

WEALTH AND LAW

Justice but Reflects the Material Interests of the Law Makers

Holyoke, Mass., April 22.—The below article is taken from the Holyoke "Transcript" of April 18. It is a comment which I made on a paragraph which the "Transcript" contained.

"Right must be right. Law must be law. If the justices of our supreme court are governed by prejudicial hearings of cases? This is something to think about in view of the talk that is proceeding from headquarters about the reasons for rehearsing the government's two great cases."—Transcript.

Wealth—power—law—right—justice. That is the solution of the riddle. If you have the power you make the law and establish your right and call it justice.

If you have not the power, you can not make laws and all your declamation about right and justice are idle vapors. When the American slave owners had the power they made the law that slavery was right and just—to themselves, and not until the anti-slave interests of the country had gotten hold of the power could they make laws to say that slavery was wrong and unjust to their ideas. When people are poor, all the power they possess is their good strong fists and that is apt to be sufficient for their ordinary needs.

But when people become wealthy, they need more than their fists to protect their property, consequently they make laws intended to keep other people's hands and feet off their property. The more property the more laws are needed and thus a structure is reared that becomes top-heavy and no amount of bracing will keep it from falling because it is against the law of gravitation. Our American Republic has become so wealth top-heavy that frantic efforts are made to brace it from collapsing. It is no use however and the crash will come. We will have to begin all over again on lines which experience has taught us to follow. These lines are that the system of wealth production must in the future be carried on the collective plan instead of the individual one. That will prevent an individual from becoming wealth top-heavy and consequently no bracing is needed to uphold a society where all are practically equal not only before the law but also in the every day life of getting a living. That will make us democratic not only in theory but also in practice, and it will establish in law the principle that all men are free and equal and have the right to live and be happy.

MURDERS BY MINE OWNERS.

	Killed
Lund Hill, England, Feb. 19, 1857	189
Pocahontas, Va., 1884	307
Nanaimo, Vancouver, May 4, 1887	170
Duer, Belgium, Nov. 13, 1888	121
Andrievies, Belgium, Mar. 11, 1892	200
Johnstown, Pa., July 11, 1902	112
Hannah, Wyo., June 30, 1903	200
Harwich, Pa., Jan. 28, 1904	189
Pas-de-Calais, France, Mar. 10, '06	1,000
Fairmont, W. Va., Mar. 23, 1906	100
Cananea, Mexico, June 7, 1906	100
Darr mine, Pittsburg, Dec. 20, 1907	200
Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 21, 1907	200
Reden, Prussia, Jan. 28, 1908	150
Stuart, Fayetteville, W. Va., June 29, 1908	60
Chihuahua, Mexico, Feb. 18, 1908	100
Girgenti, Sicily, July 21, 1908	60
Tokio, Japan, July 22, 1908	430
Fang-Tse, Peking, China, Aug. 20, 1908	112
Monongah, W. Va., Dec. 6, 1908	410
Yolande, Ala., Dec. 16, 1908	60
Jacob's Creek, Pa., Dec. 19, 1908	234
Bluefield, W. Va., Jan. 13, 1909	100
Leiter, Ill., Jan. 11, 1909	25
Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 3, 1909	17
The Cherry, Ill., Nov. 13, 1909	285
Primer, Col., Jan. 31, 1910	75
Drakesboro, Ky., Feb. 1, 1910	35
Las Esperanzas, Mex., Feb. 2, 1910	68
Indiana, Pa., Feb. 5, 1910	11
Mulga mine, Birmingham, Ala., April 20, 1910	41
Youghiegheny mine, Amsterdam, Ohio, April 27, 1910	11
AND	
Palos, Ala., May 5, 1910	150

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SOCIALIST UNITY

S. P. Rank and File Said to Be Talking About It.

In connection with the article, "The Two Socialist Parties," which appeared in last week's People, I think the gist of two talks that I had recently with S. P. men on the question of unity, will prove of interest.

S. P. man No. 1, who until a couple of years ago, was in the S. L. P., volunteered the information that there was a strong under-current for Socialist unity among the rank and file of the S. P., thus confirming a proletarian member of an important committee of Local New York, S. P., who had told me that were the question put to a vote of the rank and file to-day, it would carry overwhelmingly.

S. P. man No. 1 declared, however, that despite the unity sentiment in the S. P., the S. L. P. need not count upon unity, for the reason that the ex-S.L.P. men in the S. P. would see to it that unity would never be effected. I answered him that the S. L. P. was not bothering about unity just now; that it had done its duty in that direction, in obedience to the International, and that so far as the S. L. P. was concerned its skirts were clear of responsibility for the divided Socialist movement of the land. I further observed to the gentleman that if there existed in the S. P. such a sentiment for unity as he had said, and that if against it there was only such as he, that then he and those like him would be rolled over and flattened in the dust, at which remark his patrician dignity was grievously offended.

S. P. man No. 2, with whom I talked, got into the S. P. after the split. For a long time he believed that the S.L.P. was a bunch of "soreheads" and "wreckers of the movement," as his S. P. friends told him. He said that S. P. men in those days had come to the conclusion that the S. L. P. must be got rid of. Some of them expected to see the S. L. P. die out and disappear; others, realizing its vitality, held differently—that it must be helped off the scene. The way they tried to "help it off" was by slandering it one day, by raising it as a bugaboo the next. What amazed all hands in the S. P. was the persistence with which the S. L. P. held out, and the power with which it made its influence felt, even in the ranks of the S. P.

S. P. man No. 2, says that despite all the efforts of his party to placate the unions the S. P. rests under the "stigma" raised against Socialism in the unions by the S. L. P. In other words many labor fakirs, having no love for the S. L. P. (which exposes their crookedness and shows up their economic ignorance), being unable to distinguish as between the S. P. and the S. L. P., vent their hatred against the two. The S. P. leaders, who are ever trying to prove to the labor fakirs that they are the "good Socialists," despairing of getting "rid" of the S. L. P., despairing of ever completely escaping the "stigma" meant for the S. L. P., and seeing their S. P. vote going down are now considering with fond hopes the coming of a Labor Party based upon the A. F. of L. unions, and in which they hope to find place and position provided they can swing enough of their present followers that way.

My S. P. informant was of the opinion that it won't be long until we have but one Socialist party in this country. He holds that a split in the S. P. is inevitable—one portion, the opportunists and job hunters, going to the labor party, the other portion, the radicals, joining with the S. L. P. "And in the event of no Labor Party?" I asked. He felt sure that was a contingency not to be reckoned with. The Milwaukee affair, he held, would whet the appetite of the labor fakirs to organize politically for like successes and the jobs that go with victory.

All of which leads me to observe that eventually there will be unity of all real Socialists; future events will determine how such unity is to be brought about. Meanwhile S. L. P. men should keep in touch with the militant element in the S. P.

J. H.

POLICE INDICTED FOR RIOTING.
Portland, Ore., April 27.—Indictments were returned to-day against nine men, among whom are the Mayor and Justice of the Peace of St. John and two policemen, after an investigation of the Hindu race riots of March 23.
Mayor J. F. Hendricks and Justice of the Peace O. R. Downs are charged with neglect of duty, and the policemen with neglect of duty and participation in the rioting and in the robbery of \$185 from the Hindus.

GIRL WORKERS IN BREWERIES

STAND IN WATER, IN WET SKIRTS—BURSTING BOTTLES A CONSTANT MENACE—WAGES \$2.50 TO \$3.00 A WEEK—EXACTIONS OF FOREMEN.

Certain facts about the exploitation of girl workers in breweries becoming widely whispered about, a committee of three was sent to Milwaukee by the Women's Trade Union League headquarters in Chicago, to investigate. The committee reported in part as follows:

"The labelling rooms and wash rooms of the bottling department are where women and girls work. Although this is week work and not piece work the girls' rate of speed is determined by the rate at which the automatic hand carrying the filled bottles passes in front of them. The girls wire, clip the wire and finish off with tin-foil and in one of the breweries with ribbon, each girl performing one operation only. The work itself is monotonous but light, and if done in a sitting posture (and there seems no reason why it should not be) would in itself be less objectionable work for the girls than that of the wash room.

"With the work of the wash room it is very different. Here, too, the girls stand but they work amid so much moisture that their health must in many cases be injuriously affected. Their work is to wash bottles. Their hands are all the time in the water which splashes about over them in all directions. It seems quite impossible for the worker to keep herself dry, and as for her feet, although she stands on a wooden plank and wears wooden-soled shoes, the water gets inside these and her wet skirts whisk around her ankles and keep them more or less constantly damp. The testimony of the girls is that working in water and surrounded by water is very bad for the health, and is especially productive of rheumatism. We saw the work going on in mild weather, and the water in which the bottles were being washed was warm, but in winter the conditions it is agreed are much more trying, and the effects of the damp in cold weather much more injurious.

"Another kind of work is the inspection of the cleansed bottles, which is done by holding them over or up to an electric light, a job that must be most injurious to the eyes.
"Again, all the processes of the labelling and wash rooms involve the constant risk of severe cuts to the hands from broken glass or bursting bottles. The latter also are the cause of serious injuries to the face and eyes." The investigators were strongly impressed with the belief that the wash room is no fit place for girls to work in at all, and venture to express the hope that in time they may be gradually withdrawn from it altogether. For it is not only the immediate and palpable effect on the girls' health which has to be considered, but the permanent results in undermining the constitution of these prospective mothers of our future citizens. Upon this point all with whom we talked who have any means of knowing the facts are unanimous.

"Considering the danger of this work to the health of the girls, and that it is seasoned work, we are astonished at the low wage prevailing. The wages paid to the girls in the labelling room are from 75 cents to 80 cents per day. The advance to 80 cents has only been made in some places recently. In the winter months the girls not working full time average only \$2.50 of \$3.00 per week. Their wages are a standard scale, the girls receiving the same scale for whatever length of time they may work in the particular department.

"They work eight hours a day beginning at 8 o'clock in the morning having one hour for lunch and quitting at 5 o'clock. When the busy season is on they work overtime, but are only paid at the regulation rate per hour.

"An attempt has recently been made to organize the girls but it was blocked somewhat by the opposition of the brewery authorities to the unionists shown by discharging those girls who showed most activity in this work and by efforts made by certain foreladies to influence the girls against the movement.
"There is no direction in which the beneficial influence of organization is more strongly felt than in protecting the girls' moral standards and in enabling them to maintain their self-respect. An individual girl is helpless to resent the insults or resist the advances of an abusive or unprincipled foreman.
"That the danger hinted at is no illusory one was impressed upon us by the many reports that reached us of girls who complained of such treatment. It being matter of common talk that there are foremen superintending girls who make a practice of intruding upon them even in the toilet rooms.
"The conditions which we have described are such as we must all deplore."

"OUR" CAPITALISTS LEAD.
Europeans Beaten in Manufactures—Workmen Don't Reap Benefits.
Washington, May 7.—In the rapid development of manufacturing industries the United States capitalists are leading their three principal competitors—Great Britain, France and Germany, but this is not benefiting Labor any. This is shown, according to the calculations of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor, by the immense increases in importations of raw materials and the growth of exports of finished products. Trade in that direction now comprises more than seventy-eight per cent. of all the foreign commerce in this country.
In the nine months ending March more than \$500,000,000 worth of raw materials was taken in to be finished into manufactured products and consumed at home or shipped abroad. The United States magnates furnished to Great Britain, Germany and France nearly \$500,000,000 worth of raw materials from their mines and fields.

Two Pages From Roman History

- I Plebs Leaders and Labor Leaders.
- II The Warning of the Gracchi.

Two Lectures by Daniel De Leon, Editor of The Daily People.

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OWNING HOMES

The Vast Majority of the Workers Cannot Do It.

Washington, May 11.—The average weekly earnings of women in some of the industries which employ considerable numbers were as follows: Cotton goods, \$6.03; hosiery and knit goods, \$6.01; silk and silk goods, \$6.11; boots and shoes, \$7.60; men's clothing, \$6.07; women's clothing, \$6.85; shirts, \$5.69.

In connection with the cotton industry, a recent Government bulletin makes an interesting comparison of the earnings in the North with those in the South. By confining the comparison to establishments engaged in the manufacture of plain cloths for printing and connecting, it eliminates to a considerable extent the differences between the character of the industry in the two sections, and thus presents a fair basis to measure differences in earnings. This comparison shows that the average earnings of men were in New England, \$8.52; in the South, \$5.14—a difference of \$3.38.

For women the average was, in New England, \$7.25; in the south, \$3.77—a difference of \$3.48; while for the children the average was, in New England, \$4.45; in the south, \$2.73—a difference of \$1.72. For all classes the average weekly earnings in the north were \$7.62, as contrasted with but \$4.16 in the south, yet some workmen vote for a "protective tariff," thinking it keeps up his wages.

There is a wide-spread allegation of the master class that "poverty and pauperism are the result of intemperance," but statistics both in England and America show that they are attributable to misfortune, or low wages.

More than one-half of the families of the country, and nine-tenths of those in the cities and industrial communities, are propertyless; in a group of states including Massachusetts, one-fifth are in poverty, that one-twentieth are paupers; that one-eighth of the families hold seven-eighths, and one per cent own one-half of the property of the country (see C. B. Spahr's "Distribution of Wealth," page 69), and that 71 per cent of the people hold but 5 per cent of the wealth; that one-eighth of the families receive over one-half of the total income.

These figures are doubly important when high authority shows that the tendency of economic forces is to widen the differences existing in industrial society, and that, unequal as the distribution of wealth already is to-day, it is towards a still greater inequality.

In Greater New York there are 722,670 homes, 95.1 per cent of which are not owned by the families who live in them. Philadelphia, known as the "City of Brotherly Love," has 265,093 homes, 88.9 per cent are not owned by the occupants—and are either rented or mortgaged, the greater majority mortgaged. Boston, 92 per cent not owned by occupants; Buffalo, 87 per cent; Pittsburg, 85 per cent; Chicago, 89 per cent; San Francisco, before the fire, 67,502 homes, 85 per cent of which were not owned by those who lived in them. All of the large cities in the United States tell the same story.
The census figures for the whole country are no more encouraging. In 1900 there were 16,187,715 families in the United States, of whom only 31.8 per cent owned their own homes. Of the remaining 68.2 per cent, 55.5 per cent rented their homes outright, 14.7 per cent had the slight hold of the roof over their heads that one is able to retain with a mortgage attached.

SAN FRANCISCO LETTER.
(Continued from page one.)

gave a reception to the prominent leaders of the local trade unions. Our friend, Miss Maud Younger, a prominent member of the S. P. Local, was one of the chief figures taking part. As "Organized Labor" has it, "Gompers, Mitchell and the Civic Federation are no longer in it. When the devil is drunk, his imps run the business." This paper further points out that Morgan did not have a dollar invested in the shirtwaist industry and didn't care whether that business was "put on the bum" or not, and, at the present moment, the Bethlehem Steel Works, in which Morgan is heavily interested, are trying to introduce boy-labor instead of paying decent wages to the men now on strike. Anne's humanitarian feelings don't go so far as to conflict with papa's material interests. At least she is painfully silent on the subject.

F. W. S.
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Time is fleeting, less than two months are left in which to push up the Daily and Weekly People circulation as it should be pushed in celebration of the Daily People's Tenth Birthday.

It is a most opportune moment for S. L. P. propaganda. A new period is opening and the Spirit of the Age, in clarion tones, is calling upon S.L.P. men everywhere to spread the light.

The Tenth Anniversary of the Daily People is big with meaning of past achievement; let us make it more important yet as the date of the great forward movement of the old tried and true S. L. P.!

Let it not be possible to say of any one of us that by reason of inactivity we failed to make the Party's voice heard to the uttermost.

Spread the Propaganda. Begin it to-day, and keep at it, so that when July 1 rolls around and we gather to celebrate the Daily People's Tenth Anniversary it will be with the added satisfaction of knowing that our work was well done.

PLATFORM

Adopted at the National Convention of the Socialist Labor Party, July, 1904, and Re-adopted at the National Convention, July, 1908.

The Socialist Labor Party of America, in convention assembled, reasserts the inalienable right of man to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

We hold that the purpose of government is to secure to every citizen the enjoyment of this right; but taught by experience we hold furthermore that such right is illusory to the majority of the people, to wit, the working class, under the present system of economic inequality that is essentially destructive of THEIR life, THEIR liberty and THEIR happiness.

We hold that the true theory of politics is that the machinery of government must be controlled by the whole people; but again taught by experience we hold furthermore that the true theory of economics is that the means of production must likewise be owned, operated and controlled by the people in common. Man cannot exercise his right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness without the ownership of the land and the tool with which to work. Deprived of these, his life, his liberty and his fate fall into the hands of the class that owns those essentials for work and production.

We hold that the existing contradiction between the theory of democratic government and the fact of a despotic economic system—the private ownership of the natural and social opportunities—divides the people into two classes: the Capitalist Class and the Working Class; throws society into the convulsions of the Class Struggle; and perverts government to the exclusive benefit of the Capitalist Class.

Thus labor is robbed of the wealth which it alone produces, is denied the means of self-employment, and, by compulsory idleness in wage slavery, is even deprived of the necessities of life.

Against such a system the Socialist Labor Party raises the banner of revolt, and demands the unconditional surrender of the Capitalist Class.

The time is fast coming when in the natural course of social evolution, this system, through the destructive action of its failures and crises, on the one hand, and the constructive tendencies of its trusts and other capitalist combinations, on the other hand, will have worked out its own downfall.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of America to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor Party into a class conscious body, aware of its rights and determined to conquer them.

And we also call upon all other intelligent citizens to place themselves squarely upon the ground of Working Class interests, and join us in this mighty and noble work of human emancipation, so that we may put summary end to the existing barbarous class conflict by placing the land and all the means of production, transportation and distribution into the hands of the people as a collective body, and substituting the Co-operative Commonwealth for the present state of planless production, industrial war and social disorder—a commonwealth in which every worker shall have the free exercise and full benefit of his faculties, multiplied by all the modern factors of civilization.

THE CLASS STRUGGLE

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Among the Socialist slogans "class struggle" is the one which most gets on the nerves of the bourgeoisie, even upon politicians possessed of horse sense. Socialization of the means of production is a theme which is debatable, declares some of them, but class struggle, that is civil war, "blood and war," and to their imagination it is like barricades and other like defenses of 1848.

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