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EDITORIAL

## FOR SHAME, ARKANSAS!

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**T**HE Huntington, Ark., *Herald*, a Socialist party paper, publishes in its issue of the 3rd of this month the platform adopted by the S.P. of that State.

The 17th plank is as follows:

“Cotton being one of the staple crops of the South, any factor which depreciates its price reduces the actual grower to poverty, and generally, tho indirectly, demoralizes the business of the cotton states.”

The price of cotton, like the price of all other commodities, is affected mainly by three factors—first, supply and demand; second, competition; third, the value of gold.

If the supply is so abundant that it exceeds the demand, another word for saying if the productivity of labor, seconded by the weather, has been crowned with bountifulness, the price will decline. If under such circumstances a decline in price reduces the cotton grower to poverty, then it must follow that high prices and not abundance of the useful thing is what “the actual grower” strains for. By the “actual grower” would have to be meant, not the farm hand, but necessarily the bourgeois planter—a queer bird to be given primary consideration by a party of Socialism rather than the proletariat.

If it is competition that is responsible for depreciated prices, and such depreciation reduces the cotton grower to poverty, then, again, it must follow that by the “actual grower” the bourgeois planter is meant, and not his farm hand. Whence would, furthermore, follow the startling conclusion that it is the bourgeois, and not the proletarian whose interests are the assiduous consideration of the said platform of a party said to be of Socialism.

Finally, if the factor that depreciates prices is the depreciation of gold, then the

conclusion would reflect still more “rumly” upon the Socialism of the party that promulgates the platform. The cotton planter who would receive for a bale of cotton only one half the number of dollars that he received before the gold depreciated, would be receiving not a penny’s worth less of wealth than he received before. The halved amount of gold would purchase the identical number of boots for himself, of calico for his wife, of implements for his farm that the larger amount of gold purchased before. To join such a worthy’s whine—and there are such worthies—to the effect that his cotton has “depreciated” is to join in one of the most repulsive of bourgeois false pretences. The bourgeois in question has no objection to purchasing boots, calico and implements for less money; the bourgeois in question does so with positive relish; what he whines about is the economic law that compels him, a gander, to accept the sauce that is good enough for the geese. He would want the economic law to work in such a way as to depreciate the price of his purchases (his farm hands included?) but leave undepreciated the price of his cotton.

Plank 17 of the Arkansas S.P. should be expurgated—if only to avoid being ridiculous.

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