

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. 64.

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 26, 1900.

PRICE TWO CENTS

THE MODERN DEITY

A Sermon Extracted From a Text by a Wall Street Evangelist.

TRIPLE TRUTHS EXPOUNDED.

How the Great God "Money" Graciously Condescends to Represent the "Efforts of Men."

You will find our text in the Gospel, according to Henry Clews, the first chapter and the twenty-third verse:

"Money represents the efforts of men. If one has a million dollars, he can for a day control a force equal to a million men. Every dollar one saves gives him practical control of the services of the man for one day."

Following the example of eminent practical expounders, let us say, first of all, that while the authorship of some of the other gospels, notably those of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, are in question, the authenticity of this is undoubted, and the authority of the writer vouches for by all the tests of Wall Street and the stock exchange. There was a time several generations ago, when to doubt, for instance, the gospel of Matthew, was a punishable by death. This has changed. In the men that they believe their fellowmen have yielded. It is no longer incumbent upon the "ruled" to bow the knee in blind reverence to earlier saints, a little "higher criticism" even is tolerated. But the later authorities, speaking by more direct inspiration, as it were, and more to the point, must still be worshipped, and woe be to the man who questions them. He is a "socialist" and an anarchist, a disturber of the peace, and he will go to jail, especially if he speaks his convictions upon the street corners.

We will now pass to our second head and take up the consideration of the text itself. It is one of the most beautiful passages in this marvelous chapter. It is also penetrating. It abounds in high ethical and moral truths. The text naturally falls into three divisions, as follows:

- (a) A great truth.
- (b) A great example.
- (c) A great counsel.

Let us take them up in their order. Firstly, A great truth. "Money represents the efforts of men." This is one of the most sublime truths ever uttered. It is so recognized by all the saints we reverence. Think of it—Money! Money! Money! the God of our lives, condescending to represent the "efforts of men."

Ah! but do not hastily judge this a blasphemy. Nay! nay! Rather inquire, "What men?" and then the mystery is laid bare, and the beauty and simplicity of the divine plan, made known. Turn to the account of the creation contained in the second chapter of the Sideral Steel Co.'s charter, the second verse, "And on the sixth day created He man—capitalist and workman created He them. And the capitalist set He over all the other snakes and creeping things and the fishes in the sea and the birds of the air, and the fowls, yea, over all the beasts of the field, and the workingman AND ALL OTHER MACHINES. If it were not so I would have told you."

Ah! now the glorious light begins to break. Now the meaning of our text is beginning to be made plain. "Money"—our God, our merciful God—could not bring his august majesty down so low as to represent the "efforts" of that inferior race of men whom in His sacred word, He has classed with machines, the workingmen. Far from it, away with the blasphemous thought! It is only through the intercession of the capitalist that "Money" stays with us and condescends to be our God. And thus is the scripture fulfilled which says: "Lo, I will not leave you desolate. I will send an intermediary unto you."

And this is the hope of the world. This is the truth to which men cling. The poor workingman, sodden and despairing, awakes to the light of life in this hope, is spurred on to ever increasing labor by the joy of knowing that through the mediation of the capitalist his toil will be turned into "money." Without this hope his toil would cease, he would become a clod once more. Without the patient—and oh, how patient they are—intercession of the capitalists, who make the crude "efforts" of these workingmen acceptable in the sight of "Money," the world would be abandoned by this great God and become a howling wilderness.

Secondly, A great example. "If one has a million dollars, he can for a day control a force equal to a million men." "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory."

This part of the text is so plain as scarcely to need elucidation. So beneficently has "money" ruled the world that for one of these dollar pieces representing His august sovereignty, men, that is workingmen, will toil through one long day, and, ah, here is a glorious truth, here is the truth upon which

A PHANTOM JUDGE

Why the "Public" Is put Forward as Arbitrator in Labor Wars.

TO HIDE THE CLASS STRUGGLE

The Spread of Socialism Will Abolish This Bogy, as It Already Has in Some European Lands.

One of the most effective methods by which the ruling classes seek to prevent an understanding upon the part of the majority of the nature and structure of present society, is the continued assertion of unity of the interests of all, an assertion, which in spite of the fact that it is absolutely contradicted by almost every action on the part of groups and individuals in our economic life, still serves to a large extent to blind and confuse the majority of the population, who hearing this falsehood repeated continuously through press, pulpit and public platform, have accepted it, partially because of its persistence, and in part no doubt because it saves the trouble of original thinking.

Take up any newspaper, listen to the utterances of any prominent political speaker, and note the number of such references as the following: "The welfare of the community demands, etc.," "the great public has the right to decide between these conflicting elements," "the American people will never give up," "will insist upon," "will repudiate," "denounce," "demand a reckoning," etc., etc., ad infinitum. In order to conceal the fact that our present society is in reality a conflicting mass of discordant elements composed of class, groups and individuals, each continuously fighting in their own manner for the furtherance of the interests of such class, group, or individual, an unreal abstraction generally labeled the "people," the "public," or the "community," is pressed into service and made to appear as the deciding factor in determining disputes of considerable size, (such for instance as the present strike), which otherwise might in their progress uncover and expose the very thing which the capitalist class most wish to conceal—the fact of the existence of a CLASS STRUGGLE.

More especially in periods marked by great conflicts between the working and capitalist classes, is this bogy called upon to adjudicate the differences between the combatants. The "public" is represented as a mighty power standing altogether outside the conflict, and therefore particularly qualified to judge impartially between the combatants. The "public" again is represented as being annoyed or inconvenienced by the struggle to investigate and discover upon which side lies the responsibility of having provoked hostilities, and by its verdict condemn the guilty, make the necessary adjustments and see to it that harmony is once more restored.

Every material interest of class, group, or individual, that is conditioned upon the continued existence of capitalist society, steps into the field with the assertion that its maintenance or adoption is irrevocably bound up with the welfare of the "community," the "public," the "people," etc. The "business" man assumes that "business interests" are the paramount interests of the "public," Carnegie and Rockefeller or their hired spokesmen, assert that the trust exists principally for the "welfare of the community," the proprietors of department stores lay great stress upon the fact that their machines of distribution are far superior to the more antiquated ones, and that the "public" reap by far the most benefit from them, and in labor troubles of considerable magnitude, both disputants invariably insist that the "public" is deeply concerned in seeing that their respective demands are granted.

All of which illustrations prove only that the "public" represents in the minds of those who make their appeals to it, merely the desire to persuade others that the interests of the individual or group making the plea, are or ought to be the interests of everybody. This is so palpably untrue under the present capitalist system, that it must of necessity depend for its persistence upon ever repeated assertions alone, as the slightest examination is sufficient to prove its complete falsity.

In one or two European countries where the revolting working class has attained a position where it must be recognized as a distinct political factor, this farce of appealing to a hypothetical "public" is almost given up, because of the fact that it deceives nobody. When the workers understand and proclaim their distinct interests as a class, the capitalist classes find that there is no object in keeping up the deception, and as a consequence the "public" as a deciding tribunal between worker and employer, disappears. Both understand that the situation is a phase of a great class struggle, a fact whose concealment serves no purpose. If asked, for

There are none so poor they cannot send in one club of ten.

Among the leading socialist agitators and hard workers for socialism in Chicago, whose work during the last few weeks deserves special mention, are the grand jury, the police, "starve 'em out Cratty," the police justices, and last but not least, his Honor Mayor Harrison. Some of the members of the S. L. P. are also doing pretty fair work, but they are not in a position to hit as hard blows as the first mentioned gentlemen.

There are none so poor they cannot send in one club of ten.

(Continued on page 4.)

THINGS AS THEY ARE

The Present Status of the Labor Struggle in Chicago.

GOOD SOCIALIST AGITATION.

The New Grand Jury and Its Composition—Solidarity of Labor Increases Despite Capitalist Lies.

Still the Chicago newspapers send out the same old headlines, "Strike Situation Unchanged!" But those who know that nothing remains unchanged, and least of all a struggle, realize that as a matter of fact there is constant change in the nature of continuous progress along certain lines rather than a change of direction. So it is that every day that passes sees the class lines drawn clearer. That mythical independent third party, "the public," is steadily being resolved into its component elements, the capitalists and the laborers. This week the little property owners have been writing letters to the press complaining of the "tyranny of unions." J. V. Farwell the main founder of the Y. M. C. A. and a notorious clothing sweater, contributed his mite to the controversy by taking a few flings at the boss man of the capitalist, the "walking delegate." In addition to this the real estate men held a dinner to discuss the situation and one Thos. Cratty showed which side of the "public" he was on by saying:

"The labor unions today are the worst tyrants in the city of Chicago. The only way to settle the trouble is to starve the union men out. The situation is a critical one, and is resolving itself into a fight for bread and butter."

This statement was generally felt by the capitalists as a case of "giving things away" and hence all the capitalist press immediately declared that it was "too brutal." As if all strikes were not fought out exactly upon that principle.

On the 21st inst. the grand jury met and the laborers were prepared to present their grievances, foolishly thinking that because the previous grand jury had indicted some laborers, the present one would show its impartiality by doing the same to a few contractors who were guilty of much greater infractions of law. But they were destined to have one more proof of the fact that they are living under a class government. The grand jury was composed of three manufacturers, seven small business men, two clerks, two bookkeepers, one banker, one insurance agent, one "professor," one "manager," one jeweler, one "credit man," one "manufacturer's agent" and ONE LABORER, or at least there was one whose occupation was given as an "employee" and so perhaps may belong in the wage earning class. To be sure the clerks, bookkeepers, etc., also belonged in that class if they had brains enough to know it, but the most of them are particularly proud of the fact that their masters allow them to "thank God that they are not as those other laborers," while they are being exploited and so always can be counted on the capitalist side. So this portion of the "public" quickly showed where it belonged, and up to the present writing have carefully shelved all inquiries that might tend to throw discredit on the contractors.

Meantime the press has been very active in spreading lies to the effect that the unions were on the point of breaking their mutual agreements and settling with the contractors separately. Both the capitalists and the political members of the unions are still engaged in trying to block the efforts at an impartial inquiry along the lines laid down in these columns last week. However there is still a good prospect that it will be brought to a conclusion and something of the truth brought to light.

As was the case during the previous week the same process that is obliterating all lines of distinction within the capitalist ranks is also increasing the solidarity of labor. There are no signs of any disaffection at any point, the system of strike benefits being continued on a scale sufficient to meet all demands and the unions of the country are continually coming to the assistance of the strikers. Perhaps the most significant movement of the past week was the decision of the United Mine Workers of America to lend their assistance: This will mean a continual and substantial aid as long as the strike shall continue.

A large number of the strikers have left the city for other places where they can find work and the "leeches" are howling because their profits are falling off. When the whole thing is over it will be found that a lot of these little fish will have been eaten up by the department stores because the latter were the better stayers. So that the process of concentration is being furthered just the same in stormy times as under prosperity.

Another result of the present trouble is shown by the reports brought in by

the socialist speakers. Everywhere they say that the workers are more willing to listen to the truths of socialism than ever before. Indeed every day that passes brings the socialist position more and more into view. It is pretty hard to deny the fact of the class struggle when the boss, the grand jury, the press and the police are all thumping it into you every day, and thousands of the Chicago workers are waking up to the fact that their only hope lies with the socialists.

NOT JUST YET, MR. CRATTY.

The "Starve 'em Out" Proposition Brings Into Evidence the Solidarity of the Workers.

SOCIALIST POINTERS

Too often the friend of labor is a friend for what there is in it.

Too often the friend of labor is a friend for what there is in it.

Oom Paul will be forgiven for killing British soldiers, but for blowing up the gold mines, never.

People who intend to vote for Bryan as a step towards socialism evidently want to get there under false pretences.

The present trouble in the party is hardly a ripple on the ocean of international socialism. Don't worry about it.

The increase of pawnbroking establishments in Chicago is another evidence of prosperity of Mark Hanna's kind.

Under a system based on equity and justice the producers would certainly get as many of the good things as the idlers.

People who do not work at all are beginning to get very much excited because the laboring men have been idle so long.

The way to bring about a peaceful revolution in Chicago is to place The Workers' Call in the hands of every laboring man.

Of course someone must do the most objectionable grades of work but how would it do to let the other fellows do it for a while?

This has been so prosperous a year for trusts that they will probably contribute to the campaign funds of both the old parties.

Do the Boers think it would be right for us to interfere when we are doing the same thing to a defenseless people in the Philippines?

In their endeavor to starve the laboring men into submission the contractors may only starve them into voting for their own interests.

A SHOTGUN REGIME.

Same Old Story Repeated in St. Louis—Capitalists Use Public Power in Their Own Interests.

The striking street car workers of St. Louis have issued a statement appealing for aid to the union men of the country, in which they point how the contract which they had with the employers was repeatedly broken by the latter until they were forced to strike in self defence.

Here too there has been the same old story of the employing class calling in their government to enforce their demands. The injunction has been brought into action and the interference of the federal government invoked to "protect the United States mails." The police have been armed with shot guns and ordered to use them. As might be expected several persons have been shot.

It would seem as if the street car workers of St. Louis might also be brought soon to see who constitutes the government under which they are living, and be able to realize that so long as the other fellow determines the conditions of the fight he is sure to win. Is it not time that they united with the socialists into a party of their own class and elected judges who would enjoin, and police who would club the fellow who exploits, instead of the one who is exploited?

Stripping Off the Mask.

Still the process of whipping Carter Harrison into line goes on. The last vestiges of his friendship for labor are being wiped out. This week there was another "shaking up" of the police to be sure that no favors are shown to the union men. Then it was announced that no distinction would be made as to union or non-union in the appointment of building inspectors. That is, the men who have fought to maintain a high standard of living in their trade and have supported their union faithfully to secure that standard, will be compelled to practically work under the supervision of a man whose every effort has been to destroy that union and lower that wage.

If the events of the last few weeks have convinced you that the press of Chicago is against the workers, don't you think it would be good policy to support those papers which stand for the interests of the workers as a class—papers like the one you are now reading, for example?

That "real estate" philanthropist who proposed that the strikers should be "starved out" had no intention of applying to the courts for an injunction against eating. His class have but to hold on, and the desired result is attained.

Hundreds of workingmen have been obliged to leave their homes and families to seek employment elsewhere, on account of the present lockout. Query: What broke up those homes and families?—Capitalism or Socialism—which?

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Editorial Announcements: To secure the return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed.

Contributions and items of news concerning the labor movement are requested from our readers.

Experience Teaches: The lessons which the workers in many cities of the United States are now receiving during the present epidemic of strikes and lockouts, is an educational force whose future value for the guidance of those concerned, cannot be underestimated.

From them. And that this forecast will most probably be realized, we see little reason to doubt.

STRUCK THE WRONG CROWD.

The reception accorded to Messrs. Fischer, Wessels and Wolmarans, the Boer peace envoys, by the Senate at Washington, demonstrates the accuracy of the position which the socialist press of this country during the last few weeks have published regarding their object.

The great capitalist interests in the United States are engaged in a work similar to that of the British in South Africa. The necessity of procuring markets for the ever-growing capacity of production upon the part of the great capitalist nations forces them outside their national boundaries and inevitably brings about armed collisions with foreign communities.

The Boer peace envoys are always the determining element in any proposition brought under their consideration, proving the truth enunciated by Marx and Engels that "the executive of the modern state is but a committee for managing the common affairs of the capitalist class."

He would naturally wonder what sort of workmen these were who had so much leisure to devote to enjoyment. And a light would only begin to dawn upon him when he read the other headlines in the same papers describing the proceedings in the courts against the piano makers, the injunctions issued by the same courts to tie the hands of the struggling miners, etc.

He would see that the "piano makers" spoken of in the first place were not piano makers at all, but were those who appropriated the labor product of the men who really make the pianos—that they were the "owners" of the piano factories.

Some of the news which reaches us regarding the famine in India makes interesting reading. In examining the reports from the famine stricken districts we find that people are perishing from starvation not because food does not exist but because they have nothing wherewith to procure it.

The truth is, and it is one long recognized by socialists, that in the true sense of the word, "famine" does not exist in India. That is, there is no scarcity of food itself, and the famine, if the word can be used in connection with the present state of affairs in India, is an artificial famine, or to put it another way, a capitalist famine.

This is proved by the facts we have related, that food can be procured, sufficient to sustain a man in working condition for 3 cents per day. It is further proved by the fact that corn has been sent from this country to India to relieve the starving, and word has been sent back, that not food, but money to buy food, was needed.

What exists in India exists in every civilized country in the world today, yes, even in this city of Chicago, where chronic starvation is by no means uncommon. The labor product of the native of India is appropriated by the British capitalists who, so to speak have "money to burn."

The robbery and ruin of the toiler is inherent in modern capitalism. The more the workers produce the less they have, relatively to the amount produced. India has been an inexhaustible mine of plunder for British capitalism.

The Boer peace envoys are to make a tour through the country. The McKinleyites will probably not take much stock in them, but the Bryanites being the "outs" at present, will no doubt try to get some political capital for future use out of the event.

It is quite possible that Neely, the Havana post office thief was after all only actuated by the best intentions. He might reasonably plead that he was merely trying to give the benighted Cubans, a practical illustration of the virtue of "self-help."

Many reformers are engaged in the profitable task of elevating the working class by persuading them of the superiority of paying interest on a mortgage to paying rent to a landlord.

The Boer envoys may not be able to secure intervention at Washington, but if they can be used to secure votes for the Democratic party, the politicians of that brand will not consider their mission a failure.

Those twenty-five thousand would-be census takers who applied for twelve hundred possible jobs, must not be mistaken for the "men that count" in this country.

The capitalist class will stand for "law and order" just so long as the "law" is made to their "order."

Governments just derive their powers from the consent of the capitalist class.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

The future antiquarian who may get hold of a file of the newspapers of the present day, and read the headlines without consulting the matter underneath them, would not unnaturally wonder what the workers of the nineteenth century had to kick about.

He would also see at the top of another column, that the "coal miners" had made preparations for an extended pleasure tour around the lakes, that the "meat packers" were spending their vacation in European resorts and at the Paris Exposition.

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plausible article tending to show how socialism would break up the home and destroy all family relations.

At present there is a street car strike proceeding in Berlin. It would be well for American workmen to watch this strike closely and observe the different methods of procedure. In the German Parliament the strikers will have fifty-seven representatives (socialists) to voice their grievances, further their interests, and do all in their power to make the capitalists accede to the demands of the strikers.

Contrast this method with that pursued here, where there are several large street car strikes under way. Have the workmen in the street transportation industries any man to take their side of the dispute in the House of Congress? Not a single solitary one.

The men who have been placed in power by the votes of these street car employes, are true to the interests of their own class. Although elected by the workers they do not consider that there is any obligation upon their part to stand up for the interests of those whose votes elected them.

Just before going to press, we learn that the Berlin street car employes above mentioned have secured their demands. During the progress of the strike the ruling classes of Berlin did not dare to go farther than to order the police to fire BLANK CHARGES at the strikers and their sympathizers.

A strike upon the part of street car employes at Karlsruhe, in the same country, has also just ended with victory for the men.—(ED.)

It is well for the capitalists, British or otherwise, who "own" the Johannesburg mines, that Oom Paul is not a socialist. If that were so, the consideration of destroying as far as possible the value of the expected booty, would not occupy much time.

Commissioner Peck of the Paris Exposition has just sent in an itemized statement of the expenditure of nearly \$400,000 of public money in connection with the exposition.

It may perhaps be cited as an evidence of "prosperity" that over 25,000 applicants for positions as enumerators in Cook county, responded to the demand of the federal census bureau, which required the services of but 1,200.

When it is also considered that the job in question lasts only a month and is poorly paid besides, the colossal nerve of the capitalist prosperity howlers who declare that the "job seeks the man" stands out as about the most impudent exhibition of capitalist falsehood extant; and the supply of such falsehoods is by no means scanty.

It is quite possible that Neely, the Havana post office thief was after all only actuated by the best intentions. He might reasonably plead that he was merely trying to give the benighted Cubans, a practical illustration of the virtue of "self-help."

Many reformers are engaged in the profitable task of elevating the working class by persuading them of the superiority of paying interest on a mortgage to paying rent to a landlord.

The Boer envoys may not be able to secure intervention at Washington, but if they can be used to secure votes for the Democratic party, the politicians of that brand will not consider their mission a failure.

Those twenty-five thousand would-be census takers who applied for twelve hundred possible jobs, must not be mistaken for the "men that count" in this country.

The capitalist class will stand for "law and order" just so long as the "law" is made to their "order."

Governments just derive their powers from the consent of the capitalist class.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Seattle Socialists Stand for Unity. Adopted by the meeting for state organization held at Seattle, April 29, 1900: Whereas, One of the fundamental principles of socialism is that all socialists should unite in a common cause; and

Resolved, That we are in hearty favor of this union and we believe that a great majority of both parties are in accord with this view.

Resolved, That we favor the name Social Democratic party, under which we have achieved such signal progress.

The Vote on Union. The tabulated vote on question submitted in the "manifesto" of the S. D. P. National Executive Board shows a total of 1,152 votes counted, with a majority of 274 votes against union.

Not Remarkable that Capitalists Should Clamor for What Has Been Made in Their Own Interests. In these days of strikes, boycotts and labor troubles, there is one phrase that is used over and over again by the press and apologists for capitalism.

Let the laborers first put their class in power by voting the socialist ticket and then make laws in their interest before they talk about enforcing laws and preserving order.

A Question for Socialists. We reproduce from the May Day edition of London "Justice" the following extract from the article written by M. Hyndman which appears in that issue, as a matter to which the attention of socialists must be directed in the near future.

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Whereas, The official journal of the S. D. P., the Social Democratic Herald has, by way of truly DeLeonitic method, sought to draw the shroud of silence over arguments on the part of the advocates of union; whereas, comrades at different places, for instance, the state of Missouri, complain that their declarations in favor of union have not been published, although they were sent in on time to the S. D. Herald; and

Whereas, Comrade J. L. Evans, has made complaint before us, that argument in favor of union, written by him and sent as early as the 14th of April to the editor of the S. D. Herald, with a request for publishing same, has not been mentioned to the extent of a few lines by this editor, nor published in part or in full, while, on the other hand, the columns of the S. D. Herald were replete with articles from the opposition to union, among such articles being one occupying fully two columns written in the venomous ink of Comrade Victor Berger of Milwaukee, who saw fit to heap indecent stories against comrades of his and our own party, insulting them in an invidious manner in his own local paper the "Wahrheit" (Truth, so-called) published in Milwaukee, which paper has succeeded in surpassing even the DeLeon dictionary of disgraceful and abusive language, at attempting to represent as being ridiculous or contemptible such comrades and members of the S. D. P. as are in favor of union; and finally,

Whereas, This branch of the Social Democratic party did, in a meeting held April 16, unanimously declare itself in favor of union, on the basis of the majority report of the committee on union of our own party, and in stating that we see no reason for departing from our standpoint taken on this question; therefore be it

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Resolved, That we, for reasons indicated in part, do tender a vote of no confidence in the editor of the S. D. Herald, A. S. Edwards, for misuse of power in disposing of the space of our party's official journal, as well as to those members of the Executive Board, S. D. P., who were present in Chicago during the whole or greater part of the time for the last four weeks.

Whereas, It is a duty of every member of the one as well as the other socialist party to co-operate and do everything feasible to the end that errors committed and blunders made by the officials or journals of our parties may not be permitted to jeopardize the grand and holy cause of the socialist movement of this country; and especially, to see to it that the Debs-Harriman presidential ticket remains in the field for the coming election; therefore, be it

Resolved, We extend our hands with fraternal greetings to the comrades of the Socialist Labor Party, and the join in realizing it as an urgent necessity to have the political labor movement of this country embodied in one militant party organization, and we, on our side, are ready to join them for this purpose; and,

Resolved, We sincerely hope that the same spirit of union will very soon grow and prevail in the Social Democratic Party, and

Resolved, That a committee elected by the Social Democratic Party, shall be authorized to call a meeting of the S. D. P. of Ohio, in order to affect the assembling of a Joint State convention of the socialists of this state. TO WE ALSO STATE SHALL BE INVITED for the following purposes, viz.: To endorse the Debs-Harriman ticket. To nominate electors at large for state. To make preparations for agitation work to be done next fall especially to give out directions for organizing Joint Local committees to carry on such agitation in their respective localities.

To serve on this committee the following have been elected: Julius Zopf, who is one of the national secretaries of the National Brewery Workers' Union; Fred Hammel, the secretary of this branch of the S. D. P., and J. L. Franz, the mover of the above resolutions.

With fraternal greetings, Fred Hammel, Secretary, G. Bergold, chairman of the meeting, Cincinnati, O., May 19, 1900.

London went wild over the relief of Mafeking. And yet there was infinitely more hunger and misery in London even on the day of rejoicing, than in Mafeking during the seven months of the siege.

If you want to vote for the "best man," don't overlook yourself and your interests. A vote for socialism will answer the purpose.

Independent thinking is of the utmost value. A few thousand men who think, own and control this country in consequence.

Capitalist political economy is the art of extracting the honey from the hive without alarming the bees.

No capitalist injunction has yet been invented that can restrain strikers—at the ballot box.

The capitalist idea of an unsanitary dwelling is one from which no rent can be obtained.

"Freedom of contract" is the condition of wage slavery.

Attention! Women! The use of the hall at 65 N. Clark street is offered for the use of women's meetings. All women interested in socialism, and all whose husbands, fathers and brothers are interested, are urged to attend the meeting on June 16, at 3 o'clock p. m. Laura Willard Taff will be the speaker.

COMMITTEE OF WOMEN.

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What Workingmen Can Do

Wages, Hours of Labor, and the Unemployed--The Work of Trade Unions--Politics of the Working Class--The Workers Can Win the Whole Easier Than They Can Win a Part.

BY BEN HANFORD.

There are over two hundred thousand persons employed in the boot and shoe industry in the United States. Let these persons be organized to the last man, woman and child, and though they will thereby be able to accomplish some things, or even great things, there is a point at which their control over their own lives and destinies must cease. Through effective organization they can say that when employed they will not work longer than a certain number of hours per day, and that for those hours they shall receive a certain price. The hours may be short and the price high, but purely as a trade union that is the limit of their powers at their maximum of possible success. Having fixed the hours of labor and the price of labor power, there is left an all-important thing which they cannot control. They cannot provide themselves with employment. They cannot make the boss employ all of them. Let the hours of labor be ever so short, let the wage be ever so high, there will be shoemakers who will get no wage, for there will be shoemakers who have no work.

"But," say some, "given that complete organization of our craft, we can secure work for the unemployed by asking hours constantly shorter, and constantly raising the scale of wages, so that even at the shortest hours the wages received will support the worker in comfort." Vain hope. When the hours of labor are so low and the wages of labor so high that profit ceases, at that instant production ceases, and when production ceases, when our shoe factory is closed, the shoemaker has no work at any hours or at any price. The shoemaker must learn that in a society where one man or a group of men owns the shoe factories, the shoemaking machinery, and the materials of which shoes are made, such owners of the means of producing shoes allow these forces to be set in operation only when their operation will produce profit. The object of the owner of the shoe factory is not primarily to produce shoes, but to produce shoes to be sold at a profit. His main purpose, his great purpose, his only purpose, is to get profits. Therefore, when the trade union is strong enough to reduce hours and raise wages to a point where the capitalist class no longer get profits, the capitalist class, through their powers as owners of the means of production (of employment), shut up the factory until such time as the working class will consent to resume their toil in the shop or mill or factory or printing office at a working day of such length and for a wage of such magnitude as will leave the capitalist employer a profit. The purely economic trade union may, and generally does, affect the rate of the employer's profit; but where the means of production are owned by others than those who use them, those owners must have a profit for the use of such means of production, otherwise they remain unused; and when the means of production of wealth are unused, the workers are either starving or awaiting starvation--they are neither out on strike, locked out, or laid off. When the distresses and necessities of the unemployed have reached a point so acute as to be unbearable, inevitably they again go to work for the employer at such hours and wages as will leave him a profit--such of them as survive and such of them as he will take back. For some have died of their wants unsupplied, and the employer will not take them all, leaving some to become tramps, and forcing others eventually to become scabs.

While, as stated above, the most perfect trade union does not do all that is necessary for the welfare of its members, those things which it can and does do are not to be belittled. It can and generally does reduce the rate of profit received by the employer by securing higher wages for its members than they would otherwise get. It can and generally does reduce the hours of labor and raise the standard of living. Further, and of high importance, it teaches the workers to organize. But while reorganizing the good accomplished by the trade union, every time you see an unemployed shoemaker you must see the shortcomings of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union; every time you meet an unemployed printer you must recognize the limitations of the power of the Typographical Union; every time you meet an unemployed cigarmaker you must recognize that the Cigarmakers' Union has a boundary to its efficiency; every time you meet an unemployed man of a skilled trade or an unskilled laborer, do not forget that there is one thing of prime importance that the purely economic trade union at the very height of its power cannot accomplish--It cannot make the employer employ all the workers.

Consider for a moment on what production in your present society depends. Here is a man who has a hundred thousand dollars. We will not ask where he got it. Probably that would be a long tale of robbery, rent and profit. We will allow that our man with the hundred thousand is in possession of his own. Now, if our man

lives at the rate of five thousand a year, and does no work by which he receives an income from any source, but each year takes his five thousand out of his original hundred thousand dollars, at the end of twenty years he will be broke. Of course, that is not to his liking. He wants to spend five thousand a year on his living all right, but at the end of twenty years he wants to have his hundred thousand, or, should he die, he wants his children to have it. In short and in long, he wants to spend his hundred thousand dollars and also to keep it. And our present society is so arranged and organized that he can do that very thing. How? Simply by turning his hundred thousand dollars into capital. By turning it into the means of production. For instance, by buying with it a shoe factory, machinery, etc. Having placed his hundred thousand dollars in the shoe industry, one thing yet remains to be done. The cutting machines will not run themselves; neither will the lasting, sewing, soling and trimming machines. If his money, now turned into shoemaking materials and machinery, is left alone, it will be worse for him than if he had spent his five thousand a year out of his original hundred thousand. To accomplish his purpose of spending five thousand a year and still keeping his original hundred thousand, one more thing is necessary. Labor power must be applied to his shoemaking materials. There are idle shoemakers in plenty. Our man has selected a superintendent of his shoe factory (or he may have bought through a broker and never even have seen the factory or its superintendent), and told him to go ahead and "make money." Our Man himself has probably gone to Europe. The superintendent tells the shoemaker to go to work at a wage which leaves Our Man a profit on their labor. These shoemakers have no means of employing themselves. They are not the possessors of shoemaking materials and machinery. They must work or starve. Therefore the lasters and cutters and stitchers and trimmers go to work and use and operate Our Man's hundred thousand dollar shoemaking plant, receiving for their labor a wage which leaves Our Man his five thousand dollars a year in profits. Our Man will tell you that he pays these workmen for their services. The workmen themselves will tell you that Our Man pays their wages. In reality nothing of the sort takes place. The workers pay Our Man for the privilege of working. That's where he gets his five thousand a year. Their wages are simply a part of the value of their own product. These shoemakers go into the factory of Our Man and for the privilege of using his means of production they first make a pair of shoes for him, then they make a pair of shoes for the landlord, and last they make a pair of shoes for which they are paid. Every time they make three pairs of shoes they are paid only for the labor power which makes one pair. As with our shoemaker, so with the printer. First he sets a line of type for the employer, then he sets a line for the landlord and for the labor of setting the third or fourth line he receives pay. Likewise the cigarmaker; first he makes a cigar for the capitalist, then one for the landlord, and for the making of the next cigar he is paid. Then he starts all over again--one for the boss, one for your landlord, and for the next for the boss, one for the landlord, one for himself. So on. And all you workingmen are in the same boat. You work an hour for your boss, an hour for your landlord, and for the next hour's work you are paid--this if you are lucky enough to have a boss and a job. Oftentimes the employer and the landlord are the same person. Both are exploiters and robbers of the working class, and they only differ from one another in color, not in essence. Our Man with the hundred thousand might have put it into land and charged workingmen for the privilege of living on the earth, instead of putting his money into a shoe factory and charging them for the privilege of working. In the one case he would leave his property in the hands of a real estate agent, and in the other he leaves it in the hands of a superintendent. In either case the result is the same. Our Man gets his five thousand a year without working for it, and can if he likes spend his five thousand a year, and still at the end of each year have as much as he had at the beginning. In fact it is most fortunate for the workers when he does spend his "income." For if he does not spend it, they must next year produce a profit on that profit.

Now, cannot you, union men see the cause of this exploitation of your fellows? Don't you see that man out of work? Don't you see that he is out of work because he lacks the means with which to work? If he had the means to employ himself and keep all that his labor produced, he would not agree to produce five thousand a year for that employer. He would keep that five thousand. "But," say you, "he would do the same with it that this fellow does." To be sure he would--if you allow him to. But you need not allow it,

and you can stop this fellow from doing it.

How? First recognize that the reason a man can rob producers is because of the character of the means of production. They are vast, they are costly, they are greater than any one man can produce or operate unaided. In the days when shovels and sickles, the cobbler's kit, the hand press, and the ox-cart were the principal means for the production of wealth any one man could own the instruments of production in a trade. At that time to make one man yield to another the producer of his labor he must be a chattel slave or a serf. But as the spade gives place to the steam plow; the sickle to the self-binder, reaper and thresher; the cobbler's kit to the costly cutting, sewing and soling machinery of the shoe factory; the hundred dollar hand press to the fifty thousand dollar perfecting press and three thousand dollar type-setting machine; and the ox-cart to the steam railway, the means of production become too large, costly and complicated for one man to produce or operate. In brief, the means of production become social. And as the means of production have become social in character, in their production and operation, so they should become social in ownership. We should own them socially, collectively. To stop Our Man from getting his five thousand a year for doing nothing but owning things, we should not allow him to own those things. To make sure that those others who now turn over to him his five thousand annually shall not do as he does when they themselves get the five thousand they produce, we must not allow any individual to own those things. We must have social ownership of the means whereby we produce wealth; that is, we must have socialism. A man should no more be allowed to have private property in a shoe factory or a printing office than in the postoffice; he should no more be allowed to have private property in a street railway than in the street itself. When he has no private property in these things he cannot exploit or extort an income from those who use these things.

All this would be vastly intricate, say you. Not comparably as intricate as the postoffice or the public highway system of the country. We have no trouble with either of these except where they come in contact with great "business" interests, such as the private owners of the railroads and the contractors--fellows like Our Man; only some of them have a hundred million to his one hundred thousand. We are all owners of the postoffice; we all have a share of stock in it; but we cannot sell or dispose of our share. So it should be with productive industries.

Intricate? Is it conceivably as intricate as the haphazard, accidental, anarchistic method that we have today, where we leave the raising of wheat, cotton and beef to individual interest or caprice? Is it possible that a society that trusts itself to maintain a police force and a fire department to protect individuals and preserve wealth, dare not enter upon the social ownership of the means to produce the necessities of its existence?

How to bring socialism about? As said in the beginning, there are over 200,000 of our boot and shoemakers in the country. There are about 150,000 persons engaged in the printing industries in the United States. The men of these trades can do something for themselves by themselves, but not much. There are about 110,000 cigar and tobacco workers; like the printers and shoemakers, their powers are limited. There are nearly a million men in the employment of the railroads; look at their low wages and long hours of labor, and it is easy to see that even that great number are far from having the power and influence that they should have over their own means of livelihood. There are more than a million men in the building trades; they have done much for themselves through organization--more than any other large group of workers; but when we note the precarious character of their employment, many idle for half the year, it is clearly to be seen that their relatively high wages and short hours are far from a truly prosperous condition for workingmen.

But is there then no hope? Is there no side to the shield save that which says failure?

Yes, there is. But we must understand the causes of past failures to know the means of future success. There is a path which leads to victory. If these 200,000 boot and shoe workers and 150,000 printers will really and truly unite with these 110,000 tobacco workers; if the 1,000,000 railroad employees will unite with all three; if the 1,200,000 men of the building trades will unite with the others; and if the iron and steel workers, the miners, the wood workers, the shipbuilders, the brewers, the cotton mill operatives, and the granite cutters--if the whole working class would unite, what power is there in the world to oppose us, much less defeat us? Unite not only in the economic fight, which still leaves that man without a job, no matter what the hours of wages for those who get work; but UNITE IN THE POLITICAL FIELD, UNITE AT THE BALLOT BOX.

Difficult, you say. Right difficult it is, but not impossible. It does not depend on any one of us, nor on any small group of us, though every one of us can do much to bring it to pass. We will not unite politically in obedience to the persuasive powers of any man or men, though those may have their influence. We will unite because the laws of capitalism say to us: "UNITE OR PERISH." In this year when the Republican

party is furthering territorial expansion abroad, while it curtails our liberties at home; when the Democratic party cries out in protest, but lacks the intelligence to progress; when both parties have shown their enmity to the working class incarnated in Democratic-Populist Governor Steiensenberg and Republican President McKinley in the Idaho treason; in this year when the Republican party is so drunk with power that it takes pride in its infamy, and the Democratic party is so stupidly incompetent that it sets its face to the past and reaction--under these conditions it is not to be doubted that the working class will awake to its duties and opportunities and begin its march on capitalism under the banner of socialism.

Workingmen and union men, go forward with your work of organization. So far as possible, get every man to join the union of his trade, and do not neglect to organize the man without a trade. Fight every battle for the best you have in you. You printers, fight the New York Sun bill if it gives in or gives out. You cigarmakers, fight your battle with Kerbs, Wertheim & Co. till victory perches on your banners. You men of the building trades and of every trade; you, Italian laborer and every laborer, carry on every battle with all the energy and strength of which you are capable. In all these battles let each help the others. You hatter, help the printers; you printers, help the cigarmakers; workingmen of every trade and calling, help the workingmen of every other trade and calling. In every battle, great or small, let each member of the working class fight for every other member of its class. The fact that a man is in your class, and is fighting your enemy, the capitalist class, is enough to enlist your good will. You need no other reason.

But in all these economic battles, whether with you rests victory or defeat, keep your eye on the political power. Make up your mind that as workingmen and socialists you are going to capture every public office--aldermen, councilmen, mayor, and comptroller; state assemblymen and state senators and governor; United States congressmen and senators and president; justices of the peace, police magistrates, state judges and United States judges.

All the public powers are yours if you see fit to take them. YOU HAVE THE VOTES. Use those votes to secure to your class the law-making power, the law-judging power, and the law-executing power. Having done that, your officials will take from Our Man and every other man his means of getting five thousand a year without working for it. Having done that, your officials will see to it that you and every one of you shall have an opportunity to work; and that, having worked, you shall receive therefore the full product of your labor, which is three times as much as you get now, and which can be secured in one-quarter of the hours you work now--if you are so fortunate as to have work.

This question of wages, and the unemployed will never be solved until the working class are in possession of the powers of government. Once they have those powers, all will be well with them. Granted the government is in the hands of the working class, and the unemployed will be given work by the city, state, or nation. Granted the government is in the hands of the working class, the man who locks out his employees will find that a socialist legislature will pass a law confiscating his factory; a socialist judge will declare the law constitutional; and a socialist governor will carry the law into effect. That employer would never go into that factory again except to do productive work on the same basis as the other workers. Socialist officials could not run industry without lockouts, society could. If there was a strike, the socialist government would pursue the same course--confiscate the employer's means of production. In the case of a shut-down of a mill or factory the same could and would be done and should be done by the same processes. In all these cases--strikes, lock-out or shut-down--the employer ceases to be employer. He no longer employs men in production. And when he stops production society should step in and carry it on, and to do this it would abolish the capitalist's private property in the means of production, and make it social property. There is no half-way measure which can deal with this matter. The only cure for the ills which afflict the working class is to change the private ownership in the means of production to social ownership. That can only be done through the capture by the working class of the powers of government. To you workingmen, that is the supreme issue in this country today. It will require great effort on your part, heroic sacrifice on the part of many. But you have the strength to make the effort and the courage and virtue to make the sacrifices. You will do both. The final victory will be with you. How soon? The time also rests with you. Your path to triumph leads to the ballot box. Now is the time to start. In this coming campaign if a man tells you that the Republican party is your friend tell him the facts prove his words to be false. If a man tells you the Democratic party is your friend, tell him history proves the contrary. If either a democrat or a republican tells you he is your friend, tell him you are glad to hear it, and if he is indeed your friend he must vote YOUR TICKET while God lives or time lasts you will never again vote his.

The working class, may it ever be right, right or wrong, the working class.

LABOR ITEMS.

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

The eight-hour law of Kansas is being fought by the capitalists. It is now before the supreme court.

One judge alone had 400 cases before him on May Day in which landlords desired to have their moneyless tenants dumped into the streets of New York.

It is announced that more iron and steel mills will be closed shortly by the various trusts. The bridge manufacturers have finally formed their trust.

W. J. Walker, a prominent Bryan man of Spokane, Wash., admits that the socialists will poll at least 15,000 votes in that state. The reason is that they now have more papers than Pops had in '92.

City authorities of Louisville, Ky., are putting in street sweepers that will displace several hundred men, and as a result some of the trade unionists, who fought that the world moves, are putting up a howl.

Well, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers' national convention actually denounced Judge Freeman for issuing an injunction against the striking New York cigarmakers. The radicalism of the engineers is becoming positively alarming. What will Mr. Arthur think?

Prof. L. C. Bateman and L. C. Richards, the war-horses of the Populist party in Maine, have announced their intention of supporting the united socialist party. Humanity, the official organ of the Industrial Brotherhood, has come out for Debs and Harriman. The socialists of New Hampshire held a state convention and prepared for the coming political fray.

M. Millerand, the socialist minister of commerce of France, instructed the authorities to bring proceedings against Count de Dion for violating the ten-hour law in his automobile factory. Although the employees protested, probably under pressure, that the overtime was worked at their request, his royal jiblets was fined like any other person. France is not like America, where money-grubbing plutocrats have full swing. --Cleveland Citizen.

Working as a test and under pressure in an eastern shoe factory last week, it required a little more than sixteen minutes to finish completely, from the time the leather was placed in the hands of the workman, a pair of high grade woman's shoes. In a number of Chicago factories this time has been reduced to fifteen minutes or less. Last week a pair of the finest shoes was turned out in a fraction over fourteen minutes after the material was given to the worker, and in addition the same was packed in its proper receptacle. --Inter Ocean.

Still the shoemaker gets the same as the old-fashioned cobbler that worked a couple of days to do the same task. Who gets the difference?

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES.

The twenty-five books will be given away May 27 at 3 p. m., at 45 N. Clark street. Do not fail to attend if you are interested. Comrades will kindly turn in money for tickets AT ONCE, as it is urgently needed.

The Twenty-third Ward Branch, S. L. P., will hold regular outdoor meetings at the corner of Oak and Sedgwick streets every Wednesday evening at 8 p. m. Good speakers at every meeting. All socialists in the vicinity are requested to attend.

During the summer months the business meetings of the Twenty-fourth Ward Branch will take place on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at 8 p. m. Outdoor meetings will be held at Washington Square on Thursday evenings at 8 p. m. Members please take notice and attend business as well as outdoor meetings.

Comrade Ballard has kindly volunteered to make platforms for outdoor speakers for any ward branch that will furnish the materials. These cost but a few cents and the presence of such a platform adds much to the effectiveness of the speaking. All inquiries regarding such platforms should be sent to the Call office.

There have been nothing but good reports of the outdoor meetings held this year. From every quarter comes the same reports--great increase of audiences and much better attention than ever before. Every branch in the city should be holding at least one such meeting each week. It is through them that our best agitation is done.

The Socialist Annual Picnic.

The arrangements have now been completed for the Second Annual Picnic of The Workers' Call to be held at Calumet Grove, Blue Island, on August 19th. The tickets can be secured at the office of the Call and from new on no member of Section Chicago should be without a bunch in his pocket and should do all in his power to make this picnic an even greater success than the one held last year.

Just one word of warning is necessary. There will be a very large number of tickets issued and it is of the greatest importance that all accounts be kept straight. Hence each person receiving tickets will be expected to return money and tickets as soon as the picnic is held. Therefore all persons having tickets should keep a record of each ticket given to anyone else and be prepared to make an exact report immediately after the picnic.

A soldier with Methuen's force, whose parents wrote him to send them some money or they would have to go into the workhouse, wrote back expressing his inability to help them, and saying: "Try and hold out until I get back, and then we can all go in together."

Make no engagement for August 19th. You are going to the picnic that day.

POLITICAL HYSTERICS.

Crazy Structures Known as "Platforms" Begin to Appear with the Advent of Warm Weather.

With the coming of the hot weather and the appearance of the dog catcher, the two phrases "dog-days" and "silly season" fit as harmoniously that no better catchword could be invented as a substitute. More especially perhaps is this true of the last, "the silly season."

Upon some people this "silly season" exercises a most noticeable influence. As the weather becomes warmer little groups of the most seriously affected begin to labor under the delusion that they alone are "the people" and rush frantically into print to assure the whole universe that upon their deliberations the continuance of the existence of the human race is dependent. The fact that during this year a presidential campaign will be in progress may not unreasonably be expected to accentuate the folly of these freaks during the "silly season" to an even greater extent than ordinary.

And already this tendency is appearing. Some remnants of ancient fossilism in the way of political parties held conventions recently in Sioux Falls and Cincinnati respectively. After going through tiring formulas of electing chairmen, committees, etc., they got down to "business" and produced "platforms."

What did they consist of? Did they announce new views? No. Did they propound new doctrines? No. New principles? No. Nothing new whatever. Merely the maintenance of the present system of private property in the means of production, which they are too silly to understand is the cause of their present economic condition.

This is the mouse which the mountain has brought forth:

"We denounce the act of March 15th, 1900."
"We denounce the money trusts."
"We denounce the 8th financial conspiracy."
"We denounce the trusts."
"We demand an income tax."
"We demand postal savings banks."
"We declare that the land is the inalienable heritage of the 'people.'"
(Query what "people"?)
"We want free coinage of silver."
"We want Lincoln's greenbacks restored."

"We want legal tender paper money."
"We want the original homestead policy enforced."
"We want government to own the railroads and operate them on a 'non-partisan' basis."

One of the conventions nominated the leader of the little private property howlers, Wm. Jennings Bryan, for president on this "platform."

But this list does not by any means exhaust the wants, denunciations, declarations, and extensions of these victims of the silly season. Another batch runs this way:

"We want the tariffs abolished."
"We want the war stopped."
"We want free trade with Porto Rico."
"We denounce the Philippine war."
"We denounce the present administration."
"We denounce the increase in the army and navy."
"We extend to the Boers our 'sympathy and moral support.' (Fortunate Boers.)"

The workingman who wades through this hotch potch will look in vain for one line, one word, that calls attention to the conditions of the working class, with this possible exception:

"We deplore the Coeur d'Alene incident." (That's the Wardner Bull-pen). We deplore, we deplore, we deplore, we denounce, and so on, and the silly season as far as populism is concerned.

At the "bull pen" over three hundred workingmen were imprisoned, under a trumped-up charge of having destroyed capitalist property in a mine. The horrors of the treatment which these men received in this capitalist shambles is too well-known to need repetition here. One of the conventions "denounced" this outrage in the five words given above; the other did not mention it. Not one word about the economic conditions under which the working class suffer, not a word of the police, deputy sheriffs, and military power being used against striking workmen who want to better their living conditions. Nothing, absolutely nothing! And yet this crew of fossils will ask the working class to support them and their candidates.

At Rochester, N. Y., some months ago a convention assembled and issued the following platform. Read it fellow workers and see which of the conventions so far stand for the interest of your class:

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.

"Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and have a world to gain!"

We ask you only to compare this with the productions of the silly season at Sioux Falls and Cincinnati. Then judge for yourselves.

Imperialism is only capitalism in foreign politics.--Michael Davitt.

Have your section order a bundle at once.

The campaign offer is a vote-maker.

A PHANTOM JUDGE

(Continued from page 1.)

instance, why 75,000 soldiers are kept in garrison at Paris, the bourgeois of that city will reply without hesitation, that it is to keep down the working class. If asked why these soldiers are drawn from the rural districts he will as readily reply that it is because they are not so likely to make common cause with the workmen of the city in case of revolt, as conscripts who are born and raised as city dwellers.

On the other hand, ask the average "business" men of this country, the reason for the increase of the army and militia, the reason why the permanent military camps of the regular army are always placed in close proximity to the large centres of manufacturing industry, why the militia regiments in the cities are composed mainly of the sons of the trading and commercial classes and their hangers-on, ask any of the many questions of similar nature that may occur to you and it is thousands to one that you will hear that these things are done for the best "interests of the community," for the "welfare of the general public," or the benefit of the "people." The necessity of pretending that the interests of all are alike, consciously or unconsciously dictates this answer.

But the socialist alone is under no such compulsion. And the spread of his propaganda will release the capitalist from the necessity of building up a "public" which is only the reflex of his material interests, and which serves as a cover to cloak their naked expression. Socialism will make the capitalist class destroy the false gods which they have created, and acknowledge the fact which they are still largely able to conceal, that the "public" doesn't exist, but that the great CLASS STRUGGLE does.

The socialist at present postulates no "public," as an all-powerful factor to decide upon the merits of his philosophy. He knows well that this alleged arbiter is an invention of the ruling class for their own purposes. He knows that the interests of all members, or even the majority of society, as at present constituted, are not and cannot be identical, and knowing this he frankly recognizes the struggle between the classes, and calls upon the working class to ASSERT THEIR POWER AS A CLASS for the enforcement of their material interests.

When this has been accomplished, and the establishment of an era of equality of opportunity has abolished the economic base upon which classes existed, then and then only the phrases "welfare of the community," "good of the public," will truly represent an identity of interests, a reality, instead of a sham as at present.

Suicide Selects a Site.

A few of the survivors of the British soldiers who took part in the famous Balklava charge are yet to be found in the workhouses of England. The history of the American heroes who charged up San Juan hill has yet to be written—perhaps, but here is the finish of one of them, which in itself is a counterpart of the brave Bill Anthony episode.

In view of the costly residences of the Lake Shore drive and almost opposite Potter Palmer's, Samuel H. Handy, broken in fortune and health, committed suicide yesterday afternoon near the sea wall by shooting himself through the head. No one witnessed the act.

Letters found in his pockets showed that Handy formerly had lived in New Haven, Conn. He served with the Thirtieth Regiment of New York volunteers during the Spanish-American war. While in Chicago he lived at the Norwood Hotel. His last employment was with Work Bros., Fifth avenue and Jackson boulevard, but for several weeks he had been out of a position. He was about 25 years old.

The worn-out tool of capitalism takes his life in a dramatic fashion in front of the residences of the class for whose interests he fought and risked his life in Cuba. When they had got through with him, he was "free" to commit suicide, which he did.

An Impossible "If."

An evening paper in this city says that if Chicago were thirty miles inland a good ship canal with no obstructions in it would be built at once. There's nothing remarkable about this idea except the dense stupidity of the author. He evidently doesn't know enough to comprehend that modern cities are built in the first place with an eye to immediate commercial advantages, and their location is selected together in reference to the same conception. This statement is supposed to be an argument for the removal of the street car tunnels under the bed of the river, which are at present a source of gain to the owners of city transportation by land, and a detriment to the owners of freight transportation on the lakes and rivers. The impossibility of a city like Chicago being built thirty miles inland never seems to have struck the writer, who evidently thinks that the modern city can spring into being without any reference whatever to nat-

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ural advantages to commerce. Cities of past ages still exist on sites which would certainly not be selected today. The determining factor in the location of cities has changed altogether. In former times, the possibilities of military defense was undoubtedly the most weighty consideration with the founders, and in the comparatively few instances which exist yet, where such cities have become great centers of industry, artificial means of transportation have been resorted to in order to meet the requirements of modern conditions; but since the introduction of the present economic system of capitalism, the determining factor has been natural commercial advantages, such as proximity to water transportation, coal, iron and other mines, etc., etc.

During the past week the city of Chicago was startled by the news that the Helene hotel had burned with considerable loss of life. Then came all the old discussion about how it could happen that a hotel had been built with only one exit and no fire escapes, and a stranger might think from the expressions of wonderment that this was the first time that anything like this had ever happened. As a matter of fact it happens every few weeks and excites the same "wonder" each time. The fact of course is that the hotel was built in this way because it cost less than to build it safely, and as it cost less the owner made larger profits on his investment, and what is the main object of our society if it be not to secure profits to owners? Stop the profit system and you stop such calamities.

For Teachers and Pupils.

The issue of The Workers' Call for the 9th of June will be a special number for use among teachers and pupils in the schools and colleges. For this purpose an extra supplement of four pages will be inserted containing among other things Kropotkin's "Appeal to the Young," omitting those few sentences inciting to violence or attacking religion. In addition to this there will be special articles by various comrades on the connection between modern pedagogic philosophy and socialism, on the overcrowding in our present public schools, the closing of opportunities to the young under capitalism, the economic position of the teacher, the attitude of capitalism toward popular education, etc.

It will be a number that will reach a class that is ready for socialism and among which little propaganda has been made. It will come just at the time when graduating exercises are going on in all the schools and when its circulation will be sure to attract a great deal of attention wherever it is distributed. There is not a town in the country where there is not some sort of exercises at this time and if the occa-

Socialist Labor Party of the United States.

PLATFORM.

Human energy and natural resources are wasted for individual gain. Ignorance is fostered, that wage slavery may be perpetuated. Science and invention are perverted to the exploitation of men, women, and children.

The lives and liberties of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit. Wars are fomented between nations; indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged; the destruction of whole races is sanctioned, in order that the capitalist class may extend its commercial dominion abroad and enhance its supremacy at home.

The introduction of a new and higher order of society is the historic mission of the working class. All other classes despite their apparent or actual conflicts are interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the means of production. We therefore charge that in this country the Democratic, Republican and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production are alike the tools of the capitalist class.

The working class can not however, act as a class in its struggle against the collective power of the capitalist class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied classes.

We, therefore, call upon the wage workers of the United States, without distinction of color, race or sex, and upon all citizens in sympathy with the historic mission of the working class, to organize under the banner of the Socialist Labor party, as a party truly representing the interests of the toiling masses and uncompromisingly waging war upon the exploiting class, until the system of wage slavery shall be abolished and the Co-operative Commonwealth established.

Pending the accomplishment of this our ultimate purpose, we pledge every effort of the Socialist Labor party for the immediate improvement of the condition of labor, and also for the securing of its progressive demands. "Workingmen of all countries, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains, and have a world to gain!"

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The International Socialist Review

On the first of July we shall issue the first number of the monthly review under the editorship of A. M. Sijmons, until lately editor of The Workers' Call, who has recently returned from studying social conditions in Europe. The socialist movement has now reached the point where it can claim to offer the only philosophy of present-day problems. Its constantly increasing strength at home and abroad makes it a force with which all must reckon. In Europe the best minds of the colleges and universities are devoted to expounding its doctrines and a majority of the leading economic reviews are under the direction of socialist writers and thinkers.

Under these conditions it is felt that there is great need for a publication in America that will bring the works of the best foreign minds in touch with those who are here attacking the same problems and place the results of such discussions before the great body of people who are interested in social questions.

Here is the field of the International Socialist Review. It competes with no existing publication. It will, we trust, prove itself indispensable to every honest student of social problems, whether his sympathies be for socialism or against it.

Editorially the attitude of the Review will be strictly in accord with the recognized principles of international socialism. Signed articles will, however, be welcomed from writers of all schools and parties who accept the socialist methods and tactics. We are convinced that a free and full discussion is the shortest and best road to the general acceptance of the methods and tactics of international socialism by all who aim at the establishment of the co-operative commonwealth.

The International Socialist Review will be the first periodical in the English language to bring together to any extent the original contributions of the great socialist thinkers of the different countries of Europe. It will also publish each month letters from foreign correspondents giving the latest news and a review of the situation in each country. Here is a partial list of those who have already promised to write: France—Paul Lafargue, Jean Jaures, Jean Longuet.

Belgium—Emile Vandervelde, Henri Lafontaine, Emile Vinck, Mme. Laila Kufferath. England—H. M. Hyndman, Walter Crane, Samuel Hobson, H. Quidell, Keir Hardie, J. R. McDonald.

Italy—Dr. Alessandro Schiavi. Denmark—Dr. Gustav Bang. Arrangements are now being completed for correspondents and contributors from Germany and Holland, and we hope to announce their names before the first issue.

It will be seen at once that this list of contributors places the International Socialist Review in a class by itself so far as periodicals in English are concerned. But it must not be supposed that the American situation has been neglected. Already articles have been promised by Job Harriman, Rev. Charles H. Vail, N. H. Stone, Leonard D. Abbott, Rev. Wm. T. Brown, William Malley, Gov. Andrew E. Lee, Ben Hanford, Marcus Hitch, Jos. Washop, W. H. Noyes and others, and no effort will be spared to secure the best work of the best thinkers upon the problems of socialism in America.

The plan of the magazine will be approximately as follows: About forty-eight pages will be given to contributed articles, and the remaining 240 pages will be divided as nearly equally as possible among the following departments: First, Review of the events of the month from the socialist point of view. Second, News of the socialist movement in America during the month just passed.

Third, Items concerning the struggle in the economic field, including trade union news and labor troubles. Fourth, Foreign correspondence giving news of the socialist movement of the world over.

The need of such a periodical as this is apparent to every socialist. We believe that once it is brought to their notice every comrade will be willing to take hold and help. There are two ways in which such help is wanted at once. In the first place further capital is needed for its establishment. A comrade has agreed to give \$250 for this purpose as soon as an equal sum is raised elsewhere. Of this sum \$150 has already been raised leaving one hundred more to get if this offer is not to be allowed to lapse. To raise this one hundred dollars it is proposed to sell ten shares of our capital stock at ten dollars each—their par value. That the money thus invested offers immediate and desirable returns aside from being an aid in the establishment of the magazine is shown by the following special prices on books published by us which are made to stockholders only:

Five cent books in small lots, 2 1/2 cents; 100 assorted copies, \$1.75; 500 assorted copies, \$5.00; post free in the United States outside Chicago. Ten cent books in small lots, 5 cents; 100 assorted, \$3.50; post free in the United States outside Chicago. Twenty-five cent books in small lots, 12 1/2 cents; 50 assorted, \$5.00; post free in the United States outside Chicago.

Other books at half list prices; post free on paper books; on cloth books if sent by mail postage will average about 18 per cent of the retail prices. Once the magazine is established it will be run without further expense to the party, and will be distributed, not only through the ordinary socialist channels, but also through regular trade channels to thousands of people entirely inaccessible to the ordinary socialist propaganda. It will be a means of capturing and holding the intellectual proletariat for socialism, as well as an organ for the education and training of socialist speakers and writers.

Every section that intends to do any distribution of literature will find the ownership of such a share of stock a good investment, while individuals who wish to assist the socialist propaganda will scarcely find a better opportunity or greater need than this present one.

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FIFTH WARD, 2930 Westworth Ave., business meeting every Monday night; public meetings every Sunday at 8 p. m.; Sec. Joseph Trent, 329 24th St.

SIXTH WARD meets at 8 p. m., Sunday, May 28th, May 30th and June 3rd at 1301 34th St. C. E. Lawry, Sec., 1734 30th St.

SIXTH WARD NO. 11 meets at corner 33rd and Morgan Sts every 1st Thursday and 3rd Sunday of each month; Sec. Joseph Koehn, 829 33rd St.

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