

The Iowa Socialist

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Gov. Cummins, of Iowa, was one of the speakers at the annual banquet of the Dubuque Traveling and Business Men's Association last Friday. Of course the governor couldn't pass up the opportunity, presented by a large gathering of men to whom "competition" is supposed to give zest to life, of bringing forth his "Iowa Idea" as the champion of competition and destroyer of monopoly. Following are some of his epigrams on competition:

"Monopoly does business by mail, competition by commercial travelers."

"When competition leaves a country one man is as good as another and a d—d sight better."

"Competition is the reason why one man gets more than another."

"There is no middle ground between competition in business and a complete absorbing Socialism into which will sink the energy that now conducts the business interests of America to the envy of every other country in the world."

"J. Pierpont Morgan knows no more about the steel business than a hog knows about logarithms and when he entered it he committed a crime."

"Competition inspires the energy which has made America the most commanding nation on earth."

As a matter of course the governor fell back on the time-honored custom of the Fourth of July orator and made the eagle scream. "The most commanding nation on earth!" What a familiar sound this has. Methinks we have heard that or something similar before. Every politician, whether addressing a gathering of commercial travelers at a stag dinner or a mother's congress, is sure to fling Old Glory to the breeze and attribute all our alleged greatness to the particular body he may be addressing. Jeremiads are always unfashionable, and especially so at banquets. They are a refreshing change, however, from the nauseating stuff doled out by the average post-prandial speaker. Of this kind is the following appeal to the Filipinos made by W. R. Andrews, of Grand Rapids, Mich., at a recent banquet, and we recommend to the governor a careful perusal of it. He may discover that competition has inspired something else besides the "energy which has made America the most commanding nation on earth."

"You Filipinos don't know what you are missing by not wanting to become citizens of this grand country of ours. There isn't anything like it under the sun. You ought to send a delegation over to see us—the land of the free—the land of fine churches and 40,000 licensed saloons; Bibles, forts and guns, houses of prostitution, millionaires and paupers; theologians and thieves; libertines and liars; politicians and poverty; Christians and chain gangs; schools and scalawags; trusts and tramps; money and misery; homes and hunger; virtue and vice; a land where you can get a good Bible for fifteen cents or a bad drink of whiskey for five cents; where we have a man in Congress with three wives and a lot in the penitentiary for having two wives; where some men make sausage out of their wives, and some want to eat them raw; where we make bologna out of dogs, canned beef out of horses and sick cows, and corpses out of the people who eat it; where we put a man in jail for not having the means of support and on the rock pile for asking for a job of work; where we license bawdy houses and fine men for preaching Christ on the street corners; where we have a congress of 400 men to make laws and a supreme court of nine men to set them aside; where good whiskey makes bad men and bad men make good whiskey; where newspapers are paid for suppressing the truth and made rich for teaching a lie; where professors draw their convictions from the same place they do their salaries; where preachers are paid \$25,000 a year to dodge the devil and tickle the ears of the wealthy; where business consists of getting hold of property in any way that won't land you in the penitentiary; where trusts 'hold up' and poverty 'holds down'; where men vote for what they do not want, for fear they won't get what they do want by voting for it; where 'niggers' can vote and women can't; where a girl who goes wrong is made an outcast and her male partner flourishes as a gentleman; where women wear false hair and men 'dock' their horses' tails; where the political wire-puller has displaced the patriotic statesman; where men vote for a thing one day and cuss it 364 days; where we have prayers on the floor of the National Capitol and whiskey in the cellar; where we spend \$500 to bury a statesman who is rich and \$10 to put away a workingman who is poor; where to be virtuous is to be lonesome and to be honest is to be a

crank; where we sit on the safety valve of energy and pull wide open the throttle of conscience; where gold is substance—the one thing sought for; where we pay \$15,000 for a dog and fifteen cents a dozen to a poor woman for making shirts; where we teach the "untutored" Indian eternal life from the Bible and kill him off with bad whiskey; where we put a man in jail for stealing a loaf of bread and in congress for stealing a railroad; where the check book talks, sin walks in broad daylight, justice is asleep, crime runs amuck, corruption permeates our whole social and political fabric, and the devil laughs from every street corner. Come to us, Fillies! We've got the greatest aggregation of good things and bad things, hot things and cold things, all sizes, varieties and colors, ever exhibited under one tent.

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"The Worker," of New York city, will shortly be issued as a daily by the Socialist Party of New York.

The Industrial Council, of Kansas City, Mo., and the Trades Assembly, of Kansas City, Kan., are actively assisting in making the Mills meetings in the Coliseum in Kansas City, Mo., a success.

Read our great offer on page three of this issue. The International Socialist Review, regular price \$1.00, a standard cloth bound book worth 50 cents, and The Iowa Socialist, one year, all for \$1.00.

Comrades, among other resolves, resolve that you will add one subscriber a week to The Iowa Socialist. Are you aware of the importance of having a paper to express your beliefs? If so, show your appreciation by extending its influence.

There are several churches for rent or for sale and as many preachers seeking new pastorates in the anthracite district in Pennsylvania. The reason for this is that the religious institutions have been boycotted on account of the preachers trying to persuade the miners to go back to work during the strike.

For the year just beginning we would advise those union men whose abhorrence of an industrial scab is so great, to take up the study of social economy and discover the reason of their being an economic scab. To torment them, perhaps by the time they get thoroughly imbued with the subject their abhorrence for the political scab will overshadow their feelings for the industrial scab.

Timothy Hevicon, who was held in the Dubuque county jail, awaiting the action of the grand jury, on a criminal charge became sick and was afterwards removed to a hospital where he died. It is claimed his death was due to improper care while sick in jail. The Telegraph-Herald (dem.) charges the republican sheriff with cruelty, while the latter places the blame on the democratic county physician and threatens to sue the Telegraph-Herald for libel.

Clara Morris (Mrs. Harriott), one of the greatest emotional actresses the world has ever produced, and who during her professional life earned a large sum of money, is threatened with eviction from her home to satisfy a \$2,000 mortgage. In order to secure money to pay off this mortgage, Mrs. Harriott recently undertook a lecture tour, which, however, proved a failure and as a result Mrs. Harriott is confined to her home suffering with nervous prostration. In discussing the fact that in her professional career she had earned large sums of money, her husband said she gave largely to help others; that she had been a lender all her life instead of a borrower and that in consequence when the time came for her to borrow she found there were none to lend. "I regret exceedingly," said the treasurer of the mortgage company which holds the mortgage on Mrs. Harriott's home, "not on my account, but for the sake of Mrs. Harriott, that the newspapers should see fit to exploit a private business transaction. The action of the company is a purely business proceeding, unmixed with sentiment." Thus is genius rewarded in the twilight of life under the competitive system.

Professor John Bascom, of Williams College, and formerly president of Wisconsin University, addressing the Wisconsin State Teachers Association the other day on the subject of colleges accepting gifts from millionaires, said:

"There are no trusts in the intellectual world and no corners in the kingdom of heaven. I doubt the power of any university to turn money that has been made at the expense of the community to the welfare of the community."

Later in an interview the professor is reported to have said:

"Certainly I meant the Chicago University and its acceptance of the gifts from John D. Rockefeller. When an institution founded and maintained for the benefit and education of the youth of the public accepts money which has been gained in direct defiance of laws and principles laid down by that public it vitiates its influence on the minds of those students upon whom it is its duty to exert a good and moral influence."

"Therefore I say that money ill-gotten—that is, at the direct expense of the people—can never be used for the benefit of the people."

"I do not feel the same about Andrew Carnegie's gifts to the college and to the community at large. He gained his money according to rules which were recognized by the public and by a protection which the public afforded him with its consent. Therefore, the same stigma cannot be attached to them as to the enormous gains made by the Standard Oil Company."

"I never go near the divinity school of Chicago University without wanting to tell them what I think of their accepting money made by the underselling of poor men, accepting this money out of the ruin of good and honest tradesmen, and trying to train young men to the preaching of the gospel with this money and under the influence of such men. For if you accept that money you are under obligations and so under the influence of the donor."

Commenting on the above, the Dubuque Times says it is not likely that the demand on Rockefeller for donations will be lessened because of this expression and that if Rockefeller "has not acted according to the principles of sound morality there must be some conflict between these principles and the law of competition and the economists should revise their conclusion that the law of competition is the law of progress."

Whatever the economists may conclude as to the law of competition being the law of progress, the course pursued by the Standard Oil magnate in killing off competition would seem to indicate that he at least is not a believer in competition. And that is what hurts this bourgeois professor, and accounts for his inconsistency in stigmatizing the method pursued by Rockefeller in getting his money and praising that of Carnegie. This law of competition which the bourgeois or middle class has been nursing in its bosom has developed into a serpent which is now strangling it. Under competition the strongest survives. Rockefeller was stronger than his competitors. The small capitalist is no longer able to cope with the giants of the financial and industrial world. Hence they want the strong handicapped.

But true to their class interests they care nothing for the proletariat or working class. To them the "underselling of poor men," the "ruin of good and honest tradesmen" by a Rockefeller is an unpardonable crime, while the underpaid workmen of a Carnegie may shift for themselves. Money is ill-gotten, says this professor, when it is gotten at the direct expense of the people. At whose expense did Carnegie get his money? Perhaps the professor thinks workingmen are not to be classed as "people." All money is, from the very nature of the system, blood-stained whether handed to a university by Rockefeller or given to a city for library purposes by Carnegie.

Judge Smith, of the superior court of Cincinnati, in a decision handed down this week concedes to strikers the right to picket a factory when they are seeking to accomplish a lawful purpose and do not in any manner intimidate or coerce non-strikers. Thanks.

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Some of the big transportation companies have increased wages 10 per cent. and freight rates 20 per cent. That's "business."

English aristocracy is having a "high old time" in India, while the natives are starving. And "civilization" is going on at a rapid pace.

It is often said that the Socialists are away ahead of the times. This is a mistake. The Socialists are not ahead of the times, but the rest of the world is woefully behind the times.

Mark Hanna's Civic Federation which met in New York last week is composed of twelve labor representatives and twenty-four capitalists. Wonder if Mark thinks the laborers can't even count?

The Mikado of Japan has ordered a half dozen x-ray machines to be used on employes of the imperial mint who are suspected of confiscating coin by swallowing it. What's the matter with trying them on himself.

Mark Hanna is endeavoring to establish a local branch of his Civic Federation in Cleveland, Ohio. The press dispatches state the labor leaders of that city look favorably upon the scheme. How about that, Max?

The Socialists and Prohibitionists are preparing for a big debate at New Castle, Pa. Debs, McGrady and Hagerty will hold up the Socialists' end, while the prohibitionists will be represented by Oliver Steward, Judge Cushing and Dr. Swallow.

Rev. Frank G. Smith, of Dubuque, discussed the following question last Sunday evening: "Is the combining of capital upon the one hand and of labor upon the other conducive to right relations between these two great forces in our modern life? If not, what is?"

The reverend gentleman started out with a great flourish of trumpets and bewailed the fact that he had not sufficient time to tell his audience how much he knew of this great problem of capital and labor, and then immediately proceeded to show how little he knew of the subject. He had previously addressed this question to 1,000 professional, business and workingmen of Dubuque, and he stated that in reply to the last clause of his question a large number claimed that as capital is the product of labor it should be owned and controlled by labor. The reverend gentleman denied that capital is the product of labor, and insisted that it was the result of labor, genius, skill and capital. The assertion that capital alone will create more capital is so absurd that it is unnecessary to discuss it. It is true that under our present system capital may seemingly play a prominent part in the creation of more capital, but all capital was primarily produced by labor, and labor alone. But what of skill and genius? Thomas Edison was once asked if genius was not inspiration. "Inspiration?" queried the wizard, "No, it is perspiration." In other words it is hard work—labor—or to put it in the same category in which Karl Marx places skilled labor—it is simply common labor multiplied. Rev. Smith was very solicitous about the fate of the inventive genius if labor was to claim capital as its own product, and in tragic tones demanded to know where, in such a case, the inventor would come in. Well, where does he come in now? Call the roll of the geniuses who have spent their lives in the service of mankind, and how many will you find who were rewarded according to the measure of good they had done? Whatever else may be done with the inventor when labor demands its own, it is safe to say that he will not be left to the tender mercy of the greedy capitalist, and it would require the fertile imagination of a Dante to conjure up a worse fate. Incidentally, this hue and cry that the inventor would not get his just dues under Socialism is the same old trick of the thief crying, "Stop thief!"

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"Competition is the reason why one man gets more than another," says Governor Cummins approvingly. If a hog was able to talk it would probably say the same thing. That is, an ordinary razor-back hog. A respectable well-bred hog would leave such thoughts unexpressed.

"When competition leaves a country," says Governor Cummins, of Iowa, "one man is as good as another and a d—d sight better." Wonder if it was absence of competition that inspired the Declaration of Independence? Wouldn't it be something awful though if every man was as good as another.

The Socialists of a large factory town of Alsace, Germany, have for several years carried on a very effective agitation and propaganda. Where the funds for this purpose came from had long been a matter of speculation to the opposition. A sensation was created when it was recently discovered that the widow of a wealthy mill-owner, worth millions, was furnishing the sinews of war for the Socialists with a lavish hand.

In a recent discussion of the trust-question and industrial conditions, President Samuel Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, is reported to have said:

"You ask what will this corrupt commercialism lead to? I believe it will lead to better things; it is the muddy chrysalis out of which will yet come the beautiful coloring of a new civilization."

Without intending it, the leaders of this commercialism are hastening events towards an economic and industrial condition in which there will be a more equitable distribution of the fruits of labor. They are putting the question squarely to the American people, whether the monopolies shall own the people or whether the people shall own the monopolies.

Putting it in that concrete form, there is only one answer, and that answer is coming from all parts of the land—the people must own the monopolies.

The trusts, by consolidating the industries and proving that they could be run from a common center, have paved the way to public ownership, wherein every toiler will be a part owner of the shop. With all essential monopolies in the hands of the people, the solution of other industrial problems will be easy.

Can this have been said by the same Gompers who only a few weeks ago at the New Orleans convention of the American Federation of Labor so vehemently opposed any action by the Federation tending to hasten the solution of the industrial problem? Did the unexpected strength of the Socialist sentiment in the convention cause this change of front, or has the Hearst democracy put a bee in Sammy's bonnet?

New York, Dec. 31.—In spite of some crop shortage, added to record breaking strikes and reduced foreign trade, Bradstreet's report of the failure record the past year is on the whole favorable. During the year 9,971 commercial failures were reported, with liabilities of \$105,693,623 and assets of \$50,870,800, a decrease in number of 6.4 per cent. and a falling off of liabilities of 18 per cent. from 1901. As compared with 1900 and 1899 the increase in the number of failures was 5.5 per cent. and 7 per cent. respectively, but comparisons with prior years are markedly in favor of 1902. The liabilities in 1902 were the smallest for twenty years. The proportion of assets to liabilities in 1902 is lower than in any preceding year since 1895. With two exceptions the number of failures was the smallest in fourteen years, despite the fact the number of concerns in business is growing steadily, the increase since 1892 aggregating 19 per cent. The annual death rate is shown to be only .80 in 1902 as against .88 in 1901 and .85 the hitherto lowest records made in 1900 and 1899.

Only 9,971 failures, with liabilities of over one hundred millions! The fact that there has been a decrease of a little over 6 per cent. in the number of failures in 1902 as compared with 1901 will be pointed out as an evidence of increasing prosperity. Like the drowning man, the apologists of capitalism catch at every straw.

X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK

The only men who dare to be avowed Socialists are those who are independently rich and those who are independently poor—Owen Bromley.

It is just the thing for a Socialist paper to call a spade a spade, but I doubt the wisdom and effectiveness of calling it a d—spade.—M. M. Pratt.

A house to house canvass of the city of Des Moines was made in order to feed the poor on Christmas. Christmas only comes once a year. One square meal a year is hardly enough. Charity is not the right way to give it in any event. Let's give them an opportunity to earn a living, a good living, not a hand to mouth existence.

The city council in Des Moines has been stewing over the problem as to whether the lunch wagons shall be barred from the streets. The restaurant keepers are of course the complainants. The lunch wagons materially injure the business of the restaurants. On the other hand, to bar them from the streets is to drive them out of their accustomed method of making a living. Whatever horn of the dilemma you take hold of one or the other of them is bound to get gored. That is one of the beauties of competition. Whatever we do somebody has to suffer.

The strike against the Iowa Telephone Company was settled at last. Two injunctions had been issued, a long drawn out lawsuit tried, oceans of time spent and several thousand dollars in money. The strikers made some material gains in the settlement. It was clearly worth while to make the fight, not only for the advances gained, but in order to show the dear enemy what sort of mettle there is in the workingmen of Iowa, and the working women.

Last year there were seven Socialist votes in a certain precinct in Marshalltown. This year there were more than four times that many. The Soldiers' Home comprises the entire precinct. It follows that each one of those votes was cast by a veteran of the civil war. This shows that some of the veterans have been doing some telling work in the past year. It also shows that the boys in blue, "who set themselves up as targets for the rebel sharpshooters," as Comrade Cady puts it, are now gunning for the new enemies of their country.

As long as we have workers like Kate Richards O'Hare, Lydia Kingsmill Commander, Mrs. Annie Bosworth, Wenonah Stevens Abbott and Miss Agnes Wakefield in the movement it cannot be said that the Socialist women are altogether asleep. Nevertheless, the women, everywhere, ought to be the most active in the cause. They have more to gain from it than anyone else save the children.

Long live Mrs. Annie Bosworth, the first Socialist woman elected to office in the United States! The Brockton school board will be made immortal by this fact. There are thousands of such incidents to follow. You enemies of the emancipation of women, just watch us and see how it is done.

Many citizens of Des Moines who are supposed to be respectable have been howling because the authorities have not been collecting as much money as usual from the scarlet women of the city. The city treasury bids fair to run dry before the end of the fiscal year because of the unusual diminution of this regular source of income. Men talk about it with perfect calmness, as if it were a matter of course, which indeed it has come to be. That fact makes it all the more monstrous. Yet, when the average man actually realizes what it means he is horrified. A social system which harbors and promotes such iniquity cannot stand. The people will rise in their might one of these days and wipe it off the face of the earth.

The Youth's Companion says the farmer's wife has one treasure which her city cousin may well covet, namely, a real home, whose walls and roof belong to the family. As a matter of fact two-fifths of the farmers of this country live

on rented farms, and one-third of the balance have mortgages on their homes. The remaining two millions own their homes free of incumbrance. But even they are little better off. They have to work fiercely, ferociously, Hamlin Garland terms it, in order to make a living and keep the dreaded mortgage from creeping upon the farm. Add to this the lack of opportunity for education, culture, entertainment and refinement, and you have made the farm home so much like a mere roost and so little like a home that the young men and women struggle with each other to see which will get to leave the farm and enter the by no means inviting scramble for a living in the cities. The farmer's wife is the greatest drudge of them all. If there is an abject slave on the face of the earth it is the farmer's wife. Constant toil makes her a round-shouldered old woman before she is thirty. Her life is a narrow and dreary round. The Youth's Companion might better be doing something to permanently relieve her, rather than spreading false statements as to her true condition.

The man who can stand up before an audience for an hour and tell plain truths without suspicion of charlatanry or mountebankery is a rare bird. Chas. L. Breckon belongs to that rare species. He is sane. People see at once that he is not a fakir, but an earnest pleader for the right, not a rainbow-chaser, but a man of practical common sense. They respect the thing he pleads for when many another man would have made them despise it. The Socialists of Chicago are to be congratulated on their good sense in nominating him for mayor. May the people of Chicago give us the privilege of saying of them after election that they had the good sense to elect him.

I am informed that our state committee is considering the idea of raising money by voluntary subscription for the purpose of keeping an organizer in the field. This is the need of the hour. Success to the project!

We are in the habit of saying that the enemy is entirely aware that there is a class struggle going on, even though many of the workingmen appear to be ignorant of it. There seem to be some exceptions to the rule. A few days ago the retail coal dealers of Des Moines approached one of the members of the organization committee of the Trades and Labor Assembly and requested him to organize them and get them a charter from the American Federation of Labor.

The baneful effects of capitalism penetrate every nook and cranny of the social system. I believe the schools to be as free from its influence as it is possible for any institution under the system to be. But every now and then something turns up to demonstrate that the octopus has his slimy clutch upon them also. One of the most intelligent and up-to-date students of Chicago University is authority for the statement that the order for the segregation of the sexes in the university, which has created so much discussion during the past few months, was made by President Harper because a certain large prospective gift of money to the institution was conditioned upon the segregation. It is conceded by everybody except the old fogies that segregation is a step backwards. The students do not believe for a moment that President Harper personally favors it, although he pretends to do so. Nevertheless the capitalist had his way.

By the way, why shouldn't the school houses in the towns and cities, as well as in the country, be opened for meetings of a public character? When a political party wants to get up a precinct meeting it frequently has to rent some vacant store-room and go to immense trouble to provide seats of some sort, and the result is usually distressing at best because the room was never intended for that purpose. The school buildings have assembly rooms which would suit admirably and save all the trouble. They belong to the public and the public ought to be free to use them for public purposes.

A Lesson from a Donkey

Staggering 'neath his heavy load
The poor ass trod the dusty road,
Till, roused by many cruel blows,
He smote his master on the nose.
And with a bold determined air,
Declared that he the load must share.
Oh, some day it shall come to pass
That we shall learn from that poor ass
Then shall our bitter conflicts cease
And all men smoke the pipe o' peace.
—John Spargo.

To the Boys

Written for The Iowa Socialist by Dr. C. Whitt

How to make a living is the question all of you do or will have to face. It is a sad fact, but more or less true of all, that our means of living are not assured to us, and not only is life itself uncertain, but while we do live we are not certain of a good provision for our necessities. Right here I want to have a little talk with you and tell you why this is so. Remember, 1st., that life itself is uncertain; 2nd., that a livelihood is also uncertain.

For the first, man is not as much responsible for, as the Creator gives and may end our existence at His pleasure. But the second fact—men alone—are responsible for and not God. Namely, all men together are responsible for and make our present social and business system in which we live. By this system, which is wrong, wrong in the sight of God and all honest men, it is that a livelihood is made an uncertainty, life a drudgery, and man a slave from the cradle to the grave.

This system is the system of competition in business which has made millionaires of a few and paupers of the many; made the trusts on the one hand and the factories and sweatshops on the other; made palaces for the few and hovels for the many. This system is accursed of God and ought to be; in time will be despised by men and will be changed by men. The men who will make this change will be the Socialists. For when the majority of the men of the future, made up of boys like you, become converted to Socialism they will vote to put in practice the Socialist System instead of what is now the capitalist system. The Socialist system stands for all the people, by all the people. The capitalist system stands for a handful of capitalists against, and at the expense of, all of the rest of the people. Under a Socialist form of government and business, 1st: All people would have homes. 2nd: All men would have employment, and a shorter workday. 3rd: Every man would get in wages just the amount that he produces in work, so that no man could become a millionaire and no man would need to be a tramp. This is the object of Socialism, in all countries, at all times, to give all the people homes, happiness and plenty and do away with both millionaires and tramps which are made by our system, just as the tree bears fruit. If we plant a different tree we will have different fruit. Under Socialism no child would enter or be allowed to enter a factory, a cotton mill, or a mine, under fifteen or perhaps eighteen years, but instead would be kept in school and given the best education. Now the mine-owners run the mines and work children and foreigners at starvation wages. Under Socialism the people, all together, would own and operate these mines and make rules for them. Now the mill owners run the cotton mills and employ 28,000 little children in the South, while under Socialism every one of these would be at school and their parents working at the mills at good wages and shorter hours, because the people, the state, would own, run and make rules for running those mills. And so with all other industries. Everyone would have an equal interest in them. Everyone would have equal voice in the rules for running them. And every person would get his full share of what he produced in them by his own labor. Now he gets about twenty cents in wages for every dollar of value that he produces, and the mine-owner, mill-owner or capitalist who owns the mine or machine gets the eighty cents in profit thus making millions off the labor of his workmen to whom he gives back just enough in wages to enable them to barely exist. And when sickness comes there is no fund to meet doctor and funeral bills, for it takes all the wages to live! This is why, my boy, millions in this and every other land are on the verge of poverty and in wretchedness and misery and will always be so

until men quit being Republicans and Democrats, both of whom uphold these things, and turn to be Socialists, and vote to change this system that is the cause of it all. You are young, but old enough to learn and study, for by the time you become a man the things I talk to you of now will be talked of in every land under the sun and be in effect in some of them, perhaps in these United States. But it is the rising generation that must suffer from these evil conditions, and that must be brought to see them, and that we look forward to as giving us the mighty Socialist army of the future that will change them. The party of the people that will be in power for the good of all mankind long after the last republican and democrat has passed away or been converted. So study these things, boys, for the older you grow the more you will realize how true they are. Study and work for Socialism!

BOOK LIST

The following books may be secured at the office of The Iowa Socialist. By mail postpaid:

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- Passing of Capitalism, by Isador Ladoff.....10c
- Socialism and the Labor Problem, by Rev. T. McGrady.....10c
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- Liberty, by E. V. Debs.....10c
- To What Are We Leading, by James B. Smiley.....10c
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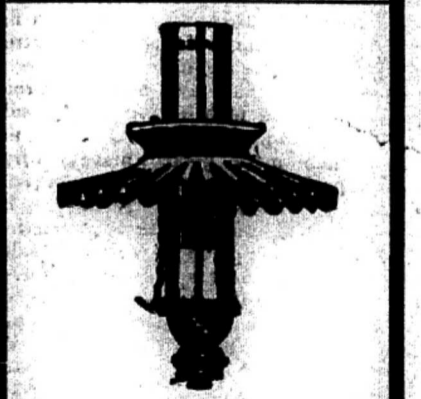
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Union Labor

President Parry, of the National Association of Manufacturers, has issued another circular letter attacking trades unions and the eight-hour movement. His appeal to prejudice and misrepresentation is interesting reading to union men. The letter in full follows:

The National Association of Manufacturers is opposed to any law which means the undermining of the commercial stability or the industrial vitality of the United States. It is opposed to the terrible anti-injunction bill now pending in congress, which proposed law has been imported to this country from labor-cursed England. This law has almost destroyed the English manufacturer, as it is a legalization of the picket and the boycott. The attempt to foist such anarchistic legislation upon the employers of this country will be resisted to the last.

The National Association of Manufacturers is also unalterably opposed to the so-called eight-hour bill fathered by Samuel Gompers. This bill, if it could be put into effect, would be a radical and destructive assault upon the prosperity of the country. While in the nature of things it would be impossible to put such an absurd law into practical everyday operation, yet would have the effect of dislocating business conditions, causing an industrial paralysis in this country the like of which we have never experienced.

Such a bill would open the way for the blackmail of the heavy iron, steel, and shipbuilding interests which are engaged in the manufacture of government supplies. They cannot run on an eight-hour basis from the physical nature of their work.

By the terms of this proposed eight-hour bill an employer is punished five dollars a day for each and every man who is permitted to work over eight hours. How could such a law be carried out? How can it be possible to procure two shifts of workmen to carry on the operations of the average manufacturing establishment? The labor unions, through their apprentice system, are driving thousands of boys to the streets, to the reform schools and the penitentiary. They have so reduced the number of skilled workmen that it would be impossible to find two shifts of men to carry on the work of the country.

The eight-hour day proposition is the result of socialistic agitation in Europe. It is no doubt ideal as a theory to divide up the twenty-four hours of the day into eight hours for work, eight hours for pleasure, and eight for sleep, but unhappily the ever-varying condition of human necessity makes it impossible to apply any such hard, fast rules. The great achievements of the world have so far been accomplished by individualism; that is, the giving to each man an opportunity to do the best that is within him.

"Think of exchanging this system for the dark and abyssal depth of socialism or the system of uniform effort. Think of trying to compress all the men of the world into the same mould. Fancy the state saying to any man bent on achieving greatness, 'You must not work after the bell rings or the whistle blows.' Why, if those agitators could succeed in squeezing all humanity into such a puny mold, the folly would only be exceeded by the wickedness of it.

This Gompers bill absolutely prohibits men from working over-time for the benefit of their own families. Gompers first made the silly effort to apply the bill to railroad and steamboat service. It was found that some engineers would have to stop their engine twenty-five or

fifty miles from their destination, and that steamboats in coast and inland service would be left helpless far from the shore. The transportation companies naturally made a strong protest, and Gompers was forced to acknowledge that such an idiotic law could not be applied to this service. The transportation lines were accordingly exempted. Gompers, however, driven from one corner to another, finally decided to unload the burden of this ridiculous measure upon the manufacturers of the United States.

Not one labor leader in a hundred has ever read the Gompers bill and not one in ten thousand in the ranks of organized labor has ever given the bill a moment's thought. The average worker does not want the law. The bill is an agitator's bill. Those fellows are always willing to engage in any brawling or denunciatory assault upon employers. The average labor agitator is an Ishmaelite. His hand is raised against every man. Through his influence the labor organizations have officially denounced the church, declaring time and again that a union is enough church for any man; the agitators have procured the passage of resolutions in which organized labor has set itself against the laws of the land, declaring that the laws which must be observed by others shall not be applied to them or they will rebel.

Recently organized labor has made a concerted attack upon the national guard, driving union workmen from the militia. What for? Simply because, under the present leadership, the unions desire the overthrow of the law and the courts. They know that they cannot bring this about with the militia at hand to uphold the law. They, therefore, desire to destroy the force which will make them observe the laws of the land. The agitators desire to build up a despotism inside the liberties of the United States. The employers of this country, however, do not propose that such an anarchistic element shall ever have charge of the destinies of the United States.

Union Labor Notes

The Texas State Federation of Labor has declared in favor of independent political action.

A fair held under the auspices of the unionists and Socialists at Brooklyn, N. Y., cleaned up over \$12,000. It will be used for the benefit of the Labor Lyceum.

During the month of October the American Federation of Labor issued ninety charters, as follows: National and international unions, 2; city central bodies, 11; federal labor unions, 21; local trades unions, 56. The two national unions are the International Union of Flour and Cereal Mill Employes and National Union of Shipwrights, Joiners and Calkers. A charter was granted the central labor union of Aguadilla, Porto Rico.

Socialists forced the French chamber of deputies to pass a bill forbidding public and private employment of more than six days a week.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers of England is going to run five candidates for parliament. There are fifty-nine candidates.

Mayor-elect Coulter, of Brockton, says: "For the first time in the history of Brockton a considerable number of union men have been elected. Of the

socialists carry union cards and the other two would if their occupation were such as to give them opportunity for uniting with any of the crafts. Brockton will demonstrate to the nation in the coming year what union workmen, through the Socialist party, can accomplish."

The painters union of Schenectady, N. Y., expelled a member for belonging to the militia. The expelled member secured an injunction against the union and has also entered a suit for damages against the organization, its officers and members. The business element has formed an organization and is backing the militiamen.

The Western Federation of Miners will erect a block in Denver which will be used for headquarters.

Stove mounters at Dover, N. J., won their fight for higher wages.

A Gettysburg cigar dealer was fined \$100 and sent to prison for eight months on being convicted of selling counterfeit union labels. Five others found guilty of like offenses await similar sentences.

Capmakers' unions from all big cities between Boston and San Francisco formed a national union in New York last week.

At the recent convention of the Brotherhood of Railway Trackmen the name of that organization was changed to the International Brotherhood Maintenance of Way Employes. Seventy-five delegates were present from subordinate bodies in the United States and Canada. The entire constitution of the brotherhood was revised.

Circulars have been sent out by the national officers of the Tin Plate Workers' International Union suggesting to local unions the advisability of holding the next convention in May instead of February. President Powell gives as a reason for this course that the mills had been idle so long in various parts of the country that the men were scattered in different places, and the convention, if held in February, would not get a good representation like it would if postponed until May.

Debs and the A. F. of L.

By the Observer

If there is any man in America who more than all others has a right to speak for labor, that man is Eugene V. Debs. His criticism of the American Federation of Labor for its failure to endorse political action on the part of labor at its recent session at New Orleans will receive the hearty approval of every progressive trades unionist. The trades union is right, or, it is wrong. If it is right, then competition is wrong and it becomes the duty of every trades unionist to not only use every effort to build up labor unions, but to also do everything in his power to drive competition out of existence. If competition is right, then the trades union is wrong, and it is equally incumbent upon the trades unionist to not only cease organizing labor but to also do everything he can to foster competition among workmen. What trades unionist will be willing to admit the truth of the latter contention? Then why not be consistent? What is the sense of being trades-unionists 364 days in the year and then "scabbing" upon election day by voting to perpetuate an industrial system against which every trades union in existence is an organized protest?

No fair-minded man will question the fact but that the American Federation of Labor has accomplished a great deal for the labor element in the past. But candor also compels the statement that it has failed to accomplish a great many things it should have accomplished and its failure is due to the fact that it has always steadfastly opposed political action on the part of labor. There may have been some excuse for this in the past when there was no representative labor party in the field. As has been well said, no matter which of the old parties won, labor always lost. It is different now. The Socialist party is in every way worthy the support of workmen. The Federation was not even asked to endorse the Socialist party. It was simply asked to put itself on record as being in favor of the labor element organizing in the political as well as in the industrial field. Why should not labor organize in the political field? Are not all the difficulties with which labor has to contend the result of vicious, class legislation? And how is it possible to accomplish anything in the line of

remedial legislation so long as the legislative machinery remains in the hands of labor's enemies? What does capitalism care how much labor organizes in the industrial field so long as it leaves the political field untouched?

The labor element constitutes 59 per cent of the population of the United States. How many representatives has labor in the United States senate; how many in the house of representatives? How many representatives has labor in the various state legislatures? Composing more than one-half the population of the country, it ought to be well represented in the various legislatures, state and national. Is it? Is it not a fact that it has little or no representation? And whose fault is it? Is it not the fault of the laboring element itself, and is not the American Federation of Labor largely to blame because of the hostile attitude it has always taken toward political action on the part of labor? Is it not a fact that the majority of the members of the legislatures, state and national, are enemies of the labor movement and opposed to making any concessions whatever to labor? How then can labor expect to receive fair treatment at their hands? Why should it get down on its knees and beg when it has it in its power to DEMAND?

If the American Federation of Labor desires to remain in the van of the labor movement, it must drop its conservative policy. The progressive trades unionists within its fold will no longer be satisfied with a neutral course in regard to politics. Eugene V. Debs is right—in fact, he is always right.

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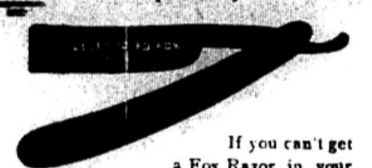
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A Business Proposition

The election is over and another campaign on. The Socialist vote of last month must be doubled next year. This will require hard work, agitation and education. One of the best and cheapest ways of getting Socialism before the people is through the Socialist newspaper. The comrades of Iowa have been given a splendid opportunity of doing this through the establishment of The Iowa Socialist. It should go to the homes of not only the 6,360 who voted the ticket at the last election, but all of these should make an effort to get it into the homes of their neighbors. In order to add much needed equipment to our plant and to improve the paper we need a larger subscription list, and we ask every comrade in Iowa and elsewhere to assist us in this matter. Socialism is international and not bounded by state lines. Socialist papers are devoted to the propaganda of Socialism and because a paper may bear the name of any particular state does not neces-

sarily limit its usefulness within the confines of that state. We want a subscription list of 10,000 within the next few months and we want your help in securing it. However, we will not ask you to work for nothing, but will make a very liberal offer for your services. We shall not promise you a premium on condition that you send in a certain number of subscribers within a certain time, or on condition that the number sent in by you is the largest. There is no element of chance in our offer. All will have the same opportunity whether they send in one subscriber or a hundred. For every 50 cent cash subscription to The Iowa Socialist sent to this office we will allow a commission of 10 cents. For every 25 cent or six months subscription 5 cents will be allowed. This is a commission of 90 per cent.—90 cents on the dollar. We trust every Iowa comrade will avail himself or herself of this opportunity of advancing the picket lines of Socialism. Forward, march!

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Correspondence

From Sioux City

Sioux City, Dec. 29, 1902.

The meeting of Sunday last of the Sioux City local was one full of interest. The subject was "Christmas Under Socialism." After the comrades got thoroughly warmed to the subject they made it lively. However, to tell of all the beauties of Christmas under Socialism would take many hours. Under the present system, while the church people make a bluff at celebrating the birth of Christ, everybody makes the day one of commercialism. As one speaker said, it is now a day when the merchant brings out his old goods and palms them off on the people at a high price.

Two men were arrested on the streets of our city last week and taken before the police court on the charge of vagrancy. When arraigned, the great democratic judge asked them to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. Both men were compelled to admit that they had no money when arrested and were also out of work. However, they claimed that they had \$20 each coming to them from their last job. This plea would not stand with the judge who relieved himself by ruling that any man out of a job and out of money was a tramp and a vagrant and must be punished. No doubt these poor unfortunates have been voting for the humbug system that always punishes the poor and rewards the rich. Don't be a fool and a chump any longer. Cast your vote for your own class.

The telephone monopoly is a dandy. When you want a phone you must pay three months in advance on a promise that your wants will be supplied at once. Then when they get your cash they tell you they will serve you at their pleasure. Thank God, there is a prospect of competition in this line which may perhaps relieve the people while a temporary fight is on. Then will come a clash and a merge; then the people be damned. Vote for the people to own the telephone systems, then you can laugh at the monopoly.

Since the free employment agency has been opened by the Socialists (one week) 111 persons have registered for jobs and employment has been secured for twelve men and two women. When thoroughly organized the agency expects to do much good for the unemployed.

Those present at the Sunday afternoon propaganda meeting showed their appreciation of the free employment agency by contributing a fund of \$5.40 as a starter.

The club, at its regular quarterly meeting Sunday, elected the following officers to take charge of the affairs of the club during 1903: W. C. Jett, chairman propaganda meetings; J. E. Shank, corresponding secretary; E. J. Hansen, financial secretary; Max Brodsky, treasurer. H. M. Stewart, M. Brodsky, J. E. Shank, J. C. Smith and E. J. Hanson were re-elected as executive board members.

"KRANK."

"The Incentive"

Dubuque, Dec. 30, 1902.

In the Dubuque Telegraph-Herald of the 28th appears a valuable article from the pen of its able editor, which should have a wide reading, as it is an eye-opener, in that it calls attention to how far many have come on the same road—walking in the light of truth divinely given. God is the author of every good. And in a sense it is true, as an ancient prophet has accredited Him as saying, "I create good and I also create the evil." "Shall there be evil in the city and the Lord hath not done it?" But there is an evil not of the Lord. It is man-created. In his ignorance of law, he often transgresses and brings evil upon himself and posterity.

But all evil of human origin is not in ignorance wholly. It is in the sin of covetousness, which is pronounced "idolatry;" an inordinate love of possession, called greed. There are those who would own, and make profit by the possession, not only of all the land, but air and water. They would make all mankind absolutely dependent upon them. This disposition is not limited to a few; it is a spirit deep rooted and extensive. The truth is to overcome this. It can not but give pleasure and encouragement to lovers of truth to read the article—editorial in the Telegraph-Herald. But he comes to what appears to him and perhaps, to many others a parting of ways—when he must part company

with those he has walked with thus far in the light of God's truth.

We would like to call attention of all these to the question whether the parting is not altogether a mistake. The writer seems to find a barrier to progress further on this road. But is not that barrier merely a shadow? He imputes to Socialism what probably every Socialist will repudiate; namely, that "it—Socialism—would reduce the rich to the plane of the poor, making each an equal sharer in what each possessed. It would give the drone as much, as the most earnest worker, and might honor the latter with office if he would desire it for the honor of the thing." Can he find anywhere in socialistic writings any such a proposition? If so, he will confer a favor to many by giving authorities, that the error may be heartily repeated of, and forsaken. But as before stated, the aim of Socialism is not that, but the reverse. It is that those who are living at the expense of others shall not be permitted to do so, and that every person shall have only what he earns, as related to all other earners. He shall not be compelled to share his hardly earned wages with some drone—or some person who happens to be stronger than he—who compels him to give up a portion, often the larger portion, of the product of his labor. Thus what the editor of the Telegraph-Herald thinks ought not to be done, at this parting of the ways, he would leave the company of those who are determined, so much as in them lies, to do the very thing he wants done. If he is sincere let him not part here, he has no occasion.

Then he sees the want of "incentive." This he regards as "essential to progress." This, too, is a reason why, if he means what he says, that he should not part company with those who are endeavoring to restore to human society the incentive so essential to human progress. Is it possible that one can be so able in one direction and not be able to see the ongoing elimination of all incentive. If another is to get the product—at least all above the scantiest living—of the editor's labor, what incentive would he have. Let him consider himself in the place of millions of human toilers—a place which he may come to—and many others, before their calculations, and where is the incentive? Take any department you can name, who gets the profit? You and a goodly number yet get considerable profit above your fellows. But the number is being rapidly augmented who have to surrender nearly all to those strong enough to take it from them. But when a man can keep to himself the full product of his individual toil, his full share, he has the holiest incentive, and all the incentive he should have. But the great "Adversary," called in the Hebrew tongue "Satan," and in the United States "The Devil" and in more common language also "Greed," has too much of incentive, encouraged by his success through the ignorance and misunderstanding of the lovers of truth and righteousness.

Has Us "Sized Up"

UNDER THE SUN, ON TOP OF THE EARTH. DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR.

PERPETUAL GRUMBLERS:

Dear Sirs—In glancing over the columns of The Iowa Socialist, I come to the conclusion that type never was made, manufactured or gotten up to be amalgamated or blended in the manner it is by Socialists. In fact: They grumble when they talk. They grumble when they walk. They grumble going up the stairs. They grumble in their bed. And I do believe they'll grumble when they're dead.

Yours truly,
J. P. CLEARMIND.

Prudent street, House of Understanding, next door to Reason, in the Village of Contentment.

The civic federation, composed of twenty-four capitalists and twelve labor men (what a joke), which met in New York last week, is still being boosted by the capitalistic press, and it is pleasant for labor to know that full page illustrations of Mark Hanna, Grover Cleveland and other members of that stripe are published for the edification of the public, while not one of the twelve labor representatives has been deemed of sufficient importance to be noticed.—American Labor Union Journal.

The decree of the people must be respected, and there is no better way to accomplish this purpose than by giving them the power to legislate directly.—The Labor World.

Socialist Thoughts

When one man gets more than he produces you may be sure that some other one is getting less than he produces.—Coming Nation.

If private industry is impossible under Socialism, are you silly enough to think that great "captains of industry" of today will cease work? No, they will not. But under Socialism the whole people will receive the benefit of such men's services—not a few gluttons.—Western Socialist.

The Fifth avenue "Respectables" were horrified recently by discovering a pool-room running full blast r-i-g-h-t-o-p-o-p-i-t-e the residence of Russell Sage!!! It's too bad, really, that the dirty game of grab should be played right under the noses of its chief beneficiaries.—California Socialist.

That big Socialist vote is keeping the plutes on the jump still and they have now pressed their women into service. A gang calling itself the "Dames of the Loyal Legion" has just organized for the purpose of starting a "patriotic campaign." The proposed method of procedure is the furnishing of traveling libraries containing only "tales of American war, valor, and chivalry." Socialism is definitely mentioned as one of the objects of their attack.—Chicago Socialist.

From the Iowa Unionist we glean the fact that John P. Reese, at one time a coal miner, later president of the Mine Workers Union, recently democratic candidate for congress in the Sixth Iowa district, has now been honored by his capitalistic friends, the operators, by an election as commissioner to represent them (the operators) in all disputes between capital and labor. His salary is fixed at \$9,000 per year. A great deal of wonder was aroused when this erstwhile champion of labor could work his conscience into accepting a nomination for congress from the hands of a capitalistic party. It is all explained now when he appears in a new role. Workers, do you think a man can be true to the working class when he accepts a position at the hands of a capitalist organization to represent them in a struggle between capital and labor? Is it not evident that by choosing a former working man they hope to be better served than they could serve themselves? "Ye are the servant of whom ye choose to obey."—Appeal to Reason.

P. C. Murray, the lawyer in the office building, makes a specialty of drawing wills and settling estates.

Socialist Party of Iowa

Davenport, Iowa, Sept. 15, 1902.

TO THE SOCIALISTS OF IOWA: GREETING: The Socialist campaign is always on. If we are to carry this state for Socialism we will have to work and assist in the work. Speakers should be kept at work continually, explaining to the people the principles of Socialism and organizing them into working branches.

The question that the State Committee is trying to answer now is the matter of securing funds sufficient to keep W. A. Jacobs, State Secretary and Organizer in the field.

It is desirable to keep Comrade Jacobs in the field continually as he has shown himself capable of doing good work. His salary is fixed at \$1.50 per day which is less than he can earn in other lines and less than a man of family can afford to work for.

Please get a subscription blank circulated in your community and send as soon as possible as much as you can to the Assistant State Secretary, A. K. Gifford, 110 W. 18th street, Davenport, Iowa.

STATE COMMITTEE SOCIALIST PARTY OF IOWA.

To Those Who Have Already Pledged

DEAR COMRADES: Through your devotion and generosity to the cause of Socialism, you last winter pledged an amount sufficient to maintain me as State Organizer during the period of one year. On the eve of starting my work events occurred to render this course impossible. Money pledged and paid in remained in the treasury until July when Comrade W. A. Jacobs undertook the work I had planned. He has succeeded. He is eminently fitted for the work and will continue so long as you will supply the needed funds.

A. W. RICKER.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Baltimore, Oct. 1902.

The Socialist party is organized to secure the abolition of the present system of international capitalism, and to secure in its place the organization of the working class and their cooperation with it into a political party, with the object of securing the power of government and using them for the purpose of transferring the present system of private ownership of the means of production and distribution into collective ownership by the entire people.

Formerly the tools of production were simple and owned by individual workers. Today, the machine, which is an improved and more developed tool of production, is owned by the capitalists and not by the workers. The ownership enables the capitalists to control the product and keep the workers dependent upon them.

Private ownership of the means of production and distribution is responsible for the ever-increasing uncertainty of the livelihood and poverty and misery of the working class, and divides society into two hostile classes—the capitalists and wage workers. The once powerful middle class is rapidly disappearing in the mill of competition. The struggle is now between the capitalist class and the working class. The possession of the means of livelihood gives the capitalists the control of the government, the press, the pulpit and the schools, and enables them to reduce the workingmen to a state of intellectual, physical and social inferiority, political subservience and virtual slavery.

The economic interests of the capitalist class dominate our entire social system; the lives of the working class are recklessly sacrificed for profit, wars are fomented between nations, indiscriminate slaughter is encouraged and the destruction of whole races is sanctioned in order that the capitalists may extend their commercial dominion abroad and enhance their supremacy at home.

But the same economic causes which developed capitalism are leading to Socialism, which will abolish both the capitalist class and the class of wage workers. And the active force in bringing about this new and higher order of society is the working class. All other classes, despite their apparent or actual conflicts, are alike interested in the upholding of the system of private ownership of the instruments of wealth production. The democratic, republican, the bourgeois public ownership parties, and all other parties which do not stand for the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production, are alike political representatives of the capitalist class.

The workers can most effectively act as a class in their struggle against the collective powers of capitalism, by constituting themselves into a political party, distinct from and opposed to all parties formed by the propertyed classes. While we declare that the development of economic conditions tends to the overthrow of the capitalist system, we recognize that the time and manner of the transition to Socialism also depends upon the stage of development reached by the proletariat. We therefore, consider it of the utmost importance for the Socialist party to support all active efforts of the working class to better its condition and to elect Socialists to political offices in order to facilitate the attainment of this end.

As such means we advocate: 1. The public ownership of all means of transportation and communication and all other public utilities, as well as of all industries controlled by monopolies, trusts and combines; no part of the revenue of such industries to be applied to the taxes of the capitalist class, but to be applied wholly to the increase of wages and shortening of the hours of labor of the employees, and to the improvement of the service, and diminishing the rates to the consumers.

2. The progressive reduction of the hours of labor and the increase of wages in order to decrease the share of the capitalist and increase the share of the worker in the product of labor.

3. State or national insurance of working people in case of accidents, lack of employment, sickness and want in old age; the funds for this purpose to be collected from the revenue of the capitalist class, and to be administered under the control of the working class.

4. The inauguration of a system of public industries, credit to be used for that purpose in order that the workers be secured the full product of their labor.

5. The education of all children up to the age of 18 years, and state and municipal aid for books, clothing and food.

6. Equal civil and political rights for men and women.

7. The initiative and referendum, proportional representation and the right of recall of representatives by their constituents.

But in advocating these measures in steps in the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth, we warn the working class against the so-called public ownership movements as an attempt of the capitalist class to secure governmental control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

There is not so much difference between the customs of China and the customs of America as many think. In China they kill most of the girl babies; in America they make most of them slaves.—Coming Nation.

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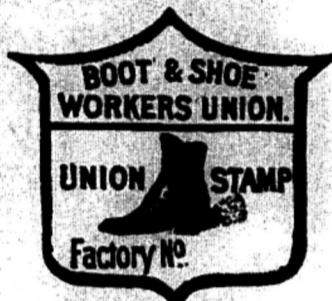
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