

THE SOCIAL MIRROR

THE COMEDY, PATHOS, SORROW AND SUFFERING A DRUG CLERK FINDS THERE

To the wooden Indian standing in front of a cigar store in a busy thoroughfare, the passing multitude offers no attraction.

Very much on a par with this wooden Indian is the wooden clerk behind the drug counter. The tragedies and comedies daily enacted in his presence, often with him as one of the actors, are of no particular significance to him.

him where all others lead; where all investigations lead; where philosophy leads; where necessity leads; where evolution leads, viz., towards the Co-operative Commonwealth.

As the stream of customers passes in review and disappears after making their purchases, all the rugged thorny edges of capitalism present themselves in all their hideousness.

This customer is followed by a man who in every inch of his person betrays the typical wage slave. The bony hands are there. The disjointed body is there.

to become an old man as yet. That he would like to get some preparation to color his hair and yet not injure it, etc., etc., but that is only part of the tale.

The clerk, of course, has such a preparation. It is positively excellent and it is guaranteed to dye the hair. It is also guaranteed to be perfectly harmless and to absolutely vegetable.

The writer knows a great many poor women, wives of these unfortunate wage slaves, who, although with the unmistakable signs of poverty all around and about them, purchase every week or two for their husband's use, a bottle of dye stuff for the hair.

Now, it is the lady's turn. The man or woman who bulldozes and browbeats the clerk behind the counter, simply because he knows the clerk to be a slave and that he must keep his mouth shut.

Ye poor men, women and girls slavering behind the counter, you all have my sympathy. Your trials, your sufferings, are well known to me. Every crank, every idiot, every lunatic has full sway to tax our patience as well as our endurance, to the utmost. We MUST please them.

But to return to that beast, the bully. We all know him. He crops up everywhere. In the cars he bullies the conductor. In the restaurant he abuses the waiters.

The above is only one instance. Such people are met with every day. Bullies don't vary in kind, but in degree. Still, they have their mission in capitalism.

The next customer of interest is a poorly clad young woman, her face denoting anxiety and suffering. Her baby, a little girl three years old, is very sick, in bed, she informs the clerk.

Poor mother! Poor baby! Condemned to suffer so that others may enjoy. Your clergyman will tell you its right, and it must remain so. Your lady of the charity association will visit you and leave a few pennies, after probably lecturing you upon your husband's lack of ability, push, industry, etc.

ery, wire pulling and the battles of the capitalists. All the world is against you poor, helpless creatures. But do not despair. Out of your own class might men and women are springing up to wage war for you and your baby.

There is enough comedy, pathos, sorrow and suffering in this play, to engage the pen of stronger minds than the writer of this possesses. And such minds are discovering themselves not among the gilded youths, not among the bediamonded "ladies," not among the wonderful "genies" of Wall Street, but in the humble dwellings of the workingmen.

The capitalists realize that. Note how eagerly they will take up a challenge from any political opponent with the exception of the Socialist Labor Party. With all the advantages on their side, leisure, education, training, they invariably go down in defeat when confronted by an able man of our class.

Time is precious and conditions are ripe. A tremendous tidal wave of approval of the principal and tactics of the honest, incorruptible S. L. P. will in the near future sweep the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

DRUG CLERK. These are the sentiments of an S. L. P. member, who professedly upheld both organizations, but in reality understood the principles and tactics of neither.

The other element was composed of members of the S. L. P., who claimed not to believe in the need for the S. T. & L. A., but whose objections to it when analyzed could apparently be narrowed down to the same limit as those of all who oppose the economic movement.

District Alliance 19, of Lynn, Mass., has also done some excellent work, and it too, has a good future if proper advantage is taken of present conditions.

D. A. 21 of Hartford, Conn., has also made progress and is in a much better condition than a year ago, and we believe its members are imbued with the right spirit and will continue to make it go forward.

D. A. 22 of Troy, N. Y., has been unable to do much until recently through lack of funds, both on the part of the D. A. and the General Executive Board.

Requests for speakers have also been made by the S. L. P. organizations in Buffalo and Syracuse, New York and Erie, Pa. D. A.'s 3 of New Bedford, Mass., 19 of Lynn, Mass., and 23 of Maine, have also asked that speakers be sent into their districts.

Evidence was brought before the Board by members of the District, and, becoming satisfied as to the truth of the complaints of the unconstitutional actions of the Secretary and President, the Board promptly suspended them from office, and declared the proceedings of a snap meeting called by them irregular.

REPORT OF THE G. E. B., S. T. & L. A. SUBMITTED TO THE EIGHTH NATIONAL CONVENTION, AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY, DECEMBER 7-9.

To the Delegates of the Eighth National Convention of the Socialist Trades and Labor Alliance. Greeting:— Comrades:— In submitting the report of your General Executive Board for the year which has passed since the last National Convention, we do so with a feeling of gratification over the progress that has been made, and of confidence that your Convention will recognize that the Board has accomplished as much as was possible under the circumstances.

to find out where we were at, and we are free to admit that the deplorable condition of affairs which our investigation presented to us, was, to say the least, none too encouraging. In the first place we found that as a result of the laxness or worse of our predecessors in office, a burden of debt had accumulated, amounting in all to \$720.25 in amounts as follows:

As we later discovered, the following bills: To Daily People, old debt, \$8.50 D. A. 21, Hartford, for subscription sent for Weekly People, 2.00 Fred Loehr, for binding Daily People File, 3.20 Total \$14.70 This brought the total of indebtedness up to the above-named amount of \$720.25.

LIABILITIES REMOVED. In the case of the amount due Siff Bros. suit had been entered before the end of the previous year and we found that Siff's game apparently was to put us in as bad a hole as possible, with a view to crippling us still more.

decide whether to extend the remission or not. ORGANIZATION WORK. Although our financial inability hampered us greatly, we did all we could to encourage the comrades in various places to agitate and organize wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS. Since the work accomplished during the year was so good, all things considered, and the prospects before us are so bright if we make a proper effort to take advantage of them, we would recommend that this Convention take steps to provide for the sending out of a General Organizer for the purpose of carrying on an aggressive campaign of agitation and organization in the states before named, with the ultimate view of establishing National Industrial Alliances whenever and wherever possible.

