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# The Iowa Socialist.

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## WHAT IF SOCIALISM SHOULD COME?

When the morning of the Co-operative Commonwealth dawns on the world no one will be quite so surprised as the Socialist himself. It is always the unexpected that happens and the coming of Socialism will be no exception to the rule. We are not so presumptuous as to believe that we are bringing Socialism, for it evolves out of social forces beyond our control. We only go ahead through the forest, blazing the trees and clearing away some underbrush where the road must be cast up for the oncoming hosts of human progress.

And when the hosts actually arrive, there will be some of our markings that they will not observe. This will disappoint us some. However, we will then have to learn that we are to rejoice that humanity has arrived at its new reconstructive period, and adapt ourselves gladly to the conditions as they are and not as we thought they would be.

Our movement is itself forging ahead out of its speculative period into the day when things must be brought to pass. Men who were noble pioneers in an earlier phase of the Socialist movement often find it most difficult now to adapt themselves to the rapidly changing conditions.

"CLEAR IN SCIENCE, BROAD IN TACTICS" must be our motto from now on. Wider and wider our influence must extend; more and more liberal our propaganda must become. Old class lines are breaking up. The intellectuals, small land-owners, shopkeepers and small factory owners are losing their economic security. Their lot becomes a parallel to that of the wage-earner. One mighty exploiting class, small in numbers, is over all. Our exploiters are crushing us all into one mighty melting pot, and thus the new humanity is being moulded.

Only he is class conscious who realizes that ALL the exploited must form one great body of resistance to the system of exploitation, until Master and Man are succeeded by one grand Brotherhood of Labor, wherein each worker shall receive according to the labor he has rendered.

F. G. S.

### How Atheists Are Made

The fortunate present possessors  
Of riches and power and place,  
Now high in estate—the oppressors  
And foes of their race—  
With palaces such as Alladin  
Might raise with his magical ring,  
And treasure sufficient to gladden  
The heart of a king:  
Men holding such pleasant positions  
Consider—I deem it not odd—  
Our prevalent social conditions  
Appointed of God.  
But those who reap only disaster  
Although they have faithfully toiled  
For some sordid and merciless master,  
Despised and despoiled,  
The millions who vainly have striven  
To rise from the status of slaves;  
The children of want that are driven  
To premature graves:  
Who at last have despaired altogether  
Of justice—I deem it not odd,  
That they should have come to doubt whether  
There be any God!  
—J. L. McCreery.

Ignorance and superstition are capitalism's strongest allies.

It is amusing to hear the hirelings of capitalism, who dare not even call their souls their own, talk about the "slave state" of Socialism.

John D. Rockefeller offers a million dollars for a good stomach. There are millions who have good stomachs but nothing to put into them. Rockefeller himself placed many in that condition. "The wages of sin is death."

The Socialists of Webster City, Iowa, have nominated candidates for mayor, treasurer and assessor. There are two other tickets in the field—citizens and independent. The Socialist candidates are: For mayor, W. I. Worthington; for treasurer, J. Y. Brayden; for assessor, J. G. Gatton.

The Vanguard is doing splendid service for Socialism and is making many converts to the cause among business and professional men. The April issue will be a "Clergy Number" prepared expressly to interest the ministers and enlist their aid in the movement. It will be packed full of strong arguments showing why all Christian people should be Socialists. The publishers will mail this special edition at remarkably low rates. We advise all comrades to send at once for a free copy of the March issue giving full particulars. Address, The Vanguard Press, Green Bay, Wis.

That enormous advance in the price of anthracite coal was entirely uncalled for. The strike board has awarded the miners an increase of ten per cent in wages. But then the coal operators

"Slavery is the price we pay for voting simply with the "winning side."

Have you bought a share of stock in The Iowa Socialist Publishing Co.?

If the claim is true that the parasitic capitalist is also a worker why is it that only the man who toils with his hands is called a "workingman."

The Socialists of Boone, Iowa, are hopeful of winning in the coming municipal election, and are confident they will receive more votes than the democrats.

The Kansas senate recently refused to pass a bill providing that no child under twelve years of age should be allowed to work in any factory. What's the matter with Kansas.

W. R. Hearst is sending circulars to labor unions in which are printed certain resolutions, extolling Hearst as a great champion of labor, adopted by certain trades unions. Willie has an ambition to be president and wants organized labor to help him reach the goal. And that is the extent of his love for the workingman. Laborers, beware of this fakir.

The \$115,000 damages allowed the Taff Vale Railway Company in its suit against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of Great Britain has been paid over by the latter to the railway company. Inspired by this success of the capitalists of Great Britain the same plan will be followed in this country. There is now a case before the supreme court of West Virginia in which some mine owners claim \$10,000 damages as the result of a strike, while the street car magnates of Waterbury, Conn., have brought suit for damages against the union of their employes in the sum of \$20,000, claiming to have lost that amount in the strike now on at that place. The pure and simple unionist and his "no politics in the union" will get a jolt some of these fine days that will land him in the Socialist movement willy nilly.

wanted to be on the safe side. We may also look for another advance in the price of coal. C. E. Headerson, general manager of the Reading Coal and Iron Company, in discussing the report of the strike board said: "If the commission desired to aid the public in keeping up the price of coal they could not have succeeded better."

Are you still hustling for subscribers for The Iowa Socialist?



HARRY M. MCKEE.

Comrade McKee, who is an Iowa boy, has returned from California to his native state and will make a tour of the unorganized districts. He was for several years an instructor in Lenox College, Hopkinton, Iowa, and is a finely educated scholar and an able and pleasant speaker. He is one of the lecturers of the National Socialist Lecture Bureau, and has also been elected organizer for Southern California. The following are some of his Iowa dates:

Oelwein, March 27; Fairbank, 28; Waterloo, 29-30; Marshalltown, April 1; Baxter, 2; Grinnell, 3; Newton, 4.

He has just concluded a trip through Illinois, and received very flattering notices from the press of that state, of which the following are a few excerpts:

Peoria Star: The address of Harry M. McKee, of San Diego, Cal., at the city hall last evening on "Socialism vs. Capitalism" was pronounced the ablest, the cleverest, and the most logical and convincing presentation of the subject that has been made by any speaker who has been here.

Decatur Labor World: The speaker handled his subject in a masterful manner and made altogether the clearest and most concise talk on that subject ever heard in this city.

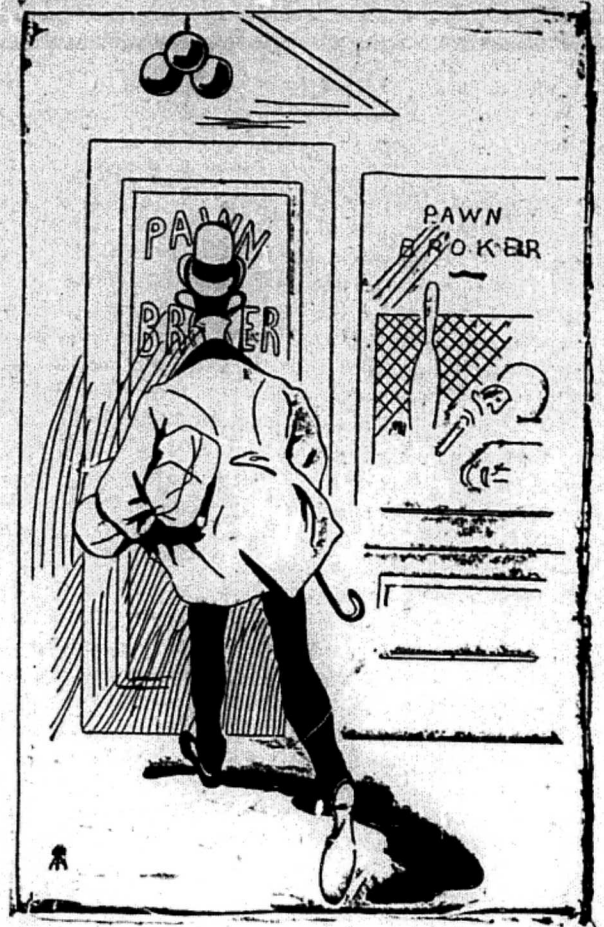
Galesburg Republican-Register: Mr. McKee is one of the ablest exponents of Socialism that has been heard in our city. He has a pleasant winning manner which will insure him a hearing anywhere.

If you are a workingman it is your duty to join the Socialist party.

P. D. Swick, editor of the Boone Independent, is the Socialist candidate for mayor of that city. Comrade Swick was the Socialist candidate for congress in the Tenth district in the election of last fall.

The Iowa Socialist in clubs of four or more for twenty-five cents per year. Four postal subscription cards good for one year each for \$1.00. They are handy. Order a bunch.

For two cents per name you can have sample copies of The Iowa Socialist sent to separate addresses for four weeks.



One Method of "Dividing Up" Under the Present System

## Then and Now

Thanks be, it's gone at last! That dark labyrinthine past  
When intrigue for supremacy had taught the priestly caste  
To hold the truth subservient—had taught that graceful trend,  
Which dallied long with various means, but never reached an end.  
When men were bolstered to the gods—not kings by right of might,  
But by a specious argument—a sort of might by right.  
When thousands toiled to favor one, submitting to the real  
Cause, forsooth, reward was held a futurity ideal.  
When dolorous voices out the gloom conspired to kill our trust  
In Law, by grim intoning the dogma of the dust:  
"That man, the worm, the atom, in travail of sin was born  
And therefore must forevermore exist to weep and mourn;  
That life was but analogous to the scheme of heavenly love—  
Ten thousand souls might go below for one that went above;  
That creation was synchro-nal and co-existent with man;  
That theology did not recognize the modern installment plan;  
That Hope and Joy might die forever, except in holy synod,  
For Progress had no place whatever in their conception of God."

How different are our methods now! Where is that social "treason"  
Which loudly sought to clamor down appeal to social reason?  
How good we are, and pious kind! We split a hair with shame  
Since "heresy" lost 'ae rank it had as dear opprobrious name!  
How clear and free the thought expansive—what pensive toleration  
Succeeds the selfish creed that God should favor race, or nation!  
How sweet to think our fathers fought and died in order that  
The nation might produce the new Aристо-democrat!  
How miraculous are our fortunes now! In former days 'twas toil  
That saved our "watery" little "pools" from Standard "jumps" in oil!  
Thus was it then, but now—the fortuitous combine  
Provides all men with equal chance to say, the earth is mine.  
Ah, now the world is worth its work! Just think that then  
The black-edged bond "self-interest" paid cent per cent in men!  
The collateral of life was effort, and all had shares to sell,  
But "bulls" and "bears" between them made the stock exchange a—Well,  
To finish the theme in order—just bear in mind the fact  
That votes are stock, and busy yourself in doing the Socialist act!  
—Robert Bielby, Dubuque, Iowa.

Before a large and appreciative audience that assembled at Stout Auditorium, Comrade Frederick G. Strickland on Tuesday evening took up and answered the objections recently urged against Socialism by Father Boeding of this city. Comrade Strickland was at his best—in a happy, humorous mood, and so pleased his audience that when he announced he was through and had no more to say, not a soul moved—they wanted more. And they got it. In his own inimitable way he made the audience help pay for their entertainment, and also sold a half dozen shares of stock of the Iowa Socialist Publishing Co., of which, by the way, there is still considerable on the market.

Taking up the contention of Father Boeding that every man has a right to the dollars that he earns, Comrade Strickland pointed out how under the system of capitalism the workingman receives but one dollar of five which he earns, and that it is a fundamental of Socialism that this robbery of the workers shall be stopped.

While Socialists do not purpose stopping the handing down from sire to son of personal property, they draw the line at the right of inheritance, by the individual, in the means of production and distribution—in land, mine, factory and railway.

In reply to the foolish charge that Socialism would destroy the home, Comrade Strickland painted in burning words a picture of the homes destroyed under capitalism, and showed how under

Socialism real and beautiful home building would for the first time become a possibility.

To develop all that is beautiful and good in men and women they must have economic security. To attain the highest and best womanhood women must not be dependent upon men. The degradation and prostitution of woman is due to her economic dependence upon man. Socialism would place her upon an equal footing with her brothers.

Socialism has nothing to do with religion. The charge that Socialism denies "the immortality of the soul" is silly and might just as well be made against the republican or democratic parties, because, like the Socialist party, these have taken no stand on religious questions.

To preach contentment is to retrograde. Discontent with existing conditions makes for advancement and progress.

Comrade Strickland likened Socialists to pioneers who blaze the trees of the forests for the pathway of the coming generations, or to those who toil in the mud and make the excavations and lay the rough foundation stones for the builders who come after them. The temple of the co-operative commonwealth and of a higher civilization will soon rise upon the foundations laid by those who have not been ashamed or afraid to toil in the mud and while the work was hard.

A sample is an invitation to subscribe.



X RAYS

By JOHN M. WORK

These people who think they are better than a man who earns an honest living make me tired.

Men of all sorts of useless occupations have that feeling. It is not confined to the stock broker and the coupon clipper.

I know a real estate agent who is absolutely unable to make enough in his business to afford his family the necessities of life.

This is but another effect of the system. Manual laborers are exploited. They are dependent. They are nominally free, but are in effect slaves.

Woman has an inherent right to vote, because she is a human being born into the world on an equality with all other human beings.

Ohio Notes

It is reported that the S. L. P. has been refused position on the Cincinnati official ballot on account of fraudulent petitions.

N. P. Geiger has been elected organizer of Cleveland, Ohio, and will devote all his time in the future to the party work.

Referendum on location of national headquarters and other state referendums will be submitted to general vote on March 25 and will remain open until April 24.

New local has been organized at Delaware with sixteen charter members. Comrades promise several new members at the next meeting and seem determined to build up a good working local.

The Socialists of Ohio are now ready for the municipal fray on April 6. Full tickets have been nominated in thirty places and the campaigns are being waged with great effect.

row, of California, is one of these women. As she was exceptionally able, she forged to the front in the suffrage movement. Four years ago she made a lecture tour through Iowa, speaking in behalf of equal suffrage.

If I were a housewife, I would much rather be without a vote than to be dependent upon a man for a home and a living. The average wife is necessarily dependent upon a man for a home and a living.

It follows that in order to be really free, woman must have industrial as well political emancipation. Suffrage affords political emancipation.

Yes, but is it not necessary to get the ballot first? Not at all. You are compelled by the nature of the case to get the ballot from the men anyway, and you can get Socialism from the men just as easily and with a far greater retention of self-respect.

I do not mean to imply that in the Socialist commonwealth every woman must fill an industrial sphere outside of her home. But, every woman will have an opportunity to do so.

will startle the old parties as never before.

Three new branches were organized in Cincinnati during the past week and more are well under way. There seems to be no end to the work that the Cincinnati comrades are doing.

State convention will be held at Columbus, Ohio, beginning on May 30, 1903. This will undoubtedly be the largest convention by far ever held in Ohio and Local Columbus is already at work with elaborate preparations for the entertainment of the visiting delegates.

The election laws of Ohio are such as to prohibit any place placing a Socialist ticket in the field without sanction of the organization of the party, which means that unorganized places have no right to nominate tickets to go upon the official ballot.

W. G. CRITCHLOW.

Syracuse China Dinner Ware at Althausers.

To Be or Not to Be?

To be or not to be No question is for me. I am A man; By God or fate decreed; A soul with boundless need.

Leslie Willis Sprague.

As It Strikes Me

Today we are in the midst of a mighty revolution. One such as the world has never before witnessed since its formation. Not a revolution of bullets, leaving behind a trail of blood, but a revolution of education, leaving behind a ray of sunshine.

Although the labor movement is not of recent origin, still such slow progress did it make for a time that few, outside of the real executors, knew of its power up till just a few years ago.

And still people criticize, because we make errors. We certainly have made errors in the past and will no doubt continue to do so, but say, does that make our cause any the less just?

But few have stopped to think what a task it must be to pick men from the depths of the gutter and make brainy thinkers out of them.

Men today know what they want, but are not educated up to the standard where they know how to get it.

There is no reason why every workingman should not be a member of some trade union. If they were the world would be better, men would be more proficient and could render better service.

Because workingmen are organized doesn't go to say it is necessary for them to be anarchists. There is something else in unionism besides strikes and turmoil.

We must be governed by what confronts us today, and not something that confronted us 100 years ago.

The allied nations shot this into the Chinese a while back and it's too bad we can't do the same here at home.

The greatest drawback the workingmen have had to contend with is they have allowed a few to think and act for the masses. What we want and what we are rapidly bringing to a head is for every man to have a mind and think for himself.

"Can the labor problem be solved" is a question the great preachers and politicians in the East are asking. I think yes. Whenever all mankind will bow in reverence to the Tenth Commandment, then and not till then, will we be enjoying an era of good feeling.

A. M. LARSEN.

It has been ascertained that there is a permanently organized lecture bureau which is sending Jesuit speakers in the wake of Father McGrady with the avowed intention of undoing his good work for Socialism.

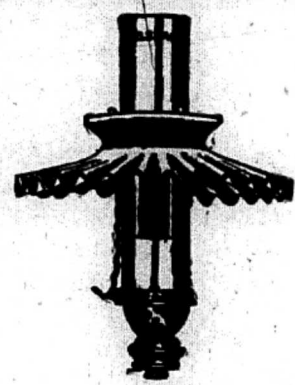
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Read our great offer on page three of this issue. The International Socialist Review, regular price \$1.00, a standard cloth bound book worth 50 cents, and The Iowa Socialist, one year, all for \$1.00.

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The Feeling of Unrest

By Paul H. Castle

Now and then we hear expressions of great alarm at the agitation and unrest that is manifest throughout the land.

These men realize the vast production of wealth their hands have created they naturally inquire whether or not they have received their just portion.

Referendum on the Removal of Headquarters

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, Omaha, Neb., March 19, 1903.

In view of the general desire displayed for information on the referendum on the location of national headquarters and composition of the local quorum, the national secretary submits the following statement of the method of procedure.

After the two demands for a referendum had been received from a sufficient number of locals, the secretary referred them to the local quorum, together with a proposition drawn up by himself.

The quorum acted, and the following circular letter to the national committee, with a report of the quorum's action, is self explanatory:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE CIRCULAR NO. 11.

To the National Committee, Socialist Party: Comrades—I herewith submit for your consideration and action, the inclosed demands for a referendum, numbered respectively Nos. 1 and 2, as they were received at this office.

Demand No. 1 was received from Locals Toledo, Akron, Fremont, Findlay, Massillon, Springfield and Branch 1, Cleveland, Ohio; Lynn, Lawrence, Natick, Chelsea, Salem, Worcester, Malden, Haverhill and Everett, Mass.; Portland, Me.; Rochester, N. Y.; Bevier and Poplar Bluff, Mo.; Indianapolis, Marion and Terre Haute, Ind.; Locals Louisville and Covington, Ky.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Branch 1, Milwaukee, Wis., sent in the same demand, with the exception of the third clause.

Demand No. 2 was received from Locals Omaha, South Omaha, Grand Island and Plattsmouth, Neb.; Kansas City and Pleasant Hill, Mo.; Franklyn Heights, Kas.; and Sioux City, Iowa.

Comrades Work, Roe, Lovett and Turner of the local quorum, voted to submit demands Nos. 1 and 2 to the national committee for action. Comrade Untermann voted against their submission, as worded, but voted to have the proposition, drawn up by the national secretary (a copy of which is inclosed) submitted to the committee, his reason for this action being given hereafter.

I drew up the inclosed proposition for a referendum because I believed that if the two referendums as demanded, should be submitted to the membership, sure confusion and dissatisfaction would result. When the other members of the quorum did not assent to my proposition, I withdrew it, so as not to complicate the situation, but since Comrade Untermann supports it, I submit it herewith for your consideration.

In the first place, I desire it understood that my proposition was drawn up entirely upon my own responsibility, and that the sole object of its existence was a desire to see the question of location of headquarters and composition of the quorum simplified, so that the membership could vote intelligently and decisively upon the question and have it settled by one referendum. It must be clear to all that if the two demands, as worded, are submitted, it will be difficult for the membership to tell how to vote decisively.

I consider my proposition the only one yet submitted that covers the point involved in the referendum in a constitutional form, and that can properly dispose of the question in one vote of

on May 1 will give at least forty days for the membership to act.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM MAILLY, National Secretary.

National Headquarters, Socialist Party, Omaha, Neb., March 5, 1903.

The demands for a referendum were as follows:

NUMBER I.

To the National Committee, Socialist Party: Local \_\_\_\_\_ State of \_\_\_\_\_ in accordance with the provisions of Art. IX of National Constitution, hereby presents petitions that you submit to a referendum vote of the party membership the following propositions:

First—That the headquarters of the party be removed to Chicago.

Second—That the Local Quorum until the next national convention be composed of the members of the National Committee from the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa and Kentucky.

Third—That all acts of the National Committee at its last annual session in conflict with the above provisions be rejected.

NUMBER II.

To the National Secretary-Treasurer of the Socialist Party of America:

Local \_\_\_\_\_ at a regular meeting held \_\_\_\_\_ request a referendum of the party membership on the following propositions, to-wit:

First—Shall the action of the National Committee in removing the Local Quorum be approved? Vote yes or no.

Second—Shall the old Local Quorum be re-instituted if vote stands against approval? Vote yes or no.

Third—Shall the action of the National Committee in removing the national headquarters to Omaha, Neb., be approved? Vote yes or no.

Fourth—Shall the national headquarters be returned to St. Louis if vote stands against approval of removal to Omaha, Neb.? Vote yes or no.

Method of submitting referendum, relative to the location of headquarters, proposed by the national secretary.

Articles are numbered No. 1 and 2 in alphabetical order of cities:

HEADQUARTERS.

No. 1.—That article 7 of the constitution be amended to read: The headquarters shall be located at Chicago. But said headquarters may be changed by the National Committee, subject to a referendum of the party. Vote yes or no.

No. 2.—The headquarters shall be located at Omaha. But said headquarters may be changed by the National Committee, subject to a referendum of the party. Vote yes or no.

LOCAL QUORUM.

That Section 1, Article 4 of the Constitution be amended to read: The National Committee shall elect a committee of five from the membership of the party within the territory adjacent or convenient to the national headquarters, the said territory not to exceed five states adjacent or conveniently located for reaching headquarters to supervise and assist the National Secretary as the National Committee shall direct. Said committee of five shall form a part of and be a quorum of the National Committee, but shall be subject to removal at any time. Vote yes or no.

THE TRENTON, N. J., DEMAND.

To the National Committee, Socialist Party, Samuel Lovett, Temporary Secretary, Rooms 10-11 Arlington Block, Omaha, Neb.:

Local Trenton, State of New Jersey, requests in accordance with article 7 of the National Constitution, that you submit the following proposition to a referendum of the party membership:

Shall the action of the National Committee at St. Louis, Feb. 1, 1903, in removing party headquarters to Omaha be approved?

Meeting at which above request was made held Friday, Feb. 20, 1903.

Since March 5 additional endorsements of Demand No. 1 were received from Locals Minneapolis, Minn.; New York, Arlington and North Yakima, Wash. The state committee of New Jersey and Locals San Francisco, Calif., Kings County, N. Y., and Madison, Wis., sent special resolutions demanding a referendum.

Along with the foregoing circular the National Secretary sent the following blank form to be filled out by each national committeeman:

Action upon submission of Referendum, to be filled out by each national committeeman: 1. Do you favor the submission of Referendum No. 1 to the party membership? Vote yes or no.

2. Do you favor the submission of Referendum No. 2 to the party membership? Vote yes or no.

3. Do you favor the submission of the National Secretary's proposition in preference to No. 1 and No. 2 as worded? Vote yes or no.

4. Shall May 1 be set as the time for the vote of the membership upon these referendums to close?

National Committeemen LaKamp, Colo.; Sweatland, Conn.; Miller, Idaho; Fox, Maine; Fox, Montana; Halbrook, Okla.; Barnes, Pa.; Kerrigan, Texas, and Tawney, Utah, did not report any action nor acknowledge receipt of the circular letter.

The National Committeemen voted as follows: To submit No. 1—Berlynn, Ill.; Work, Iowa; Dobbs, Ky.; Talbot, Minn.; Christensen, Neb.; Berger, Wis.

Against submitting No. 1—Healey, Fla.; Mills, Kan.; Turner, Mo.; Goebel, N. J.; Massey, N. D.; Critchlow, Ohio.

To submit No. 2—Healey, Fla.; Work, Iowa; Talbot, Minn.; Turner, Mo.; Christensen, Neb.; Goebel, N. J.; Massey, N. D.; Critchlow, Ohio.

Against submitting No. 2—Dobbs, Ky.; Berlynn, Ill.; Berger, Wis.

For the National Secretary's proposition—Mahoney, Ind.; Carey, Mass.; Raebel, Mich.; Talbot, Minn.; Clafin, N. H.; Hilquit, N. Y.; Lovett, S. D.; Boomer, Wash.

Against the National Secretary's proposition—Healey, Fla.; Mills, Kan.; Dobbs, Ky.; Turner, Mo.; Goebel, N. J.; Massey, N. D.; Berger, Wis.

The National Secretary in presenting his proposition had hoped that it would be unanimously accepted by the committee. In view of the widely different opinions expressed by the committee members upon it, the Secretary withdrew his proposition, so as not to further complicate the situation, and the two original resolutions endorsed by the Locals specified, have therefore been submitted in regular form to a referendum of the membership.

Lovett, S. D., and Goebel, N. J., favored extension of time for closing referendum, the former to June 1, the latter to provide eight weeks for membership to act. All other committeemen voting favored May 1.

The referendum has gone to the membership within the required thirty days, and the vote will now be taken upon the two resolutions presented by the Locals named, before May 1, 1903.

Fraternally submitted,

WILLIAM MAILLY, National Secretary.

We advise our friends to see Althausers line of Go-Carts before buying elsewhere.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.

The Socialist party in convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism, and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and their sympathy with it, into a political party, with the object of conquering the powers of government and using them for the purpose of transforming 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 propertied 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 employes, 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.

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### From the Field

Aspen, Colo., March 22.

I am having lots of fun here with the old party politicians; have meetings in permanent headquarters every afternoon and evening; have good attendance and plenty of enthusiasm. Windows have Socialist cartoons pasted on them and a crowd is about the window all day.

Gramophones are going afternoon and evening to draw the crowds. There will be three tickets in the field besides the Socialist party ticket. Business men will put up a citizens' ticket—representative, respectable (?) men, best men, etc., etc. They are all stampeded. Fun, well, you ought to be here. Next week I will have my stereopticon and

moving picture outfit here to get the gang.

I inclose handbill for our entertainment of the 26th. This entertainment will probably put \$75.00 in the local treasury to the good. This is the basis I shall work on in the future. Instead of depleting the treasuries of the locals I shall leave them with a fund to the good. C. O. J.

ASPEN, COLO., March 23.

Have the old parties on the run. Democratic party (in power now) have endorsed citizens ticket. They stand for public ownership of public utilities and say the paramount issue is municipal ownership. They also stand for the public ownership of the waterworks. They are stealing the Socialist thunder in everything that they can lay their hands on. We are having lots of fun with them, and are making a stand on scientific Socialism. They hope to win on immediate demands. C. O. J.

## Correspondence

From National Headquarters

Local charters have been granted during the past week to New Decatur, Ala., and Pine Bluff, Ark.

Comrade George D. Herron will leave for Europe next month, and his tour of the west under the direction of national headquarters is postponed until after his return.

Comrade M. W. Wilkins, of San Francisco, will begin an agitation tour under the direction of national headquarters, through California, Oregon, Washington and other western states.

New Jersey state treasurer reports that party membership is rapidly increasing and the sale of stamps exceeds all previous records.

State Secretary Holman, of Minnesota, reports that "Hibbing, Minn., cast two Socialist votes at the last election. We organized a local there a month ago, and on March 10 they held a town election, and Oscar Hooker, for chairman got 55 votes, John Hoba, for supervisor, 60; and John Hill, for clerk, 154. Comrade Lucas, of Minneapolis spoke there three nights during the campaign. This shows what organization can do. Hibbing will soon make a Massachusetts record."

Birmingham, Ala., Socialists have put up a municipal ticket for the first time, with C. W. Love for mayor. There will soon be a state organization formed in Alabama.

The Boston Globe says: "Since the recent town elections throughout the state the result of the big gains made by the Socialist party has been clearly felt at the state house and the representatives of the party have been given undivided attention almost on every occasion on which they have spoken. Since the town elections Socialism and its gaining strength in this state have become somewhat of a spectre to the legislators. In committee hearings, when petitions for various matters have been heard and opposition appeared, in a number of instances the committeemen have been threatened that if they did not report favorably upon the matters heard the Socialist vote would increase,

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not 10 per cent, but 1,000 per cent, at the fall elections. The same sort of talk has been made in the sessions of the lower branch, and not always by Socialist members. At the hearing granted the labor organizations upon the referendum, the Socialist vote increase was again in evidence in the argument, and the Socialist members of the house have not failed to hold it forth upon all occasions."

John C. Chase reports on his southern tour as follows: "My meeting at Jacksonville, March 2, was very good, and at Valdosta, Ga., next day, my audience was composed mostly of colored people who were very appreciative and enthusiastic. At Birmingham, Ala., on the 5th the meeting arranged by the carpenters and trilogers was successful. I spoke at Belle Sumter on the 6th, a large mining camp, to a big house and a local will result. Rain prevented a large meeting at Decatur on the 7th, but the temper of the audience showed that Decatur is a good field for Socialism. A local was formed. By special invitation I spoke before the regular meeting of the Birmingham Trades Council on the 8th, and next day addressed a meeting arranged by local comrades. Rain interfered again at Bessemer on the 10th, but attendance was good. I returned here on the 10th by request and spoke to a full house despite another storm. Bessemer has good prospects for the future. At Patton Junction on the 11th, addressed two meetings, one of white people in the afternoon and colored people in the evening by request. Both were well attended and enthusiastic. Formed local and provided for another at Sterling, near by. At Cordova, next day, had a very large out door meeting, composed mostly of farmers, and was well received. Altogether, the Alabama trip was very successful and am much pleased with the situation. The Birmingham district especially presents a good field for Socialist agitation."

Requests have been received for a return visit of Chase to Alabama, and this will probably be arranged.

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To Boon The Iowa Socialist

DES MOINES, March 22, 1903.

Dear Comrades: By charging an initiation fee of 25 cents and applying the amount on a year's subscription to The Iowa Socialist, you not only work to increase the subscription list, but your members will in time be the possessors of staying qualities and become useful members of the branch. If a prospective candidate is not willing to part with two bits on a proposition of that kind, he will be a burden rather than a benefit to the organization. In this connection I would suggest that where branches adopt such a system, The Iowa Socialist publish a two or three line announcement for the branch, mentioning the date and place of the branch meetings, thus making the co-operation between the paper and the branch still more perfect, in that every member will constantly be reminded of the meetings that are held in his locality.

Comrade Boni is reported to have communicated to The Iowa Socialist

that the Sioux City branch is opposed to the amendment submitted by Des Moines. What is the bone of contention, Comrade Boni?

It is regrettable to note that in several instances where municipal tickets have been placed in the field, no candidates have been nominated for such offices as city and county attorneys and district judges. These offices are important, and if it is absolutely necessary that attorneys be selected for such positions, apply to the Des Moines branch for the loan of such men. They are warranted not to issue injunctions against labor unions. J. J. JACOBSEN.

You can see 200 Go-Carts on the floor at Althausers.

From Davenport

DAVENPORT, March 23.

Dear Comrades: Comrade McKee, of California, was with us for several days recently holding meetings in Davenport, Rock Island and Moline. These meetings were a pronounced success and all the "boys" have a good word to say for Comrade McKee. We are arranging for a series of McGrady meetings for the Tri-Cities for some time in May.

State Secretary Jacobs is more than busy these days getting things in shape for the summer campaign. His position is certainly a good example of "lots of work and small pay." If the old parties could only know something of the amount of gratuitous work done by the Socialists and their daily personal sacrifices, said old parties would realize that they are up against the real thing. For a zealous, aggressive individual, a Socialist is hard to beat. Just at present the center of attraction in our local "labor world" is the coming convention of the Iowa Federation, to be held at this place in May. The convention will be entertained by the newly organized Central Labor Body. This Central Labor Body, by the way, occupies a very peculiar position. It holds a charter granted by the Iowa Federation, and at the same time is unable to secure a charter or official recognition from the national organization. Years ago the American Federation issued a charter to the "Tri-City Labor Congress" and the territory specified in the charter included the city of Davenport. A few months ago the Davenport unions concluded they could best serve the interests of organized labor by having a central labor body of their own, hence the new body.

The Tri-City Labor Congress refuses to relinquish any of its territory and insists on putting the new organization out of business, but the new organization refuses to go out of business even though it should lose the charter it already holds. What the outcome will be, no one can as yet tell. These three cities (with the possible exception of Moline) are better organized today than ever before and it is sincerely hoped that the present trouble may be settled satisfactorily to all in order that the prestige we now have may not be lost. A. K. GIFFORD.

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### A Suggestion From Washington

SEATTLE, WASH., March 19.

Dear Comrades: Your copy came to hand today and I note the item marked "that some one had subscribed for a year's subscription to all the state secretaries."

I have seen your paper since its inception as I was on The Socialist staff for nearly a year, and it seems to me I have noted a steady improvement. Every newspaper has its own line of action and policy to pursue, but allow me to suggest that frequent and clear statements of the manner in which the wage earner is robbed, as Marx has demonstrated it, would be of much benefit in straightening the workmen out and getting them to see clearly why they should vote the Socialist ticket and that only. It is not difficult to show the workingman where he is robbed. Once he sees it, Hearst can't touch him with a ten-foot pole. Our strength lies in showing the actual, hard economic fact devoid of sentiment at first. But I didn't start to give a lecture to the editor, but merely to suggest. Yours for Working Class Socialism, U. G. MOORE.

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