

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. 97.

CHICAGO, ILL., JANUARY 12, 1901.

PRICE ONE CENT

ETHICAL PROBLEMS

Central Music Hall Address By
Geo. D. Herron.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTURE

First of the Series Is Attended by a
Very Large and Thoroughly Appreciative Audience.

Last Sunday afternoon at Central Music Hall, corner of Randolph and State streets, Comrade Geo. D. Herron delivered the first of a series of twelve lectures on the ethical aspect of socialism. Despite the inclemency of the weather the large auditorium was filled almost to its capacity. It is conservatively estimated that fully 1,500 persons were present. Comrade Herron spoke for an hour and a half to an attentive and appreciative audience as ever gathered on such an occasion. The course of the lectures which extend through the months of January, February and March will undoubtedly prove of great value to the Socialist movement in Chicago. Socialists should not neglect the opportunity to bring their friends to hear these lectures. Comrade Herron will lecture every Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Admission is free.

The subject of Comrade Herron's first lecture was the "Need of a New Religious Synthesis." How thoroughly and satisfactorily he handled the subject is shown in the following excerpts from the lecture. The Workers' Call regrets that for want of space it cannot publish the whole address:

"It is in the fragmentary and uncompromising nature of recent reform programs that we must seek their failure. They are not followed because they are not worth following; not worthy of noble faith or thoughtful enthusiasm. So puerile and sectarian has been so much of late reform effort, that the people have rightly refused its faith and respect. Not because of anything radical in recent programs have they and their leaders been without effective following; but because of their very lack of radicalism. There has been no moment in the last decade when the people were not far and away more radical than any of their leaders; but the leaders were too stupid and unbelieving to know it. We have reached the case in which the sheep have much more sense than the shepherds. It is one of the signs of promise that men will not now be led by tame and tinkering proposals. It means that heroism is becoming scientific; that the spiritual instinct of the common life can be trusted to know what is greatly worth while. When the definite and comprehensively radical program appears, and the interpreter comes who shall speak the right word in its behalf, the people will flock to it full-armed, and will leave no hostages behind them.

"Now if we closely question the different problems of our arising world-crisis, we shall find that we are dealing with what is really but one problem under different phases. Each expresses a form of the growing conflict of the self-governing idea of life against the capitalistic idea from which our laws and customs spring. By a far-seeing instinct, the self-governing idea now postulates itself upon a democratic Socialist movement for the overthrow of the economic system upon which existing religious, political and moral systems clearly depend. The coercive state, the spiritually coercive religious institution, the economically coercive wage-system, the coercive morality that is so destructive to the growth and integrity of the individual soul, all spring from the same capitalistic root. Pull up that root, and you pull up the whole civilization that grows upon it. Every institution or system that is integrally related to capitalism will have to go when capitalism goes. Let us set with the whole truth of the matter, and wince not at the immensity of its issues and consequences. There will then be no confusing the lines of conflict, and we shall be more likely to acquit ourselves as men upon whom rest world-responsibilities. We must not blink the fact that the Socialist movement comes as the most radical and far-reaching revolution ever proposed by man for his emancipation. No more demand for economic reform and changes moves the revolt against the capitalistic system of production and distribution; against the wages system of slavery and stultification, and the predatory and gambling commercial system. It is not reform that socialism proposes, but a wholly new kind of a world; an entirely re-ordered life, issuing in an altogether new human creation. Not because the present kind of world is bad, any more than a coat is bad because it is worn out, but because its possibilities of usefulness and liberty are exhausted, and its institutions no longer fit to care for the common good. And, mark you, just so sure as the Socialist movement is shot through with the fire of a great spiritual passion, as I believe it will be, that

sure will its demands grow more radical and far-reaching.

"For deeper than the capitalistic system is the false thought of life in which it is rooted, and from which it draws its nourishment. Not only must the system be uprooted, but the soil that sustains it must be removed. That soil is the thought that it is necessary for some people to use and rule other people, either for the good of the ruled, or for the good of the ruling class. We do not realize it, but our whole civilization and its culture are built out of various forms of private property in man; they are built upon the assumption that the many lawfully belong to the few, in one way or another. THERE IS NOT A HUMAN INSTITUTION WHICH, IF ANALYSED CLEARLY THROUGH, WILL NOT BE FOUND RESTING UPON SOME DIRECT OR INDIRECT OWNERSHIP OF HUMAN BEINGS BY HUMAN BEINGS. The capitalist system is merely the enforcement of this world-system of human ownership; that is, the ownership of the economic things upon which people depend is the sinkest and surest way of owning the people, or of appropriating their labor-power, and life-product, which is the essence of slavery. But the spirit of human ownership runs through every mode of labor and life. We are all seeking some sort of private property in our fellow-creatures; all using one another in ways that practically amount to the ownership of one another. The immorality and degradation that result, both to the user and the used, from the use of our brothers for personal ends, or for impersonal ends that we take to be good, is yet remote from our ethics. Even the most strenuous teachers of liberty are woefully reluctant to grant to one another the liberty they teach. And so far as the issues of life are concerned, it is all one to a man whether it be his labor-power and mind-product, or his conceptions of truth and determinings between right and wrong, that be ordered by others than himself. For to have one's life ordered for him, to have it taken out of his own hands and directed by something else than his own choice and will, is to be a slave.

"Let us not longer be deceived by academic and ruling-class notions of liberty. We are not free, nor have we the spiritual nerve or faith to be free. The meaning of liberty has scarcely dawned upon us, and its power and gladness have not come within our dreams. We are, on the whole, a world of hard-driven and perpetually frightened slaves, whose best manners are still in the cringing stage, and whose religious teachings are thoroughly servile in source and effect. Take a cross-section of human activity, the world through, anywhere at any time, and you will find it to be chiefly slave-activity; whether it be labor of hand or mind, it is labor done under some kind of lash or menace, some kind of fear or coercion. The labor of the world has love at its heart, but it has a slave-bull civilization on its back, and the slave-fear in its soul. Our religions serve our legal and economic systems by training us to slave-habits of mind, and by keeping us to slave-postures of submission. Our thoughts are the thoughts of slaves, and our deeds are the deeds of slaves, and we pray the prayers of slaves. So complete is the environment of tyranny under which labor serves, so all-pervading the slave-atmosphere which life breathes, so poisoned are we all with tyrant-tactics and slave-ethics, that we have as yet no real consciousness of liberty, nor any experience by which to interpret it. Before liberty can become even a comprehensive ideal, it will require a new thought of life in which to source itself, and new institutions and systems as the organs of its expression. And this is not to be wondered at, when we reflect that our institutions, as well as our religious and moral systems, are the product of the long slave-centuries, with their slave-conditions and tyrant habits of mind and activity. Our present kind of a world answered, in a perpetually tragic way, for the long centuries of evolution from slavery, but it is no fit world for free men to live in, and neither its systems nor its faiths will answer for free men to express themselves with. The human race has outgrown its methods of work and modes of life, its religious systems and moral codes; where they once uplifted and liberated the race, they now drag it down, and add weights to its bonds. It will take a new heaven of free choices and equal opportunities above our heads, and a NEW SARTH OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION BENEATH OUR FEET, TO MAKE THE SOULS OF MEN A FIT HOME FOR LIBERTY TO DWELL IN.

"Perhaps we can now see how the economic and religious and political crises are all one, and why their solution must be one. These crises alike proceed from the increasingly determined and intelligent struggle of man for the possession and direction of his own life; for that self-ownership which is the soil and substance of liberty. That struggle is now putting an unwonted strain upon all our modes of life and society, and that this strain is getting close to the breaking point, merely in-

(Continued on page 4.)

SHOWS STEADY GAIN

Provisional National Executive Committee Reports.

PROGRESS OF PARTY AFFAIRS.

Twenty-eight New Branches Organized— Resolutions Regarding Convention, Financial Condition, Etc.

The Provisional National Executive Committee met Saturday, December 23, 1900, at Springfield, Mass., with Morris Hillquit in the chair. About John S. Chase, without excuse. Minutes of previous meeting approved as read.

Communications were received from Nashua, N. H., announcing that the comrades intend to start a Socialist weekly in the French language; Barre, Vt.; Denver, Col.; New Britain, Conn.; Kewanee, Ill.; Chicago, Ill.; Covington, Ky.; Washington State Committee; Propaganda; Dover, N. H.; Milwaukee, Wis.; Pennsylvania State Committee; Puerto Rico Territorial Committee, forwarding a credential for Santiago Iglesias as a member of the N. E. C. for Puerto Rico; Brockton, Mass.; Belleville, Ky.; New Jersey State Committee; The Toller; Oklahoma Territorial Committee; Reno, Nev.; Adjar, Ala.; Reading, Mass.; Pittsburg, Pa.

Resolutions received from Local Chicago, Ill., favoring an early convention; from Iowa State Committee in favor of unity; Portsmouth, O., ditto; from Connecticut State Committee (joint) in favor of unity and an early national convention. Further resolutions favoring an early national convention of all Socialist organizations received from Seattle, Tacoma, Buckley, and Benton, Wash.; Erie, Pa.; Nashville, Tenn.; Tiffin, O.; Saginaw, Mich.; Ticonderoga, N. Y.; Bridgeport, Conn.; Haverhill, Mass.; Bowling Green, Ky.; and Ohio and California state committees; referred to new business.

National secretary reported having ordered 10,000 due cards, 2,500 constitutions in English, 1,500 in German, 10,000 application cards, and 10,000 stamps.

Charters granted to locals at Pittsburg, Pa.; Butte, Mont.; Aberdeen, Wash.; La Santa, Wash.; Pelouse, Wash.; Danbridge, Wash.; Pottstown, Pa.; Quincy, Ill.; Olympia, Wash.; Watertown, N. Y.; Glen Carbon, Ill.; Glen Ellyn, Ill.; Roan, Pa.; Massillon, O.; Cohoes, N. Y.; Colfax, Wash.; Mansfield, O.; Clint, Mich.; Bowling Green, Ky.; New Brunswick, Ill.; Dover, N. H.; Pearl River, N. Y.; Hamilton, O.; Tumwater, Wash.; Everett, Wash.—twenty-eight in all.

Reports came that the lecture tour of Comrade Pete Curran is meeting with success. Collected by the N. E. C. for Massachusetts Municipal Campaign Fund, \$293.43; received for International delegate stamps, \$155.25. The locals are urged to settle for the International delegate stamps as there are many unpaid bills standing from the last campaign. The committee on literature is instructed to tabulate the vote of the S. D. P. Comrade N. Geiger sends the report of his tour in Massachusetts. The officers of the locals are requested to send in the semi-annual reports.

On motion it was ordered that Comrade Chas. H. Vall be engaged as national organizer for the S. D. P. for the term of one year from January 1, 1901.

On motion the locals are requested to contribute for the purpose of discharging the debts incurred by the party during the last campaign.

On motion the questions of unity were ordered to be referred to a general vote of the party and the National Secretary was instructed to submit the questions to other Socialist organizations.

The Committee on Grievance reports that it has examined the evidence upon the expulsion of Theodore Kieselring of Local Lawrence, Mass., for working for the success of the Republican party and finds the expulsion justified. Report accepted.

Ordered that Committee on Literature prepare a proper application blank. Ordered that a press stamp be issued to locals, in accordance with the provisions of the constitution. National Secretary instructed to buy a typewriter.

Ordered that the general vote on national convention be closed March 1, 1901.

Receipts since last session are \$464.22; expenses, \$455.65.

The next meeting will take place February 3, 1901.

Adjourned.

Henry Slobodin, Sec. Sec'y.

Comrades attention! In all previous elections the Socialist vote in Chicago has increased in exact proportion to the circulation of the Workers' Call. Don't forget that the party organ is the most important factor in the Socialist campaign. Are you selling any Call Postals?

ASK FOR A VERDICT

Capitalist Journalism Appeals to Posterity.

FUTURE TO JUDGE THE PAST.

Audacity and Folly of Today Hope for Justification One Hundred Years Hence.

The employees of the Tribune had dinner together on New Year's day, and a letter was read to them which is to be addressed to the "Tribune Family," which it is assumed will be in existence in the year 2001. The last sentence of the letter reads, "May those who read the resolutions they and look at the archive records of our efforts, enjoy themselves and their work as heartily as we do today." With child-like faith these present signed the letter and it was placed in a safety-deposit vault to remain there until January 1, 2001. If there will be such a paper as the Tribune in existence one hundred years from now and this letter survives, together with the memory of what the Tribune now is, the comments that will be made on it will be such that could the signers anticipate them they would never have exposed their names for the sake of promulgating unwholesome and disgusting occurrences which would never occur but for their abstention; that they should spend their time discussing the methods by which the sails of a few benefactors of a rotten vessel could be trimmed; that they should prostitute the power they have to do good service to all, to the exigencies of the few; that they should fail to grasp the opportunities (open to them), of bettering mankind by pointing out the only possible way to that betterment, but traitorously yield up the confidence of the people, until by the slow process of enforced reasoning brought on by the pressure of their economic conditions the masses of the world turn, as the seasons and at intervals, against them; that they should do all these things and find pleasure in the doing, and express the hope that their tactics would continue until their successors one hundred years afterwards might glory in doing the same "work," will be the cause of their being regarded by all one hundred years hence, as creatures low indeed.

No such letter was left by the church of America one hundred years ago to be read at this time, but the Rev. N. D. Hills has risen to tell what a wonderful improvement has come about in church morals. "One hundred years ago," he said, "at a funeral from a Presbyterian church, all of the pall bearers were so drunk before they reached the grave that they had to transfer the task of lowering the coffin to other hands. These pall bearers were all deacons and trustees, etc., of the church, and their disgraceful conduct prompted the ministers to forbid the use of liquors thereafter at funeral ceremonies."

One hundred years from now men will arise to recount the advance made in journalism, and the utter incompetency of those in whose keeping journalism now is, will be brought out. Drunk with the applause and favor of the small slave-driving class, the present trustees of this vessel, which should distribute the waters of intelligence and progress to all, prostitute it to base ends; and when it shall die to its present iniquitous office, to arise again to the purpose of its true usefulness, other hands at the grave shall lower it to its oblivion. Their drunkenness blinds them, and when their eyes shall open, their function will be in other hands more fit to administer that which they knew not how to use.

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DON'T WANT PARCELS POST.

Little Business Men "Roar Gently As a Sucking Dove" Against It, With "Vigorous Petitions."

The parcels-post bill now pending in congress affords another opportunity to the petty capitalist to display his impotence in attempting to retard the triumphant course of the economic development. According to the newspapers he is preparing to offer "vigorous" opposition to its passage by getting out "petitions" against the contemplated measure. A "vigorous petition" may sound absurd, but it is thoroughly in harmony with the other contradictions inherent in capitalism.

It would seem that these reactionaries are intuitively aware of the fact that "congress" is the instrument of their bigger competitors. The small exploiter recognizes this so completely that he even dare not make a "demand." So he approaches the powers that be with a "petition" instead, to be presented with all the vigor which his class imagine they possess.

The opposition to the bill arises, directly from threatened material interests, and the statement put forward as to why the bill should be defeated

gives a good illustration of the squeezing-out process now going on in the ranks of the exploiters. It is as follows:

The "small" merchants declare that the passage of the bill would afford department stores and catalogue houses an undue advantage over them, inasmuch as it would enable freight to be sent through the mails at such rates as would give the "big" merchants a chance to pull down their prices to figures with which they could not profitably compete. Moreover, they say that it would enable the "big" men in the large cities to undersell the "small" men in their home towns.

To which the "big men" might retort, "What are we here for?"

Unless the "small men" can influence "public opinion" in their behalf, it is probable that their "petition" will hardly prove sufficiently "vigorous" to prevent the passing of the bill. And the job of convincing the "public" that it is to their interest to pay more for goods than they absolutely have to is no easy task, particularly while the system which buys labor in the cheapest market, remains in vogue. When the bill becomes law, however, we may expect to hear dark prophecies of a "bloody revolution," a pastime which has recently become popular amongst disgruntled champions of middle class interests.

Look out for the Chicago Federation of Labor's report of municipal ownership in the next issue.

DOINGS IN "SOCIETY."

Our Best Citizens Hold High Carnival in Brand's Hall on Last Saturday Night.

The third annual Workers' Call benefit ball took place last Saturday night at Brand's Hall, corner Clark and Erie streets. At least one thousand persons were present, and enjoyed themselves as only Socialists among Socialists can enjoy themselves. The Workers' Call balls have become famous for their good natured jovial informality. From 9 o'clock in the evening until 4 o'clock Sunday morning the large hall was crowded with Socialists and their sympathizers. Both old and young availed themselves of the opportunity, which only comes once a year, to "trip the light fantastic" for the benefit of the organ of the militant Socialists of Chicago.

The floor was under the management of a committee of young men from the Socialist Educational club. Great credit is due these comrades for the able manner in which they supervised the affair. Music for the occasion was furnished by Holmberg's orchestra. The Socialist Sangerbund was present and favored the assembled merry-makers with several selections. Especially was their rendition of "The Marseillaise" appreciated by the comrades. The speaker for the occasion was Walter Thomas Mills, who in a few well-pointed and humorous remarks, served to put the crowd in still better humor to enjoy the evening.

At 1 o'clock the dancers took a recess and marched into the supper room where, a sumptuous lunch had been spread by the Socialist ladies. There was all manner of good things to satisfy the palate of man, and jollity reigned supreme. After the supper was disposed of, the merry-makers again betook themselves to dancing, which continued until 4 o'clock in the morning. When it was all over the comrades went home well pleased with the night's entertainment.

The Workers' Call is the organ of the SOCIALIST PARTY.

Union Men Take Notice!

We desire to notify the membership of the trades unions of Chicago and elsewhere that the Workers' Call has been selected to publish the report of the Chicago Federation of Labor upon Municipal Ownership. As it is desirable to give this report the widest possible circulation trades unionists are requested to bring this matter before the members of their respective unions, so that a sufficient number of copies may be provided. Secretaries of unions taking action upon this subject, and ordering a definite number of copies, will please communicate with this office, 36 N. Clark street, stating the number of copies they are prepared to take. A special rate of \$3.00 per thousand will be made to Chicago unions, \$4.00 per thousand to unions elsewhere to cover postal expenses. Please order as soon as possible as the matter will appear in the issue of the 19th inst. It is necessary that all orders for copies reach this office not later than Thursday, the 17th inst., to make their fulfillment possible.

To Spy Out the Land.

Robert Rives La Monte, the brilliant young Socialist Democrat who toured this state last fall for five weeks, is on the way to New Zealand. He is going to study the labor situation in that much-talked of little country, and will probably put his impressions in book form. La Monte is a keen observer, and whatever he may publish will settle many of the questions that are now objects of more or less heated controversy.

Send in a club of ten this week.

Socialist Pointers

John Collins is a union man and he is the only one who will be nominated.

Not everybody who claims to be a Socialist is one. Actions speak louder than words.

Are you going down in your pocket as hard as you can for the spring campaign fund?

The man who is willing to follow a leader is not a Socialist, no matter what he may call himself.

Remember we want 10,000 votes for John Collins, and we can have them if each Socialist brings in a man.

California's large vote and splendid organization is a rebuke to Socialists who are divided into hostile camps.

If you want to elect an alderman this spring just get the workmen of your ward interested in the Workers' Call.

The average reform movement soon dies out after the reformers have received sufficient advertising out of it.

One thing the early part of the century will bring will be Socialist harmony, for the signs are all in the air.

No doubt John P. Hopkins would be for municipal ownership along with the rest of them, if he could thus gain his point.

The Sunday-closing laws were not made for the benefit of the ruling classes. No restraining laws were meant for them.

If Mr. Rockefeller is not the government now, he probably will be after he has a few more good days in Wall street.

How foolish of Aguinaldo not to be satisfied with the kind of liberty the black men in the United States possess.

America is now the creditor nation of the world, but that fact does not feed any tramps, at least so that anyone can notice it.

Mr. Bryan is not coming our way so fast that he is running over any small boys or old people who refuse to get out of the way.

There is not half the tragedy in the death of a rich man as there is in the taking away of the head and support of some humble home.

The capitalist who has made a success by accident or otherwise, puts a tremendous amount of stress on brains as a means of success.

The new century will probably produce the usual number of freaks who will want to tell the Socialists just how to run their business.

Com Paul would do well to study socialism which will overcome the British empire after his brave Dutchmen have been defeated and conquered.

Defeated organizations in the building trades have a chance to renew the struggle at the ballot box this spring. One of their own number is a candidate.

The small trader who gets frozen out by one of Rockefeller and Morgan's big deals immediately gets excited and red in the face in advocating anti-trust laws.

The difference between the Altgeld Socialists and the Carter Harrison Socialists is so slight that they will probably be found voting one ticket this spring.

J. Pierpont Morgan is to reduce the cost of producing coal, but the people will have no interest in the reduction, as he will slip the amount into his own pocket.

It must be quite a consolation to the striker who is nursing a broken head from a policeman's club, to know that the city democratic administration has furnished jobs for most of the labor leaders.

Here is an item that goes far to prove the truth of the statement that classes do not exist in this country. A dispatch from Cleveland, Ohio, to the Chicago Record says:

Cleveland, O., Jan. 2.—The feminine portion of Cleveland society is AGHAST at the knowledge that it danced with detectives at Ruth Hanna's coming-out party in the Chamber of Commerce building New Year's night.

It appears from this report that fifty of these man catchers were in attendance at this "society" function disguised as guests, which is undoubtedly a striking tribute to Mark Hanna's implicit faith in capitalist "human nature."

THE WORKERS' CALL.

Issued every Saturday at 36 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Entered at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., as second class matter, October 10, 1895. Postpaid.

Subscription Rates: One year \$6.00, Six months \$3.50, Three months \$2.00, Single copies 10c.

Advertisements: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted. Rates will be made known upon application.

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.



A DOUBTFUL "BALANCE."

In reviewing the progress of human society in the century just passed, it is interesting to observe how every capitalist newspaper and magazine attempts to show, as a justification for the present arrangement of things economic, that the condition of the working class has on the whole been improved.

That the economic development of the century has not only affected the life conditions of the working class in general, but that they are ready to admit. But they are careful to make it appear that whatever hardships have been inflicted upon the workers, has been rather more than balanced by compensations in other ways.

Again, the intellectual loss resulting from the elimination of skill through machine production, where the whole labor time of the worker is spent in an endless repetition of one mechanical operation, is said to be more than offset by the shortening of the hours of labor, the opportunities for popular education, the extension of the press, and the assumption of political responsibilities by the working class.

Many similar illustrations might be taken at random from these productions, all tending to demonstrate that on the whole the working class ledger for the nineteenth century shows somewhat more of profit than loss, but the above will suffice. These matters are still open to dispute, although it is hardly probable that any Socialist will be found wasting his time on arguing the details in order to disprove a favorable balance however small.

wants, unknown to previous centuries, were in themselves created by the development of capitalist production, and for their partial satisfaction the capitalist exacted tribute in the shape of surplus value.

To demonstrate the truth of the statement that capitalism creates the forces which will ultimately destroy it, will form the chief work of the twentieth century.

A few months ago Mark Hanna, speaking on the favorite Republican topic, of "prosperity," stated plainly that the working class could expect no more than they were at present "enjoying" unless a total economic change (he didn't specify it), took place.

MIDDLE CLASS "REVOLUTIONS." It has been steadily contended by Socialists, and has often been pointed out in these columns as well as those of other Socialist papers, that the question of imperialism was an economic necessity for capitalism; that it was but a part and parcel of the imperialism which reigns today in the workshop, mine and factory, and which carries with it the imperative need of securing markets for the commodities produced therein.

On January 4 Senator Teller, on the floor of the senate, publicly revoked a former speech which he had made before the same body, assuring the people of this country that there could be no imperialism in the Philippines.

Within the last two or three weeks these reactionary hints have been heard from more than one public individual. They are only referred to in the capitalist press with short and contemptuous comments attached.

And rightly so. Capitalism has nothing to fear from the vapors of its own unprosperous elements. The menace of revolution lies not with the dying middle class. The working class, which alone carries the potentiality of revolution within itself, cannot be induced to champion the cause of the small exploiter with any hope of success.

time, and that promises made to those who have no power to exact their fulfillment are worthless. The anti-imperialist ballots which elected him might just as well never have been cast.

Political and economic supremacy are inseparable and the spectacle of our Tellers, Hoars and Wellingtons vainly attempting to stay its course on sentimental grounds, is perhaps necessary for the instruction of those who imagine that the progress of the world is measured and bounded by the landmarks of a hundred years ago, instead of the economic and material interests of the present.

THE TEACHERS' FEDERATION.

Musical and Dramatic Entertainment to Be Given on January 18th At the Coliseum.

A musical and dramatic entertainment will be given under the auspices of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, at the Coliseum, Wabash avenue and Fifteenth street, on January 18th at 8 p. m.

This entertainment for the benefit of the Federation Tax Fund, aside from its merit from an amusement standpoint, is of national interest, owing to the great public question underlying its inception and the efforts of the Chicago Teachers' Federation to secure for all tax payers equitable just taxation.

In 1899 the franchises of the street railway, gas, electric and telephone companies of Chicago, entirely escaped, though the statements of these companies to their stockholders showed the value of these franchises to be upward of 20 million dollars.

The assessors listed it, for the first time in the history of Chicago; next the Federation filed a petition in the circuit court of Sangamon county to compel the State Board of Equalization to assess the property so listed.

Before the expiration of the three days the attorneys for these public service corporations appeared before the State Board and on the morning that the attorneys arrived in Springfield the Board adopted a new rule for determining the value of franchises.

This new rule entirely ignores the basic principle of the old rule which was to base the value of the capital stock and franchises in the net earning capacity. The Board made an assessment under this new rule which recognizes the existence of the franchises, that is they were not allowed to escape entirely as last year, but the assessment was merely nominal.

Public service corporations interests have represented that the public does not approve of the teachers engaging in this work, nor of their methods of conducting it. The time has come to determine whether these representations reflect public sentiment or are desirous of moulding it.

Some of the ward branches have established a regular system of selling Workers' Call postals. This is the most important work a branch can do. If your branch is not already disposing of its quota of Call postals, agitate the matter at your next meeting.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

"War of Great Trusts to End," "Coffee and Sugar Men Agree," "Gets \$500,000 From Tin Trust," "Champion Iron and Steel Sells Muskegon Plant to Combine."

These items which appeared in the morning papers of January 4th would seem to indicate that the new century opens auspiciously for American capitalism. It is to be peace instead of war between the great exploiters.

At the same time reports from across the Atlantic state that Europe has almost arrived at the end of its taxing power. The enormous cost of armies and navies together with the rapid growth of American competition foretells that a serious crisis is near.

Union men are especially requested to see to it that their respective organizations are supplied with the next issue of this paper, setting forth the views of the Chicago Federation of Labor upon the subject of municipal ownership.

"I want to know why that was done. The gentleman is out of order. Point of order, Mr. Chairman. If the gentleman will sit down—Sit down—I know what you did when you was in the City Hall—You're a stiff—Sit down you stiff."

The above is a faithful transcript from the press report of the proceedings of the Democratic County Central committee on January 7. In all this "feast of reason and flow of soul" it would be difficult to detect any traces of the "eternal and time-honored principles" of democracy, though it might appear that a "declaration of independence" was being noisily proclaimed by every individual present.

Considerably more space was devoted in the papers to speculating upon the quantity of dollars which Mr. Armour managed to accumulate than upon any characteristics of the man himself, which were not connected with money-getting.

It is utterly impertinent whether the dead man is to be regarded as a "friend" or an "enemy" to labor. The method by which his wealth was accumulated will still persist, and the death of a dozen millionaires per day would make absolutely no difference in the life-conditions of the working class.

The re-apportionment bill is perplexing the capitalist politicians. They want to disfranchise the working class and throw the onus upon the other fellow. It will be noticed that the Republicans do not intend to call the southern states to account for the disfranchisement of the colored people.

The reasons for this policy are apparent enough. The Republicans will not interfere with the action of the southern Democrats because they desire themselves to disfranchise the northern working class. We have stated this before, and as the development of this scheme progresses we would repeat the warning, which is also a call to action—Workers' Unite!

BUNDLES OF THE WORKERS' CALL. 100 copies 50 cents, 50 copies 35 cents, 25 copies 20 cents. This offer is for bundles mailed to a address.

LOCAL NEWS AND NOTES.

Branches should pay the carriage of speakers who address their agitation meetings.

All Socialists residing in the Fourteenth ward are requested to send their names and addresses to F. M. Hull, 84 Thomas street, Secretary Fourteenth Ward Branch Socialist Party.

The Thirty-fifth Ward branch held an interesting agitation meeting last Friday evening at their hall in Masonic Temple, Austin. The speaker of the evening was Comrade Thos. J. Morgan, who took for his subject: "The Historical Basis of Socialism."

There was a good crowd present at the meeting of the Twenty-fifth Ward branch last Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, at their hall 933 Sheffield avenue, near Belmont.

The petitions for nomination of city officers are now in the city organizer's hands for distribution. The comrades should lose no time in providing themselves with these petitions and securing enough signatures to secure on all hand bills, programs and cards.

A great many branches in getting out cards and hand bills neglect a very important matter. The Workers' Call must not be forgotten at any time. Hand bills and cards used in advertising branch meetings should also be made to advertise the Workers' Call.

The Socialist Educational club held an interesting agitation meeting last Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at its headquarters, 1123 Milwaukee avenue.

The Thirtieth and Thirty-first Ward branches have secured headquarters at 608 Halsted street, for the winter. The rooms will be kept open every evening and a regular series of agitation meetings will be arranged in the near future.

Signs of Decadence. Under the system as it now exists, the wealth of the world, however created, and irrespective of claims of the producer, is made to flow toward certain centers of accumulation, to be enjoyed by those holding the keys of such situations.

These are great, serious evils, compared as such, that would be committed if no government existed, would be as trifles. The underpaid labor, the prolonged and groveling drudgery, the wasted strength, the misery and squallor, the diseases resulting, and the premature deaths that would be prevented by a just distribution of the products of labor, would in a single year outweigh all the so-called crimes of century for the prevention of which, it is said, government alone exists.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Submitted to the Membership. Comrade—The National Executive Committee has received a number of resolutions on the subject of unity from various locals of the party, and it now becomes our duty to submit the propositions contained in the same to a general vote of the members in accordance with the provisions of our constitution.

Question 1. Shall a national convention of the Socialists of the United States for the purpose of effecting a union of Socialist forces and establishing a solid party organization be called for an early date?

Question 2. Shall all locals of the Social Democratic party affiliated with the Springfield N. E. C. be invited to participate in such convention?

Question 3. Shall all branches of the S. D. P. affiliated with the Chicago N. E. C. be invited to participate in the convention?

Question 4. Shall all sections of the Socialist Labor Party be invited to participate in the convention?

Question 5. Shall all Socialist State organizations not affiliated with any national committee be invited to participate in such a convention?

Question 6. Shall all other Socialist organizations, including the class struggle and the necessity of independent political action of the working class, be invited to participate in the convention?

Question 7. Shall the only condition of participation in such convention be a pledge to abide by the decisions of the convention?

Question 8. Shall the basis of representation for all such organizations be one delegate for each local organization, and one additional delegate for each one hundred members or major fraction thereof?

Question 9. Shall two or more organizations be permitted to co-opterate for the purpose of sending delegates on the above basis?

Question 10. In what city shall the convention be held? Name city.

Question 11. Shall the N. E. C. be authorized to fix the date and change the place and basis of representation of the convention in conjunction with the Chicago N. E. C., or any state organization if requested by such organization?

Respectfully submitted. The Provisional National Executive Committee.

Wm. Butscher, Sec'y. Note.—Any person or organization can have copies of the above by applying to the National Secretary, Court Square, Springfield, Mass.

Various Reminders From the N. E. C. —Springfield, Mass., January 5, 1901.

Comrades.—With the beginning of the new century, we came to this office two new publications, started in the interest of socialism and the S. D. P.; one is The Challenge, published in Los Angeles, Cal., Comrade Gaylord Wilshire, editor, and the other the Missouri Socialist, edited by Comrade E. Val Putnam, and published by Local St. Louis.

Both are typographically excellent, and the matter contained in them is of interest to every Socialist; they are in the field to propound the revolutionary principles of scientific socialism and should have the support of all Socialists.

Subscription price of each is fifty cents a year, which can be sent to either E. Val Putnam, 25 E. North street, St. Louis, Mo., or to H. Gaylord Wilshire, 625 S. Hill street, Los Angeles, Cal.

Thus does the movement for the emancipation of the working class march on. Comrades, don't forget to fill out semi-annual report blanks and have same sent to headquarters before the 15th inst. This is important as we are all anxious to know the exact strength of our party at the present time.

"Is Saul Also Among the Prophets?"

In its broadest statement the problem of the world's economy is to develop and give scope to individual originality, the benefits of whose exercise are registered in individual character as well as in objective results.

order" and the Tribune finds no difficulty in accepting "the statement." In other words, the Tribune pleads guilty.

who have built hospitals, endowed universities, established foreign missions, given away in charity thousands of the millions they have amassed out of the ill-requited labor of their fellow-men and the labor of their fellow-men's children, whose fate the Tribune considers so "tragical" in spite of all this the "dominant aim" of the century has been "commercialism."

action." We shall not quarrel about terms. True, the Tribune's sudden conversion to socialism may by some be looked at as a little askance, and many, as in days of old, will stare and mutter among the prophets? But while we concede that the Tribune's socialism is and incredulously ask, "Is Saul also not 'As deep as a well nor as wide as a church door' we are inclined to think it may 'serve'—as a 'starter,' at least.

LABOR ITEMS
And Notes From Trades Union Journals and Exchanges, Throughout the United States.
One man tending a nail machine turns out as many nails as a 1,000 men formerly did by hand.

FOREIGN NEWS
Glimpses of the World-wide Struggle of the Proletarian Army for 'The Liberty.'
AUSTRIA.
The local Socialist organ at Trieste, the 'Lavoratore,' is going to appear twice instead of once a week.

Ethical Problems

(Continued from page 1.)

deceit that man is reaching a stage of conscious and purposeful evolution. When a state begins to be restive in one spot, he soon grows restive all over; let one link of his chains break, and he will try other links. So with the collective man in a world-system of slavery; let one bond on his soul or body snap, and he will tug at other bonds, till at last the whole slave-order is put to the test, when he sees that he must have liberty everywhere or nowhere. Thus the effort for economic freedom is disclosing itself as the struggle of man for standing ground upon which to achieve an emancipation that shall be complete...

The need of a new religious synthesis is therefore identical with the need of a new economic system, or of a new kind of politics. There is really but one great human need, whatever form it may take to express itself in; it does not matter whether we call it economic or religious or political. From whatever point of view we look at the human problem, and however we express our view of it, we all mean the same essential thing, when our expressions are analysed. What we see and feel is the need of a principle and statement of life that shall cover all its facts and forces, and that shall organize these into a working synthesis which shall supply the uttermost human need and liberate every human aspiration and energy. Call the synthesis what we please; it will turn out to be a new and human religion; and that, just because it has found economic and religious and political to a different name for the same effort of the human spirit to achieve its freedom and wholeness.

Town Conventions.

The West Town convention will be held in Aqua Pura Hall, 196 W. Lake street, near Campbell, on Wednesday, January 16th, 8 p. m. This town comprises the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st wards. Secretaries of these wards are requested to bring before their next business meeting the election of five delegates to each town convention.

The North Town convention will be held at 52 Wells street, January 19th, 8 p. m. This town comprises the 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th wards. The representation is five delegates for each ward. Branches will elect their quota of delegates at once.

The Town of Lake View convention will be held in Proletariat Hall, 983 Sheffield avenue, near Belmont, Friday, January 19th, 8 p. m. This town comprises the 25th and 26th wards. This will be a mass convention. Members of these two wards are requested to be present.

Comrades of the South Town, Town of Lake, and Town of Jefferson, are urgently requested to make arrangements for town conventions at once.

Ward clubs are requested to postpone nominations for aldermen until the redistricting ordinance is adopted for good.

The Town of Hyde Park convention will be held Sunday, January 20th at 2 p. m., at Sherman Hall, 919 Commercial avenue. This town comprises the 32nd, 33rd and 34th wards. The representation of this convention is five delegates for each ward branch. Secretaries of these wards are requested to call special meetings, if necessary, to elect their delegates.

A. Klenke, Organizer.

Meetings for the Week.

The following meetings have been arranged for the coming week:

- Saturday, January 12th. Provisional Central Committee meets at 52 Wells street. Delegates take notice.
Sunday, 3 p. m., Central Music Hall. Speaker, Prof. Geo. D. Herron. Subject: "The Religious Elements of Socialism."
Sunday, January 13th, 3 p. m., Sixteenth Ward, 434 Noble, under Walsh's hall; speaker, H. Berlin.
Sunday, January 13th, 3 p. m., Socialist Educational Club, 1132 Milwaukee avenue; speaker, A. M. Simons.
Sunday, January 13th, 3 p. m., Twenty-third Ward, 308 N. Franklin street. Speaker, W. T. Mills.
Sunday, January 13th, 3 p. m., Twenty-fifth Ward, 909 Sheffield avenue, near Belmont avenue. Speaker, A. Bisco.
Sunday, January 13th, 8 p. m., Twentieth Ward, 52 Wells street. Speaker, G. D. Evans.
Sunday, January 13th, 8 p. m., Fifteenth Ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage avenue, four doors east of Milwaukee avenue. Speaker, Benjamin F. Wilson.
Monday, January 14th, Twentieth Ward, northwest corner Clybourn and Halsted. Speaker, J. W. Barton.
Wednesday, January 15th, 8 p. m., Hill House. Subject: "Philosophy of Karl Marx."
Wednesday, January 15th, 8 p. m., Twenty-sixth Ward, hall at northwest corner of Belmont and Southport avenue. Speaker, Aug. Klenke.
Wednesday, January 15th, 8 p. m., Twenty-fourth Ward, 52 Wells street. Speaker, John Collins.
Sunday, January 14th, 10 a. m., Twelfth Ward, 1203 W. Madison street. Speaker, R. G. Strickland. Singing School.
Sunday, January 13th, 10 a. m., Fifteenth Ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage, four doors east of Milwaukee avenue.

Singing Society: M. A. M. Children's Sunday School.
Thursday, January 10th, 8 p. m., Mill's Night School of Political Economy, Schiller Building, 163 E. Randolph street.
Friday, January 11th, 8 p. m., Thirtieth Ward, Melville Hall, southwest corner Grand and Western avenues. Speaker, J. B. Smiley.
Friday, January 11th, 8 p. m., Twenty-first Ward, Garfield Turner, Hall, Larabee and Garfield. Speaker, H. A. Morris.
Friday, January 11th, 8 p. m., Fifteenth Ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage and Milwaukee avenues. Speaker, A. M. Simons.
Friday, January 11th, 8 p. m., Tenth Ward, 118 W. Twenty-fourth street, west of Oakley. Speaker, John Collins.
Friday, January 11th, 8 p. m., Fourteenth Ward, Hirschman's Hall, 234 W. Division street. Speaker, W. T. Mills.

Socialist Singers.

Every Sunday, 10:30 a. m., 1003 W. Madison street, corner Western avenue. Music by the Schubert Spring Quartette. Lecture by Fred K. G. Strickland. The meeting last Sunday was an excellent beginning for the morning hour. About all the available chairs were in use. The comrades sang most heartily. The beginning of a Socialist chorus is already accomplished. Comrade Gretchen was present and rendered a very enjoyable solo on the violin. Each number of the Schubert Quartette was enjoyed. Their playing is exceptionally fine and reflects much credit to the Kellogg Music school, 523 S. Western avenue, with which they are associated. These comrades are certainly a valuable acquisition to the Twelfth and Thirteenth ward Socialists. Comrade Strickland spoke especially to Socialists on the value of Socialist meetings in our propaganda. He mentioned the value of simple speech, music, the drama, and social gatherings. Comrade Brennan presided and introduced this yell, which was heartily given:
What do we want? Socialism!
What will we get? Socialism!!!
What will we keep? Socialism!!!

PATRIOTISM AND PROPERTY.

"Influentials" in the Transvaal and the Philippines Anxious to Surrender.

The patriotism of the capitalist is much the same all the world over. It is generally bound up with his property interests, or as the Socialists say, it lies in his pocket. Illustrations of this come almost simultaneously from the two countries where the United States and Great Britain are still engaged in the "benevolent assimilation" process. Dispatches from Pretoria state that the "influential burghers" of that city recently met to consider suggestions looking to the ending of the war. A proposal to send the burghers who had surrendered, back to their own districts, and at the same time send a proclamation to those still in the field showing the hopelessness of resistance, was unanimously adopted, and will be distributed along with Kitchener's proclamations. A committee was at once formed to carry this project into effect. It consists of "Mr. Van Rensselaer, president; Mr. Cronje, a brother of General Cronje, both members of the First Volksraad; Mr. Zeederburg of the Second Volksraad, and Mr. De Kock. General Kitchener assured this body of "influentials" that all who would surrender would "receive the consideration due to their rank." The following extract from a letter written by an officer now serving in the Philippines shows a corresponding sentiment amongst the "influentials" in Luzon:

There are a great many VERY rich men here, and I find them very nice people. WHAT LAND THEY CHURCH DOES NOT OWN THEY OWN, but they are afraid to go out and look after their farms, so the LABORERS who live on them run them to suit themselves and incidentally contribute to the insurgents. But it's strange that in both cases the property-owning classes are the first whose "patriotism" succumbs, while the laborers and those who have in reality nothing to lose, continue the struggle even when their "better classes," the "nice people," advise and hope for surrender? Verily the economist who first stated that "capital (the meant capitalists), was timid, knew whereof he wrote.

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The Karl Marx Class.

The fifth Annual Session of the Karl Marx class was opened on January 6th, at Niome Hall, 724 Washington street, Boston, Mass., and will continue through the season, every Sunday afternoon at 3 p. m. Mrs. Martha Moore Avery, director. The syllabus includes the following subjects: Analysis of Value, Use Value and Exchange-Value, Development of Equivalent Value to Money, Buying and Selling of Labor Power, Constant and Variable Capital, and Surplus Value. The establishment of this class offers a splendid opportunity for acquiring knowledge of the laws underlying wealth-production under capitalism.

"Declared Off."

The war between the coffee and sugar trusts has been declared off. The Havemeyer and Arbuckle interests have decided to drop hostilities and proceed to remove the hide from that ill-used individual the "consumer," who had been reaping the benefit of the struggle between the two "betwixers." It is said that "you can't have too much of a good thing," but the fellows who control the coffee and sugar industries evidently seem to consider that the saying doesn't apply to competition. A sample copy asks for your subscription.

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Night School in Chicago. Correspondence School for all points outside of Chicago.

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16. The world market, the international trust and imperialism.
17. The growth of the sense of solidarity of the race.
18. An hour with famous socialists.
19. The rise of socialism; the class struggle for profits on the one hand and for existence on the other becomes a struggle for the control of the state itself.
20. How to work for Socialism.

WHAT THE CHICAGO WORKERS SAY:

JAMES B. SMILEY, secretary of the Joint Committee of the Social Democratic party of Illinois and author of "To What are Trusts Leading," says: "This is the best series of lessons or lectures on Social Economics that I have ever known anything about. Those who cannot attend the classes can make no better investment of time or money than to take the course by correspondence."

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Address, The Chicago School of Social Economy, 3962 Langley Avenue, Chicago.

SOCIALIST CARTOONS AND COMMENTS

BY FRED D. WARREN. Workers' Call, Chicago: "This is a series of clever criticisms of present society, illustrated by cartoons which are decidedly bright in their point of view." Freedom, Equality, Washington: "The cartoons are comical, but forcibly illustrate the benefits of the co-operative system as compared with the competitive." The New Light, Port Angeles, Washington: "Should be in the hands of every laboring man in the United States." PRICE 5 CENTS.

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An Explanation.

We regret to state that through the inadvertence or inexperience of those deputed to arrange the program of the ball given at Brand's Hall last Saturday, two advertisements from bakers who are on the unfair list of the union appeared on the program. While the management of the Workers' Call regrets this oversight, they wish to state that they are in no way responsible for the occurrence, and would suggest that closer relations on the part of the unions with the paper, might not improbably tend to render such mistakes impossible in the future. A list of establishments with whom the unions are in conflict would, if regularly posted to this office, furnish an accurate guide in such cases, and prevent the appearance of advertising matter from objectionable firms, on a Socialist program. A mattress-maker named Filmore, last week endeavored to demonstrate the practical application of capitalistic theory, by allotting fifteen cents per day as the food expenditure necessary for his wife, two children and himself. The experiment ended up by his occupation of a cell in the county jail, where he will have leisure to meditate upon the nature of the truths preached by reformers, who insist that the working class eat too much for their own good - and that of the capitalist class also.

Don't Lay this Down until you get three blank or copy it, put it in a dollar bill or three dollars as you may elect and mail at once.

APPLICATION BLANK. WALTER THOMAS MILLS, Chicago. Do Sir: - I hereby apply for membership in the Correspondence School of the CHICAGO SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ECONOMY as advertised in (insert name of this paper)..... I enclose..... dollars herewith and will forward the balance (if not now enclosed) on receipt of the first lesson. Signed..... Address.....

Address, The Chicago School of Social Economy, 3962 Langley Avenue, Chicago.

THOMAS J. MORGAN, LAWYER. We obtain PATENTS and are engaged in the General Practice of Law. We write correspondence. 79 Dearborn St., rooms 325-330, CHICAGO.

Peter Sissman Attorney at Law Telephone Main 3701. Suite 507, 100 Washington St. Residence 1065 Milwaukee Ave. CHICAGO.

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J. J. CAPPEL, Manufacturer and Jobber of Cigars and Tobacco.

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The Socialist Campaign Book of 1900.

CONTENTS.

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II. Growth of Trade-Unionism.
III. Trusts-Industrial Progress.
IV. Trusts-Despotism in Industry.
V. The Farmer and His Future.
VI. Labor's Demands and Capitalism's Answers.
VII. Wages and Living Expenses.
VIII. How the Working Class Live.
IX. Towards Plutocracy.
X. Capitalist Political Platform.
XI. The Growth of Socialism.

The publication of this work marks an era in socialist propaganda in America in that it places in the hands of every socialist worker the information and material necessary to his work in as attractive a form as the material hitherto only accessible to the capitalist parties, while at the same time this material has been illuminated and explained in the light of the socialist philosophy. This makes of the book at once a store-house of knowledge for the socialist speaker and agitator and the best propagandist work yet published, for it not only presents the doctrines of socialism in clear, convincing form, but accompanies the reasoning with the facts from which it is drawn in a manner that can but carry conviction to any unprejudiced mind.

The table of contents given herewith will give a good idea of the plan and scope of the work. The first two chapters are not simply a recital of isolated facts, but so correlate the historical data as to cause them to form a convincing argument of the trend of industrial development. The chapters on trusts bring out their two-fold character by which they mark at the same time a higher degree of economic development and a more intense exploitation of the producer. In "Labor's Demands and Capitalism's Answers" the efforts of organized labor to secure relief in "labor legislation" through capitalist parties is treated exhaustively and should prove a convincing argument with any trade-unionist for the necessity of independent political action along socialist lines. The chapter on "Wages and Living Expenses" is a careful examination of our present "prosperity" and a complete refutation of the claim that the laborers have shared in industrial advance. The discussion of "How the Working Class Live" is written by one of the foremost students of this subject in this country and embraces much material hitherto unpublished. The last two chapters, on the "Capitalist Political Platform" and "The Growth of Socialism," complete the line of argument furnished by the facts in the preceding chapters, making of the whole work a powerful brief for the cause of socialism.

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