

WRECKERS.

Of Labor's Political Parties in Massachusetts—Instructive Incidents.

The regular weekly meeting of the Massachusetts Democratic Club was held at the American House last night.

Rev. Herbert Casson of Lynn was the principal speaker of the occasion.

He advocated the organization of democratic clubs in every town and city in the State, and the principles of the party should be set forth in every local paper.

Mr. Casson announced that a movement was on foot to establish a Bryan daily paper in New Hampshire.

When the Democratic State Committee met for organization some weeks ago, Harry Lloyd, one of the prominent labor leaders of the city, was made a member of the committee at large.

The adventurer and man of gab has remained only long enough to make something of a reputation as a spouter, and attract attention sufficiently to himself to get a call to a place in the army.

He has never tarried long with the labor party; his abnormal ambition and inflated vanity could not permit him to ride where the runners of the sled were constantly striking the bare ground.

In 1894, the individual whose name appears in the first paragraph at the head of this article as organizing the pro-Bryan Democracy landed in this town from the dominions of her Majesty Queen Victoria.

Equity Union House closed the shutters, gathered together Swift's published essays, and the folding chairs in the front room, which had now become histories, for each one had sustained an auditor while listening to the great man.

It is said by the advocates of this "New Democracy" which Mr. Casson is helping to organize, that it is not the "old," but a "new" thing that they are urging the people to vote for.

Let us follow these representatives of the "New Democracy" as they enter the legislative halls on the first of January.

The McKinley Republicans held a caucus and nominated candidates for Speakers of the House and President of the Senate, and the "New Democracy" did not hold a caucus—did not nominate candidates.

John L. Bates was elected Speaker without a dissenting voice, the Bryan Democrats voting for the McKinley Republican caucus nominee, Geo. R. Lawrence, the Republican caucus nominee, receiving 39 votes for president of the Senate, every Senator voting but himself.

The most remarkable thing about this deal between the Bryanites or "New Democracy" and the McKinleyites is that not a protest has come from any quarter.

The Bryan men in the Legislature know the character of the men who have the faith of the "New Democracy" in charge. Senator James E. Hayes (Dem.) of Boston, in the Senate the other day, when speaking on a bill, said he "could explain his vote either way" satisfactorily.

ly to his constituents, which sent a broad grin around the Senate.

Mr. Casson may succeed in forming many Democratic clubs, and he may succeed next year in electing 10 instead of 50 members of the Legislature, but it will only more thoroughly emphasize the fact that McKinleyism and Bryanism are two links in the same sausage made from the same capitalist dog.

The Republicans have controlled the Democrats in the Legislature for the past twenty-five years; after election they have never made any pretence to be an opposition party; the members of that party could be relied upon in the Legislature to help the Republicans in any dirty work they had, or keep quiet while the other side did it; and it made no difference whether they were Abbott, Butler, Cleveland, Russell or Bryan Democrats.

Josiah Quincy, the Mayor of Boston, who was one of the few Democrats that always voted for the biennial amendment when a member of the House, and stood by the scheme to the last, is now the sponsor of fakir Harry Lloyd. He is one of the young scions of the aristocracy, many of whom were told of some years ago to go into the Democratic party.

When we remember that every labor party in this State was largely manned by tools of the old piratical craft who run them on the rocks, it is a great satisfaction to know that as the Socialist craft swings out into the open sea, the faint-hearted and untrustworthy are left behind.

TO ARTISTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE S. L. P. OF THE UNITED STATES.

The National Executive Committee of our party is desirous of having a new charter designed for its use. It believes that this design can be more appropriately drawn by artists who are members of the S. L. P. of the U. S.

1. The design must be symbolical in character and so conceived as to embody the ideals of socialism, introduce the party emblem, "The Arm and Hammer." MOST PROMINENTLY, and include within its dimensions, the lettering:

Charter of the Socialist Labor Party of the United States of America. To the Organizer.....and Comrades of.....County of.....State of..... GREETING: Your application has been granted and your Section placed on our roll as Section..... of our Party.

2. It must be 10 inches wide and 18 inches long, and drawn upon Bristol board 14 inches wide and 22 inches long, thus leaving a margin of 4 inches.

3. It must be executed in black and white (India ink wash tints preferred), so as to be suitable for reproduction by either the lithographic, steel, or half-tone photo-engraving process, AT A MODERATE COST.

4. Each design must be signed ON THE OUTSIDE OF COVERING, by a non-de-plume by the respective competitors, with the words "Charter Competition" added.

5. All designs must be carefully sealed and delivered to the undersigned committee on or before MAY 1st, 1897.

6. On the 2d of MAY, 1897, or a few days thereafter, the undersigned committee will open and inspect the designs received, and award the prize to the one receiving the majority vote of the committee.

7. The committee will then announce its decision and request the winner to give his name and address, and that of the Branch or Section of which he is a member. Should it be found that the winner is not a member, the committee will award the prize to the second best design, and so on, until a winner who is also a member is found.

8. The receipt of designs and the award of prize will be announced in THE PEOPLE and "Vorwaerts."

9. The designs of unsuccessful competitors will be returned to them upon receipt of name and address, after the final awarding of prize.

In conclusion, it is hoped that the result of the competition will be a work of art, which will fittingly express all the aspirations, hopes and grandfears for which the S. L. P. of this country and the socialists of the world are striving.

OPEN LETTERS

To the United States "Patriots"—No. 4 To the Business Man.

He is a busy business man. Fire as a gladiator. Whose fertile brain can hatch out schemes, Quick as an incubator, To cut down wages, buy things cheap; Then, like a radiator, Discharge products, sleep in gains, From poles unto equator.

Dear Mr. Business Man:—The rapid transformation that has taken place in the economic conditions of society during recent years has developed a profuse growth of economic fungus in the shape of "business men." It is the great ambition of almost every goody-good Sunday school boy to ascend the social ladder and become rich by means of business thrift.

Apart from the two economic monstrosities called the professions of "Law" and "Theology," the most cunning schemes for robbing the people is the pretense of "business." It represents such a tremendous economic waste that it is surprising how the toilers have been able to carry the burden so long. The strain is enormous and the collapse cannot be far distant.

The middle class of society is not, under existing economic conditions, a permanent fixture, and cannot possibly become so. You are struggling most desperately to save yourself at the present time. But the methods you are employing are very shallow and transparent.

Mr. Levy then goes on to substantiate a dual element in the substance of value which he designates "waiting." The new element puts one in mind of Senior's exploded "abstinence" theory to account for a bit of surplus-value on behalf of the capitalist, and of his "last-hour" of the productive working-day without which no surplus value could be created.

Mr. Levy's concern about the equation of skilled labor to unskilled labor seems to be the particular method by which Marx arrives at his "multiplier." Well, to that we say Marx has followed the precedent set him by the price-form of value, to which, we assume, Mr. Levy would take no objection.

The explanation of one commodity being measured in the terms of another commodity is to be found in the developed relation of the relative and equivalent forms of exchange. When two commodity owners confront each other with their commodities, they each arrive at the value of their products by comparing or measuring one by the other.

It certainly is an interesting fact that the first shot fired upon Christian Greece was fired by a gunboat of anti-Semitic Austria.

The anti-Semitic party of Austria displayed great strength at the recent elections. Whatever its internal composition—and that is of middle class Jews and gentiles, slums and nobility all jammed together—externally it wears the mask of Christianity. It is a "Christian party," and as such and for other reasons it has the backing of Government.

It has often been said that the best ally of Socialism is capitalism; the capitalist class will render valuable aid to the cause of the Socialists by its own acts. Austria proves the theory.

LEVY AND MARX.

Elucidation of an Important Economic Theory.

At different times strong exception has been taken to Marx's reduction of skilled labor to unskilled labor, quite regardless of the fact that the capitalist performs the same act every time he transacts a sale. Everyone who has perused the "Capital" must admit, I think, that Marx is very exhaustive in any analysis he undertakes.

In a symposium on value, published by King & Son, and edited by J. H. Levy, honorary secretary of the National Liberal Club Political Circle, Mr. Levy goes so far as to say in reply to Belfort Bax's presentation of value that Marx "surrenders" his whole position because he incidentally introduces the skilled and unskilled labor equation.

The capitalist makes no bother about reducing skilled labor to the terms of unskilled labor. And he does this by means of the price-form. Says the capitalist, if an hour's labor of an architect is worth two shillings, and that of a builder's laborer only sixpence, then it is plain that the labor of the architect is just worth four times that of the laborer.

Yes, that may explain it from an arithmetical point of view," says Levy; "but how do you arrive at your value unit—your multiplier?"

The capitalist, upon whom Mr. Levy casts no strictures for using the price-form of value, arrives at his "multiplier" by a very short cut, and by one which should commend itself to all Ricardian economists like Mr. Levy, namely, cost of production.

As cost of production, expressed by price, is the exchange-value starting point of the capitalist, it will be well to critically examine what lies under this particular phrase in relation to labor-power.

The present class distinction between the various kinds of high-priced and low-priced labor have their origin in physical force, aided by the mental characteristics of cunning and superstition.

That an individual society founded on physical force tolerates certain individuals receiving for the expenditure of their energies unequal quantities of labor products or commodities, though it disguises, does not hide the fact that labor is the substance of value, or that labor is measurable by time.

Now, if society determines that a certain class of individuals shall have the power to command more wealth than others, independent of their labor expenditure governed by time, all that the capitalist can do (and, may I also add, Marx as well) is to accept and regard the fact—from the exchange point of view—as if they were the real producers of their own cost of production or power over consumption.

Under such conditions, then, is not Marx justified, when dealing with skilled and unskilled labor, in taking the lowest denomination and showing that one is but a multiple of the other, and maintaining that simple labor, measured by time is the substance of exchange-value?

then we can assume that they have the same specific force and that they are therefore equal to each other in weight.

The same with commodities. As can be seen by the equivalent form of exchange-value, we have no exact quantitative conception of the value of an individual commodity by which we measure another commodity. But an analysis will demonstrate that there is the same quantity of human social labor or energy or force embodied in a given commodity as in another, and we therefore say that they are equal to each other in the value relation.

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Are we not justified in taking our illustration of highly skilled and unskilled labor as demonstrating that the amount of social labor in both is as 1,200 hours is to 30 hours? On the face of it only 60 hours of labor (30 skilled and 30 unskilled) have been expended. Under the price-form of exchange the value of the two represents £30 lbs.—their cost of production. Because the skilled la-

bor in this instance is the embodiment of 1,200 hours of unskilled labor, and passes it over into a commodity in 30 hours, are we to deny, as Mr. Levy would have us deny, that such a commodity does not contain 1,200 hours of social labor of the lowest denomination as measured by the price-form on the capitalist market.

Here, then, in our lowest unit of labor, namely, simple labor, is our multiplier. Here is our value-coefficient! Here is cost of production laid bare and translated in a quantity of social labor measurable by time—by the hour—fulfilling all the conditions laid down by Bax and Hyndman.

Labor governed by time is inherent in the cost of production of commodities though it cannot be directly and openly expressed by means of exchange due to the artificial distinctions placed upon labor by the capitalist system.

Under Social-Democracy, where all artificial distinctions placed upon labor to-day will be abolished, society will recognize labor-time as the true and only standard of value. Labor governed by time will then directly measure the value-relation of one labor-product to another—and rightly so. For are not all individuals' products of society and a part of the corporate body?

Unfortunately there are many in the Socialist movement who are undemocratic enough to say that society should reward one class of individuals differently to another. If this differentiation in labor means anything it means the economic servitude of one class to another, because no one in the absence of such an anti-social desire would care for extra wealth to consume himself when he already had sufficient for his legitimate wants.

Man does not want to wear two hats at once or to eat two meals at one time. He would therefore only desire to receive extra wealth that he might secure the subjection of others. Under these conditions such claims are to be considered as inimical to human well-being, and accordingly should be condemned.

A. P. HAZEL, in London "Justice."

INDIA.

and of four infants. They are not so much human beings as anatomical exhibits. The skin cleaves to the bones, reveals all the angles as clearly as would an X ray.

Another photograph represents a group of starvelings employed upon public works, furnished by the local Government, and paid with little bits of bread.

These few pictures say a good deal more than extensive articles. E. Reclus says that hunger killed five million people in India in 1868, and that the famine of 1877 cost the lives of four million people.

In Delhi, Lahore and Punjab riots have taken place; in numerous places of the North and Center the population looted the stores and plundered the trains loaded with corn.

When these events reached the ears of the Government of the Viceroy of India, it immediately took "the most energetic measures" against the "rioters." Wonderful administration of order! We may from this gather the principles that guide the British and all other capitalist Governments.

The "rioters" having been "suppressed," this Government found employment for a few thousand starvelings too weak to do work!

The British Government must be fully aware of the full gravity of the situation, and of the cause of the calamity. It meets the one with little salves and leaves untouched the other.

The British ruling class is guilty of a crime against humanity. ZEO.

Hiram Lutz and William H. Copeland, two labor leaders, pure and simple leaders, of the Philadelphia Union Traction employes, have by this time learned that to be too late is as bad as to be too early.

