

Rockefeller's Father a Thief

From the able pen of Mr. A. I. f. o. s. Tarhell, in the June number of McClure's, are facts of interest as regards John D. Rockefeller and his father: The story, extracts of which follow, is of peculiar interest as it deals with the antecedents of the most talked of man in the world today.

It throws most astonishing light on his parentage and reveals the fact that the father of the famous magnate was a man of most unsavory reputation in his own community.

Most astonishing even than this is the fact that the father of John D. Rockefeller, now an old man himself, still lives on a farm in Iowa, and although too old now to follow up his sporting proclivities, his reputation as a trickster still clings to him.

The story of the old man and John D.'s boyhood, is in part as follows:

There are still alive in Tioga county, New York state, many men and women who remember Godfrey Rockefeller. It is not a pleasant description they give of him—a shiftless tippler, stunted in stature and mean in spirit, but held to a certain decency by a wife of such strong intellect and determined character that she impressed herself unforgettably on the community.

Godfrey Rockefeller had not been long in Richford when he was followed by his eldest son—William A. Rockefeller—a man of 23 or 24 years of age. There seem to have been other Rockefellers, for the family was sufficiently numerous and conspicuous to cause the farm in West Hill near Richford, where they settled, to be dubbed "Rockefeller settlement"—a name it still bears.

It is with William A. Rockefeller, father of John, that we have to do here. There is enough which is authentic to be gleaned about him to form a picture of a striking character. William A. Rockefeller was a tall and powerful man with keen, straight-forward eyes, a man in whom strength and fearlessness, and joy in life unfettered by education or love of decency, ran riot.

The type is familiar enough in every farming settlement, the type of the country sport, who hunts, fishes, gambles, races horses and carouses in the low and mean ways which the country alone affords.

He owned a costly rifle, and was famous as a shot. He was a dare-devil with horses. He had no trade—spurned the farm. Indeed he had all the vices save one—he never drank. He was a famous trickster too; thus, when he reached Richford he is said to have called himself a peddler—a deaf and dumb peddler, and for some time actually succeeded in making his acquaintances in Richford write out their remarks to him on a slate. Why he wished to deceive them no one knows. Perhaps sheer mischief, perhaps a desire to hear things which would hardly be talked before a stranger with good ears.

It was not long after he came to Richford that he began to go off on long trips—peddling trips some said. Later he became known as a quack doctor, and his absences were supposed to be spent selling a medicine he concocted himself.

On one of his trips he met in Moravia, New York, the daughter of a prosperous farmer, Eliza Davison. It is said that the girl married him in the face of strong opposition of her family. However that may be, it is certain that about 1837, William A. Rockefeller brought Eliza Davison to the Rockefeller settlement as his wife, and there three children were born, the second of whom—the record of his birth is

dated July 8, 1839—was named John Davison.

In 1843 William A. Rockefeller moved his family to a farm near Moravia, Cayuga county. The reputation he had built up in Richford as a "sporting man" was duplicated in Moravia. He soon became the leader in all that was reckless and wild in the community, and was classed by the respectable and steady going as a dangerous character on whom no doubt much was fastened that did not belong. It may be for this reason, as well as because of his frequent long and unaccounted for absences, that he is still classed popularly in Moravia as one of the gang who operated the "underground horse railroad"—and ran off horses from various parts of the country.

There is absolutely no proof of this, but the conviction and sentence to the state prison, in 1850 of three of his closest pals for horse-stealing, coupled with his bad reputation made many of his disapproving neighbors fix the crime equally on him, and today old men in Moravia nod their heads sagely and say, "He was too smart to be caught."

There is an indictment against William A. Rockefeller for a more serious crime than horse-stealing in the records of the country, for 1847, and it is quite probable that he left Moravia under compulsion. At all events, about 1850 he again moved his family, which now consisted of his wife and five children, to Oswego, N. Y. In 1857 he moved to Ohio.

In the Ohio communities where he lived the legends of "Old Bill," as he is popularly spoken of today by his former acquaintances, are identical with those in Richford, Moravia and Oswego. They all remember him as a man who came home but rarely, who was supposed to sell some kind of medicine—a "cancer doctor," is the opinion of one, a "quack doctor," of another and there are those who declare he was a gambler. In Ohio, as in New York, he always created a profound impression on his visits home, by his good clothes, his good horse, and his crack shooting. "He was a ripping good one," an old associate in Parma declares. "How he would shoot—bang-e-tee-bang—you'd thought there was a small army around!" There are many sly winks at the occupations and morals of William A. Rockefeller by his old neighbors, but there is a universal verdict that he was a "good fellow," jolly, generous and kindly.

When William A. Rockefeller took his family to Ohio, his oldest son, John Davison, was a lad of 14 years. A quite, grave boy by all accounts, doing steadily and well the thing he was set at.

He kept a ledger of his trifling financial affairs marked "A."

From this venerated volume we know how much young Rockefeller earned back there in 1855 when he started out for himself. It was a small enough sum, \$50 for the first three months; then, beginning with January 1, 1865, \$25 a month. We also learn from "Ledger A" what he did with his earnings. There is no doubt but that young as he was, he applied to the money he received those two vital principles in fortune making: Make good bargains; save your money and let it work for you.

We have his own word for believing this, taken from the personal reminiscences which, from time to time appear in his religious instructions. The first lesson he learned by buying cord-wood:

"I was taught to do as much business at the age of 10 or 11 as it was possible for me to do," he told the Bible class one day. "Among other

things I was sent over the hills to buy cord-wood for the use of the family. I knew what cord-wood, solid beech, and maple-wood, was. My father told me to select only solid wood, straight wood, and not put any limbs in it or any punky wood. That was good training for me. I did not need my father to tell me, or anybody else, how many feet it took to make a cord of wood. I did not require the presence of anybody to enable me to secure from the man who sold that wood, good measure."

The items as Mr. Rockefeller once read them at a church gathering are interesting.

"I begin on the 25th day of November," he said: "Missionary cause, ten cents; Mr. Downey, one of our young ministers, ten cents. 'Slip rent'—pew rent—one dollar. December 16th, sabbath school, five cents. Present for Mr. Farrar, the superintendent, 25 cents. Five Points Mission, New York, 12 cents.

The Macedonian, a little religious paper, ten cents. Present to teacher Deacon Sked, 25 cents. January 16th I had something left over for benevolence: Missionary cause, six cents; the poor in the church, ten cents—all on one Sunday! February 3d I gave ten cents more to the same cause; the same day ten cents to foreign missions. March 2d, foreign missions again, ten cents more. Then on the 2d day of March, ten cents for the poor of the church; March 3d pew rent one dollar. March 6th, foreign missions ten cents. Then I went outside of our church, and on the 21st of March gave one dollar to the Young Men's Christian association."

Two years after he took this first position, a difference arose between him and his employer on the question of salary. Mr. Rockefeller thought he ought to have \$800 a year. His employer was willing to pay but \$700. "Meanwhile," to quote from Mr. Rockefeller himself, "the opportunity was offered to engage in business with a young man who was ten years older than myself. I had saved a little money and, accordingly, on April 1st with \$800 or \$900 that I had saved up and a few thousands which my father loaned me at 10 per cent, until I should become of age, I contributed my part of the capital which was \$4,000.

"We were prosperous from the beginning. We did a business of \$500,000 produce commission for the first year. Our profits were not large—I think \$4,400—but I think it was better for me than the \$800 which I had asked.

This then was the man in 1860—frugal, calculating, money-bent—cautious in trade, yet daring, quick to seize, yet ready to wait, and withal "good"—that is a steady attendant at church and Sunday school, serious—that is eschewing all amusements which might be called frivolous, the theater, cards, the dance.

As time went on, these characteristics became more conspicuous. They lead him to new lines of business—one in particular—the refining of oil—a new industry in which it was plain there were great profits. He gave himself to his venture, body and soul one may truthfully say, working with a persistency which put day laborers to shame.

He watched details with a hawk's eye—not a cent must go astray—not a pint of oil must be lost—not a rivet or bung be wasted. "Pay a profit to nobody," he began to say, and it was he and his partners who themselves, went to Oil Creek for oil, and so saved commissions; he who made his own barrels and so saved a middleman's profits; he who hauled and loaded, bought and sold. Nobody but him must make a cent on his oil, from the well to the lamp. It was combine, save, watch. A sort of mania for saving seemed to possess him. It was over this he brooded from morning to night, and it was the realization of this alone

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Socialist News From National Headquarters

Owing to the non-arrival of Comrades Bandlow, Maily and Slobodin, there was no session of the National Executive Committee on Thursday eve, July 20. Meeting called to order 9:45 a. m., Friday, July 21.

Secretaries who have received the monthly official bulletin by freight, will pay freight and drayage and send bill for the amount to the National office with their next order for dues and supplies, and it will be accredited as cash.

The charter of Local Minneapolis, was revoked by the state committee of Minnesota, July 13. Local Minneapolis, in a special meeting held July 15, protests against the action and calls for a state referendum by a vote of 19 in favor and one against.

Thos. E. Will has resigned as state secretary of Kansas and F. H. French, 235 South Market St., Wichita, is acting as secretary pro tem.

Hudson County, N. J., has ordered five sets of Local Account Books during the week.

Local Passaic, N. J., suspended a member for advocating the election of a candidate on a capitalist ticket.

National Committee Motion No. 24 "I move that the National Executive committee be empowered, at its next meeting, to draw up rules to govern the action of the National committee in voting. Such rules to be submitted to the National committee for approval and, if approved, shall be printed and a copy furnished to each member." Vote closed July 15. Motion adopted by the following vote: Yes, 29; No, 8; Not voting, 16.

The second ballot for the election of a member to fill the vacancy on the National Executive committee closed July 19, with the following result: Berger, 18 votes; Towner, 19 votes, and Lemon, 5 votes. There being no election, a third ballot is necessary. The candidates are Victor L. Berger and Chas. G. Towner. Vote will close August 3.

The resolutions by County committee of Allegheny county, Pa.: "Whereas, The Allegheny county committee, Socialist party, did upon the request of Local South Side Pittsburg, pass resolutions on Sunday, April 23, 1905, condemning the action of Victor L. Berger, at that time a member of the National Executive committee, Socialist party, for advising Socialist voters in the City of Milwaukee, Wis., to vote for a capitalistic candidate, and

"Whereas, The said Victor L. Berger, has for such action been removed from the National Executive committee of the Socialist party, and

"Whereas, Comrade Robert B. Ringler, member of the National committee from Pennsylvania, after having voted for Victor L. Berger's removal, did on the first ballot vote for the election of Victor L. Berger to fill vacancy, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Allegheny County Committee Socialist party of Pennsylvania, in a regular meeting assembled Sunday, July 16, 1905, that we protest against such action by our National Committee, and that we consider it inconsistent with his former action in this matter and with the spirit of the resolutions passed by this committee April 23, 1905, and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of the resolutions be sent to Comrade Robert B. Ringler, to the National Secretary and the party press.

"Attest: Fred L. Schwartz, Secretary.

"R. L. Eckles, Chairman of Session."

The good citizens of York, Ala., would not permit Comrade Goebel to speak in the town. However, he held a good meeting just over the Borough line, and the workers heard him gladly.

Locals have recently been organized at Spangle, Hastings and Nicktown, Cambria county, Pa.

Five sets of books for Locals have been ordered by Pennsylvania State committee.

Three speakers afield in Montana, with dates ahead covering August and September. The largest receipts for a month, in the history of the party were

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Strike Trouble Among Labor

Hazleton, Pa., July 17.—Alleging that they are not being paid standard wages, the employes of the Hazle Mountain Coal Company, at Black Ridge, went on strike to-day.

Benjamin Schlessinger, New York manager for the International Women's Garment Workers, announced last evening that 1,000 cloakmakers had struck in four factories in Lispenard, Canal and Division streets, for higher wages and a shorter workday, and that 7,000 or 8,000 more were ready to strike.

New Bedford Mass., July 19.—At the annual meeting yesterday of the stockholders of the Bristol Manufacturing Company, the only print mill in this city, the treasurer, Ed. O. Knowles, reported that 800 looms out of a total of 1,400 are in operation. About two months ago the weavers at this mill went on strike.

Shamokin, Pa., July 16.—In an interview Geo. W. Hartlein secretary of District No. 9, United Mine Workers of America, said it would not surprise him if next year would see the biggest strike in the history of the anthracite coal regions.

The situation, he said, is dangerous and uncertain, owing to the numbers of mine workers who are not members of the union by reason of their arrearage in dues. Nearly every mine worker in the region at one time or another was a member of the organization, but to-day less than one-third in this district are in good standing.

New York, July 24.—Preparations are being made for a strike in this city by the Brotherhood of Painters, having a membership of 6,500. The union demands that the Master Painters' association shall submit a proposed trade agreement to the general arbitration board of the building trades employers' association. The same demands have been made on the interior decorators and cabinetmakers' association.

Master painters have refused either to grant the demands or to submit the dispute to the general arbitration board. It is declared that if the brotherhood men strike their places will be taken by the Amalgamated Painters' society, a rival body.

Chicago, July 21.—The teamsters' strike at Chicago was officially declared off by the members of the Teamsters' Joint Council at 12:30 o'clock this morning. The men have been ordered to seek their old positions, and it is estimated that less than half of them will be re-employed. The strikers made a complete surrender, and will apply for work as individuals, and without an agreement of any kind with their employers. The employers in many cases announced that their vacancies for only a few. Of more than 4,000 men who quit, not more than 1,400 or 1,500 will be reinstated during the next few days. The coal teamsters and truck drivers did not join in the rush for re-employment today.

The order of the Teamsters' Joint Council which authorized the surrender was for all men on strike to ask for reinstatement this morning. Both the truck drivers and the coal teamsters balked at this and planned to hold meetings tonight and "fight it out till they can go back to work like men." However, the boycott against business houses has been lifted officially by the action of the council.

Nearly every one of the strikers at the department stores filed application for reinstatement. In many cases the men were put to work immediately. At one store a number of men who obeyed the order to strike stood in line today and signed applications forfeiting their right to wear buttons of their union exposed. The express companies, which fought their battle apart from the others, are not to take back any of their former employes.

Advices from Porto Rico state that San Juan labor condition are growing serious. The strike, which began with the dock laborers and teamsters, has spread to the bakers and butcher and the end is not yet. The price of beef has gone up from 20 to 38 cents a pound, of which, it is said, 2 cents a pound is contributed to the strikers. A bread famine is feared, because of the strike of the bakers.

Insular police are everywhere watching the strikers. Non-union carts are each accompanied by two armed policemen. The New York and Porto Rico steamship company is strongly guarded. In the harbor numerous big sailings vessels are waiting to discharge cargoes.

The midsummer air in Porto Rico seems just now to be surcharged with a spirit of uneasiness. The native press teems with attacks upon American officers, and Spanish editors delight in throwing insults day after day at Americans.

The deck laborers are striking for an increase of wages from 15 to 25 cents an hour for day work, and from 25 to 40 cents an hour for night work. The strikers, who are orderly, though determined to win, number about 3,000.

Livingston, July 22.—Parties in from Aldridge to-night say that the miners and coke burners in that camp and at Electric are again on strike, having refused to go to work this morning. The trouble is said to be that the company refused to take back all the men who were on strike last winter. Mr. Merry, the manager of the the company, is in the east. It is stated that a few days before he left a committee of the Miners' union waited on him and asked his intentions concerning the re-employment of all the men who were engaged in the strike. It is alleged that Mr. Merry flatly stated that he would not employ the men who had proved themselves mischief-makers and professional agitators. The union says that the promise to take back all the men was made when the strike was called off six weeks ago. The new phase of the matter was considered at a union meeting held last night and the refusal to go to work this morning was the result. The mine managers, it is said, deny that there has been any discrimination in the matter of re-employing the strikers. They say the properties are not yet in shape to employ a full force and that all of the men will be given employment just as fast as it is possible to do so. It is only six weeks ago that a strike of 10 months' duration at the same place was settled. Now the union charges that company is not living up to the agreement made at that time. It is the general belief and expectation that the present trouble will be adjusted as soon as Mr. Merry returns from the east. The coal and coke properties were just getting in shape for full operation.

For general upholstery mattress, spring, and leather renovating see; J. D. Felthousen 422 North Maine Phone' 557 B.

THE MONTANA NEWS.

ISSUED WEEKLY.

J. H. WALSH Editor and Publisher

OFFICE 22 PARK AVE. P. O. BOX 908

Entered at the Post Office for transmission through the mail at second class rates.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Advertising Rates made known upon application at this office.

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Money is needed at this end of the gun.

Opportunism is a great mental failing of the average worker.

Socialism means to give every man or woman the full product of their labor.

Let us elect a few Socialists to the next legislature. It would make the session interesting.

Reports from the farm districts show Socialism to be growing faster than any other product of the farm.

If you get a copy of this paper it is an invitation to subscribe. Don't let us have to invite you over a thousand times.

Are you reading the articles by the Catholic priests? Do you not see anything in them upon which to offer criticism?

Under Socialism you will not have to beg for a job, but you will report for work. In fact you will be the master of your own job.

Working people must free their minds of all these co-operative opportune schemes before they will be able to establish Socialism.

The Chicago strike has resulted as all "pure and simple" strikes must—in failure. The union men are learning that a strike is lost even though they win.

According to Carrol D. Wright, the labor statistician, every worker creates about \$10 worth of wealth a day. But according to the same authority he receives \$1.70 for his labor.

The latest theft of the Miners Magazine is an article from the pen of Thomas A. Hickey, written some time ago, in which Anaconda and workers are the subjects under discussion. The article is produced as if original by the editor of the Miners Magazine.

With W. A. Clark in the field for U. S. senate next campaign, the fight will be a merry one. All kinds of fake labor tickets will be nominated at the expense of the Amalgamated-Heinze-Clark crowd. The Socialist ticket will be the only true representative of the working class. A vote for any other ticket than the Socialist will be scabbing at the ballot box.

All returns from Socialist efforts show that the greatest results at present are being made among the farmers. The farmer is so completely exploited that he becomes a class conscious, revolutionary Socialist upon short education. He seldom falls into the middle class, bourgeoisie, opportune proposition. Let us extend our efforts with the farmer.

It will soon be a year ago, comrades, since we started to sell press shares to raise sufficient money to get a paper press of our own. Only 19 of these shares have as yet been sold. According to that you Socialists are not very deeply interested whether we have a Socialist paper in the state of Montana or not. The proposition was to sell press shares at \$10 each. As soon as enough were sold to buy the press, install it,

and then begin to pay the shares off as fast as possible. They are numbered consecutively and will be paid off in the same manner. Comrades let us sell these press shares. You get your ten dollars back. You are out nothing but the interest. But why let this deal drag so long? Will you take a share at once? Let us hear from you. They must be sold. It is necessary that we own our press then this plant will be complete. Will you help out? Take a share.

WHAT WE SHOULD DO

The state secretary's reports are getting to be pretty interesting reading matter, according to all reports that come to this office. Well, \$144.30 for a month means things are doing among the workers. It means that the rank and file is awaking. It means that the work of education is taking root. Whenever this condition arrives the movement will get on steadily forward, slowly but surely. It is in the hands of the rank and file to make the state secretary's report show up better every week. He will do the secretary's work, if you as a working class Socialist will do your part. You did your part in June, there is no doubt, judging from the amount of money sent to headquarters.

But comrades we must not stop here. We must push on. There is a great amount of work to be done. Our secretary is sacrificing his time in the movement. He is a blacklisted machinist, and can not work at his trade; he should have living wages. Now, don't get seared and think that the Montana News is going off wrong; that it is getting on the old capitalist or union track and believes in big wages for its employees. The News does not favor high priced salaries in the Socialist movement. But \$25 per month is not living wages. That is what we pay our secretary and the way that the organization is growing the work at headquarters will soon call for the services of a stenographer. He works for the party for this small sum and uses a room in his home for an office without charging any rent. This is not right comrades. We are imposing on a comrade. It has, in the past, been necessary to do this to get the movement on its feet, but soon we must pay our secretary a living scale of wages.

The News would not favor paying any \$1,500 per year as we do to our National Secretary, while stenographers in the same office who do all the hard work, get \$75 per month. In fact, the News fought against giving the National secretary \$125 per month. It is not a proletarian scale of wages. It is a capitalistic scale.

However, we should pay our secretary living wages—say as much as we pay lecturers. With a continuation of our June efforts this goal can be reached in a few months. The Socialist party will be the party of the state. The organization will be the strongest known. Its continual campaigning will be seen at the next election.

Let us put on just a little more steam, comrades. Let us reach high pressure for a time. Let us push! push!! push!!!

WHO PAYS THE BILL

The following short but significant dispatch appeared in the press on the 21st:

"William Loeb, Jr., private secretary to President Roosevelt, and Mrs. Loeb have arrived at Gardiner in a private car and entered the Yellowstone National park as the guests of President H. W. Child of the Yellowstone Park Transportation company, and expect to remain in Wonderland about two weeks."

Why do you suppose they became guests of the Yellowstone Transportation company? The transportation company has stolen rights of the people in the National park through such men as William Loeb, and as a return all of that class is carefully chaperoned at the expense of the transportation company. Some twenty-three years ago the Northern Pacific, through the servants of the people in congress, secured a 20-year right to carry people through the park and to build hotels at which to feed the tourists. Three years ago that contract expired, and a renewal was made of the old contract. So, at least, seventeen years longer is the park in the hands of the grafters of the railroads.

A few years ago the government opened a garden in the park. It is really a good sized farm. It was the intention to

raise produce for the soldiers stationed within the park. The transportation company took the farm upon a contract—that for the privilege of farming it they would furnish Uncle Sam's soldiers what they needed. This contract lasted one year, and since then the transportation company, which is owned by the Northern Pacific railroad, has held to the farm, but it has not furnished any more vegetables for the soldiers. Stuff raised on this garden, or farm, within the borders of the park, cannot be sold. Tourists can secure the same by seeing the Chinaman in charge, and remembering the "tip." The transportation company overcomes the technical point of law through owning the hotels. The vegetables are used on the table and the tourist pays a dollar a meal.

Do you wonder that such men as Loeb are "guests of the transportation company?" Do you think that William Loeb, private secretary to the president, pays for that private car out of his own pocket? Do you think that Mr. Loeb or any other servant of the people should be allowed to perform in this manner? This is what you have voted for. Who pays the bill?

BRYAN A CONFISCATOR

The Globe-Democrat recently published the following editorial: "William J. Bryan, in an address at Museoge, I. T., on 'Democracy', has been pointing out many changes which have taken place in his party's aspirations since the St. Louis convention of 1904, and rejoices at those changes. 'Radical Democracy', he says, is to be at the front in the convention three years hence. The party and the country has had enough, he declares, of 'conservative Democracy', meaning, it is to be presumed, the sort that was represented by Parker last year. Mr. Bryan fought that kind of democracy eloquently and courageously in the St. Louis convention, and probably feels that he is vindicated by the tremendous defeat of Parker at the polls. Some of the 'best principles' of the Socialist and the Populist parties, he says, are being adopted by the Democracy, and will be put in the platform of 1908, but the party will not be either Socialist or Populist, but will still be entitled to be called the Democratic party."

Commenting further, the Globe-Democrat says:

"Everything that Mr. Bryan says about Democratic plans for 1908 is entitled to the attention of Democrats and Republicans. He is the most powerful personage in the Democratic party in 1905. Undoubtedly he is correct in saying that the radical Democracy will run the party in 1908. Something, as he declares, will be borrowed from Socialist and Populist policy. But will that give the Democracy the victory? Unquestionably it will not. It is entirely safe to predict, however, that under the leadership which the Democracy will have in that year it will make a far more respectable canvass than it did last year. Neither Socialism nor Populism will ever get the sanction of a majority of the votes of the American people."

There is no doubt but that Bryan should be considered an authority on what the Democratic party will do in the next campaign. Bryan, in the national democracy, is like Joe Toole—the tool—in Montana. They are all that is left of the old Democratic party. But Mr. Bryan, who has refused to discuss Socialism in his personal organ, the Commoner, and who refused a \$10,000 proffer from Comrade Wilshire to meet him in debate, now comes forth with the assertion that the next Democratic platform will be composed of planks stolen from the Populist corpse, and some of the best ideas from the Socialist party. Those who have refused to accept the charge against W. J., as being a political fakir, will scarcely desire to stand in the same light that they have formerly. The thought that arises, however, is how can Mr. Bryan, who has refused to publish articles upon the philosophy of Socialism for the benefit of his readers and party members, ally forth with the assertion that the next Democratic national convention will steal planks from the Socialist party? This will, however, be in absolute harmony with the past history of the party so aptly represented by that long eared animal and supported to a great extent by votes from the working mules.

While the adoption of Social-

ism in the Democratic platform means nothing to the working class, it does show the wonderful and rapid growth of this new working class movement.

Comrade Alex Fairgrieve does not give a very encouraging report of the Industrial Union convention recently held in Chicago, and to which he was a delegate, from Montana. This is a disappointing report to the Montana News. We were in hopes that the Industrial Union would be properly launched. All the workers, and especially those who have been affiliated with the pure and simple trades unions know their faults and failures, and thoroughly realize the great need of the scientific organization of the workers on the industrial field. But according to Comrade Fairgrieve the same was not launched at Chicago. It is not, he claims scientifically grounded on the working class lines and that while he supported and voted for the preamble, he could not support the constitution, as it provides for the old capitalist-Gompers proxy proposition. He feels that to join it would be a repetition of "boring from within," that which we have been doing in Sammy Gompers organization for the past 15 years. Comrade Fairgrieve will make a report to the several unions that sent him as a delegate to Chicago in a few days and he will also supply the News with a copy for publication. We will also give our readers the good and bad points from the stenographical report as soon as it can be secured. With all this information the reader will be able to form his own opinions on the matter.

The Helena local comrades are a unit in view of what to do with the speakers in the future, so far as their jurisdiction is concerned. They have decided to assist in getting all future speakers into the small places in the county and pay less attention to Helena. This strikes the News as an excellent move. There are a number of small places in the county that should be supplied with speakers and a local organized. There is no reason why every worker in the city of Helena should not have a fair understanding of the philosophy of Socialism, as the best of speakers have been here and a great amount of literature is circulated. If he does not understand it, he alone is to blame. But in the county and small places it is entirely different; the city opportunity has not been offered. The Helena comrades have decided that it shall be offered in the future. About a dozen places have been selected and when Comrades Burgess and Hazlett arrive in Helena they will be taken on a campaign route of Lewis and Clark County. This same program, the News would suggest, should be carried out by the comrades in other counties.

Some people seem to think that all that is needed, is just to talk Socialism. A greater mistake could not be made, and especially at this time. It is necessary to talk Socialism, agitate, educate and propagate. But it is still more necessary to organize the great growing Socialist sentiment of today. What good would the standing army be to the government if it were not organized? Suppose that Uncle Sam had a disorganized standing army of twice the size that it is now, and he needed it at once. How much good would it be to him? No good, until such time that the individual members could be thoroughly drilled in organization. The same is true of the Socialist army. In a chaotic mass, with the large majority claiming to be Socialists, you would be ineffective and no good. But organized, you will be a wonderful force—the force that will topple over the capitalist system and establish the co-operative commonwealth.

When you read "Workers of the World Unite," don't get any middle class, opportune fake ideas in your head, such as co-operative state smelter fakirism. It may look good on the surface to some, but upon close study and investigation you must find that all these bourgeois rabies are of no benefit to the working class. In fact, they are as detrimental as the capitalist class itself. The capture of the whole chunk is the only solution of the abolition of the wage system. Therefore it behooves all wage workers to steer shy of all opportune schemes which are sprung by middle class grafters.

Save \$5.00 OR MORE by buying that new suit at The Hub. We have taken all the broken lots of our \$12.50, \$15 and \$18 Suits, and placed the entire line on Sale at \$9.90 All this spring styles in fine worsteds, chevrons, etc. A great bargain while they last See Big Display in our 6th Avenue window. The HUB L. WEIGEL, Pres. CORNER MAIN AND 6TH

Grand Clearing Sale of Ready-to-Wear Ladies' wash shirt waist suits Ladies' and Misses' wash shirts Waists and children's wash dresses. AT COST PRICE We do not want to carry over a single garment of this description if price will sell it. They are all this season's stock and we offer them to you at a sacrifice to us, at a gain to you Butcher & Fowler 24 and 56 South Main Street Mail orders solicited and carefully and promptly filled.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE SEND FOR CATALOGUE MONSTER CLEARANCE SALE! Values Swept Away Profits swept Away Surplus Stock Swept Away Success and a great trade is well and satisfactory; at the same time we are not unmindful of the debt we owe our great army of friends and patrons. As a consequence we are making this colossal sale to show the public that we are prepared to sacrifice values for the next twenty days so that you can and may reap the harvest of the destructive prices as quoted in our January catalogue. The New York Store

Free Transportation to the Lewis and Clark Exposition We are giving Great bargains in Trunks, Valises and Suit Cases. Before Buying you should call and see us. CAPITAL CLOTHING COMPANY

James Walker STAPLE AND FANCY GROCERIES! Also Boots and Shoes--New Line We make a specialty of Large Mining and Ranch trade.—will figure on your bill at any time. SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Montana Railroad Company TIME CARD EFFECTIVE NOV. 6, 1904. Table with columns for Daily Except Sunday and Daily Except Sunday, listing departure and arrival times for various routes like Lombard, Dorsey, Summit, etc.

More Subscribers Needed Typewriters REASONABLE PRICES EASY MONTHLY PAYMENTS No. 2 Remington \$30 and \$35 Caligraph, No. 4 \$30 No. Smith Premier 35 Manhattan 35 Sholes Visible 35 Chicago 20 Hammond Ideal 30 Densmore, No. 1 and 2 35 Hammond Universal \$30 to 50 Jewett 40 Caligraph, No. 2 20 Franklin 20 The above machines are in perfect condition, have new platen, new ribbon, etc., and guaranteed for one year, the same as a brand new machine. If you want a better machine than those quoted above, write me for a copy of my new catalogue. Typewriter and office supplies always in stock. Reference: Appeal to Reason, Girard, Kansas. O. T. Anderson, 609 Rialto Building, Chicago

Priest's Attack On Socialism

IV

The first christians evidently believed in a form of communism. They went further; they put their belief into practice. And with what excellent results these words of the Acts of the Apostles set forth:

"For neither was there anyone needy among them. For as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the price of the things they sold. And distribution was made to every one according as he had need." (Acts iv., 34-35.)

They succeeded in abolishing poverty among their own members. There was not a single needy or poor person in the whole community. For from the common treasury made up of the sales of the lands and houses of the rich the poor were cared for.

It was an ideal arrangement, and it seemed to work with perfect satisfaction. There was, however, a notable exception, the case of Ananias and his wife, who were not prepared to make full returns of their property and suffered accordingly the severest penalty, that of death, for the violation of the rules of the society.

Outside of certain religious orders of the church and a few communities like the late Economite society, this form of Socialism no longer exists. In the case of the religious communities it works admirably, for the reason that the members are inspired by the same motives as were the first christians; wherever else it has been tried it has resulted in failure.

No one dreams today of applying the theory and practice to society at large as a means of redressing its evils and inequalities. Far different remedies are proposed. To cure the evils of modern society the Socialist would do away with the cause—private ownership in the means of production; private property should be abolished and individual possession should become the property of the state.

Now, it is worth while to examine briefly this theory of Socialism. Let me call attention to a few plain principles. They will help to set us right. Here is one: Man has a natural right to life and to the means by which his life and that of his posterity may be preserved. This right is inalienable and goes before any right which the state may claim over him. The family, of which the man is the head is in itself a perfect society, and forms the organized unit of which civil society is composed. But land and the means of production form the chief natural means by which man preserves his life and transmits living to his posterity. Hence, man has a perfect right to land and the means of production—the land which he has cultivated and the instrument which he has made become, as it were, identified with himself. He has a right to possess them securely, to exclude others, and to hand them down to his children. But this is private ownership of the means of production.

It will not do to say that the earth and the fullness thereof have been given to the whole human race; and, therefore, he who owns a part robs all the rest. The earth, it is true, has been given to the whole human race, but individual ownership depends upon occupancy, intention to use, cultivation, work, and such other human actions as make for rational division.

If private ownership in the means of production were once abolished the world's order and thrift would vanish. Man's strongest incentive to work is selfishness. He puts forth his best energies, only to increase for himself and family his private store of wealth, happiness, or glory. With the abolition of private ownership in the means of production the opportunity of producing for private exchange would disappear and human energy become

stagnant. The ploughman would not till the soil, the miner use his drill or the woman her needle. Dullness, listlessness and idleness would reign supreme.

Again: Every man in this country is entitled, according to the declaration of independence, to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. He has a right, moreover, to self-improvement; the developing and perfecting of his faculties, whether in the department of knowledge or of virtue. He has a right to food and clothing, to the shelter of a home, to occupation and to permanency in the possession of what he has acquired by his labor. Permanency of possession is an essential point, because this gives at once a stimulus to endeavor and to the attainment of proper early ambition. Evidently under the Socialistic theory this permanency would be removed and consequently all would go that makes life worth living, liberty worth having, or happiness anything more than a name.

If the theories of Socialism were carried out the working man would be the first to suffer. Without property he cannot exercise his innate rights to personal comforts, to the pursuit of happiness and to the development of his faculties. Who would till the fields if someone had a right to step in and reap the harvest? A man must provide for the future, and therefore he has a right to lay by something for a rainy day. He must have the wherewithal, not only for his present needs, but must put aside for the future. What is the theory of wages but that a man gives the sweat of his brow and his labor in order that he may get something in return.

Now, suppose that a man receives enough not only to provide for today, but by frugality and economy, to lay aside a sufficient amount of money to buy a small piece of ground. What is this ground? It represents what he has earned by the sweat of his brow; it is a part of his salary, a part of the money he has worked hard to gain. Assuredly, therefore, he has right to dispose of the ground in any way he pleases, because by his own personal labor he has acquired it.

Therefore, when Socialists say that property should be transferred from the individual to the state or to the community they strike a direct blow at the liberty of the workingman. It is undeniable that a man by having this right to dispose of his wages as he wishes and to possess property is much better off under the present system than he would be under such a system as is urged by the Socialists, because under their rule whatever a man acquires must pass not to himself but to the community.

The evils of society are indeed great, but need not be magnified. The betterment of the workingman and the happiness of the poor lie not in the destruction of private property, of the family, of religion and the state, but in education, in virtuous living, in the organization of labor for the enforcement of its just demands.

With the philosophy of patience, with christian fortitude, bearing cheerfully the share of suffering which cannot be avoided, man can make of this earth—if not Utopia—at least a home of peace and contentment.

Nor should it be forgotten that the heart of the church is always with the honest workingman. In every age from the days of the Apostles she has supported and blessed his labors and pleaded for his just rights. And that is her position today. She holds to the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. She preaches the doctrine of liberty, equality and fraternity. And were it possible she would restore our

(Continued on page 4)

G & K CLOTHING

Bears the Union Label, a guarantee of excellence that the working man cannot afford to overlook.

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HELENA, MONT.

Socialist News From State Headquarters

No donations to the organizing fund has been received during the past week.

Comrade Hazlett has had very successful meetings in Carbon county and has sold a large quantity of literature.

She will speak at Cokedale (unorganized) August 1; Clyde Park, (unorganized) August 2 and 3.

Comrade Burgess reports good meetings at Bozeman and Belgrade, (unorganized) during his stay in Fergus county he will visit Gilt Edge, Maiden and Moore, and will endeavor to reorganize Lewistown, Kendall, Gilt Edge and Maiden locals.

J. H. Walsh will speak at Hinsdale (unorganized) July 30 and 31. Malta (unorganized) August 1 and 2. Chinook, (unorganized) August 3.

A communication has been sent John Basil Barnhill notifying him that Comrade Hazlett will meet him in debate, providing the arrangements can be made, and asking him for further information concerning the financing of the debate.

We expect to be able to gain definite information in next report concerning the debates.

The total receipts for July up to the 21 inst., is \$58, which is \$70 less than was received for the corresponding time in June. Expenses for July will be much heavier than any preceding month owing to the large amount of agitating that is being done throughout the state.

There is over 300 members throughout the state averaging three months in arrears. If they can be induced to pay up at once, it will mean an immediate increase of re-

venue to the state organization of \$90, and a steady increase in the monthly receipts of \$30, enough to warrant us putting another organizer in the field.

There 27 counties in the state, at the last election, 14 of those counties had Socialist tickets on the ballot.

We should endeavour to get every county organized, and in shape so that there will be a Socialist ticket on the ballot at the next election in every county. This will require a large expenditure of labor. At our present rate of organizing, we will only have six more counties organized by the end of the year. We should make a greater advance than this and have ten more organized by the first of January.

The Socialists in various cities and states are discussing the question of immediate demands. This question has cropped up in Montana and it should be earnestly discussed, immediate and vigorous action taken to settle the question.

Comrades the immediate demands in Montana that needs your first attention is, more finance at headquarters to thoroughly organize the state.

JAS. D. GRAHAM,

Correspondence

Havre, Mont., July 18, 1905.
Mr. J. H. Walsh, Helena, Mont.
Dear Sir and Comrade:—Please find enclosed one and 50-100 dollars for which to renew my own subscription and send to David Hawley, Havre, Mont., one copy for one year. J. T. DYER.
Box 1298.

Dear Comrade Walsh:—Inclosed you will find P. O. Money Order for \$2.00 to pay for the subscription of Chas. Money and that of ours. The subscription of Mr. Money was sold on the street at the lecture of Comrade Burgess and is one of the cards sent Comrade Farrell by you. At each meeting we have tried to sell subscription cards but thus far this is the only one we have been successful in disposing of. With best wishes, I am

Yours fraternally,
CHAS. TROTT.

Como, July 20, 1905.
Comrade Walsh:—Yours of the 7th instant is at hand in regard to finding out something about the Darby local, but I am unable to accommodate you. I attended a few times but we could not get a quorum, so I quit. I have tried to get them together but gave it up. I think that the people are all right. The Socialists are all laboring men and in summer work in the mines and woods and at night are too tired to get out to the

local. A few are a little disgusted over the Berger affair. I tried to do something for your paper, but they say times are hard and have not got any money. It is to bad that we can't get more of our lecturers before the people. Bryan Democracy is fading; some of the people that can't see at what is Socialism, but I think that Bryan and Roosevelt are going to make Socialists by the next election. A few more breaks of "Roosy" will fix him, I think.

Well, I am haying and very busy, so will say good bye.
Yours for Socialism, I am
Respectfully,
SAM KYLE.

Clancy, Mont. July 21, 1905.
To the Mont. News:

In the last issue of the News is a communication from Rev. Wm. Poland. Among other things he says, "To be satisfied that the principle is in operation you must know that you are not laboring to cover over other men's laziness and fraud of time." For my part I will say this: "If the other fellows are doing anything at all we will be a damned sight better off than we are at present, for we are not only doing more than our share of labor but we are packing a lot of useless parasites who cling to our backs like the very demons of hell and suck out our blood like leeches. It is to get rid of this kind of varmin that the Socialists have started the fight and they will never quit till they have wiped them out root and branch. It is not so important to put the grafters and parasites to work to produce their own living as it is to prevent them from stealing what we produce. Under Socialism they won't have to work if they don't want to, they will always have the privilege of starving peacefully to death if they prefer that to honest labor and there will be no one to interfere with them in this matter. Surely this is fair. The reverend gentleman also says he can always get everything he wants under the present system. Under those circumstances I don't blame him for upholding it and I will say he is a damned sight better off than I am, although I work hard every day, Sunday included, notwithstanding the fact that it's an awful sin to work on the Lord's day, and I suppose my soul will have to scorch in hell to pay for it, but I have to work every day in order to get enough to eat and help pay for houses of prostitution for our senators and representatives at Washington, D. C.

Rah for good government and the G. O. P. and the rags that wave gracefully in the breeze from the seat of the laboring mules' pants who votes the ticket. Socialism or bust.

JOHN BRACK.

Every Socialist should read the Montana News and pay for it besides.

Dean, Mont., July 20, 1905.

Comrade Walsh:—The seeds of Socialism that have been sown by our National Organizer Comrade Hazlett, Mother Jones and a few other worthy Comrades is surely springing up all around us. Last Sunday we met to elect new officers for the coming term and there were seven more Comrades added to our local. It was decided that we would bring our lunch and meet as long as the weather permits in the groves along the streams. Our little streams are full of beautiful mountain trout. But the little trout recognize us, they seem to realize that we have not the dollar and so they are not at all afraid of us. They sport and play as much as to say you can sit on the bank, for you're but a poor crank and we are too rich for your blood. Our wealthy folks from the city will soon be coming out to enjoy the good, pure water and the balmy breeze and as we have not yet been ordered off of the grass, they will no doubt grant us the privilege of catching bait for them and of baiting their hooks. What a privilege to be thankful for!

If we can only get to furnish the bait we will pledge ourselves to furnish the pure kind.
Yours for Socialism,
MARIE POTTS.

Butte Labor Unions Come To-gether

The committee of twelve appointed by the Silver Bow Trades and Labor assembly and the Butte Central Labor council about a week ago to discuss the question of bringing all the local labor unions in Silver Bow county under one general head completed its work last night with the exception of drafting a constitution and by-laws for the government of the proposed head. The committee was unanimous in its belief that there should be only one head body and will report its findings to their respective bodies at once. The members of the Silver Bow Trades and Labor assembly will make their report this evening and it will be acted upon by that body. The Butte Central Labor council will not meet until Tuesday evening. The report of that end of the committee will then be submitted to it.

Two meetings of the committee were held, one Friday and the other last night. At neither was there a disposition shown in opposition to the movement, the discussions on the subject being harmonious and to the point. The committee has no doubt that its recommendation will meet with the favor of the bodies it represents, and before long all of the local unions will be operating under one head instead of two, as is now the case. The adoption of the report means that the Silver Bow Trades and Labor assembly and the Butte Central Labor council will be dissolved and that a new body to be known as the Silver Bow Trades and Labor council will take its place. The latter is the name the committee

(Continued on page 4.)

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(Continued from page 3)
Priest's Attack on Socialism

modern world to that ideal state of the first christians wherein "distribution was made to every one according to his need and there was no one needy among them."

REV. M. M. SHEEDY.

At the banquet given to President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor by the labor organizations of Lawrence, Mass., on the evening of Patriot's Day, April 19, one of the principle speakers was the Very Rev. James T. O'Reilly, O. S. A., pastor of St. Mary's church, of that city. He said:

"I am much pleased with the opportunity the present occasion affords to honor the numerous toilers in the ranks of organized labor in our city, by contributing my part to the hearty welcome to their honored and able leader who is our guest this evening. The circumstances do not permit of any lengthy remarks, and the viewpoints of the labor question are so many that it is difficult to say which would be the most useful and important topic to select.

"There is however, one thing as true as any dogma of faith, and that is that the interest of capital and labor are not conflicting of even independent factors in our industrial life, but so closely linked by intercommunicating influences that one may not prosper without the aid of the other. To my mind the whole labor problem is how to make them harmonize by wisely guiding human energy and properly restraining human greed.

"A man is content that he has been employed, and has an opportunity of putting in his time and drawing his wages without rendering faithful service, and the man who exacts the greatest possible energy from his help and pays the least possible wages, sin equally against the mutual interests of capital and labor.

"The employer of labor who estimates all his help according to the low standing of the lazy, good-for-nothing, and the disturber, belongs to the same class of narrow minds as the laborer who sees in the great corporation giving employment to thousands but the great overbearing and crushing tyrant.

"The capitalist has to remember that those who labor and toil by their physical strength to keep the mills grinding out dividends, are not mere machines but human beings with duties and responsibilities in life that have to be attended to as well as the machines they run. Laborers should remember that the capitalist is not, as frequently represented, the heartless Moloch thirsting for blood, and crushing out the life of the poor, but any man who has his savings invested, whether in his little home, or the local savings bank, as well as in railroad stock, government bonds, or as the owner of the industrial stock.

"Class hatred must give place to fraternal love. Let us have more of Mt. Sinai and its commandments, than Beacon Hill and its special laws.

"Men who combine in unions for mutual protection and the development of their strength, and who use their power to crush non-union labor, are doing what the captains of industry do when they combine in the trust to control trade by crush-

ing out their small competitors.

"As all the interests of capital and labor are promoted along the same or parallel lines so they are alike destroyed by the canker worms of selfish greed, and most of the difficulties that develop from time to time, either in the petty strike, or in great disturbances throwing thousands out of employment, are due rather to individual imprudence, stubbornness, dishonesty, and pride than to any real difference in contending interests. With labor well organized and its brightest, ablest and truest men in the pilot house, we cannot have too much capital or too many capitalists for the good of our country."

The first time Socialism ventured to make itself known publicly in the United States was in the year 1888, when the Socialist candidate for the presidency received but 2,068 votes; within four years they increased their ranks to 21,000 voters; in 1896 they amounted to 36,200; in 1900 as many as 127,553 Americans cast their vote for Eugene V. Debs; and at the last election the Socialist vote ran up to 436,000 votes. Until recently the movement was confined to a few New England states with Massachusetts as its stronghold, but now it has invaded every state in the Union. A state of the middle west, Illinois, is at present the banner state of Socialism. In 1896 the state of New York had about 17,000 Socialists. Wisconsin 1,300, Illinois 1,100 votes. Today Illinois leads with 74,000 votes, New York follows with 46,000, and Wisconsin has polled 28,000 Socialist votes. A better idea of the marvelous growth of Socialism than may be obtained by recording its absolute progress, is conveyed by the consideration of its relative growth, i. e., its increase in votes as compared with the votes of other parties. Whilst since 1896 the democratic vote has gone back 26.6 per centum, and the republican vote advanced but 6.1 per cent the Socialists have gained 1,083.3 per cent.—CATHOLIC CITIZEN.

(Continued from page 1)

turned in to the State Secretary's office during June.

"Resolution by Mystic Local, Branch 24, of Mystic, Conn., demands that the National Committee do its duty in revising the state and Municipal Program submitted to it by the National Convention, and submit it to National Referendum.

Fraternally yours,
(Signed) ROBERT HOLLIDAY,
Secretary Mystic Local, Mystic, Conn."

Dates for National Lecturers and Organizers for the coming week are as follows:

John Collins—July 30, 31, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Aug. 1, 2, Norman; 3, 4, Purcell, Indian Ter.; 5, enroute.

George H. Goebel—July 30, Alvin, Tex.; 31, Waco; Aug. 1, Ft. Worth; 2, 3, Dallas; 4, Denison; 5, Tyler.

B. Feigenbaum (Jewish)—July 30, Chicago, Ill.; 31, enroute; Aug. 1, 2, St. Louis, Mo.; 3, enroute; 4, 5, Kansas City.

Comrade William A. Toole, during his recent tour of Maryland, revived three locals and organized one new one.

J. MAHLON BARNES,
National Secretary.

Have you done your duty in assisting the state secretary in getting into the new field for organizing.

(Continued from page 1)

which awakened in his face, already grave with incessant reflections, a sign of joy.

Indeed, the men who worked there in Cleveland at his elbow will tell you today that the only signs of hilarity John D. Rockefeller ever showed in those days were over a good bargain. This would make him clap his hands. Let it be a very good bargain, and he would throw up his hat—kick up his heels, and hug his informant. This was joy for him, this was the satisfaction of passion—this good bargain.

And as he succeeded his desire for wealth seemed, to his friends, to grow even more rapidly than his business. "I am bound to be rich, bound to be rich, bound to be rich," they report him as saying. His conviction that it was the duty of a man to get and keep all the money he could, a conviction which seems to have been born in him, was becoming a passion for wealth. By 1870 he was a rich man; his friends said he would go far.

(Continued from page 3.)

has decided to recommend to their respective orders.

Two of the members of the committee said their was not the slightest obstacle in the way of the movement. They said they had gone into the meeting of the joint committee with the apprehension that some opposition would be exhibited by both sides, but had found all of the members of the same opinion. They said it would require a little time to get things in shape for the launching of the new body, but everything was moving in that direction.

Another meeting of the committee will be held next Friday evening for the purpose of framing and adopting a new constitution and by-laws. The constitution will be made up from the pages of both the Trades and Labor assembly and the Butte Central council, so there will be no objection from either side to its adoption.

At the meeting last night the committee also decided to recommend the appointment of a committee of 15 to make arrangements for the proper observance of Labor day in Butte. This committee will consist of five members of the Trades and Labor assembly, five members of the Butte Central council and five members of the Building Trades council.—Anaconda Standard.

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 - Tomatoes, 5-lb basket.....45c
 - Tomatoes, lb.....12 1/2c
 - Raspberries, case.....\$2.35
 - Blueberries, quart.....17 1/2c
 - New Potatoes, 100 lb.....\$1.75
 - Watermelons, lb.....2c
 - Currants, red or white, basket 8c

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GUIDED BY GOLDEN RULE.

Trend of the Labor Movement is Ever Upward.

Discussing the recent address of Samuel Gompers at Minneapolis, the Journal of that city said:

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was charmed with his reception in Minneapolis and said so to the large audience which greeted him at the new Auditorium. Minneapolis reciprocated the feeling. It was charmed with Mr. Gompers' personality, his oratory and his forceful, frank way of putting things. Mr. Gompers is an advocate. He believes in his side, and he states the case for his side with the earnestness of counsel.

Starting with the proposition that this is an age of organization and that in getting together the laborers are but doing what they see done all about them, Mr. Gompers defends the movement as constructive and not destructive. He must perforce slide over a good many serious mistakes in the labor movement, but as an advocate it is not his business to point those out. The other side will attend to that.

The strong points of Mr. Gompers' plea—and there is not a man living who can make them more forcibly than he—are that the general trend of the labor movement has been upward. It has taken into its ranks the brightest and the dullest, the selfish and the unselfish, the bad and the good, and has molded them into a mass which is more and more guiding itself by the Golden Rule. As one of the men who have done much to bring about this condition Mr. Gompers is deserving of the highest praise.

Mr. Gompers is one of those men who have achieved leadership in this country of opportunity by his own exertions. Now in middle life, at the head of an organization which is a power, we believe Samuel Gompers has the disposition and the ability to make it and keep it a power for good. The record of the American Federation of Labor under his quarter century of domination is good. It has made few serious mistakes, and we take it that its leader is not disposed to spoil a record which has made him a trusted man among labor men and an honored man among employers.

LABOR IN ENGLAND.

Record of the Past Year Shows Decrease in Strikes.

Some interesting facts as to the lives of that section of wage earners in the United Kingdom popularly known as the "working classes" are given in the annual abstract of labor statistics for the last year just published.

These number men and women together, over 9,000,000. Of these over 2,000,000 are employed in agriculture, and of the remainder 1,902,308 are members of the 1,166 trades unions.

Employment so far as trades unions were concerned was not very good last year. Taking the average, 6 in every 100 were unemployed throughout the year against five in 1903 and in 1902 and three in 1901.

Of the huge mass of workmen who do not belong to trades unions the return does not speak, but the fact that the unemployed unionists were more in number than in any year since 1904 gives a good indication of what must have been the conditions among those who have not had the advantage of a combination to aid them in obtaining employment.

The number of disputes resulting in strikes again showed a decrease. Only 334 were recorded during the year against 387 in 1903, 442 in 1902 and 642 in 1901.

The disputes affected only 93,922 work people, less than one-third of the number in 1902, and they lost a total of 1,416,265 working days against nearly 2,500,000 days in 1903 and 3,500,000 days in 1902.

Seventeen per cent of the disputes ended in favor of the work people and 48 per cent in favor of the employers. The remainder were compromised.

There was little fluctuation in favor of wages during 1904, and where there was any change it was chiefly on the wrong side.

Look For the Label.

Look at the clothes you are about to buy. If they have the union label, complete your purchase. If not, let them lie on the counter unbought. Letting them alone is your silent strike. You can exert it against scores of articles of wear and of household utility. Millions of working people—the trade unionists and their families—can do the same. This silent strike they can carry on all the year round.

The beauty of the silent strike is that you lose no time, no money, no sleep. You are getting full pay while you are striking and doing effective work. The members of your family instead of being a drawback to the success of this strike are a benefit. They can help you in it by always asking for "label goods" and in urging their friends to do the same.—Labor Clarion.

Painters and Paper Hangers.

General Secretary-Treasurer Skemp of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paper Hangers of America says the organization embraces between 55,000 and 60,000 members, adding:

"The membership of our national union has been greatly augmented recently by the admission of almost 2,000 members in Philadelphia who were formerly members of an independent union which went out of existence after we took them in. In New York we have only just lately taken in a big local of members who were outside for years. Our total membership in New York reaches over 6,000, and we are still increasing."

BENEFITS OF UNIONS

THEY ARE IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL CENTERS.

The Best Paid, Most Intelligent and Advanced Workers Are Found in Trade Organizations—Labor's Influence on Industrial Progress.

It is generally conceded that combination of capital is both legitimate and necessary to modern methods of industry, yet there is a reluctance, especially among the employing class, to recognize the same necessity on the part of labor, writes Martin F. Murphy in the Buffalo Express. It is urged against trades unions that they destroy the freedom of laborers to make individual contracts and hence are despotic. If combination is injurious to freedom of contract, why do capitalists combine? Why is a loss of liberty that is so injurious to laborers especially beneficial to capitalists?

During the periods and in those localities where labor organizations have been most general and efficient the laboring class as a whole has certainly grown in power and freedom. It is clearly for the interest of laborers that their condition should be governed by the more intelligent of their class, and this organization alone can make it possible. Moreover, trades unions are educational institutions. They tend to develop the intelligence and character of the laborers in many ways. In the first place, they stimulate the study of industrial questions which involve a considerable amount of reading and general information and also an intelligent acquaintance with the industrial conditions of their craft. Intelligent trades unionists are frequently better informed upon industrial and political questions and are less liable to lose their heads in a sentimental whirl than are the more educated and less experienced middle and college classes.

Trades unions are also important social centers. In addition to furnishing laborers with the means of better knowledge of their economic conditions and more intelligent methods for improving them, they afford an opportunity for social intercourse otherwise practically impossible. They are to the wage earners what clubs and social institutions are to the wealthy. The social intercourse and activity thus created tend to awaken new interests, wants and aspirations which are not limited to the character of the individual members, but gradually extend to their home life, thus surely improving the social condition and the standard of living of the whole class. The pressure of increased social needs thus silently developed makes a demand for higher wages necessary. We always find the most intelligent, socially advanced and best paid laborers in every industry to be the most prominent trades unionists and usually the most active social agitators.

It will not be disputed that strikes are often unwisely and badly managed, that dishonest men or otherwise conspicuously unfit for leadership sometimes get at the head of a labor organization. But is not this true of every other form of social and industrial organization? Are capitalist organizations free from these charges? Do they not frequently act rashly, often involving the disaster of innocent investors? Cannot the same impeachment be urged with quite as much truth against political organizations? These mistakes are not a necessary part of labor organization any more than dishonest ministers of the gospel are necessarily a part of Christianity. They arise from ignorance and mistaken notions among the laborers, which trades unions tend to counteract.

In those industries where trades unions are best organized and exercise the greatest influence strikes are fewest, wages are highest and the relations between workers and employers most confidential and harmonious. Trades unions therefore are not only legitimate economic and social institutions, but they are an integral part of the industrial organization of modern society. With all their defects they have ever been real benefactors, not merely to their own members and the wage class, but to society.

Devouring Our Own Children.

"We believe in the eight hour day," says Tom Watson in his magazine for June, "for labor in government works, in factories, workshops and mines. "We believe in the regulation of child labor in factories, workshops and mines to the end that children of tender age shall not be made to slave out their lives in order that corporations shall have cheap labor and large dividends.

"Saturn, the old fable tells us, devoured his own children. Christian civilization does the same thing. "As long as we permit children of ten and twelve years to labor eight to fourteen hours per day in our mills and workshops modern civilization is another Saturn. We are devouring our own children."

The People!

[Written in 1600.]
The people is a beast of muddy brain,
That knows not its own strength and therefore stands
Loaded with wood and iron. The powerless hands
Of a mere child guide it with bit and rein.
One kick would be enough to break the chain.
But the beast fears, and what the child demands
It does, nor its own terror understands.
Confused and stupefied by bugbears vain.
Most wonderful! With its own hands
It ties the gags itself, gives itself life and war
For pence doled out by kings from its own store.
Its own are all things between earth and heaven.
But this it knows not, and if one arise
To tell this truth it kills him unforgiven.
—Father Campanella.

THE BUSINESS AGENT.

Justice Should Be the Keynote of His Official Action.

The position of business agent is not a sinecure nor a bed of roses by any means, says W. W. Werner in the Carpenter. When any one accepts the position, thinking that he will have a kid gloved job, the illusion will soon be dispelled if he honestly performs his work. The business agent has been the butt of the newspapers for years and has been looked upon with suspicion not only by the employing classes, but the general public at large. The prejudice that has been created against him is gradually vanishing, but at best he is handicapped at all times. The business agent frequently finds that his hardest fights are to be encountered in the union, where jealousies or factionalism are permitted to flourish, and as a consequence the work in bettering the condition of organized labor is greatly hampered.

The ideal business agent never existed, and I doubt that he ever will. Too many men have aspired to reach that high elevation only to have their ambitions dashed to pieces ere they have gone very far. They realize when too late that in trying to please every one they have gained the enmity of all, and, no matter what their abilities may be, their usefulness at once ceases.

A business agent should possess individuality. Let him sit down and think each question over before he acts. Listen to the advice of fellow members of the organization and use it in accordance with its value. Never allow dictation. When you do, you have lost your efficiency. The fellow who seeks to control you in many cases is making a catspaw of you. Keep aloof from all cliques. Be ready to listen to complaints, but slow to act. Weigh well the evidence on both sides when any controversy arises between the employer and a member of your local. Let justice be meted out at all times without regard to whom it may benefit or injure.

If this course is pursued you will gain the confidence of the great mass of people and will command the respect of those who may not be friendly to you. Always remember that it is best to have your errors to be those of the head and not of the heart.

FREEDOM OF CONTRACT.

John Burns Says It Is Opposed to Modern Ideas of Government.

John Burns, the English labor leader and member of parliament who investigated labor conditions in the United States several years ago, has read the recent tenour decision of the United States supreme court. He does not believe the working people will accept it and says:

"The people of the United States will never take the decision. Either the decision will be ignored by the moral sense of the community or the constitution itself will have to be amended, no matter how onerous that task may be.

"Ten years ago, when I was in the United States, I said the constitution was one of the greatest achievements that the world has ever seen. I added, however, that there was the danger that capitalists and manufacturers might turn it into a deadly weapon of injustice whereby the workers would be wronged and the rich made richer.

"Freedom of contract is totally opposed to all modern ideas of government. Why, if that principle were strictly upheld a man could sell himself into slavery. Indentured labor, which we here in England are fighting against, is dependent upon the alleged right of every man to sell his labor as cheaply as he likes. Freedom of contract strikes at the root of every factory act and every piece of remedial industrial legislation the world has seen.

"No; the people of the United States must get rid of that alleged principle of freedom of contract and alter the constitution that endeavors to make it binding on all men for all time."

Preparing For Labor Day.

Labor day arrangements have been begun by nearly all the central bodies and local unions of Boston. This year an especial effort is to be made to have every local union of the city parade. There is a general feeling that every union, especially those with labels, should parade. Many, some the largest in the city, have not done so in recent years. The big organizations without labels say that they can be immensely helped in their lines if every organization parades. In fact, it is openly stated by many of the most prominent and conservative leaders that if every labor organization in this city would parade Labor day the labor problem in this city would be practically settled. The show of strength by the parade of the more than 62,000 men and women connected with local labor organizations, if all turned out, would convince the doubters as to the size and importance of the labor movement in this city.—Boston Traveler.

Reasonable Wages.

Here is some reason from a Chicago daily: "The cost of labor is one of the principal items that enter into competition between business men. No one can deny this. Then is it not a decided advantage to deal with an organization of labor that guarantees to the business man that his competitor is paying the same wages that he does? And besides there is not a union in existence that places minimum wages above an amount necessary to support workmen upon comfortably. Union wages are reasonable wages. Employers of labor who object to the strictly union shop do so simply because union regulations require a standard of justice to the workmen that most employers want to violate in the interests of profit."

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