

The Worker

VOL. XI.—NO. 5.

NEW YORK, MAY 5, 1901.

PRICE 2 CENTS.

IN SCRANTON.

The Victory of the Striking Silk Mill Girls.

Their Unfortunate Condition Much Improved—Splendid Work Done by Mother Jones—Labor Movement Generally Active in Lackawanna Region.

up their young lives, to make profits for the capitalists.

TRADE UNION ACTIVITY.

In the short time I spent in Scranton, I learned that the victory won by the miners last fall had resulted in a great revival of unionism throughout the Lackawanna Valley. There is hardly a trade that is not now organized, or in process of organization, and there never was a time when unionism flourished so strongly as now. The latest acquisition to the unions are the newsboys and bootblacks, who organized last Sunday. They have started out with a grievance and that with our "Socialist" (and slanderous) friend, the New York "Journal." An effective boycott is being waged.

The miners' organization is in good condition. On Sunday evening I visited Oilpatch, about five miles from Scranton, where the Delaware & Hudson Railroad owns and operates most of the mines. I had a conversation with a watchman at one of the mines and made inquiries as to the conditions and wages, etc. He talked freely, while he showed me around. The men, he said, were satisfied with the way things were going in the unions, and they were glad the organization was in such good condition. Wages were higher, hours were lower and there were less grievances and more liberty. The breaker boys were benefited greatly, and the tendency of the union was to have men employed and raise the amount, so that the boys could go to school instead of working in the breakers. All classes of employees are included in the miners' union, and a constant agitation is going on. The miners are only running half and three-quarter time, because the operators have stocked coal in preparation for a strike on April 1.

The street car men won a strike a few months ago, and since then have been working only eight hours under better conditions than ever before. One of them told me every employee on the entire system belonged to the union, and next fall they hope to adjust existing grievances to their advantage.

A railroad man told me that the men on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Hudson were tired of the treatment they had been receiving for some time past, and very shortly they were going to have matters better adjusted. He would not commit himself as to the probability of a strike, but he said the men were determined to get more wages, shorter hours and more help on the big engines.

I was informed that there were probably 72,000 unionists in this district, and I am inclined to believe the statement. This includes miners, railroad men, street car men, mill workers, carpenters and nearly every craft. As a union town, therefore, Scranton can be said to be in the first rank.

Mother Jones will leave Scranton as soon as matters will have settled down. That she will do as much good everywhere else as she has done here, I do not know. As a lecturer and fighter against the oppressors of labor she holds a unique position in the movement. Candidly noting the effect of her actions and the manner in which she teaches the proletariat to unite, she is of more value than a hundred theorists. They talk, she acts.

WILLIAM MAILLY.

SPIES EXPOSED.

An Elaborate Plan for Undermining Labor Organizations.

Cleveland "Citizen" Makes Remarkable Discovery—Manufacturers Allied to Rival Unions—Agitators Are Black-listed.

For some time rumors have been rife about the operation of an organization, whose mission consisted in furnishing spies to act in the trade unions for the benefit of manufacturers. In some cities spies have already been caught in the unions, but it has remained for the Cleveland "Citizen" to completely expose the organization, as was done in last week's issue, April 27. The facts will doubtless create a sensation in organized labor circles everywhere.

The "Citizen" claims to have proof of every statement, and further says that these proofs were secured in the office of the Manufacturers' Information Bureau, as the spying organization is called. The bureau, it seems, was established by J. K. Turner, who was exposed by the "Citizen" in November, 1899, for being interested in a so-called detective agency. The bureau had headquarters in Cleveland and a branch office in Chicago.

"Through the law firm of Smith & Langin, 705 Cuyahoga building, Cleveland, Turner seduced a number of unionists as possible to turn traitor and betray their fellow workers, organized and unorganized, who were struggling for better conditions and against the encroachments of capitalism, and we learn that agitators and advocates of Socialism were especially named. That the capitalist concerns mentioned below paid liberally for the information they received, is proven by the fact that Turner paid his black-hearted Judases \$200 to \$300 per month.

"The system under which this Manufacturers' Information Bureau operated is quite original. A code of initials is used, and the spies are unknown to each other. The employers are grouped under the names of flowers. Thus: 'Tulips, Clover, Lilac, and Magnolia,' brass manufacturers, as 'Daffodils,' 'Iris and Magnolia,' etc. To learn the identity of employers and spies, therefore, it was not only necessary to secure the names, but the key that would unlock the mystery and form the connection between the enslaving capitalists and the traitors to the working class.

"The 'Citizen' has obtained this code with the names and addresses of the firms and their spies, and published the same in full. The firms are situated mostly in Cleveland, Dayton, Chicago, and Milwaukee, and the spies are located also in these cities. We notice among the firms the names of the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, which makes so much of its 'elevator' employees.

"The 'Citizen' exposes its exposure with these convincing words:

"The most prejudiced and stupid will no longer be able to deny the existence of a class struggle—a struggle in which labor is attempting to rise to the full height of complete freedom, a struggle in which capital and its minions would keep labor in slavish subjection.

"This Manufacturers' Information Bureau is a crime against the human race, and must have been conceived in hell. It is a damnable conspiracy to foster treason, to sow the seed of hate between man and man, and to mercilessly apply the knot of the blacklist, and to spread suffering and misery among innocent women and children of this land.

"The most villainous head-sound some note of warning before striking down its intended victim, but this satanical alliance cowardly strikes in the dark like a mud-crawling slug.

"Brothers, comrades! Let the words: No compromise! be your slogan in dealing with this infamous Manufacturers' Information Bureau, its patrons and its spies. Post the foregoing list in every union room in the country, and as far as possible boycott the concerns that are responsible for the spy system.

"Further than that, rouse your class interests on election day by placing in political control men who stand on labor principles and platforms and for Socialism, so that they may enact or enforce laws to stamp out such monstrous conspiracies as they would crush the head of the poisonous snake."

ALL RECORDS ARE BROKEN.

Journalistic and Clerical Scandal-Mongers Outdo Themselves in Abuse of George D. Herron.

Audience at Cooper Union Resents the Slandering Campaign—All New York Dailies Follow the Lead of the "Journal," and the Pulpit Echoes Their Falshoods.

When George D. Herron appeared on the platform of Cooper Union Tuesday evening he was accorded a reception which must have astonished him, but he was among friends. It was a tribute to him from the hearts of those who can best appreciate him, a spontaneous expression of the confidence reposed in him by co-workers in the same cause for which he has suffered so bitterly during the past three weeks.

But the applause which greeted Comrade Herron was more than an evidence of his part of the part of friends; it was a vigorous protest against the persecution to which he has been subjected since his arrival in New York, a persecution unequalled in the history of the Socialist movement in America.

The story of the ordeal through which Comrade Herron has passed during these few weeks is not a new one. History is full of similar stories of persecution of right for right's sake. Every cause has its traitors, and the persecution is conducted as new. The cross, gibbet, gibbet, and rack have given way to the modern newspaper, with its equipment of falsehood and slander, which results in a rickling of the soul far worse than the torture of the body, and the same followers of the meek and lowly Jesus are performing the same mission that the Pharisees filled ancient hundred years ago—only broadcloth is their garb to-day, instead of purple and fine linen.

It is not our intention to comment upon Comrade Herron's personal affairs, either directly or indirectly. These affairs concern only him, and those immediately connected with him. He has acted wisely in refusing to discuss them for the benefit of the scandal mongers of the press. Nothing that he could say would mitigate the persecution inflicted upon him nor raise him higher in the esteem of those who hold him and have faith in the justice of his cause. Outside of the few who are his friends, the rest of the public never had been fired in the public press had not Comrade Herron been engaged in a crusade which has for its object the overthrow of capitalism.

This statement is borne out by the conduct of the capitalist press and of the "Christian" ministers whose sustenance is drawn from the coffers of the capitalists. There has not appeared in the New York press a single intelligible report of one of Comrade Herron's lectures, from the beginning of his career. Outside of the few who are his friends, the rest of the public never had been fired in the public press had not Comrade Herron been engaged in a crusade which has for its object the overthrow of capitalism.

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BIG STEAMSHIP TRUST.

Morgan Acquires the British Leyland Line—Other Consolidations to Follow—Morgan's Steamship Properties Now Reach Value of \$87,000,000.

Every week brings some new tidings of the "expansion" of the group of capitalists headed by Morgan. The latest is a step in the consolidation of ocean transport.

Morgan & Co. have bought the Leyland Line, one of the largest British ocean steamship lines. The Leyland Line lately absorbed the West India and Pacific Steamship Co. and two other important lines.

The purchase will mean that consolidation with the Atlantic Transport Line, which is already under Morgan's control. The total value of the Morgan steamship interests is now put at \$87,000,000. Other steps in the same line are expected to follow soon.

GAS COMBINE IS COMPLETED.

Consolidation Which Will Concentrate Gas Supply in Greater New York into One Company.

After several months of planning, the reported consolidation of practically all the gas companies of Greater New York is confirmed by an announcement in the daily press. The control of the gas and electric light power interests in the boroughs of Manhattan, the Bronx, Kings, and Queens, and, without doubt, those of Staten Island, will pass into the hands of the Consolidated Gas Company. This will include the taking over of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company and the manufacturing of gas, both fuel and illuminating, in New York.

An immense plant is proposed to be constructed at Haverwood, N. J., to furnish the boroughs of Queens and Kings and New York's upper east side and the Bronx. Another will be built on the Consolidated North River property in Shady Side, Fort Lee and the product conveyed to New York through the Hudson River tunnel, to supply the greater part of the borough of Manhattan. These two plants will warrant the giving up of all the New York plants in operation which will enhance the value of the gas trust's property in New York. It will also do away with a large number of clerks, laborers and other employees.

With the Brooklyn Union Gas Company and its annual output of 4,400,000,000 cubic feet of gas, the Consolidated will supply 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of gas, worth at the current legal rate \$21,000,000 in New York City only, 90,000,000 cubic feet of which is for the account of the borough of Richmond.

HERRON'S LECTURES.

In New York—At Cooper Union, Tuesday Evenings, May 7 and 14, Free.

In New York—At Cooper Union, Tuesday evenings, May 7 and 14, Free. In Brooklyn—At Park Theater, Sunday evenings, May 5 and 12, Free.

In New Haven, Conn.—At Music Hall, Friday evening, May 3, Free.

In Elizabeth, N. J.—At Jacobs Theater, Thursday evening, May 3. Admission to cover expenses, 25 cents.

THE OCTOPUS WINS.

Standard Oil Company Gets Control of Outlet to Texas Oil Fields.

The Standard Oil Company could not buy up the new Beaumont oil field in Texas, but it has obtained control of the field just the same. The company has purchased the railroad terminals, yards and shipping facilities at Port Arthur and 90,000 acres of land surrounding the port. Port Arthur is the nearest deep-water port to the Beaumont oil field and by controlling this outlet the Standard Oil Company is given control of every barrel of oil taken from the Beaumont field. When Rockefeller and his pals start out after a thing they are going to get it.

What makes the situation more interesting is that a great many "wildcat" oil companies have been started to operate in the Beaumont field and many people of small means have invested the savings of years in these companies. It is conservatively estimated that \$75,000,000 of oil stocks in Texas the past two months. Most of this stock is "water," the companies being organized for speculative purposes. A collapse is now expected, and when it comes the little investors who have no study to become speculators will wish they hadn't.

At the final round up, the ambitious and foolish small investors will be working on the farms and in the stores, and workshops as atonement for their rashness, while the Standard Oil Company will be gaily marching on. For has it not been said that "the fittest will survive"?

MAY DAY PARADE.

Order of Route of Saturday Evening's Parade.

Herron and Harrison Will Be Among the Speakers at Madison Square—Large Number of Unions Participating.

The May Day demonstration of New York Socialists and trade unionists will be held Saturday evening, May 4. The order of the parade will be as follows:

First Division, to form in Fourth street, between Second avenue and the Bowery; Local New York, S. D. P., and various educational and beneficial organizations.

Second Division, to form in Fourth street, between First and Second avenues; Brewery Workers' Union Nos. 1, 23, 30, 31, and 50.

Third Division: Organizations represented in the United Hebrew Trades.

Fourth Division, to form in Fifth street, between Second avenue and Bowery; International Clamrakers' Unions Nos. 90, 144, and 251, Waiters' Union No. 1, and Bartenders' Union No. 1.

Fifth Division, to form in Fifth street, between Second and Third avenues; Manufacturers' Union No. 1, 7, 50, 60, and 104, and the Butchers' Unions of New York.

Sixth Division, to form in Sixth street, between Second avenue and Bowery; Journeymen Pie Bakers, Pie Wagon Drivers, Upholsterers' Union No. 41, Piano and Organ Builders, International Jewelry Workers.

Seventh Division, to form in Sixth street, between First and Second avenues; Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Nos. 300, 464, 476, and 513, Furniture Workers' Singing Society, Wood Carvers, Modelers' Association, Laborers' Union No. 6, Bricklayers' Unions Nos. 11 and 55, Carriage and Wagon Builders, Brotherhood of Painters No. 88.

Eighth Division, to form in Seventh street, between Second avenue and Bowery; Eccentric Engineers, Standard Engineers, United Engineers, Electric Firemen No. 56, Architectural Iron Workers' Union, International Association of Machinists No. 535, Pattern Makers, Twenty-third Street.

Ninth Division, to form in Seventh street, between First and Second avenues; International Typographical Unions Nos. 6 and 7.

The parade will start at 8 p. m. from Second avenue and Fourth street, and will take the following route: Up Second avenue to Twelfth street; west on Twelfth street to Greenwich avenue; up Greenwich and Eighth avenues to Twenty-seventh street; east on Twenty-seventh street to Madison avenue; then down to Twenty-third street.

A mass meeting will be held on the Madison avenue side of Madison Square. Morris Brown will act as chairman, and George D. Herron, Jack Harrison, Ben Hanford, J. Hawkins, J. Donnelly, N. B. Campbell and Geo. Warner will speak from the main platform.

The truck on Twenty-sixth street will be used by German speakers and the platform on the Twenty-third street side will be used by the S. D. P.

LABOR LAWS VIOLATED.

Some of the children are very small, so small that one wonders how they can manage to work at all. There is a state factory law prohibiting the employment of children under 13 years of age, but many of the silk workers are evidently much younger than that. It is plain the law is not enforced, although there are factory inspectors to enforce it. I should say that some of the children I saw were not more than nine or ten years old.

During the strike one of the mill owners threatened to move South to get cheaper labor, but he was answered by a Southern manufacturer, who in an interview in a local paper, said the labor of Virginia was as cheaper as that of Scranton and Westchester. Children were as cheap, and cheaper, in the Lackawanna Valley as in the South. Several of the mills already in Scranton moved from Paterson and Hoboken because the unions demanded higher wages than in Pennsylvania. Now that the unions are here, the poor abused capitalists will have to go elsewhere to find humble slaves to exploit and enthrall.

The wages before the strike in some of the mills departments ran from \$2 to \$3.75 a week, in others the wages were as low as \$1.25 to \$1.50. For this the girls worked 10½ to 11½ days. At the highest they could be about six cents an hour. The average could be estimated at about four cents an hour. These are "prosperity" wages, are they not?

The average gain in wages runs from 25 to 32 cents a week. Not very much. It is true, but more than before and only the opening wedge toward getting more. Another gain is the fact that the four-month period is a concession highly prized by the strikers. Hereafter the silk will be measured, payment being had for every yard and a union girl being assigned to measure for the workers. The manufacturers also concede the right to organize, which is a most important point, and one that will be taken full advantage of. Tables will have to be provided hereafter for eating purposes, as formerly meals were eaten among the oil and grease of the machinery.

HOW CAPITAL IS "EARNED."

The Colonial Trust Company as trustee of the estate of the late Robert Bonner, has prepared a report for the Stroganoff's Court showing that it has personally amounting to \$485,646, which is \$50,000 more than the appraisal of the personality a little over a year ago, when it took charge pending the contest of the will. The estate holds thirty-seven United States bonds of \$10,000 each which have appreciated in value to \$421,800. "New York Sun."

We are told the poor are penniless because they are lazy. Now a dead man is the laziest thing on record, and yet he keeps on amassing a fortune. Moral: Do not go to the ant, thou sluggard, but take eternal rest, that thy children and children's children may enjoy the fruits of thy slumber.

WANTED.

Comrades who are willing to help us by selling THE WORKER along the route of the May Day Parade and to members of the labor organizations that participate in the parade. Liberal discount. Please be on hand Saturday evening at Labor Lyceum, 64 E. 4th street, not later than 7 p. m.

THE WORKER, 184 William St.

BOSTON.

Members from all parts of the city and also proposed members will please be present to the first meeting of Boston Local on Sunday, May 5, 7:30 p. m. at our new headquarters, 966 Washington street. Very important matters will come up.

THE COMMITTEE,
PATRICK MAHONEY,
Chairman.
J. W. SHERMAN,
Secretary.

Ten of the largest cereal companies of the central states have united in a combine with a capital of \$5,000,000.

A PLOW COMBINE.

A \$5,000,000 combine of plow manufacturers was completed at Chicago last week. It is composed of the leading plow manufacturers of the United States. One of its purposes is the elimination of the long credits which have been given country merchants, who will have to pay spot cash in future, or else go out of business. Then the plow combine will supply the farmers direct, thus saving the middleman's profit. The farmers will learn how industrial combinations affect them after a while.

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MOTHER JONES' WORK.

This victory for the oppressed mill girls of Scranton is all the more remarkable because they had never been in a strike before, and they were practically unorganized. Two weeks after the struggle began, Mother Jones appeared on the scene and took charge of it, and it is due largely to her tact and skill in handling the crisis together that they won. It is common talk that if Mother Jones had not been on the ground the mill owners and their enterprises would have broken the strikers' ranks long ago. Whatever aid was secured for the silk workers was mainly through the instrumentality of Mother Jones, who visited Paterson, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other cities, and interested the unions there. Her address in the region also gave some essential aid, but the bulk of the support came from Paterson, where the silk workers' unions gave liberally.

At a meeting held last Sunday the strike was formally declared off, and the girls decided to go to work on Tuesday. On Monday evening an entertainment was held to celebrate the victory, at which Mother Jones and the writer were the speakers. There was great enthusiasm. At 4:30 in the afternoon the children, who had been on strike, paraded through the principal streets, and it was a strange spectacle to see these "babies," as Mother Jones rightly and lovingly calls them, exhibiting their solidarity in such striking fashion. It was indeed the babies who protested first, and they had the right to celebrate, for they were the most determined to stay out and win. But it is a "brave" thing, a horrible crime, for which every "rotting king" in America should blush and feel ashamed, that these "babies" and their mothers should be forced to combine.

IN OPULENT AMERICA.

"I have no relatives, no friends, no work, no home, no money." That was the explanation of attempted suicide given early to-day by an old man who had not himself in the breast while sitting on a bench in Tompkins Square Park. He made the explanation to a policeman, who came running to him, attracted by the shout. He declined to give his name. The doctors in Bellevue, where the old man was taken, say that he cannot recover.—New York Daily News.

I affirm that the organization of inquiry among us, as evidenced in the growth of monopolies connecting the very necessities of life for mere company profit, is proof positive that church-taught morality is a failure. Nothing that church and pulpit have been able to do has been sufficient to prevent such scandals. But there is a power which can prevent them. That power is the state.—Rev. R. Roberts.

—Good work, not sham work; good art, not bad art; good food and good beer, not the bad bread and bad beer that disgrace this country; plain, good clothes, not fashionably cut shoddy; good news, not party lies and foolish chatter; an idle or malicious gossip; real information (which need not be cheap and cannot be easy, for knowledge is not an easy thing to get, nor chopped up rubbish; as much fresh air and clean water, and out-of-door exercise as we can do with. These are things within our grasp, yet we have not got them.—Professor Yorkie Powell.

—Ingot mold factories are preparing to combine.

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An Organ of the Social Democratic Party. PUBLISHED WEEKLY. At 184 William Street, New York. By the Socialistic Co-operative Publishing Association.

TERMS TO SUBSCRIBERS. Invariably in advance. One year \$3.00. Three months \$1.00. Single copies 10c.

As far as possible, rejected communications will be returned if so desired and stamps are enclosed.

SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Socialist Vote. Includes data for 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1900.

S. D. P. 96,918. S. L. P. 33,450.



THE PARTY'S EMBLEM.

We greatly regret the unfortunate mechanical error by which the like 'By George D. Herron' failed to appear over the article 'The Socialist Disclosure of Spiritual Sources' in the last issue of The Worker.

We welcome to the field the new S. D. P. paper in the Italian language, 'Avanti!' The first number appeared May 1.

What have the Single Taxers to say to a steamship trust?

Morgan may be preparing the way for Socialism, but he'll not believe it until the workers vote Socialism upon him.

Senator Hoar says he favors restricting debate in congress. The old gentleman must be getting disgusted at his own garrulity.

When will trade unionists vote to place capitalist politics and politicians on the 'We Don't Patronize' list with other unfair goods?

So far we have seen no mention that any of the workmen who voted for him accompanied President McKinley on his trip across the continent.

Ex-Senator Pettigrew is going to make another effort to return to the senate. Since his term expired through kindly tips from Jim Hill, he has scooped an \$250,000 by speculation.

McKinley warns us of hard times coming. How is this? With high tariff, gold standard, and expansion in full force, are we to have the same experience that we had under the Democratic party? Certainly we are.

One of our labor exchanges has turned itself into an advertising medium for a brand of soap that bears the union label.

bor's interests as the geography of the moon. We suggest that the editor of the 'Iowa Unionist' use some of the union label soap upon his own conscience, ere he proceeds much further with his task of 'representing labor.'

'A Single Taxer' writes to a Philadelphia paper: 'Government ownership of railroads is a different thing from government ownership of individual industries. Henry George said that twenty-five years before Karl Marx wrote 'Das Kapital.''

TAKE NO FAVORS.

F. A. Kulp of Battle Creek, Mich., writes to the Saginaw 'Exponent' to announce that 'L. C. Rogers, chairman of the S. D. P. city committee, was appointed as a member of the board of public works last night by the mayor of this city.'

'The Exponent' is at a loss to know, from the above, whether the appointment of Mr. Rogers is considered by Battle Creek 'Socialists' as a triumph or degradation of the working class.

'Whosoever accepts office as the gift of a capitalist government is an ally of the capitalist class, and must do the bidding of his masters. It may be that the brand of Socialism that stands for such action is indigenous to Battle Creek, and has no connection with the great revolutionary world movement, but we do not believe the comrades have considered the matter in its true light.'

We agree entirely with the opinion of the 'Exponent.' A Socialist who accepts an appointment from the capitalist 'authorities' thereby accepts a favor from the opponents of his party and his class, puts himself under obligations to them, and compromises the position of the Socialist movement.

We do not wish to make a hasty judgment of Mr. Rogers' intention in this action. He may simply have made a mistake, through insufficient knowledge of the movement and its needs. But the party should require his immediate resignation of the office. It is unfortunate that such a false step should have been made; having been made, it must be corrected at once.

At a meeting of the Workingmen's Educational League where Comrade J. Spargo spoke for the S. D. P. the other day, two DeLeonites expressed their fear that he would soon be expelled because he talked straight Socialism. Only about a month ago one of their friends predicted the same fate for the editor of this paper. Our erstwhile friends are making progress. They have learned that there are good Socialists at the head of the party papers and on the lecture platform of the S. D. P.

THE ONLY ADEQUATE WORD.

We have received some slight protest against our use of the word 'harlot' as applied last week, in our editorial 'Iago's Latest Imitations,' to such papers as the New York 'Journal' and 'Sun' and the Brooklyn 'Eagle.'

Not in the attack upon Comrade Herron alone, but in scores of other instances, have these papers proved their title to the epithet we have applied to them. The press owes a duty to the public. The people look to it for a calm and impartial statement of facts.

Most of our great metropolitan dailies have deliberately chosen to follow the latter course, whenever it has suited their venal purposes. They tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, when it pays to do so—and when it pays to do otherwise they do not for an instant hesitate to suppress, to distort, or to fabricate news for the purpose of corrupting public opinion.

the fault of the labor representatives, whose feeble efforts have been more than futile through the obstructive tactics of the party in power, the leaders of which are quite content to have 'labor leaders' in office for ornament or political expediency, but not for use.

The passage of the child labor law at this time is therefore only a continuation of the policy of 'throwing a sprat to catch a mackerel.' The law passed may be a cause for rejoicing on the part of the short-sighted, the sanguine or the self-seeker, but there is no guarantee that the law will be enforced. Time and experience have proved that capitalist legislators do not enact laws for that purpose.

At a banquet held in this city last week forty-four members of the executive council of the American Bankers' Association represented over \$500,000,000. Of course, the burden of the speeches was prosperity and the unpunished richness of this country.

For this reason the trade unionists directly interested can afford to curb their exuberance. It is well to remember at times the old adage about 'not crying halloo until you are out of the woods.'

AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT, AND THE REASON FOR IT.

Something like a sensation has been caused in trade union circles in Tennessee by the passage of an act prohibiting the employment of children under the age of fourteen years in mines, workshops and factories.

The important task of civilizing the Philippines has evidently not interfered with the much more important one of looting the commissary department in Manila. It is unfortunate that the disclosures, now being made should come so quickly after Funston's capture of Aguinaldo, as the lustre of his just thing to follow them up with.

There is nothing more satisfactory to the politician in pursuit of his trade than a sure thing, and this uncertainty has inspired the Democratic leaders of Tennessee with a deep love for labor, and especially that valuable asset (to the shrewd politician) the 'labor vote.'

Reports from Valparaiso, Chile, indicate that the Chileans are adopting our methods in their elections. It is said that wholesale bribery was carried on, and votes were bought and imported at a cost of from \$2 to \$50 per head. Verily, 'the world do move.'

A workman in Honolulu stole two cigars and was sent in prison for two years; a soldier stole a bicycle and the same judge gave him two months. This is called equality before the law.

FROM THE WORKERS.

While sending in a good order for books, Comrade W. T. Beards of Du-laine, Ia., says: 'I consider The Worker one of the best propaganda papers published. It always has timely articles which are up-to-date. We'll try and keep it that way. Push it along.'

Writing from Hibbing, Minn., Comrade Edward Harris says: 'It is with great pleasure I renew my subscription to The Worker, with whose principles I heartily agree, and in a quiet way do all I can to persuade those with whom I get to talk upon such subjects. This is difficult, as there are so many of different nationalities here that there is little unity of action or class-consciousness.'

Comrade E. A. Loring of Hallowell, Me., is another brother who likes The Worker. He says: 'We are trying to get the workers here to do a little for their own class, and as we are receiving some help from the State Committee, we are getting along very well. I send you several names to whom you can send The Worker, as I believe it will be a good thing to start them on. I think The Worker will make more Socialists than any paper I have ever read, and I have read a few. There was a time when you could do nothing with the former people; it was so abusive, but it has improved greatly. I know whereof I speak, for I have taken it for a long time.'

Comrade W. T. Richards of Quincy, Mass., was a visitor at the office of the Socialist Literature Company last week, and carried away a stock of books and pamphlets to distribute on his travels. Comrade Richards is a traveling man, and a hustler for the cause.

Comrade C. H. Casper of Fort Edward, N. Y., sends in a bunch of subscriptions and an order for books as an evidence of his feelings toward The Worker. This is a regular thing for Comrade Casper to do.

I regard The Worker as the best Socialist paper, and could not be without it. I have had lost my best companion, 'The Worker,' says W. J. Jackson of Lynn, Mass., and renews his subscription for a year to back up his convictions.

A letter from Comrade John Evans of Massillon, O., along with three yearly subscriptions and an order for our May Day issue, contains also the following encouraging words: 'These were the easiest subscriptions that I have ever obtained, for in each case I merely showed the paper and stated the price and asked if they would like to subscribe. This is all that I said, and each man just handed me a half dollar. I am not going to stop, but I have shown a willingness to give up the best Socialist paper in the country, and the Socialists can only show their appreciation of your efforts by trying to increase its circulation. I congratulate you on the able manner in which the paper is edited.'

Expressions like these are most inspiring, and we will try and make The Worker even better and therefore even more worthy of Comrade Evans' and other Socialists' support.

Comrade T. F. Keogh, secretary of 'Local Toledo, O., evidently believes 'The Worker' is a vote-maker. He sends in an order for 500 copies of the May Day issue and says: 'I think if we can get more party papers in the hands of the people it will bring good results. There are but few now in the cities who have not a pretty fair outline of our objects and I believe The Worker is just the thing to follow them up with. In Toledo there are many people who call themselves 'non-partisan Socialists.' They mean well, but are not very well posted on Socialism. In our recent municipal election we gained from 200 to 300 votes over our vote last fall. And are confident we can increase it at each election. I wish every member of organized labor could read the articles on 'Labor Politics' and 'Socialist Politics' recently published in The Worker. I am going to try and secure some subscribers after distributing the May Day number.' You get the subscribers; we'll do the rest.

The New York 'Press' is authority for the statement that 'the reformer legislation ever attempted by a New York legislature came from the body, which has just adjourned. From the opening to the closing day of the session the dominating influence within the legislature was a gang of petted crooks and thieves. Coming from such a source, we are ready to believe all the 'Press' says. It is on the inside and it ought to know. The strongest evidence against the corruption of the present system comes right from the capitalist supporters themselves. In the coming election the 'Press' will do its utmost to get the workers to vote the political crooks and thieves into office again, but there will be fewer workers fooled into obliging the 'Press.' They will vote for Socialism, which will destroy corruption, just as capitalism destroys it.

Mosquito Bites.

By PETER E. BURROWS.

Oyes! Oyes! Oyes! Lost, strayed, or invested: The honesty that we used to print before we came to Washington. Should anybody happen to find it, he is earnestly requested to use it himself, or send it to some private asylum until we are expelled from office, when we shall be ready to claim it once more as an asset of the Republican party.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: All the bright young men with splendid prospects; all the messenger boys that were to have become millionaires; all the highly gifted plungers and others who have passed through Wall Street's curriculum, and all those young Americans who have cared for nothing but being rich, and are now lost, strayed or stolen.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The true successor of the late Henry Ward Beecher of Brooklyn. This is to give notice that if any one should find him, he isn't wanted in Brooklyn, where we can use only business men's pastors.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The moral soul which once we knew when we were ransacking the Ramapo steal, and which has been conspicuous by its absence since we have been cringing ourselves with the basest and more graceless steals which have since adorned our Republican patriotism.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The wits of the gentleman who succeeded the late Emperor of Germany; the patience which well meaning people used to have with the liberal tendencies of several late emperors of Russia; and the hopes which men formerly entertained of seeing liberty and democracy established in America by other means than a social revolution.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: An immense amount of governmental stores in the Philippines; also a number of witnesses or their memories—who forgot the names of the patriots who were seen handling the property before it vanished.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The wisdom of a supreme court judge named Scott, when he comes down from the judicial perch and talks with his fellow creatures below on the lowly subjects of everyday life. At St. George's Society Judge Scott, while complaining of the tendency to combine, manifested by the working people, adds that 'it is a sign of their prosperity.' On this account the clockmakers and cigar-makers are among the most prosperous of our citizens. Judge Scott also says, by way of social solution, that there MUST always be more people than rich in the world—therefore there must and that's all. Great Scott. The wisdom of the bench has been shanghaied.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The art of sacking a city with the open courage of men like Blucher or Bismarck; the art of doing it without the aid of Psalm singing; the art by which candidates for public office used to be educated in the schools of Fasset, Raines, Lexow, Mazet, and other educational commissioners. No reward offered.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The Republican party's plans derivation to the doctrine of a protective tariff all 'round; also the loyalty of the Democratic to the doctrine of free trade all 'round; also the sympathy which these old parties formerly had to one another; and any further reason why they should not come together in the bonds of an unholy wedlock—lost, strayed, or stolen.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The get-togethers of 'the get-togethers' and several reformers, humanitarians; and other persons on the co-operative and social service stump, which coming together begins to look like more liberty for the working people and less plunder for the stamp posers, when coming together threatens them with the vulgar element or with an approaching reign of justice.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The chance of getting anything into the news, or getting anything out of them, which has not come through that great subsidized board of censors known as 'The Associated Press'; the possibility of knowing what is really taking place in Russia, Peking, or any other centers of social unrest where the issues are between property and labor, power and weakness, slavery and freedom.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The means by which an ordinary man can tell the difference between a French republic and a Russian aristocracy, or

Mosquito Bites.

By PETER E. BURROWS.

between an American ditto and an English imbecility; or between the diplomatic intellect of a Republican minister in a foreign court and any other minister. Outside the Socialist camp the means by which these men are known is lost, strayed, or stolen.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The sort of bravery we used to read about before Funston's time, a bravery which would have been ashamed to overcome a gallant foe by treachery, forgery, and deceit; and a government which would have refused to give the nation's recognition to that sort of bravery.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: The leisure, taste, and security of mind needed by the slaves of wages before they are able to use the Carnegie libraries; a little holiday also is missing which was born a few years ago, but seems to have been kidnapped, called Arbor Day; also the Prohibition party lately seen loitering around Republican headquarters; also a large wave of prosperity which hovered about our coasts before the late elections, bearing upon its crest a collection of valuable promises, which have all vanished in the vasty deep.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: Any one thing the working class needs for its liberty, comfort, and security, which the constitution of the United States makes constitutional, or is able to keep constitutional while judges are for hire; also the method of discovering judges who are not for hire, under a competitive property system whose two only open doors lead to the two criminal conditions of extreme poverty and extreme riches.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: Somewhere in the pigeon holes of profit mongering, the chivalry of the Southern gentleman, the rectitude of the Puritan gentleman, the simple breeziness and delight in work of the old Westerner, the courageous and hopeful manliness of the North, the liberty and the love of liberty which once characterized all America.

Lost, strayed, or stolen: A well prepared list of the number of human lives already sacrificed to capitalist greed in the recent campaign for markets and graveyards in Cuba and the Philippines; and in the missionary undergrowth of China; also a carefully prepared list of the number of new offices, increased salaries, and other permanent and temporary emoluments accruing to the dollar aristocrats, their friends and relations, as a direct result of these armed emanations of patriotism and missionary zeal.

PARTY NOTES.

The Woman's Socialist Club of Philadelphia at a recent meeting passed a resolution which expressed non-concurrence in the doctrines of anarchism, but sympathy for Emma Goldman, because she was denied by the police the right of free speech.

Comrade Hagarty reports that the meeting addressed by Comrade S. Berlin at Pearl River on Saturday, April 20, was small owing to the heavy rain, but the address was well received and proved highly interesting.

Comrade Brown of Rochester is giving a series of Sunday evening 'social services' at Plymouth Church, on 'Herods of the Dawn of Man and Prophets of a New Religion.' He fakes ten notable leaders or agitators of the last half century—Brown, Ruskin, Morris, Marx, Garrison, George, Bellamy, Tolstoy, Kropotkin, and Heron—and makes their life and work the text for a discussion of different aspects of the social problems now calling for solution.

The course of Sunday evening lectures at Penn-Fulton Hall, in East New York, was closed Sunday with an address by Comrade Lee. The comrades are very well satisfied with the success of their undertaking, which involved considerable work and expense, but has attracted attention enough to reward all their efforts. The lectures will be begun again in the same place in September.

The Central Labor Union of Flint, Mich., put itself on record last week in independent political action by adopting the following resolution: 'We regard it as the sacred duty of every honorable laboring man to sever his affiliations with all political parties of the capitalists and to devote his energy and attention to the organization of his trade and labor union and the concentration of all unions into one solid body for the purpose of assisting each other in all struggles—political and industrial—to resist every attempt of the ruling classes directed against our liberties, and to extend our fraternal hand to the workers of our land and by all nations of the globe that struggle for the same independence.'

Social Democrats of Milwaukee, Ia., have opened headquarters at 218 East Second street, and hold meetings Monday evenings.

Open air meetings have begun in Chicago, and many comrades are preaching the gospel.

The Socialist Party of Chicago held a large demonstration last Sunday in the interests of improved public school facilities for the working people's children.

A general strike of the street railroad employees is in progress at Madrid, Spain. The police are guarding the property of the company.

The Economic Struggle.

The tenth annual convention of the International Longshoremen's Association will be held in Toledo, O., beginning Monday morning, July 10, at 10 o'clock. All branches of longshore workers are included in the organization. Delegates must be elected at the first meeting in May, and must be bona fide workmen employed at longshore work. The call is signed by Daniel J. Knefel, president and Henry C. Barter, secretary-treasurer, with headquarters at Detroit.

Brewers and bottlers of Portland, San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Diego, have secured the eight-hour day and increased wages. This practically insures these conditions for the Pacific coast. The bottlers formerly worked ten to twelve hours at 40 per cent lower wages, and child and female labor has been abolished and a good system of apprenticeship introduced.

The employees and officials of the Central Railroad of New Jersey reached a final agreement last week, when the conference began two weeks previously was concluded. As a result of the settlement all the employees received advances in wages except the telegraphers, who were the last settled with. The final agreement was signed by the chairman of the various divisions.

The Tar, Felt, and Waterproof Workers' Union of New York last week secured the eight-hour day, beginning May 1, increased pay for overtime, Sunday and holiday.

During the three months ended January 31, 1901, the German-American unions subordinate to the International Typographical Union, which have special beneficial features, paid benefits in the following amount to their members: Sick, \$20,800; funeral, \$1,750; out-of-work, \$1,653; strike, \$2,053.39; total, \$24,133.34. A balance of \$11,617.70 remained in the treasury of the Typographical Union on the date named above.

The labor commissioner of Ohio reports that 300 unions were formed in the state during the year 1900. Benefits were paid by the 936 unions reporting to the commissioner in the sum of \$20,300.62, and the balance remaining in the treasuries of the same unions was \$126,006.88.

The Miners' Federation of South Wales is reported to have a membership of 114,000 and a half million dollars in the treasury. South Wales is credited with being the best organized of Great Britain's colonies.

Men employed in the saw mill of the Knoxville Furniture Company at Clinton, Tenn., went on a strike to have their wages increased from 80 cents to \$1 a day. They voted 'the bosses' fliest last November. Hence prosperity.

The Buffalo pressworkers won their strike, after being out five days. Most of the job offers granted the demands for an increase in wages.

The management of the New York 'Sun,' having broken the promise made three months ago, when the boycott was raised, Typographical Union No. 6 and Streetcar Workers' Union have issued a notice renewing the boycott and calling upon all sympathizers to refrain from patronizing the 'Sun,' directly or indirectly.

Foot and Shoe Workers' Union decided by referendum vote not to hold a national convention this year.

SUCCESSFUL LECTURE.

Comrade Courtney Lemon delivered a lecture on 'Modern Socialism,' before the Manhattan Liberal Club, 223 E. Twenty-eighth street, on Friday evening, April 26. The lecture was an able one and presented the question in a clear and forcible manner. He was listened to with evident interest, and was interrupted by applause at various points. The lecture was followed by a debate which was an interesting and, in some particulars, an amusing one. The lecturer (not the lecturer) was criticized by Messrs. A. I. Vogt, O'Rourke, and a young gentleman who was careful to inform the audience about the possession of a 'diploma,' for what he did not say, though he seemed to be gifted with a superhuman gift. The burden of the 'criticisms' were made up mostly of personal remarks about what Comrade Lemon was supposed (in the critic's estimation) not to know about Socialism, to his youth and his next apartment. Time was when Socialists were ridiculed if they wore shabby clothes, now they are denounced if they attire themselves decently. Three Socialists present answered the critics, among them being Comrade J. Spargo, whose speech was greatly applauded. Comrade Lemon, closed in a witty and convincing ten minutes' talk that provoked much applause. He was certainly a good representative of Socialism.

Minister Conger has returned from China, and says the damages done to the feelings of gentle Christians cannot be appraised by less than \$200,000,000 indemnity from that country. After past experiences, the Chinese will no doubt be impressed with the excessive modesty of this demand and pay up willingly. The usefulness of the allied powers during their crusade for righteousness in the Far East is almost beyond comprehension. Why they should not ask for double or triple that sum is not understandable at this distance. Such generosity will do much toward engendering reconciliation to the peaceful and love-inspiring mission of civilization on the part of the heathen Chinese.

Comrade Haliday of Equality, Wash., writes: 'We want Frederick Krafft's play, 'Now and Then'—must have it.' They got it.

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