

## A Message from Ohio

Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick

Tom Johnson, of Cleveland, and "Golden Rule" Jones, of Toledo, have lately been large and lovely in the public eye—because they "look good." Let these two large male angels wave their political wand, and lo! the ills of the earth—they promise—will vanish; a Johnsonian smile or a Jonesean grin is so sizzling hot with justice that they will evaporate the wage-earner's pains. Bring either of these sleek, spectacular, well-fed, gilt-edged grafters into the political arena and the wage earner's life will be one glad sweet song.

Both of these "look good" gamblers for power, place and plunder are dangerous—dangerous chiefly because they are a suggestion. They suggest their vicious method to the ambitious party wolves of forty-five states. Both men are types—types of men who, in every one of the forty-five states within a few years, will beat their political tom-toms in the public ear, rise into prominence, and frequently leap into the political saddle.

Their method is to present THEMSELVES as a sort of living pious prize in boots, as a variety of political Santa Claus with a stocking full of goodies. They strike the winsomely seductive attitude of personal political saviors. Their method is to present themselves as personal incarnations of justice, goodness, niceness, fairness and kindness; they offer their personality as sun, moon, and guiding star for the oppressed multitude. "Follow us—just us—and you will be safe." They say things that "sound good;" they "look good;" and therefore—yes, therefore—they get adulation instead of examination. Adulation is an emotion and not an idea. Examination gives us an idea instead of an emotion.

Now, make a list of the sweet songs these sleek sirens from Maine to Mexico will sing into the uncritical ear of the average working-man. Here is part of a list: Government ownership of coal mines, three cent fares, arbitration, initiative and referendum, government ownership of railroads, "good man" for candidate, municipal coal yards, labor union party (with a Pierpont Morgan platform so far as the ownership of the productive property is concerned), independent citizens' league, municipal ownership of street railways, "my little plan," the "law enforcement association," etc., etc., etc.

Surely these "look good" to a great many people. Really, isn't it just too fortunate that "great and good men," the "best citizens" of the community, give their "valuable time" to these "great questions?" How "kind and good" they must be; how "trustworthy" they are to give the "poor people" the "benefit" of their "great brains." How is it possible for any "common person" to be so impertinent, so impudent, so "mean and ungrateful" as to criticize any of these "grand measures" "thought out" by these "great thinkers?"

Well, these measures ARE beneath the contempt of proud and intelligent men. These measures ARE hopelessly weak and disastrously dangerous. They fail. They fail utterly. They are the loaded dice with which the employing masters can win and could win always—always.

Why?

Because all such "look good" plans, singly or combined, would not strike off your WAGE-SLAVE SHACKLES in ten thousand years.

Because not one of these "look good" plans has anything whatever to do with the WAGE SYSTEM. My friend, classify yourself.

Do you, as a wage-slave, want a "ten per cent raise;" or do you, as



Frederick G. Strickland  
On Socialism at Temple Hall  
Wednesday Evening, Mar. 9

Admission Free Everybody Come

a manly man, want freedom? Classify yourself. Do you, as a whimpering wage-slave, want a nine hour day instead of a ten hour day; or do you, as a self-respecting man, want freedom? Classify yourself. Do you, as a wage-slave, want readin', 'ritin' and cipherin' instead of jus' readin' and 'ritin'; or do you, as a fine, brave man, want freedom? Classify yourself.

The southern slave wanted a "little more," only a "little more." Classify yourself.

### WHAT DO YOU WANT?

If you haven't enough of a manly man's pride to want freedom for yourself, freedom for your sweetheart, freedom for your wife, freedom for the children of your own flesh and blood, freedom for your class—then you ought to ask the czar of Russia to permit you to exchange yourself for one of his proud political prisoners who prefers to die standing straight for freedom before the blasting polar winds on the bleak plains of far off blizzard-swept Siberia than live as a whimpering slave in the shade of the St. Petersburg palace of the czar.

Let us have pride enough to be insulted with any offer of any "look-good" scheme that is not loaded to the muzzle with peaceful, political, BALLOT-BOX DYNAMITE FOR THE WAGE SYSTEM. First, last, always—freedom! Down with Santa Claus politics! Down with the wage system! Up with a working-class party with a working class platform, with working-class candidates, with a working-class goal—freedom! Vote with the party of the working class—the Socialist party.

Hear John Collins, the Machinist Orator, at Socialist Headquarters, Sunday evening, March 6.

### Clubbing Offer

The Iowa Socialist for one year and any of the following papers for one year for 60 cents: Wilshire's Magazine, Coming Nation, Chicago Socialist, The Vanguard, or the Iowa Socialist for one year and The Comrade for six months for 60 cents.

## Woman and Socialism

Extracts from an Address by Franklin H. Wentworth.

Do not expect the woman whose husband has always kept her fed and clothed, who has never walked the streets hungry, uncared-for and alone, always to understand that vegetation is not virtue.

In all the world today there is never so dire an enemy to working class emancipation as the petty, pious woman who has been all her married life an admiration society for some shallow-pated man.

When the retainers of capitalism cry out from their pulpits and platforms for the preservation of the family we may perhaps be justified in inquiring "Whose family?" They surely do not mean the family of the working class, for they have proved their indifference to this by centuries of careless neglect.

Woman's enslavement and degradation began when private property began. Mine and Thine were the words which sealed her fate in centuries of servitude; the words which shut her out from the warm, palpitating, universal life and love of the world and chained her as the chattel of a being vastly inferior to herself save in the instincts and the powers of the brute.

I am not one of those who believe that there is any sex in intellect. Already in architecture, in medicine, in art, in the many occupations or professions in which woman has forced a foothold, she rises easily the intellectual peer of her masculine rival. And this new force and influence is coming to be recognized as of vital significance to the established social order.

Only by the fitful flame of social cataclysm, when the institution of private property has been shaken by enraged mankind, have we had hint of the possible power of woman in the state. It is in France when the patriots of the Revolution have confiscated the lands of the church and no form of privilege remains unchallenged, that we see the brilliant minds of Mme. Roland and Mme. De Stael flashing amid the ebb and flow of events like lustrous diamonds in a scarlet crown.

With the coming of economic opportunity comes a woman who rises to her full height and does not sell herself for life for board and clothes. To gain the free woman as a mate it will require something more than the ability to buy her: man will have at last to deserve her. He will have to deserve her to win her; he will have to deserve her to hold her. The free woman will make her own laws: she will laugh at the laws man has made to restrain her as at tales to scare a child.

In their hearts the privileged classes well know that it is not because the Socialist DOES NOT desire to preserve the family that sets them quaking with concern. It is because at last HE DOES. For the first time in history the workers of the world are now evincing a determination to preserve the family—to preserve it from exploitation. And when the worker actually begins to preserve his own family, and demand for its consumption the product of his labor, the idler knows he will have at last to bestir himself to preserve his.

## A Party Literature Bureau

A. M. Simons

It is so seldom that we have any general representative meeting of the Socialists of America that I feel that advantage should be taken of the opportunity presented by the meeting of the national convention in Chicago to do as much work as possible. One of the things which many comrades have had in mind for some time is the organization of some sort of agency or syndicate for the gathering and distribution of matter for the Socialist press. I venture to offer the following suggestions as a possible outline for at least a beginning in this direction:

1. The election of an assistant to the national secretary to have charge of the literary work of the national office and especially of the literary bureau hereinafter described. This "literary secretary" could collect the matter to distribute and send it each week to the various papers who might desire it.

2. These papers could pay say \$1 a week for the service, which, with the increasing number of the party papers, would pay all expenses save the secretary's salary.

3. The national office could announce that for such matter as was used a rate of say \$5 per 1,000 words would be paid. The expense for this would amount to little and would easily be met from the amounts paid by the various papers.

The following are some of the advantages which I believe would result from such a plan:

1. It would at once raise the grade of the entire party press by giving each editor an opportunity each week to secure articles from a number of writers.

2. It would enable comrades to start local papers in small places where there might be no one fitted for the position of Socialist editor.

## X-RAYLETS

Human life has no exchange value or commodity value under the profit system—only such things as hogs, pug dogs, potatoes, etc.—Appeal to Reason.

A number of miners with their families were evicted last week, and thrown out in the snow. Curiously enough it wasn't Socialism but capitalism that destroyed their "homes."—Eric People.

At Somerset, Pa., recently, miners' families were ejected from their cottages during a heavy snow storm and the thermometer was near the zero point. And still we are told to meekly love and obey the hand that smites us. Cannibals and savages don't torture their victims so much. They make quick work of it. Our highly civilized state gives its victims the long-hard-pull.—Chicago Socialist.

"Is there any man present, who doesn't want his wages doubled," asked J. Stitt Wilson in a recent propaganda speech. There was a moment's silence and then, "I don't," came in clear tones from the rear of the hall. Then, as Wilson was getting ready to "swat" him, the man "riz" up and said: "I ain't getting no wages at all, and I don't see no use in havin' 'em doubled."—Los Angeles Socialist.

Many times local papers would be glad to publish such matter if paid for by the local comrades who could thus secure many of the advantages of a local Socialist paper at an expense of only \$1 a week.

3. Many trades union journals are willing to print Socialist material and would do so if the Socialist members of the union would pay for this service. In even more cases the journal would itself pay for the matter.

4. It would enable the Socialist party to largely control the character of the press with none of the disagreeable features of a censorship. They would control only by offering a superior article and the greater portion of the space in each paper being still made up independently, there would be ample room for diversity.

5. Perhaps one of the most important advantages of the plan is that it would quickly develop an organized body of able Socialist writers, and would enable the Socialist press to hold and further develop its staff of writers.

6. It would bring the national office in close touch with the entire literary talent of the party and permit the utilization of that talent in a variety of ways—for leaflets, pamphlets, etc.

7. It would lead to the organization of a body of news gatherers and correspondents national in scope, which is an absolute essential to the operation of the daily press which must soon appear.

These are some of the reasons which lead one to call attention to this matter. I hope that those comrades who are interested either as writers, editors or as readers of the party press will consider these matters in order that some sort of action may be taken during the time of the next national convention.

A New York newspaper reports that in one hour 71 elegantly dressed dogs attended by wealthy women in luxurious equipages, passed along Fifth Avenue. One dog was made conspicuous by wearing emblems of mourning. A ragged little urchin stared in amazement at the procession. "Gee!", he was heard to remark, "I wish I was a dorg."—A. L. U. Journal.

Again we rise to remark, "It is better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it." If you doubt our word, ask the working class of Colorado. They didn't want bayonets and martial law, but they voted for them because they did not want to throw their votes away. They are now experiencing what they voted for, so, of course, their votes were not thrown away.—A. L. U. Journal.

Gompers' conscience must be uneasy, else he would not be giving so much space in the Federationist to showing what he said at Boston against Socialism. He heads it "Trade Unionism vs. Socialism," but he well knows there is no antagonism between the two. Socialists believe in trade unionism and the great bulk of them are trade unionists. Only demagogues would try to make it appear that Socialism is trying to fight unionism.—Social Democratic Herald.

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## BAIT TO CATCH WORKERS.

The address of President Parry before the Citizens Industrial Association of America at their recent convention has many noteworthy features. To a few of these it is well to give particular attention.

We are informed that these employers came together "not for selfish ends but for the purpose of furthering the best interests of the nation." Such disinterested patriotism ought surely to receive the appreciation of the whole nation—and no doubt it will, in time, for the work of this Association will result in good, though most decidedly not in the way they think or intend.

Parry says "individual incentive and enterprise should be untrammelled and encouraged to the utmost." Certainly! That is why Socialism insists that labor shall have its full product—there can be no better incentive than that.

He also says: "The only true solution of the labor question must lie in an appeal to the intelligence of the people."

Again we agree with him; that is why Socialists are holding propaganda meetings all the year round, all over the world. Parry has now come to our assistance in this work—he is going to provide an "antidote for the poisonous doctrines of Socialism," and he has made a fair beginning in this very address. Socialism will thrive on this "antidote," for the "intelligence of the people" will see through it when they come to analyze the situation.

Here is one of his most interesting statements: "Men in public life must be made to realize that no organization has a license to violate law, that every man has a right to work where he pleases and for whom he pleases." Say! what do you think of that?

The first part of it means that the laborers must never violate a capitalistic law, and under a capitalistic government there are no other kind of laws, so there you are! The rich can do no wrong.

Now as to the latter half of that quotation, just suppose some of you workingmen put it to the test and see if you have the right to work for whom you please; just walk up to Mr. Parry, for instance, and tell him that you have decided to help him make buggies. What would happen? You know very well; you would find that Mr. Parry would have something to say about your "right to work for whom you please."

In the statement of the purposes

of this association, they declare: "We stand for the right of the individual to work for as many hours or as few hours in each calendar day as he sees fit." Just try it! Try it on any of these disinterested patriotic employers! Try it on Mr. Parry. Tell him you have decided to help him make buggies, and that you will work four hours per day, for those hours will be sufficient to support you and your family since he is anxious that "merit" shall "receive its just reward."

You never can tell how a thing will work until you try it, so just test this "disinterested interest" in the preservation of the "freedom of the workers." You will find that while these statements SOUND well, they wont work—they wont prove up to what they claim to be.

Some workers will be caught by them, but not for long. They will find out the true inwardness of this "antidote," and finally get where they belong—in the workingman's political party, thus uniting with the workers of the whole world, and helping to bring our industrial emancipation, the only true freedom for the working man and woman.

## RACE SUICIDE.

Here is a very interesting item of news which shows the tendency of the times:

Chicago, Feb. 20.—The Corn Exchange National bank today posted a notice which read in substance as follows:

"The employees of this bank receiving a salary of less than \$1,000 a year must not marry without first consulting the bank officials and obtaining their approval." In explanation, the officers of the bank state that their official action was not taken to discourage matrimony under proper circumstances, but that it was foolish for a man to attempt in Chicago to support a wife, to say nothing of a family of several children, on less than the income named.

This is all right as far as it goes, but what right has any institution to pay salaries that will not allow the recipient to enjoy the love and comforts of home life? And what is to become of Roosevelt's "baby industry" if marriage is to be prohibited in this way? Query: Will capitalism destroy the home? Think it out for yourself.

Boston printers have been enjoined from paying strike benefits to their striking brothers. By the shades of Ben Franklin—and the cradle of liberty! Of course, to pay strike benefits is a crime of the most heinous character—it is a criminal waste of money, and ought to be enjoined. Save your strike funds, brothers, and buy a judge—but hold, that would drag the spotless judicial ermine into the mire of graft. And then, no doubt, that too would be enjoinable. It is possible, however, that you workingmen may be permitted to elect a judge.

"Capital shall rule!" is the slogan of the Citizens Industrial Association of America. We have always had a faint suspicion that capital was doing that very thing right along. For the sake of the poor, deluded jackass commonly known as the "great American voting king," we are glad, however, that the C. I. A. of A. is so frank and outspoken about the matter. It will have more weight with the aforesaid j. than if a Socialist told him about it.

The Chicago Chronicle bluntly states that Prof. Triggs lost his chair in Chicago University because he "talked too much." The professor should be thankful that it was nothing worse than a discharge. John Turner is still incarcerated on Ellis Island. His offense also was that he had ideas and talked too much about them.

Hearst may or may not be a dangerous man to the capitalist class, but one thing is certain—he is a dangerous man to the working

class. There is danger of his hypnotizing that class with his meaningless platitudes, just as so many others have done before him.

Vice President Dwyer of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters went to Kansas City to direct the strike of the carriage drivers. The police ordered him to leave the city. American workingmen will yet be forced to go to Russia in search of freedom.

The advance of over 25 per cent in the price of flour since the beginning of the Russo-Japanese war is just a gentle reminder to the workers of America that their interests are identical with those of the workers of Russia and Japan.

Another difference between the pure and simple trades unionist and the Socialist trade unionist is that the latter is a union man every day in the year while the former reserves the right to scab as he d — pleases on election day.

A great many prudish people are shocked at the mere mention of "free love." We wonder how many ever analyzed the phrase. Can there really be any love that is not free—freely given? Can't real love be bought—or bound?

Capitalism exists because the people are hypnotized into thinking capitalistically. When they are de-hypnotized and think Socialistically the day of the co-operative commonwealth will dawn.

The Czar of Russia still believes in disarmament, but he wants Japan to begin the process. He is willing to assist in the operation, however. He is bound to have peace if he has to fight for it.

If ballots were bullets there would be no labor problem after election day. The working class would have exterminated itself. One-half would have shot the other half to death.

The eight-hour bill before congress has been defeated. The chances (?) are that the anti-injunction bill will suffer a like fate. There are not enough workingmen in congress.

Herds of sheep and flocks of geese undoubtedly require "leaders." But neither sheep nor geese are good models for emulation for any body of intelligent men.

A great many men are poverty stricken because they waste their time looking about for someone whom they may honor and respect.

Anything which threatens capitalist supremacy is immediately branded as a "menace to our free institutions."

Some men may think they are born to rule, but they have another guess coming. None are born to be ruled.

Some men are so extremely modest that they wouldn't change their minds in the presence of others.

Governments are based on force—through the ignorance of the masses.

Consistency is a virtue monopolized by fools.

The late Queen Victoria had two white donkeys, which were frequently used by her. They are now stabled at Hampton Court, but are not permitted to do any work. The two-legged jackasses are not so fortunate.—Chicago Socialist.

"The workmen accepted the cut gracefully," is a frequent phrase in capitalist papers at present. What a beautiful compliment. Surely the graceful creatures would do nothing so horrid as to vote the Socialist ticket next November?—Eric People.

Eugene V. Debs, Geo. D. Herron, Edward Carpenter, Jean Longuet, Enrico Ferri, H. M. Hyndman, Karl Kautsky, Jack London, and many other well known Socialists have declared The Comrade to be excellent. The Socialist press is continually recommending The Comrade, pointing out its great value to the Socialist movement. Thousands of subscribers have sent us letters expressing their appreciation. The Comrade is a publication you need, no matter what else you are reading. Each number is beautifully illustrated. Published monthly. Subscription price \$1 per year, or 50c to shareholders of The Comrade Co-operative Co. Bound volumes of The Comrade of the first and second year are \$2 or \$1.20 to shareholders, postage 30c extra. Any Socialist may acquire by monthly payments of 50c a \$5 share and thereby enjoy special rates on The Comrade and other Socialist literature. To new subscribers we make this liberal offer: For 50c we will send The Comrade for six months, and free, the first three issues of the third volume, if this publication is mentioned. Comrade Co-operative Company, 11 Cooper Square, N. Y.

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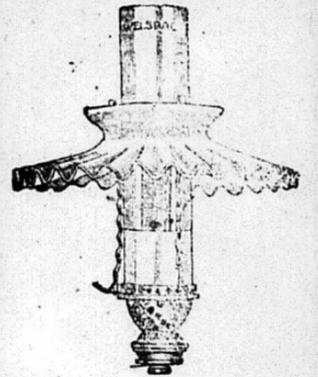
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## Wagner and Parsifal

Geo. D. Herron in *The Conservator*

After the completion of his *tragedy* at Bayreuth, by subscriptions from all parts of the world, and the presentation therein of the Ring of the Nibelung in 1874, Wagner gave himself to the completion of what he regarded as the crowning work of his life, namely, Parsifal. Not only did he mean this to be his supreme achievement in the union of music and drama, but also to be his final confession of faith. If

of the poem on Parsifal by Wolfram von Eschenbach, with fragments from other, and earlier, stories of the Grail pursuit. Long before the middle ages there were many differing and intermingling stories of the Grail and its hero. Probably the story originates in one of the Pagan or Druid Nature Festivals, and was transmuted into Christian tradition, as most of the Pagan rituals were deformed and

too largely due to his resentment against the world's rejection of his work and himself, rather than to a sympathy with mangled and degraded humanity. It was this rejection of himself that drove him to pamphleteering and to battle. Hence he never understood the root and reach of the human struggle. His passion of soul was extraordinary, and it was directed by colossal genius; but his perspective was always personal and unconsciously revengeful. This personal experience of things resounds through all his compositions of tones and words. His music is freighted with his own sufferings, which he determined that other people should suffer with him. And there is nothing meaner at bottom than the gratifying of one's self by stirring the emotions of others into accord with one's own suffering. We have a right to agonize for people; but we have no right to agonize before people. We have a right to be crucified for the world; but no right to be crucified before the world, or at least to revel in the attention of the world upon our crucifixion. Both Beethoven and Lincoln agonized for the world, as few have done: yet the Ninth Symphony and the Gettysburg speech are what their lives stood for. There is not a decadent note in the contribution of either, though both bared their hearts to the world. The output of their lives is the most splendid optimism concerning the human future. They converted their sufferings into universal prophecy. They dwelt in the soul's over-world, and the movement of their lives was a compelling of men to the highest, to the most selfless and universal. Beethoven and Lincoln are as the shadow of a great rock in which the world may rest—a rock garden clad, and gushing with springs of the water of life.

It was not until some five centuries after Jesus that the early communities which bore his name began to displace the symbols of the vine, the fig tree, the meadows and the pastured sheep, with the symbols of religious martyrdom and torture.

Wagner, more than any other man who has wrought with music, had power to so combine tones that they awakened the silences of the soul's subterranean regions. He is distinctly the dramatist and singer of the soul's under-world. I am afraid Nietzsche is all too exact in declaring that Wagner draws his resources out of the drained goblet of human happiness. There is something so wanton, so brutally selfish, in the way in which he persistently contrives or combines music-sounds to pursue the haunted places of the soul. There is a subtle and beastly lust of power, a deadly and Satanic self-gratification, in this musical riot among the fears and deaths of the soul's under-world. It is all so subtly diabolic, so shamelessly and wantonly unmanly and unmanly—this blending and harmonizing of the soul's minors, this sheer self-gratifying exercise of power, by a genius who means to beat you into submission, and to take out of you both the principal and compound interest for all that he has suffered.

Parsifal stands and sings for the denial of life: for the destruction of the will to live; for the negation of love, which is the ongoing of the will to live. All periods of decay, in either the individual or the life of the world, are marked by a creed and banner of the religion of renunciation or self-denial, which renunciation or self-denial always turns out to be the most degrading and unbelieving selfishness, masquerading as unselfishness. It is the denial of life, not the denial of self, which these creeds and their prophets stand for. It is the religion of the im-

pooverished life, of exhaustion and satiety, demanding that the world shall cease to live, because the prophets of denial are too exhausted to go through the problem of the whole of living.

All religions are founded on this fundamental atheism; upon the doctrine that life is essentially evil; upon schemes for saving men from life, instead of bringing life to men. All religions come stamping life with infamy; with the stamp of inherent and necessary wickedness. They all come exploiting the soul of the world, robbing it of the energy and faith that should be directed towards our common evolution and social perfection. They come fixing the hope and the attention of men on something, or some place, outside of life itself. Buddha, Augustine, Wagner and Tolstoy, widely apart though they might think themselves, all come bearing the same deadly message of evil to the world. In recent times, there has been no such frightful and malignant infidelity, no such gospel of illimitable selfishness, no such creed of depthless atheism, no such sodden and decadent spirituality, as that which Tolstoy proclaims, calling men to become sordid and inverted self-seekers, and shameless deserters of the pain and shame of the world. And Parsifal is the song of this wretched infidelity to life.

*Continued next week.*

### LOCAL MEETINGS

Des Moines Local No. 6 meets second and fourth Sunday afternoons of each month at 3:00 o'clock in Yeoman Hall.

Davenport local meets every first and third Friday in the month at Turner hall. Visitors always welcome. B. W. Wilson, Sec., 821 East 14th street.

Dubuque Local meets every Tuesday evening at 8:00 o'clock at Socialist Headquarters, 6th and Iowa streets.



PROF. GEO. D. HERRON.

[Prof. Herron will lecture on Socialism in Dubuque Friday, March 18.]

Wagner is to be taken at his word. Mr. Walter Damrosch is entirely incorrect in his insistent statement that Parsifal is not at all to be taken as a statement of Wagner's faith, but merely as his dramatic or literary interpretation of Christianity. Wagner himself most distinctly states his intention that Parsifal shall be his doctrine of redemption to the world, and he certainly makes clear his final adoption of Christianity as his solution of the problem of life. Concerning the first performance of Parsifal, he writes:

Thus even the influence of our surrounding optic acoustic atmosphere bore our souls away from the wonted world; and the consciousness of this was evident in our dread at the thought of going back into that world. Yes, "Parsifal" itself has owed its origin and evolution to escape therefrom! You can look, his lifetime and murder, organized and legalized by lying, deceit and hypocrisy, without being forced to flee from it at times in shuddering disgust? Whither turns his gaze? Too often to the pit of death. But him whose calling and his fate have fenced from that, to him, the truest likeness of the world itself may appear as the herald of redemption sent us by its inmost soul. To be able to forget the actual world of fraud in this true-dress image, will seem to him the guerdon of the sorrowful sincerity with which he recognized its wretchedness. Was he to help himself with lies and cheating, in the evaluation of that picture? (To the artists) You all, my friends, found that impossible; and it was the very truthfulness of the exemplar which he offered you to work upon, that gave you too the blessed sense of world-escape: for you could but seek your own contentment in that higher truth alone. And that you found it was proved me by the hallowed grief of our farewell, when after all those noble days the parting came.

It is not necessary that I even briefly re-tell the familiar story of Parsifal, as set forth in Wagner's music drama. It is an adaptation, and a very considerable perversion,

transmuted into the doctrines and rituals of the Christian church. In the version which Tennyson has adopted, in his Idyls of the King, it is Galahad who is the hero of the Grail; but in most of the versions that prevail in Latin and German Europe, Percivale or Parsifal is the hero. In the original story, however, Parsifal marries the princess whom he delivers from distress, and afterwards takes her to the Grail castle on Monsalvat; and Lohengrin is their first born son, and their heir. The Parsifal of the Grail stories is a very much more inviting human type than the unthinking dunce and spiritual weakling for whom Wagner invokes our reverence.

It is true that the thing which Wagner meant to do in the music-drama of Parsifal, he has done, and done perfectly. No one can sit under the spell of the thing without acknowledging the consummate genius that wrought it. The flawless unity of all the elements and factors of the production in securing the effect which the composer set out to secure, the blending of tone with scene and word so as to bring the soul to submission—all this must be confessed. But, this allowed, it is genius bent upon the destruction of that which is essentially life that we must consider. Saving Tolstoy, no artist or genius has ever so perpetrated his revenge upon life for his wrongs as did Wagner. Parsifal is not only the glory of decay, the revelation of a genius that riots in that intensified selfishness which takes the form of self-renunciation; it is the word or drama of a philosophy that is a steeping poison. It is, indeed, a wonderful and terrible blasphemy of life. There is a prodigious black magic about the way the thing is done, and its effect is a tremendous hypnotism.

From the very beginning, Wagner's revolutionary attitudes were

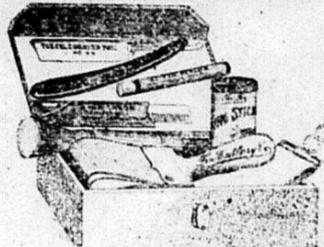
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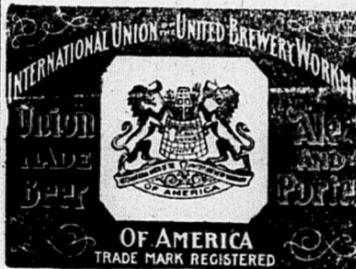
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# Party News

National  
State  
Local

## National Headquarters Bulletin

NATIONAL ORGANIZING FUND.  
Total to noon, Feb. 26 \$ 74 35  
Previously reported 278 02

Total \$262 37

John Brown is in Oregon.  
John C. Chase is at work in Rhode Island. Italian Organizer Origo begins in Brooklyn March 13, and Bohemian Organizer Pergler in Milwaukee the same date.

George H. Goebel begins in Delaware March 10, and after some work there will make a tour of Pennsylvania. Dates are being made direct by the national secretary.

Franklin and Marion Wentworth close their eastern tour at Rochester on Feb. 28 instead of March 6, as previously announced, and they will return direct home to Winnetka, Ill.

A. M. and May Wood Simons will fill their first date on their eastern tour at Cincinnati on March 27 and visit Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and Brooklyn before the return journey to Chicago again.

James F. Carey will close his work in Colorado on Feb. 28 and begin his return trip home by way of New Mexico, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Illinois. He will be the principal speaker at the commune celebration in St. Louis, March 12.

The forthcoming western trip of George D. Herron will cover only two weeks and will be made in order to speak in Milwaukee during the municipal campaign. The dates now arranged for him are: March 11, Akron, Ohio; 12, Cleveland; 17, Milwaukee; 18, Dubuque; 20, Omaha; 22, Denver; 24, Kansas City, Mo.; 25, St. Louis; 27, Terre Haute, Ind.

National Committeeman Berlyn, of Illinois, reports to the national quorum that Brandt's Hall, corner of North Clark and Erie streets, has been secured for the national convention in Chicago on May 1. The hall will hold 1,500 people and is conveniently situated to the center of the city. Comrade Berlyn also reports that Local Cook county will raise sufficient funds to cover all expenses of the convention.

German Organizer Robert Saliel went from Danville, Ill., to Springfield where he addressed the brewery workers and drivers unions and three public meetings. Two German branches were organized with eight members apiece and he reports most encouragingly about the outlook for the movement among the Germans. Comrade Muller, of Danville, writes that the comrades there are highly gratified at Saliel's work and hope to have him again. The first two or three weeks of March will be spent in St. Louis.

The response to the new coin card is very encouraging. Requests for additional cards are being received daily. These requests, coming from states as far apart as Arkansas, California, New York, Illinois, Virginia and Michigan emphasize the solidarity of the movement and bespeak a strong party organization for the coming political contest with the capitalist class. Comrades who desire to help in this work can do so by sending for a coin card, having it filled and returned to the national office. Each card has places for ten dimes and two 25 cent pieces. Send for a card and have eleven others help you fill it, and mail to the national secretary, Omaha, Neb. Acknowledgment will be made through the Socialist press.

John M. Ray's work in Michigan closes Feb. 29, when he will proceed home by way of Indiana, filling dates at Indianapolis and Chandler on March 1, 3 and 4. Ray reports small meetings at Bay City on account of cold weather. At Saginaw four meetings were held and a branch on the west side reorganized. At St. Charles there was a good meeting and a local organized with eighteen charter members. Conrad Labarge, of Pine River, reports: "In spite of a severe wind and snow storm Comrade Ray held a good meeting at Saginaw town hall. Comrade Ray defines the position of the classes in fine style and the farmers thoroughly appreciate same. He organized a local at Johnsville school house."

The following names are now upon the reserve list of national organizers and lecturers of the national headquarters: John W. Bennett, Sioux City, Iowa; George Briel, Newport, Ky.; James H. Brower, Elgin, Ill.; W. G. Critchlow, Dayton, Ohio; Gertrude Breslau Hunt, Chicago, Ill.; P. J. Hyland, Omaha, Neb.; Tom Pendergast, Watertown, N. Y.; Chas. G. Townner, Louisville, Ky.; Ernest Untermann, Chicago, Ill.; William E. Walter, Detroit, Mich. These comrades are open for engagements, either for single lectures or for organizing and lecture tours. Communications for information should be addressed to the national secretary, Socialist party, Omaha, Neb.

M. W. Wilkins reports further upon his work in Idaho, after leaving Boise: "Spoke at Nampa, Feb. 28, could not get hall for second night, so held a meeting in private house and organized local of ten members. On the 19th, spoke at Caldwell to eighteen people, following night to forty and organized local with five members. At Payette meetings did not materialize owing to absence of man upon whom we relied to advertise, so I went on to Weiser where I had three successful meetings under direction Local Weiser. It looks as if I will have a successful campaign in Idaho." Comrades Page, of Nampa, and Candee, of Weiser, report satisfaction and encouragement from Wilkins' visits.

John W. Slayton reports having addressed meetings in Colorado as follows since entering the state on Feb. 7: Denver, mass meeting, butchers, hoisting engineers and carpenters unions; mass meetings at Littleton (2), Golden, Colorado Springs, Loveland, Longmont and Boulder. At last report Slayton was again at Colorado Springs, where the movement for an independent labor party is being vigorously pushed. Two meetings of the carpenters unions and one of the Federated Trades

Council and Woman's Label League were addressed with good results for the Socialist party. A new local was organized at Longmont and the Boulder local was gotten into working order again. From Colorado Springs Slayton goes into the Cripple Creek district.

From Feb. 10 to Feb. 21, George E. Bigelow addressed meetings in Kansas at Abilene (2), Salina (2), Hutchinson (2), Kingman, Harper, Anthony, and in Oklahoma at Eddy, Kremlin, Hennessey and Waukomis. He reports better meetings than on his previous tour and Comrades Kolachny, of Hennessey, and Winship, of Kremlin, attest to the good results of Bigelow's work. Bigelow closes in Oklahoma on March 5 and will cover the following route in Texas afterwards: March 7, Henrietta; 8, Vernon; 9, Fort Worth; 10-11, Dallas; 12, Elmo; 13, Canton; 14, Tyler; 15, Bullard; 16, Alba; 17, Greenville; 18, Nevada; 19, Copeville; 20, Bonham; 21, Denison; 22, Denton; 23-24, Dallas; 25, Alvarado and Cleburne; 26, Belton; 27, Lockhart. Bigelow will then assist in the state campaign in Louisiana, the election there being on April 19.

State Secretary Slick reports as follows upon the municipal and town elections held in Pennsylvania on Feb. 16: "Election day was a very cold day in Pennsylvania, but the Socialists polled a very good vote in spite of the weather. The two old parties combined in many places to defeat the Socialists. In Panther Creek Valley either one or the other capitalist parties refrained from nominating or fused, yet, in spite of the combination, the Socialist won out in many places." In Summit Hill they carried the Fourth ward. The Socialists still hold sway in Coal Dale, having elected their candidates for supervisor and school director. In Spring City, Montgomery county, the Socialists carried the First ward. A minority inspector was elected in the forty-second division of the Thirty-third ward in Philadelphia. In Austin, Porter county, the two old parties combined and beat the Socialists by a very narrow margin. The Socialists elected one inspector of election. In the First ward, Shenandoah, Schuylkill county, the polls were closed at 10:40 a. m., after twenty-eight votes were cast, the board refusing to receive any more, although there are at least 500 qualified voters in the ward, and at the last general election there were over 700 votes cast for the different officers. The trouble was caused, it is alleged, because of the polling of the Socialist vote which is the strongest at Shenandoah of any place in the county. The case will be taken to court."

## General Notes

The New Jersey state convention of the Socialist party was held at Newark, Feb. 21 and 22. H. R. Kearns is the nominee for governor.

Comrade Irene H. Beebe, of Burlington, writes a long letter of protest against the action of Local Muscatine in censuring the Appeal to Reason.

The Minnesota state convention of the Socialist party was held in Minneapolis Feb. 21 and 22. J. E. Nash was nominated for governor. He was also elected state secretary.

The Socialists of Omaha and vicinity will have the pleasure of listening to a lecture by Comrade George D. Herron on March 20. He will deliver only one lecture near Omaha and every one who can should make it a point to go and hear this lecture. Comrade Herron's work for the party is distinct for its clearness in advocating the real science of Socialism.

The following excerpt from a letter suggests the crying need of a new Declaration of Independence by the working class: "I have been receiving a sample of The Iowa Socialist for several weeks. Now as I am working in a place where I am watched like a hawk, I would be glad of you to please not send it to me, as I read it anyhow."

J. P. Roe, state secretary of Nebraska, writes: "Local Omaha had James F. Carey for a lecture on Feb. 7. The address was splendid. An unusually large audience paid the closest attention for nearly two hours. There are no hero worshippers in Local Omaha, but we certainly wish it were possible for Comrade Carey to address every local in the party. His manner of presenting the principles of Socialism is not only captivating, but his argument so conclusive that no one can fail to understand the ideas he presents."

Comrade Frederick G. Strickland spoke at Newton and Monroe, both in Jasper county, Feb. 22 and 23 respectively. A fair sized audience greeted him at both places, and it is needless to say he had good attention, as the readers of The Iowa Socialist know that Comrade Strickland's hearers are always glad they were there. Whenever Comrade Strickland turns his rapid-fire galling gun voice loose the breastworks of capitalism fly to atoms and its supporters take to the woods. Yours for economic equality, W. M. SHAW.

Sioux City, Iowa, Feb. 25.  
Dear Comrade: Yesterday's meeting was, as expected, a stem winder and the paper by Mrs. Ida K. Schell was highly appreciated. This was the last time we were to meet in the old hall and it seemed just like leaving home, for we have held meetings there for two years, but the expense was too great and the landlord would not lease the hall to us any more. We will hold our business meetings in a small room in the opera house block every Thursday evening at 7:30. The plutes are working overtime lately, trying to keep us off the official ballot. The city clerk is trying to keep us from obtaining nomination papers by stalling us off till it would be too late to file them, which is ten days before election. The committee went to procure the papers and he said he had none, but had put in an order for them with the Journal. We waited a few days, only to find that no order had been placed for them. He then said that another paper had the order, the

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10 pieces of 25c quality of Extra Fine Black Mercerized Sateen; two days' sale..... 18 1/2c  
25 pieces of 15c quality Double Faced Art Denims, full 36 inches wide; sale..... 12 1/2c

10 pieces of 25c quality All Wool Jeans in gray and black... 18 1/2c  
50 pieces of the regular 10c quality wide German Blue Calico; two days' special..... 8 1/2c  
100 pieces of well assorted patterns of Fancy Shelf Oil Cloth, regular selling price 8c and 10c a yard; two days' special.... 4c  
25 pieces of the 25c quality of Fancy Marble Oil Cloth; two days' special..... 18c  
19c quality Double Fold Fancy Dress Plaids; two days sale. 10c  
23c quality of 10-4 Unbleached Sheeting; two days' sale... 17 1/2c  
20c quality of 9-4 Unbleached Sheeting; two days' sale... 14 1/2c  
25c quality of 9-4 Bleached Sheeting; two days' sale... 21c

15c quality of 45 inch Bleached Pillow Casing; two days... 11 1/2c  
10c quality of 4-4 Bleached Muslin; two days' sale..... 8c  
\$3.98 11-4 Gray, Black and Red Checked All Wool Blankets; two days' special..... \$2.33  
\$5.48 11-4 Gray and Sanitary All Wool Blanket; two days' special..... 3.66  
\$5.98 11-4 Fancy Plaid All Wool Blanket; two days' special. 3.98  
\$7.00 11-4 White, Gray, Sanitary and Scarlet All Pure Wool Blankets; two days..... 4.98  
\$3.48 12x90 Comforters, filled with pure white laminated batting, covered with the 25c quality French Sateen; two days' sale..... 2.69

Union Advocate, and would have them in a few days. We waited and went back to see the clerk. He tried to push some old ones on us, but we were too foxy for him. They were for the year 1-90 and the law had been changed in 1897, an entirely different code. If we had taken them and filled them out, they would have been thrown out and we would have been off the ticket, but we had read the law and knew what we were doing. They must be getting scared when they have to go to such measures. Just watch Sioux City this spring. Tonight is the grand leap year ball and supper. The gents will cook the supper while the ladies have a good time. Enclosed find 50 cents for a bundle of Iowa Socialists for four weeks, till after election.  
J. W. WILSON.

Davenport, Iowa, Feb. 29.  
Dear Comrade: Local Davenport has put on the "war paint" and is now ready for an aggressive campaign in this city. Following is the city ticket nominated and the platform adopted by the city convention:

Mayor—Otto Behnke.  
Treasurer—Dr. J. Raphaelson  
Clerk—Carl Pingel.  
Assessor—William Dewey.  
Aldermen at Large—L. R. Reid, of the Fourth ward, and John Meinert, of the First ward.  
Alderman, First Ward—Henry Wilkins.  
Alderman, Second Ward—John Buegge.  
Alderman, Third Ward—C. H. Staack.  
Alderman, Fourth Ward—J. R. Lindsay.  
Alderman, Fifth Ward—H. Von Seggern.  
Sixth Ward—A. Petersen.

PLATFORM.  
The Socialist party of Davenport, Iowa, reaffirms its allegiance to the principles of international Socialism as expressed in the state and national platforms and to which we refer for a definite study of our position.

Socialism, briefly stated, means the elimination of private ownership in the means of production and distribution, and the inauguration of a complete system of co-operation with democratic management.

We know this complete change in municipal affairs to be an impossibility until the state and national government also shall have been changed.

There are, however, improvements that may be made which will in a measure give relief and help to hasten the hour of the greater deliverance.

Sanitary conditions should be improved and better provisions made for education by establishing free night schools, building public halls, etc. The public bath houses, natatoriums, gymnasiums and playgrounds should be established throughout the city.

We believe in the abolition of the private contract system and the direct employment by the municipality of all labor for public improvements and a working day of not more than eight hours.

The Socialist party of Davenport pledges itself to conduct the municipal affairs of the city in such a manner as to promote the interests of the working class, and therefore for the general good.

We declare our ultimate aim to be the capturing of the powers of government for the purpose of destroying wage slavery by abolishing the institution of private property in the means of production and distribution and the establishment of the cooperative commonwealth. Only when this shall have been accomplished will the workers receive the full product of their toil.  
B. W. WILSON, Secretary.

The following resolutions were unanimously passed by Local 242, United Mine Workers of America, of Avery, Iowa, Feb. 1, 1904:

Whereas, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has shown himself to be in league with the enemies of labor, as shown by his attitude towards them by feasting and wining in a scab hotel with that traducer of union workingmen, President Eliot, of Harvard, who has three times publicly declared that "a scab is a very good type of a hero," and

Whereas, He has demeaned himself by becoming allied with that reactionary institution called "The Civic Federation," and by being the parrot-like repeater of the sophistry of the founder thereof, thereby prostituting his intellect in the interest of the capitalist class; and

Whereas, He has for the past six years persistently fought against our brothers of the A. L. U. and the W. F. of M., one of the latest expressions of his antagonism being shown by his action in the Boston convention where he endeavored, by both legitimate and foul means to defeat a motion for the aid of said western unionists who were and are now on strike, thereby demonstrating his opposition to the princi-

ples of that unity and solidarity which is the true unionism; and

Whereas, He has not in his Federationist mentioned the distress of said strikers, nor expressed one word of sympathy for them and our common cause, but has used that organ for the purpose of personal attacks upon those who are teaching the above mentioned principles; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the members of local union 242, U. M. W. of A., do condemn the actions of the said Samuel Gompers, as being the acts of one who would fawn at the feet of our oppressors, while posing as a champion defender of our rights, and we consider such actions analogous to the acts of the Judas, who, while professing love to the Great Teacher, betrayed him into the hands of his enemies; and be it further

Resolved, That our secretary be instructed to send a copy of the above to said Samuel Gompers, and to spread the same upon the minutes of this local, and to send copies to the public press.

F. J. WEST,  
OWEN PETTIT,  
C. BARTON.

## Iowa Notes

Where and when shall the state convention be held?

Nominations for national delegates must be made and filed with state secretary before March 15.

Dates for Frederick G. Strickland: March 14-15, Muscatine; 16-17, Burlington; 18-19, Albia; 20, Ottumwa; 21, Lost Creek; 22, Grinnell; 23-24, Boone; 25, Madrid; 26-27, Des Moines.

The lecturers now engaged in the Iowa work will make a special effort to secure additions to the ranks of the party locals. The locals should make a special effort to secure the audiences.

Dates for Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick: March 12, Polk City; 13 and 14, Des Moines; 15 and 16, Avery; 17, Hiteman; 18, Feb; 20-22, Ryan; 23-25, Dubuque; 26, Bellevue; 28-30, Davenport.

IOWA STATE COMMITTEE REFERENDUM RESULTS.

1. Shall the full quota of delegates (four) be elected to attend the national convention? Yes—Jacobs, Holtz, Fox, Van Sickle, West, Willis, McDowell and Bennett. No—Weeks. Proposition carried. Comrade Weeks voted for two delegates.

2. Shall the alternates be selected from the candidates for delegate who are not elected, but receive the next highest number of votes? Carried unanimously.

3. Shall the compensation be \$3 per day and railroad fare? Yes—Jacobs, Holtz, Fox, Van Sickle, West, Willis, McDowell and Bennett. Comrade Weeks voted for \$3 per day and itemized bill of expenses. Proposition carried.

4. Committeemen Holtz, Fox, West, Weeks and McDowell voted to submit both place and date for the state convention to a referendum vote of the party membership, and Committeemen Jacobs, Van Sickle, Willis and Bennett in favor of the party membership fixing the place and the state committee the date. A majority of the committee favored the membership selecting both. J. J. JACOBSEN, Secretary.

Smoke "The Iowa Socialist" 5c cigar. Best in the city. Give it a trial.

## Local Notes

City convention next Monday evening. Don't forget Strickland at Temple Hall Wednesday evening, March 9.

Local Muscatine gets under the wire with a club of subs for the I. S.

Prof. Kirkpatrick's dates for Dubuque will likely be March 23, 24 and 25.

Comrade Mrs. G. H. Longman, of Missouri Valley, sends in a club of four.

Prof. George D. Herron will lecture in this city on Socialism at Temple Hall on March 18.

The date of the city convention of the Socialist party has been changed to Monday, March 7.

Local Dubuque has nominated this city as the place and July 4 as the date for the state convention.

Comrade Staheli enlivened the last meeting of the local with several well rendered selections on the zither.

Hear John Collins, state organizer for Illinois, at Socialist Headquarters, 6th and Iowa streets, Sunday evening, March 6. Comrades Carrie L. Johnson and John

Collins will speak in the city hall at East Dubuque Sunday afternoon, March 6 at 2 o'clock.

Comrade Strickland will debate Socialism vs. Single Tax with John Z. White of Chicago in the City Hall at East Dubuque on Tuesday evening March 8.

There will be no meeting of Local Dubuque next week. This is to give the members an opportunity to take in the Strickland-White debate in East Dubuque.

Comrades Mrs. L. C. Milan, Miss Carrie L. Johnson and F. L. Hawley have been nominated for members of the board of education. Comrade D. S. Cameron was selected to handle the school funds. The school election will be held on Monday, March 14.

Comrade Carrie L. Johnson has been nominated by Local Dubuque as delegate to the national convention. Comrade Johnson is associate editor of the I. S. and it is the hope of the staff and Local Dubuque that Iowa will honor herself as well as Miss Johnson by electing her, and thus emphasize the Socialist position of "equal civil and political rights for men and women." Comrades J. J. Jacobsen and John M. Work were also nominated as delegates by Local Dubuque.

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