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The "Merger" Case

Paul H. Castle

The republican papers are making capital of the supreme court's decision in the Northern Securities case. They call it a "triumph for the administration," and that "no one can now accuse the republican party of being a friend to the trusts." It is a "strong vindication of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox." "The outcome of the Northern Securities suit will be that the country will be furnished with a new reason for voting for the republican party." With many such self congratulations as these the republican press is attempting to delude the voters of the nation. But let us look into the merits of this question.

First, what is held to be the real and only violation of the Sherman anti-trust law on the part of the Northern Securities Company? In the words of Justice Harlan, who handed down the supreme court's decision, that violation was: "A combination or conspiracy in violation of the act of congress between the stockholders of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railway companies, whereby the Northern Securities company was formed as a holding corporation, and whereby interstate commerce over the lines of the constituent companies was restrained." We would have you note the words "holding corporation." Therein is the whole mischief. No number of individual companies are permitted to "merge" their control into one trustee corporation or "holding corporation," thus denying the right of each constituent company to compete. It is this process of "destroying competition" and "restraining commerce and trade" that the supreme court objects to. But alas, is this the only way to destroy competition and restrain trade and commerce? What, for example, does the "administration" propose to do with the Standard Oil Company, which has destroyed practically all competition in the oil business of the United States? Already the capitalist papers have announced that nothing will be done with it because it is not a "holding corporation." It's a bad thing to be a "holding corporation." You must be the whole thing, like the Standard Oil Company. You must not be composed of "constituent companies." This is a glorious victory for the republican party. It "vindicates the administration"—with people who have no brains to think for themselves.

When this case was first taken from the circuit to the supreme court, the Socialist press and speakers pointed out that if the supreme court decided against the Northern Securities Company, that court, in its ruling, would simply show the trust how that it might combine its capital in order to evade transgressing the law; that it could remain a trust still, only would have to organize on a different basis, perhaps. This prophecy has been fulfilled and the republican press has given the trust such notification. The Globe-Democrat, in a long editorial, speaking for the "administration," says: "Time will be given to them (combination of competing interests) to dissolve and take some form which will not bring them into collision with the law." This has been agreed upon by the president and his official advisers. * * * An

opportunity will be given to all the combinations to get themselves in harmony with the law. * * * The combines will be given a few weeks or months of grace to allow them to set their houses in order and to adjust themselves to the condition which the Northern merger decision has set up."

How kind of the "president and his advisers" to give them "months of grace." There are a few labor unions in Colorado and elsewhere that would enjoy a few months of grace, but not being of the "elect" they are not "saved by grace."

What, then, is left for these "holding corporations" to do? Along what lines is trustification in the future to proceed? Absorption is to be the process, not coalition. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads must "dissolve and take some form which will not bring them into collision with the law." What can this "form" be? They can become one corporation, absorbing all the stockholders. So with all the "holding corporations." The supreme court has solved the problem for the capitalists and the "administration has scored a victory."

Again, if the administration has struck such a hard blow at the trusts, would it not follow that they would be injured thereby? What do the capitalistic papers inform us as to this? They say: "There is not the faintest reason for any alarm in financial circles on account of the decision." "Hill declares that the properties in the combination have not been injured by the court's ruling." "Shares in the general line will be apt to go up, not down." "Stocks actually went up during the fortnight after the Northern Securities case was filed in court, and have now risen again, after the suit is decided adversely to the corporation."

In all this there is once more apparent the double-handed game of capitalist hirelings. They tell the people the trusts have been curbed, made to obey the law, the people's interests have been safe-guarded. Then in the next breath they tell the trust magnates they need have no fears of financial distress: actually pointing out how the combinations of capital are more prosperous than ever after being "regulated."

Is it not clear that the whole game is one concerted action of the capitalists to manufacture campaign argument? And how many poor deluded workingmen will swallow the bait? Alas, too many. Mr. Workingman, what is the difference to you whether a "holding corporation" fleeces you or one great combine such as the Standard Oil trust, the steel trust or many others we might mention?

Then last, let us repeat that this decision of the supreme court will not curb the trusts nor hinder them in "restraining free competition" which seems to be such a hobby with the republican plutocrats.

Combination will go on just as has been pointed out. The trusts will take a fresh start while the capitalist press is telling of the "victory for the administration" and is granting the trusts a few "months of grace." No sane workingman should be caught in this capitalist net. His interests can be served only by voting with that party which will make the

trusts the heritage of all the people, and that party is the Socialist party of America.

Observations

John A. Morris

Socialism is the logic of civilization.

Socialism vs. State Capitalism. Which will you have?

Rebellion to tyranny is a duty we owe to humanity.

Under the profit system matrimony is often a "matter-o'-money."

The spirit of independence is in the constitution of every revolutionary, class-conscious Socialist in the world.

In the propaganda of Socialism each comrade is a committee of one to help increase the number of those believing in Socialism.

There are two classes in the world today—the House of Have and the House of Have-Not. To which class do you belong? With that class do your interests lie.

Socialism is the Jim Jeffries of revolutionary thought that will ultimately knock out the Corbett of capitalistic power in the world's arena through the battle of the ballots.

Ask yourself the question, Why am I Socialist? And after finding out the reason why for yourself, go out and tell it to your neighbor. The reasons given in your answer might be good ones to cause him to adopt Socialism.

Another Hold-up

The Baer syndicate of anthracite operators at Reading have issued their ukase to the miners. An abrupt cut down to half time. Well, it's their business. What right have we to interfere? They are in it for profit and know what they are about. It won't do to allow the miner to work full time. That would overstock the market and bring down the price. So the Almighty's vice-regent Baer issues his command—a two edged sword operating on the boomerang style, back and forward, back on the miner putting him and his family on half allowance, and holding the consuming public in their fetters. Well, what are we going to do about it? Grin and bear it, or shall we raise the cry of "stop thief" and bring in the power of government to apply the principle of eminent domain as is done by railroads with the farmers' land when they want a right of way. Eminent Domain is the medicine for mergers and monopolies. It's a sure purger, but prone to give the patient cramps and colic. It's the only certain remedy. Socialists propose to apply it when in power.

H. C. MOORE.

A million Socialist votes in this country will do the working class more good, will command more respect from their masters than a hundred big strikes. It doesn't cost idleness and starvation to vote like it does to strike.—Appeal to Reason.

The recipe for perpetual ignorance is: Be satisfied with your opinions and content with your knowledge.—Elbert Hubbard.

A sample is an invitation to subscribe.

The Commercial Spirit

H. C. Moore

What stronger evidence can be given of the baleful influence of the commercial spirit than is presented in the war between Russia and Japan. It was that same spirit, aggravated by clash of religious theories, that brought on the war for the dismemberment and partition of the Chinese empire, a nation that came nearer acting up to the principle of "Peace on earth, good will to man" than any other government ever established. And what were the nations engaged in this piratical grab game? To their everlasting shame let it be remembered, it was those claiming to be the followers of Him who uttered the sentiment of peace on earth, good will to man. Are our own skirts free? Did we not join this band of pirates for a share of the spoils? And how about our treatment of the Filipinos? The same greedy lust of gain, of profit, actuating the governments engaged in this system of wholesale piracy, that makes the individual a beast of prey upon his fellow man. It is the grand object of the Socialist to uproot that sentiment, and to establish on an enduring foundation Peace on Earth, Good Will to Man.

As a means of obliterating race war and race distinctions, I would follow what nature has already partially done: appropriate the grand divisions of the earth to them respectively; give the white race Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. The yellow race Asia, the Phillipines, Borneo and South America. The blacks Africa and Madagascar. Then with Socialism in effective operation, the spirit of greed subdued and no temptation to piracy, to rob each other, because of the easier means of supply for all of man's necessities and desires, we shall have eliminated all tendency to race wars. Such is the Socialists' world wide project, but our first object is to plant it in our own country, and from the light it sheds to other lands—like the light from the statue of liberty enlightening the world—lead them on to follow our example.

Don't under-rate the work done under the influence of this spirit of greed. It gave birth to commercialism that explored this whole globe for profit, introduced our semi-civilization to more barbarous races; and brought in return knowledge of valuable customs unknown to us before from their most advanced races. In this, commercialism has opened the door for the unification of the human race. It has done a great work; it has nearly completed its destiny. But in doing that it has created discord and strife between nations, races and individuals, all striving against each other for pecuniary advantage. Its final mission is the spread of harmonious intercourse between them all—the interchange of the good things one produces whether of the earth, of the intellect, or of labor, for those of the other. When this is accomplished

There is, in fact, but one crime in the universe and all varieties of impropriety whatsoever are aspects or phases of this crime. It is the crime of exploitation—the suppression of the interests, lives or welfares of some beings for the whim or convenience of others.

—J. Howard Moore.

then we may expect to see the universal reign of peace and good will to man established. And not till then can we expect it.

Let our country have the glorious renown of being the first to bring it into full operation. It deserves that distinction. It was the first to declare freedom from priestly or kingly rule. To one outside of our movement investigating it, the most important point to him is "how will the system benefit me individually?" He will admit the general picture of harmony and brotherly love its advocates present is an enticing one, but he wants a convincing showing on some of the important changes—how they may be effected. To expect to convert him by fanciful pictures of the whole system in operation is not half as effective as a single one of a change in operation. Such an one we have in our postal system. That system reaches all, accomodates all. A system of general insurance by government could be carried on with much less intricacy than the postal system, and I think the net income of all insurance companies will exceed the cost of running the entire postal system. However that may be, there is one change that can be made, susceptible of positive demonstration, of greater economy than would be done with insurance made a function of government and with railroad transportation added to the postal system.

Let me give you an illustration showing how this may be done. Everybody knows it is a favorite saying of defenders of our present financial system, that wealth cannot be legislated into existence, that if you want money, you must have something of value to exchange for it, either labor, or the product of labor. Now fancy Sioux City and the Black Hills want a direct communication by rail. Suppose Sioux City issues bonds for enough to build and equip the road, said bonds to run for twenty-one years, bearing 5 per cent. interest. Exchange these bonds with government for legal tenders. At the expiration of that time government will have received the whole amount with one year's interest for cost of currency. Then what loss would there be in destroying these bonds. With 500 miles distance at \$40,000 per mile the cost would be 20 millions; just so much wealth added to the country, and probably as much more by improvement of the country and cities and villages brought into existence along the road. Now what becomes of your financier's statement that you can't legislate wealth into existence? With Socialism in power all this capacity of wealth production will be put in operation. Don't you forget it.

Why financiers object is its interference with their business, loaning money and taking interest. With Socialism in force there will be no more making bricks without straw.

Workers by the million undergo a process of slow but certain destruction in unsanitary workshops, or in dangerous or unhealthy occupations, many of which are quite unnecessary for the need of a properly organized community.—Alfred Russell Wallace.

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SPECULATION AND GAMBLING.

It is curious to note the sophistry employed in bolstering up some of the institutions that have risen in our social life. An editorial of this kind appears in one of our daily papers.

Manipulations on the board of trade is speculation, and is legitimate; over the card table it is gambling and illegitimate. Why?

The editor explains in this wise: "The law does not make it a criminal offense to buy stocks or bonds on the board of trade when no delivery is intended, though a court of equity will not protect the transaction when it is proven that the actual delivery of the goods is not contemplated."

But who made this law? Are not ALL our laws made by these "speculators" or their paid attorneys?

"Tested by the commonly accepted standards of respectability, it is immaterial whether intention to deliver the goods exists or not. To be engaged in an occupation necessary to the service of society as now organized is respectable, though the purpose in engaging in it be to make profit and not to serve society, which may be well and fully served already by competitors.

If the business is one that can be of no service to society it is disreputable, though conducted in strict accordance with the rules of the game. Thus the professional card gambler is disreputable, though he plays a square game and though his motive, profit, corresponds to the merchant's, because, as he himself knows, he cannot serve society as a gambler."

Analyze the above quotation for yourselves and see where it leads you. Note this thought: "Though the purpose be to make profit and not to serve society." Under the present industrial system it is not always "profit" and not "service" that leads men into business, trade, speculation, gambling or whatever it may be called?

"If the business is one that can be of no service to society it is disreputable." Then why discriminate between the "speculator" in "margins" and the "gambler" in "cards"? Of what possible service to society is the speculator? Is it not rather true that he is an absolute harm to society? Do we need him? Does he "produce" anything? Does he do any useful service to his fellows? He cer-

tainly does not; therefore, according to the editor's own statement, he is "disreputable."

Here is some more sophistry: "Public opinion distinguishes between the dealer in margins and the dealer of cards so long as the former wins, or loses no money except his own. The distinction vanishes when he speculates with trust funds and loses, rendering himself unable to pay his debts."

If he wins, some one else must lose, so that there is a hardship brought to that one, and the public always suffers, though indirectly, so that it is slow to see the wrong in "the game."

The real truth of the matter is this: under the present capitalistic system, the man who wins is respectable, no matter whose money he uses; the man who loses is disreputable.

At rare intervals it so happens that the Socialist position is correctly stated by the daily press. Here is one instance of this kind:

"According to the moral standards of the Socialists, rent, interest and profit are illegitimate, and therefore all trading with a view to profit is illegitimate, whether it be merchandising, commerce across the card table or speculation on the board of trade with or without intention to deliver the goods."

When Socialism abolishes rent, interest and profit—those three leeches that are sucking the very life blood of the workers of the world—all "gamblers" and "speculators" will have to seek some useful employment, render a service of some kind to society, and thereby become "reputable" citizens.

Under present conditions, according to the test of "service," the useful people, the workers who produce for the whole world, have no standing in society—are disreputable; while the idle parasites receive all honor and adulation.

Socialism will reverse the situation, and only he or she will be of good repute who renders some useful service to the social body. We will fight it out on this line if it takes a life time. ARE YOU WITH US?

PROF. HERRON'S LECTURE

Comrade George D. Herron spoke on the evening of the 18th at Temple Hall, under the auspices of Dubuque local, on "The Crisis of Our Civilization."

He showed how nations as well as individuals are confronted by crises at different periods; that in our own national life we failed in 1898 to prove ourselves worthy of liberty by denying liberty to weaker nations.

He depicted the horrors of the sweat shops, and called attention to the fact that these conditions are responsible for the spread of tuberculosis at such an alarming rate; showing in this way our brotherhood in suffering and disease. Brotherhood is; we do not have to prove it; it only remains with us to decide the kind of brotherhood we shall have.

Touching upon trade-unionism, he said it could not be a solution of the labor problem, for it lined up the people in two classes—one forever struggling to retain its powers and privileges, the other as constantly striving to gain more for itself; this state of things is war, and war is not the natural attitude of human beings toward each other.

How capitalism carries within itself the seeds of its own destruction was graphically told. This is our approaching national crisis—whether at the inevitable breaking up of the old civilization we will be ready to substitute a better, or go back into a period of darkness similar to that which followed the decline of Rome.

Socialism is the key to the situation; it has the constructive program that will carry us through the

crisis and make us a stronger, better nation than now.

It was an impassioned, eloquent address throughout, showing the depth of feeling of the speaker, and his tenderness for suffering humanity. It was pronounced by many to be the best that has ever been given under the auspices of Dubuque Local.

The proposal to make the April number of the International Socialist Review a special convention number devoted to the discussion of the subjects to be decided at the national convention has aroused great interest throughout the country and many extra copies have already been ordered. The publishers now announce that this number will be of far greater interest and importance than was at first thought possible. Nearly all the comrades invited to contribute to the discussion have responded, as well as many others. In addition to this, an article has been received from Comrade George D. Herron on the present opportunity for the Socialist party which is a most remarkable and thorough survey of the problems and the opportunities that confront the party both from within and from without. This article will occupy some twenty pages of the Review, and not to crowd out the other communications, the April issue of the Review will be enlarged to eighty pages. The whole number will thus be a mass of information on party matters which will at once be of timely interest and permanent value. Price 10 cents a copy to stockholders 5 cents a copy. Published by C. H. Kerr & Co., (Co-operative) 56 Fifth Avenue, Chicago.

Telluride, Colo., March 17.—One hundred members of the Citizens' Alliance, after a meeting last night, armed with Winchesters and revolvers, scoured the town and took into custody between seventy and eighty union men and strike sympathizers. In some instances doors to dwelling houses were broken open. The men were herded in a vacant storeroom until 2 o'clock this morning, when all those desired had been captured. They were then marched to the depot and loaded into two coaches. As the special train departed the Citizens' Alliance fired volleys of shots into the air.

Is Colorado in America and are we living in the twentieth century?

Sam Gompers and John Mitchell have asked permission of the Denver Cooks and Waiters Union to stop at a scab hotel during their coming visit to that city. After his past offenses in dining at scab clubs with such notorious scabs as President Eliot and others, a scab hotel is the proper place for Sam. No decent union hotel ought to receive him.

In nominating this city as the place of the state convention, Dubuque Local realized the hardship to the comrades in the western part of the state, and therefore nominated July 4 when low rates may be secured. Comrades voting for Dubuque should vote for July 4.

The people who fear the working class could not run the government might learn something by reading the history of the Paris Commune, when the workers governed one of the largest cities in the world as it had never been governed before or has been since.

The difference between the capitalist and working classes is due to the indifference to its class interests of the working class.

Some men's heads appear to be so empty that they are unable to think until their stomachs are also empty.

The only "bad trust" is that of the workingman in everybody but himself.

SOCIALIST PLATFORM

Adopted at Indianapolis, Ind., 1901.

The Socialist party in national convention assembled, reaffirms its adherence to the principles of International Socialism and declares its aim to be the organization of the working class, and those in 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 capitalist 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 hostile classes—the capitalists and the 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 capitalist 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 domination, 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 democrat, 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 employees, and to the improvement of the service and diminishing the rates to the consumer.

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 government control of public utilities for the purpose of obtaining greater security in the public exploitation of other industries and not for the amelioration of the conditions of the working class.

Clubbing Offer

The Iowa Socialist for one year and any of the following papers for one year for 50 cents: *Wiltshire's Magazine*, *Coming Nation*, *Chicago Socialist*, *The Vanguard*; or the *Iowa Socialist* for one year and *The Comrade* for six months for 60 cents.

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

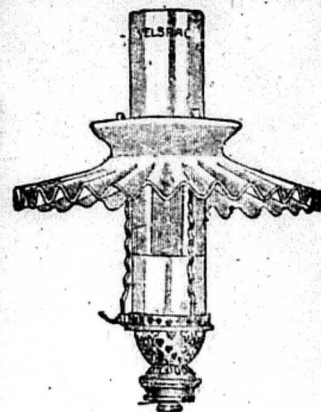
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Prof. Will Criticised

Celia B. Whitehead

In the Iowa Socialist of Nov. 28, 1903, was published an abstract of a lecture by President Thos. E. Will, of the American Socialist College, Wichita, Kansas. I read it with great interest, but with such a mixture of pleasure and pain, of approval and dissent that I asked permission, which was given, to criticise the matter in the columns of The Socialist. Till now the time for that work has never been at my disposal; and even at this late date I must, for lack of time, write with less care than the subject deserves.

In the beginning of the lecture paragraphs follow paragraphs which seem to me so wholly good and so vitally important that they cannot be too widely circulated nor too strongly emphasized. This, for instance:

"If we count on Socialism coming of itself we may repeat the example of the Israelites and fertilize the desert of capitalism with our bones. If we want Socialism we must work for it. We must realize the danger that capitalism may * * * retain its grip on society till America perishes as did imperial Rome."

And again:
"We can do nothing—and perish; or we can establish the co-operative commonwealth. And we can and should begin at once."

Up to this point I could quote with entire assent; but here we are asked: "Is anything possible until we obtain complete control of the entire country?" and the answer is given: "Nothing is possible if we wait to do this."

In a sense that is true but not, it seems to me, in the sense that we must set up little city and state Socialisms wherever we can get a majority, which seems to be President Will's idea of doing something.

I quote entire the two following paragraphs because they seem to me to hold a most important truth which is almost ignored by the Socialist party:

"A national Socialist success might easily prove a national Socialist calamity. Were we to elect a president without having previously carried numerous states we should have, at best, the president and house of representatives, but against us would be the senate and the federal courts. What then? We might compromise with these. But that would probably split the Socialist party. We might refuse to compromise. That would mean a two-year legislative dead-lock, the failure to pass even the appropriation bills, a national crisis, an unexampled opportunity for the capitalistic press, pulpit and professoriate and the certain loss of the next election. Finally, the Socialist president might take the bit in his teeth, use the practically unlimited power which resides in the sceptre of the American chief magistracy, plunge the country into war, and, as a war measure, abolish capitalism, nationally, as Lincoln abolished chattel slavery."

"But such a remedy would be worse than the disease. At best it would mean, for the time, not Socialism, but executive absolutism."

The danger here portrayed, of electing a president without the people in sufficient numbers back of him is so plain that I always marvel and grieve at the manner in which some Socialist papers and people talk about electing a president in 1908. Until the people see that any president with "practically unlimited power" means death to their liberties, Socialism is an idle dream.

But while agreeing with President Will as to the danger toward which we tend I cannot agree that the way to avoid it is to "carry local elections wherever possible." As I read his glowing words on

what Socialists might do in control of cities and especially of states I sympathized with King Agrippa who cried out to Paul: "Almost thou persuadest me." And yet, remembering that "no chain is stronger than its weakest link" is as true of a chain of logic as of any other chain, I was obliged sorrowfully to dissent from his conclusions. These pictures of what Socialists might do if in control of a city or state are very attractive, but are they true to the facts in the case? I think not. The weak link, weaker than a gossamer thread, in President Will's logic is the assumption that a single Socialist state, out of the forty-five in the union, could "insure the workers against old age, sickness and accident, and guarantee employment." If we as a state, could guarantee employment we could as a state establish a co-operative commonwealth, though that alone would not be Socialism. But no single state can guarantee employment. Any state which should undertake to do that would be a mark for the capitalists and if they are as shrewd as I think they are the jails, hospitals and poor houses would be emptied in the other states and their contents, the poor, incompetent, sick and criminal, poured in upon that state. Perhaps laws could be passed to keep them out but they would be declared unconstitutional by the U. S. supreme court. If by any possibility they escaped that fate their enforcement would be such an enormous task that no time would be left for anything else.

Does some one urge that the same objections apply to socializing a single nation, the United States, for instance? If so, I answer No, emphatically No! The United States could feed, clothe and shelter the people of all the world if every man, woman and child were free to produce and receive the equivalent of their products. Let them come, sick, lazy or what-not, and I believe we could still make a triumphant demonstration of Socialism. For one, I most devoutly invite the experiment.

It would take too long to give all the reasons why a single state cannot inaugurate Socialism and why a nation like ours might; but beside the ones already spoken of the restrictions on the financial powers of the states, both by the federal constitution and congressional statute, are such as to cripple any state which might, unfortunately, make the attempt. The story of how cruelly the colonies were hampered by the refusal of the British crown to allow them to issue their own money is graphically told in the "Private Letters of Benjamin Franklin." One wonders that after the experience they had suffered they consented to again part with the right to make money and allowed that power to be exercised solely by a central government.

No step towards the abolition of classes, without which Socialism would be merely a name, seems to be included in the things possible to a state unless it may be the initiative and referendum. Of course every Socialist elected to any legislative office should and would work for this radical change.

In closing I want to allude again to the two paragraphs beginning with, "A national Socialist success might easily prove a national Socialist calamity." With that and the sentences which follow in the quotation I most thoroughly agree. Moreover, I believe if we continue



John W. Bennett

The Engineer
Orator

Organizer and Lecturer for the
Socialist Party of Iowa

For Terms and Dates, Address:

J. J. JACOBSEN, State Secretary,
1129 12th St., Des Moines



on old party political lines and elect that most unsocialistic of all things, a president of the United States with the "practically unlimited power" referred to by President Will, we shall bring on a war the horrors of which will blot out the memory of the one that "abolished chattel slavery."

We are a revolutionary party, not merely a reform party. Our political and industrial systems must both be revolutionized, and education on both these lines must go on together. To educate the people economically and leave the political education to take care of itself or be done "after we get control of the government" is madness. To attempt either revolution first is to carry with us the germs from which the other will develop in some hurtful form. Let us be practical. As Socialists let us ignore that utterly unsocialistic thing—the presidency—and use our energies for securing a two-thirds majority in both houses of congress. With this we can laugh at the president and the supreme court. If they feel inclined to hinder our work we can tell them to go away and stay; which we probably should do in any case.

If we go on in the old party political methods we shall be placing Socialists in the positions of interpreters and administrators of capitalist laws—a sort of fusion more disastrous than pre-election fusion which we so abhor. Let us keep clear of all such unholy alliances.

When the workers unite—and in that phrase are included so many of the people that the rest do not count—they (we) can do everything. Until they do unite they (we) can do nothing. To unite the workers, therefore, is the Socialist's work.

Eugene V. Debs, Geo. D. Herron, Edward Carpenter, Jean Longuet, Enrico Ferri, H. M. Hyndman, Karl Kautsky, Jack London, and many other well known Socialists have declared The Comrade to be excellent. The Socialist press is continually recommending The Comrade, pointing out its great value to the Socialist movement. Thousands of subscribers have sent us letters expressing their appreciation. The Comrade is a publication you need, no matter what else you are reading. Each number is beautifully illustrated. Published monthly. Subscription price \$1 per year, or 50c to shareholders of The Comrade Co-operative Co. Bound volumes of The Comrade of the first and second year are \$2 or \$1.20 to shareholders, postage 30c extra. Any Socialist may acquire by monthly payments of 50c a \$5 share and thereby enjoy special rates on The Comrade and other Socialist literature. To new subscribers we make this liberal offer: For 50c we will send The Comrade for six months, and Free, the first three issues of the third volume, if this publication is mentioned. Comrade Co-operative Company, 11 Cooper Square, N. Y.

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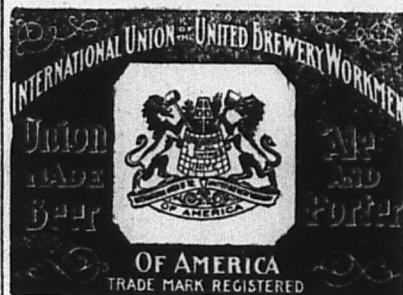
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A sample is an invitation to sub-
scribe.

LOCAL MEETINGS.

Des Moines Local No. 6 meets second
and fourth Sunday afternoons of
each month at 3:00 o'clock in Yeoman
Hall.

Davenport local meets every first and
third Friday in the month at Turner
hall. Visitors always welcome. B. W.
Wilson, Sec., 821 East 14th street.

Dubuque Local meets every Tuesday
evening at 8:00 o'clock at Socialist
Headquarters, 6th and Iowa streets.

Sioux City Local meets every Thursday
at 7:30 p. m. in Trades and Labor Assem-
bly Hall, fifth floor Opera House Block.

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Party News

National
State
Local

National Headquarters Bulletin

NATIONAL ORGANIZING FUND.
Total to noon, March 12.....\$ 40 06
Previously reported.....3021 10
Total.....\$3061 16

Another 10,000 Socialist party buttons has been ordered from the factory. The national office makes no profit out of the sale of these buttons. They are issued at cost to party officials for the purpose of keeping the party name before the people. Price, one cent each; 500 for \$3.50; 1,000 for \$6.

National Italian Organizer Silvio Origo has organized an Italian branch in Brooklyn. The meetings were not very large owing to severe snow storms. Comrade Origo has only begun his work under the direction of the national office. He writes encouragingly of the prospects among the Italians in New York and hopes to get many of them into the party.

National Bohemian Organizer Charles Pergler will be in Chicago, March 23 to 26. From there he will go to Cleveland, Ohio, where he will address a commune festival, March 27, and will stay there until April 3. He will then go to Dillonville for April 4, thence to Belleaire for April 5 to 7 and then to Wheeling, W. Va. From there he will begin work among the Bohemians in Fayette county, Pa., and work north through Westmoreland to Allegheny.

The national organizing fund has passed the \$3,000 mark and is still climbing up. When one considers that most of the amounts are only \$1.50 or less, it is quite plain that these contributions are from members of the working class who can ill afford to dispense with any part of meagre wages. They also speak eloquently of the latent power possessed by the workers and presage the great work that can and will be done by the working class when finally a majority has been aroused to action. The contributions to this fund have been a great help to the national office and if every comrade who has received a coin card will have it filled and return to the national secretary, much more work will be done than otherwise could be.

National German Organizer Robert Salties has been doing splendid work in St. Louis. Comrade Nildebrand writes from St. Louis as follows: "When Comrade Salties told us here in St. Louis about the 'dangers of winning office,' and what practical experience must needs be had in every section where our party stands a chance of coming out victorious in the near future, I felt that our national office could not do more profitable work for the stability of our party organization than to send a man with the experience of Salties into the states where the conditions point to numerous victories in the near future. I feel safe in asserting that the many valuable hints given us by Salties will help us avoid many rough places in our future travels." Salties will fill a return date at Danville, Ill., March 20, on his way to Ohio where several weeks' work await him.

Geo. E. Bigelow has had some interesting experience on his trip in Oklahoma. The meetings have been well attended and generally successful in spite of the frequent attempts on the part of republican and democratic rowdies to create a disturbance and drive the speaker out of the hall. At Orlando, Comrade Bigelow had to forcefully and personally eject two "drunks." This action precipitated several fights on the outside, but the people were evidently so accustomed to such pleasantries that the audience was not disturbed. Writing of his experience at Spencer, Comrade Bigelow says: "It is a little place of perhaps 150 people. Republicanism has gone to seed. Comrade Snyder had sixteen to hear him two weeks before. I had fifty. They sought to disturb me by talking out loud. I stood it for awhile and then scored them, after which some left, but the rest kept quiet. Those who left, however, fired rocks against the building. I reminded the ones inside that apparently the anarchists were on the outside. It was the best meeting ever held by Socialists in Spencer and no doubt paved the way for others in the future." Comrade Bigelow will fill twenty dates in Louisiana beginning at Lake Charles on March 20, after which he will fill a few dates in Mississippi and then enter Alabama.

National Organizer M. M. Wilkins reports his work in Idaho as follows: "Spoke a third time in Nampa on the 17th. Only fifty-five people present, but was told of several new converts. At Emmett where I spoke on Feb. 18 and 19 a local had been organized the preceding Saturday night, but over twenty people remained at my after meeting on the 19th. Spoke in Meridian on the 20th to twenty-five people. I believe the only Socialist meeting ever held there. I was advertised to speak at Boise 2:30 p. m., the 21st (Sunday) but I did not know I was to be there until night. At the afternoon meeting a big crowd could not get into the hall. At night it rained, but the hall was full. That was my fourth Boise meeting, and on the 23d and 24th I was at Idaho City, thirty-five miles into the mountains by stage, where I had 200 in my audience both times, and organized a local. First Socialist meeting here. Spent one day getting back to Boise and two days in helping get under way for balance of route in this state. Then started for Middle Valley, a farming community in Washington county. Big audience and I organized a local. During the month organized new locals at Nampa, Caldwell, Idaho City and Middle Valley. These, with the local at Emmett, makes five new locals for the month. Affairs are running smoothly in this state; they are bound to with an earnest, efficient, painstaking state secretary like L. E. Workman. He would be a splendid yokemate for State Secretary E. E. Martin of Washington." Many letters have been received commending the advice Wilkins gives for conducting the regular detail work of local organizations, and saying that he has showed them how to do a great deal for the cause that they had never thought of before. Wilkins

will close in Idaho near the eastern line on April 15 and will then be routed east through Wyoming and Nebraska.

Both from letters and newspaper clippings splendid reports are coming in from James F. Carey's meetings. The comrades everywhere are well pleased and many of them write that they are succeeding in getting people out who have never attended their meetings before. For those, however, who imagine that a Socialist lecturer on the road has something like a triumphal tour and finds his path lined with roses, the following account of getting from one town to another will be somewhat of a revelation: "Listen to my tale of woe. I came to this town and serenely went to a hotel, confident that in the morn all I would have to do was to take a train and arrive in Rock Island, Ill., ready to greet the multitude with a sweet smile. A horrible suspicion assailed me! Could I get to R. I. by tomorrow eve? This town is constructed on the plan that the way to get here is to arrive some distance away and then walk or ride in an arrangement that proceeds in a leisurely manner to hunt out the bumps in the road. I found the comrade whose name I had. At my earnest plea he telephoned (there are two railroads here, the C., M. & St. P. and C. G. W.—heaven bless them) from 11 a. m. until now I have been trying to find out if I could get to R. I., Ill., for tomorrow eve. It is now 4:15 p. m. I have found out. I telephoned in stores, hotel and central telephone office, but I at last had to go to the railway station myself. Then a clerk with a bad cold, between blowing his nose and barking himself into intervals of unconsciousness, informed me as follows: Leave Austin, Minn., 11:35 p. m.; arrive Mason City (Sic), 12:55 a. m. Leave Mason City, Iowa, C. R. R., 5:45 a. m.; arrive Grinnell, Iowa, 10:10 a. m. Leave Grinnell, C. R. I. & P., 1:53 p. m.; arrive Rock Island, Ill., 5:55 p. m. This is an exact copy except (Sic). Oh, this is a great job. Say, if I was to talk as I feel, 'Holy Moses!' Comrade Carey is well supplied with a stock of delicious humor, an article which every Socialist speaker should pack in his carpet bag before taking the road. Carey will close his work in Milwaukee April 2. He will then enter Michigan for eight dates, beginning at Hancock, April 4. From Michigan, he will go to Indiana. Other dates are being arranged and will be announced next week. His tour closes May 1, but a few dates will be arranged from the national convention on his way home to Massachusetts.

John W. Slayton closed his work in Colorado, March 14, and returned home to give attention to local union affairs which made it necessary to close his tour sooner than was expected. While in Colorado, Comrade Slayton had a good opportunity to judge of the terrible indignities to which the working class is being subjected. At Telluride he had to have permission from the military before being allowed to speak. Writing from Cripple Creek, Comrade Slayton says: "I mailed to you yesterday my report for February and herewith wish to make a few comments on the trial of the two miners in the alleged railroad wrecking case the verdict concerning which is now generally known. There are some features, however, connected therewith not generally known that make it one of the blackest and most infamous conspiracies on the part of the mine owners, or their paid detectives or both, that I have ever heard of. We read of the outrages directed against the men, but one must be here to sense the whole matter as it were, before it can be comprehended. These two miners, Foster and Parker, were charged with conspiring to wreck a train on which about 100 persons were riding and the only witnesses against them were the three agents—'paid sleuths' of the mine owners and one McKinney, the lowest of criminals, a most pliant tool in the hands of the other three, whose names are Beckman, Sterling and Scott. A few previous acts of theirs will make all the plainer the present case. McKinney and Scott, four years ago, told a man by the name of Creig where there was a car of high grade ore on a siding that could easily be stolen, then lay in wait for him and when he began to take it as intended, instead of capturing him they both shot him, using a rifle and a shot gun, hitting him with one bullet and thirty-six buck shot. Sterling, a few years ago, while taking two prisoners (handcuffed together) to a place of safety stopped with them at a shanty 'to rest.' Leaving his two pistols, previously provided with blanks, and taking his gun 'short railroad' affair, stepped outside; and, as designed, the prisoners seized the pistols and started for freedom, but Sterling was awaiting them and killed one, wounding the other. He then left the wounded man, still handcuffed to the dead one for eighteen hours, and after the recovery of the wounded one he swore that the prisoners attempted his (Sterling's) life and the poor devil is still in jail. McKinney swore he was induced to make the confession that he helped to loosen the rail and to implicate Parker and Foster, and that he would do most anything for money and that he would make the wrecking attempt again for \$250 and that he was a common thief and had been for years, as well as a liar. Beckman, joined the union and tried to get quite a number of the men to agree to his many schemes, one in particular was to get a half dozen other members to build some kind of a pen out in the mountains, then kidnap the most prominent mine owners and confine them there; and for weeks he tried to get some of the men to agree to do some crime so they could be trapped and thus involve the union in actual crime. The wonder is that none of them were persuaded to do so, for when one hears the many and insidious attempts that were made, and the humiliation visited on the workers here, he is amazed that through it all not one has committed a crime."

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THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS:

\$1.00 Velvet Carpets for Parlors, 79c.

75c Parlor Tapestry Carpets, 59c.

General Notes

The local at Newton, Iowa, has issued a neat leaflet with their ticket and platform. So also have the locals at Sioux City and Davenport.

Socialists of Centerville, Iowa, have nominated aldermanic candidates as follows: First ward, R. F. Rashaw; Second ward, D. E. Hayes; Third ward, Peter Strandburg.

The Socialists of South Dakota held a state convention at Sioux Falls on March 15. There were 60 delegates in attendance and a full ticket was nominated. Freeman Knowles is the candidate for governor.

Comrade A. K. Gifford, of Davenport, writes: "Davenport local is still doing business at the old stand. We have a full city ticket nominated and are doing some hustling by way of holding meetings and distributing literature. We will hold three meetings this week, to be addressed by local speakers and next week will have Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick with us for three days. Prof. Kirkpatrick's meetings will be as follows: Monday, March 28, at Kuehl's Hall in East Davenport; Tuesday, March 29, at Turner Hall, and Wednesday, March 30, at Northwest Turner Hall. We are offering to divide time with the other parties but the chances are they will not accept."

Sioux City, Iowa, March 21. Dear Comrade: We held two fine street meetings Friday and Saturday, the weather being moderate, and we distributed about 500 campaign leaflets like the one enclosed on the open shop besides the bundles of Iowa Socialists, and the most remarkable thing about the meeting was that very few of the papers and leaflets were thrown away, most of them being taken home. Enclosed you will find a letter from Comrade Christopher Grosse in relation to Freeman Knowles which he requested to have sent to The Iowa Socialist. It seems they are in very great need of a state paper which will publish party news of South Dakota. I hope that in the not distant future The Iowa Socialist will be accepted as their state paper.

J. W. WILSON.
Elkpoint, S. D., March 22. Dear Comrade: I suppose Comrade Brodkey, of Sioux City, forwarded a letter I wrote to him. At least I told him to. If he did not, let me, in short, tell you that I much regret that I was not successful in getting the South Dakota comrades to adopt your paper as our state paper. I assure you I fought hard for it, so every comrade would tell you. I enclose a clipping from the editorial columns of the Sioux City Tribune, March 21. It is worth saying, as it will refute any statements which democrats will advance to catch the unwary for Hearst, such as telling them that Hearst is a Socialist. I am myself quite sure that the Tribune is right in stating that Hearst or the democrats would check Socialism and I am fighting them therefore harder than republicans. By all means let us strive to bury the democrats.

CHRISTOPHER GROSSE.
Scranton, Iowa, March 21. Dear Comrade: Have just returned from Lake City where I attended the J. W. Bennett meeting on the 19th. Owing to conditions of securing hall, etc., were only able to have one meeting. We had a small audience, but those who listened to the engineer orator were so well pleased that whenever he returns to Lake City he will be assured of a good hearing. His eloquence, personality and logic created an impression here which opens the way for a greater hearing for all our organizers. At the close of the meeting we secured four new members for the local and several more are strongly interested in the work of the local. Comrades! When you secure John Bennett be sure to secure an audience for him. He will deliver the goods. I will say a word in regard to our state convention. There are four dates nominated, May 14, May 30, June 4 and July 4. I recognize the advantages in regard to the first date and also the disadvantages, but should that be the date of our convention I venture the assertion that not a single farmer will be present on that date. That is the season in which the farmer is planting corn and a day lost during this season may mean a loss of fifty or a hundred dollars, perhaps more to the farmer. The farmer cannot afford to leave his work at this season. Comrades! We need the farmer in this fight. His vote is as essential as that of the trade-unionist. If May 14 is the date of the convention you will have largely a trades-union Socialist convention. If any of the other dates, a

complete working class Socialist convention I am not writing this for the purpose of opposing Marshalltown as the point at which the convention shall be held but merely that the farmer way have the opportunity of being present. I recognize that the comrades nominating this date are unaware of the conditions, else they would not have named the date. I have been nominated as a candidate for delegate to the national convention but have withdrawn from the contest as has also Comrade Oakley Wood, of Lake City, because we cannot leave the farm during the first part of May. As it would be impossible to attend the national convention, so also would it be impossible to attend a state convention.

S. R. McDOWELL.

Iowa Notes

In Avery the Socialist party membership due books are called "union cards."

Send municipal election returns to the Iowa secretary, comparing vote with last fall's election.

Comrade A. E. Foreman, of Logan, has been commissioned state organizer by the state committee.

Under the auspices of the national committee, Comrade W. M. Wilkins will make a trip through Iowa in April.

Local Clinton orders another bundle of 100 Socialists. Comrade Kolar says they expect to elect at least one candidate next Monday.

Comrade Geo. R. Kirkpatrick sold a large number of I. S. sub cards during his trip in Iowa. The cards are coming in on every mail.

The organizer for Oklahoma, Comrade J. E. Snyder, has offered three days' services to Iowa while on his way to attend the Chicago convention.

From reports received from Prof. Kirkpatrick he has during his first three weeks campaigning in Iowa addressed 1,875 people and taken fifty subscriptions.

Dates for Organizer John W. Bennett: Glendon, March, 28-29; Atlantic, 30; Council Bluffs, March 31, April 1; Red Oak, 2; Clarinda, 3-4; Shambaugh, 5; Creston, 6-7; Leon, 8; Davis City, 9-10.

Referendum ballots for the election of national delegates and place and date of state convention have been forwarded to all local secretaries and members-at-large, and should have been received ere this.

The Iowa house has adopted a bill providing that but \$40 per month of a wage worker's earnings shall be exempt from garnishment. It was the grocers' lobby against the labor unions' lobby. The grocers won.

Dates for Prof. Geo. R. Kirkpatrick: Clinton, March 27; Davenport, 28-30; Newton, 31; Lehigh, April 1; Boone, 2-3; Marshalltown, 4; Van Horne, 5; Cedar Rapids, 6; Oelwein, 7; Decorah, 8; Cresco, 9-10; Mason City, 11; Northwood, 12-14.

J. J. JACOBSEN, Secretary.

Local Notes

Comrade Cameron addressed the regular propaganda meeting last Tuesday evening. Comrade Beard, of Telluride, Colo., was present and gave a short talk on the Socialist situation, past and present, in the mining districts of the state, and the future outlook. This made it a meeting of unusual interest.

Comrade Doremus was elected to give the address at the meeting next Tuesday evening. In case he is unable to be present, Comrade Carpenter will supply the eloquence on that occasion. There should be a full attendance at these meetings. With the advent of spring, and the approaching campaigns, interest and effort should be doubled.

Comrade Geo. W. Downing, of Fergus Falls, Minn., is on our list for a weekly bundle for six months.

Comrade James Hurt, formerly of Hocking, and now of Danforth, Mo., writes: "I am almost lost without your little paper, for I am very much interested in the progress of the Socialist movement in Iowa."

Smoke "The Iowa Socialist" 5c cigar. Best in the city. Give it a trial.

Thornwick Rye Equal to the Best And Better than the Rest.

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I positively cure Lost Vitality, Weaknesses, Vari-cocle, Stricture, Rectal Trouble, Blood Poison and all Urinary Diseases of men and women. I will guarantee to cure you.

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Eyes, Eyes, Only Eyes!

I examine eyes free. I fit eyes with glasses. Eyes my only subject.

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"BIFF! BING!"

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