

Total number of subscribers July 25th... Total number of Subs for week ending August 1st 317,769

Appeal to Reason. This is Number 663. Girard, Kansas, U. S. A., August 15, 1903.

LOOK at the yellow address label, and note No. 664... No man is great enough or rich enough to get this paper on credit...

Enclosed find \$50.00 for which send 625 copies of the Appeal per week for four months...

Y GU will note by the circulation report in this issue that the figures have moved up another notch. This is very largely due to the fact that hundreds of comrades are joining the Bundles Brigade...

Jobs For The Unemployed.

Last week I made an offer to give five cents on each subscription to any man or woman who is out of employment...

The capitalists and their apologists have a great way of frightening people with words. They tell you that the wicked Socialists are going to confiscate the property of the provident...

Some Startling Figures.

In 1895 there were 468 pig iron blast furnaces in the United States, which produced annually 8,000,000 tons...

A notorious sponger against Socialism says that it believes in and teaches the right of the weak man to ride on the strong man's back...

FOR THE BIG CAMPAIGN. APPEAL TO REASON, Girard, Kans. Find enclosed \$ for which send to the address below copies of the Appeal to Reason for two months.

'Gene Debs to Answer Roosevelt.

Comrade Debs returned to Girard last Wednesday and is at his desk busily at work on his reply to Roosevelt's pronunciamento against Socialism...

Economy and Economics.

"An immense number of men are wearing suits purchased from one to three years ago."—Textile Manufacturer's Journal...

Jobs For The Unemployed.

Last week I made an offer to give five cents on each subscription to any man or woman who is out of employment...

Contempt Well Earned.

One would think that such an eminent and erudite individual as Theodore Roosevelt would know enough and be honest enough to state Socialism as it is when referring to it in public...

Some Startling Figures.

In 1895 there were 468 pig iron blast furnaces in the United States, which produced annually 8,000,000 tons...

U. S. Treasury Finances.

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1903. Receipts (to August 4) \$47,612,778. Expenditures (to August 4) \$48,222,292.

FOR THE BIG CAMPAIGN.

APPEAL TO REASON, Girard, Kans. Find enclosed \$ for which send to the address below copies of the Appeal to Reason for two months.

The original Aldrich emergency currency bill provided that railroad bonds should be accepted as security for the issuing of national bank notes...

NATIONAL SOCIALIST TICKET.

Organized labor could do much toward the settlement of the injunction question by serving an injunction of their own next November.

Republican Votes for Socialism.

A few weeks ago the Appeal asked for letters from men who had voted the republican ticket, who would this year vote for Debs and Hanford...

A Blaine Vote for Socialism.

"My first vote was for Blaine, and I have voted the republican ticket until now. I claim that a republican has answered the Socialist."

Wants His Full Product.

"I happen to be one of the unfortunate who voted the republican ticket in 1904, and give you here with a few reasons why I am not a socialist."

No "God Knows" Taft for Him.

"As your truth has always voted for the 'God Knows' man, McKinley, I believe he will draw the line on 'God Only Knows' also on the Boy Orator from the Store."

From an Old Soldier.

"I feel that the government of any nation should be controlled for the people and not for a special few, and feel that the Socialist is the only political party that does this."

Another installment of letters will be printed next week.

Politicians and statesmen for revenue only have a remarkable way of getting things wrong and so, putting the cart before the horse.

How could we get along without the great men? Well, we haven't yet decided to chase the "great men" off the earth, and are perfectly willing for them to remain.

What Socialism Will Secure.

Employment for all who wish it, at all times. The full social product to each worker. This involves the elimination of profits.

Collect the Dinner Pails.

The Appeal suggests that Socialist locals all over the United States make a collection of dinner pails that were once in use in their localities...

Clews Speaks Out.

Henry Clews, the Wall street banker, is recognized as one of the highest authorities on financial subjects in this country.

The Washington Post says "the writ of injunction ought to be as sound as the writ of habeas corpus."

The Washington Post says "the writ of injunction ought to be as sound as the writ of habeas corpus, and there would be no assault upon it if there were no demagogues in congress and out of congress."

A quiet rebuke to the American occupation of Cuba was administered by the natives in the recent election in the island.

The so-called Railway Employees Protective Association maintains an office in the Bryant building at Kansas City, Missouri, and a manager who is flooding the mails with letters to railway employees...

The Appeal is informed that for a short time during the Reconstruction period, possibly between 1865 and 1870, there was published in New York a paper...

A general strike has been ordered in Paris and 100,000 workers have left their jobs. The leaders were promptly arrested and placed in prison...

"NOTHING DIRECTLY."

Say, have you heard from Indiana Kern, and what he means to do? He is rather soft, he believes with Taft that nothing and nothing is two.

You have to pay the penalty for being the hero. And your children will reap the reward.

Socialists Plan Robbery.

This is what Roosevelt said at Oyster Bay on July 11! "Stop Thief" is an old dodge—but it won't work this time. Gene Debs, in an early issue of the Appeal, will turn on the light and show how little Roosevelt knows about Socialism. The reply will be complete—there will be nothing more to say, so far as Roosevelt is concerned. Subscriptions sent in this week will be sure to get the Debs-Roosevelt number. Better hurry!

Throwing Your Vote Away

HERE will probably be polled this year in round numbers, about 16,000,000 votes. Of these, the Socialists will poll nearly 2,000,000. It is probable the independents will cast about 1,000,000, and the prohibitionists and populists some 500,000. This will reduce the vote to be divided between the republicans and democrats to 12,500,000, so that half of this or less than 6,500,000 will elect the president.

Now, the republicans have pretty well cinched the 5,250,000 men who work in the big mills and factories controlled by the trust magnates, except such as will risk their jobs and vote the Socialist ticket. At least 4,000,000 of them are practically certain to vote republican in fear of losing their jobs. In addition to these, the republicans will get at least 1,500,000 out of the 2,000,000 negro votes. Besides that, the stakes are set that will turn to the republican party less than 1,500,000 Catholic votes. Here is a vote sufficient to elect their man, without counting on them receiving any ballots from the middle class, the laborers in small concerns or the farmers. It becomes evident that all who vote the democratic ticket this year will throw their votes away. It is quite true that in some sections there is some enthusiasm for the Nebraska, but it is nothing to the stir he created in 1896. In all deference to many who are loyal to him, his chances of election this year are obviously smaller than ever before. That is because the middle class, which he represents, is falling.

And if you vote the republican ticket you throw your vote away. While it is possible you may elect your man, he will represent the capitalist class, and especially the plutocratic element of it. As a farmer or a worker you can expect nothing from him. He, himself, says "There is no remedy." All you may rest assured of is that the rich will continue to grow richer and the poor poorer, as it has been under the policies of Roosevelt, which Mr. Taft pledges himself to continue. There is no assurance that there will be even capitalist good times, with work for all. In all likelihood there will be a war, with all the horror and debt that war involves.

But if you vote the Socialist ticket you do not throw your vote away. Even if not a candidate is elected anywhere, it will be the beginning of emancipation for the workers, the dawn of a new order of justice and freedom. But if as seems probable, there should be 2,000,000 votes cast for Socialism, and two or more members of congress elected, more labor legislation would be granted because of fear of the rising tide than would come if the democrats or republicans should make a clean sweep. This is not a mere assertion. It has worked out in Germany and in England and everywhere the Socialists got representation. Even now a small Socialist representation in the British parliament is causing the old age pension measure to be considered, with a good chance of its carrying.

Of course 2,000,000 votes for Socialism, and a few representatives in congress could not bring about full Socialism, but they could inaugurate some of the immediate reforms which are outlined in the platform as belonging to preliminary work. It would not be full Socialism, but here are some things the platform mentions which could be done with only a small Socialist showing: "The immediate government relief for the unemployed workers by building schools, by reforesting of cut-over and waste lands, by reclamation of arid tracts, and the building of canals, and by extending all other useful public works. All persons employed on such works shall be employed directly by the government under an eight-hour workday and at the prevailing union wages. The government shall also loan money to states and municipalities without interest for the purpose of carrying on public works. It shall contribute to the funds of labor organizations for the purpose of assisting their unemployed members, and shall take such other measures within its power as will lessen the widespread misery of the workers caused by the misrule of the capitalist class."

That would certainly help some. It would be of more real benefit to the country than any thing either the republicans or democrats could do, even if they had all power and were kindly disposed. It would also give an outlet for national activity without turning it in

the direction of preparing costly machines of republican murder. Oh, no, a vote for Socialism would not be thrown away.

THE HELL OF LOS ANGELES.

More About Labor Conditions in that Sodom of Capitalism.

Since the Appeal printed an expose of how easterners are drawn to Los Angeles by persistent advertising, only that they may become victims of terrible labor conditions in a glutted market, and of land sharks who live off the accumulated capital of those drawn to the web by advertising, it has received various letters that fully confirm what was stated. One correspondent says that the direct result of this over-advertising received by Southern California is 200,000 unemployed men and women, many of whom do not know where the next meal is coming from—hundreds of whom are compelled to obtain food from charitable institutions. Yet, with all this, Southern California is being industriously boomed and "each overloaded train from the east brings more deluded people to join the idle throng."

Another tells us that "bookkeepers and stenographers often accept positions at \$4, \$5 and \$6 per week. Some succeed in making a living. Some are fortunate enough to have friends in other states to whom they can appeal for aid."

As an illustration of labor conditions in Los Angeles, one friend tells of the coming of a department store in the city, and shows what three line ad for 1,000 persons had brought in the way of applicants. All the writer says is confirmed by clippings from the daily press of the city, together with half tones they printed of the crowds. The correspondent says: "The line began to form as early as 5 a. m., and at noon 2,000 people were still in line waiting for an opportunity to plead their cause—to beg for a position at a few dollars a week."

"At one time the streets were blocked to such an extent that trolley cars were unable to get through and fifteen policemen were called on to help manage the crowd—a crowd pushing, scrambling and fighting for a chance to earn enough to prevent starvation."

Five women, weak because of lack of food, but still determined to remain in line and obtain work if possible, fainted away and were carried from the building. "Boys and girls, many of them less than twelve years of age, were also in line, and several times these representatives of child labor were stepped on and more or less severely injured by the throng of adults who were pushing to the office of the superintendent."

"I talked with one man, an experienced salesman, as he left the building. 'Yes,' he said, 'I got a position, but I must start at seven dollars a week. They promised to do better by me later on. I have held good positions in the east, receiving \$100 a month in one case, and as I am only 35 years of age, but that was all they would offer and I must earn something!'"

And why is this over-advertising done? In order that a few may make profits. The natural beauties of Southern California, and the delights of its climate are not denied, but the effort to bleed the workers, to draw invalids to the far west in order to fleece them, is reprehensible and should be exposed. The fight recently made by Los Angeles on free speech is but an evidence of the shamelessness that has grown upon the capitalist class of the city, and they were astonished that the workers should even protest, much less win against their infamy. It is time that the whole people get next to what is behind the curtain, behind the veil of the rich, and should teach the criminals who live off the misfortunes of others a needed lesson."

For a correspondent answers very succinctly the question as to who profits from the influx of eastern people, brought about by persistent advertising of a venial press, in these words: "The railroads sell tickets. Owners of sand lots find buyers occasionally on the installment plan. Employers engage help at their own prices. And newspaper publishers get paid for having their work done. It is these who profit from these special editions, and as they profit, others lose."

SEND HIM TO CHAIN GANG.

An Educated Man Eats Garbage to Avoid Starvation.

Says the Los Angeles Herald:

Joseph Lomant, a middle-aged man, neatly dressed and apparently from his manner and conversation a man of education, was arrested at Sixth street and Center place last night by Patrolman Wyckoff and booked at the central police station on suspicion. When observed by the policeman Lomant was eagerly searching a pile of restaurant refuse which had been dumped into the alley to await the coming of the garbage man. He formed sandwiches out of bits of half-decayed meat and slop-sodden bread and devoured them with almost ravenous appetite. At the jail he explained simply that he was hungry and out of work, had no money and had taken the only means at hand to satisfy his stomach. What will be done with him today is not known. He may be fed and turned loose or he may be charged with insanity and a commission of learned men called to decide upon the condition of his mind. Or, again, he may be charged with vagrancy and sent to the chain gang.

"Make Two Socialists" Pledge.

Sign the pledge below and send it to the Appeal, with 50 cents, for the book. Pass the word down the line.

PLEDGE I will undertake by every kindly and persuasive means in my power, to "Make Two Socialists" votes between now and the November election. Find enclosed 50 cents for which send me one dozen copies of "The Introduction to Socialism," which I will loan out carefully, collect and relon until they are worn out.

Name _____ Address _____

Date _____

When you get their pledges of course take their subscriptions to the Appeal.

QUESTION BOX

[Once again we must request those who submit questions for answer in this column to make them brief, clear and definite. More questions are received each week than can possibly be answered in the space available, and those which are pertinent, pointed, of general interest and well stated will receive attention to preference to such as are deficient in those particulars.]

An Easy One.

How, under Socialism, could a young man accumulate enough to gratify an ardent desire for travel and scientific research? J. I. K., Burg Hill, Ohio.

By producing more than he would consume and thereby accumulating the value that would pay for the gratification. In other words, instead of realizing the total value of his product in some other form he would take part of it in these particular things. I can not see how so simple a problem could be the least bit difficult of solution.

Rent, Profit and "Fixing" Values.

1. You say that Socialism will abolish rent, interest and profit. Suppose a man owns five houses, occupies one and rents the other four. Under a Socialist program these four would be confiscated but the people occupying them would still have to give a part of their earnings for the use of them. If that is not rent, what is it? 2. You say that Socialism will abolish the sole employer under Socialism. How is private employment possible except for private profit? 3. How would the value of intellectual services, such as that of poets, artists, musicians, authors and others be fixed? P. S., Boston, Mass.

1.—You say that a man having five houses would have four of them confiscated, and that whoever would occupy them would have to give part of their earnings for the use of them. It would seem that one knowing so much about what would be done would not be under the necessity of asking any questions as to other details. Let us suppose for the sake of argument and to get at the main question, that what you assert would happen. Then the question arises as to whether what would be paid under such conditions for the use of a house would be rent. In the first place it would be well to determine what rent is, and for this purpose we can refer to Webster's Collegiate Dictionary which defines the word rent as follows: "RENT.—A certain periodical profit, whether in money, provisions, chattels, or labor, issuing out of lands or tenements in payment for the use."

Rent is, therefore, a form of profit and differs from other possible payments for the use of property in that in amount it exceeds the cost of providing the property rented and therefore yields a profit to the owner. By abolition of rent we mean that there will be no payment for the use of realty that would yield a profit to its owner. 2.—Private employment without private profit is possible when an individual employs himself. Under self-employment all increase is earned by the one person concerned and owned by him. There is no exploitation so long as he employs none other than himself, and he cannot make a profit of himself any more than he can steal from himself. Collective ownership of the means of production does not necessarily require collective use of such means. An individual might prefer to cultivate a small piece of ground or run a small shop by himself; and were he to do so he would employ himself privately but without profit, for profit, in an economic sense, is an increase that one gets from another.

3.—I do not know how the value of any services could be fixed, and I cannot conceive of such a thing being desirable. All values vary with the productiveness of labor, its intensity and all the factors that affect the cost of labor power and the quantity and quality of its output.

While the value of products cannot be fixed at all they can be determined by reducing the various goods and qualities of labor embodied in them to common abstract labor in much the same manner that dissimilar fractions in arithmetic are reduced to a common denominator.

Law and Order.

Why is it that Socialists are forever and eternally opposed to law and order? Why don't your papers and agitators conduct in a more decent and conservative manner such as would command respectful attention from even those who differ from you?—A. L. E., Bataria, N. Y.

There is a difference between law and order and the counterfeit that people of your evident bias miscall law and order. We plead guilty to opposing law when it is interpreted one way for the rich and another way for the poor workman. When the law becomes a farce we oppose it. The constitutional right of opposing it and favoring other laws so constituted as to operate equitably and justly.

We are not the least bit backward about saying that we are opposed to all laws that favor the rich at the expense of the poor and that are calculated to keep the man who works in subjection to the man who owns. We do not like the kind of order that is maintained by the use of policemen's clubs on the heads of the hungry unemployed, or by the use of rifles against peaceable striking workmen.

We are trying to establish an orderly system by means of legal enactment, but any opposed to the disorder and lawlessness that is now supported by the ruling class for their own benefit and the distress of those who labor. When laws are enacted on the theory that they are to be impartially applied to all kinds and conditions of men but are so administered that a poor man goes to the penitentiary or the chain gang for some trivial offense while a rich manufacturer becomes an oil king or a railroad magnate and greater than government itself, we oppose such law as enforced and such order as maintained.

We are opposed to such law as permitted the pirates of the Colorado mine owners' association to kidnap George Pettibone, about him from his home and business, keep him in confinement until his health was totally wrecked, all on a trumped-up charge which was a lie on its face and which was made on the perjured statement of an officer who knowingly and willfully swore to a falsehood.

We are opposed to that kind of order which is maintained by means of gun men, Pinkerton thugs and hired assassins of life and character, such as are "forever and eternally" in the employ of the corporations. From such law and such order may we escape, and we are

trying to do so by such political action as will remove the bogus kind and put such regulations into effect as will conserve the welfare of the most desirable of all citizens—those men and women who work and produce the things that feed, clothe and shelter the world.

Instead of being opposed to law and order, the great and working Socialist movement is talking, working and fighting for real law, real order and an impartial administration of all things and people so that law is as legal for one as for another and order as orderly for the humblest citizen as for the purse-proud plutocrat.

SOCIALIST FABLES.

The American Circus.

THE great American Circus was getting ready for its November exhibit. The Elephant was carrying poles and beams from place to place as directed, and the Donkey was being used to drag lighter stuff where it was needed. Now and then the Donkey aimed a kick at the pile of beams the Elephant had made, but more often suffered from the attack than it accomplished results. "I hate the Elephant," said the Donkey.

"And why do you hate him?" asked the Driver. "Don't you know your interests are identical?" "How do you make that out?" "Why, you both serve the same Master. You may go about it in a little different way, but if you fail of that you know what will be coming to you." "But the way he does things makes me mad."

"That is all right. Everybody expects a Donkey to kick. I am told that the Elephant doesn't like it, but so long as the Masters need you both, he will keep you both as while you are expected to go about things in a different way, the supreme thing for you both is to serve your mutual owners. The Elephant may get the most peanuts, but you will both be provided for so long as you help the Masters rake in the stuff from the Crowd."

"THERE IS NO REMEDY."

Taft Joins Bryan in a Plea of Utter Helplessness.

In an interview with Emperor William I, otherwise known as Big Bill, the Bluffer, at Hot Springs, Va., the candidate was asked in what direction the difficulty lay in the securing of justice in the courts, and replied: "The difficulty is in the advantage the wealthy man has in the employment of the best counsel, and that he is able to afford the expense and await the result of protracted legislation."

"There is no absolute remedy," was the reply. "The best that can be done is to render the administration of justice prompt."

This is almost equal in statesmanship to his famous reply of "God knows" to the question as to what a man out of work and whose family was starving was to do. It is also very much like Mr. Bryan's position. The latter expressed himself thus in Every-body's-for-July: "The trusts are and they must continue to be the source of our so-called political corruption. The government isn't strong enough to govern (or regulate) trusts. The remedy must be found in an approach to equity."

How near alike the two Bills are! And how they confess themselves to be unable to cope with the situation and give the worker justice! Do you want to throw your vote away on men who admit that they can do nothing of real value for you? Why not vote the working class ticket and thus help to overthrow the whole damnable system of graft that rests upon wages and profits?

"Make Two Socialists"

CENSORING THE PRESS.

One on the Inside Shows How Socialism Is Misrepresented.

The telegraph editor of a big daily, whose name and location are omitted in the interest of his job, writes the Appeal: "As telegraph editor of a paper receiving the Associated Press reports, I have a splendid chance to observe how the system works, as far as the Associated Press is concerned. For instance, whenever any news comes through concerning the Socialist Labor party, the 'Labor' part is omitted; especially is this noticeable when the nominee of the party is mentioned as being a convict doing time for murder. In this way it is made to appear that the nominee of the Socialist party is a murderer. Then, too, it is apparent to everyone who reads the Associated Press reports that no opportunity is lost to throw mud and slime at the members of our party. However, in my position I am able to 'play up' the things that will help us, and to crowd out the things that would do harm, and that 'helps some.'"

SOCIALISTS PREVENT WAR.

How the Game Played at Peace Headquarters Was Blocked.

The Hague, July 20.—The interference of the Dutch Socialists will prevent a declaration of war by the Netherlands against Venezuela. Although the feeling in the country has run high and many of the radicals are in favor of an immediate declaration of war and opening of hostilities, the Socialists take the position that the expense of the war should be borne by the commoners, and that it is unjust to impose a heavier burden than the country is now bearing up under.

As a result of the new development in proceedings by which the Socialists annex their power against Wilhelm's stand, it is probable that the project to bombard the towns of La Guayra and Porto Cabello, on the Venezuela coast will be abandoned.

Collier's says the Socialists and republicans are one on the trust question. Hardly. Republicans have caused the trusts to lose the country, while the Socialist slogan is, "Let the people own the trusts."

The Bill clubs stand in defence of social wrongs, Socialism for the rights of man.

In that famous year of every 1,000 trainmen 136 were killed or injured. And those who had been spared grimly

THE CRISIS.

BY LUCIEN SANIAL.

XIII.—Railroad Concentration (Continued).

In the nine years period of capitalistic prosperity beginning in 1898, the railroad traffic of this country considerably more than doubled. Of the gigantic proportions which it had finally attained on the eve of the panic an idea may be formed from the statement just issued by the Interstate-Commerce Commission for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1907.

In that twelvemonth the railroads carried 874 million passengers an average of nearly 32 miles per passenger, and 1,800 million tons of freight an average distance of 131 miles per ton. In other words the "passenger mileage," defined by the commission as "the number of passengers carried one mile" was 27,700,000,000, and the "ton mileage" similarly defined as "the number of tons carried one mile," was 236,800,000,000.

It scarcely needs to be observed that a work of this magnitude could not have been accomplished with all the powers of motion at the command of man short of the locomotive engine, supplemented by the railway development which its effective use implies. Everybody understands that on the best wagon roads which it is now possible to construct all the horses in the United States could not have supplied the force required in 1907 for traction alone. But it is not so generally known that this work of traction was performed by about 300,000 tractors, harnessed to 35,000 locomotives, 44,000 passenger cars, and 2,000,000 freight cars. It may also be appropriately remarked that it cost the railway corporations vastly more to feed their locomotives with coal and water, and to keep their rolling stock in good working condition than to "compensate" the trainmen for their expenditure of human energy—leaving aside the irreparable wear and tear of their mental and physical mechanism—although this class of employees is the least underpaid in the railway service.

The traffic continued to increase until the October panic broke out. It had long taxed human flesh and steel machinery beyond the limits of their respective endurance. Since the revival of business the railroad corporations had, to a constantly increased extent, failed to keep pace in the development of their plants with the growth of the industrial and commercial movement. Short-sightedness in matters requiring intensive views of the economic field is the inevitable accompaniment of avarice, which always looks for immediate profit at the least possible expense; it is, therefore, a strong characteristic of capitalism, even in its apparently boldest enterprises. Among its foremost leaders breadth of conception is generally limited to schemes of self-enrichment. The actual conception and execution of the socially useful achievements upon which those anti-social schemes are grafted, are the collective product of a very different sort of men, helplessly dependent upon the ruminations of mere contempliers for the exercise of their mental faculties.

Of course, in order to carry out their own privately capitalist plans the financial "directors" must assume a superior knowledge of public needs and technical requirements. As a rule the result of their interference is calamitous. A striking illustration of their evil influence is afforded by the contrast between the steady increase of single track mileage and the growing insufficiency of double track, rolling stock, and other imperatively needed improvements.

On one side we see that the aggregate length of all the railway lines of the United States, which was already 190,000 miles in 1898, was 230,000 miles on June 30, 1907.

Inasmuch as feeders and connecting links contributed to this large increase, it should be stated that the chief object of the greater corporations interested in their construction was to extend their sway over large areas with a view to the formation of gigantic railways by "systems," large in the end would be concentrated into "groups of systems" under the absolute control of a few financiers, each successive consolidation being so carried out as to make it yield a vast profit to those financiers, while tightening their hold upon the property involved. (Of this process and of its bearing upon the present crisis we shall soon take a view.)

On the other side we find that the aggregate length of double track was only 19,400 miles, all of which, together with a very small amount of third and fourth track, was located within a comparatively small radius of the largest centers of population.

The terminal facilities were utterly inadequate. The shortage of freight cars had become so great that shipments suffered intolerable delay throughout the country. In regions exposed to the severest winter, coal and other necessities could not reach their destination in time to permit of provision being made by their inhabitants against snow-blockades, impassable country roads, etc., so that intense suffering, culminating in widespread loss of life, was inflicted upon them by prosperity.

It is only fair to observe that while the shortage of cars seriously interfered with the crop movement, it was of substantial benefit to wealthy "operators" in cereals, cattle, etc., who rarely, if ever, found themselves wanting in facilities of transportation when they had bought out the produce of helpless farmers at prices ridiculously below its market value.

The complaints became so general and so loud that the desperate remedy of increased train speed wherever and whenever it seemed practicable was resorted to. This had no such effect, however, as was kindly intended, for the freight continued to pile up faster than the trains could run. But a very tangible result was the stupendous increase of accidents, including disastrous collisions between trains moving on the same single track in opposite directions.

In the last year of prosperity the number of casualties reported to the Interstate Commission was 122,853, of which 11,839 represented the number of persons killed, and 111,016 the number injured.

In that famous year of every 1,000 trainmen 136 were killed or injured. And those who had been spared grimly

stuck to their jobs, awaiting their turn.

For the whole period 1898—1907, the record showed 800,000 casualties, of which 688,000 represented the number of railroad employees killed or injured (this being considerably more than the average number employed in conducting transportation during that period.)

What a war—for bread! And the corporations who were raking in dollars by the billion, complained of the high rate of wages, intimating plainly that this, together with the high cost of materials, was the cause of their inability to give a better service. Let us see.

As I write, the returns of wages paid to railroad employes in the year ending June 30, 1907, are not yet available, and I must use the figures of 1906 for a comparison with 1905. These figures however, give us a true view of the extent to which labor shared in the capitalists' prosperity, which had actually reached its zenith in 1906, for there was not then a visible cloud on the business horizon, and any gain made later was of short duration.

It falls under the sense that in this comparison not only the wages paid, but the amount of work done must be considered. 1.—As to Wages: Leaving aside the two classes respectively figuring in the statistical tables of the Interstate Commission under the heads of "General Officers" and "Other Officers," and assuming that the number of wage workers reported in each of the sixteen other classes substantially represents the average number of persons (not necessarily the same) daily required throughout the year to perform the work especially assigned to it, I find as follows:

Considering first all the employes as one body, irrespective of the sixteen classes into which they were divided according to the nature of their employment, the average earnings per head for the whole year were \$51.50 in 1900, and \$78.10 in 1906, showing an increase of \$26.60, or a little less than five per cent.

In other words the various increases of wage rates obtained by various classes of employes from 1900 to 1906 produced in the last year of that prosperous period a total sum which, if equally divided between all the employes regardless of the class to which they respectively belonged, would have given each \$26.60 more than they could have earned in 1900.

Of course this sum (which amounted to \$40,000,000 and represented an insignificant portion of the immensely increased revenue of the corporations) was not equally divided among all the employes. Each class—or trade—looked out for itself, and the corporations used considerable judgment in determining which it was most politic to please a little, and to what minimum extent this little should be. For instance, the 35,000 station agents got an average increase of \$61 per head, while the station men, numbering close upon 140,000, and the office clerks numbering 57,000, got none. The engine men and the conductors, whose earnings had always been the highest, (though by no means as much as any industrious worker would get if he had not to share with capitalists the value of his product), got respectively \$92 and \$75, while the firemen, whose "compensation" had always been considerably lower than that of these more aristocratic fellow wage slaves, had to be content with \$44. The other trainmen who had grievances of long standing and could not safely be ignored under the prevailing conditions, obtained an advance of 884, which might have been doubled without exposing the corporations to be denounced on that score for their excess of liberality. The most helpless of the employes, the most shamefully underpaid, are the station men, whose average earnings were \$300 in 1900, were treated to an advance of \$10 a head, or less than 90 cents per month; they numbered 344,000, and with their wives and children and aged parents represented a population of probably not less than 1,500,000 in the deepest misery.

2.—As to the efficiency of labor.—Without entering into lengthy details and comments, I submit these few figures, which speak for themselves. From 1900 to 1906 the passenger traffic increased 57 per cent, and the freight traffic 52 1-2 per cent; but the number of employes assigned to the conduct of transportation increased only 44 per cent.

The corporation's policy of economizing upon labor by intensifying it, which was most vigorously pursued during the long crisis that followed the crash of 1893, was continued during the prosperity period, with results partly shown but fully suggested by the following statement in addition to the above:

In 1900 the ton-mileage per engine-man was 3,300,000, having risen to that figure from 2,400,000 in 1893. In 1906 it was 3,600,000.

We may now look into the financial process of railroad consolidation, see it at its present stage, observe its close connection with the same process of concentration in manufacturing industry and other branches of production, and from these last data, in addition to those which have been previously given, draw our final conclusion.

Socialist Publications. There are said to be 638 Socialist papers and magazines, throughout the world, of which 77 are English.

If you want a library of the best Socialist books consider the easy payment plan offered by the Appeal. 17 volumes for \$12.00 payable \$1.00 monthly.

"Papa, what is a slum?" "Where the majority live, my boy."—Litt.

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Line Upon Line.

Failure of the System.

Half the children born under capitalism die ere reaching the age of twenty-one. Marriages are so cursed by this system that there are 10,000 divorces in the United States every year.

Capitalism is such a friend to the farmer that under its operations half the farms of the nation are under mortgage. Six million people are now in enforced idleness in the United States. Even in "good" times a million are always unemployed.

In the battle for bread under capitalism, 60,000 people are killed and 1,600,000 seriously injured every year by machinery, and a majority of these accidents might be prevented.

Even Servia has a Socialist in her parliament. The various parliaments of the world contain 647 Socialists.

The Socialist is the strongest party in Finland, having 84 members in parliament. For the first time there is a Socialist ticket in Cuba. The island also has a Socialist paper, El Socialista.

France has a Socialist office that has no other country. Their numbers are 2,280. There are just about 2,000 Socialist office holders in Germany.

The Working Class. In New York one out of every ten persons is buried in the potter's field. Of the 700,000 who died in Great Britain in 1907, 617,870 were entirely without property.

W. R. Shier estimates that there are constantly ten million people in the United States on the verge of desperate poverty. Even in "good" times a million people live in enforced idleness in the United States. This is the reserve army of capitalism, which it utilizes for the purpose of keeping wages down.

EUROPEAN NOTES

Is the Benrath-Fruscia election the Socialist candidate received 336 votes against the 316 of the clericals. Over 20,000 mill hands in Bombay, India, went out on a sympathetic strike, and the strike was successful. A strike in London was killed and six wounded, the strikers were dispersed.

In the neighborhood of Paris, Italy, 700 factory laborers went on strike for better conditions and the national and international press in against them. That settles nearly all strikes.

At a recent congress of Socialists held in Johannesburg, South Africa, with delegates from all over British Africa it was decided to follow in the footsteps of the English Socialist and Labor movement.

It is to be noted that the British House of Lords passed the old age pension bill on the second reading. They do not "reward your friends and punish your enemies," in England, but members have

