

The Worker.

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THE SOCIALIST VOTE. The Socialist Party has passed through its 1906 general election. Its growing power is indicated by the increase of its vote.

Every reader of The Worker in New York should remember that he has an engagement at the Grand Central Palace on the evening of May 1, and that it is his duty to bring along as many of his fellow workmen and neighbors as he can.

In connection with the May Day celebrations every local should use the special eight-page May Day number of The Worker.

Beginning with the issue of May 5, The Worker will come out in a much more convenient and attractive form.

We should have noted last week the change of management which has taken place. Frederick Krafft is now Business Manager.

In order to make The Worker not only the reliable paper which we venture to say it already is, but also the live and enterprising paper that it ought to be, an increase of the editorial force is much to be desired.

"Are we drifting toward Socialism?" is a question often asked nowadays. We answer it: No, gentlemen, we are not drifting; we are steering toward Socialism.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, TOO. When we read in the Wilkes-Barre dispatches that, in the neighborhood of one of the mines where the men are on strike, "there was heavy firing all night, several hundred shots being fired, but no one was hurt."

NOTE, COMMENT, AND ANSWER. If The Worker should print all the resolutions with regard to the Idaho outrages that are sent to it these days, they would occupy several columns of the paper each week.

fund will be as imperatively necessary as the plant itself.

The time will come, and it may come sooner than we think, when we will have to launch an English daily, whether we are satisfactorily prepared or not, when circumstances will demand it and we must take the chances of success or failure.

The Brooklyn fair will undoubtedly be a success. The question is whether it shall be a small success or a big one, whether it shall add a few hundred dollars or a good many hundred to the funds already on hand.

THE CHICAGO ELECTION. The result of the referendum in Chicago on the question of municipal ownership of street railways is certainly a curious one.

While capitalism lasts there will be wars, growing out of the conflicting interests of different national sections of the capitalist class.

There is a soul of god in things evil—even in militarism. Our comrades on the Continent have an immense advantage—outweighing, we believe, all the horrible evils of militarism—in the fact that universal military service prevails.

The Weakening may now have a chance for his life; at least, he gets a breathing-spell. The Man with the Muck-Rake is President Roosevelt's latest bite note.

It isn't argued, you know, to say that "the fair-minded man" can disagree with you. So far from being argument, it is a negation of argument, a denial of the possibility of argument.

Our comrades in Milwaukee had, during the municipal campaign just closed, to meet a double-headed attack—on the one hand, that they were atheistic free-lovers and beer-drinkers; on the other hand, that they were "totalitarians who intended to put an end to the joys that 'make Milwaukee famous.'"

At the smallest average, for the making of a single rich man we make a thousand where life long is one food of misery. The charnel houses of poverty are in the shadow of the palace, and as one is splendor, so is the other dark, poisonous and dead.

class is slow to move. But when it does move, it moves powerfully and surely. Don't get too far with your cruel and treacherous devices, or they may react to your speedy overthrow.

A lively discussion is going on in the British Socialist press over the question of universal military training, which has been brought to the front by the tentative proposals of the military authorities.

It seems to us that these latter are entirely wrong, that their sort of anti-militarism is a sort of utopian sentimentality, very amiable, no doubt, but very ineffective for the purposes of our class.

It is much to be doubted whether the capitalist government of the United Kingdom will dare, even for the sake of "national defence," to arm all its people and train them in the art of war.

We would call attention to Comrade Wislitzki's communication this week on the subject of the general strike as a method of action in the event of the illegal possession of the Western Federation of Miners officials ending in a conviction.

T. A. C. Fort Dodge, Ia.—We quite agree with you that comrades can do good propaganda work by writing letters to the newspapers, treating subjects of common interest, especially news from the great cities, in an intelligible and concise manner.

President Peabody of the Mutual Life finds it necessary to give out an open letter denying that he represents the Standard Oil group.

It isn't argued, you know, to say that "the fair-minded man" can disagree with you. So far from being argument, it is a negation of argument, a denial of the possibility of argument, an assumption of your own infallibility and of the bad faith of all your opponents.

Some of the advocates of the New Jersey scheme of an exclusively party-owned press profess to be absolutely unable to see what bearing Milton's and Mill's great arguments for "the liberty of unlicensed printing" have to do with the matter.

of that organization and under its control, but also that every party member be absolutely forbidden to publish or take part in publishing any Socialist paper without previous sanction from the national organization of the party.

Let us suppose that this proposition is adopted. What results? Every Socialist paper in the land, with its plant, whether now owned by one or more comrades as individuals or by a publishing association or by a local or state organization of the party, must be turned over to the national organization to become its absolute property.

Such a condition of things and all the conditions being under a single control, under the control of the national organization, what will actually be the chances of fair discussion and a consequent wise decision?

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MILL ON FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION.

[Last week, in our sub-editorial department, we quoted somewhat extensively from Milton's "Areopagitica" in connection with the New Jersey proposition for a bill to restrict and the prohibition of all Socialist papers not owned by the national party organization.

The time, it is to be hoped, is gone by, when . . . in constitutional countries, it is to be apprehended that the government, whether completely responsible to the people or not, will often attempt to control the expression of opinion, except when in doing so it makes itself the organ of the general intolerance of the public.

Therefore, that the government is entirely at one with the people, never thinks of curtailing the power of conscientious men in the exercise of their right of free speech, and that it concedes to their voice.

What I deny the right of the people to exercise such coercion, either by themselves or their government. The power itself is illegitimate. The best government has no more title to it than the worst. It is as noxious, or more noxious, when exerted in accordance with public opinion, than when in opposition to it.

It is necessary to consider separately these two hypotheses, each of which has a distinct branch of the argument corresponding to it. We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure, stifling it would be an evil still.

First, the opinion which it is attempted to suppress by authority may possibly be true. Those who desire to suppress it, of course, deny its truth; but they are not infallible. They have no authority to decide the question for us, and to exclude every other person from the means of judging.

Let us now pass to the second division of the argument and, dismissing the supposition that any of the received opinions may be false, let us assume them to be true and examine into the worth of the manner in which they are likely to be held when their truth is not freely and openly canvassed.

There is a class of persons (happily not quite so numerous as formerly) who think it enough if a person asserts undoubtingly to what they think true, though he has no knowledge whatever of the grounds of the opinion and could not make a tenable defense of it against the most superficial objections.

For it is not enough that he should hear the arguments of adversaries from his own teachers, presented as they state them; and accompanied by what they offer as refutations; that is not the way to do justice to the arguments or to bring them into real contact with his own mind.

He must be able to hear them from persons who actually believe them, who defend them in earnest and do their very utmost for them. He must know them in their most plausible and persuasive form; he must feel the whole force of the difficulty which the true view of the subject has to encounter and dispose of; else he will never really possess himself of the portion of truth which meets and removes that difficulty.

If the mischievous operation of the absence of free discussion, when the true opinions are true, were confined to leaving men ignorant of the grounds of those opinions, it might be thought that this, if an intellectual, is no moral evil, and does not affect the worth of the opinions regarded in their influence on the character. The fact, however, is that not only the grounds of the opinion are forgotten in the absence of discussion, but too often the meaning of the opinion itself. The words which convey it cease to suggest ideas, or suggest only a small portion of those they were originally equipped to communicate.

Instead of a living belief, there remain only a few phrases retained by rote, or, if any part, the abstract and hazy outline of the meaning is retained, the finer essence being lost. It still remains to speak of one of the principal causes which make diversity of opinion advantageous and will continue to do so until mankind shall have entered a stage of intellectual advancement which at present seems at an incalculable distance. We have hitherto considered only two possibilities: That the received opinion may be false and some other opinion, consequently, true; or that, the received opinion being true, a conflict with the opposite error is essential to a clear apprehension and deep feeling of its truth. But there is a common case, less than either of these: When the conflicting doctrines, instead of being one true and the other false, share the truth between them; and the non-forming opinion is needed to supply the remainder of the truth of which the received opinion embodies only a part.

Popular opinions, on subjects not palatable to sense, are often true, but seldom or never the whole truth. They are a part of the truth; sometimes a greater, sometimes a smaller part, but exaggerated, distorted, and disjoined from the truths by which they ought to be accompanied and limited. Historical opinions, on the other hand, though they contain a portion of truth, and since the general or prevailing opinion on any subject is rarely or never the whole truth, it is only by the collision of adverse opinions that the remainder of the truth has any chance of being supplied.

Thirdly, even if the received opinion be not only true, but the whole truth, unless it is suffered to be and actually is vigorously and earnestly contested, it will, by most of those who receive it, be held in the manner of a prejudice, with little comprehension or feeling of its rational grounds. And not only this, but

Fourthly, the meaning of the doctrine itself will be in danger of being lost or effaced and deprived of its vital effect on the character and conduct; the forms being a mere formal profession, inefficacious for good, but covering the ground and preventing the growth of any real and heartfelt conviction from reason and personal experience.

THESE BE OUR MASTERS. They own us, these task-masters of ours; they own our homes; they own our legislators. We cannot escape from them. There they are. We are told we can do as we like at the ballot box. They own the ballot box. We are told that we must look to the courts for redress; they own the courts. We know then for what they are—ruffians in politics, ruffians in finance, ruffians in law, ruffians in trade, ruffians in swindlers and tricksters. No outrage too great to do them, no petty larceny too small to shame them; despoiling a government treasury of a million of dollars, yet picking the pockets of a farm hand of a few dollars of bread. They own a nation of a hundred million and call it commerce; they corrupt a legislature and call it politics; they bribe a judge and call it law; they hire blacklegs to do the dirty work and call it organization; they take the honor of a state and call it competition.—Frank Norris, in "The Octopus."

NO RICH WITHOUT MANY POOR. At the smallest average, for the making of a single rich man we make a thousand where life long is one food of misery. The charnel houses of poverty are in the shadow of the palace, and as one is splendor, so is the other dark, poisonous and dead.

READ THIS AND PASS IT ON.

PARTY NEWS.

Attention is again called to the action of the National Executive Committee, which suggested that all May Day celebrations should be joined with a protest demonstration against the illegal kidnaping of Comrade Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone.

On a collector. He also got two articles explaining the conspiracy against Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone in the local daily, the "Sun".

Florida. The state convention will be held on Saturday, April 21, 1 p. m., in Tampa at Engineer's Hall, 1110 Franklin street.

W. A. Stulce, member of Local Sody, Tenn., has been expelled from the party for taking part in the Democratic convention and accepting an appointment as Deputy Sheriff.

Allegany County. A great parade in protest against the outrageous treatment of the officials of the Western Federation of Miners will be held in Allegany on Saturday evening, April 21, followed by a mass meeting in Carnegie Hall.

Illinois. Chicago will have a grand May Day demonstration under the auspices of a conference representing the Socialist Party and a number of progressive trade unions and other workingmen's organizations.

Here and There. The meeting held in New Haven, Conn., on Tuesday of last week to protest against the outrageous imprisonment of the officials of the Western Federation of Miners was a great success.

National Organizers. Dates for National Lecturers and Organizers for the week are: James H. Bower, April 15, Hallettsville, Texas; April 17 to 21, Waco.

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YOU MUST READ IT! THE JUNGLE

A TERRIBLE BOOK—the story of a Lithuanian family in Chicago's "Packingtown." Move that this is a shocking indictment of existing conditions which American can read without experiencing a desire to do something.

THE BITTER CRY OF THE CHILDREN

"The purpose of this book," says the author in his preface, "is to state the problem of poverty as it affects childhood, and to show that the child is a victim of the social system."

PUBLICATIONS. IF THERE ARE ANY GERMANS

Standing advertisements of Trade Unions and other Societies will be inserted under this heading at the rate of \$1 per line per week.

SOCIALIST LITERATURE CO.

On opposite sides of nearly every topic that has come before the Conference, I am free to admit that both of us (myself more than Comrade Killigbeck) have assumed positions in opposition to the prevailing policy.

SOCIALIST LITERATURE CO.

Trade unionism was a necessary and logical consequence of the intense commercialism of the capitalist age now ending—the combination of industries, preparatory for the Co-operative Commonwealth—and will cease with that period.

SOCIALIST WORKING WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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