

THE WORKERS' CALL.

"Workingmen of all countries unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains: you have a world to gain."

SECOND YEAR.—WHOLE NO. 54.

CHICAGO, ILL., MARCH, 17 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

"THEY DIGGED A PIT"

So That Organized Labor Might Fall Therein.

VELVET GLOVE ON IRON HAND.

"Reasonable Concessions" of Capitalism Mean the Destruction of the Unions in Detail.

In the labor troubles which are constantly appearing between employers and employed, it has become a sort of custom for both disputants to lay their case before that very indefinite umpire, the "public," in order that the said "public" may be able to determine upon which side lies "right and justice," and vent its displeasure and disapproval upon the party whom they judge guilty of disturbing "those harmonious relations between labor and capital which ought always to be, etc., etc." The contractors on one side of the dispute, in the building trades in this city, have spoken or rather printed their little piece, and presented their side of the case with such a superficial display of "sweet reasonableness" that the "public" who are supposed to act as judges between the disputants, are very liable to incline the scales of "justice" towards the much-abused contractors, whose reasonable concessions and overtures are meeting with stubborn resistance upon the part of the union men.

They are quite willing to concede the eight-hour day and not only that, but also agree to the union scale of wages. What they will not do is "recognize the union" so that the mischievous "sympathetic strike" cannot be enforced.

"The union exists," they say, "for the purpose of shortening the hours of labor and increasing wages. These points we have willingly conceded. Have we not been reasonable in making such concessions? What more can these pernicious unions ask from us? What good will recognition do them when their main requirements have been granted? Are they not willfully interrupting the course of business by their unreasonable demands? In the interests of us, O public, and punish the disturbers of those harmonious relations which ought to exist, etc., etc."

And the unions don't put forth any manifesto as a counter-stroke, but they stick stubbornly for "recognition." And they are emphatically right in so doing.

To allow this to go by default, to foolishly give up their best economic weapon, the sympathetic strike, would be to render themselves impotent as unions. And they know it, and knowing, will maintain.

That recognition, involving the united action of all organizations, expressed in the sympathetic strike, is the main bond of unity between the workers on the economic field. That taken away, each union can be dealt with separately and brought to terms, in detail. This bringing to terms means the literal destruction of the unions, by rendering them isolated and therefore impotent.

That is the bond of union that the capitalists wish to destroy, knowing that in its maintenance lies the strength of the organized workers. Once destroyed, it is only an idiot that could be persuaded that the eight hour day and the union scale would remain intact. Wages would come down, hours of labor be lengthened, when each union snapped the bonds between it and the others.

When Great Britain commits some notorious land grabbing action, the other disappointed grabbers in Europe bristle up and urge the spoliation of the spoiler. When such signs of hostility soothe the alarm of the masses by singing of the beauties of "splendid isolation"—but at the same time new appropriations for men, arms and ships are made.

It is in order now for the employing classes to preach "splendid isolation" to the unions. If the modern labor Samson allows his locks to be shorn by this capitalist Delilah, the result will be analogous to that of the old Hebrew tragedy. "The Philistines be upon thee Samson." If organized labor leaves itself thus "naked to its enemies" those enemies may be depended upon to do the rest.

Unity of the workers in the economic field, the exploiters of labor hate and detest. Unity upon the political field fills them with fear and terror.

The knowledge and determination displayed by the unions in holding out on this matter is a good augury that the great weapon of emancipation, political unity at the ballot box, will be held as tenaciously and wielded as intelligently, when the necessity of its employment becomes apparent to the majority of unionists.

For political unity is the ultimate weapon of the working class, by which the "labor problem" will be solved. And this accomplished, all talk of the "harmonious relation between labor and capital which ought to be, etc., etc." will become meaningless, when

labor and capital become one, merged and united in the great mass of the producers.

A Capitalist Messiah.

The present labor disturbances leads that stalwart socialist, John V. Farwell, to grasp his pen once more and distill knowledge at the only licensed distillery. We may not like his conclusions, but we cannot escape the indubitable fact that they came from no less an authority than John V. Farwell himself. Here is a sample of his logic:

"Suppose all were farmers where would be the necessity for the modern plow and the reaper factories?"

What a terrible picture is thus at one sweep of John V's masterly type-writer opened up before our imagination—all farmers and no reaper factories; what sort of a civilization would it be (for those who now draw dividends from the reaper factories)? Or following the analogy, all shoemakers, or all well drillers, or all barbers, or all telegraph messengers—ah, how awful! suppose we were all telegraph messengers, where would be the necessity for the automobile? This line of thought is too harrowing, we must stop.

But we're thankful we're not all farmers and we, or some of us at least, can work in reaper factories.

That the Bible needs amendment and that no less a person than Farwell should have the job, appears in this statement:

"When the Savior said to the rich young man, 'Sell all thou hast and give to the poor and come and follow Me,' there was no railroad, steamships, reaper factories or thousands of other lesser factories."

and consequently the Savior could not know how much more "good" the rich young man could do by exploiting the poor and "following" with a fat purse—kept well in hand. We can almost imagine that the Savior has seen his mistake at last and has come again in the person of our authority, John V. Farwell.

Indeed such a presumption appears to have still more evidence:

"May it not be that this same Jesus has had something to do with this wonderful change in the body politic as to material things, as the prelude to such transformation of character as will in the end induce men to adopt the common-sense of the great majority, who had all things in common only by common consent, and not by brute force, as is now advocated."

As an advocate of communism Farwell appears in a new role and will, we imagine, be regarded with suspicion by those whom he has hitherto taken to task for preaching the same doctrine. We could wish, however, he had graciously informed us by whom common ownership by brute force "is now advocated."

"The masses of laboring men are honest and industrious, and but for a few designing leaders, who would rule or ruin that they may live without work on the bounty of the great majority, would antagonize conditions which at this time threaten the future prosperity of Chicago, especially, as never before."

Which proves (?) what we have always suspected, that Farwell is in close touch with the laboring masses. It's because the masses are honest and industrious and want to get away from the "few designing leaders" that Farwell wants to move his factory to Benton Harbor. But no, we forget, it's the masses of honest and industrious, more ingenious and healthier country girls around Benton Harbor that he's thinking of in that case.

"Will the powers that be continue to allow non-union men to be assaulted and beaten because they exercise the rights of citizenship in working for a living?"

After Farwell moves his factory to Benton Harbor, if the girls who have been gaining their miserable pittance wages in his Chicago factory, should insist on continuing to turn out muslin underwear for him will the "powers that be" insist that Farwell continue to pay them wages "because they exercise the rights of citizenship in working for a living?"

"Combinations of earth, air, water and sunshine make the world a garden of delight."

Combinations of capital make it a torturing hell. Let us get rid of the latter and restore to the world the "garden of delight."

But after all, he says: "Citizenship in heaven is what is needed to cure all these ills."

and we suppose, he would at least allow that the man who starves to death and the man who dies of apoplexy, have an equal chance of entering.

How consoling!

Anent labor legislation in the Ohio General Assembly we find that a number of important measures are being held up. In the senate, friends of plutocracy, elected by workmen, bear in mind, are preparing to kill the Saffin bill, intended to abolish contract prison labor. Davis' bill, to provide for better protection for machinery, will also receive a knockout blow, as did his bill, compelling payment of wages in lawful money. This capitalism rules supreme.

MEMORIES OF MARCH OH, THE SHAMROCK!

Is Especially the Month of the Proletariat.

LESSONS FROM '48 AND '71.

Working Class Must Rely Upon Itself Entirely, for Emancipation From Wage Slavery.

There is perhaps none that looks with greater eagerness and more confident expectation to the future than the socialist. Convinced that the future is his, intent on his work of pointing to the lessons of the present, conscious of the mission of the working class, it is not often that he stops to reflect on the past.

There are times, however, when our mind, involuntarily, one might say, turns to the past. Every recurring March brings with it to the socialist reminiscences of the proletarian struggles that culminated in the revolutions of '48 and the Paris Commune of '71.

Whatever its cause, it is significant, that the month of March is the month of revolutions. It is pre-eminently the month of the proletariat.

The events that crowd into the March of '48 dazzle our imagination. The struggles in Germany, the struggles in Austria, and above all the struggles in France, where for the first time the demand is being made for a socialist republic, and the first attempt for social reconstruction is actually made only to end in failure, have all imparted their lessons to the working class.

The lesson they all conveyed, finds expression in the declaration of the International Working People's association: "The emancipation of the workers must be the work of the working class itself." This declaration comes as the signal of the awakening of the working class from the stupor in which it languished for well nigh a generation, in the exhaustion which followed the period of struggles and of high hopes.

With this declaration as a guide, the organization of the proletariat goes on with an ever quickening pace. The revolution and the reign of terror, the corruption and scandal of the bourgeoisie in its rush for the spoils overrun this pace, and to save themselves from the wrath of an indignant people, the nation is plunged into war—the Franco-Prussian war is on.

The working class of France, organized for national defense, now for the first time conceives the idea of taking the government into its own hands. March 18th, 1871, the working class of Paris declared the right to govern itself, and refuses to submit any further to the capitalist usurpers headed by Thiers, and for two months it holds Paris against the combined armies of Prussia and France. This is the event known to history as the Paris Commune.

The heroism and nobleness of purpose displayed by the working class during the short period of its government of Paris, and during the fall of the Commune, finds contrast in the bestiality and ferocity displayed by the victorious bourgeoisie in the bloody days following the fall of the Commune, when men, women and even children, to the number of forty thousand were slaughtered to satisfy its thirst for blood.

The second attempt of the proletariat to assert itself ends in failure. In this failure the working class learns its second lesson. It learns, that not only must it rely on itself for emancipation, but that it must also organize itself into a distinct political party in order to bring about that result. It learns that the social revolution cannot be accomplished by the capture of a city, nor can a government be captured at one fell swoop. It is by constant systematic onslaught that the campaign against capitalism is henceforth to be carried on. A proletarian government must precede the socialist state. It is to avoid a repetition of scenes like those of '48 and '71 that the working class is organizing under the banner of socialism; with the light of science and of truth to guide it, it is marching steadily onward towards its emancipation—towards socialism.

P. Sissman.

Kaiser Wilhelm has asked for an increase of wages, but the Social Democrats have vigorously opposed him in this matter. In consequence of this, a rumor has been started that the Kaiser will resort to a strike to enforce his demands, but this rumor lacks confirmation, and is probably untrue. It is far more likely that if Wilhelm becomes too pressing, a lock-out may be declared against him; as there are many who hold that his labor is a superfluous which society can well dispense with.

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OH, THE SHAMROCK!

"Her Gracious Majesty" Generously Rewards Irish Loyalty.

"WORKING" THE WORKERS.

National Traditions and Hatreds Alike, Used to Maintain the Supremacy of Capitalism.

There is a story told of an old-fashioned, pious Scotch elder, who when engaged in prayer, never neglected in his list of petitions to the throne of grace to include the expression, "Lord give us a good conceit of ourselves." It may be remarked, however, that in general it is not necessary to petition the Lord for this common endowment, as a "good conceit" or self-esteem exists largely amongst all men, irrespective of their belief or non-belief in prayer. No one can have failed to observe that this self-esteem is often expressed by common phrases in general use. Such remarks as "You can't fool the Irish" or "You can't fool the Dutch" are familiar to us whose ears and memories are open to the ordinary expressions of "the man in the street." No doubt if the observer travelled through England, Russia, France, China, or Patagonia, he would be able to detect many kindred phrases, and sayings expressive of the "good conceit" of the inhabitants of those countries.

Running counter to this national sentiment, we find for instance a dyspeptic philosopher like Carlyle declaring that "the population of Great Britain numbers twenty-seven millions—mostly fools." Not all, but "mostly." "Can't fool the Irish." Well, many attempts have been made, and are now being made with that end in view, and from the fact that those attempts are not given up, it is evident that those who are interested in making them, do not consider the case so hopeless as the above expression would intimate.

At any rate here is the latest attempt in this direction:

An order has been promulgated by the War Office at the request of the Queen that all men of the ranks in the Irish regiments shall wear on St. Patrick's day as an especial distinction a sprig of shamrock in their head-dress. These two honors are bestowed by the Queen as evidence of her appreciation of the loyalty of the Irish as a nation during the Transvaal troubles, and especially of the good fighting done by the Irish troops at the front. Both courtesies are bound to have far reaching effect and importance.—Daily Paper.

"Bound to have far reaching effect and importance." It certainly doesn't seem that the mere permission given to soldiers to wear the national emblem on a certain day, could possibly bring the results described in the above statement. Let us look at the two parties to this transaction.

On one side the Queen, representing the ruling classes of England, the aristocracy, the wealthy exploiters of labor and their parasites, who are interested in the maintenance and expansion of the Empire. On the other hand, approximately 25,000 soldiers drawn from the poorest of the working classes, men who have fought like demons for 25 cents a day, for that Empire in which they have no possible interest, but the maintenance of which is of vital importance to those who have given them permission to wear a shamrock on Patrick's day, in addition to their 25 cents. This latter class are in power economically and politically, and the shrewdest brains that can be procured are constantly engaged in making that supremacy more secure, by force of arms, threats, cajolery, bribery, concessions to national sentiment, etc. Their acts are deliberate, they are careful to make no false steps: The British politicians are engaged in "fooling the Irish," and they are not deterred in the least, by the belief that this "can't" be done.

Will they succeed? Yes. They will fool some of the Irish—a sufficient number for their purpose. They have succeeded in doing this for hundreds of years, and there is no reason to suppose that they have now lost their cunning in the matter.

Are these Irishmen brave men? Undoubtedly. They are natural fighters, and the British Empire owes its strength, maintenance and expansion, not a little to their ability in this direction. Are they sensible men? As men go—yes. At least, in intelligence and average knowledge they are not perceptibly inferior to the great mass of their countrymen. Why then do the donors of this paltry gift of the shamrock, expect such great results from their action? Those who manage and direct the affairs of British capitalism, could if they would, give the correct answer to this. They understand their interests as an economic class, and the others don't. That's all.

Can the British capitalist politicians "fool the Irish" in America by such action? By no means. The "fooling of the Irish" in America, is a prerogative of the American capitalist politician alone. We are assured by prominent Irishmen here that this news from England will be received with contempt and disgust by the Irish population of this land; that it will not have the slightest effect upon the hatred and aversion in which England is held by them, but on the contrary will rather tend to increase it. They are right. And all this "disgust," "contempt" and "hatred" will be carefully manipulated by capitalist politicians and crystallized into a solid vote. That vote is even now being calculated on. No such passions are allowed to be lost when political capital can be made from them. They will be gathered, sorted, harnessed, and used as motive power, to place, if possible, a new group of labor skinned in office.

What will the Irishmen make out of it? The vast majority of them are wage earners, and they will be allowed to keep their "hatred, contempt, etc." (after the capitalist politicians have got through with it), for future use on similar occasions. Like "Tam O'Shanter's" wife, they can "nurture their wrath to keep it warm."

The Irishman is a hard worker and a hard fighter, and his capitalist exploiters have been quick to see the value of these qualities, and divert them into the (to them) proper channels. For years and years the capitalists of Britain and America have used his prejudices and national hatreds, to secure power to their class. They have appealed to him as Irishman, and he has readily responded, forgetting what was of infinitely more importance that he was a workingman, having material interests in common with all other workingmen of whatever nationality.

When the British and American capitalists have gained their ends, they will both proceed to deprive him of the product of his labor in the same identical manner, and will both use him to fight their battles abroad, whether it be in India, China, Transvaal, Philippines or any other part of the earth where markets can be opened by the "man behind the gun," and it is not so unlikely that in the near future he may be employed to fight for both plunderers at the same time.

And when the expression "you can't fool the Irish," is brought to their notice, they will take care not to argue the matter. They will agree with the sentiment, and then "wink the other eye."

The working class, who by birth or descent are connected with Ireland, are not used here as an exception, but as an illustration. Capitalism treats the workers of all other countries with equal impartiality, that is to say, it uses them and their peculiarities in the best possible manner for its own interests, and as the Irishman has a peculiar history behind him, it turns that also to account. National hatreds are made to rebound to the benefit of the capitalist classes.

The British don't care a straw for "tail twisting." If Irishmen want to strike at the vitals of Britain, they can only do so as workmen, by attacking the system of capitalism, not because of its British, but because of its capitalistic qualities. If they wish to free themselves from the same exploitation that makes poverty their lot in this land, they must strike at capitalism here, at the ballot box, with the socialist ballot. As workmen they will find thousands of others to aid them, and when they have gained their economic freedom through an intelligent use of their political power, there will be none left to "fool the Irish" or the "Dutch," or the working class as a whole.

London Justice says that one of the results of the war which has fallen with severest force on the poorest is the shameful increase in the price of coal. Well-to-do people who get their coal in large quantities have not had to pay nearly as much as the poor, who in many cases pay an advance of 100 per cent. The rise is almost entirely artificial, the war being taken advantage of by the plutocratic patriots of the coal ring—the same class which supplies the soldiers with rotten rations and their foe with rifles—to create a fictitious famine, and so get a rich harvest for themselves. Justice's editor, H. M. Hyndman, was mobbed by patriots in a London hall for trying to point out this condition to the workers. Carlyle once said England was inhabited by mostly fools, and there appears to be little change since his time. But, then, we don't have to go to England to discover fools. We have patriots of our own.—Cleveland Citizen.

Who said that the Philippine Islands will not furnish a market for our exports? General Otis has just ordered one thousand pairs of handcuffs, for the benefit of the soldiers who have become insane in their efforts to reduce the "uncivilized" Philippines to a proper submissive condition in which the capitalist system of exploitation may have uninterrupted sway. An American manufacturing concern secured the order in spite of foreign competition, and we, as workmen may congratulate ourselves on the fact that we can produce fetters for our own class, when the exigencies of capitalism cause us to lose our reason.

If you are not a regular subscriber to this paper look it over and see if it is not treating a subject in which you are interested. If so send in your subscription at once.

SOCIALIST POINTERS

The capitalist never throws away a vote, neither should the workingman.

It will be observed that Col. Bryan continues to shy at even semi-socialist doctrines.

The English socialists are not lined up with the absent-minded beggars, to their credit.

Mark Hanna's heart continues to beat for the common people at the rate of \$50 per beat.

This will be a great summer for people claiming to be socialists to show their colors.

Calling Jerry Simpson a socialist, as the capitalist papers are doing, does not make him one.

You could not make the trusts and the corporations believe that republicans are ungrateful.

Socialists know that if they don't elect a president this year they will some other year.

The trusts can no more be killed by publicity than the socialist party can be killed by silence.

You may perfume Carnegie as much as you will, but the odor of Homestead will cling round him still.

May the Lord now have mercy on the poor blacks whom the British are fighting to save from the Boers.

People who have not had enough "prosperity" will vote again for McKinley as they should.

The bosses never stop to think that when they lock men out they give the latter more time to study socialism.

It is not possible to send enough Bibles and missionaries in its wake, to make war anything else than murder.

People who think that socialism is comprised in the ownership of street cars are scheduled for a rude awakening.

A great separation of the wheat from the chaff is going on in the populist party and the socialists are getting the wheat.

It will be worth remaining on earth to see the grand shelling of "statesmen" that will come about in the next five years.

It is most ungrateful for the inhabitants of the Philippines not to stand still long enough for the capitalists to exploit them.

The nomination of Debs suggests the thought that in giving DeLeon something to howl about it will give him plenty.

When the socialist party gets a little stronger, the old parties will find an issue ready made without going around looking for one.

It is because the millionaires of the United States senate are class-conscious that Clark of Montana is not afraid of his seat.

The people of Cuba and Porto Rico are learning that a capitalist republic as well as a capitalist monarchy is run in the interests of the capitalist class.

Class division is a condition, not an issue; but it clears up the mind of the workingman to have him thoroughly conscious as to the class to which he belongs.

America is getting ready to join in the grand march with Germany, France, Belgium and other European countries. Hands across the sea will have a meaning then.

The president of the tin trust is said to have lost \$30,000 on the toss of a coin which would go hard with him if he did not have several thousand workmen dividing with him on their earnings.

The great reform financial bill has not been passed by both houses of congress yet. The senate is probably holding it up for a few days until the banks can think a little and see if there is anything more they want.

The great "Comedie Francaise" theatre in Paris has been destroyed by fire. This has occasioned much sadness and regret amongst its regular patrons, who as a rule belong to that class who toil not, and therefore enjoy the product of the labor of others. The workmen of Paris will soon rebuild this place of recreation and judging from many signs of the development of the French workers, they will enjoy the fruits of their labor, in the matter of the theatres, which they have heretofore built for the pleasure and indulgence of their exploiters alone.

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The Socialist Vote: UNITED STATES. 1890 13,704, 1891 21,512, 1892 25,686, 1893 29,020, 1894 34,869, 1895 36,275, 1896 55,550, 1897 62,204.

Table showing the Socialist Vote in the United States from 1890 to 1897, with columns for year and vote count.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

The anniversary of an event which is full of significance to the struggling proletariat of the world, will be commemorated on the 18th inst. amongst those groups and sections of workmen who look upon the birth of the Commune of Paris as one of the great landmarks in the progress of the social revolution.

In spite of the irreconcilable elements, the confused ideas, the fatal oversights and mistakes which attended this event from its inception, until it expired in blood and flames, from the desperation of the class whose interests were menaced by its establishment, it is now recognized that the Commune of Paris was on the whole a distinctively working class movement whose well defined object was the political and economic supremacy of that class, the same goal for which the socialist workmen of all countries are now striving.

It is not within the province of a newspaper editorial to recount again the desperate heroism, the astonishing readiness to sacrifice life in the defence of an ideal, which marked the conduct of our French comrades in this terrible conflict. This has been done so often and so eloquently, both in the historical literature of the movement, and at every recurring anniversary of the event, that it here superfluous. The memory of those who died in that struggle can never be forgotten while the cause for which they fought remains still an object to be accomplished by the disinherited toilers of the world.

Neither is it necessary to dwell long upon that awful frenzy of murder upon the part of the capitalist classes of France, that compound of desperate fear and fenshish cruelty, which culminated in the deliberate murder of over thirty thousand victims, men, women and children, after all resistance had ceased. Those victims have long been at rest. It is the duty of those upon whom the task has devolved of carrying out the ideas for which these men, women and children suffered, to learn by their experience, to recognize whatever weaknesses may exist in their own ranks, and the best method for dealing with such weaknesses; and above all to understand thoroughly the unscrupulous and relentless nature of those whose class interests are bound up with the system of modern capitalism. Not in a spirit of revenge, but in the necessary desire to comprehend the magnitude and nature of every factor which may retard socialist progress, and through such acquired knowledge deal with it, with that determination which springs from intelligent conception.

Twenty-nine years have passed since the Commune was declared. Since then the French working class has profited by the lessons it taught. At present, the party who have received it as a heritage these principles of economic and social freedom, for which their ancestors perished, are both in numbers and intelligence enormously superior to the men of '71. Men who represent those principles now appear in ever increasing numbers in the representative chambers of France, and it is becoming daily more and more evident that upon the shoulders of the socialists rests the stability of the French government.

They have learned the lessons of the Commune and will make no premature move without knowing that the ground is solid under their feet. The memories of the Commune still remain to them

as a balancing element in their judgments, a constant reminder of the necessity of intelligently comprehending the nature of the class struggle, and the inevitable results of failure to understand it.

The socialists of Paris can never forget the Commune, living as they do on the actual ground where the tremendous conflict was consummated. Whether they demonstrate in hundreds of thousands to balk the schemes of royalist plotters, or march in long funeral processions, or march in long funeral processions to Pere La Chaise, to perform the last rites for a departed comrade, the historical associations of the Commune, heightened by the ever present manifestations of capitalist class rule, are ever before their mental vision. From the pavements, gutters and alleys, along the line of march, the ghosts of thousands of their murdered brethren rise up before them, a solemn warning, that effective unity of the workers can only spring from a clear and conscious knowledge of the interests of their class.

The lessons drawn from the events of the Commune are fully as valuable to the workers of this and other lands, as to our French comrades, and it is the recognition of this, that, on the 18th of March, brings together in all parts of the world, men who regard the Commune of Paris as a highly significant and instructive occurrence in the march of social progress.

ALL FOR THE CAUSE.

Hear a word, a word in season, for the day is drawing nigh. When the Cause shall call upon us, some to live, and some to die!

He that dies shall not die lonely, many a one hath gone before. He that lives shall bear no burden heavier than the life they bore.

Nothing ancient is their story, e'en but yesterday they died. Youngest they of earth's beloved, last of all the valiant dead.

E'en the tidings we are telling was the tale they had to tell. E'en the hopes that our hearts cherish was the hope for which they fell.

In the graves where tyrants thrust them, lie their labor and their pain. But undying from their sorrow spring, eth up the hope again.

Mourn not therefore, nor lament it that the world outlives their life; Voice and vision yet they give us, making strong our hands for strife.

Some had name, and fame, and honor, learn'd they were, and wise and strong; Some were nameless, poor, unlettered, weak in all but grief and wrong.

Named and nameless all live in us; one and all they lead us yet. Every pam to count for nothing, every sorrow to forget.

Hearken how they cry, "O happy, happy ye that ye were born. In the sad slow night's departing, in the rising of the morn."

"Fair the crown the Cause hath for you, well to die or well to live. Through the battle, through the langle, peace to gain or peace to give."

Ah, it may be! Oft meseemeth, in the days that yet shall be. When no slave of gold abideth twixt the breadth of sea to sea.

Oh, when men and maids are merry, ere the sunlight leaves the earth. And they bless the day, beloved, all too short for all their mirth.

Some shall pause awhile and ponder on the bitter days of old. Ere the toll of strife and battle overthrew the curse of gold;

Then twixt lips of loved and lover solemn thoughts of us shall rise; We who once were fools and dreamers, then shall be the brave and wise.

There amidst the world new-builed shall our earthly deeds abide. Though our names be all forgotten, and the tale of how we died.

Life or death then, who shall heed it, what we gain or what we lose? Fair lies life amid the struggle, and the Cause for each shall choose.

Hear a word in season, for the day is drawing nigh. When the Cause shall call upon us, some to live and some to die!

—William Morris.

J. L. P. Candidates.

- ALDERMANIC. 4th ward—Thos. Nickelson. 5th ward—H. C. Driesvogt. 7th ward—L. Marcus. 8th ward—B. Sochatow. 10th ward—G. Sindelar. 13th ward—Theo. Williams. 14th ward—Marcus Hitch. 15th ward—A. Jasinski. 19th ward—W. Kamln. 22nd ward—Jno. Boening. 23rd ward—O. E. Kronhof. 24th ward—Max Faller. 29th ward—W. N. Krump. 30th ward—P. Horslev. 31st ward—A. Rasmussen. 32nd ward—C. Stillhoff. 34th ward—H. De Boer.

TOWN TICKETS.

- North Town.—Supervisor—E. Wegan. Collector—Jno. Vart. Clerk—Chas. Hultin. West Town.—Supervisor—P. Christensen. Collector—Sol. Siegle. Clerk—S. Odalski. South Town.—Supervisor—W. Figolah, Jr. Collector—L. Kanelbaum. Clerk—Jos. Kiedle. Town of Lake.—Supervisor—H. Steiner. Collector—J. W. Saunders. Clerk—F. Palmer. Hyde Park.—Supervisor—C. Knudsen. Collector—M. Goreckr. Clerk—Grant Depew.

Always remember that the main bulwark of capitalism is the ignorance of the workers. They are in darkness only because they do not know the way out. Are you doing all you can to show them the path?

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Those remarkable factors in the advance of "civilization" known as "Women's Clubs" are preparing new avenues of employment for the budding manhood of the country. At one of the meetings of those pioneers of progress held on the 8th inst, the lecturer advocated the instruction of boys in household work and this right in the teeth of the alleged "prosperity" which is being showered upon the working class in a manner never before dreamt of. These "Women's Clubs" evidently know their business.

In connection with this it may be remarked that the services of the "heli-girls" at the telephone stations are to be dispensed with. An automatic arrangement is to be introduced which will leave them free for other duties. In those woman's clubs there is no talk of having household work performed by the superfluous female labor which the improved machine throws on the market. These ladies no doubt have an idea that household work is becoming so disagreeable and repulsive to women, that the enslaved manhood of the country can be used to produce better results in the kitchens and bedrooms of the "better classes."

That thorn in the flesh of the "good man," Mr. John Powers, has been renominated for alderman of the 19th ward. This same Powers runs a number of saloons, and is perhaps one of the largest retailers of cigars in this city. He sells "sacab goods" from the Best & Russell Co. Wonder what action the Cigarmakers' International union will take about it?

This man Powers, has been "denounced" on all hands as one of the leaders of the "boodle" gang. The Municipal Voters' League, the Civic Federation, the different good citizen and good government groups have all been loud in their denunciation of Powers. Mayor Harrison has antagonized him. Miss Jane Adams drew the sword of "reform" against him. Now that sword is sheathed. Harrison's antagonism is withdrawn and the rest of the goody goody "denouncers" have become strangely silent. A socialist candidate has been put into the field, and considering the composition of the population of the ward, and the class to which the majority of the voters belong, the success of our comrade should be reasonably possible; but we recognize the fact that the education of the working class in the knowledge of their own interests, is not sufficiently advanced to make possible the election of a socialist representative. However we can watch the attitude of the "me too," "good as you" socialists towards the candidacy of our comrade.

The pending elections will show a curious shaking up of dry bones in those parts of the city where the delusion prevails amongst the workers that they own their own homes. Considerable indignation is being expressed because their taxes have been increased from 50 to 100 per cent, while the "down town" property of the big capitalists has been subjected to a still lower assessment than heretofore.

The class-conscious workingman is not troubled with these delusions. He knows that his labor creates all through which and by which society exists, that the accumulated wealth in the hands of the individual capitalists, as well as the taxes which stick to the fingers of the slimy politicians, are all the result of the labor of his class. He is not greatly interested in the manner in which the surplus product of his labor is divided. What he is after, is to put an end to the robbery which is embodied in the wage system.

The fool workingman who imagines that he owns his home, may fly from the Republicans to the Democrats and back again, seeking relief and finding none. Until he realizes his interests as a workingman, and acts in unity with his class on election day relief of any sort is an impossibility. Capitalist politics are for the benefit of the capitalist class alone, and working class politics for workingmen's interests can only be expressed by the socialist ballot.

The manner in which class interests assert themselves, and confuse all those who attempt to deny or ignore the class struggle, is well illustrated in the squabble over the Porto Rico tariff bill. The "reformers" and "liberals" are in favor of "free trade" with Porto Rico, while the cigarmakers for instance are in deadly antagonism to this proposition. Free trade with Porto Rico would form a precedent for free trade with Cuba and the Philippines.

And right here the Cigar Makers' Union which is trying by a union with their bosses to defend their wage conditions, and again by a union with those who antagonize the expansion of McKinley, find themselves suddenly flooded. They stand isolated. They fail to understand that wage conditions can never be made secure under capitalism, and that the only demand worth making on the part of the working class, is not for an apparently momentarily respite in the struggle, but for the full product of their labor at all times. This demand can find expression only under the banner of International Socialism.

The cigar makers and their bosses, alike do not want the cheap product of Cuba and the Philippines to compete with the commodity they make and sell respectively. Therefore they are anti-expansionists. The anti-expansionists, seeing that annexation is inevitable,

loudly demand in the name of "liberty," that the annexed inhabitants be treated in all respects like American citizens, that their products must not be discriminated against, and that they shall enjoy free trade with the United States. Therefore those interested in the cigar industry are "up in the air." "Between two stools we come to the ground." Not with the republicans or democrats, expansionists or anti-expansionists, protectionists or free traders, but in socialism alone can the interests of the workers become supreme.

The capitalist press is remarkably unanimous in its pretence of being in favor of labor unions, but they are just as unanimous in opposing the Building Trades Council. While we do not agree with many of the individuals composing the personnel of that body, we say plainly, that if the workers are so foolish as to desert the Building Trades Council, or to yield one jot of the concentration of the strength of their organizations, without a bitter fight, they will make a sad mistake.

The capitalist press is simply trying to work the old game of "divide and conquer." The Building Trades Council and the Building Material Council should stand together. It is a temporary shield against capitalist aggression which would be much more efficient and permanent if re-enforced by a strong political class movement, but that will also come in time. Every building trade workman should, however, in this crisis, stand close to the banner of his union.

The closer they stand together for the preservation of that bond of unity which is their only strength in the economic field, the more the sham "friends of labor" will be exposed. The friendship of Mayor Harrison will then be emphasized by the clubs of Kipleys' police officers, the friendship of Tanner by the bayonets of the state militia if the clubs of Chief Kipleys prove insufficient.

Should the militia prove inadequate, President McKinley, who holds a card of honorary membership in the Bricklayers' union, will demonstrate his "friendship" for organized labor, by swamping the city with deputy United States marshals and regular troops, in the name of "law and order." Union men! hold on to the concentration of power embodied in your Building Trades Council. You may perhaps not win out, but you will at least have the satisfaction of seeing your proposed "friends" come out in their true colors.

BOOK REVIEWS.

SOCIALIST SONGS, adapted to familiar tunes. Published by Chas. H. Kerr & Co., 56 5th Ave., Chicago. Pocket Library No. 11. Price 5 cents.

This, the latest addition to the Pocket Library of Socialism, will be found useful and instructive, not only to those socialists who are possessed of a love for music and song, but also to those who may as yet be unacquainted with the poetry which voices the aspirations of the world's toiling and suffering masses. In this little volume several of the soul-stirring revolutionary chants of the late William Morris are included, while in addition the names of such men as James Russell Lowell and Edward Carpenter as contributors, give evidence that the songs and verses have been well selected. Several other pieces by authors more or less known appear also in the pages of this work, and on the whole we have no hesitation in recommending all comrades to help the circulation of this number of the "Pocket Library," as besides being valuable propaganda for the movement, it demonstrates fully that the cause of the workers is powerful enough to produce, in the English language, poetry of a high order of merit.

SOCIALISM, UTOPIAN AND SCIENTIFIC.

By Frederick Engels. Translated by Dr. Edward Aveling. D. S. C. Fellow of University College, London. Chas. H. Kerr & Co., publishers, 56 Fifth Ave., Chicago. Paper, 10 cents; cloth, 25 cents.

This excellent work which may be said to have attained the position of a classic in the literature of scientific socialism, and which has already been published in numerous languages, now appears for the first time at a price well within the reach of the poorest student of sociology, in the clear and lucid English of the late Dr. Edward Aveling, whose ability as a translator is universally recognized. The introduction to this translation, written by Engels in 1892, will be found most interesting and instructive in that it traces the gradual evolution in the modes of thought from the time of Bacon, who is considered by Engels as the progenitor of English materialism, through Hobbs, Locke, the French Encyclopedists of the 18th century, the dialectic method of Hegel culminating in the materialistic conception of history used by Marx, upon which the philosophy of the modern scientific socialism of today is based. The work itself is most thorough in delineating the social movement from the mediaeval, down to the present time. The Utopian socialism of the early part of the century is minutely discussed in its various phases. The immature state of the proletariat during the earlier development of capitalist production presented no idea of power or initiative to the Utopians, who reasoned altogether on modes and premises drawn from 18th century philosophy. The development of that proletariat coincident with the growth of the capitalist system of production at last, gives the clue for the formulating

of the structure of society as dependent on, and shaped by its economic basis. The development of the present system of socialized production and individual appropriation brings to light the antagonism between the proletariat and bourgeoisie or working and capitalist classes. With this conception of society, no two men have done more than Marx and Engels in laying the foundation of the modern socialist movement, and this work of the latter will supply the reader with a full and comprehensive account of the march and tendencies of social progress from the middle ages to the present period. Outside of the famous "Communist Manifesto" we know of no work more full of information to the student of socialism than this volume. The fact that it has been published in more languages than any other document in socialist literature, is a far stronger recommendation of its excellence than anything which we might be disposed to add to this short review of one of the most compact and comprehensive presentations of the underlying basis of modern socialism.

Well and Ably Managed.

The great March festival in commemoration of the Paris Commune, was held at Brandt's Hall, 182 North Clark street on Sunday, March 11th, and was in every sense a complete success. Over 1,500 people were present, and many hundreds were reluctantly compelled to turn away, owing to the unexpected number already in attendance. The Lasalle Turnverein gave a gymnastic exhibition which was well received, and the efforts of the ladies of the same society, evoked much applause from the audience, for their splendid demonstration of physical culture. The living pictures symbolical of "Past" and "Future," delighted all present, while the dancing which followed was thoroughly enjoyed by more than three hundred couples. But on the whole the singing was the feature of the evening, and the climax was reached when the massed choirs from all the participating sangerbunds united in rendering those revolutionary hymns, those songs of Liberty and Freedom which voice the aspirations of the international proletariat, and inspire the workers of the world with that sublime energy and determination in the cause of economic liberty, which has made the advancing cause of socialism, the terror and despair of the world's plunderers. Comrades Valteich and Sissman addressed the meeting, in German and English respectively, and their remarks were received with enthusiastic applause. The refreshments were of the best quality and were well and promptly served, to the satisfaction of all present. The proceedings closed at midnight after a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and the thanks of the socialists of Chicago are especially due to our German comrades, who seem above all others, to excel in the management and direction of these pleasant social assemblages, and whose energy and good judgment combined to render this March Festival a complete success, financially, socially and otherwise. It would be well for the socialist cause, locally at any rate, if such functions were always placed in the hands of our German comrades, who seem to be as well fitted to undertake and bring them to a successful conclusion.

LETTER BOX.

Chicago, March 11th, 1900. Editor of Workers' Call: Dear Comrade—

As our Festival held February 18th, 1900, was a success, we feel able to contribute the sum of \$7 for the support of The Workers' Call, and hope that you will accept the same with our best wishes. Fraternally yours for the better society.

A. B. Gulberg, Sec. 23rd Ward Branch, S. L. P.

Kansas City, Mo., March 9.

Three ward nominations were made this week, one of them, that of Comrade Charles Engel for member of the Lower House from the Fifth ward, being the first time the party has nominated by convention; in this ward we have official standing and no more petitions are necessary. Petitions are being circulated for placing the names of Comrades John R. Smith and George M. Yates on the official ballot as candidates for the Lower House, from the Third and Eleventh wards respectively.

So far, everything is progressing smoothly; the section is stronger than it ever was in actual workers, and previous experience in the campaigns of 1893 make the planning and execution of the work comparatively easy. It is no child's play, however; we could use more workers and more means if we had them, but we are doing as much as we can, and are confident of a healthy increase in numbers and means before the fall campaign. The Democratic platform will not be out till tomorrow, at the primaries the radical faction won, standing for "municipal ownership and competition in public service." If anyone knows what that means, the mass is expected to vote for such and such a candidate because he is "going to see that the working people have more benefit from the park system"—said system thus far having had a decided inclination to spread itself only about the fashionable quarters of the city, while the projected (7) parks and boulevards in the working class districts are safely hung up in the courts. It will be the endeavor of the socialists to show the people of these latter districts that they need never expect to have their landlords tax themselves to give their tenants parks any more than they are willing to repair or improve the houses, unless there should come such a rousing socialist vote from these districts that parks would be considered a very cheap sop. Just how the landlords rest secure in the belief that the mass does not understand the situation, but believes that it is really the malicious work of "old fogies" who don't like parks, "knockers" as the local papers call them, and that the litigants don't represent the whole landlord class. One of these gentry the other day had the effrontery to assert before the park board that "the working men don't want parks; they would much rather have boulevards where they can walk and see their more fortunate neighbors roll along in their carriages." And therefore the park board, being short of

funds should spend \$250,000 for a "park drive" from this fellow's neighborhood to the center of the city, rather than \$100,000 to make the dirty, waded, shadeless courthouse square a pleasant place for the working people who live around it. It is quite likely that people of this kind will not rest quite so easily after the election. The park question is of course but a local issue, but is being worked for all it is worth. Before we are much older the workers will see that this, like all other questions, hinges on the economic status of society, and that once that is changed, rightly these minor issues disappear; otherwise they are always in evidence.

Socio.

Editor Workers' Call:

It is now well on in the fourth week since the tailor bosses belonging to the Merchant Tailors' Exchange declared the boycott against their employees because of the latter's refusal to give up their birthright of freedom by signing the now famous demand from the bosses that they would agree not to ask for free workshops, and promise not to go on a strike (no matter for what cause), during the next twelve months. It is a pleasure to note the cheerfulness and unflinching courage and success with which the workmen view the situation, and this not at all without good reason. The enthusiasm of the men is found in their implicit faith in one another, as although sentinels are posted at all the stores from early morning until late in the evening, there has not been found one instance where a union man seemed to desire compromise or secret conference with the bosses. On account of the severity of the weather during the past two weeks it may be conceded that the spring season and with it the rush of work has not yet arrived, and until such a time the real trouble of the bosses can not be felt by them, and with assumed calmness they fortify themselves behind the trenches of "no demands made upon them by their customers" and haughtily declare that on no conditions will they strike their flag early morning until late in the evening, they will, it is claimed, not even for one moment consider arbitration. Meanwhile the toilers, knowing the increasing strength they are gaining through having it discussed by the thinking public, go bravely ahead and prepare for the coming great battle. On account of a rumor that some of the bosses were sending work to Milwaukee, a committee from the Merchant Tailors' union, consisting of Messrs. Wm. Hartman and Q. Berg, went to that city to investigate. It is understood that nothing was discovered that could be construed as work being sent from the bosses in Chicago. A serio-comic affair happened in one of the affected stores last week. Mr. R. B. Larson, one of the union tailors heard of a non-union man who had received work in the shop of a coat to sew for said firm. Mr. Larson visited the man, explained to him the situation and requested him to desist. This man was willing to do, and in company with Mr. Larson they went to the firm, carrying with them the unfinished garment, and the labor to the amount of two dollars had been done. When they arrived the boss had once commanded Mr. Larson to get out. Larson asserted he would leave, as he had come, in company with his colleague. Thereupon the boss in great anger, rushed to his desk, from whence he produced a most murderous looking pistol, which he pointed towards Mr. Larson's heart, asking him: "Now will you get out?" To this Mr. Larson is said to have declared that "now he would under no circumstances leave unless in company with his friend"—and he didn't. The boss, laid his gun back in the arsenal and Mr. Larson and his colleague departed without a bloodshed. The matter was, however, reported to the union, and that body has employed an attorney to see what ought to be done in a case of this kind. As said before, the boys are all right, and no one doubts the ultimate result of their fight.

Editor Workers' Call:

Dear Sir: On February 28th there appeared in this city, a man of reputed residence in California, answering when spoken to, to the name of G. B. Benham. Should you know of such a person's whereabouts, and could reach him, you would confer a great favor upon the comrades in Michigan, by extending to him every courtesy possible. This man on his arrival in Detroit, had the brazen effrontery to call down on the heads of its peaceful citizens, about six feet of snow and a steady rain in his wake. Not only this, but in spite of the fact that the street car service was almost paralyzed, he dragged a goody number from their warm firesides, to listen in complete astonishment, to the recital of the details concerning a terrible murder and robbery, which had happened right here in our metropolis. The remarkable feature of the occurrence was, that while everyone present had lost something by the crime, none of them knew of the fact, until he had informed them of it. I expect the reason of this is, that this man Benham, being a wide-awake looking individual, and a mighty early riser, (to which will swear), had got his eyes open to what was going on around him, a little sooner than the rest. However, he pleased those he informed very much, and they are taking every opportunity to inform their neighbors of his loss, thereby discovering the fact that thousands of our citizens have suffered losses continuous for years, and have never been able to locate the pilferers until this Benham discovered them and showed them up. It may not be strange to you who live in Chicago, but with us, the strangest feature of the whole affair is that it was discovered to be a widespread phenomenon in almost 999 cases out of a thousand, had been robbed. Just the place the ordinary sneak thief would be ashamed to break in and steal and murder. And now comes the strangest part of all: Who do you suppose was the perpetrator of these horrible crimes?—the answer is quite popular here, by the names of CAPITALISM, and Capitalism, the aliases were Rents, Interests, and Profits, and you may be sure, that by the timely warning of Comrade Benham, that the working people in Michigan are now getting their eyes open. They are going to do just as he told them: elect a new sheriff, (who is being coming quite popular here), by the name of SOCIALISM, who will forthwith arrest this whole bunch, and put them where they will cause no more trouble. For this reason we ask you to treat Comrade Benham like a Christian. He has showed us a system "where thieves can not break through and steal." But we would advise you to be careful and not "suffer little children to listen unto him" or they might (or once) learn something from a public lecture; something which, I think you will agree, is not common.

Geo. A. Eastman.

Hereafter all money orders MUST be made payable to The Workers' Call, 26 North Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

STEADY AND STRONG.

Observations by Chicago comrades, on the Working Class Movement in France.

Lille, France, Feb. 13th, 1900. Perhaps a better impression of the socialist movement in France can be given by the relation of a few incidents than by long descriptions or discussions.

To begin with we had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the General Committee of the French socialists. This is the body that since the union has had charge of the party affairs and which decides upon matters of general policy which affect the entire socialist movement of France.

A meeting of the committee is an extremely mixed gathering. The Guesdist representatives being almost exclusively laborers, while some of the other bodies are represented by university professors and professional men, and it is no uncommon thing to see the class line show itself here with almost the same distinction that it appears in the outside world.

Owing to the kindness of Com. Paul Lafargue, who accompanied us and who speaks English perfectly, we were enabled to follow details of the proceedings that would have been otherwise unintelligible. His perfect knowledge of the socialist movement, not only of France, but also of the whole world, made his comments and explanations of extreme value.

To return to the meeting. The main business was the report of the Parliamentary Deputies. Here one gained an idea of what was meant by official responsibility in the socialist sense. The French socialists insist, not simply that their Deputies shall act in strict accord with the party policy in their official capacity, and shall return a report of their actions in the Chamber of Deputies, BUT THEY SHALL ALSO CONSIDER THEMSELVES IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD THE SERVANTS OF THE PARTY AND HOLD THEMSELVES IN READINESS TO GO TO ANY PLACE WHERE IT MAY BE THOUGHT THAT THEIR SERVICES MIGHT BE NEEDED IN THE WORK OF PROPAGANDA.

On the evening succeeding this meeting we were at a gathering in the Latin quarter addressed by Jean Jaures, on the subject of "Bernstein and the Evolution of Socialism." The lecture was to begin at half past eight, but by fifteen minutes to eight, the hall, which held three thousand people, was packed to standing room and there were hundreds more in the street clamoring to get in.

Of the speech itself, there is not the space nor the time at our disposal at present to treat it in any adequate manner. Besides a stenographic report will appear in the next number of the "Mouvement Socialiste" and it is to be hoped that some comrade will find the time to translate it into English in order that it may at once become apparent to those who have so much to say of the "influence of Bernstein on modern socialism" may see exactly what effect he has had.

Notwithstanding that he was evidently anxious to make as much of the writings of Bernstein as possible and in his anxiety so to do, went so far as to involve himself in what seemed to us as evident contradictions, yet in the end he declared himself to be with Kautsky upon every point at issue—on the class struggle, independent political action by the organized proletariat, the culmination of capitalism in an economic revolution, and finally in the materialistic interpretation of history, although it was on this last that it seemed to us that the reservations that he made in his allegiance to the theory were contradictory.

But as we intend to discuss this whole position later after having seen more of the alleged "new tendency" in socialism and after the speech itself has been published, it may be dispensed with at this time.

From Paris we went to Roubaix, in company with Jules Guesde to attend a congress of the Department of the North of the "Parti Ouvrier Français." Roubaix is a city of about 125,000 inhabitants situated in the same electoral district with Lille. Both Roubaix and Lille are controlled by the socialists. They are the center of great textile and metallurgical industries and hence have a large industrial proletariat. Nearly all the city officers are laborers—the mayor of Lille being a weaver. It is in these two cities that some of the very interesting municipal work is being done by the French socialists.

But the most important thing of which we wish to speak at this time is the Congress referred to above. When Roubaix was reached we found a large delegation of socialists waiting to welcome the incoming delegates, headed by a socialist band of about thirty pieces. A procession was formed and the line of march taken to the hall—a fine large building with cafe attached, belonging to one of the co-operative societies affiliated with the socialists. The interior of this hall is worthy of a little further description. It was fitted up in the simplest manner, with plain wooden tables and benches as befitting a militant worker's organization, but the walls had been tastefully decorated with appropriate fresco paintings and mottoes. Among the mottoes were noted the following: "When a government violates the rights of its citizens, insurrection becomes a most sacred duty." "Liberty is a treasure which is maintained only by using it," while the names of the socialist workers of the world were scattered over the walls.

There were about two hundred delegates present and it is safe to say that there were not more than two or three (if indeed there were any) who were not accustomed to earn their living by manual labor. Yet these men were mayors, municipal councillors, and departmental officials and had fulfilled their duties in these capacities so well, that it is a matter of record that many of the bourgeois, who have no sympathy whatever with socialism, will vote for the socialist municipal candidates because of the superior manner in which they conduct the details of administration.

Jules Guesde was unanimously elected to preside over the deliberations of the congress. This gave us an opportunity to see the man at work, who must be considered the foremost socialist of France. There may be, although we would scarcely know who they are, those who are greater orators, or more philosophic thinkers, but there are certainly none who combine, with these qualities, that sterling integrity of character, that intense sincerity of purpose with complete democracy of thought and action that for so many years have made Jules Guesde the incarnation of the militant proletariat of France. Imprisoned, ostracized, exiled, or the almost worshipped leader (in the best sense of that much abused word), he remains the same implacable foe of oppression, the friend of the oppressed. Unlike so many who have become prominent in the cause of labor it is never Guesde, but always his cause which is made prominent, or rather the ends so completely sunk in the other that in speaking the name of either, both are brought to mind.

The questions before the congress turned on the old old points of compromise, and there were not wanting those who wished to "follow the strange gods" that lead to "something right off." But it was noticeable that all such proposals were voted down by majorities of fully twenty to one. One important point was the management of their local daily, the editor having shown an inclination to tamper with radical and bourgeois politics. Undeterred in the least by the fact that such action might cost them their leading daily in France, the congress decided by an almost unanimous vote that the future policy of the paper must be in accord with the doctrines of international socialism, and based upon the class struggle, or it would no longer be considered as a party organ, and it was voted to give the General Committee of the party full charge of all matters concerning the party press.

It so happened that on the day that the congress met, the funeral of the son of the Mayor of Roubaix took place. As he with his father was a socialist, the funeral exercises were under the direction of the socialist organizations. It seemed as if the whole city had come to do him reverence. There were over 20,000 men in line in the procession, while thousands on thousands of people lined the route. Never was there a greater contrast than between this scene and that described in our former letter at the funeral of Lavroff. At the one all energies of the authorities were engaged in fomenting disorder and rendering themselves obnoxious to the bereaved friends. Here their only desire was to show their grief and respect, many of the police marching with the sorrowing socialist friends.

The result was that while at Roubaix the crowd was more numerous, and the facilities for handling it infinitely fewer, there was no disorder, no singing, no demonstrations, no unseemly struggles. There was only the long line, reaching for much over a mile, of sorrowing friends, with the red flag at the head, waving not in defiance of authority, but in token of the common blood of suffering labor.

It is scenes like this that are showing that today Paris is not only no longer France, but that it is not even the truest and best part of the French people. As one studies the socialist movement there, it seems as if a mighty pro-

letarian army were marching up from the provinces and the smaller cities, to capture this great central citadel of French capitalism. The real heart and soul of France has left the debauched and reactionary capital, and followed the development of industry into the great throbbing productive centers of the provinces.

This letter was begun in Lille: it is being finished in Brussels. We shall tell in our next, something of the system of feeding the school children in the municipal schools of Lille, and then of the wonderful movement here, of which we have barely had time as yet to catch the briefest glimpse. One of these glimpses was afforded by a note in the socialist daily to the effect that five new socialist papers were started in Belgium yesterday, and "it was not considered to be a very good day for starting socialist papers either."

Yours fraternally,
A. M. Simons,
May Wood Simons.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Glimpses of the World-wide Struggle of the Proletarian Army for Its Liberty.

AUSTRIA. The socialists in Vienna have sustained a heavy loss by the death of Therese Winarsky, who was an indefatigable exponent of her principles. She also was a good organizer and worked hard to improve the condition of women and children.

The anniversary of Giordano Bruno's death was celebrated by a lecture at the Vienna university, and there were also popular lectures in Vienna, in Munich, in Halle, in Berlin, and in Rome. In Austria translations of some of his shorter works appeared in various papers, some were passed by the censor and some were confiscated. In the socialist papers very interesting essays appeared.

BELGIUM. The state road workers of Nantes have decided to go out on a strike.

Several new socialist local newspapers are to appear in Belgium shortly.

The socialists have selected nine candidates to run at the election for the district round Brussels, and are fairly sanguine of getting most of them elected.

Seven hundred metal workers of the Metal Workers' union of L'Escaut, at Denain, are on strike. The puddlers asked for an increase of 50 centimes, and were refused. Every worker to a man went out.

The miners numbering 800 from the mines of M. Armand & Co. have handed in a list of grievances to the mine owners. M. Armand, the owner of the mines has refused to meet their committee. He at once locked them out.

There was a scene the other day in the Belgian chamber. The bill being discussed was one for the renewal of the charter of the Bank of Belgium, and the socialists brought forward amendments in order to make it really a national institution. Demblon was giving a list of deputies who were bank directors, etc., when one of the members of the Right called him a coward. This exasperated Demblon, who rushed at the interrupting member and slapped his face. For this he was suspended from the chamber for twenty days. The socialists have issued a manifesto giving full particulars of the directorships and emoluments received by the conservative members.

SPAIN. Some of the Barcelona anarchists who were imprisoned at Mafarinas are to be set at liberty.

SWITZERLAND. The local assembly of the Canton of Basel had adopted a bill organizing a system of insurance against out of work, but a referendum was demanded, and the bill has been thrown out by 4,438 votes to 1,198.

The socialists are running several candidates for election to the local assembly at Zurich.—London Justice.

HOLLAND. Many meetings are being held in favor of universal suffrage.

PORTUGAL. The fishermen of Setubal, 2,600 in number, have gone on strike. They want higher wages.

Three Republicans have been elected at Oporto to the Portuguese chamber.

GERMANY. Nearly 8,000 carpenters have gone on strike at Berlin for higher wages.

The Landtag in Bavaria has passed a bill for an eight hour day in the mines. In cases of need this may be exceeded provided not more than 104 hours more are made in a year. At Waldenburg, in Prussian Silesia, Prince Pleuss, the owner of some coal mines, has agreed to introduce the eight hour day from April 2.

Bebel has just been celebrating his sixtieth birthday. Long may he continue to fight the good fight with undiminished vigor. On the same day he spoke in the Reichstag when the army estimates were being discussed and drew attention to the tyranny exercised there, and yet some reformers in England think we ought all to be soldiers.

One of the deputies for Alsace has in the Reichstag called attention to the oppressive laws by which that country is governed, and has demanded their repeal. He was supported by members of all sides of the House, and the resolution was carried by a large majority. The socialists supported the motion. It must be remembered that as far back

as 1871 they condemned the annexation of Alsace and Lorraine and predicted the evil consequence of this step.

Berlin, Feb. 14.—The coal mine owners in the district of Zwickau have received from the representatives of the miners a list of grievances to be submitted to the committee of arbitration. The questions pertain to wages and other minor affairs. There was a general meeting of the miners and they declared a strike. The strikers number 12,000.

LABOR ITEMS.

Notes From Trades Union Journals and Exchanges, Throughout the United States.

(For further Labor Items see Foreign News.)

S. L. P. elected a councilman at McKeesport, Pa.

There will be a "socialist and economic section" at the Paris exposition.

San Francisco socialists are holding large meetings both in and out of doors.

Despite the jingoism aroused by the war, more socialists have been elected to municipal bodies in England.

Four thousand cigar-makers are on strike in Cairo, Egypt. Employers have formed a combine and refuse to yield.

A butchering machine has been invented by which 20 men can cut up 30,000 sheep and 100 cattle in 60 hours.

Trade unionists of South Omaha have placed a municipal ticket in the field under the name of the Independent Labor party.

Colorado unions are voting on the question whether or not to nominate a state ticket independent of the old parties this year.

The Jewish actors of New York won their strike. They were backed by the unions, the Socialist Labor party and Social Democratic party.

The traveling men's anti-trust league, with headquarters in New York, is reported as having about 12,000 members. The drummers fall to state just how they are going to smash the trusts.

San Francisco, St. Paul and Kansas City woodworkers' union have adopted resolutions declaring for socialism, and an attempt will be made to commit the national convention now in session.

Iron molders will have to compete with another machine. The new invention, with the assistance of three men, is said to do as much work as 60 mechanics can do.—Painters' Journal.

The first test has been made of a new ore unloading machine on the docks at Conneaut, O. Five machines will supplant, it is estimated, about 1,000 laborers, each machine doing the work of 250 men.

A republican club of Topeka, Kan., is split. One of its leading members has become an avowed advocate of socialism. The plutes want to throw him out, and his friends are showing fight, and now there's shool to pay.

Philadelphia painters' union, which has 500 members, has taken up the discussion of socialism.—New York printers' socialist club is growing in numbers and influence.—Boot and shoeworkers of Massachusetts are also falling in line.

Painters' union of Chicago, which has a membership of \$50, did a sensible act. It decided to subscribe for Wayland's Appeal to Reason and the Chicago Workers' Call, two socialist papers, in a body. The painters are suddenly leaping forward as progressive people.

The old party councilmen in Haverhill, Mass., voted to reduce wages of city laborers from \$2.00 to \$1.80 a day. The Social Democrats fought them hard, and they made the point that the capitalist councilmen are keeping their pre-election promise, viz., to run the city's business as they would their own. In other words, to reduce wages whenever they have the power.

The "Industrial Union," the new scab organization in the Coeur d'Alenees loses no opportunity to prove its loyalty to conservative, law-abiding labor organizations. The Mullin branch of the "union" recently gave a smoker, and, according to their official organ, were very careful to see that the cigars provided did not bear the blue label. And the boldest liar in the Steuenerberg crowd has never accused the Cigarmakers' union of being "dynamiters." Those poor dupes in the Coeur d'Alenees seem determined to ostracize themselves from their fellow-workers, that the mine owners may tighten the screws upon them without hindrance.

Never in the political history of this state, have things been so mixed and uncertain as they are this year. On my journey over here from Spokane I stopped at every point of importance along the way, I find the Democrats are very active, all kinds of plans being laid to disrupt the People's party or swallow them. I find considerable opposition to it, but the opponents lack organization, and the traitors within the lines of the People's party are the worst enemies they have. They are the hardest to watch; they pass as Pope but act as the Democrats want them to. The Socialists are very active and boast of being able to control more than the balance of power between the fusion and the Republican parties, and they are doing great propaganda work by personal agitation and the distribution of literature. It is Snobomish, the pioneer Populist stronghold of the state, they are exceedingly strong, coming within 30 votes of electing their mayor a few months ago.

In Seattle the Socialist Labor party

and the Social Democrats both have tickets in the field; they are holding street corner meetings every night, and meetings in their halls two and three times a week; and they will poll a vote which will surprise the old politicians. A great many of the leaders in the labor unions are, with a large following, going to the Social Democratic party. Their entire ticket is made up with members of union labor and old-time Populists. The Socialist Labor party has antagonized some of the union men by organizing Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance in opposition to the old-line unions. I think the Social Democrats will outvote the Socialist Labor party. A large number of influential populists, such as Judge J. P. Fay, Judge Windsor, Dr. Titus and others, objected to fusion under the Democratic name and are now supporting the Socialist Democrats.

Freeman's Labor Journal.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Comrade Klenke speaks before the German Tailors' union last Tuesday on Socialism.

Comrade Summerville will speak before the Twenty-fourth Ward club next Sunday at 3 p. m., at 53 N. Clark street, room 103.

Comrade Collins will speak at 193 E. Chicago avenue, under the auspices of the Third Ward club at 3 p. m., Sunday, March 18th.

All socialists interested in organizing a Fifteenth Ward club will please communicate with Comrade Klenke, 295 Emerson avenue.

The Fifth Ward club will hold a public meeting Sunday, March 18th, at 2139 Wentworth avenue, at 8 p. m. Comrade Almbiad will speak.

The Thirtieth Ward club will hold a meeting Sunday, March 18th, at 3 p. m., in the corner of Robey and Chicago avenues, where Comrade Morgan will speak.

The Fourteenth Ward club will hold a meeting at Stoenhorst's hall, corner Ashland and Milwaukee avenues, next Sunday at 3 p. m. Comrade Levinson will speak.

The Twenty-seventh Ward Workingmen's Educational club will hold a meeting at Dreyer's hall, corner of Kimball and Cullum avenues, Sunday, March 18th, at 3 p. m. Every socialist should attend. Comrade Klenke will speak.

Comrade Collins spoke on Saturday, March 16th at the Bakers' union, No. 62 Townsend and Lake street. The speaker talked vigorously for over forty minutes, and his remarks were well received. The audience numbered over one hundred.

The Thirty-third Ward branch holds public meetings at Nelson Morris hall every Saturday evening. At the last meeting an address was given by Comrade Theo. J. Morgan on the subject "A Socialist's View of Competition." An interesting discussion followed. On March 17 Comrade Saunders will speak on "Strikes and Lockouts." The branch has arranged for special campaign meetings in different parts of the ward.

The Central Committee of Section Chicago held its regular meeting Tuesday, March 6th. Comrade Kadis, of the newly organized branch of the Sixth Ward, was seated as delegate. Ten new members were admitted. The organizer reported having in course of organization several new branches; also asks for volunteers to distribute 5,000 cards at the Beer meeting, which is to be held at the Auditorium. Several resolutions were voted to distribute the same.

A discussion took place on Saturday, the 4th inst., at 7th inst., on the subject of the National Made Contract Goods, which although prohibited by the state constitution, are engaged by the attention of the National Coopers' Association, who have a material grievance in the competition of such goods. Mr. Wm. League addressed the meeting and examined into the merits of his bill now before the United States Congress, which demands that all such goods be marked, in the hope that this will deter their sale. Mr. League will speak on this subject again on Saturday, the 17th inst. at the same place. Everybody invited.

The organizer of the Socialists' Labor party in Chicago will also attend, and show the socialist aspect and meaning of this affair. The bill was introduced in Congress five years ago and doesn't seem to have got much farther since. Comrade Klenke will call the attention of those present to the real reason for this, and will casually show up something of the competitive system, and the power of cheapness. We hope the meeting will be well attended, for there is much useful information dispensed wherever socialists are concerned. The Workers' Call will in its next issue give some account of the proceedings with appropriate comment thereon.

A meeting was held on Sunday, March 11th at Lindquist's hall, 61st and Morgan streets, under the auspices of the combined socialists of the Town of Lake. Comrade Hitch and Berlin were the speakers of the evening and pointed out clearly and concisely the material interests of the working class, and the only method of expressing those material interests at the coming election. There were several old party politicians present, but as usual their batteries were silenced under the heavy fire of socialist logic with which the speakers assailed the capitalist knaves. The workingmen of the town of Lake will yet swing into line for socialism despite the siren song of the "good man" capitalist candidates.

The following notice has been exhibited in the halls and other places where the striking machinists meet to discuss the present troubles:

"We claim it to be to the best interests of the Association that the brothers remain firm in making political speeches in the halls intended exclusively for the use of the strikers. This also applies to the sale of political literature.

By order of the Executive Board, District No. 8."

This notice does not represent the sentiment of the rank and file of the members of the Machinists Union. It is but a trick of a few busybodies to stop Comrade Collins from talking socialism, but it will all come out in the washing. There will be more comment on this matter later on.

The following agitation meetings will be held Sunday, March 18th: 299 Wentworth avenue, 3 p. m., speaker H. Almbiad. Schoenhofen's hall, Ashland and Milwaukee avenues, 3 p. m., speaker B. LeVing. 193 E. Chicago avenue, 3 p. m., speaker John Collins. 65 N. Clark street; speaker A. A. Summerville, 2 p. m. Siegel's hall, 62d and Loomis streets, 8

p. m.; speakers J. Wanhope, M. Becker and J. W. Sanders. Pauly's hall, 49th street and Western avenue, 3 p. m.; speaker R. A. Morris and others. Union hall, corner Blue Island avenue and 14th street, 2:30 p. m.; speaker, P. Sissman and others.

The weekly meetings being held by the Thirty-fourth Ward, S. L. P., at the Social hall, corner of 113th street and Michigan avenue, are being well attended and much interesting discussion takes place. Comrade Morris, who was the speaker on Sunday, March 11th, addressed a fair-sized audience and was attentively listened to. A question was asked by a member of the audience as to the reason why he should not vote for one of the capitalist candidates for alderman, this person being a store-keeper who had given credit to workmen in the strike of '94. There seemed to be some idea on the part of the questioner that in voting for this candidate gratitude for past services should be the main reason for such action. The speaker showed that this particular person like all other capitalist candidates stood for the perpetuation of the system under which the workers were compelled to ask credit in order to live, for the same reason that they were compelled to ask the permission of individuals for the leave to work. That nothing but the establishment of some other conditions, and that to vote for such change is the highest interest of all workers irrespective of the "good" or "charitable" deeds of individuals or persons. The answer was well received and appeared convincing to the majority of the audience. A collector amounting to \$2 was taken up, also \$2.40 in subscriptions to The Workers' Call. Comrade Klenke will be the next speaker in the same hall on the 25th of March, at 3 p. m. Everybody is invited. Discussion as usual, free.

The Chicago Association of Machinists manufacturers have issued a manifesto declaring that they have dropped all negotiations with the International Association of Machinists and will have no further dealings with them. That all reports to the contrary are false and misleading. They wish to deal individually with their workmen, which shows that they fully understand the weakness of the individual and the strength that lies in union. The capitalist class always exhibit amongst themselves those qualities and instincts which they detest in the strikers. The machinists, it is to be hoped, will not be foolish enough to make this unconditional surrender required by their economic masters. A little more of this sort of thing, and the masters will teach their slaves the use of that valuable weapon the ballot, which intelligently used will make those conditions a thing of the past.

Suppose the individual workman goes into the office of the boss to ask for the eight-hour day, he will be asked to take a chair, until his master has time to summon the patrol wagon. But such a demand from an organized body is another matter altogether and requires considerable attention. Better still, a demand from the whole working class at the ballot box, for the collective ownership of the means of production, would put the boss and his objections completely out of court.

Fellow Trades Unionists:—I wish to call your attention to a resolution that was passed eight months ago in the Federation of Labor, asking the city council to pass an ordinance to stop sending policemen to any shop or factory in time of a strike. This resolution passed at a time when the government helped the mine owners in Idaho to arrest three to four hundred union miners, and send them to the "Bull Pen," but the coercion and torture of unionists in that place was soon forgotten by the leading lights of the Chicago Federation, and this resolution died in the hands of the leaders of that great institution. I know it would come in contact with some of those political jobs, consequently it would not be policy to shove such a resolution as that, so they came to the conclusion that they would kill it, and they did so. Now, fellow trades unionists, you remember when the piano manufacturers wanted to operate their factories under police protection one of those leading lights asked that a committee be appointed to see the Mayor, not to have police sent there, but they were there all right—to protect—you well know what. The leading light that asked for this committee to be sent to the Mayor was one of the men that opposed the same old resolution. Yet he is so sure that it was only propaganda for socialists, but I noticed when the piano manufacturers wanted to open up their factories that this identical leader wanted to use the same socialist propaganda, but the authorities said "No, my dear friend, we have got to look after the interests of the public." Fellow trades unionists, where are the policemen now? Don't you find them at the machine shops protecting the scabs while this strike is going on? Now, brothers, you kick because you see a policeman at the shop you used to work in, but remember, fellow union men, that it is not the fault of the policeman, it is only a wage slave the same as yourselves, but you forget the fact that you and your class are the ones that voted into office the capitalist parties, thereby giving the master class the power which swings the policemen's clubs on your heads. As for the socialist propaganda, a word to the wise is enough.

John Collins, machinist.

THE DECIDING FACTOR.

How Self-interest Holds the Balance in Deciding Questions of "Justice and Morality."

In our attempt to solve social problems by the guidance of morality, by our conceptions of right and wrong, we very often find ourselves in a ridiculously inconsistent position. This is no doubt, due to the fact that our morals are not independent of our material interests—that our interests dictate to us our morals. A glance at a few historical events will prove, that we always did, consciously or unconsciously, follow the dictates of our selfish interests, and we have accepted such conceptions of morality as have suited our interests.

Let us take the slavery question in the United States, less than half a century ago. We are confronted with the following phenomenon:—the almost unanimous approval of chattel slavery by the agricultural Southern population, and the severe condemnation of it, by the people of the industrial North. Were the Northerners such a liberty-loving people, or their morals so highly developed, that they were ready to sacrifice life and property, to abolish a institution for which their Southern brethren were equally ready to sacrifice their lives for its maintenance? Let us look at another phase of the same question,

as it presented itself at that time, and we may find an answer to this question. The right and sovereignty of the state, was the battle cry of the slavery-approving Southern; and was denied by the liberty-loving Northerner. Now, to be true to ourselves, and laying aside all the phrases about the perpetuation of the union, etc., the sovereignty of the state, the principle of home rule extended, should be the cardinal principle of a people who have declared: "Government exists by the consent of the governed." To everyone who seeks the truth, regardless of consequences, it is clear, that behind the professed motives of the Southern as well as of the Northern people, there were the dominating forces of personal interests.

With these historical facts before us, and the truth they teach as our guide, let us look at the Boer-English controversy, by observing some of those who take such prominent part, on either side (of course at a safe distance). It is an open secret, that many of our statesmen who uphold the President in his policy of slaughtering the Philippines into submitting to a foreign domination, are strongly opposed to, and denounce the greedy English who, they declare, "are attempting to destroy a sister republic for Mammon's sake." On the other hand, there are some of those who denounce in bitter terms the "murderous un-American policy" of the present administration, in the Philippine Islands, yet hope that "progressive England will triumph over reactionary Transvaal." If we look at the general public feeling, we will find the same apparent inconsistency. Let us take a few notable examples:

If the public press does in any degree of accuracy indicate public sentiment, we will find the following phenomenon: that with but few exceptions, our fellow citizens of Irish birth or descent, are outspoken in favor of the Boers, while our Jewish speaking neighbors are in sympathy with the English. We will also find, upon investigation, that the arguments of the Irish pro-Boer as well as of the Jewish pro-English, are along the line of abstract theory of right and wrong. It will hardly do to explain it, as some do, that the Irish being an oppressed people naturally sympathize with the weaker nation, without having any selfish motive in it; for there is hardly another people more oppressed than the Jews, who, as a rule, extend their sympathy to every other oppressed people. Our idealists who think this world is led by abstract conceptions of right and wrong, will look with amazement and a feeling of disgust, at this apparent inconsistency, and are sure to exclaim, "consistency, thou art a jewel!"

But not so with him or her, who reads history in its true light, who are not satisfied with merely memorizing historic events, but have sought the causes for them; for well they know, that our selfish interests always have been the mainspring of all our actions, and that we formed our decisions as to what is right and wrong afterwards. They will, upon investigation, find the cause for the apparent inconsistent position of those who take issue on this question, by weapons of pen or oratory, to be the same as of those who are discussing this issue at the cannon's mouth in their material interests, real or imaginary. Those who are not blinded by prejudices, or misled by a hypocritical press, pulpit and rostrum, will see behind the Bible quotations of Kruger, and the flag-waving of the English, birth, and money, aristocracy, the lust for wealth, the struggle for gold; and will denounce this and all other brute massacre of the masses, for the benefit of a few money lords.

However, it would be an evasion of the question, to whom shall we extend our sympathy, by condemning war in general or this one in particular? We must recognize the fact, that we shall never be able to abolish war, by mere condemnation of it; and that until war is abolished, we must extend our sympathy to those who are least at fault for bringing it about, and thereby discourage, as far as possible, nations from plunging into war, through the zeal of Aroopagus worshippers. Let not the cry of progressive England versus reactionary Transvaal, nor that of Monarchy versus Republic obscure the issue, and blind us to the facts that lay the blame of aggressor to the English, and at their door shall we lay the terrible crime for this bloody war, at the threshold of the twentieth century.

Our sympathy belongs to the Boers. Let us extend it.

S. I.

STRIKE NOTES IN EUROPE.

Economic Struggle Shows Same Features As in the United States.

The strike is still on at Carmaux. No one has returned to work. The prefect of the police was here this morning and reported everything absolutely quiet.

The strikers had a meeting at 10 o'clock and passed a resolution of thanks to Jaures, Viviani, Millerand and Gerault-Richard.

The bosses had given out that there were 1,200 miners ready to go back to work, but at a meeting held by the latter it was decided to continue on strike.

At a meeting at 2 o'clock, Roche said that the Paris comrades were busy trying to bring the strike to an end.

By a question asked at the meeting it was given out that the strikers were very quiet and gave no opportunity for provocation.

It was decided to get out a protest against the assertion of the bosses. All of the strikers, joined by the women and children marched down the street singing the "International." At the head of the procession they carried a placard which read: "How faith-

fully we will reckon with our good friends." There was great enthusiasm but no trouble. This manifestation occupied nearly fourteen hours.

The textile weavers of St. Etienne have returned to work. They began on Monday morning. Only a part of them are at their benches.

A great deal of repairs must be done in the mills. The most of the machines need cleaning and repairing after eight weeks of inactivity.

The general committee of the workers have addressed a letter to the mill owners asking them to hasten the repairs so as to let all the operatives get at their work as soon as possible.

It is reported, however, that in the mill of Giron the workers have been locked out.

The situation of the striking miners at Perrey is just the same. The attempts of the mine owners to create dissension among the ranks of the workmen has brought them closer together, and they have decided not to go back to work until all go back at once, and then not until they have complete satisfaction.

Citizen Tetry, who was arrested January 2, has been let out and is here now at Charolles. Citizen Laporte was also a victim of his devotion to the cause. M. Plaindoux, the judge of instructions in that district, ordered the citizen to be kept in jail until the strike was over, but that did not stop the strike.

The mine workers of Perrey had a general meeting at Barbier's hall Monday at 4 o'clock.

They voted unanimously to continue the strike, and closed the meeting with cries: "On with the strike!" "Long live the Socialist Revolution!"

The strike committee and the committee of socialists gave sincere thanks to the militant workers who sent papers, books, and came to address their meetings.

The tobacco workers and cigarette makers at Lille held a meeting at which 800 were present, and decided to look into the condition caused by the partial strike that is now on, and unanimously voted as follows:

1. That in case the masters do not respond promptly to the claims of the cigarette makers that are now on strike, that a general strike shall be called at once.

2. That a committee of the strikers shall submit the list of grievances to the capitalists and that the strike shall continue until they are agreed to.

3. That work shall cease tomorrow morning if a satisfactory answer is not received.

The strike of the miners at Finesses-Roches continues. The company refused to submit to the committee on arbitration its side of the question.

At the meeting held last Monday at Dam's the delegation from the miners composed of citizens Moche, Elchell, Baudin, Mailhrie and Joseph, met the representatives of the company, who were Messrs. Lescot and Laforet.

Comrade Moche, in the name of the miners' union, demanded that two "scabs" be at once discharged, which was now their only complaint, and in their place take back the two union miners, Fichelle and Lombrecht; "we wish," continues Moche, "to submit this proposition to the committee of arbitration. But after all if the company will take back all the workers and will not discharge anyone for what part they took in this strike we are willing to cease our demands for the discharge of the two 'scabs'."

The representatives of the company then replied that the miners had not yet given good reason why those two men should be sent away, and for that as well as other reasons the mine owners reserve the right to hire any man and send away, or rather, discharge, any other man.

In the fact of the absolute refusal of the company representatives to meet the miners cordially and properly, another meeting was held and the strikers voted to stay out until they compelled the mine owners to accept their proposals. A large subscription of the striking miners was raised.

At Carmaux in France, the chief of police came to town and declared that all miners who cared to go back to work would receive police protection. One hundred and thirty-seven scabs have in consequence gone to work. These 137 went to work between a double file of police guards facing a large crowd of miners who viewed them with contempt.

The strikers numbering 2,500 stood facing them, and sang the "International" as these scabs marched to work. The strikers are as firm in their demands as ever, and will stay out until the company will agree to their demands.

The strike at Martinique is still on. These few lines from a correspondent to "La Petite Republique" will tell the tale.

When the miserable country workmen are lucky enough to gain 2 francs per week, after very hard work, in different enterprises; for instance at canal digging, or at any other kind of work, the contractors and superintendents always find a particular way of treating the men contemptibly, and to finish, they contrive and scheme to retain by fines and other devilish ways, to keep these men to work at starvation wages.

This dreadful contest winds up with a man hunt, which is called "bringing in the recalcitrants." This is the capitalist manner of dealing with those workers who protest against fines and retained wages.

Therefore the poor wretches of workmen are forced to submit or give up

Socialist Labor Party of the United States.

PLATFORM.

The Socialist Labor party of the United States, in Convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of international socialism and declares the supreme political issue in America today to be the contest between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government. We affirm our steadfast purpose to use those powers, once achieved, to destroy wage slavery; abolish the institution of private property in the means of production and distribution, and to establish the Co-operative Commonwealth.

In the United States, as in all other civilized countries, the natural order of economic development has separated society into two antagonistic classes—the capitalists, a comparatively small class, the possessors of all the modern means of production and distribution, (land, mines, machinery and means of transportation) and the large and ever-increasing class of wage earners, possessing no means of production.

This economic supremacy has secured to the dominant class the full control of the government, the pulpit, the schools, and the public press, thereby making them the arbiters of the fate of the working class, while it is reducing it to a condition of dependence, economically exploited and oppressed, intellectually and physically crippled and degraded, and its political equality rendered a bitter mockery; and the contest between these two classes grows ever sharper. Hand in hand with the growth of monopolies, goes the annihilation of small industries and the middle class depending upon them. Ever larger grows the multitude of destitute wage workers and of the unemployed, and ever fiercer the struggle between the class of the exploiter and the exploited, the capitalists and the wage workers.

The evil effects of capitalistic production are intensified by the recurring industrial crises, continually rendering the existence of the greater part of the population more precarious and uncertain, which amply proves that the modern means of production have outgrown the existing social order based on production for profit.

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their homes and gardens. If they go to law and demand a fair trial and time allowed them in such cases according to law; if they ask these capitalists to wait only until the garden of vegetables are ripe, they are refused the extension of time. Thus they are obliged to seek a pittance at the hand of their masters. And they can no longer watch their homes, and all the animals, on account of the meanness of their masters, stray from the homes of these peasant workmen. If they appeal to the judge it needs money to get out, write, and where shall they get money from?

The bailiff or sheriff, for getting out writs demands 15 francs, and then they must reckon with the lying witnesses of the capitalist. And they have arrayed against them the citizens of law, order and "justice." I could recite here this moment over twenty of such cases, all telling the tale of terrible exploitation of these peasant workmen.

So terrible is the condition of these workmen. What can you expect of a half peasant, half industrial slave? A factory system half factory and half peasant. It is the scene of capitalist exploitation. The wages vary from 50 centimes to 1 franc and 25 centimes—"La Petite Republique."

We are always anxious to obtain names to which to send sample copies. Do not be afraid of sending too large a list if they are persons whom you have reason to think would be interested. A good way to do this is to send us a large list and then a week or so afterward see the people whose names are sent and ask them to subscribe. Always remember that in adding to the subscription list of party papers you are doing as good propaganda work not only for your own section but for the whole country as can be done.

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