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NO WISPS!

Franchises For 50 Years! Why Not Declare Them Perpetual?

CHAFF IN REVOLUTION'S PATH.

The Chicago "Democrat and Dispatch" Asks Section Chicago, S. L. P., to Assist in Circulating Petitions for a Scheme Styled "The Municipal Ownership of Street Railways"...

To the Public of Chicago:—

To those not in touch with the Socialist propaganda, to those in whose minds Socialism is vaguely defined as the operation of all industries by the Government, it would appear that any move toward municipalization was of necessity Socialistic, and should, therefore, command immediate and unequivocal Socialist support.

Nevertheless, nothing can be more dangerous to the intelligent progress of the labor movement than the confusion which frequently results from the careless use of terms. The widest divergence of purpose is most effectively concealed when cloaked by familiar forms of expression that serve as political catch phrases for the unwary.

"Hay," remarks the master with a wink, "is really quite indispensable," and he skillfully dangles a wisp in front of the weary donkey's nose.

"In that we are agreed," sagely replies the donkey, wagging his long ears, and off he trots in the vain endeavor to reach it. In the end he discovers he has merely lugged his master's eggs to market the faster.

Much more important, therefore, than the proposition of municipalization is the purpose with which it is sought. By whom and in what spirit will it be carried out? In whose interests will it be administered? These are the vital questions.

The class-conscious Socialist asks them, knowing that the lines of the class struggle cannot be safely ignored. To do so would encourage false hopes. It could lead only to vagueness of purpose and confused action. Under a system of production dividing society into two classes, with interests diametrically opposed, the exploiter on one side, the exploited on the other, every economic question becomes of necessity a class question. To close the eyes to the fact does not alter it; it only makes the awakening the sorer.

For this reason the Socialist Labor party offers no apology for considering municipalization strictly from the standpoint of the exploited wage-working class and its interests. Not in a narrow spirit, but from conviction that there is no right superior to that of the class which performs the useful work and produces the wealth of the world.

By numerical predominance alone, daily increasing, the welfare and interests of this class become more and more identical with those of organized society as a whole. To awaken this class to a consciousness of its true position; to inspire it with the knowledge of the revolutionary part it is destined to play in the generation of society; to lead it in the conquest of civil powers that the supremacy of its interests may be established; this is the aim and mission of the Socialist Labor party.

Municipalization in the hands of the capitalist is a radically different proposition from municipalization as advocated by the Socialists. Municipal ownership of public utilities appeals with peculiar force to the so-called middle class, that fringe of the capitalist class composed of petty traders and small property holders.

For this section to maintain itself as a part of the exploiting class some measure of relief has become an urgent necessity. Its purpose is not progressive but reactionary. It advocates municipal control in much the same spirit that it blindly whacks at the trusts and the department stores.

There is a vague hope that in some way the channels of concentration can be blocked and the flow of wealth checked into their little starving patches. But of what concern is it to the exploited class, from which this wealth is squeezed, whether it flows in a few broad streams or is ditched into a thousand petty rivulets?

Another object the middle class seeks to gain through municipalization is a measure of relief from the burden of taxation which falls on its straitened incomes with particular severity. By the substitution of the municipality for the capitalist it would without compensation squeeze out surplus values for its own salvation. But again what interest have the propertyless wage workers in questions of taxation? Deprived of the wealth they produce, what is it to them how the spoils are divided; what care they whether the tall or the short robber has to pay the bill?

It is the realization that effective appeal to the wage workers for support is impossible on these lines, that brings out the promise of lower fares, a pittance by which poverty and misery are to be abated. What a mockery to the wage workers! On one hand stands the landlord, quick to appropriate to himself through increased rents whatever tends to enhance the value of his property.

On the other hand the employer, equally ready to readjust wages to any decrease in the cost of living at the earliest opportunity. How long, then, could he hope to benefit by it, should this doubtful promise be made good?

But at least the street car employe will receive better wages, work shorter hours and have greater security in his job? Truly, promises are prolific when there is an axe grinding. But what assurance has the worker of their fulfillment under capitalist Government? Does past experience give reason for expecting such concessions from a Government run on "business principles," from a class that is aiming primarily at a source of revenue to lessen its taxes? Hardly! To the capitalist, Government is good in proportion to the economy of its administration. The public employe becomes his political lackey. Point out a single prominent capitalist who, in the present agitation for municipalization, has uttered a word of protest, or of indignation at the slavish conditions, the long hours of work or the beggarly pay of the street car employe. Would they not have spoken had these things seemed evil to them, had they really considered the interests of these workers of any moment?

To sum it up, the Socialist sees in the present agitation an effort on the part of a section of the capitalist class to bring about municipalization because of certain direct benefits that it expects to secure for itself in doing so. It would supplant the individual capitalist exploiter by the political organization of capitalism, and thereby effect certain financial readjustments strictly within the limits of the capitalist class. What interest, then, have the class-conscious workers to meddle with such a mess, and be used as cat's-paws? Will it simplify the eventual transformation from Capitalism to Socialism, though its promoters by no means intend it so? Then can we view the process with equanimity. But, even so, does the trust. Shall we, therefore, circulate petitions for the formation of trusts?

The Socialist Labor party cannot afford to waste its energies. It would be false to the interests of the wage workers did it lead them after a will-o-the-wisp of barren municipalization. It would stultify itself by supporting such a movement, it encouraged the belief that the benefits promised the workers were possible of realization under capitalist rule.

So long as the capitalist class controls the administrative machinery, so long will it appropriate to itself the advantages arising from municipalization. But let the working class once organize under the banner of the class-conscious Socialist Labor party, conquering the powers of State for the assertion of its economic supremacy, then, indeed, will municipalization prove a shield to the worker, and at the same time a lash for the scourging of capitalism from the temple which it defiles.

The rage, the despair of the middle class as it sees this seemingly golden opportunity for its rehabilitation slipping through its fingers for perhaps a generation to come is readily comprehended. Outwitted and defrauded though it feels itself to be, yet it dares not question the finality of the acts of the rascals chosen as fit representatives of its interests. It dares not cut the mesh of legality. That were to invite chaos. Let it squirm, then, caught in the act of its own contriving.

Franchises for fifty years! Why not declare them perpetual? Barriers to the capitalist reformer—chaff before the whirlwind of the Socialist Revolution!

SECTION CHICAGO, S. L. P.

ANOTHER SQUEEZE.

PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.—The savings banks have reduced the interest to 3 1/2 per cent. A law is being prepared to reduce the legal interest to 5 per cent. The people who have mortgages on their homes will welcome this as a relief, but what does it really mean? The trust companies formed commence to do practically all the banking business. They are lending out money on bond and mortgage. The middle class money man can not afford to have his income cut down; he cancels the mortgages or withdraws his money from the savings banks, to invest it in better paying industrial enterprise stock in the stock of some monopoly. The trust companies will furnish the money to pay for the cancelled mortgages. But just now here is where the joke comes in. The same capitalists who control the trust companies also control the industrial monopolies. Now the middle class money man has got his head in the sling. He has taken his money from real estate security, where a dollar's worth was worth a dollar, and transferred to a water stock monopoly, where he only gets 25 per cent, or less of hard pan value. But not satisfied with that, the capitalist is going to fleece him out of his 25 per cent. value altogether. The industrial monopolistic capitalist pays a labor fakir to create a strike or he calls up a fake war like the Arbutle sugar trust war and the small money man gets squeezed out to enter the class of the proletariat. The quicker it comes, the better, for the quicker the agony will be over. Let her rip or let her soar.

C. C. O'ROLY.

SOCIAL CONTRASTS

Which We Are Striving to Wipe Out.

Look at this Picture And then at This. Bulletin of Luxury! MRS. M'KINLEY'S QUIET DAY. She does Not Leave the Hotel Except to Take a Drive. Receives Very Few Visitors. Chief Steward Lace Spares No Pains to Make the Menus Attractive—Shopping Tour To-day.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—Roses in infinite variety, carnations of a dozen shades, and hundreds of sturdy chrysanthemums, all fresh from New York hot-houses, greeted Mrs. William McKinley when she awoke in her apartments at the Windsor Hotel yesterday morning. As if by magic, her rooms had been transformed into a veritable cavern of flowers some time during the night, and by hands that knew well the touches of artistic effect. The flowers were spread everywhere in rich profusion, and were a complete surprise to her.

Mrs. McKinley and her party will remain in New York only a few days longer. Yesterday the mistress of the White House spent her time in idle enjoyment, and to-day the tedious pastime of Christmas shopping will be commenced in earnest. Mrs. McKinley will not accept invitations, entertain, or attend public amusements during her stay, as she is still in mourning. Her callers yesterday were Mrs. W. L. Strong, wife of the ex-Mayor; Mrs. Fischer Hansen, Mrs. Isaac Brokaw, and Mrs. John Burke.

It was 8 o'clock sharp when Mrs. McKinley arose. Half an hour later she was welcomed in the drawing room by Mrs. Abner McKinley, Mrs. Stephen Rand, and Miss Katherine Endsley. She went direct to the telephone, which connects with a private wire to the White House, turned the little crank, and smilingly waited for a reply. The President was evidently awaiting the message at the other end, for in another instant Mrs. McKinley said:

"Yes. It is such a lovely day in New York this morning. The sun is shining brightly, and my rooms are filled with fresh flowers. I would like to stay for a month." The President jokingly announced that Congress was in session, and that it was necessary for all members of the Presidential family to be at home.

Breakfast was served at 9 o'clock sharp. Instructions had been given to Daniel Lacey, the chief steward, to spare no pains in making attractive the menus for the Presidential party. Lacey is an Ohio man, and he went to every extreme to get the best of hot-house fruits and strip the market of its choicest bits for the distinguished guests. The first meal of the day was served on a table strewn with violet and yellow chrysanthemum petals. The new service of thin China, touched with deep crimson and old gold, was used, and the menu cards, of heavy, dove-colored Bristol board, printed in the ever-prevailing robin's-egg blue, contained the following dishes:

- Hot-house strawberries. Imported Hamburg grapes. Baked white fish. Point shirley. Broiled chicken on toast. Potatoes a la Windsor. Porterhouse steak and fresh mushrooms. Backwater cakes a la McKinley. Vermont maple syrup. Coffee. Wafers. Cocoa.

After breakfast Mrs. McKinley and her party went into their private parlor, where they talked and chatted and listened to some vocal selections by Miss Mabel McKinley, the daughter of Abner McKinley. The young woman has just returned from Italy, where she developed a soprano voice of remarkable power. She sang a number of operatic selections and then whistled, accompanying herself on the piano. None of the ladies went out in the morning. They roamed among the flowers until it was time to dress for luncheon which was served at 1:30 p. m. Besides her own party, Mrs. McKinley had as guests Mrs. Sherwood and Mrs. M. A. Stafford.

Luncheon over, a carriage was ordered and two high-stepping bays took the four ladies from Washington through Central Park. Mrs. McKinley enjoyed the ride hugely. When she returned to the hotel she said that she was delighted with the crisp air and the sunshine, and if it had not been for tiring the horses she would have driven longer. For an hour after her return to the hotel she received one or two callers, and then retired for awhile to rest before the dinner hour.

That meal was served in the most elaborate style. Quantities of Bride roses small and fragrant, were strewn over the table in a manner similar to the decorations at breakfast. Again did Chief Steward Lacey endeavor to prepare an elaborate menu. The menu was to contain only eight courses, but each had to be an example of culinary art. When Mrs. McKinley, Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Abner McKinley, and Miss Endsley sat down at the table the following menu, printed on small cards of the favorite color of the President's wife, was presented:

- Oysters in the shell. Bisque of oyster crabs. Turban of halibut a la Richmond. Hot-house tomatoes and cucumbers. Sweetbreada Jardiniere. Sherbet. Canvasback duck roasted. Windsor salad. Omelette Souffle. Coffee.

RHODE ISLAND TEXTILE WORKERS,

A Tere Call to Organize their Fellow Workers Against Their Class Traitors—Arthur Keep's Tour.

Comrades:—By the recent so-called convention of the American Federation of Labor at Kansas City, we have again had pointed out to us the necessity of grasping clearly the situation. The predominant tone at the Kansas City chatter-feast, gotten together by the Gomperses, Loyds, McGuires and their ilk, was one of snarling, spitting, and howling at the to them frightful spectacle of the nascent tendency amongst the workers to set themselves to the task of solving the Labor Problem. True to the past record of their tribe and their necessity to earn their wages with our common exploiters, the phrase-mongering Gompersians did not let the opportunity slip of aiming a stab at our efforts to free ourselves from the thrall of them and their likes, the capitalist politicians. Secure from retaliation behind the shield of the capitalist press, they vilified, slandered, and denounced the Socialist Movement; and the capitalist papers assiduously published throughout the land these denunciations of working class politics, hoping to influence the rank and file of the workers with the utterances of their supposed leaders. An edifying spectacle this of the collusion of labor fakirs and capitalist press! From Gompers down to his ward-heeling satellites, these cowardly betrayers of the working class, see their dreams of political rewards for bunco-steering the workers, from commissionships immigration to jugglerships of spittoons in city halls vanishing like the morning mist. Hence the howls against the spirit of an intelligent labor movement, in which they discern, as Brutus in the apparition of Caesar, the dreaded premonition of their Phillippi.

Here in Providence, the natural center of the Rhode Island labor movement, we have had ample opportunity to observe the effects of a toleration of the genus labor crook, from the rise of the Knights of Labor to the present. And we speak advisedly when we say that the history of old time unionism here is one of fraud, speculation, and todayism, as the leading facts; and of notorious hungry, office-hungry, and frothy blatherskites as the leading personages. These apt disciples of the Gompersian school have done all in their power to disgrace and besmirch the character of economic organization. Yet after all the exhibitions of low intrigue and bare-faced robbery, it certainly testifies to the inherent vitality of the genuine principle of trades unionism, that it should again and again arise from the gutter into which it was debased by the despicable fishers in the waters of economic disturbance.

With this factor we must deal, recognizing that the trades union is an economic necessity; we must now take our stand as to whether to tolerate the traitors as in the past and so invite confusion, or to scourge these mercenary adventurers from the Temple which they disgrace. We must finally settle whether the trades union shall be a lever to raise the workers; or, as in the past, a lever, whose fulcrum is the neck of labor, to boost frauds, like Powderly, from the machine shop into a Commissionership of Immigration, and Gompers from a cigar factory into a lucrative office with prospects of capitalist favors as a reward for his rigid "conservatism."

Who but you, comrades, are to clear the field of these disgusting pests? Who but you from whose eyes the scales have fallen should stand between the vile ambitions of the labor crook and the working class? No host will drop from the skies to fight our battles, we must bend to the work ourselves.

We are aware that there is a feeling of apathy amongst the workers with respect to trades unions; but is this to be marvelled at when the honest enthusiasm of the masses has so often been transmuted to disgust by the contaminating contact of the fake leader? That when these vermin have been disposed of it is possible to knit together the members of the trades for mutual enlightenment and protection, we have proven to our satisfaction in Providence, where we have at present clean and vigorous economic organization under the Socialist Trade & Labor Alliance.

In pursuance to the experience we have acquired in the Labor Movement, the Providence Local Alliances have at considerable expense arranged an agitation tour for Comrade Arthur Keep in Rhode Island. In order that this work may be as successful as possible, we urge the comrades in the places where he is to speak to lend us their hearty support by distributing advertisements, talking the matter over with those they meet, etc.

The tour, so far as arranged, is as follows: Providence—Tuesday, Jan. 3, Textile Hall, to members of Textile Union. Central Falls—Wednesday, Jan. 4, Temple of Honor Hall, Central and High streets, at 8 p. m. Providence—Thursday, Jan. 5, to machinists, 8 p. m. Woonsocket—Friday, Jan. 6, La Fontaine Hall, 28 Gain street, 8 p. m. Pawtucket—Sunday, Jan. 8, Music Hall, 2:30 p. m. Providence—Sunday, Jan. 8, Textile Hall, 8 p. m. Pawtucket—Monday, Jan. 9, Mule Spinners' Hall, Main street, 8 p. m. Committee on Agitation: Textile Workers' Union. ANTHONY McDONALD, Secretary.

The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

FURTHER OFFICIAL RETURNS OF THE VOTE.

Tabulated Statement of the Socialist Poll in Minnesota and Ohio by Counties, and Compared.

Minnesota Official Returns.

Table with columns: Counties, 1896, 1898. Lists various counties and their respective vote counts for 1896 and 1898.

Official Election Returns of Ohio.

Table with columns: Counties, Pres. 1896, Gov. 1897, Sec. of State 1898. Lists various counties and their respective vote counts for President, Governor, and Secretary of State in 1896, 1897, and 1898.

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POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The Pop Pittsburg, Kans., "Pittsburg Kansan" lashes itself well when it says:
The Kansas legislature now in session was elected admirably--by the people; its successor was elected negatively--by default.
Can there be a better evidence of the truthlessness of a legislature, that, elected affirmatively by the people, has so completely broken its word as to disgust the people to the extent of their staying away and leaving in the lurch the body they had themselves elected?
With the single correction of the Washington State vote, which is given below as "approximately 1,000," and which was over 1,300, the following from the Duluth, Minn., "Labor World" deserves reproduction:
The surprisingly large vote which the young Socialist Labor party cast in such agricultural States as Washington and Kansas, coupled with the decay of the Populist party and the almost general defeat of the fusion forces at the late election, is a subject of general comment in the reform press. In both the above mentioned States the S. L. P. entered the field for the first time this fall, and in Kansas the party cast nearly 700 votes, while in the State of Washington the vote is approximately 1,000. This large vote is evidently due to the fact that the farmers and mechanics in the Western States who have hitherto supported middle-of-the-road Populism are beginning to vote the S. L. P. ticket. Since the election such a middle-of-the-road paper as "Living Issues" of Salt Lake City, Utah, has openly given up the Populist ghost and advocates voting for Socialism.

In a squib, in which allusion is made to the political debate at the recent convention of the A. F. of L., the "New Yorker Volkszeitung" of the 19th of last month had this to say:

Does it not now dawn upon certain of our readers that their own favorite frequently untruthful form of attack against the non-Socialist trades union movement, and in connection therewith, their own separate trades union tactics, has placed in the hands of the corrupt foes of Socialism in the convention at Kansas City the very weapons that could not fail of effect upon the indifferent element present, and that the result has been to retard the flow of the Socialist current?

What were those "factless forms" of attack, those "weapons placed in the hands of the foes of Socialism" by "certain of our comrades"? The paper gives no hint. Indeed, to sustain its position against the party tactics, the "Volkszeitung" would have to throw itself upon the preposterous charges that flowed out of Gompers' impure mouth, and that the capitalist press, as a matter of course, endorsed by giving them circulation against Socialism itself; that, however, would be treason; whatever else the paper is guilty of to the injury of the Labor Movement, as we have shown, and shall show again, it is not guilty of intentional treason. Has it any facts to base ITS anti-party policy opinion on? None that will hold water. And yet, in a sense exactly the opposite of its own, there IS truth in the charge that the foes of Socialism at the convention had been given weapons in hand by certain of our comrades.

The political debate cast its shadow before it. In expectation of it, P. J. McGuire was anxiously looked for. Some matters were even delayed until his arrival. Indeed, McGuire was to be the chief Socialist-killer of the occasion. He sailed in; he chased the party up hill and down vale; he larnured it to his heart's content, but his chief point was the unsteadiness and vacillation of "reform movements" (among which he ranked the party) and, according to the "Volkszeitung's" report itself of December 17, he carried his denunciations no further than down to 1888. There he stopped short.

McGuire was by far the shrewdest of all the assembled fakirs on the occasion. They, each of whom carried the mark of came across his brow, left there by the party since it dropped its old unsteady gate,--they might be foolish enough to point their finger to their sores and put their head where it was sure to be hit again. Not so McGuire. He did not care to call attention to the purple cane marks he carries, by venturing upon a discussion of modern occurrences. He chose safer field; perfectly safe field; he picked up his weapons from among those furnished before and down to 1888, in other words, furnished by the party in its salad days; in the days of its greenness on the Movement in America; in the days of its weakness, its unsteadiness, its proneness to see possible Socialists where there were only dupers, as exemplified by its being roped in by the Greenback movement; in the days of its gullibility, when the fakirs could and did impose upon it; in the days when, of unsteady and vacillating step, it could be ranked with "reformers," was easily "absorbed," and, not yet trusting itself, sought to lean on anything that came along, fearing ever separate, free and independent existence; in short, he picked the '90s, weapons relegated to the past since '90, and, finally, solemnly thrown aside for ever as stupid and poltroonish in '96!--Such were the weapons he used against Socialism, and it never will "dawn upon the party" again to furnish him with the like.

It is not THE PEOPLE'S purpose to toss the "Volkszeitung" in a blanket, or to set it scotching, looking for pretences to excuse its inability to defend rash views that facts reject and escape justifying its shy-cook criticisms of the party's tactics. Such game would not be worth the candle. In returning this week to the subject, already broached last week, and in reserving freedom to

AS TO ARMORIES.

Contrast Between the Record of an Honorable Socialist and a Dishonorable Place-Hunter.
The conduct of Mr. James F. Carey, in voting for a \$15,000 appropriation for an Armory in Haverhill, has been the subject of a large number of letters to this office, asking for information. Among the latest letters received is the following:
Editor THE PEOPLE.--Being a new subscriber to THE PEOPLE I have followed with interest the criticism on Mr. Jas. Carey, of Haverhill, in reference to his voting for an Armory appropriation and in my opinion he made a mistake in doing so. Yet a friend of mine here in Newark, who claims to be a Social Democrat, informs me that Mr. Carey was under the laws of Massachusetts bound to vote as he did, and that were a Socialist elected here in this State, where we have Armories also, the same action would likely be taken, and that in Paterson there was a new Armory built during the time the Socialist Matthew Maguire was a member of the Board of Aldermen of that city, so being a new subscriber, as stated above, and not acquainted with the facts, will you kindly inform me through the letter box, or otherwise, as to the position taken by Alderman Maguire when the matter was before the City Council of Paterson, N. J., and oblige.

Yours respectfully,
JAMES DEVINE.
Newark, N. J., Dec. 24.
The questions here put deserve a fuller answer than the Letter Box will afford space to.
In Paterson, N. J., the militia companies of the Second New Jersey Regiment for a number of years had their Armory for the purpose of drilling and arranging of their social entertainments, where the local capitalist sprigs could show off their capulettes and uniforms in one of the large balls of the city, the Board of Aldermen paying the rent of the same (\$1,200 per year).

There never had been any question as to the right of the city to pay this bill until Comrade Maguire entered the Board of Aldermen. Shortly after his appearance in that body the usual bill for the yearly rent was presented, and, as was customary, motion made to refer to the Finance Committee, and if found correct, paid. Comrade Maguire immediately made the legal point, that the city had nothing to do with the payment of State debts; that the militia were a State organization under the command of the Governor, and neither the Mayor of the city, the Sheriff of the county, or Chief of Police had any authority over them; that the city charter contemplated no such organization, deeming that ample powers were vested in the Mayor to keep the peace by the appointment of special policemen for that purpose, likewise the Sheriff of Passaic County was empowered to appoint deputies if required; that such an organization as the militia had shown itself to be in New York and Pennsylvania a provoker of disorder and a standing menace to the working class. The motion to refer to Finance Committee was carried, but the bill was NOT PAID.

The following year, the bill came up again, this time for \$2,400, and was AGAIN DEFEATED, the City Counsel stating on request of Alderman Maguire for an opinion that the city had no legal right to pay the bill, and it was not paid, to the great disgust of the "Generals," "Colonels," "Majors," etc., who stated that "this would be the last time we will have to ask the city as the State authorities are about to erect a large and commodious Armory for the Second Regiment in this city."

This new building was started by the local capitalists FURNISHING the land and THEMSELVES ADVANCING THE MONEY before the appropriation was made by the State Legislature, the pretext being made that "times being dull, it would give employment to a great number of men who would be otherwise idle and starving." Maguire ridiculed the whole scheme; he showed up their false pretense of wanting to employ labor unless it was to skin them by profits for contractors, etc.; he quoted the Bible where Joseph read Pharaoh's dream of the lean and fat kine, how he stored up the corn for the 7 years of famine; and he showed that under this infernal capitalist system, whose periodic panics were no dream, the necessity was rather for large buildings, such as this new Armory, to store corn in for the people to eat instead of guns to kill them.

Later the superintendent of the Passaic Rolling Mill Company appeared before the Board of Aldermen to get permission to lay tracks in the streets so that fat cars might bring the large trusses for the roof from the rolling mill to the Armory and Alderman Maguire filed a counter petition of the trade unions against granting the same, and he again stated that the promoters of this building stated that their object was to employ the idle labor of the city; he went into statistics and showed in comparison the small number of men required to build these trusses complete, ready to place on the building with the use of the machinery in rolling mill with its bull riveting machines, furnaces, shears, and great cranes to lift the whole truss on the three or more flat cars necessary to bring them to the building. Then, if the object was, as stated, to employ labor, the greater the number of iron workers, riveters, heaters, boys, laborers and horses with teams necessary to the same on the ground with the building the better.

The superintendent tried to make it appear that Comrade Maguire was speaking against machinery, but was completely floored by the comrade who first made it plain to him that Socialists were on to their tricks of making a great noise in order to deceive the people by false pretences and false statements; second, Socialists were in favor of the most perfected machinery possible, and that the Socialist Movement of the world was to get the col-

labor songs.

The attention of the readers of THE PEOPLE is called to the following labor songs:
1.--"The Workmen's Marseilles," arranged by H. Mohr.
2.--"Down with Slavery," words selected from Shelley; music by Piaton Brouhoff.
3.--"The Hand with the Hammer," by Peter E. Burrows; music by Piaton Brouhoff.
4.--"On the first of May," by Elizabeth Serber; music by Piaton Brouhoff.
Price, 10 cents per copy. Send your orders to:
NEW YORK LABOR NEWS CO.,
61 East 4th street, New York City.
The receipt of a sample copy of this paper is an invitation to subscribe.

Uncle Sam & Brother Jonathan.

Brother Jonathan--I happened to read the other day a labor paper, and do you know it made me feel very sad for you, and such honest workmen as you. I showed it to my friends at our Millonaire's Club, and all agreed that Socialist workmen like you who try to raise your people are very much to be pitied.
Uncle Sam--Well, that's becoming interesting. What was it all about that earned for me the pitying sympathy of your fellow labor fleecers.
B. J.--Well, that's alright. We ARE labor fleecers; I don't deny it, and I excuse for telling me so to my face. Nevertheless, just read those labor papers yourself. See here, if you are living among a lot of wild cowboys, where the best revolver tells, would you unarm yourself and expose yourself to being shot?
U. S.--Not much. I wouldn't.
B. J.--Of course not; no sensible man would. Now here is what that labor paper had. It echoed violently to violent denunciations of the Excelsior Traction Company against the Consolidated Traction Company. The latter, as you know, has a franchise that is about to expire, and it wishes to renew it for a good long term; the former wants to extend its lines and wants the franchise for itself.
U. S.--Well, I suppose you have stock in the Consolidated concern and want to keep the profits, and keep the Excelsior stockholders out?
B. J.--That's it exactly. Now, I don't deny that I and my fellow Consolidated stockholders are simply living fine on the backs of our employees.
U. S.--I am glad to hear you admit it.
B. J.--Nor do I deny that we have raked in enormous profits.
U. S.--Good!
B. J.--Nor yet do I deny that we want to keep the snap all to ourselves.
U. S.--Very well. What's your point?
B. J.--My point is that the Excelsior concern does not propose to change things for the better for the working men; what that concern is after is to get from us what we now get--
U. S.--Put the plunder into their own pockets, instead of letting it go into yours?
B. J.--Just so. Now, with that object in mind, what do they do? They issue broad-sides at us against "Monopolies." Think of it; they, who already have a sort of monopoly, and who strain after a complete monopoly, they start howling against "Monopoly!"
U. S.--It certainly is a choice piece of capitalist fraud.
B. J.--You recognize that?
U. S.--Surely!
B. J.--Well, then, what does that labor paper do but reprint that fraudulent attack on "Monopolies," and call upon the working people to "tear down monopoly" by adopting resolutions and sending them to the Board of Aldermen! Just think of the stupidity of it! If the Excelsior concern at least offered better wages, one might excuse these workmen for being caught with bait; but not even such bait is on the Excelsior hook. And here they go and take the field against one monopoly simply to build up another. Now I call that stupid; such people have no sense, and when Socialist workmen bother with the working class they are waiting their labors.
U. S.--Is that your point?
B. J.--That of it. But my real point is this: You are wrong to run us capitalists down. We are not the bad people you imagine; we simply exercise the wisdom which you admitted there was in being well-armed among wild cowboys. Many of us capitalists would willingly help you, but these working men are too stupid to be helped, and therefore your class-struggle is all wrong.
U. S.--Was that your point?
B. J.--Yes, and a good one it is.
U. S.--A damned bad one, I call it.
B. J.--Hey?
U. S.--Let's stick to your cowboy comparison.
B. J.--Very well.
U. S.--Everyone is armed and posturing at target shooting; consequently whoever is among them must do likewise for self-protection.
B. J.--Correct!
U. S.--But would you say that your self-protection includes your doing everything to keep up, foment, incite and produce revolver-needing rivalry?
B. J.--Well--no.
U. S.--And that is just what you do! I might take stock in your claim that there were good men among you, even if you skinned your workers to boot, that I would consider the act of self-preservation in the competitive struggle. But you do worse. With your profits you start and support a lot of poisonous capitalist papers that keep the workers in just the deplorable ignorance that you mentioned, you hire and let loose among them a lot of rascals who play the Labor Fakir and help to keep the blinkers of ignorance on their eyes; you endow a lot of professorial chairs to teach that Socialism is "un-American"; in short, instead of doing the things that would remove the ignorance of the workers, that you give as an excuse for your skimming them, you and your class do all you can to keep that ignorance alive so as not to lose your pretext for doing what is your heart you must feel to be wrong. The only hopeless task is to convert the capitalist class. We shall fight and shall throw you down!



Uncle Sam & Brother Jonathan.

EUROPEANIZING WITH A VENGEANCE.

The latest occurrence in connection with our march towards our "manifest destiny" is the discovery made that the mail from the Philippines is being tampered with by United States authorities. Letters sent home by our soldiers around Manila have been carefully opened and rereaded, and whole pages were abstracted. As far as the inquiry goes it is established that the pages that were abstracted contained local information that it was undesirable should reach the public that must now be nursed on Expansion Pap.

It is a favorite method with many a European Government to violate the secrecy of the mail; secrets are thus discovered; prosecutions are thus made possible; and the hand of the Ruler is thus extended into the most private corners of the home. All this is necessary to usurped power; the clearer the usurpation becomes and, accordingly, the more "disloyal" the oppressed grow, all the more necessary is the method.

Our Ruling Class is rapidly Europeanizing us. Only the other day standing armies were decried as "un-American," large navies as "snobbery," colonial possessions as "enervating tyranny." But suddenly all these objections are dropped, and "our manifest destiny" makes us take up these formerly objectionable things. Why is this thus? Is it a fad, a whim? No; it is an additional illustration of the fact that opinions are not the foundation but the reflexion of material class interests.

The capitalist class can no longer itself consume all the wealth it plunders the working class of; even if it riot in debauchery and luxury, the heap of plunder waxes ever larger; what shall be done therewith? to let it rot won't do; that would result in positive inconvenience, besides, the economic laws, working at one end of the line, and that produce at the other end of the line what is called greed--the driving and straining of the competition that, despite concentration of individual industries, keeps the pot of the Capitalist Class boiling--compels the Capitalist to turn his plunder to profit; if he does not he may find his plundering power itself maimed. As the result of this markets have to be opened. The home market being scuttled by starvation wages, foreign markets become needful. Once landed outside of our own boundaries, our Capitalist Class finds itself at the international banquet table, there it can't sit down except it can maintain its seat, and it can not maintain its seat without it is armed to the teeth. Thus the material needs of the Capitalist Class forthwith molds its notions of "Americanism," and what was "un-American," etc., before its needs required it, promptly becomes the pink of Americanism just as soon as needed by the material interests of Capitalism. Thus navies and armies become the acme of patriotism, and thus also the tampering with the mails becomes a necessity, a necessary prop.

We are getting there. One by one the things that were considered peculiarly European and correspondingly un-American are being naturalized here. And this is as it should be. But so, likewise, Socialism, once decried as utterly un-American has earned its rights of citizenship. Similar causes, similar effects.

As we go to press we learn that the Marlboro, Mass., striking shoemakers, made desperate by the failure of the false hopes they had been fed on and infuriated against the S. L. P. by the Skeffingtons, Murrays and such other noted labor fakirs, came nearly mobbing Mrs. Martha Moore Avery. Details are imperfect, yet interesting.

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