



THE WORKERS' CALL.

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

A. M. SIMONS, EDITOR.

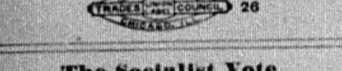


Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. Rows for 1896-1899 showing increasing subscription totals.

Copies sold last week 9,150.

MOVEMENT OR PARTY.

There is a large class of people who are continually talking about working for the socialist movement but who shy like a frightened horse when the Socialist Labor Party is mentioned.

Such people seem to forget that this is a fight in which we are engaged and not a parlor lecture. They fail to see that while socialism in the abstract may sound nice it will never free the laborer without it is given a concrete form.

The capitalist press reports that "socialism is rampant in British Columbia," and states that "the socialists are organized throughout the province, and will endeavor to carry the local government at the next election."

Call for Traveling Organizer.

To all Comrades and friends the Illinois State Central Committee sends greeting:— The national elections of 1900 are rapidly approaching.

Illinois must do its duty, its full duty in 1900. The standard of the S. L. P. must be planted on many an outpost of the capitalist citadel in this state.

contending elements. It must be a keen instrument ever ready to strike in the cause of labor, always prepared to "hew to the line let the chips fall where they may."

Such a party we in America have in the Socialist Labor Party. Firm and unwavering to the interests of the laboring class it has steadfastly refused to be turned aside by any pretext whatsoever.

The Stock Yards of Chicago are in a tremendous ferment. The long years of oppression and injustice are bearing their legitimate fruit.

It is being suggested from many quarters that it would be a very desirable thing to hold the next national convention earlier than usual.

In response to requests from persons who have been subscribers to one or more of the papers that have been lately absorbed by The Workers' Call, to have one of the papers which is coming to them sent to some other address, we would say that since we receive no remuneration for such subscriptions it will be impossible for us to do any additional bookkeeping, such as would be demanded by such transfers upon them.

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There have been many requests that the articles on Single Tax vs Socialism, now running through this paper, be published in pamphlet form.

SNAP SHOTS BY THE WAYSIDE.

Three times and out! Trades unionists! Twice we have called your attention to the position of the socialists in the German Reichstag in relation to the Emperor's "anti-strike" bill.

The class-conscious workers of Italy, through their socialist representatives in parliament, have succeeded in blocking the game of the capitalist government of that country in its attempt to enact laws abrogating the freedom of speech and the press.

END OF CLEVELAND CAR STRIKE.

Terms Arranged by Council Committee. Agreed To, the Result Being an Expansive Victory for Company.

- 1. Restoration of former schedule. 2. In the matter of extra runs and wages therefore the company will treat with men, and in case no agreement is reached, they will arbitrate.

This marvelous piece of work was accomplished by the city council of Cleveland. Of course the pure and simple scoundrels say that political power means nothing, but just mark the difference right here.

On Saturday the evening papers announced a RAISE OF WAGES IN THE STOCK YARDS. Then came details showing that Armour had yielded to the demands of his workers, and the other packers also gave out statements that they would raise the wages when the men asked for it.

But they did not understand that they HAD TO ASK, and the bosses COULD GIVE—if they wanted to.

Then came Monday and 400 policemen—and Armour, Swift and Morris stopped killing hogs, and when they stopped, the raise in wages disappeared.

When will workmen understand that the man who owns the factory or mill is their master, and can enforce his power with the police, the militia and the law courts which have been placed at his disposal by the stupidity of the workmen on election day?

This spring your thousands of votes elected Harrison, but the services of his police are on the side of about a dozen men who OWN the Stock Yards, YOUR means of livelihood.

Learn this lesson well. You may strike and win, but so long as you do not hold the key to the factory or packing house, he who does hold it can lock the door, and remember that today in this era of combination and concentration, some firms and companies hold many keys, and they can let one set of working men starve until they become submissive, and then use them to starve others.

You must learn to vote on election day for the possession of those keys. Your class interests demand them and your growing wants will compel you to take them by voting with the Socialist Labor Party.

"Potato Patch" Pinarre, one of the "good men" who has been "coming our way" is supporting Alger, for senator. The Debs party should not become despondent over this little aberration.

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All contributions will be acknowledged in The Workers' Call. All moneys should be sent to Com. B. Beryn, State Organizer, 6730 S. Sangamon street, Chicago.

This is emphatically an age of competition. The Chicago river and the Union Stock Yards are no longer to retain their perfume-dispensing monopoly for the working class.

The Debits are to hold a conference in this city on the 6th of July. This odiferous combination consists of Debs, Carey, Gordon, Mrs. Lease, and other fragrant flowers, and they intend to confer upon what THEY are going to do for the people.

In the meantime The Workers' Call will continue to tell the working class what THEY CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES, and this does not include voting for boodle politicians and "good men," and shouting "Hurrah" for fakirs, freaks and frauds.

The Peace Conference at the Hague is making remarkable progress. The "young" and "old" Turks are getting into each other's wool, and challenges to duels are filling the air.

Under the heading "Twelve busy hours for the Prince of Wales," the Chicago Tribune gives twelve cuts of this royal parasite in as many different costumes, corresponding to the hours of the day, but we do not notice that overalls appear in any of them.

After her exhaustive labors in crying "Vive l'armee! Vive le Roi!" our Annie, Annie Gould has chartered the yacht "Valhalla" to enable her and her bargain counter "man" to recuperate on a trip to the Mediterranean and the coasts of Scotland.

CHEAP SLAVES.

The Superior Productive Power of American Wage Slaves Over Those of Other Lands.

"One reason for the supremacy of the United States in commerce and manufactures is the fact that, taken individually, American workmen do more work in a given time than those of any other nationality. Statistics recently made public show that, counting the work done by an American at 100, an Englishman will in the same time accomplish 86 per cent of that amount.

No other slaves are as valuable to their masters as the American wage-slave. No others can be driven as hard or work as skillful, and none are more obedient. While the French laborer is making and unmaking governments that his class may be benefited; while the German is defying and defeating the emperor in his efforts to oppress the workers, and while even the despised "Dago" is making King Humbert shiver for his throne, the American marches humbly to the polls at each election and formally declares that he loves to be a slave and wants some more just like the sample.

DRUMMERS

(Continued from page 1)

That they will some day learn that their interests lie with the great producing class of the world and that their only hope of existence lies in a union with the party of that class, there is no doubt. It is to be hoped that their superior opportunities in the way of education will enable them to grasp their situation soon and that a short time will find them in the socialist ranks working to abolish the system that made their maintenance at one time a mark of the frightful wastes of competition and that used them to carry out its clumsy method of production and when it needed them no longer flung them aside as ruthlessly as a displaced machine is consigned to the scrap-pile.

Seattle, Wash., June 23.—John D. Rockefeller did not pass through the Pacific northwest for mere pleasure. The resignation of General Manager Bretnell of the Everett Land company was part of a program arranged by the financier himself to get control of the Everett Land company, with its \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000 worth of property.

The fact came to surface by a suit filed in the federal court by the Central Trust company of New York City to foreclose a mortgage for \$1,500,000 against the Everett Land company.

Mr. Rockefeller owns this mortgage and by foreclosing it he will come into possession of more than three times its value. The act, taken in connection with his recent move in foreclosing a mortgage against the Monte Cristo mines and concentrator, which property his representative purchased for \$375,000, practically makes Mr. Rockefeller the landlord of Everett, with its 3,000 or 4,000 people for tenants, for the mortgage covers nearly everything within the city limits, besides thousands of acres in the country.—Chicago Tribune.

Who said that there were no serfs in America. It will be interesting to know what ticket the citizens of Everett voted last year and if they will vote the same next.

REMEMBER YOU HAVE AN ENGAGEMENT FOR JULY 9TH, at 1230 and Michigan Ave.—Gardner's Park—Picnic for the benefit of The Workers' Call.

AROUND THE WORLD

Moves of the Militant Socialists in Various Lands in Their World-wide Battle for the Proletariat.

The past week has been an eventful one abroad. The French comrades offered the government the alternative of either forming a cabinet or letting the socialists, who were practically in control, do it for them.

In Germany the Emperor sought to force a law upon the country that would have practically made every striker a criminal. But the workers of Germany, unlike those of America, had voted for their own interests and not those of their masters, and hence had defenders in the halls of legislation.

It is now learned that railway officials and operatives in the Danzig railway district have been warned that the doctrine of the Schulz decision obligates all the state officials to oppose the Social Democracy both actively and passively.

But this is not the first time the German comrades have met with laws of exception and repression, and we fancy that history will repeat itself and they will go on without a chance whatever the conditions they confront.

In Belgium King Leopold has been severely called to time by the socialist leader Vanderveide, because he has attempted to dodge important issues. Here again the government is attempting to coerce the proletariat by force, and with apparently the same result these methods usually have.

Italy adds a mite to the same story. Her proletariat has been asserting its own interests and demanding that the rights of the workers be recognized. Her ruling class sees the impending danger and demands the most stringent laws against "seditious associations."

The news comes from China that there are signs that the great empire is "awakening." By this it is meant that it is becoming capitalistic. When improved methods of exploiting labor are once introduced into China, as they are into Japan, and the countless multitudes of the Flowery Kingdom are set at work in modern factories the condition of the laborers of other lands could hardly be imagined or described.

Bundle Orders.

We would call especial attention to the rates for The Workers' Call in bundles, which are as follows: (Note change of rate.) Single bundles of 100 or more, 50 cents per hundred.

Lyons Furniture Report, a little trade paper whose business it is to gather up the business conditions of the various firms in the furniture trade and keep each one informed of the affairs of its rivals sounds the following warning as to trusts:

There are grave dangers in this seemingly endless multiplication of industrial combinations. We feel safe in saying that the next financial panic in this country will be caused by this very multiplication of trusts.

Wonder if it ever occurred to the Report that independent firms have about as much choice about entering a trust as a fish on the end of a line has about coming out of the water.

Book Reviews.

THE SILVER CROSS or The Carpenter Nazereth: a translation from the French of Eugene Sue; International Publishing Co., 151 p.; paper 25 cents.

This is one of the series of books making up the history of a proletarian family, and in which Eugene Sue has used his wonderful pen to portray in a series of vivid pictures the society of various critical periods in the world's history.

From beginning to end Jesus and his teachings are shown to be a revolt against the ruling class of society. He identifies himself with those who would be called the lowest classes. He is the friend of thieves, prostitutes and outcasts. The author has caught that something which all other writers who would portray the life of the worker have failed to grasp.

The Lakes of Killarney.

The following bright paragraphs are taken from the Worker's Republic of Dublin, Ireland:

It appears there is a project on foot to acquire Killarney for the purpose of a private speculation; to convert its beauties into a source of profit for the capitalist, as well as pleasure for the sightseer.

Therefore, the Tralee District Council demands that the government should step in and purchase the Muckross estate upon which the celebrated lakes are situated and thus

"Stop the sale and not allow 'Beauty's Home' to be traded on for private and commercial purposes—the exclusive property of any individual, or company, to be used, disused, or not used at all, as they thought fit."

I sympathize with my Kerry friends in their extremity. It is indeed hard that one of the most beautiful spots in the universe should be converted into a mill for coining wealth for the gain of a few moneybags.

"To be used, disused, or not allowed to be used at all as they think fit."

Just like Killarney.

If it is horrible that we shall not be allowed in future to feast our eyes upon the beauties of Killarney without paying tribute to a gang of commercial speculators, is it not equally horrible that we cannot at present enjoy the barest necessities of life without paying tribute to a similar gang of property holders, who possess our means of existence?

Why this distinction? The speculators who covet Killarney would say to the casual visitor: "You shall not see the beauties of this spot unless you first pay us our tribute—unless we can make a profit out of you."

Where is the difference? Except in the fact that the tourist if he does not like to pay can go on his way, but the worker must accept the bargain—or starve.

Two blacks do not make a white. I am not defending the grab at Killarney, but simply emphasizing the fact that the same line of argument which condemns the conversion of the lakes into a money making speculation, also, by every rule of logic, condemns the system which entrusts the productive property of the entire nation into the hands of individuals—as a mere money making concern.

What is good for Killarney is good for Ireland—aye for the world as a whole! If a mere source of enjoyment should be made public property, how much more so the necessary means of life—land and instruments of labor.

Are YOU still hustling for subscribers?

# Single Tax vs. Socialism A Comparative Discussion

By A. M. SIMONS.

The Single Taxers say that today industry is limited by the fact that the supply of land being a definite quantity and property rights being recognized in it, large quantities of land are owned and held by the owners simply to receive the increase in value which will accrue by the growth of society. This increase in value, which is purely a social product, due to the exertions of laborers in building up the surrounding territory they call the "unearned increment," and advocate its absorption by society who created it. There can be no doubt as to the correctness of this position and it is as old as the hills, and in no way original with Henry George. The error lies in assuming that this is in any way a peculiarity of land. In fact the fundamental weakness of the Single Tax, in so far as it has any consistent philosophy to combat, lies in what might be called a sort of "landophobia." Their talk is full of such expressions as "man is a land animal," forgetting that he is equally a water, air, and tool-using animal, to say nothing of Aristotle's discovery that he was also a political animal. They fail to see that once a stage of society is established in which any one of these factors is absolutely essential it is just as important as any other. If a man must have both wood and iron to make an article, it is silly to talk of either one being the essential portion. There can be no degrees of absolute necessity. Today there are various features essential to a civilized society. Among these is land, but no more so than the developed tool or organized social operation of industry. In barbarism, of these three features only the land was essential. In modern culture the other factors have become much more prominent and their freedom would cause a much greater change than freedom of the land.

This point is important because around it hinges the fundamental difference in the political working out of the Single Tax and the socialist theory. The socialist insists that as society progresses from stage to stage in development different factors in the social organization become prominent and constitute the central factor in that stage. There may be other essential factors which belong to an earlier social stage, but the fact that these have been supplanted in prominence by some other shows that they are of less significance or else they would have retained their prominence. Land is such a factor. At one time the most prominent factor in production, its owners were the ruling social class. At that time industrial freedom for the laborers could only have come from the control of the land. Later the machine became the dominant factor and its owners were able through its ownership to become the ruling class and to inaugurate our present form of society, or capitalism. Hence those who would be free at this time must strike for the dominant feature of the age—capital.

Hence the Single Taxers have put the "cart before the horse" when they say that "freeing land" would free industry. Their position in this regard is as follows: They say that the reason why industry is so "confined" and that men are idle is because that capital and labor are prevented from going on to the land by the fact of private ownership by those who are holding the land for an unearned increment. If all land was taxed to its full rental value there would be no land held vacant and any one who wished to start a business could have the land on which to establish it by simply paying the actual rental value irrespective of improvements.

Thus they hold that it is the monopoly of land that causes the formation of all other monopolies, save those resting upon especial privileges (such as franchises, patents, etc.), which could be abolished by abolishing those privileges. This position contains a perfect nest of errors, and yet upon it rests the entire Single Tax. In the first place all property rights rest upon "special privileges" in that they are maintained by laws made in the interest of the possessing class and which will not be surrendered so long as that class continues to rule. In the second place it falls entirely to take notice of the most important form of monopoly—that resting upon large capitalization. Here we strike at the central weakness of Single Tax. They fall to see that under competition an advantage once gained tends to become cumulative. A big business grows larger, faster than a smaller one simply BECAUSE IT IS BIG. The great industry can produce cheaper and can therefore undersell smaller competitors. The larger it grows the greater the difference in cheapness of production. Hence there is a tendency in the very nature of competition for industry to become monopolized. The great industry once established is absolutely independent of the land. Once that it has organized its laborers, developed its markets, perfected its machinery and systematized the operation of its plant it can bid defiance to competitors, whether they be given free land or not. The packing houses of Chicago are a good example. Here we have an industry employing, aside from dependent industries, about 20,000 men, women and children. Does anyone with even the slightest excuse for brains believe that if you were to throw open every foot of land in America, with or without taxes, anyone could establish another set of houses. Could they invade the carefully developed markets in every part of the world, re-

created in their interest and sustained by a public opinion which they are able to maintain because they own the communication of knowledge, they build up a respect for the laws and institutions they establish. The socialist holds that the only remedy for this is to educate the classes who are thus ensnared to a recognition of their condition and then for them to unite and themselves seize the reins of social control. He sees that the only class who have the numbers necessary to accomplish this purpose, are the laborers. They are also the ones who have the most interest in overthrowing present conditions. Most important of all they are already the ones who are actually carrying on industry today, and who would therefore be best competent to conduct it in the future. He sees that at present the laborers in each great industry are organized in various grades which superintend, direct and control industry. The owner has no function save the appropriation of the product created by these laborers. He is able to do this because of his ownership of the tools, machines, land, etc., which ownership is maintained by his class rule referred to above. The socialist would simply cut off that connection between the owner and the instruments of production and distribution by getting control of the thing that now maintains it—the machinery of government. This he would do by urging the laborers to unite in a party of their own class, voicing their own interests, fully cognizant of the rights, duties and possibilities of the working class. If they so unite they will have an overwhelming majority at the polls, and having captured the powers of government can proceed to enact laws in their interest just as the capitalists are doing for the possessing class today. The progress of society has shown what the very first step is that they must take when they have reached this point. They must take possession of all the powers of production and distribution and make them the property of all producers. All the mines, factories, railroads, machines, etc., being the property of all anyone who desires to produce can secure access to them at any time. There being no class of owners to appropriate the larger share of the product all will be given to him who produces it. All will then be producers and hence there can be no exploitation—no class rule. Whatever is produced will be for use and not for sale. The persons who receive it will not be forced to search the earth over to find someone to whom they can sell it for more than they paid for it. Not only will the best and most improved forms of production as known to capitalism be employed but by perfect concentration of industry and abolition of all the wastes of competition, with a universal utilization of all the powers of production which are now under private control it will be possible to produce all that society could require with a small fraction of the time in which the average laborer is now engaged. Things when they are produced will be because someone desires them and not because someone hopes to make a profit on them. Hence there can be no over-production until all wants are satisfied.

This is a general outline of the society that the socialists hold is destined to grow out of the present one as soon as the laborers have sufficient intelligence to vote for their own interests instead of those of their masters. It is not a pretty picture that has been built up from the brain of some dreamer, but is the result of a series of deductions as to what MUST naturally follow with the process of social development. If anyone does not believe that they are the proper deductions to be drawn he can study present social conditions and past developments and draw his own conclusions. That is where the socialist secured his ideas and he believes that the supply is not yet exhausted.

So much for the theory of Single Tax in contrast with that of socialism. Now just a word as to practical tactics. In the present society the rule of the capitalist class and the consequent enslavement of the laborers is secured by the actions of the laborers themselves. They continually vote into power their own oppressors. They are led to this through a process of deception as to their real interests. The capitalist class, because of their control of the means for the spreading of intelligence—the press, the schools, the colleges and universities with the pulp and the lecture platform—are able to keep the laborers deluded as to their own interests. The principle way in which this is done is through the means of capitalistic politics. The workers are constantly led to believe that their interests lie with one or the other of the capitalist parties. They are thus led to divide their forces among the enemy in a kind of "heads they win and tails we lose" sort of game from the point of view of the laborers. Of late years old issues are well nigh worn out and the ruling class have found themselves hard put to it to find "issues" upon which to divide the laborers while they were being robbed. This has been especially hard as the doctrine of socialism spreads among the workers, teaching them to unite for their own interests. Hence it has been found necessary to raise a number of issues that are supposed to be particularly in the interest of the workers. These are advocated as "reforms" and palliative measures. Such are municipal ownership, old age pensions, cheap housing, etc. So long as the capitalist class remains in power all such measures can be of no benefit to the laboring class as a whole. Now just at present the Single Tax is proving a valuable help in this scheme. A number of "reform" politicians are using it as a means of showing their interest in the votes of the "dear laborer." It is dragged out on every occasion and because of the fact that a number of sincere, earnest fanatics can be enlisted in its support it always proves a fairly good drawing card. It is because of

this fact that the socialist attacks it. He knows that in and of itself it can have no strength. He knows that no movement that is not in the line of social development can possibly succeed and hence has no fears of the Single Tax "getting in ahead of him" as some of its believers accuse him of thinking, and which implies that social schemes can be tried on like misfit garments, and if Single Tax does not "work" socialism may. But he sees that Single Tax may constitute a means in the hands of shrewd politicians for the delusion of the laborer to a few more years of slavery. On this ground he opposes its propaganda and denounces its so-called philosophy.

The socialist insists that social progress has always been through the war of classes with opposing interests, and that each great social advance has been marked by the conquest of the previous ruling class by a hitherto subject class whom economic conditions had raised to a dominant position in the industrial world. He holds that the laboring class has been raised to that dominant economic position in our present society and stands opposed to the present ruling capitalist class. Hence he maintains that the next great step in social advance will lie in the victory of the laborers and opposes any method of propaganda which diverts the attention of the laborers from adherence to the party of their own interests. For this reason he attacks the Single Taxer and insists that the laborers who really seek freedom must gather in support of their own interests into a class-conscious party of the laborers, by the laborers and for the laborers.

## UNITE AND PERISH

(Continued from page 1.)

would enable them to buy their labor power cheaper. Why then, again, is this question considered so "adequate" by the reformers? We shall find the explanation as before in class interests. Only the great industry can compete in the world market. It alone is able to keep its representatives in every part of the globe, to exercise the unlimited credit demanded in international exchange, and meet the small margins of a world-wide competition. Hence every step toward expansion means more rapid death to the small fry at home. It is no coincidence that expansion abroad and concentration at home have advanced side by side. So here again we have the class-conscious protest of the little poacher who sees his preserves encroached upon by the larger robber. In all this the laborer has no interest and so we will have to pass this plank by also as falling on the "adequate" test.

There remains but one plank left. Salvation must lie in this or what shall the laborer do? Surely they have left the best wine until the last and have done all this fooling only to prepare the timid minds for something that should be truly "adequate," "truthful and "politically possible." That there may be no injustice and that this startling last plank may be submitted with all the dramatic climax that it deserves the exact statement of the call to the convention will be given:

"The fourth plank that we must adopt is the endorsement, not indeed of all the details, but of the fundamental principles of the Chicago platform of 1896. To leave it out would mean absolute defeat. . . . The proposition to leave silver out of the Union platform means to ask the Democratic party, led by strong men and backed by millions who believe in the silver principle, after a magnificent campaign, in which they almost won, and after standing for the cause since, suddenly to drop down, to eat their own words, to shift their ground under the enemies' feet. The party will not do it. Or, it means to leave the Democratic party out of the Union and to form a new party, and then expect to win. This would be madness. It would be reformers' suicide."

Heretofore we have seen the narrow selfishness of these reformers, now their contemptibleness is brought to light. These canting hypocrites who have been talking of truth and adequateness now surrender all to the one test of "political possibility." Not one word to show that silver is of any interest to the workers, no denial of the fact that it is a political "stool pigeon" to lure the laborers into the nets of the silver barons and the small farmers instead of into those of the great capitalists, not even a claim that it will in any way relieve the industrial situation, but a political sell out pure and simple. Comment is unnecessary on this point. If the whole matter is not understood just read the statement of the president of the convention over again. It carries its own refutation. This last plank indeed was all that was needed to transform their "platform" into a shattered "raft" upon the sea of popular revolt where the tidal waves of the coming social revolution will tear it to fragments, that those who have "united" upon it may "perish" never to deceive the suffering toilers again.

And what a collection it is that is called upon to "unite." They are the economic and political "left-overs"—the "units to survive" of our present society. They are the freaks and curios of the political world combined with a few astute politicians who know how to use them to best advantage. Among these latter is Pingree who has just indorsed Secretary of War Alger on the grounds of "political possibility." I suppose, and who will probably expect him to stand upon an "anti-imperialist" platform. As near as such a miscellaneous compound can be classified its membership falls into three divisions. First there are the practical politicians, referred to above. Then there are the so-called "labor leaders," with Gompers at their head—men who have for years been known as the tools of capitalism, ready to sell their followers to whatever political party offered the largest re-

ward. Finally much the largest class as to numbers consists of professional "well doers," reformers by trade whose only business in life is being good for a salary, combined with theorists, college professors, "freaks," and fanatics. These would be of little importance alone as they have practically no influence in the world of politics, being altogether too far from earth to ever effect so ordinary a thing as votes. But out of their education they can furnish ammunition for the Pingrees, the Bryans, the Joneses and the Aitgolds with others of their kind who know how to use both them and the laborers. This educated class comes from the body of professional parasites which in all ages has placed its brains at the disposal of the ruling class and helped in the carrying out of their purposes. Until within a few years the capitalist class was able to employ all of this body in some form or another as a sort of intellectual body servants. But lately the supply has outrun the demand and they find themselves in common parlance, "out of a job." Their wages are reduced, their opportunities curtailed, their influence cut short. They find themselves hard put to it to exist. They turn into literary pursuits, they found social settlements, they edit reform periodicals, start "colonies," do everything under the heavens but go to work. Lacking the brains of their European counterparts, or having been more thoroughly trained as lackeys of their masters, they refuse to unite with the only class where they have any interest or hope of life, or that has any chance of a future—the proletariat—the laborers. In other lands this class furnishes the leaders of the advancing hosts of labor. Here they are the hangers on of a rotting middle class. Can such elements unite? No two of them have been cast out by exactly the same feature of industrial progress, and each one wants to strike the thing that hit him, or rather the thing that he thinks hit him. They are still in the competitive age. They belong to that stage in economic development which was marked by the small competing business. The children of competition, monopoly leaves them orphans by swallowing their parents. But true to their ancestry they retain the instinct of the savage to fight and war against one another even when they raise the cry to "unite or perish."

And if they should gain a victory? They are united in but one thing and that is opposition to advance. One division would place their conquerors business in the hands of government, the other would "abolish trusts," and others would limit capitalism by national laws. Relics of a geologic strata of society now buried beneath the deposits of industrial development, they would impose their antediluvian ideas upon advancing society and roll back social development that their extinct class might be again restored to life.

Dr. Johnson once said in an oft used quotation, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." It has long been the first trick of the political fakir and the cry of every socially crushed class. So we find this little crowd of fanatics, failures and freaks endeavoring to forestall criticism by declaring that "The reformer today who puts party above principle, or attacks another because he differs from him, commits a crime against the United States." But there is one other ear-mark of the political trickster that is shown here. There never was a class that felt themselves being injured by any social change that did not at once attempt to identify itself with all of society and declare that the "community," the "nation" or the "people" was in danger. So here this little body of representatives of the interests of the most useless class in society sign their appeal for help, "Yours for the people."

This brings us to their fling at the Socialist Labor Party, of which they say that it "stands for the most magnificent dream of human unity and considers it to be the first duty of man to be 'class-conscious,' i. e., humanity unconscious." Let us look at this a little closer. The S. L. P. says that the laborers should be class-conscious and should act in the interests of their class and their alone. This is what the reformers are objecting to. But in whose interests then should the workers act? The capitalists? But progress demands the abolition of the capitalist class, both large and small, and there are no other classes to be considered. The S. L. P. declares that the laboring class are the only vital necessary class in our present society and must be the foundation of the coming society. They might say, with far greater truth than any of the other classes that they stood for all humanity, because in the triumph of the laboring class and class interests lies the only hope of social growth. Basing their position on a careful application of recognized laws of social development to historical and present facts they call upon the laborers of all countries to act together. They know they are in no danger of dying or being abolished therefore as was stated in the beginning they raise no despairing wail to "society" to "Unite or Perish," but send out through all the ends of the earth the clarion cry of labor which will soon be the battle chant of victory. "Workingmen of the world unite; you have the world to gain, and nothing to lose but your chains."

The Fourth of July is approaching and is to be celebrated in "our" new possessions in a suitable manner. We have heard that Alger has sent a dispatch to General Otis at Manila, directing him to have that portion of the Declaration of Independence translated into Spanish and Tagal, which declares that "all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." If Generals Lawton, Wheaton and MacArthur cannot "pacify" the Filipinos, it is expected that the circulation of the above extract will succeed in doing so.

## KANSAS CITY

(Continued from page 1.)

want to tax their property down here their own neighborhoods. They don't make parks for the "poor Dutch and Irish," as a workingman in this ward very aptly said the other day. They will not give parks and improvements to the working class anywhere.

Workers of the Fifth Ward this brief recital of past history and present conditions enables us to draw a correct conclusion, which if acted on logically will enable us to immediately gain some benefits and finally the complete emancipation of our class as outlined in the statement of the Central Committee, which is an extract from our national platform.

The conclusion we must inevitably draw is that the interests of the wealthy class and the interests of the working class are antagonistic. That if the wealthy class controls the government it will look out for its own interests. And only when we of the working class ourselves take control of the government can we get the improvements we need, and finally emancipate ourselves from wage slavery.

If elected I will vote to maintain the present boundaries of Penn Valley Park and will fight every dilatory move on the part of the Park Board and the council.

I will vote against giving any more franchises to individuals or corporations for car lines, gas or electric plants, or any other business that requires a franchise. I stand squarely on the whole platform and for all the immediate demands of the Socialist Labor Party. One of these demands is:

"The municipalities shall obtain possession of the local railroads, ferries, water works, electric plants and all industries requiring municipal franchises; the employees to operate the same cooperatively under the control of the municipal administration and to elect their own superior officers, but no employees shall be discharged for political reasons."

This will do away with big profits, will give better service to the public, better pay and treatment to those who do the work, and no campaign money can be forced out of the employees.

I will vote against giving any more contracts, and demand instead that the city employ its labor directly, paying a minimum wage of two dollars for a day of eight hours. Then the workers will get some of the profits that otherwise go to the contractors.

I will introduce and support ordinances which will compel those who have hindered improvements to come to time, even to calling a special election to amend the city charter.

Workers of the Fifth Ward there are other issues more important than those I have mentioned. Every day we are in danger of our lives and limbs in working with unprotected machinery—every day we face the possibility of reduction of wages or entire loss of position, through improvements in methods or machinery, which instead should be of benefit to us, but which never will be as long as we permit the capitalist class to manage affairs.

We are in an overwhelming majority in this ward—let us turn down the candidates of both the old parties who have fooled us so long—let us make a start for the Co-operative Commonwealth by electing a man of our own class on a platform of our class. Do you say it cannot be done? Just the other day the class-conscious workers of New Britain, Connecticut, elected five candidates of the Socialist Labor Party to the council. Immediately the capitalist press all over the East startled out of its false sense of security began suggesting all sorts of sops, concessions and so on to placate the awakened workmen, and try to persuade them not to go on with our program. But they are going on just the same. We know we are on the right track when the capitalists squirm. If we vote thus for our own interests it will be an example to the rest of our brothers in Kansas City as well as all over the country. We will soon elect a council composed entirely of workingmen—the mayor and all officers. We will vote in state officers, and finally capture the federal government at Washington.

Read the platform of the Socialist Labor Party, a copy of which will be given you. Read the party organ "The Workers' Call," which we will distribute.

"He who would be free himself must strike the blow."

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

Fraternally,  
Charles Engel.

## Mutual Admiration.

Said Mary Elizabeth Lease, speaking of Eugene Debs, in the Social Democratic Herald of April 29, 1899: "With clear vision and inspired language he portrays the greater glories that are to come to the race when the Demon of Selfishness Has Been Subdued. A teacher of future thought, his heart is fired with love for his fellow men. His very word and look, his whole life, bears the intensity of purpose of a master builder."

Said Eugene Debs, speaking of Mary Elizabeth Lease, in the Social Democratic Herald of June 10, 1899: "Mary E. Lease is the greatest woman on the American platform or any other. She puts all the power of her great soul into her speech, and speaks like one inspired. With her marvelous oratorical powers she sways an audience to her will, and it is not strange that where she has once spoken 'the town is hers.'"

Comment is unnecessary.—The People.

How many persons did you ask to take a three month's subscription to The Workers' Call during the week?

