

THE HAVERHILL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT

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TURNING "STATE'S EVIDENCE"

COUNCILMAN CHASE TELLS A FEW TALES OUT OF SCHOOL AND PUTS HIS COLLEAGUES IN A BAD FLIGHT.

The truth about the attempt to reduce the wages of the city street laborers is put at last.

Councilman Chase turned "state evidence" at the common council meeting on Tuesday evening last, and exposed his colleagues, the anti-Socialists, in merry style. In a written speech he laid bare the real motives of those among the anti-Socialists who not only voted to reduce the street laborers' wages but also those who voted against reducing.

From the beginning of this movement to cut down the street laborers' wages from \$2 to \$1.80 a day, the Social Democrats have contended two things, viz.: That the reduction was directly in line with the declared intention of the anti-Socialists before election to give the city a "business administration," and second, that among those of the anti-Socialists who voted against reducing were men who really desired the reduction, but for political reasons, were afraid to support and vote for it.

These contentions are amply proven in the statement made by Councilman Chase, who, being one of the "push," certainly ought to know what he is talking about. He shows that while some members thought the reduction of wages "good business," it was "doubtful politics."

It is always "good business" to cut down the wages of labor as low as well, labor will allow them to be cut down. Labor being the chief factor in production, economy in the conduct of business always falls upon labor first. This is the way in which the "business men" who compose the anti-Socialists in the city government run their own business and that is the only way they know how to run municipal affairs.

Business men are accustomed to treat labor as a commodity, which is reason is under the present system. They buy it when necessary for as low a price as possible. The lower the price the better business it is. The laborer, according to them, is not a human-being but a clod, whose only excuse for existence is to work from morning until night, so that "business" can continue and "business men" can live in peace and plenty. It was perfectly natural, therefore, for the anti-Socialists to fall upon the street laborers, the hardest worked and poorest paid workers in the city's employ, and in the interests of an economical administration attempt to reduce their wages.

That they would have succeeded had not there been Socialists in the city government goes without question. This is proven by the statement made by Councilman Chase, which we print below. Here he tells how Alderman Atwood thought the \$1.80 was right; that he could get all the men he wanted to work 16 hours a day for \$10 a week. Alderman Roche, the "boss" of the anti-Socialists, thought the reduction was "good business," but it would have a bad political effect this fall. It was only fear then of the Socialists that prevented the reduction order going through. Had there been nothing else but anti-Socialists in the city council there is no doubt that the \$1.80 rate would have been established. Nay more, is it not possible that the rate would have been made lower?

Stop a moment and gaze at Alderman Roche, who comes from a ward made up almost exclusively of laborers, and who has posed these many years as a friend of labor. He would have voted to reduce the street laborers' wages but he did not want to help the Socialists; which is a guarantee from an enemy that the Socialists do stand for the working class. Mr. Roche did not vote against reducing the street laborers' wages from any love he had for the laborers. No, he would have voted to reduce them but it would have been "bad politics." And as Roche is so are all the others.

Next week we shall pay more attention to the statement of Councilman Chase. Not only is it valuable as an historical political document, but it also contains several points that merit extended treatment.

In the meanwhile let the working class of the city remember that the Social Democrats did not oppose the reduction of street laborers' wages for political reasons, to catch votes or to perpetuate their present office holders in the city hall; but because they care for the working class first and always and any attacks made upon the workers will be resisted to the utmost of our ability and power. And this in spite of all that the working class may happen to do or say against us in the future. We opposed the reduction in street laborers' wages because it was wrong, inhuman and unjust and the satisfaction derived from the reduction being defeated is sufficient reward for us.

The statement made by Councilman Chase, as published in the Gazette, is as follows:

"I want to place myself on record in regard to this question of pay of the men in the employ of the city. This subject has been a football to be kicked about ever since the inauguration of the present city government, and I expect tonight that enough members will vote to pay \$2 to carry the order through. I shall vote as my judgment tells me. I was elected to come here and do my part of the city business according to the best of my ability, and so far I have tried to do so. At the beginning of the year the wage subject came up and there has been a great difference of opinion in regard to it. I have talked with most all the members elected on the same ticket as myself in regard to this matter. I remember very well when Alderman Atwood said to me about it. Alderman Atwood said \$1.80 was right; that he could get all the men he wanted and they would work 16 hours a day if needed, and I think he said for \$10 per week. I talked with Alderman Roche several times about it, and he said that every man should say it was good business, but he was afraid it would have a bad effect on the political situation this fall. He said he did not wish to do anything to help the Socialists next election. I talked with Councilman Sheldon in regard to it. He was the man that proposed the sum of \$1.80 originally to me. My idea was that would be a trifling more pay \$1.80 and that would be a trifling more hour than \$2 for nine hours and it could not be called a cut down. He also said it would be easy to reckon; if a man worked a half day he would get 90 cents. He told me he would so vote, and did vote so for some time. I decided to change his vote to \$2, giving me a reason that all the polling men had been to him and urged him to change because of the bad effect it might have on the political situation. He said \$1.80 was good business, but I said I was not so sure. He said he would be strongly in favor of \$1.80 until within a few days. He now practically tells me he will oppose any measure which Councilman Nichols and I approve. Now my reason for voting for \$1.80 is because I cannot see how any man can reasonably vote to pay \$2 when we all know that we can hire more men than we can use who will work nine or 16 hours for \$1.80 a day. In our own city the only reason for a company is using men, nine hours at \$1.75 and a fight on all the time for the \$1.80 job a good as the telephone job."

"In consideration of the condition of our treasury, when we can raise by taxation \$400,000 and need \$450,000 to pay about any permanent improvements; when in every paper we take up we read about some one or more of our shoe manufacturers who wish us; when every man who owns any real estate is looking for customer to sell out to; it seems to me high time for the members of the city government to quit playing politics, drop spite and attend strictly to business, and if possible retain the good name of our city."

SOCIALISTS UNITE!

COMMITTEES OF THE S. L. P. AND S. D.-P. HOLD A SECOND CONFERENCE AND ADOPT PLANS TO FURTHER UNION.

The committees on union of the Social Democratic and Socialist Labor parties met in joint conference at 54 E. Fourth street, New York city, on Sunday morning May 20. At the opening of the conference there were present from the Social Democratic party, Comrades William Butscher, Seymour Stedman, Victor L. Berger, Margaret Halle, W. P. Loneragan, John C. Chase, James F. Carey and G. A. Hoehn. Comrade Eugene V. Debs was present by invitation. From the Socialist Labor party, Comrades N. I. Stone, Job Harriman, Max S. Hayes, M. Hillquit, Charles Fenner, W. E. White and Frank Seiverman. Comrade J. Mahlon Barnes arrived later in the day. A large crowd of interested spectators was present throughout the proceedings.

The conference was called to order by Comrade Chase, who stated that in view of the situation existing in the movement the conference of the two committees on union was called to consider what best should be done. Comrade Chase was elected chairman of the meeting. Comrade Stedman stated that he and those for whom he spoke did not recognize the meeting as a legal one, as the vote against union registered by the Social Democratic party had discharged the committee and such a committee no longer existed. He requested that a separate conference of the Social Democratic members of the "former committee" be held to try and have them arrive at an understanding.

Comrade Carey said that for his part he recognized the conference as entirely legal, the committees on union being the highest constituted authority in the Socialist movement. He did not favor a secret conference of the Social Democratic members of the committee. Whatever he had to say could be said right there before the world and he moved that the Social Democratic members hold a conference immediately in this room.

Comrade Stedman disputed the right to put a motion of that kind and gave warning that his side would not recognize it.

The motion was put and was adopted. Comrades Stedman, Halle, Berger and Loneragan withdrew and were later on followed by Comrades Carey, Hoehn, Chase and Butscher.

The Social Democratic members of the committee then held a meeting in another room upstairs. A large number of members of the party was present.

Comrade Stedman suggested as this was an informal conference that Comrade Eugene V. Debs act as chairman. Comrade Debs said he preferred not to serve, as he would probably take part in the discussion that would follow.

A dispute here arose as to whether this was a meeting of the Social Democratic committee on union or only an informal conference of individual members of the party. Comrades Stedman and Berger maintained that the Social Democratic committee no longer existed and that the vote against union submitted upon the manifesto of the N. E. B. had discharged the committee.

Comrade Carey moved that this meeting be one of the Social Democratic committee on union elected by the Indianapolis convention and that Comrade E. V. Debs be given the privilege of the floor to take part. The motion was carried on a vote of 5 to 3. Comrades Chase, Carey, Butscher, Hoehn and Loneragan voting ayes and Comrades Halle, Stedman and Berger voting no. The latter stated they would not recognize the meeting as one of the

NOTICE.

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIALISTS.
All persons who believe in holding a conference meeting of all Socialists organized and unorganized in this state, will please send their names to
M. KAPLAN,
164 North Street, Boston.
P. S.—The main object would be to effect unity of all Massachusetts Socialists.

PUBLIC LECTURE.

A lecture will be given on Sunday evening, May 27, at 8 o'clock, at 45 Elliot street, Boston, before the Workers' Educational club, by Rev. A. A. Berle, subject, "Personal Resources of the Workingman." Public invited.

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WILLIAM MAHLEY, Editor

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HAVERHILL, MAY 24, 1906.

SOCIALISM TO BOYS.

The Social Democrats of Brockton have organized a club for the purpose of teaching Socialism to boys.

Socialism is a deep study, and when many men find it so hard to view it as practicable it would seem that the teaching of Socialistic doctrine to boys...

A letter from Charlotte, N. C., published in the Taunton News, states that although the working people of the south are making more money...

The labor officials of the textile council in Fall River are reported to be disappointed at the defeat of the bill forbidding the overtime employment of women and minors.

Councilman Burnham of ward seven is to be congratulated upon his change of base with respect to the per diem compensation of street laborers.

And Councilman Chase of ward four is to be congratulated upon his exposure of the motives animating the anti-Socialists...

Senator Hale of Maine, a republican, charges the conduct of affairs in Cuba, by the national administration as a "carnival of corruption and fraud."

condemn the producers to starvation. In the meanwhile ship loads of food are hurrying to India to relieve the "famine stricken," who are the victims of their brothers' greed.

The strike in St. Louis is caused by the desire of the street car employes to continue their organization. The workers have actually the audacity to form a union and their employers won't have it.

Comrade N. W. Lerrmond of Thomaston, Me., candidate for governor on the union Socialist ticket in Maine, writes us as follows: "You have made a slight misstatement in your issue of May 19 when you say Socialists of New Hampshire were first to hold a joint convention..."

The special May day issue of London Justice has arrived and proves to be an excellent number. The Socialist movement in various countries is represented by articles from prominent workers...

Mayor Van Wyck is one of the largest shareholders in the ice trust that is exploiting New York city. But Van Wyck was elected by the very people whom the trust punishes the most.

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The expose of the anti-Socialists made by Councilman Chase on Tuesday evening, was by no means the whole story. It was only a hint of the jobbery and intrigue existing within the ranks of the pure and holy opponents of Socialism.

increasing the compensation to owners of teams hired by the city. How's that for consistency?

The state senate rejected the house resolutions favoring the election of United States senators by the people.

The difference between the robbery of Cuba by the Spaniards and the Americans lies in the way it's done.

The rejection of the pneumatic tube contract by the U. S. senate may be a good reason why it ought to be accepted.

The street laborers' wage question is settled at last—and settled right.

SOCIALISM: THE WORLD'S PURPOSE. By Edwin Markham.

Men say that life's high hope is vain; That one force holds the heart—the hope of gain.

Not so; the vast inbrothering of man—The glory of the universe—began When first the mother darkness heard The whisper and the ancient chaos stirred.

This is the voice of time against the hours; This is witness of the cosmic powers; This is the music of the ages—this The song whose first notes shook the abyss.

PROSPERITY. Of the 32,000 operators in the cotton mills of Massachusetts, according to the recent report issued by the state labor commission, 15,500 are women and children.

Charles H. Coulter, the socialist mayor of Brockton, Mass., is reported as saying that if he were mayor of New York he "would pension every poor, honest, intelligent, industrious man who had worked for 30 years."

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Whatever may be the opinion of the socialistic views of Mayor Coulter he is at least entitled to be fairly quoted. In the interview from which the above was taken and which by the way, is some months old, Mr. Coulter dwelt on what he would do as mayor of New York "under socialistic conditions."

NOVELTY AND THE NEWS. An afternoon reception, drawn by Marie Johnson, the famous fashion designer, in accordance with the correct modes of the season, will be presented on the stage of the Sunday Globe's toy theater next Sunday by the representation of a garden party.

The Sunday Globe runs a full page for the children every Sunday, and has something for every age. The Daily Globe has now the best home page in any newspaper, embracing, as it does, not only a good serial story and a clever novelette every day, but also the housewife's department.

THE MAGICIAN'S WAND. AN ALEGORICAL STORY OF CONDITIONS AS THEY EXIST AT PRESENT.

A stranger stood upon the shores of a great and beautiful country. As he was contemplating the beautiful scenes before him he heard ominous murmurs of discontent throughout the length and breadth of the land that at times rose to such volume that many of the people near him turned pale with fear.

An old man, seeing he was a stranger, engaged him in conversation. The stranger expressed his wonder at the murmurs of discontent where everything seemed so beautiful and prosperous. The old man said to him: "I am a magician, and if you so will, I will draw aside the veil that obscures your vision and show you this beautiful land as it really is."

He saw grand churches costing thousands of dollars with fine ladies and gentlemen whose raiment cost untold wealth, pretending to be following the teaching of our meek and lowly Savior, while within ear-shot he could hear starving babes wailing their lives away in the arms of parents from whose hearts all hope had fled.

He saw a woman at a public gathering whose costumes and ornaments cost \$250,000, and within a stone's throw another woman starving and freezing, whom he would have made comfortable. He saw rich girls sell themselves to foreign rousers for a title, and the people all shouted their approval.

He saw innocent childhood and decrepit age compelled to compete with strong and unscrupulous manhood for the means of existence. He saw honest girls compete with girls with "friends," and homeless girls compete with girls who had homes and just wanted pin money.

He saw men competing with their own children, and the children competing with the machine. He saw honest men trying to compete with thieves; honest dealers with dishonest ones; the man with small means trying to compete with gigantic combinations of capital.

He saw throughout this beautiful and fruitful land a terrible struggle between nine-tenths of the inhabitants struggling for the means of existence, while the other tenth, which had all the means of existence, sat just above them and idly watched their struggle.

He saw the lower class when they became desperate, approach the idlers and ask for some of their plenty. This he saw refused, but the idlers made a proposition to them to let them use the idlers' means of production, provided the idlers should have all that was produced except enough for a bare existence for the worker.

He saw at times some of the workers revolt and ask for more of what they produced than just enough for existence. When they did, the idlers, usually, simply sat and waited for them to starve into submission.

He saw the rich people hire tools to spout to the poor about some empty reforms, such as free silver, single tax, tariff, gold standard and down with the trusts, telling them that if they only got these reforms they would cure all their troubles.

The name given these tools was "politicians." They would spout about another country oppressing its people, while their own army was in a foreign country with a sword in one hand and a chain in the other, offering the natives their choice between the two.

They would spout about the oppression of military abroad, while forcing citizens of their own country to sign a petition for a continuance of it at home or leave their homes.

G. A. R. S. of V. OUTFITS. MEMORIAL DAY is at hand and we are prepared to furnish you with suits, Blouses, Hats and Caps appropriate for that occasion.

LESLIE'S DRY GOODS STORE. We are selling the Lightning Bearing Lawn Mowers, that run so easy, for: 14 in. Mowers, \$2.89; 16 in. Mowers, \$2.96.

Ladies. We are selling a fine Goodyear Welt Russet Calf and Black Vici Kid Oxford \$2.00. We are selling an extra fine Goodyear Welt Chocolate Vici Kid Oxford for—\$2.50.

Advertisers in Haverhill Social Democrat ARE THE SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MEN.

SOCIALISM AND GREENBACKISM.

REV. CHAS. H. VAIL CLEARLY AND LUCIDLY DEFINES THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

Editor of Haverhill Social Democrat: I am in possession of a letter from our friend whose questions I answered in my article of April 1st. He desires me, through the medium of your paper, to reply to the salient points in his last communication. He says: "I want to know what we fellows who have been out of the republican party only four or five years, and who have been voting ourselves into these conditions—voting for the debts, etc.—shall say, when they turn to us and ask us if we intend to repudiate these debts we have helped to make?"

It is true that the people as a whole have consented to, or rather not revolted against being robbed. The reason the laborers have not arisen against this injustice is because their egoism has been perverted. Since the workers must consent to their own servitude a wholesale deception is necessary. The master class, perceiving the course of action necessary to maintain its supremacy, makes and enforces laws which enable it to keep the workers in ignorance and subjection. It sees that the ideas disseminated among the workers are not only such as will result in the continuance of capitalist class rule. As the capitalist class control this means of communication—the press, the platform, and the pulpit—the end has been easily achieved. The laborers have led like sheep to the shambles. They have been deceived and used as tools with which to forge the chains that bind them in servitude. As our friend says, they have been voting themselves into these conditions, voting for these debts, etc.—voting for the men that serve the interest of the master class. But, remember, were it not for this systematic deception and perversion of the egoism of the subjected class, so that they do not see what pertains to their real interests, the system could not be long maintained and the injustice perpetuated.

If the laborers, then, by the willful action of the capitalist class, have been deceived into voting themselves into these conditions, voting for the maintenance of a system that robs them of four-fifths of the wealth they create and for men that make laws binding them to pay debts "contracted in fraud and born in iniquity." They certainly are not so much to blame. The laborers have not willingly and knowingly consented to such conditions and their ignorance is due to capitalist class action in making and enforcing laws that subvert this end. If the capitalist is unable to carry his point by deception he frequently resorts to coarse means. The dictation of corporations in the use of the franchise is a matter too common to need elaboration. Now why should the capitalist be remunerated for his property, especially when he has deceived and compelled the people to submit to his unjust accumulation? But even if they knowingly and willingly consent to be deceived, does it follow that they must forever consent? Because the capitalists have robbed the laborers and used the wealth fraudulently obtained to further enslave them is no reason why they must submit to the process, time without end.

Our friend asks what excuse I would give for repudiation. He here refers to but one form which the injustice of the present system assumes. The socialist contends that all capitalists' accumulations are the result of spoliation and exploitation. Whether such capital is invested in bonds or stocks or other forms of capitalist wealth, makes no difference. It is

all stolen property—this is my excuse. If a man steals a watch we need no excuse to return it to the rightful owner, but the fact that it was wrongfully obtained.

Will we repudiate the bonded debts? Yes, and the bond holders as well. We propose to repudiate the whole system of injustice. Our friend says this seems dishonorable to him. Well, so, what they need is an ethical awakening, not a promise to re-imburse them for stolen property. If they would think a little more about the "dishonorable" method by which they accumulated their property, it would be more to the slave owner seemed dishonorable to the slave owner when the slaves were emancipated, and by the way, most of the slaves were contented and even consented in their own ignorance to their own servitude. But does it follow that we should repudiate the claims of the slave owners, and emancipate the slaves? If not, why should we not repudiate the unjust claims of the wage slave owners, the modern capitalist? From the standpoint of socialism, private property in the instruments of production and distribution is wrong and unjust. The removal of this cause of injustice cannot itself be unjust, and if not unjust it must be just. Hence the abolition of private property in the instruments of production is the first step in Socialist justice.

For the capitalist who realizes the injustice and indignities heaped upon labor by the class, to ask for repudiation is to suggest to our friend that he advise such an objector to make a little study of the economic question before he talks much about repudiation. The fact is, the surrender of the goods of the class of the capitalist would be but a partial atonement for the poverty and degradation wrought by the present system.

Our friend next takes up the money question. He evidently has been misled by the former love awakened old recollections. In referring to the Socialist certificates of labor, he says, "I do not see how these are better than full fledged legal tender greenbacks, redeemable in goods of labor, in all articles in the country that were offered for sale. The conditions under which the two would operate are entirely different. Our friend's error is in supposing they are the same. Under Socialism, the certificates of labor would have behind them the wealth with which to redeem them, for the government would own all articles offered for sale and the notes would simply be issued against these articles. But today the goods do not belong to the government, but to individuals—quite a different thing. The full legal tender greenback would pass and be accepted as long as the credit of the government is maintained. But if the government credit were impugned or the government itself overthrown, those owning the products of the country would not give them in exchange for the greenbacks—the greenbacks would be worthless. It is absurd for the present government to say: Take this note and exchange it for one dollar's worth of goods, for the goods do not belong to the government, but to private individuals. But under Socialism, when the goods belong to the state, it is quite different. When the state is sole producer it can logically issue its notes against its wares, and it is not a question of confidence or faith, for there are goods behind every note with which to redeem them.

Our friend objects to my statement that under greenbackism the notes issued by the government would be pure fiat, there being nothing behind them but the credit of the nation. He says that "the notes would be backed by every dollar's worth of property in the nation." But as these notes are issued by the government and as the property and wares offered for sale belong to individuals, this evidently cannot be true.

Right here is the mistake of the greenbacker. He overlooks the fact of class rule, and consequently class government, also the fact that the government, under capitalism, is something separate and distinct from the people—tradition and sophistry to the contrary notwithstanding. Today the political and economic administrations are separate, although the economic rulers are the political rulers. If the government has deficit it cannot take the wealth which belongs to the capitalist class to meet it. It has no means of meeting its obligations but to borrow, the same as an individual. If the 70 billion of the nation's wealth (70 billions) was behind the government notes—\$7.00 behind each note. Now suppose every farmer worth \$2000.00 gives a note for \$2000.00 on his property and these notes are held by foreign capitalists—in fact, foreign capitalists now own millions of United States property—how can the same property redeem both the individual and government obligations? Would the property owned by foreigners stand back of the nation's notes? But here, note that the farmer who gives a note of \$2000.00 against his farm property worth \$2000.00, has value behind the note with which to redeem it, and that is the reason it is taken. But this is entirely different from the government, which, practicing class property, issuing notes. To make the illustration analogous, the farmer who has, say, \$5.00 should issue his note for \$500.00, and then expect it to be valid because another farmer owns property worth \$2000.00.

He further illustrates his point thus: "The same would be true if a lot of farmers should get together and form an association or government and make an association or legal tender." If the farmers were mere tenants and did not own property, their notes would only have behind them the credit of the association. There are many instances where companies are formed and stocks issued and sold. The companies soon meet with grief and the stock is not worth the paper it is printed on. But if the farmers possess property, the notes of their association would be good to the extent of companies' wealth.

The whole error of the greenbacker is in supposing that the government owns all the property in the nation, and consequently, that all this wealth would be behind his notes. But as the property does not belong to the government, but to individuals, the greenback scheme is seen to be absurd and illogical. To be sure as long as the credit of the government was maintained its stability was not threatened by repudiation or invasion, the

greenbacks would serve the purpose although resting upon the mere credit of the nation.

Under Socialism not only the product of labor but all the land and capital of the nation will belong to the government; that is, the people collectively organized. He thinks there would be more behind his greenbacks, under the present system, than behind the notes under Socialism. But under which system would the government own the most property? The very thing for which Socialists strive is to make the means of production public property; we propose to take land and capital out of the hands of individuals and corporations and put them in the hands of all the people to be owned and operated for the benefit of all. When this has been accomplished, then, and not till then, is it reasonable to talk about the notes issued by the government having behind them all the wealth of the nation. I insist that if the wealth of the country belongs to individuals, then the greenback scheme is illogical, in principle, of course, is sound, in fact, but the application of the principle under the present system is illogical and absurd, the scheme might work for a time, as instanced by the issue of \$60,000,000 greenbacks (demand notes) in 1861. Those passed on a par with gold, as our friend says, because "they were as good as gold by LAW," but they nevertheless rested upon the credit of the nation. Undoubtedly the paper money of 1862 and 1863 would not have depreciated were it not for the "except" clause, simply because the credit of the nation was maintained such currency would be valid, just the same as an individual's note would pass until his credit was questioned. Remember the South also issued paper money and they maintained their government, but when the rebellion was put down the paper money was valueless because there was practically nothing behind it. But had they succeeded in their purpose, undoubtedly the paper money would all have been redeemed. Here, note, that the government did not possess all the property in the southern states and such property was not holding to redeem the government debts, simply because the wealth belonged to individuals. The same is true with our government today.

Perhaps I should not have devoted so much space to this point, for greenbackism, even if it were practicable, is only a palliative, a reform under the present system, and scientific Socialists are not interested in such schemes. Socialism is not a reform; it is a revolution. But it is well for the people to thoroughly understand the distinction between greenbackism and the Socialist plan, so they will see that the objections raised against the former do not apply to the latter.

Our friend has been a greenbacker, and in that I sympathize with him for I was once of that persuasion myself. I remember well how reluctant I was to give up some of the bourgeois theories, and it was only after some struggle that I became a full fledged socialist. Hoping this reply will prove satisfactory to our friend, and of interest to your readers generally, I remain, Fraternally,

CHARLES H. VAIL.

MAY FAVOR COULTER. MAYOR WOULD PROBABLY NOT ACCEPT NOMINATION AS CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE.

A meeting of the 12th congressional district committee of the Social Democratic party was held in Cutters' Hall, this city, Sunday afternoon, for the purpose of making arrangements and deciding upon a date for holding the congressional convention. After some discussion the committee named Sunday, July 1, the convention to be held here in Cutters' hall. At that time a candidate for congressman will be named by the delegates from the different branches of the party.

At the meeting there was no name presented or talked of for the position, and there has been very little said regarding the man who will be chosen. The most prominent name which has at any time been proposed is that of Mayor Charles H. Coulter, but it is considered doubtful if he would consider such a nomination. There are said to be good men in other parts of the district whose names may be brought forward before the convention is held.

There was a good attendance, members of the committee being present from Brockton, Campello, Whitman, Rockland, North Abington, Plymouth, Middleboro and Holbrook branches, and the presiding officer was A. H. Dennett of Middleboro, chairman of the committee. It was reported that two new branches of the party have been formed in the district since the last meeting, being located in East Braintree and South Braintree. Some arrangements for the usual outdoor joint meetings in different parts of the district were discussed, and it is proposed to have the first early in July—Brockton Times.

CAREY AT HAMPSTEAD, N. H. Representative James F. Carey will address a public meeting in the Town hall, Hampstead, N. H., on this Saturday evening, May 26. The subject will be "Socialism."

Cicotti, Socialist candidate for parliament, was elected in Milan, Italy. It is worthy of remark that so thoroughly socialist is the sentiment in Milan that the reactionaries could not find it useless to contest the seat and did not.

AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THE HAVERHILL SOCIAL DEMOCRAT IS A PAYING INVESTMENT.

BROCKTON.

Although the Alderman E. R. Perry Branch 3 difficulty has been settled so far as any can be it is believed, nevertheless, no official statement has yet been given out by Branch 3 in justification of its action in handing in the resignation of the board and afterwards expelling him from the branch. In view of this the following statement from the press committee of Branch 3 will prove of interest.

Branch 3 of the S. D. P., realizing that a misunderstanding exists in regard to its action in presenting the resignation of one of its members to the board of aldermen, and that its position may be more fully understood, makes the following official statement:

To become a candidate for any political office the aspirant must stand squarely upon the platform and pledge himself to the principles of the S. D. P. of America. As a guarantee of his fidelity to these principles and a safeguard to the people supporting said candidates he is required to sign and lodge with the secretary of the branch of which he is a member a resignation from such office as he may be elected to.

Section of by-laws governing representatives: "Any member who shall be elected to office must at all times be governed in his official actions by the branch or party on any or all important issues which may arise." If at any time a complaint should be made against any representative of act or course derogatory to the interests of the party, said representative shall be given a hearing before the branch, and if said complaint shall be sustained by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, the secretary of the branch shall be authorized to present said representative's resignation to the proper authorities, and said representative shall cease to represent the Social Democratic party in his official capacity.

Alderman E. R. Perry accepted a nomination from the Social Democratic party with full knowledge of its principles and platform. He knew of the section of the by-laws governing representatives, and had a copy of the same. He signed a resignation from office with full knowledge of the condition attached to the same.

He also understood and admitted the right of the branch of the S. D. P. of which he was a member, to instruct him as to what action he should take upon all important questions which should arise, and he so stated in a communication written by him to the Brockton Daily Enterprise, on Dec. 1, 1888, in which he said: "I recognize the right of the branch to instruct me upon all vital or important matters," and he also admitted and acknowledged it by coming to the branch for instructions in regard to special water rates for the Y. M. C. A.

The official act of Alderman Perry from which this issue arose, namely his vote on the Massachusetts Telegraph & Telephone company franchise, may or may not be of great importance, but the principle involved, namely, whether our representatives in their official acts, shall keep their promise to us, and by so doing enable us to keep our pledge to the people, is of great importance. There can be none greater.

Is it not right and just to us that we may insist that they deal honorably with us, that we may not be false to the people? We believe it is; and shall so demand, for if they do not act in accord with the principles, how shall we be able to establish them? We do not care what position the representatives may take personally or individually as to their election; it is sufficient for us to know that we placed them in nomination before the people, asking their support, pledging our candidates to the principles enunciated in our platform, which they promised us they would stand squarely upon.

We believed them and trusted them fully, and yet to further guard the people for the fulfillment of the same, we presented a copy of our resignation to them, which they freely and willingly signed, with full understanding of its objects and requirements. This is the proper course for them to pursue. That is democracy, pure and simple, and individualism has no place there. What this one may wish, or what that one may desire, is as the merest trifle, when opposed to the majority.

We firmly believe that all questions that affect the whole people, not only of today, but of the future as well, should be referred to the people for referendum vote, for we maintain that it is a power too great to rest in the hands of a few men. Believing this, we also believe we were right in asking our representative to use his influence and vote to refer to the people, for while on all questions there will be a larger or smaller majority, still the fact remains that all have an equal opportunity to express their desire. It is right and just government; it is equity; it is the position we take, and insist that our representatives shall do likewise. This was what we asked Alderman Perry to do, and he refused; charges were presented against him, and they were sustained by an overwhelming majority after a full and impartial hearing; his resignation was presented to the proper authorities, and he ceased to represent the S. D. P. We believe we were justified in so doing, and we sincerely trust and hope that it is a position from which the S. D. P. will never recede.

The Brockton board of aldermen on Monday last confirmed the appointment of Elioy Sherman Thompson as sewage commissioner, to succeed ex-City Engineer Snow. Six members voted for his confirmation, the odd one being Alderman Perry, who voted against him. Perry formerly belonged to the Social Democratic party. Mr. Thompson is a member of Branch 3 and is employed upon the staff of the Brockton Enterprise. He is said to be a thoroughly reliable and likable young man.

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