

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. 103.

CHICAGO, ILL., FEBRUARY 23, 1901.

PRICE ONE CENT

DELUGE OF WEALTH

Plenty, Not Poverty, the Cause of All Our Sufferings.

"EVERYBODY" AND "NOBODY"

Some Contradictions Which Can Only Be Solved Through a Knowledge of Socialism.

It is all a mistake. Let the charity organizations disband at once, let those who devote their lives to "elevating the poor," suspend operations immediately; there is no poor to elevate, no poverty, no lack of good things. The trouble lies exactly the other way. WE have too much. OUR superfluous commodities are smothering us. EVERYBODY is so loaded down with extra wealth that life is becoming a burden solely on account of our possessions. WE have too much furniture, too much clothing, too much food, and don't know how to get rid of it. Plenty, not poverty, is making the earth wearisome to us.

Now, reader, don't go and say that this is not so. It is true—because we saw it in a newspaper and whoever knew a newspaper to be? It was there in black and white, and moreover the newspaper in which it appeared is a special friend of the working people, and relies for its circulation mostly upon them. As a further proof of what we say it may be mentioned that the writer was a woman, a "clever" woman, and that it appeared on the editorial page of the paper in question—Hearst's Chicago American, of February 12th. Perhaps it would be as well to reprint the stuff and then you will be able to see that we have exaggerated nothing. Here it is:

WE are overloaded and oppressed with paraphernalia and baggage. Houses are crowded with furniture, lumbered up by the gewgaws and gimcracks. Too many pictures on the walls, too many rugs on the floors, too many hangings at windows and doors, too many tawdry books on shelves and tables, too many gilded clocks (that don't go), too many dishes and too much glass and silver on the dining tables, to say nothing of the bewildering array of knives, forks and spoons and little spears and harpoons and scoops laid at each plate.

EVERY woman is covered with feathers, founces, braidings, embroideries, gold lace, stitched bands of velvet or something—her clothes encrusted with mock jewels and gold and silver. This overluxuriance shows EVERYWHERE. OUR bills of fare are fire-some by reason of long drawn out variety in food and its manner of preparation. One rises from a modern dinner a torpid, satiated being, unfit for conversation, for reading, for music, for any form of social amusement. Even the concerts and the plays, the lectures and musicals are wearisome in length. EVERYBODY seems to be striving to see how much in the way of amusement or instruction can be crammed into an hour. And the result is that EVERYBODY gets tired before half of the programme is over.

So it would seem that the millennium is already here, and EVERYBODY has not only abundantly and to spare of the good things of life, but is actually in danger of surfeit from abundance. This would be the evident conclusion if you didn't read any other part of the paper.

nothing, whatever. In this well ordered capitalist world the "everybodies" produce nothing and the "nobodies" produce everything, and it is this matter of production alone that determines upon which side any particular individual belongs.

The "nobodies" then have produced an abundance of things and given them to the "everybodies" in such quantities that the latter now complain of having so much that it becomes a nuisance and hindrance. The "nobodies" have built the houses, overloaded them with furniture, pictures, rugs, silver, "knives, forks, spoons and little spears and harpoons and scoops" until "everybody" is "bewildered," as the clever writer states.

The "nobodies" have also produced the feathers, the gold embroidery, the sumptuous clothing and the jewels with which "everybody" is overburdened. They are equally responsible for the bills of fare and varieties of food which renders the latter "torpid, satiated and unfit for conversation." They build the theatres, concert halls, and lecture rooms, which the others find "wearisome," and their labor provides the musical instruments, costumes and all other appendages used in them.

And while doing this they have never had for their own use proper houses, furniture, clothing, food, or amusement in anything like sufficient quantities. They die from living in unsanitary houses, they are frozen for want of clothing and fuel, starved from lack of food and brutalized for lack of wholesome and agreeable recreation, yet still they persist in pentering the others with such an enormous quantity of these things, that the latter cry out against the avalanche of plenty that threatens to surfeit and smother them by its volume.

Do the "nobodies" then take a malignant pleasure in this work? Are they really evil disposed persons? No, they are only stupid—just common, ordinary, everyday fools. But the "everybodies" tell them that they are intelligent, and brainy and levelheaded beyond all people on earth, and they believe it, because what "everybody" says must be true. They are also told that they are the most industrious and skillful of all peoples, which is really a fact. They are industrious—to the verge of criminality.

Of course there are some among them who maintain that the "nobodies," if united for that purpose could keep all the things they make for their own use, but the "everybodies" declare that if such did really occur, the "nobodies" would become "torpid" and "satiated" like themselves. If it is necessary to have "markets" of plenty, they are willing to sacrifice themselves so that the "nobodies" may have a "horrible example" constantly before their eyes.

And so folly appears wisdom, and wisdom folly. "Everybody" waxes fat upon what "nobody" makes, and "nobody" starves because "everybody" has too much. And "everybody"—but what is the use of pursuing the contradiction farther? If you want to take the kinks out of it, better get some Socialist literature or subscribe for a Socialist paper, and you will find the key to the solution in what is known as the class struggle.

Vote for John Collins, candidate of the Socialist party for mayor.

Don't Know Where He's At.

A reverend gentleman attached to the McCormick Theological Seminary in this city evidently feels that he has a kink coming and is thus reported as airing his grievance at the Forty-first Street Presbyterian church last Sunday.

A SPECIAL MEETING

Ward Changes Bring General Committee Together.

CAMPAIGN LEAFLETS ORDERED

Report of Party Progress Throughout the City—More Petition Signatures Needed.

A special meeting of the General Committee of the Socialist party of Chicago, was held last Saturday night at their regular meeting place at 104 E. Randolph street. This was the first meeting since the reorganization of the wards took place, in consequence of the new redistricting ordinance. As a result some of the wards appeared with credentials of reorganization, and others, whose boundaries remained practically the same, made no change in their representation. Credentials for the following delegates from reorganized wards were presented and accepted:

Second Ward, L. Kanelbaum and M. Becker; Ninth and Tenth, B. Schiesinger; Eleventh, Geo. Rossman and Paul Baerwaldt; Thirteenth, D. H. Daly and Walter M. Kennedy; Fourteenth, Jas. F. Brennan, Ed. B. Cope and J. R. Touse; Twentieth, Jas. S. Smith and J. E. Guernsey; Twenty-first, R. A. Morris and J. J. Minwegan; Twenty-fifth, H. K. Daniels, F. W. Knox and A. W. Lisdgren; Twenty-seventh, John Setton and Thos. Lauman; Twenty-eighth, Sam Robbins, J. M. Stewart, Geo. J. Kemp, John N. Btelowski and Chas. H. Ehnborn; Thirty-second, Chas. F. Lowrie and G. Anderson. Geo. Evans from the Sixteenth and Hermañ De Boer from the Thirty-third were seated pending presentation of proper credentials. It was decided that G. A. Johnson and R. U. Olson, representing the old Tenth Ward be seated as delegates from the new Twelfth.

The executive committee reported that the first campaign leaflet may be obtained in quantities at the Workers' Call office. This is the first of a series of three leaflets which the party will distribute throughout the city during the coming campaign. The first one contains the municipal platform of the Socialist party and Comrade Collins' letter accepting the nomination for mayor. It is a four-page pamphlet, with pages four by six inches in size, and will make an instrument for propaganda. One hundred thousand copies have been printed. Branches and individuals will be supplied at the rate of forty cents per thousand. It is hoped that branches will take hold of this matter immediately and get the first leaflet well distributed, so that the second one can be issued.

The organizer, Comrade Klenke, made an interesting report concerning the state of the party and the progress of agitation throughout the city. The West and North towns are solidly reorganized under the new redistricting ordinance. The Sixth, Seventh, Twentieth and Thirtieth wards will be reorganized this week.

The organizer also reported that up to date only about 1,500 signatures on the city petitions have been turned in, 10,000 being necessary to get on the ballot. Only about two weeks remain in which to secure signatures, so if the Socialist party is to appear in the political field this spring, it will be necessary for the comrades to devote all their energies to this matter.

A supply of tickets for the Commune Festival to be held at Brand's Hall, Sunday, March 15th, were turned over to the delegates to be sold by the branches.

The resolution of the Twentieth Ward recommending the division of the city into three or more agitation districts and the election of district organizers, was referred to the Executive Committee.

Resolution of the Thirty-second Ward branch recommending that the dues be raised to 25 cents a month and that each member receive with each month's dues a Workers' Call six month sub. postal card, was referred to the Executive Committee.

The next regular of the General Committee will be held at 104 E. Randolph street, Saturday night, March 2nd.

WIELD THE BALLOT!

The Chief Weapon of Working Class Emancipation.

THE FINAL CLASS STRUGGLE.

Economic Supremacy of the Producers Impossible While Capitalist Production Continues.

As every so-called civilized country on earth contains a Socialist movement of more or less strength and influence, and as all these movements have one common object, viz.: the conquest of the governing power in each, or in other words the political supremacy of the working class, it may be asked: if it is true, as Socialists contend, that the capitalist classes attained political power as a result of their gradually growing economic supremacy, why should not the workers use the same means to attain their object?

This question though not often formulated as above, as a rule forms the basis of reasoning for those who look upon the trades union movement as the ultimate means of emancipation for the working class, and also for the advocates of co-operative societies on a large scale, industrial brotherhoods, colonies, profit-sharing, and similar plans for the enrichment of the producing class.

It may be stated at once that while in the main, the assertion that political power was the result of economic supremacy for the capitalist class, is undoubtedly true, it by no means follows that this must also be true of the proletarian movement. On the contrary the process is reversed. For the working class, economic supremacy follows the attainment of political power instead of preceding it.

We need not stop to consider the too obvious fact that the means of production at present in the hands of the working class are so small, scattered and insufficient, as to render the success of industrial co-operative societies of workingmen, practically impossible in the face of the gigantic means of production in the hands of the capitalist class. Here and there it is true, that favored by some peculiar or abnormal conditions, these societies have managed to achieve some small success; but never sufficient to even attract the notice of the ruling class, to say nothing of endangering their interests. Wherever a success beyond this has been achieved the society or group invariably lost their working class character and became capitalistic.

economically less powerful than their own. This condition no longer exists, but two classes remaining face to face, the capitalist and working class. Between these two, whatever remnants of previous classes still remain are either being abolished or rendered powerless.

Again, all previous class struggles in their very nature laid the foundation for further similar conflicts at a future date. The present one, however, is utterly different in that its triumph necessarily implies the end of the economic classes and class warfare.

Finally, in every previous conflict the principal combatants were both possessors of the means of production. The modern proletariat, on the other hand, has nothing to lose. The very conditions of its creation by the capitalist system made this its inherent characteristic.

This list of essential differences might be carried much farther if necessary. Enough, however, has been given to show conclusively that while the great fact of the class struggle is yet common to all, the economic attributes of the participants have changed in many important respects. There is no reason whatever for supposing that analogies drawn from the details of former class struggles can be applied to the forthcoming one, but on the other hand the opposite conclusion is unavoidable. The economic strength of the capitalist class will eventually serve to expose their political weakness. The economic weakness of the working class will as certainly evolve political strength.

For society is approaching the LAST of a series of class struggles instead of preparing conditions for future ones. We are closing an era which began, as Marx says, with the "dissolution of primitive tribal society," and continuing through the stages of cannibalism, slavery, feudalism, and capitalism, in all of which exploitation of man by his fellow was the common basis. It is extremely improbable, nay almost impossible that the change which is destined to close and complete one cycle of human progress must slavishly follow in detail the methods of previous stages, which were but parts of the whole.

Economically we are weak—our very name of proletariat signifies economic weakness. Politically we possess the same potency which our numbers give us—but this is conditioned upon our intelligence. The economic weapon has been tried, is even now being tried, and that we are finding it insufficient is proof that our intelligence grows. And that growing intelligence invariably points to the ballot as a weapon all powerful and all-sufficient for our emancipation. And in advocating the use of the ballot to decide the last great economic class struggle we make still another departure from the methods followed by the ruling classes which have successively dominated society. The ballot then is our principal weapon; though only through repeated economic struggles on the part of our class can a realization of its efficacy be gained. And when victory crowns our efforts at the polls, those who attempt to obstruct or deny the will of the majority will merely furnish by their opposition, the last proof required to demonstrate the truth, that in the coming social revolution economic power is a consequence of political supremacy.

Vote the Socialist party ticket, the whole ticket, and nothing but the ticket.

Never Touched Them.

The water thieves have been "scored" by the assistant state's attorney, but one Harry Boore, an understrapper employed by the thieves in question, will act as the legal scapegoat and may perhaps be sacrificed in their place.

"Here is a great corporation," says the lawyer, "guilty of the gross offense of stealing water from the people." Yes, and here is Harry Boore, who isn't the corporation, but only the tool used by it, who is going to suffer in their stead.

"Mr. Barnes," says the report, "closed his address with a scathing denunciation of thieving millionaires," and then the report concludes by stating that "the fate of Boore (who is not a thieving millionaire)," will be left in the hands of the jurors. "If you don't like our actions," says in effect the thieving millionaire, "why here's Boore, Amos y'allsavior by jumping on him, but don't interfere with our business."

"Between Two Steels, Etc."

Bryan's boom for 1904 has already been launched. How will that campaign be conducted? Will it be in the interest of commoners, including the man who is common in spirit and a millionaire in purse, and the man who is common all around? Impossible! Will it seek to arouse class hatred? or will it be conducted so as not to imperil the business interests of the country? Bryan loves the business man and his victim—the laborer—both so much that he cannot be trusted by either. The victims of the plunderers cannot trust the man who loves the plunderers and at the same time poses as the victim's friend. It is to be hoped that no Socialist will make a damphood out of himself by voting for Bryan again.

Socialist Pointers

To convert the world to socialism we must keep everlastingly at it.

The enemy is not afraid of us so long as we are quarreling among ourselves.

The Commoner is for Mr. Bryan's kind of socialism which isn't socialism at all.

If you have a friend who is a Populist send him the paper. He is looking for a home.

J. Pierpont Morgan and John D. Rockefeller are only doing what we let them do.

Don't allow the circulating of non-instituting petitions to be "everybody's business."

A dollar will go much farther in the campaign than ten dollars' worth of good intentions.

Do you think you would get any more of what you produce with John M. Harlan as mayor?

King Edward evidently wants to impress on the world the fact that England is not a republic.

If the new steel trust and the Standard Oil Company are not the government who is? Are you?

The way to make the city campaign num is to drop a few dollars into the treasury. It needs them.

Another coal strike in Pennsylvania is threatened, and then we will see where Mark Hanna comes in.

The men who made all of those millions for Carnegie are not getting a cent out of the big steel trust deal.

Let every Socialist resolve to put a little more life into the spring campaign even if it costs him 15 cents to do it.

Just watch and see how many of the Socialist candidates for alderman of the Municipal Voters League will not indorse.

Carter Harrison is preparing to work his con game of being the workingman's friend as hard as ever this spring.

A few good bumps from a Socialist majority would cause the swelling in Kaiser Wilhelm's head to go down very rapidly.

The ground hog's weather predictions are more reliable than the prosperity predictions of the late campaign managers.

There are bigger fools in the world than Mrs. Nation. She has no vote and the men who vote against their class interests do.

The railroads are about to cut down their working forces, but of course the men will have no trouble in getting another job.

It seems our interference in Cuba was about as disinterested as that of the employer when he organizes improvement societies for his men.

Chicago is to be cleaned. That probably means the boulevards and down town district. The river wards and back of the dump will do as it is.

An extra session will probably be called for the purpose of passing a lot of class legislation not a line of which will be in the interests of the working class.

If we just had one Socialist in congress what fun he could have ripping things up the back. Let us send the first one from Chicago just to show we are in earnest.

By the time American capitalists take their money and go to Europe on account of strikes and hostile legislation Europe won't be such a hot place for a non-worker to live.

The manufacturers declare that the American workingman is the most intelligent in the world, perhaps because he is so far behind his brothers in other lands in socialistic progress.

Shortening the Time.

Sympathizer:—Oh well, I believe in socialism all-right, but what's the use? You've got a big job ahead of you, and you won't get socialism for fifty years yet.

Socialist:—Well, if you will join the movement we will get it in forty-nine years, 334 days and twenty-three hours. See the point?

Don't run out of Socialist ammunition. Call postals can always be obtained at this office.

The Executive Committee. For R. A. Morris.

THE WORKERS' CALL.

Issued every Saturday at 36 N. Clark St., Chicago, Ill. Entered at the postoffice at Chicago, Ill., as mail matter of the second class.

Subscription Rates: One year \$3.00, Six months \$1.75, Three months \$1.00.

Advertisements: A limited number of acceptable advertisements will be inserted.

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

Public Ownership: At the present time when the attention of the community is directed to the question of "public ownership," it is incumbent upon Socialists to make clear their position upon that question.

SOCIALIST PARTY MUNICIPAL TICKET.

For Mayor—JOHN COLLINS. For City Clerk—F. G. STRICKLAND. For City Attorney—M. H. TAFT. For City Treasurer—D. H. DALY.

"PUBLIC OWNERSHIP."

At the present time when the attention of the community is directed to the question of "public ownership," it is incumbent upon Socialists to make clear their position upon that question.

We need have no fear for that however, for no matter how far we Socialists may attempt to qualify our position or try to evade the ultimate consequences of the central proposition of socialism.

The aim of the Socialist is to awaken the working class to a realization of the oppression imposed upon them by the present capitalist mode of production.

This question of "public ownership" is born of our economic development, and the ultimate assumption by the state of many of the functions now carried on by private enterprise is only a matter of time.

It could not even be construed as a step towards ultimate victory for those workers engaged in the class struggle.

At present the capitalist class speak of themselves as the "people," and recognizing the lack of class-consciousness amongst the workers they would hide themselves under the mantle of the state.

In view of this fact it becomes our duty to point out clearly to the working class that those who OWN OR CONTROL the means of production and distribution have the workers at their mercy.

solemnly warned against its further extension until it again serves the interests of the capitalist class.

To Socialists it should be clear that their message to the workers should be that they must constitute themselves the ruling class and then, and then only, will "public ownership" have any significance for them.

Beware of Flattery.

The discussion of trade autonomy which took place at the meeting of the Chicago Federation of Labor on last Sunday was given such prominence in the local capitalist press as should make the workers proceed carefully in the matter.

It is true that every trade should have jurisdiction over differences inside its own body which affect the trade directly, but this by no means implies the "autonomy" desired by the exploiting class.

In matters where several autonomous unions are involved with the same exploiter, united action is absolutely essential.

The local struggle which has just closed was in reality an attempt to force "autonomy" of the capitalist brand upon the unions in spite of themselves.

Beware of the flattery of these "respectable" journals O, trades unionist! It is akin to the slime which the box constructor covers his victim so that the swallowing process may be rendered easier.

IN SOCIALIST HANDS.

No Reason Why Workingmen Should Not Attend This Church.

Perhaps one of the most significant events in local Socialist activity is to be found in the fact that one of the city churches where heretofore the old false religion of capitalism was preached, is now occupied by the pioneers of the newer, truer, and better gospel of socialism.

At present the capitalist class speak of themselves as the "people," and recognizing the lack of class-consciousness amongst the workers they would hide themselves under the mantle of the state.

Through their having noticed a blunder in Bryan's paper, Bryan discovered that the "Republican editors had read the Commager. This delighted Bryan into a comment evidencing his satisfaction that the plates had condensed to notice his publication.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Last week a New York stock exchange membership was sold for \$50,000. Not a huge sum considering the privilege of plundering the workers it carries with it.

"Imagine what the opening of China means to you merchants," said John Barrett, ex-minister to Siam, in an address to an association of merchants, at a dinner in the Auditorium Hotel.

If Andrew Carnegie wants to do a real good to humanity and to die poor in plundered possessions, let him hire an instructor in socialism and then devote his time advocating the cause of the people he has been plundering so long, thus repaying them to the greatest extent that is possible.

There are two buildings—one in the course of construction, and the other not yet begun—that the workingmen are going to put up in Chicago to house two of their greatest enemies while these enemies conduct their battles against the workingmen.

A writer on fashion says that to have seven pairs of pants at one time is not extravagance, but necessary to the well-dressed man.

Here is another chance for patriotic Americans to show their appreciation. The Rothschilds, of Europe, have already spent \$500,000 in paying for quicksilver mines in Texas.

Shirt, collar and cuffs interests came together at Troy, N. Y., and formed a \$20,000,000 combine. This was not done for the purpose of abolishing ugly patterns in shirts and choker collars.

Gus Swift is both loved and hated in Massachusetts, (his old home). Why? He is loved by the boys whom he gives jobs to, the says he likes Massachusetts's boys because they live in his home state, and hated by the girls, who are prospective sweethearts.

It is announced that Maud Adams is to build a railway station. This does not mean that she is going to give up acting. The building will be done through wage slaves, and of course anything done through wage slaves is said to be done by the capitalist who feeds the slaves while they work.

Socialists of Cincinnati irrespective of party affiliation have formed "the New Economy Club" in order to establish headquarters for all radical economic and social organizations.

AROUSES CLASS FURY.

Capitalist Howling Derrish Enraged Over the Success of Herron's Music Hall Lectures.

Won't somebody please stop those Central Music Hall lectures now being delivered by Professor Herron, those revolutionary addresses so prejudicial to the peace of mind of our respected fellow townsman John V. Farwell, who has so far borne them with a Christian designation and patience most wonderful to contemplate.

We don't know whether the "angels weep" over the "fantastic tricks" played by the aforesaid Farwell in reference to Dr. Herron's work, but we are certain that they afford a constant source of mirth for Socialists.

It may be true that the working classes are not particularly intelligent and have been and are deceived in consequence, but happily they have not yet reached the point of dullness which would lead them to take the lucubrations of Farwell seriously.

For in "business" John V. is a serious matter, and the working class recognize in him the incarnation of capitalist plunder. They know that he has taken advantage of every opportunity to "steal the brains and blood of other people through his sweatshops, that he has robbed little children of the bread which would appease their hunger by underpaying and extorting from their parents so that he might wax fat upon the greater surplus value so obtained.

The "religious awakening" which was predicted for the opening of the present century is not going to materialize, and many "religious leaders" are expressing their disappointment thereat.

The "World of Graft." The "religious awakening" which was predicted for the opening of the present century is not going to materialize, and many "religious leaders" are expressing their disappointment thereat.

Campaign Leaflets.

The municipal campaign leaflets are now ready and can be procured at the office of the Workers' Call, price 40 cents per thousand.

Socialist Party Platform

In view of the fact that the municipal elections in Chicago are to take place in April, the Socialist party, in convention assembled, once more affirms its allegiance to the principles of international revolutionary socialism.

There are still about 500 locals who have failed to send in their annual reports and the officers of those organizations are requested to give this matter prompt attention.

Report of the N. E. C.

The Provisional National Executive Committee met at headquarters on Saturday, February 9th, at 8 p. m.

The Campaign Fund.

Comrades:— Again we must call your attention to the necessity of a campaign fund. It must be forthcoming if we are to have a campaign at all, and you must supply it.

Sowing the Seed.

We notice with satisfaction that the official journal of the Brotherhood of Painters and Paperhangers of America contains an excellent article by August Olson of L. U. No. 194 of this city.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Following states having elected members to National Council for 1901: Max Hayes, O.; Geo. B. Leonard, Minn.; Chas. L. Fox, Me.; R. T. Maycumber, Md.; Frank Van Dyck, Conn.

National Secretary reported having sent communications containing unity propositions on unity convention to the N. E. C. of the S. L. P. and to the N. E. B. convention held at Chicago in January last.

Moved and carried that no action be taken at present on plan of agitation submitted by Comrade Geiger.

Moved and carried that the election of a new N. E. C. by the National Council be done through correspondence.

Vote for labor's candidate for mayor.

Comrades:— Again we must call your attention to the necessity of a campaign fund. It must be forthcoming if we are to have a campaign at all, and you must supply it.

Certainly not. It is not their business. It is yours and you must attend to it. Now hustle up and let us see what you are willing to do in behalf of yourselves.

Fraternally.

The Executive Committee, Per R. A. Morris.

Where the speaker reaches hundreds, the writer reaches thousands. Subscribe for the Call.

GRAND COMMUNE FESTIVAL

Concert, Living Pictures and Ball

Socialist Party

kindly assisted by the "Stadtevereining des Arbeiter-Vereins der Nordwestl. Staaten"

BENEFIT OF THE PROPAGANDA FUND

Sunday, March 17th. - at Brand's Hall.

Commencing at 3 p. m.

162 N. Clark St., corner Erie
Tickets in Advance, 10c a Person;
at the Door, 25c a Person.

Speaker in English,
PROF. GEO. D. HERRON

Speaker in German,
JULIUS VAHLTEICH

"DEPENDENT ON CHARITY."

Capitalism Drives Wage Slaves From "Home" and Then Proposes to Whip and Imprison Them.

According to the report of the Bureau of Charities more than two thousand husbands have deserted their "homes" in this city, leaving their wives and families dependent on "charity," within the last year. Amongst all the alleged reasons for this, no mention is made whatever of the fact that workingmen, even in their "homes" are "dependent" upon the owners of the means of production and distribution, in order to live. Existing marriage and divorce laws are given as one reason, and that good old stand-by, the presence of increased numbers of "ignorant foreigners," as another. There is not even a hint that economic conditions have anything whatever to do with the matter, and the remedies proposed are quite in keeping with the reasons given. "Drastic legislation," such as the restoration of the whipping post, and the keeping of the culprit in jail at hard labor, and supporting the deserted family from the proceeds, is the recommendation of "organized charity."

With such people "desertion" is not in any way criminal unless the deserted ones are left "dependent." It is in this alone that the crime consists. The individual who has succeeded in accumulating wealth by robbing the workers, (which is the only method of accumulation), can desert or separate himself from wife and family at his own sweet will, provided he leaves for their support enough of the plunder to render them independent of the "charity" of his brother exploiters, and "society" raises no protest. Let any of his victims, however, through economic stress be compelled to follow his example, and at once an outraged "morality" howls for the whipping post and imprisonment. Touch not the pocket of thy capitalist master, O wage slave! A special brand of "morality" lies therein which is his private property. When he ceases to furnish you "employment," don't steal—that's a crime (for your class), don't beg—that degrades you, and above all, don't run away—that's expensive to your masters and therefore "immoral." Better stay in your "home," (if the landlord will let you), and starve quietly and respectfully with those "dependent" on you. Who knows but some charitable individual may discover your plight, and after your record has been thoroughly inspected, you may perhaps be listed as "deserving poor," and thus rise triumphant over your adversity. Take heart, take hope, take any old thing—that isn't in the pockets of your masters—but don't make any unnecessary fuss, and always remember to turn a deaf ear to those most immoral and irresponsible Socialists, who would destroy your reputation as "deserving poor," and that of your masters as "charitable rich."

Fishing for Suckers.

The Chicago Record always has its fishing pole in readiness for suckers, and its chief manipulator, (Curtis), being a good scratcher for bait, always has a sufficient supply of various qualities on hand. He baits his hook with feigned descriptions, with aristocratic nothingness, with democratic humbuggery, with religious tolerance and intolerance, with historical inaccuracies and contemporaneous twaddle, but notwithstanding all of the confusion and interconfusion into which his statements become entangled, people will ask him for statistics. And oh, what a sugarcating his slippery style applies to them!—"the workingman, reads Curtis between his lines; here are figures to show he is better off now than he was fifty years ago. What more does he want?" The workingman cannot be better off now with ten times as much as he got fifty years ago, when that is only one-eighth of what he produces, than he was fifty years ago when he got nearly all that he produced. It is the difference between what the workingman produces and what he gets that is the question, and not whether the advance in industry of fifty years have bettered his lot.

Organizer's Notice.

There will be a meeting at Forester's Hall, 6512 Cottage Grove avenue, Wednesday, February 27th, 8 p. m., for the purpose of organizing the new Seventh Ward. All readers of the Workers' Call are urged to be present.
There will be a meeting at the Workers' Call office Saturday evening, February 23rd, for the purpose of discussing the dividing of the city into agitation districts with district organizers. Comrades who have any suggestions to make are requested to be present.

Haverhill Social Democrat

CONTAINS USUALLY:
1) Reports from Socialists Elected to Office.
2) Articles on the Theory and Practice of Socialism.
3) News of the Movement at Home and Abroad.
4) Editorials on Current Topics.

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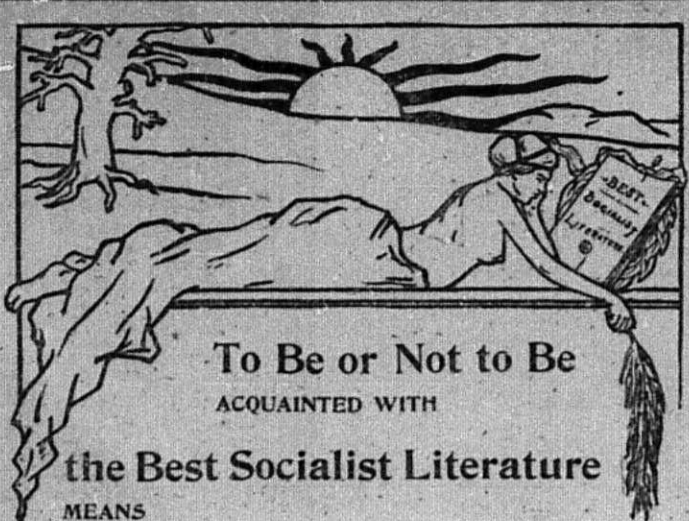
Branches who have not sent in their list of members, officers, and place of meeting, are requested to do so at once.

Meetings for the Week.

The following meetings have been arranged for the coming week:
Sunday, 3 p. m., Central Music Hall, Speaker, Prof. Geo. D. Herron; subject, "The Spiritual Basis of Economic Equality."
Sunday, February 24th, 3 p. m., Socialist Educational Club, 1122 Milwaukee avenue. Speaker, Peter Sissman.
Sunday, February 24th, 3 p. m., Twenty-second Ward, 208 N. Franklin street, Speaker, A. Klenke.
Sunday, February 24th, 8 p. m., Twenty-fifth Ward, 289 Sheffield avenue, near Belmont avenue. Speaker, J. W. Saunders; subject, "The Forces of the Socialist Movement, Organized and Unorganized."
Sunday, February 24th, 8 p. m., Twenty-eighth Ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage avenue, four doors east of Milwaukee avenue. Speaker, J. W. Knop; subject, "Expansion." Singing Society, 10 a. m., Children's Sunday School, 11 a. m.
Sunday, February 24th, 8 p. m., Thirty-first Ward, 608 S. Halsted street, Speaker, T. J. Morgan.
Sunday, February 24th, 8 p. m., Third Ward, 355 State street, Speaker, F. W. Knox.
Sunday, February 24th, 3 p. m., Seventeenth Ward, Aurora Hall, corner Milwaukee and Huron streets, Speaker, Walter Thomas Mills.
Thursday, February 22th, 8 p. m., Thirty-first Ward, 608 S. Halsted street, Speaker, F. W. Knox.
Thursday, February 22th, 8 p. m., Mill's Night School of Social Economy, Schiller Building, 105 Randolph street.
Friday, March 1st, 8 p. m., Twenty-eighth Ward, Socialist Hall, Armitage and Milwaukee avenues. Speaker, Wm. H. Wise; subject, "Unity of Life."
Saturday, February 23rd, 8 p. m., Mill's Night School of Social Economy, 608 S. Halsted street.
Saturday, February 23rd, 8 p. m., Eighth Ward, Sherman Hall, 9130 Commercial avenue. Speaker, J. B. Smiley; subject, "Public Ownership."
Friday, March 1st, 8 p. m., Twenty-third Ward, Garfield Hall, Larrabee and Garfield. Speaker, A. Klenke.

For distributing a pamphlet obnoxious to the powers that be, Walter Allen, a young Massachusetts Socialist has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment. Socialism is increasing too rapidly in Massachusetts to suit the ruling class, and the latter have evidently concluded that it is time to take action. The judge who tried the case stated that there was nothing obscene or indecent in the leaflet, but that it was nevertheless calculated to "corrupt the morals of the young." "Morality" must be carefully preserved of the plundering of the workers might prove increasingly difficult and ultimately impossible.

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PROF. GEORGE D. HERRON conducts a department each month on SOCIALISM AND RELIGION, containing matter of great interest and value to all students of social questions. It is the only instance in the history of Socialist literature where a regular department was conducted upon this subject by a man who combines such rare natural talents with a thorough knowledge of the literature and doctrines of both Religion and Socialism.

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