) like the Socialists in Belgium, and appear to be likely to succeed.

Great misery exists in the district of Puglia, and the mayors have decided to resign *en masse* if they do not obtain some help from the Government, as they do not feel that they can be responsible for the maintenance of public order. Thousands of persons are without shelter or bread. Two thousand peasants attacked the local authorities, assailing them with stones and other missiles, and troops were sent to the scene to preserve order. Further trouble is feared.

BULGARIA.

The parliamentary elections in Bulgaria resulted in the victory of three Socialist candidates. This is the first time that the working-class of Bulgaria is represented in the Parliament by its own deputies.

CANADA.

A Socialist Educational Club has been organized in Nelson, B. C.

UNITED STATES.

Social Democrats of Texas has raised \$500 for stock in a state paper.

Columbus, O., local nominated municipal ticket, with A. Matruga as candidate for mayor.

Mayor Born, three times elected by the Republicans in Sheboygan, Mich., has joined the Social Democrats.

Social Democrats of Flint, Mich., have a column in the local weekly paper. They will enter the spring election.

Minneapolis S. D.'s will build a \$1,000 automobile, of which \$400 has been secured, to start out on a propaganda tour.

Social Democrats of New York held an immense festival last week. At least 10,000 people participated. "Mother" Jones delivered an address, predicting the early advent of socialism.

A Socialist column, under the direction of Comrade Chas. H. Stockwell, is a feature of the Nashville,

Tenn., "Labor Advocate," a weekly trade union paper.

Clarence Nugent of Texas, late candidate for lieutenant governor on the populist ticket, has declared for Socialism, and from this time on will be found doing service in our party.

Arrangements are being perfected to have Prof. Geo. D. Herron deliver a series of lectures in Greater New York during April. Cooper Union and Park Theater, Brooklyn, have already been engaged.

Brockton, Mass., is the birthplace of still another Socialist paper. The new organ is called "The Vanguard," and will take its place on the Socialist battlefield under the editorship of Isaac W. Skinner.

For the first time our comrades of Frankfort, N. Y., entered the municipal campaign, and they are well satisfied by the results. The total vote for mayorship was 819, of which Comrade Carl E. Myers received 260.

Local Hudson County, N. J., is booming. Twenty lecture meetings were held during the month of February. In the Eighth Ward of Jersey City a new ward branch was organized, with nine members to start with.

The comrades in Chicago have also rented the church building at 120 South Western Ave., near Madison avenue, which they have designated the "Socialist Temple." Prof. Herron spoke in the new temple on Feb. 24th.

"L'Eveil Au Peuple" is a new four-page Socialist paper published at Nashua, N. H., the first number of which, dated March 1st, has just reached us. It is edited by Comrade Regis J. Oriol, a French workman. Subscription, 25 cents a year.

Local St. Louis has passed resolutions calling upon the national officers of both wings of the Social Democratic Party to hold the proposed joint convention at Buffalo, urging as an inducement the low rates of fare in connection with the Pan-American Exposition, which would result in a large gathering.

Vandling, Pa., comrades organized a local on January 10th and went into the borough elections of February 19th. The Democrats did not nominate and the battle was a straight one between the Republicans and the Socialists. The straight vote increased from fifteen to forty-eight, and some candidates polled as high as seventy-three, tying their opponents. The local has forty-three members and is flourishing.

In the municipal election at New Castle, Pa., the Social Democrats made splendid gains. The strongest contest was made in the Fifth ward, where Comrade J. W. Slayton, a well-known trade unionist, was a candidate. Despite the opposition of whiskey, illegal voting and the usual methods of the corrupt politicians, he was only defeated by 35 votes, receiving 228 votes to the elected candidate's 263. In the same ward last fall Debs and Harriman received 77 votes. The New Castle comrades are much pleased at the result.

CALIFORNIA ITEMS.

Comrade B. F. Swenson of Dixon has donated \$1 to the Levin Free Speech Defense Fund.

Los Angeles boasts of a "Socialist Church," where Rev. Mr. Webster preaches "Christian Socialism."

It is with joy that "Advance" acknowledges the receipt of a donation of \$13.50 to its Improvement Fund by the County Central Committee of San Bernardino S. D. P.

Local San Bernardino has started regular Sunday evening lectures which are well attended and will enlighten the good San Bernardino people on the question of scientific Socialism.

Again the organized brewery workmen of the Pacific coast show their solidarity with the Socialist movement by donating large sums to the Socialist Free Speech Defense Fund. In its last meeting the Union unanimously voted \$25 to the fund. Besides this, the different members of the brewers' organization will contribute individually to the fund, as did the brewers of San Jose, who put up \$22.50 for the fund.

The Comrades of Alameda have adopted a vigorous platform and made a stirring appeal to the voters of the town to support their ticket at the election to be held April 8, 1901.

Their convention was held March 2d. It nominated the following ticket:

- For Trustees—R. A. Dague, J. W. Powell.
- For Members of Board of Education—A. E. Allen, A. J. Howe, M.D.
- For City Clerk—A. A. Crockett.
- For Treasurer—J. R. Blake.
- For Assessor—G. W. Townsend.
- For Recorder—W. Wagner.
- Campaign Committees:
- Purity Election—H. Hauch, W. H. M. Harter, J. C. Stamer, C. H. Hederick, J. K. Hauck.
- Executive Committee—A. A. Crockett, J. W. Powell, R. A. Dague, J. C. Stamer, H. Hauch.

IMPORTANT, ATTENTION!

District Clubs, please take notice! Nominations are in order for three members of the Board of Directors of ADVANCE, and one member of the State Executive Committee. Nominations must be returned to the Secretary of the City Central Committee before Wednesday, March 20th. Call special meetings if necessary and get the nominations in.

At the last meeting of the C. C. C. the resignation of the Secretary was accepted, to take effect on March 13th, and Miss Anna Strunsky, 901 Golden Gate avenue, was elected Secretary of the Local.

M. A. CLENNAM, Sec.

A New Hampshire farmer sold a barrel of apples for \$1.50. In the barrel he placed a note asking the purchaser to inform him of the price paid. In six weeks he received a letter from a Nebraska farmer informing him that he had paid \$4.75 for that barrel of apples.

When purchasing goods see that they bear the union label.

Labor's Economic Struggle

Notes Showing the Strife Between Organized Labor and Capitalism

FRANCE.

At Ivry 1,000 workers in the lamp factories went on strike against a 40 and 50 per cent reduction of their wages.

The Statistician of the Central Labor Bureau of Paris estimates that in 25 trades 212,000 persons out of 510,000 are out of work.

A new strike of the Paris street railway employes is threatening. In spite of all promises when the strike was settled the company has discharged and black-listed 36 former strikers.

There is a strike among the miners at Montceau, and troops have been sent there. So far there has been no bloodshed, and an urgent appeal has been addressed to the soldiers not to fire on the strikers. Bills have been posted, and so far the authorities have not interfered with the anti-militarist propaganda.

BELGIUM.

The glassblowers of Charleroi have, after a five months' hard fight, obtained their object—namely, that the employer shall employ only members of the Labour Syndicate.

GREAT BRITAIN.

The coal mined in England last year sold for \$330,000,000. The miners who did the work of mining this coal received \$57,000,000, which is about one-sixth.

In no place in the country has Trade Unionism made such rapid progress as in this district, and South Wales is generally pointed to now as an example of what can be done when the men are determined. This is a great change from the situation prior to the great coal strike of three years ago, at which time South Wales was one of the worst organized places in Great Britain. The strike touched the man and they made up their minds to be prepared for all emergencies in future. The South Wales Miners' Federation now has 114,739 members and the funds exceed £100,000.

FINLAND.

There are more than 20,000 women employed in the factories of Finland. Supported by the "Workingmen's Union," the women's societies and organizations of working women have now inaugurated a movement in favor of appointing female factory inspectors. They expect the government to comply with their request.

CANADA.

The Journeymen Bakers' union in Winnipeg has adopted an ingenious scheme to boom its label. Prizes have been offered to the persons handing in the largest number of labels, each of which must be cut from the loaves of bread. Boarding houses and private families are separated, both having prizes to compete for. The contest closes April 5th.

UNITED STATES.

Servant girls of Minneapolis have recently organized a strong union.

"Mother" Jones is assisting the women and children strikers of Scranton, Pa.

A recent compilation of statistics shows that out of 98 chief national industries in a given year only 29 gave men employment for 200 days in the year.

At Coruna, Mich., men employed in furniture factories receive 75 cents a day. A recent effort to organize a union resulted in the discharge of all those interested in the labor movement.

Martial law is still in force in the Coeur d'Alene country, but Gov. Hunt's order goes to show that since the boys have sufficient influence to abolish the permit system, it will not be long ere Governor Hunt will be induced to withdraw the United States troops and re-establish civil law.

Illinois' factory inspector, in his annual report, will show that there has been an "unusual increase in the number of children employed in the factories, and the consequent crowding out of men and women." In Chicago alone about 11,000 children are employed in places visited.

The Machinists' Union will demand a nine-hour day throughout the country May 1st. The National Metal association, which employs between 40 and 50 per cent of the members, has promised to grant the demands of the union. If a strike is forced in other establishments, from 30,000 to 50,000 men will be involved.

The Stenographers and Typewriters' Union of Greater New York is a new organization. It was decided that none would be eligible for membership who had not good references as to ability and had not held or were holding positions. Women will be eligible as members on equal terms with men, the motto of the union to be "Equal pay for equal work."

A novel strike took place in the National Stamping Co., at Granite City, Ill. It seems that Eliza Schraeder, a pretty girl of 19, was caught kissing a young man. Both were employed and both were discharged. Fifty other girls and half that number of young men held an indignation meeting and resolved that the dismissal of the kissing pair was an outrage, and that no capitalist could suppress osculation. It was stated that Miss Schraeder and the young man were "keeping company," and were perhaps engaged to be married. The boss was requested to reinstate the pair. He refused. All in favor of kissing promptly quit, and this meant nearly all the employes. The town is with the kissers.

WHO SAID BELLAMY WAS A DREAMER?

Chicago, March 3.—Sharps and flats, sweet minor chords and quivering grace notes have been flashed over the wires of the long-distance telephone from Chicago to Buffalo. At the far end of the wire Jessie Bartlett Davis, the sweet contralto singer, sat with the receiver to her ear and memorized two songs as they came to her over 500 miles of space. The Chicago music publisher at this end hummed, sang and played the songs on the piano in his Dearborn-street office until the notes came back to him true and pure, as only Jessie Bartlett Davis can sing them.

PROPAGANDA MEETINGS.

On Thursday evening the Academy of Sciences Hall, 819 Market, was well filled with the usual large audience. Comrade J. J. O'Brien was chairman. Comrade O'Brien has recently been imprisoned in San Jose for daring to exercise the right of free speech in the open street.

San Jose, March 4th 1901.

Little Sleeper Hall was crowded last eve. The large audience comprising quite a number of ladies, came to hear a debate between Mr. Applegarth, of College Park and Comrade Harry Ryan. The subject was: "Resolved, that Trusts are detrimental to the interests of the workingmen."

Mr. Applegarth, taking the affirmative, made a good showing by asserting that the large industrial combinations, called trusts, had the workers at their own mercy, while the small manufacturers, for fear of strikes etc., had to some extent, at least, yield to the demands of organized labor; and if by way of good legislation (a la Bryan) these large combinations could be destroyed, the workers would be largely the beneficiaries.

In replying Comrade Ryan admitted quite freely the well known fact that the workers of to-day are at the mercy of the monopolists, but contended that the help Mr. Applegarth advised for the worker was no help at all, as it would mean the abolition of all the new and great discoveries which the evolution of ages had brought forward.

SOCIALIST DEBATING CLUB.

The hall in Pythian Castle had every seat filled at the debate on Sunday last. The subject was "Resolved that Socialism as the next step in Social and Industrial Progress is sure to come." Comrades C. H. King Jr. and T. E. Zant were champions for the affirmative, while Messrs. Kewish and Morton contended for the negative. All spoke well. The vote was over 5 to 1 in favor of the affirmative.

State Executive Committee.

Meeting held Feb. 12th. Minutes read and approved. Secretary instructed to write five assemblies or senators of state Legislature concerning land tax sales, protesting against change of law authorizing such sales to private parties.

Meeting March 1st. Minutes postponed till next meeting. Receipts reported from the following Locals: Vallejo, \$3; Oxnard, \$2.10; Modesto, \$1.60; Riverside, .72; Santa Ana, \$3; San Bernardino, \$5.50; Riverside, \$5; Los Angeles, \$5; Long Beach, \$1.50. Total \$27.47.

Meeting March 1st. Minutes postponed till next meeting. Receipts reported from the following Locals: Vallejo, \$3; Oxnard, \$2.10; Modesto, \$1.60; Riverside, .72; Santa Ana, \$3; San Bernardino, \$5.50; Riverside, \$5; Los Angeles, \$5; Long Beach, \$1.50. Total \$27.47.

Correspondence

Report On Debate Corrected.

San Francisco, March 2, 1901. Editor Advance: To-day's issue of "Advance" contains a report of the meeting held last Sunday night by the Socialist Debating Club in which I find some misstatements which you will kindly allow me to correct.

The report is partial and one sided and favors the affirmative side on the question: "Have the religious organizations of the world advanced or retarded the intellectual, moral and economic progress of mankind?" It says of the two champions of the affirmative, Comrades Rev. Dr. Scott and Jones: "Dr. Scott gave a closely reasoned and careful argument in favor of his side" and "Mr. Jones dealt very ably with his side of the question," while the negative side is disposed of with the words: "John Barduhn dwelt largely on the misdeeds and crimes of Christian ministers" and: "Mr. Jones gave some of the crimes of Judaism and of Christianity."

I wish to state that I did not dwell "largely" on the misdeeds and crimes of Christian ministers. More than half of my time was taken up by showing how the intellectual development of mankind was retarded through religious organizations. I dwelt largely on the hostility between science and religion and supported my arguments especially by reference to the science of astronomy. For proof please find enclosed my arguments in full as I had written them before the debate and which I presented to the audience with only slight variations.

It is also not true that Dr. Scott had said "that there were only two creatures in the world that had any religion—man and his companion, the dog. Man worshipped God, and the dog worshipped man, and they were ahead of all other creatures." These were not the words of Dr. Scott, but of Mr. Thompson. But Mr. Thompson forgot to state that also ox and donkey worship and obey their masters. I suppose Mr. Thompson never saw a team of oxen or mules driven, as they very seldom have a line to their nose to guide them.

Finally I wish to rectify the misstatement in your paper about the vote taken on the merits of the debate. There was a double vote. That on the merits of the speakers stood 43 for the affirmative and 49 for the negative. But on the merits of the arguments presented there were 98 votes cast for the negative and 45 for the affirmative.

Yours Fraternally, John Barduhn.

Editor Advance:—You will find enclosed the means necessary to move my sub ahead. It will probably be interesting to know that in this community I was a lone, solitary voter supporting the socialist nominees two years ago. At the last national election the count showed a gain of six. Now, every time I go into our little town some disgusted Republican or Democratic friend will ask me some questions in social econ-

omy. Having studied hard the last four years on socialist principles, I have a reasonable stock always on hand to supply the wants of those who are seeking the light. The most encouraging sign of all these questions, is the fact that they ask for information upon the demands of the socialist platform. I make it an object to talk socialism firmly and earnestly to all my acquaintances, regardless of their party affiliations. I endeavor to show them beauties that would accrue under the adoption of collectivism in all the necessities of life. Many now, are becoming earnest listeners when they hear a socialist begin to speak. We expect to organize a section here soon. Hoping unity of all the socialist forces will be a known quantity in the near future, I remain Fraternally H. H. Miner

La Grand, Cal.

Another Local for Riverside Co.

Saturday, Feb. 23rd, I went to Corona, met a little group of workers and organized a Local with six charter members. Many were unable to attend, so they can easily double their numbers at once. J. C. Ahlf and A. W. Collum are the wheelhorses of the movement in Corona.

Sunday evening, Feb. 24th Local Riverside held a very successful propaganda meeting, addressed by Comrade Geo. S. Holmes, late of the S. L. P. The audience to a man stayed to the end of the meeting. We hope to have Comrade Holmes tour the county in the near future. Prof. Richardson speaks in five towns in the county this week.

Fraternally L. H. Edmiston, County Organizer.

Brewers Union.

Comrade Ludwig Berg, General Secretary of the Union, submitted to the last meeting report of his trip to Portland, Oregon. He stayed there for about a week and held conferences with the brewery bosses, urging them to accept contracts with the brewers, bottlers and drivers as endorsed by the Pacific Coast Executive and the National Executive, the contracts to terminate with July 15, 1901. The bosses were given time till March 15th to either sign or reject these contracts.

The Union donated \$25 to the San Jose Free Speech Fund and also \$25 to the striking teamsters.

The Branches of the Union all over the coast will donate individually to the Social Democratic Free Speech Fund and it is reported that a goodly number of them have already collected moneys for that fund.

Huge Earnings—Their Source.

Both the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe have issued statements as to their earnings for the first six months of the present fiscal year, or from July 1, 1900 to December 31, 1900 inclusive. During that time the Southern Pacific gross earnings practically averaged \$6,000,000 per month, the total being \$35,992,841, an increase of \$2,493,783 over the same period of the year before. Operating expenses amounted to \$22,112,608, an increase of \$1,556,130. Earnings in excess of operating expenses were \$13,880,232, an increase of \$937,653.

The gross earnings of the Santa Fe amounted to \$26,946,617, an increase of \$3,133,135. Operating expenses were \$15,935,344, an increase of \$1,533,162. The income from operation was \$11,011,273, or an increase of \$1,568,255 over the first half of the preceding fiscal year.

The Secret of His Success.

"To what do you attribute your success in life?" asked the inquisitive person. "Work," answered Senator Sorghum, positively, "hard 'But you never seem to be devoting much time to work."

"No. But I've hired a tremendous amount of it done."—Washington Star.

There can be little doubt that the definite triumph of the Socialist party in Belgium would be quickly followed by an attempt, on the part of the German imperial government, to crush the revolution in the bud by a military occupation. Every government in Europe would sympathize with the Kaiser and his financial masters in such action. But the French government could hardly resist this pressure of popular opinion in such a case to support the Belgians, and the Socialist force in Germany is now too strong and too united to be overborne by jingo patriotism. It would not be surprising if Belgium should be destined to play the part in the new revolution which France played in the old. The comparative weakness of the revolutionary nation would be more than counterbalanced by the strength of the revolutionary party among all other people.

The political and military position of Belgium is becoming interesting in view of the rapid growth of the Socialist movement there. A small and comparatively weak country, lying between two powerful neighbors, France and Germany, her position is of the greatest strategic importance. This was recognized when, early in the century, Belgium was erected into an independent state, but forbidden the right of declaring war, and her neutrality guaranteed by the Powers. It is recognized, however, that treaties do not count for much against superior force, and that, in case of a Franco-German war, whichever nation could act quickest would probably violate the treaty and occupy Belgium as a base of operations. Germany would have the best chance and the greatest temptation. The question has therefore been raised in Belgium of strengthening the fortifications on the German frontier. But the especial interest in the question at present is from a different point of view. Colonel Ducerne, the Belgium Director-General of Military Operations, in speaking on the subject recently, suggested the possibilities of internal disorders in the country which might threaten the peace of neighbors and render an armed intervention expedient on other grounds than those of mere conquest.

They have not ceased commenting in Europe on Herr Bebel's wonderful speech in the German Reichstag, in which he brought conclusive proof that the government and the missionaries were hand and glove for the dismemberment of the Chinese Empire. To stir up strife was the object of Bishop Anger's intermeddling in the internal affairs of Shantung and elsewhere outside the province. The murder of a few zealots would give an excuse for the young war lord to send his minions. Comrade Bebel tore the mask from the face of our commercial brethren and showed a grinning skull beneath. His arguments are still undisputed; they are even undisputed.

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GRAND MASS MEETING

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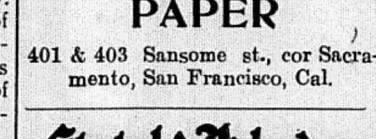
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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

LOCAL OAKLAND, of the Social Democratic Party, has regular evening lectures at Fraternity Hall, 1156 Washington st. bet. 13th and 14th sts. Lectures begin at 8 o'clock. Admission free. O. H. PHILBRICK, 1841 Myrtle st., Organizer.

LOCAL ALAMEDA, of the Social Democratic Party, holds regular free public lectures every second Sunday evening at Foresters' Hall, cor Park street and Santa Clara ave. Educational meetings for members every Friday evening at 324 Central ave. room 8. Address communications, J. C. STAMER, 2061 Encinal ave.

LOCAL SAN FRANCISCO, Social Democratic Party holds regular weekly lectures every Thursday evening on social and economic subjects at Academy of Sciences Hall, 89 Market street. Meetings begin at 8 o'clock. Open discussion follows each lecture. Questions answered; free platform; public invited. Admission free.

THE SOCIALIST DEBATING CLUB holds regular Sunday evening meetings at Pythian Castle, 909 Market street, beginning at 7:30. Object: To educate and develop class conscious Socialist speakers to champion the cause of the working class. Vocal and instrumental music, etc. Questions answered. Public invited. Admission free.

ACTIVE SOCIALISTS will find Comrade Bersford's "Darringer book of Statistics" and "Scientific Socialism" of great value. We mail the two books for 25 cents.

S. D. P. SENATORIAL DISTRICTS.

Time and Place of Meetings. 17th—227 5th, 1st and 3rd Friday each month 8 p. m. 18th—408 5th, 2nd & 4th Monday each month, 8 p. m. 19th—3111 24th nr. Folsom 1st Monday each month. 20th—624 Guerrero, 1st and Wednesday, 8 p. m. 21st—901 G. G. ave every 3rd Wednesday, 8 p. m. 22nd—1912 Webster, 2nd & 4th Friday. 23rd—23rd—2 Grove 2nd Sunday 21th—No 1 Margaret Place off r2 Turk. 25th—410 Kearny, room 28, 1st & 3rd Monday, 8 p.m.

Bottlers' Union Bulletin

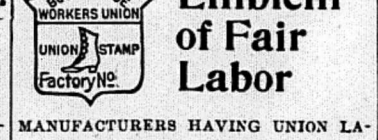
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