

THE WORKERS' CALL.

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Editorial Announcements: To secure the return of unused manuscripts postage should be enclosed. Communications must reach the office by Monday evening preceding the issue in which they are to appear.



THE CITY CONVENTION.

One hundred and sixty delegates, representing 83 out of 35 wards of the city of Chicago, met in convention last Saturday, at Ulich's hall, to prepare for the coming municipal campaign.

The platform adopted needs little comment. Suffice it to say that it expresses the principles of revolutionary socialism in as concise and distinct a manner as the collective knowledge of the convention could devise.

To the nominations for offices the above remarks will also apply. The comrades selected were those who in the judgment of the convention were best fitted to represent the principles of socialism in the approaching local campaign.

One result of the deliberations involved a change which, while not necessarily a part of the routine work of a convention, was unavoidable and imperative. We refer to the selection of a name for the united Socialist organizations of Chicago.

Intrinsically there is not much in a name. But in the political field of today, which is regulated, bounded and controlled by the representatives of capitalism, a name acquires importance outside of and totally distinct from any merits or demerits of its own.

It is unnecessary to go into the question of unity again. Readers of this paper know that in its columns the desirability, necessity, and ultimate certainty of Socialist unity found constant expression.

Neither have we any intention of wasting any time, space or language upon the actions of the handful who have stood against unity. Abuse and denunciation we leave to those who imagine that their cause can be buttressed by it.

And the SOCIALIST PARTY is well equipped for this purpose. It possesses strength, numbers, organization and intelligence, and is constantly augmenting these qualities. It comprises the bone and sinew of the class-conscious workingmen of the city.

scores of willing comrades who have no other object than to make their fellow workmen see the light as they have seen it—and transform them in turn into advocates of militant revolutionary socialism.

This is the task allotted to the SOCIALIST PARTY. It is competent to perform it and will do so. Comrades, let your activity be the answer which will justify all that has been said and expected of you.

SOCIALISM AT LOUISVILLE.

The reports of the proceedings of the American Federation of Labor at Louisville, Ky., are by no means calculated to reassure those who imagine that the working class will be content to forever confine their action within the bounds that capitalism has laid down.

The Louisville Dispatch states that one of the most important features of the convention is the fact that the Socialists, while still in the minority, have made "startling gains." That the paper in question has good grounds for describing the progress made as "startling" may be inferred from the fact that resolutions brought forward by Comrade Max Hayes received 1,241 votes.

The number of Socialist delegates to the Louisville convention is more than double that which took part in the Detroit convention a year ago. There is no reason for supposing that this rate of progress will not be maintained.

In looking over the official report of the proceedings it seems to us that the most significant feature, so far as the Socialists are concerned, is not so much the text of the resolutions offered, as the aggressive and uncompromising manner in which their adoption was fought for.

The growing influence of socialism in the ranks of trades unions was never more apparent than in the Louisville convention. To the comrades who have devoted time and energy to leaving the trades union movement with the doctrines of socialism, the result is both encouraging and gratifying.

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MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

The farce which is now being played at Steiny hall, under the auspices of the National Civic Federation, is of course being widely exploited by the capitalist press, who, as usual, attempt to "give a airy nothing, a local habitation and a name."

preliminary statement, which of course settles nothing, leads up to a discussion of another myth entitled "compulsory arbitration." After spending some hours upon the alleged qualifications of this "principle" as a method of doing away with industrial war between capitalist and laborer, both come to the conclusion that compulsory arbitration in labor disputes is to be "deprecatd."

On the whole it is a case of "as you were." "Freedom of contract," everything considered, works fairly well. Even at this early stage of the proceedings the speeches of the labor leaders are resolving themselves into appeals for further organization of the workers into trades unions, methods of promoting the placing of the union label upon manufactured goods, etc., while the other side are resigning themselves philosophically to the situation, by asserting that strikes, after all, are indicative of a healthy industrial state, and the advisability of doing away with them is to be questioned.

The class struggle will not be ignored. There is little use in crying peace, peace, when there is no peace. The well meaning gentlemen who fill Steiny hall with their impotent oratory, might continue doing so for years without the slightest result.

The well meaning gentlemen who fill Steiny hall with their impotent oratory, might continue doing so for years without the slightest result. The spectacle of a number of supposedly intelligent people meeting to consider the "advisability" of doing things that they have no power to do, and at the same time upholding a social system the conditions of whose existence renders them powerless, is neither profitable nor entertaining.

The indignation shown by some members of the A. F. of L. when a Socialist in that body alluded to the working class as "wage slaves," is a curious illustration of how irritating a new truth may be when it comes in contact with a comforting delusion.

In the "society" column of one of our daily papers the statement is made that "small dinners are becoming popular." And yet it is said that "one-half the world doesn't know how the other half lives." Evidently the editor of this "society" column has been inquiring into the present condition of the working people and had discovered the item above given.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

We have it on the authority of Mr. J. V. Farwell, Jr., that the recently established State Pawnshop society exists for three purposes, viz: the encouragement of self-reliance, self-respect and the securing of six per cent dividend on capital invested.

For example. Here is the preamble of a set of resolutions recently drafted for a local "business men's" association for the prevention of "vice," which appeared in the daily papers last week:

Realizing that the presence of VICE in our community DESTROYS THE VALUE OF PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE, endangers the safety of our families and homes, and lowers the standard of moral and character, be it Resolved, That all respectable and law-abiding citizens of this community unite in organizing, etc., etc.

Another prominent merchant in the business district is taking a very active part in the elimination of the "dives" in his locality. "Why? Because, to use his own words, 'they contaminate our customers.' The latter have money with which they purchase the merchant's goods. This brings 'per cent'—profit on the capital invested. But the customers don't want to be 'contaminated,' and as they cannot get to the store without undergoing that process they go somewhere else, and the business man's rivals get the profits that would otherwise have gone to him.

with "business" in some particular locality. On the other hand when it conduces to rent, interest and profit, it is not only unobjectionable but eagerly sought after.

Some time ago a gentleman—we'll call him Jones, although that is not his name—sent forth a flat ordering all houses of ill fame to move from the East to the West Side. Why? Because he had houses and flats to rent over there, and the exodus would fill those houses and he would get rent.

Another "reformer" states that the business houses going into a certain downtown district raised the price of property so high that the houses of ill fame were forced to move out. In this case it paid better to fleece laborers out of the product of their toil than to wait for monthly rents from houses of prostitution. So out went those who paid the least, and the "moral" character of the neighborhood was at once elevated.

In a lecture before the Political Equality League, Miss Jane Addams gave it as her opinion that the public schools of the country were modeled too much after what is called in England, the "shopkeepers' plan." "It seems," she continued, "as if the business men had captured our public schools and had said that they wanted office men, and that the schools were endeavoring to supply this demand."

President Mitchell of the Mine Workers' union denounced the Socialists for interfering with the coal miners. He may be right so far as the DeLoonies are concerned, but Socialists usually make the best strikers, for they are the workers that are not satisfied and never will be until they secure the full social value of their labor.

President Mitchell further says, that "today our people earn as good wages as any of the crafts." That may also be true, but only two months ago official statements were made that the average wages of miners were less than \$5 per week. They have since won an increase of 10 per cent, and if that represents as good wages as is earned in any craft, is it not time that we got together to secure what belongs to us?

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"I love to tell what I think to be the truth frankly and plainly. I am not a rich man—far from it—but I now see my way to easily paying my butcher's bills for the rest of my life, and I can afford to say what I mean." This is the reason given by Max O'Rell in an article in the Chicago American as to why he should be believed. Can it be possible that truth telling and the ability to pay butcher's bills are in any way connected? Mr. O'Rell plainly implies that if he didn't "see his way" he might possibly lie. May be some of our university professors could dig a moral out of this statement if they tried hard enough.

Mr. O'Rell says also, in the same article, that he is positive that ninety-nine Americans out of one hundred sympathize with the Boers in their struggle for liberty. If this is so, the genial Frenchman might kindly explain the reason why "resolutions of sympathy" for the burghers, introduced in the senate and congress have been universally tabled by the members of those bodies. If he could do so without pricking the bubble of "majority rule," it would be no insignificant feat.

We regret to announce the death of an old and tried comrade, Michael Britzius, a veteran Socialist and well-known member of the International Cigar-makers' union, died on last Sunday, at Denver, Col., after a protracted illness. His body has been sent to Chicago for interment. Comrades are requested to attend the funeral, which will start from Garfield Turner hall, on Larabee street, at 1 p. m., on Sunday, December 22nd.

CIRCULATION NOTES.

GENERAL MENTION.

The good work of the city convention last Saturday night has opened up the way for a season of Socialist propaganda the like of which has never been seen in Chicago before. The petitions will be in the hands of the comrades by the time this edition gets to press. In a week or two half a hundred speakers will be talking socialism all over the city. The fight next spring will be to place the Socialist party on the official ballot in Chicago.

Say, comrade, have you any friend in mind to whom you contemplate giving a little Christmas present? You have? That is nice. There is nothing prettier than the good old custom of giving presents at Christmas tide. What kind of a present have you in mind? Necktie? Muffler? Gloves? Umbrella? Cigars? You have not decided yet? Very well, let's talk about it. Two heads may be better than one. Three presents for one pay, how does that strike you? FIRST, make your friend a present of a yearly subscription to the Workers' Call; SECOND, and at the same time, in all probability you make your party a present of a new adherent; and THIRD, we make you a present of the Socialist Campaign Book for 1909. Now! Doesn't that jar you into activity?

On the eleventh day of March, nineteen hundred and one, the Workers' Call will start on its third year of publication. It will have put behind it two years of hard work for the cause of socialism in Chicago. During these two years the movement has grown from insignificance into a prominence which commands respect. No one will deny that the Workers' Call has been the chief instrument in bringing about this state of affairs. The movement has now reached a point in its development when the necessity for enlarging the size and scope of the paper has become imperative. The Workers' Call should start in its third year as a seven instead of a six column folio. This will lengthen each page about three inches and add four new columns, making in all an addition the size of one page of the Call in its present form.

So you are a Socialist too? Are you a speaker? No? Well, that's good. We cannot all be speakers. Besides the speakers' opportunities are restricted. He spelt binds his audience perhaps with his eloquence and his unanswerable argument, but the crowd goes home and forgets all about it. The speaker's arguments need to be supplemented by six months reading of some Socialist paper. Pushing circulation of "the party press is the important thing after all. Bring your man to hear a Socialist speak and you perhaps will get him started towards socialism, but make him subscribe for six months to a Socialist paper and you have got him good and fast. Have you any Call postals in your pocket?

PERSONAL MENTION.

Five dollars worth of postals go to Comrade L. H. Edmiston at Riverside, Cal.

Comrade Paul Pressel, of Moline, sends us a club of two yearlies and one half-yearly.

Fifteen Workers' Call postals go to Comrade C. Kessler of Kansas City.

Comrade L. Anderson has disposed of sixteen half-yearly postals during the past week.

Comrade Berlyn has disposed of two dozen Call postals during the past week. If other speakers and workers would go in for subscriptions as Barney does we would start the third year of the seven column folio.

The Twelfth Ward branch is at present one of the most active in selling Call postals. It takes its regular quota of cards each week, and the business of disposing of them seems to have been reduced to a most effective system. If the other branches would only do likewise that 25,000 circulation would not be long in materializing.

One of the best subscription hustlers in the city is Comrade John Cottrell, of the Bricklayers' union. Thirty half-yearlies and five yearlies all in a bunch is a pretty good record.

CORRESPONDENCE.

From Springfield, Mass. Chicago National Executive Board, Theodore Debs, Secretary, 125 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

The national campaign just closed has demonstrated the fact that the rank and file of the Social Democrats of this country are possessed of a much sounder instinct and a greater foresight than many of the men who feel called upon to "lead" them.

While these leaders were busy arguing on the line of rejecting union for the sake of unity and analyzing the spirit of their fellow workers in the field of socialism, the rank and file of the Social Democrats saw nothing but the approaching national campaign, and joined hands in the battle against their common foe—capitalism. The movement was spontaneous and irresistible. State after state and local after local united, and refused the claim that the "masses" were ripe for union by a practical demonstration of the contrary.

So strong indeed was the movement for union, that even the center of the contest, the state in which your committee has its seat, Illinois, could not escape it. The rank and file of the Socialist voters of Illinois forced complete union for the state and county elections, and one of the members of your own committee, yielding to the general sentiment, introduced the resolution declaring for ORGANIC NATIONAL UNION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CAMPAIGN.

The joint and harmonious work of the campaign, fastened the bonds of solidarity still tighter around all true Socialists; the enthusiasm of the members achieved what the diplomacy of their leaders could not accomplish—a practical union of the Social Democrats of the United States.

The final unification seemed now almost a matter of course, and urgent demands for an early joint convention for the purpose of formally effecting the same commenced coming from all parts of the country, when we were apprised by your official organ that your committee had called into your headquarters a separate national convention of your members, for January 15th.

Comrades, we do not know the exact purpose of your convention, but from the fact that it was called in such haste and without consulting even your own adherents, and from the further fact, that according to the report of your official organs, the convention was decided upon at a meeting of one of your locals, characterized by violent abuse of our organization and our members, we assume that it was not called in the interest of Socialist unity, and let us be frank, we suspected it to be a move to head off the threatened avalanche in favor of union.

In the face of these facts, we feel it our duty towards those affiliated with your committee, to define once more our attitude on the issues between us.

Comrades, we are for the union of the Socialist forces of this country today, as strongly and unconditionally as we were ever since the joint unity committee adjourned. We are willing to forget the many unpleasant incidents of the past, we are ready to surrender our mandates, offices and organization to the entire membership of the Social Democratic party represented at the joint convention, and we demand the same of you. We are willing to afford to waste our time on mutual recriminations over imaginary grievances at a moment when energetic and concerted action of all earnest Socialists is required more than ever in order to exploit the favorable field now open to our propaganda. To wantonly split our movement just now, is a crime against our great ideal, a crime against the working class of this country, and you are about to commit this heinous crime by your efforts to make the discord in the Socialist ranks permanent.

If you expect to inaugurate another era of personal abuse and controversies in our movement, we will positively refuse to follow you, and if you endeavor to keep alive the unfortunate petty controversies and divisions within the party, the membership will know how to bring about complete unity of all active and earnest Socialists in spite of all.

We request you to postpone the calling of any national convention until the rank and file of the entire membership of the Social Democratic party, as constituted during the recent campaign, has had a chance to pass upon the matter, and should you pay no heed to this request, we shall address a similar communication to the convention called by you.

Yours for the cause, The Provisional National Executive Committee, W. Eutscher, Sec'y, Springfield, Mass., Dec. 15, 1909.

Out for Socialist Unity.

Editor Workers' Call:—The following resolution was offered by Comrade James Wright, organizer for Branch 4, Social Democratic party in Chicago, Ill., and adopted by over two-thirds of said branch:

We, the undersigned, comprising over two-thirds of the members of Branch 4 of Chicago, sever all connection with the Executive Board at 125 Washington street; and following the example of our worthy comrades of Iowa, will tender no allegiance to any executive board whatever, until there is only one executive board elected by the united Social Democratic party of America.

Resolved, That until union has been consummated we the undersigned, will pay dues to the Illinois State committee that has practically demonstrated that they desire union; and we will work in hearty accord with said committee in its praiseworthy efforts to consummate a union of the Socialist forces of America; and we endorse the Workers' Call as our state organ.

Clyde Harger, John Grant, Frank King, Charles Bruesch, G. L. Spencer, Frank Masffe, R. W. Sullivan, I. W. Clark, L. Kuehn, C. H. Berry, N. C. Apker, E. T. Mico, Eugene Bugrag, Arthur Masters, Walter Huggins, Joseph Conrad, H. G. Conrad, G. L. Simons, John V. Anderson, L. Mickelson, James Wright, Organizer, Chicago, December 11, 1909.

The Campaign Fund.

Previously reported \$3.00 A. Dodge .50 H. Wredelvelt .25 Mr. Conway .25 R. A. Morris .100 Total \$5.00

Notice.

Notice to organizers and secretaries in Chicago and throughout the state:—You are requested to send me immediately dates and addresses of secretaries and organizers. This data is for use in revising the directory of locals published in the Workers' Call. Aug. Klenke, State Organizer, 35 N. Clark St., Room 1.

