

REVOLUTION AND REFORM.

The capitalist system cannot be brought to an end before the development of our industries has made it necessary...

WHERE IS THE "GOLDEN AGE?"

In the August Forum Mr. W. G. Ghent writes on the American workman's "Golden Age." He says in substance:

A certain popular conviction of the day ascribes to the condition of the workman, urban and rural, a constant deterioration...

The mass of testimony, from the time of Yorktown to that of Bull Run, tells a story of anything but a golden age for the American workman...

Let it be said plainly, however, Mr. Ghent continues, that though this may be granted, that a wider diffusion of comfort has prevailed since the civil war...

We do not deny that the condition of the working class has considerably improved not only since the civil war, but since the beginning of the last century...

But granting all Mr. Ghent claims for the Nineteenth century in regard to the betterment of the condition of the working classes...

Now, this will not be the Golden Age. Everybody who is able will have to work, but it will be an infinitely better age than the present one...

Should the strike in Bay View be long continued and the trust seek to import "scabs," trouble would undoubtedly ensue...

The last strike at the Bay View mills was in 1886, when there was a general movement throughout the country for an eight-hour day...

In Wisconsin we now see the rare spectacle of the executive department and the majority of the party in the legislative department ranged against each other...

Is the trades union a trust? May be. But the difference between a labor trust and the other kind, is made clear in this article...

And right here we will reprint what a capitalist paper like the Boston Herald has to say about the matter:

It makes possible the severest oppression of the majority to enable the already vastly rich to become vastly richer...

How little originality the old party politicians have, even in small matters, is shown by the fact that they use the old political terms and bynames over and over again...

It is needless to say that the working class and the people in general have nothing to expect from capitalist reformers who, by the very nature of their stand-

Socialists believe that every man is entitled to the full product of his labor. Under the present economic system a workman cannot get the full value of his product...

Moreover, since the working people of the country do not receive the value of their products how can they be expected to buy back these products?

If we consider what crimes are the most anti-social, most common, and against which the code of the law is chiefly directed, we shall soon discover that outside of crimes of passion, which are very rare...

It is the question to which only those who have studied society in its nature and effects can reply: "Is the present status of property just? Is an organization of society defensible which creates such a number of crimes among civilized men?"

If the cable speaks the truth there may be a new war between America and Spain pretty soon. A dispatch from Paris of August 19 says that Mrs. Charles T. Yerkes, the wife of a man well known in Chicago, has exclaimed: "I'll teach that infanta a thing or two!"

It seems that when Mrs. Yerkes' gown, eight in number, were ready they were shown to the infants as specimens of the firm's work. The princess fell in love with two of the dresses and offered to buy them provided M. Armand would not duplicate them for the American millionaires...

the fellow who laughed at the secretary is with them today. The voters voted for McKinley because of his "injunction" and if they will have all they voted for, they will have it over.

The claim that the capitalists furnish working people employment is absurd. It is the demand of the public for goods that makes employment possible.

The long hours of labor demanded by the hungry competition of today tends to destroy the family life of the toiler. Modern machinery with its wonderful result of multiplying the product has not brought to the worker those advantages we have a right to expect...

The coming "social revolution" (or rather the series of revolutions, legal and otherwise), which must destroy the capitalist system, will involve the emancipation of the whole nation, not merely of the working classes.

Free competition is like turning a drove of hungry hogs into a lot in which you have put a trough long enough and full enough to permit all of them to feed and have all they want if they will each take up only the necessary space according to their bulk.

The present system of "free competition" imposes no restraint upon the powerful. They are at liberty to exploit the poor workmen to their hearts' content.

State endowment of authors is a common thing in Norway. This year's list of pensioners includes a woman, the author of an historical romance. The stipends vary from 1200 or 1300 kroner (\$200 to \$400 to 4000 kroner (\$1100) or more in special cases where the writers have achieved great popular fame without succeeding in making a decent living by their pens.

Inability to pay a fine of \$12.40 imposed upon him by a justice of the peace at Homestead, Pa., for disorderly conduct, has resulted in Martin Schwab, uncle of the steel trust president, being sent to the bridewell. Martin is a brother of the millionaire's father and has been employed in the steel mills. He is 55 years old.

Success, a well-known New York monthly, which makes it a business to boom our plutocrats and to uphold them as patterns for our youth to follow, had some time ago this to say about the trusts:

There is no use denying that the trusts are paving the way to state or national socialism. The magnates of the trust are the strongest allies of the Socialists. They go just far enough to stop short of state control of industry and labor, and the line at which their operations halt may not prove a difficult one for the people themselves, in the exercise of their sovereign power, to cross.

The chief objection to socialism has been the proposed elimination of individual effort and competition. The great trusts, each in its line, have overcome this objection by effecting competition and subordinating individual effort to trust control.

The Milwaukee lodge of the American Woodmen and Steel Workers...

THIS advertisement with a graphic design and text.

The most important thing in the life of man is food at all other times is the human stomach. If the capitalist class could manage to have...

However much we may disagree as to the origin and destiny of the human race, we are forced into a common, universal agreement that the bottom fact in the affairs of men is Hunger—the Stomach.

The great fear of the steel strikers in their present struggle arises from the possibility of hunger overtaking themselves, their wives and their children.

Under these circumstances it will not be amiss for them to consider whether their chances for success will not be improved by "giving the stomach a rest."

About the beginning of the last century a distinguished French philanthropist advised poor people to sleep as much as possible, because they lacked means to keep awake and live properly.

The stomach being a fact and not to be ignored if men will keep awake, there seems here to be a practical suggestion to the working class, especially in strike times.

If the working class is not ready to follow the example of the Russian peasants, but will persist in keeping awake, it may be suggested that they throw off their mental stupor and recognize that the stomach, being a fact in nature and work being necessary to live, any system that denies a man the right to work without compelling him to live on barely enough to provide food for the stomach, while a small class fattens on the fruits of his toil, is iniquitous and opposed to progress and the interests of humanity.

They will then be awake to some purpose and become Socialists. BEN ATTERBURY.

The National Platform.

The Socialist party of America, in national convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of international Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.

Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by the individual worker. Today the machine, which is but an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the workers.

As such means we advocate: 1. The collective ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines.

2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor in proportion to the increasing facilities of production, to decrease the share of the capitalist class and to increase the share of the workers in the product of their labor.

3. State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, loss of employment, sickness and want in old age, the revenue therefor to be derived from the government.

4. The inauguration of a system of public industries for the employment of unemployed, the public credit to be utilized for that purpose, in order that the workers may receive the product of their toil.

5. The education of all children by the age of 18 years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

But in making these demands as steps in the overthrow of capital and in the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth, we warn the people against the public ownership demands made by capitalist political parties, which always result in perpetuating the capitalist system through the compromise or defeat of the Socialist revolution.

The Movement Abroad.

The Australian Socialist league has issued a manifesto in which it says: "In order to give practical effect to the principles of Socialism through the ballot box, the members of the Australian Socialist league have decided to enter the political field, recognizing that only by these means can the working class obtain control of the governmental machinery and the aims of Socialism be realized."

New Zealand is taking over coal mines which, Premier Seddon says, will supply fuel for the state-owned railroads and the consumers will care to purchase. The profits of the industry will go partly toward increasing wages, cheapening coal and adding to the public revenues.

Capitalist papers are keeping very quiet as to the result of the late general election in Holland, but from recent European papers it is learned that the Socialist vote increased to 26,170 from 15,000 four years ago, and that the Socialists will probably elect five or six members of parliament on the second ballot.

Once More

THE WORKER AND HIS WAGES

It is not only his own expenses but those of his family in order to enable him to propagate himself and to begeth his labor power to the capitalist class.

IV.—PROSTITUTION.

Hand in hand with the accusation on the subject of the family bonds goes the accusation that Socialists aim at a community of wives. This charge is as false as the others.

The irrational system of modern production tears the sexes apart. It builds up the towns in New England and below in the mining districts of Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio and the farther West, thereby directly promoting and inciting prostitution as a natural and inevitable result.

The household of the worker is a household of prostitution. In the modern state, where Christianity is preached and piety is at a premium, many a "thriving" branch of industry is found whose working women are paid so poorly that they would be compelled to starve unless they prostituted themselves, and wonderful to say, in such instances the capitalist will ever be heard to protest that these small wages are indispensable to enable him to compete successfully in the market, and to maintain his establishment in a "thriving" condition.

Prostitution is as old as the contrast between rich and poor. At one time, however, prostitutes constituted a middle class between beggars and thieves; they were then an article of luxury, which society indulged in, but the loss of which would in no way have endangered its existence.

Today, however, it is no longer the females of the slums alone, but working women who are compelled to sell their bodies for money. This latter state is no longer simply a matter of luxury, it has become one of the foundations upon which production is carried on. Under the capitalist system of production, prostitution becomes a pillar of society.

What the defenders of this social system falsely charge Socialists with, is the very thing they are guilty of themselves: Community of wives is a feature of capitalism, and this is the root of this system of community of wives cast in modern society that its representatives agree in declaring prostitution to be a necessary thing. They cannot understand that the abolition of the proletariat implies the abolition of prostitution.

So deep are they sunk in intellectual stagnation that they cannot conceive a social system without community of wives. But it is not only the proletariat who have ever been an invention of the upper layers of society, never of the proletariat. The community of wives is one of the modes of exploiting the proletariat. It is not Socialism; it is the exact opposite of Socialism.

To be Continued.

Compulsory Arbitration.

There is no doubt, says the New York Journal, that the proper way of settling labor disputes is through arbitration.

But when you speak now of a big employer you mean usually a trust or some individual controlled by a trust.

Trusts are corporations without hearts or souls. Their rulers are men of violent prejudices, especially antipathetic toward labor unions.

Everybody knows that of legislative machines or of legislating men the majority are subject to corruption by direct bribery or indirect influence.

With compulsory arbitration on the statute books we should very soon see the trust bribing legislators or officials to appoint subservient arbitrators.

Workers refusing to submit to bribed arbitrators would be outside the pale of law, and another disadvantage would be added to the conditions which confront them.

It is difficult enough to win a strike now, however great the grievances met at present strikes are at least lawful and recognized.

They would be unlawful if persisted in after the compulsory arbitration law, and the right of men to strike would have to be fought out all over again.

It is discouraging, but it must be said that while money rules absolutely, as at present, men who want their rights must put themselves at the mercy of an set of arbitrators whom money might subsequently buy.

Zola's "Labor."

In his new and latest book, "Labor," Emile Zola sets the hero Mark to building a model village on the communistic plan near by a capitalistic manufacturing town where the population is hardened by coarse work, degraded by drink, eaten by vice.

The effort at improving the condition of the workmen is misunderstood and met with ingratitude. Many object to the restrictions on liquor in the new village, and it is urged that he means to take the bread out of the mouths of the workers.

Approach is followed by violence, and the outlook becomes very gloomy, but in the end the commune triumphs. It is published by the Harpers.

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Secretary Root is an able and very active man. While the great mass of the American people are interested in the essential questions of the administration he is quietly and unobtrusively accomplishing a series of important administrative measures.

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III.—DISSOLUTION OF THE PROLETARIAN FAMILY.

The labor of woman in productive pursuits betokens the total destruction of the family life of the workingman, without substituting for it a higher form of family relationship.

The capitalist system of production does not yet generally destroy the single household of the worker, but robs it of all its bright, and leaves only its dark sides. The activity of women today in industrial pursuits does not mean to her freedom from household duties; it means to her an increase of her former burdens by a new one.

But we cannot separate the matter of the household of the workingman from the matter of the household of the capitalist. The household of the worker is a household of prostitution. In the modern state, where Christianity is preached and piety is at a premium, many a "thriving" branch of industry is found whose working women are paid so poorly that they would be compelled to starve unless they prostituted themselves, and wonderful to say, in such instances the capitalist will ever be heard to protest that these small wages are indispensable to enable him to compete successfully in the market, and to maintain his establishment in a "thriving" condition.

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To be Continued.

Tags.

A CHILD OF THE TENEMENTS.

Tags was hungry and Tags was crying. She knew more about hunger and tears than anything else, for Tags was a child of the tenements.

For something like twelve years Tags had existed and living that time she had never been four blocks away from the big city building, in the heart of the great city where she was born.

Tags was a child of the tenements. She knew nothing about father and mother, for Tags was only two years old when they had finally closed their joyless eyes to a week of each other.

Tags had lived much the same as do the young of wild animals under similar circumstances. When people were not looking she would run through the alleys and pick up a bit from the meager stores of the big buildings.

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AVERY C. MOORE.

In Locomotive Firemen's Magazine.

fleet landscape through the car window, oblivious to all else.

"Tickets," again called the conductor as he touched the child on the arm, but a sob was the only response.

"Where are you going?" asked the conductor. "Ain't goin' nowhere."

"What is your name?" "Tags."

"Where do you live?" And with answer to further inquiries was a flood of tears.

The conductor knew that the child, so out of harmony with her surroundings, hardly belonged to anyone in the car, but he made inquiry of all nevertheless.

Failing to secure any information concerning her, he told the brakeman to put her at the first station and notify the station. And so Tags was put off at the next station, which had no visible effect upon her feelings.

She trotted alongside the train until the engine was reached. It was dark and cold outside and the light and heat that came from the engine cab proved so inviting that before long she was curled up by the side of the boiler in front of the fireman's seat and fast asleep.

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