

The Iowa Socialist

Vol. 2 No. 100

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WHY ORGANIZE

Object of Socialists in Organizing Party.

Concerted, Systematic Propaganda is The Most Effective.

The fundamental principle of the Socialist party is perfect organization. It aims to perfect the organization of both industry and government upon a scientific basis, the control to rest with the people through the Initiative and Referendum.

The need of a well organized, thoroughly equipped, uncompromising political movement of the working class is too apparent to be discussed here.

Socialist party members are often asked by those who are outside of the active membership, "Why do you organize?"

It is the duty of every member of the Socialist party to answer this question fairly and intelligently, for, when once understood, the questioner cannot help but become an active worker in the Socialist movement.

WHY SOCIALISTS ORGANIZE.

1. Because they know that by a compact organization on the political field the working class can successfully battle against the capitalist parties.

2. Because the capitalists have proved conclusively, by their organization of industry on the economic field and their political organizations on the political field, that organized effort is the bulwark of the present capitalist system and that no individual effort can be successful in overthrowing the same.

3. In order that the party may be self-sustaining financially, and therefore independent of the influence of any person, or persons, or other political parties. The dues system, which allows each member to contribute a small amount each month, goes to support the local, state and national organization.

By means of the organization the propaganda of Socialist principles is more effective and far reaching than any other method. This propaganda is conducted on the lines mapped out below.

HOW TO PROPAGATE SOCIALISM.

Hold agitation meetings indoors and outdoors when weather permits.

Circulate propaganda matter, such as literature, leaflets, cards, Socialist papers and magazines.

Hold street meetings whenever and wherever possible.

Get free "notices" and "write-ups" in all your local papers, including the labor paper, if any, a few days previous to the date of meeting.

Always have some leaflets with local and state ticket on for free distribution.

Have some pamphlets (five and ten cent ones) to sell to audience.

Always take up a collection at your meetings. You may not like the idea, but will be agreeably surprised when you see how "the other fellows" will help you along by "dropping in."

By handling the collection and sale of literature properly you can, in most cases, pay all the expenses of speaker, and thus save burdening the local comrades.

In holding hall meetings more careful preparations for the success of the meeting must be made owing to the added expense of hall and incidentals.

An excellent plan is to issue a ten or fifteen cent admission ticket and have the comrades hustle them out for two weeks previous to the meeting. In this way expenses are always made and often neat sums are realized that can be placed in local's treasury for other propaganda work. Another plan is to get the audience without charging admission and to take up a collection. The collection often amounts to more than the admis-

sion would, and especially if you have an able speaker.

DISTRIBUTE LITERATURE SYSTEMATICALLY.

Circulate leaflets, cards, stickers, magazines and party papers whenever and wherever possible.

Get a large lot of papers whenever possible. Take a certain day or evening and cover the precinct, ward or town thoroughly.

The next time follow it up with a distribution of leaflets.

Work just as systematically as possible. Have a distribution every week, every two weeks or each month. Keep it going. It will surpass the spasmodic efforts that are usually made.

Have the local arrange for the general distribution of the various pieces of literature as they are issued. Then see that a piece goes into every house in your ward, district or town.

Remember our argument about "organized effort." Don't try to do it all alone, but use the local as a basis for distributing, holding agitation meetings and supervising the general propaganda work.—From Leaflet "Why They Organize."

FABLE OF THE WOLF.

Shows Futility of Appealing To Capitalist Courts.

Aesop relates the following story:

"As a wolf was lapping at the head of a running brook he spied a stray lamb paddling at some distance down the stream. Having made up his mind to seize her, he bethought himself how he might justify his violence. 'Villain!' he said, running up to her, 'how dare you muddle the water I am drinking?' 'Indeed,' said the lamb humbly, 'I do not see how I can disturb the water, since it runs from you to me, not from me to you.' 'Be that as it may,' replied the wolf, 'it was but a year ago that you called me many ill names.' 'Oh, sir,' said the lamb, trembling, 'a year ago I was not born.' 'Well,' replied the wolf, 'if it was not you it was your father, and that is all the same, but it is no use trying to argue me out of my supper.' And without another word he fell upon the poor helpless lamb and tore her to pieces."

This illustrates not only the uselessness of organized labor trying to defend itself before capitalist courts, however just its cause may be, but the uselessness of a truthful labor paper trying to gain the support of labor leaders in the service of capitalist parties.—Worker's Gazette.

Strikers on Picket.

Chicago, Aug. 22.—Practically every striker at the stock yards went on duty as a picket today. All are working under thoroughly organized plans. A largely increased number of policemen have been assigned to the district.

It is estimated that fully a thousand strike breakers who left the yards Saturday failed to return to work today.

The packers today asked for an injunction preventing the city from interfering with their housing of employes in their plants during the continuance of the strike. The petition denied the companies were violating the law. Arguments were continued three hours today, and will be resumed tomorrow.

A Rare Opportunity

Democratic union men will have a rare opportunity this fall. They can vote for the judge who declared the eight hour law unconstitutional and one of those West Virginia coal operators who own the earth and all that is in it all at one pop. By all means give your brother unionists one more jab by voting that ticket. Then get out and howl some more. If that don't do any good, strike. Starving your family and getting a prod once in a while from a bayonet is so much more sensible than voting for your own interest. I don't think.—Boone Independent.

GAG SPEAKERS

Council Bluffs Police Arrest Socialist Orators.

Chief Claims Speakers Were Anarchistic—Will Fight It Out.

Socialism in Council Bluffs received a severe jolt last night when Charles Pierson, who was haranguing a crowd at the corner of Main street and Broadway, was placed under arrest for disturbing the peace. Pierson was taken to the station by Officer Woods on the orders of Chief Richmond, who had been listening to the man orate.

I. Goldberg, a friend of Pierson, was also taken in custody while removing the box on which Pierson had stood in making his speech. While doing so Chief Richmond asked him what he was up to. As a retort, it is stated, Goldberg informed the chief that the officer did not own the street. Chief Richmond said that he ordered Goldberg arrested for inciting a riot. Goldberg was not booked, however, at police headquarters, but was released with Pierson.

Pierson stated last night that he will secure reinforcements from the Socialists' orators of Omaha and will attempt to hold another open air meeting again this evening at 8 o'clock at the corner of Broadway and Main street. If arrested, declare they will make a test case, claiming the right of free speech under the United States constitution.

Pierson evidently had made friends here during his short stay, since several people offered to furnish bail to secure his release. Chief Richmond, however, waived their offers of assistance and turned Pierson loose, after marching him to police headquarters.

CHIEF EXPLAINS ARREST.

Chief Richmond explained his action on the claim that Pierson was speaking in such a way as to arouse anarchistic feeling, and was, moreover, causing a disturbance and blocking the street by collecting a large number of people on the corner. Chief Richmond states that Pierson made utterances to the effect that every man who had acquired property to any extent was a robber and that he made an attack on the rich men of the country.

Pierson is a traveling speaker for the Socialist party, which is supporting Eugene V. Debs for president. His home is at Louisville, Ky. He had just finished a series of night meetings at Omaha. Pierson declares his arrest and that of Goldberg to be a violation of free speech. He made the following statement of the affair to a Nonpareil reporter:

PIERSON STATES HIS SIDE.

"I had been speaking for twenty minutes, during most of which time Chief Richmond and the officer were standing and listening. Suddenly, without a word of warning, they came up and said: 'You'll have to stop; this meeting is a nuisance.' I asked if it was not the right of Americans to assemble peaceably to discuss their grievances, and I was at once placed under arrest.

"I was finally released on the threat by the chief that if another speech was attempted on the street I would be arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. The chief told Goldberg that if we wanted to hold a meeting we would have to hire a hall.

"There will be another Socialist meeting at the same place tonight and I shall attempt to speak. We will bring some members of our party over from Omaha to help us in the meeting. If arrested, we will stand trial and make a test case of it."—Council Bluffs Daily Nonpareil, Aug. 18.

Socialists Lead

The political campaign in Avery is progressing slowly and in perfect order. The Socialists are still

at the head of affairs and making the most campaign noise. The Avery politicians are all sawing wood and getting their work in on the quiet. Lewis Graham and Fisher are exercising all their strength and faculties and figuring on their future skirmishes, how to capture votes, materials and political prestige from one another. The prohibitionists and populists are the least in numerical influence and activity, so that the future campaigns will be mainly fought out between the Socialists, republicans and democrats.—Monroe County News.

AT AMSTERDAM

Demonstration of The International Solidarity of Labor.

Amsterdam, Aug. 14.—The International Socialist and Trade Union Congress opened here today. There was great applause when two of the vice-presidents, Katayama of Japan, and Plechanoff, of Russia, publicly shook hands.

Mr. Katayama, speaking in English, said: "I am glad to find a delegate here from Russia, with which country our own is waging one of the most disastrous wars that have ever done violence to the fraternity of nations. Japanese Socialists ever since 1893 have expected a Socialist revolution in Japan."

M. Plechanoff, in replying, said that the Russian people did not desire war, but the government, which was the enemy of the people, provoked Japan by its adventurous and despotic policy. Continual disasters were now Russia's just reward. Even if Russia should be victorious, M. Plechanoff said, the Russian people would be the victims, but Japan was removing one of the feet of the colossus of despotism.

The congress unanimously adopted the following resolution, proposed by a French delegate:

"At this moment, when Tsarism is stricken by war, the Socialists here greet the Russian and Japanese proletariat, sacrificed and massacred by capitalism and governments, and rely upon Socialists everywhere to oppose by all means in their power the extension or continuation of the war."

A Socialist Maker.

"This strike is the greatest educator of Socialists the world has experienced. From being unconscious Socialists, workers are awakening to the fact that they are part of this movement.

"The harsh treatment meted out to the strikers by the packers and the inhuman conditions under which the packers are willing to have the men and women work and live in the slaughter houses, has brought organized labor to the conclusion that the propertied classes have no hesitation in consigning workers to a fate worse than slavery."—President Donnelly of the Butcher's Union.

No Right to Interfere

The chief of police at Council Bluffs, who arrested a Socialist "soap-box" orator for blockading the street corner, is sending communications to the newspapers in defense of his course. He says there are about twenty kinds of Socialists, ranging from the mild-mannered sentimentalist to the bloodthirsty anarchist. Grant this and the fact remains that it is not up to the police to interfere until violence is advised. Then it becomes the duty of the police to break up the meeting, whether held on the street corner or in a hall.—Dubuque Times.

A Labor Day Edition.

The Iowa Socialist will publish a special Labor Day edition on Saturday, Sept. 3, a strong feature of which will be a powerful article by one of the foremost Socialists of the country. Another feature will be an appropriate cartoon. In bundles 60c per hundred. Orders must be in not later than Aug. 31.

VOTE FOR DEBS

Chicago Union Men Becoming Class Conscious.

Stock Yards Strike and Moneyed Democracy Are Eye-Openers.

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 18.—If the labor leaders of Chicago are talking with authority concerning the political intentions of the union men, Illinois will go republican this fall by a larger majority than ever. This does not mean that the republicans will get more votes, but that the democratic party will get fewer than it did eight and four years ago.

Socialism, according to the men nigh in labor counsels, is destined to show remarkable progress when the votes are counted in November. If there be any such increase as predicted by these men, the democratic party is the one which will sustain by far the larger loss of supporters.

There is much reason to believe the spokesmen for organized labor are talking truly. The drift of opinion is easily ascertainable by going among and talking with the rank and file of the unions in this city. There is no mistaking the fact that there is a growing sentiment that laboring men should have a party which they can call their own, and should stick to that party through thick and thin. The two old parties may as well be figuring on that contingency in politics, and be ready for it, regardless of the alleged wisdom or folly of the laboring men in going on a tangent.

Michael Donnelly, president of the striking butchers' organization, was not speaking idly when he said the stock yards strike and the attitude of the big packers were driving the laboring men to Socialism. It was not simply a case of the wish being father to the thought. Mr. Donnelly has had a chance to sound the views of the union men. His report is in line with that made by newspaper men in the course of extended investigation at the stock yards.

There need be no immediate alarm for Illinois republicans in this tendency. That party will profit by any independent political action the Socialists may take. It will hold the conservative laboring men who have already espoused its principles, who believe in sound money and a protective tariff. The democrats will lose by the new movement, because the radical labor element has voted that ticket at the last two presidential elections. It is this radical element which is aligning itself with Debsism.

The Bryan-Watson-Debs brand of voter believes that the so-called rehabilitated democracy whose Moses is Judge Parker is not the kind of democracy he wishes to vote for. On the surface there is not quite enough of red in the new democratic banner to suit him.

Edward Nockels, vice president of the Chicago federation of labor, says Judge Parker is a dispenser of buncombe in his speech accepting the democratic nomination. "The man from Esopus is not sincere," said he to a reporter. "He is handing us one thing in one hand and trying to take something out of our other hand without our knowledge or consent. What he has to say about the Colorado situation is the sheerest attempt to catch the labor vote. The man who will vote for Parker on the strength of his pronouncement on Colorado ought to have his head examined. What the laboring man ought to do and must do to advance his own interests is to have a party of his own and vote for candidates chosen by him. Until he does that he need not expect relief from the conditions that now hedge him about."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Get in an order for our Labor Day edition before Aug. 31.

The Iowa Socialist

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THE IOWA SOCIALIST PUBLISHING CO
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NATIONAL SOCIALIST TICKET.

For President,
EUGENE V. DEBS,
 Of Indiana.

For Vice President,
BENJAMIN HANFORD,
 Of New York.

PREMIUMS FOR BABIES

Another "promoter" of the "baby industry" has been made known to an appreciative world.

President Roosevelt's wail of despair over the scarcity of babies brought forth a counter-wail from some quarters for the reason that, barring the difficulty of providing food and clothes the great majority, of parents do not and cannot, under this industrial system, own their own homes, and most landlords are emphatically opposed to children in the families of their tenants.

Hence it was impossible for an admiring, patriotic public to respond properly to the president's cry for reinforcements.

The following item taken from a daily paper would indicate that another obstacle has been surmounted, at least in New York City:

New York, Aug. 19.—William C. Smith, who lives in a big house at Anthony avenue and One Hundred and Seventy-eighth street, has nearly finished a building, a block away, at Anthony avenue and Echo Place, a six-story flat house, which will be adapted especially for children. On the top floor is a huge playroom for the little folks and a large backyard has been equipped with swings and other things that appeal to the children.

Mr. Smith says that the parents of any baby born in his flat house will get a month's rent free; twins, two months; triplets, from three to six.

No doubt the "infant industry" for which the president of the "protection" party stands sponsor, will thrive mightily from the efforts in its behalf of the patriotic and fatherly Smith.

Any mother who does not appreciate such a fine thing as this offer of Smith must be laboring under an unbalanced brain condition; she has probably read something on Socialism, or listened to a "soap-box" agitator, and does not know quite where to line up—with the seemingly tender-hearted landlord, or with the people who would dispense with the luxury of premiums on babies and landlords of all kinds.

Yet Landlord Smith will probably find plenty of people still bur-

dened with the "landlord consciousness" to fill his flats, and such a spirit of rivalry may take hold of the parents that the "infant industry" may assume gigantic proportions, with undreamed of influences on the future of the human race. For instance, if triplets bring from three to six months free rent, what would "quadrupeds" bring? Why, if Smith's new business venture proves a success and spreads, it may result in twins and triplets becoming the rule and single babies the exception. Then there will be an "over-production," and the plant will have to shut down, or extend the market—labor market, for these will all be wage slaves.

In fact we have an over-production now, else how does it happen that always in case of a strike there are so many idle men ready to step in as "strike breakers?" And the labor market cannot be extended for these same conditions exist throughout the world.

Everywhere the few are in control of the means of life, and the many are divided into two parts, the employed and the unemployed, and these are constantly pitted against each other in their frantic efforts to keep alive.

It would be more to the purpose if the firm of Roosevelt, Smith & Co. would secure from the republican party now in power some substantial "protection" for the babies, old and young, that are now in our midst.

The time is coming, too, when woman will rise in her dignity as mother of the human race and tell all these masculine "meddlesome Matties" that outlining conditions of motherhood is not in their jurisdiction; that they will neither subordinate their maternal functions to the gaining of a few months rent, nor to increasing the number of wage slaves. They will demand their economic independence, relegate all paternal grannies to the rear, and arrange these little "baby affairs" in the best interest of the babies, and according to their own sweet pleasure.

AMERICAN CENSORS.

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."

On the first page we print an account taken from the Council Bluffs Nonpareil relative to the arrest of a Socialist soap-box orator in Council Bluffs by the officious chief of police of that benighted city. Comrade Lewis H. Peterson, secretary of the local at that place, who sent us the clipping, asks: "What would you advise us to do under the circumstances?" Our advice may be inferred from the quotation at the beginning of this editorial. By all means continue the meetings and the going to jail so long as the chief of police is willing to keep up the farce. He has no more right to arrest a person speaking on the streets, provided he does not blockade the sidewalks or counsel murder or violence, than he has to arrest a person for wearing clothes that may not suit his fancy. Perhaps no one knows this better than the chief of police himself. He may have been "bluffing," thinking by persecution to intimidate the Socialists from further holding meetings on the streets. This has been tried before on the Socialists at various places. Whenever they have taken the case to the courts the Socialists have been victorious, notably in Denver last year. Not only that, but it has been the means of arousing the interest of people in Socialism who had previously paid no attention to it. By all means, so long as there are police officers who are anxious to make asses of themselves let us accommodate them and profit by their assinity.

The International Socialist and Trades Union Congress opened at Amsterdam, Holland, on Sunday, August 14. It is reported there was great applause when Vice-Presidents of the congress Katakama of Japan and Plechanoff of Russia publicly shook hands. Such a thing could of course be possible only among Socialists. It is true we hear a great deal of sentimental slush about the cordiality with which sworn enemies sometimes treat each other during a lull in hostilities or when occasion throws them together. But it only emphasizes the miserable hypocrisy of it all. The Socialists alone acknowledge universal brotherhood and stand for universal peace.

If workingmen vote right this fall they will steer clear of The-open-door Roosevelt and of course they won't lose their money or their votes in any Faro-banks or allow themselves to be swindled by the "spieling" of A.-ugust B.-elmont's B.-arker and they'll—H—! Keep-away Davis. They won't Swallow Carr-oil and know their votes go to Wast-on Tibbals. There's a Curr-egan in the field with Cox, but workingmen won't have anything to do with these, so the only thing left for them to do is to cast their ballots for the Victor, E. Debs and jam-in-Ben Hanford with him. But what's in a name?

Lest you have forgotten it we rise to remind you that Henry Gasaway Davis, the democratic candidate for the vice-presidency, is one of the men in whose interest Judge Jackson, he of the blood-curdling injunctions, operated in West Virginia during the coal miners' strike two years ago. Along with Baer he supposed himself to be one of the "trustees" to whom "God in his infinite wisdom had given the control of the property interests of the country." Of course, democratic union men with rings in their noses will vote for him just the same lest by doing otherwise they "disrupt the union."

We are in receipt of a copy of the Campaign Lithograph Poster No. 2 in black and tint issued by the National Headquarters. Large portraits of Debs and Hanford occupy the foreground, while working class politics is typified by the figures of two laborers depositing their votes in the ballot box. The design is profuse in scenes illustrative of the working class character of the Socialist party. It is certain to attract attention and should be widely posted. For sale by the National Secretary. For prices see advertisement in another column.

Our Labor Day edition will contain Debs' opening speech at Indianapolis. The fact that it is Debs' is all you will want to know about it. It will undoubtedly become an historic document. Circulate it far and wide. Be sure to get in your order at this office on or before next Wednesday. 50c per hundred.

Are you selling Iowa Socialist sub cards for your local. Remember your local makes a quarter on every sub card (purchased from the state secretary) which you sell for it. Besides that, prizes will also be given to the locals disposing of most. See our offer elsewhere.

The capitalist may refuse to put the union label on the goods you have made, but he can't prevent you from putting it on your ballot.

The capitalist never scabs on his own class at the ballot box. Do you?

Prison bars cannot confine ideas.

Labor's Last Hope.

"Who would be free himself must strike the blow."

Ho! To the front ye toiling millions
 No longer cringe with servile fears;
 We who unfurl true Freedom's banner
 Say it shall wave a thousand years.

Chorus.

A thousand years freed from greed's
 crushing,
 'Tis the glad day so long foretold,
 'Tis the bright morn whose early twilight
 Patmos Isle saw in days of old.

Go to, ye rich—weep, howl in anguish,
 Long have ye drenched our eyes with
 tears,
 Long by fraud our hire ye have kept back,
 We'll keep our own next thousand years.

Chorus.

Lo! Ye condemn and kill our righteous
 Their groans ye greet with jibes and
 sneers.

Look not for double what ye give us
 Whilst we require a thousand years.

Chorus.

Ye who abound in pearls and jewels
 Well may you stand far off with fears,
 And watch the smoke of your own burnings
 While we have wealth a thousand years.

Chorus.

Who from our toil much gold have hoarded
 Caused cries that reach Lord Zebaoth's
 ears—

Know He'll avenge the wrongs ye do us,
 Making us glad a thousand years.

Chorus.

Ye who hate wrong shout the glad tidings,
 Yes, and be sure each worker hears
 The force that lies in silent ballots
 To right our wrongs a thousand years.

—A. D. Cady, Marshalltown, Ia.

Patronize our advertisers.

FREE

What

Two correspondence courses in Socialism in the American Socialist College at Wichita, Kansas, and two correspondence courses in Composition and Rhetoric in the International Correspondence Schools of Scranton, Pa., will be given away free by The Iowa Socialist on December 1, '04.

Why

Under an agreement adopted by referendum of the membership, the state committee of the Socialist party of Iowa will buy each month 200 yearly subscription cards of The Iowa Socialist at 25 cents each. Those not taken by speakers and organizers are to be bought by Iowa locals at 25c each and sold to subscribers at 50c, the local retaining the profit. Each local is required to take its pro rata share, and may secure any additional number on the same terms. Profits of The Iowa Socialist will be divided equally with state party.

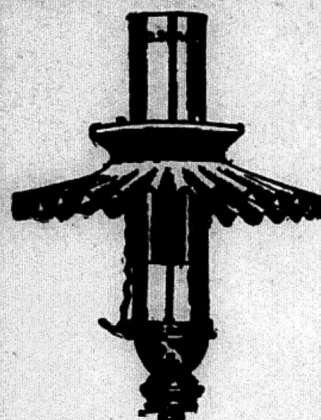
Who

The Iowa local buying the most cards from the state committee between Aug. 1 and Nov. 30 will be given its choice of a scholarship in the American Socialist College and a scholarship in the Scranton schools as described above. The local buying the next largest number of cards will be given the scholarship not taken by the first local. The Iowa local buying the most cards from the state committee between Aug. 1 and Nov. 30 in proportion to population of its town will be given its choice of two scholarships as above. The Iowa local buying the next largest number in proportion to population of its town will be given the remaining scholarship.

Wherefore

Being offered an opportunity of killing several birds with one stone, every Iowa local should at once order an extra bunch of sub cards from J. J. Jacobsen, State Secretary, 1129 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa.

A Light That is a Light

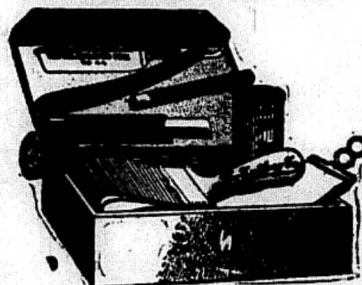


A Welsbach Gas Light is a real light—it makes a brilliance for less money than any other medium except the sun. Its favor is shown by the number of places it is being used now where a short time ago it was unknown. Now you will find a Welsbach in almost every home. It is there because it gives so much more light for less or the same money

IT IS: Best for the eye
 Best for the Pocketbook

Key City Gas Co.

\$3.00 for this Set.



Fox Cutlery Co., (Of New York)
 Dubuque, Iowa.

MACKENZIE,
 PHOTOGRAPHER.

"BIFFI BINGI!"

This is the motto of the new Socialist Monthly,

BOSWELL'S NUGGETS,

Published at Springfield, Ill. No long winded articles. Everything bright, crisp and full of meaning. Each number brim full of Cartoons. 15 cents per year. Send for sample. Note—Send 50 cents to The Iowa Socialist for both papers for one year.

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Socialism is the greatest subject of the greatest age of history. It may be studied by correspondence. The American Socialist College provides excellent facilities at a low cost. Address for information, THOMAS E. WILL, Pres., 209 Sedgwick Building, Wichita, Kans.

The Iowa Socialist in bundles at fifty cents per hundred. Express prepaid.

AT LAST WE HAVE THE YANKEE "MERRIE ENGLAND."

ITS TITLE IS

"Socialism Made Plain."

BY ALLAN L. BENSON,

Author of "Confessions of Capitalism."

MR. BENSON was formerly editorial writer on the New York Journal, being a master of plain, direct and thought-compelling English. "Socialism Made Plain" fairly sparkles with these qualities, and is of all books, the one to put in the hands of the man you are trying to convert. After leaving Hearst's Journal, Comrade Benson determined to become a master of the Socialist philosophy and the present book is the result of a vast amount of study rendered into every day English for the every day man to read and understand. It is as graceful in diction as it is clear and direct. The book has a great mission before it.

136 pages. It is a big book and other publishers would charge 25 cents and not be overcharging at that. But to give it a large circulation and to enable everyone, no matter how limited his means, a chance to purchase a copy, we have set the price at 10 cents.

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MILWAUKEE, WIS.

IMPRESSIONS

By the
Socialist
Laird

The Democratic Platform After eight years of the "silence of the tomb," the document resurrected by the one-time democratic party at the St. Louis convention is a fitting "platform" for the expiring donkey—which rests upon a class of expiring donkeys, to make its last stand upon.

Karl Marx begins his brilliant monograph, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," with Hegel's statement "That all great historic facts and personages recur twice," and adds "Once as tragedy, once as farce."

The rule is here reversed, the farce of the "Sage of Princeton," the tragedy of Parker.

The reorganized democracy is a tragedy, because with the last bray of the present campaign it will meet with a tragic end.

Its platform consists of a meaningless jumble of words.

We will not dwell upon the extended enumeration of "principles of democratic faith," "trial by jury," "equality before the law," etc. These so-called "sacred principles" have for the workers an existence on paper only. Let us turn from these repeatedly violated "principles" to the heart and soul of the democratic platform in its stand upon the labor question.

Here we are informed that "Labor and capital are essential to each other; that each must have its just share of the product; that they (labor and capital) should not be enemies; that each has its rights, but the rights of labor are no less vested, no less sacred and no less inalienable than are the rights of capital."

Thus speaketh the lop-eared donkey.

You have heard of the science of political economy often defined as the science of government. I prefer to think of it as that specific branch of science which treats of the best method by which the capitalist can exploit the worker.

You have heard of capital often defined "as that part of wealth used to produce more wealth," which implies that capital is an active agency in production, which is a lie!

Capital is simply stored up labor. Without labor capital could never have existed, and the only adequate definition of capital in existence is that "capital is that part of wealth used to exploit labor."

There are two kinds of capital, first, "variable;" second, "constant."

"Variable capital" consists of the wages paid the working class by the capitalist class.

"Constant capital" consists of buildings, machinery, etc.

The capitalist utilizes part of his capital (variable) to purchase labor—to hire laborers and employes;—exploits them with his constant capital.

The capitalist class has all the capital—land, buildings, machinery, money, etc.

The working class has all the labor power.

The capitalist class buys the workers' labor power with money representing previously expended labor power, and employs the workers with machinery previously produced by labor power, and takes the workers' product. And all this for what?

A miserable, starvation wage; "only that and nothing more."

And how is the capitalist class enabled to drive this unequal bargain? In one way—and only one—through its ownership of capital—through its private ownership of

"that part of wealth used to exploit labor."

And this capital; this stored-up labor, which if justice was done, would belong to the workers who produced it, we are told has rights. And this by the democratic party, "the party of the common people," whose one-time leader, Wm. Jennings Bryan, bitterly opposed the crucifixion of the "common people" on a "cross of gold," but who today upholds a party which he himself declares to be prostituted by the Wall street plutocracy.

Shades of "Jeffersonian democracy," rise from thy grave and behold the degeneracy of thy noble donkey.

Through their ownership of "capital" the capitalist class rob and degrade the workers of the world, and this robbery will never be abolished by palliatives or by reforms. You can never reform rottenness.

It will only end when the workers take possession of "capital," return it to its rightful position as "wealth," and abolish its power of exploitation by making it collective property of all mankind. If, as workingmen, you wish "capital" to remain private property; if you wish to continue to be robbed of four-fifths of your product; if you wish "rags" to be your gift to posterity, as they are your heritage today, then vote the republican or democratic ticket, and "rags" will you receive.

If, on the other hand, you wish to be free, to receive the full product of your labor, to close your eyes upon a better world than you opened them upon, a world of comradeship and fellowship, wherein the voice of the master and wail of the slave will no longer be known and the poets dream

"Where the war drums beat no longer,
And the battle flags are furled,
In the parliament of man,
The federation of the world"

will have become a realization rather than a utopian dream, then vote for Debs and Hanford, for Socialism, for the Socialist party, the only party that stands and ever will stand for the working class.—O. C. Wilson.

The Sphinx There is a certain old fable regarding the Sphinx which men have been interpreting after a different fashion ever since they began to preach and write. The Sphinx was said to sit in the highway and put riddles to all who came.

Whoever could not answer was swallowed alive; whoever solved the riddle slew the Sphinx.

The Sphinx lived a long time. Under many forms it lives yet. It will continue to live until men quit relying upon institutions and begin to rely upon themselves.

We commonly say that men are the product of their environment. This is true of the mass. It is usually so nearly true that the phrase has become conventional.

Yet it is not wholly true. If it were wholly true progress would be impossible; men would forever go on accepting conditions as they find them, struggling merely for individual supremacy.

Men are born who are the product of their environment;—plus. These are the ones who open wide their eyes at the Sphinx's question. They are the ones through whom progress rises. There is in them that element of greatness which is never made by institutions. It is a spark of Promethean fire.

There lies enfolded deep in ev-

ery man, covered by the slag of ignorance and wrapped in the veil of superstition, this divine inextinguishable spark; this spark which has only to be fanned into flame to make the environment the product of the man. All the great initiators mark the possibilities of the race. What one man has done another may do.

To rise superior to your environment is to slay the Sphinx.

To go on day by day thinking the thoughts that are in the copy-books, following the immorality of conventional morality and believing that men are religious because they profess to be so, is to be swallowed by the Sphinx and to reside in the dark caverns of his body.

Independent intellectual and moral choosing is the only weapon that can slay him. When you have these qualities you have a man.

Every fact, every event of life, puts a question to every man. Every problem must be solved by each person.

You cannot creep into heaven over the back of a crucified carpenter. The kingdom of heaven is within you. It is not a locality. It is a state of mind.

Unless you, by your own individual moral and intellectual striving, lift the cloud of indifferent ignorance that constitutes modern social environment; unless you shock it into sensibility by the mighty blows of understood facts, you are only another carcass for the Sphinx's feasting.

We can slay the Sphinx only by collective action. We must starve him to death by taking his food from him. When there lives not a man who cannot answer his questioning there will then be none left to swallow.

When the race marches in solid phalanx toward the Sphinx it will find that the Sphinx is but a shadow—a phantasy.

The name of the Sphinx is Ignorance.—Franklin H. Wentworth.

Literary Note The opening article in the August International Socialist Review by Ernest Untermann on "The Ethics of Historical Materialism" is one of the most suggestive and instructive discussions of Socialist Philosophy that has appeared for some time. It shows that the ethical foundation of Socialism is based on a much firmer foundation than is commonly realized. Algernon Lee gives a sharp, clear reply to Robert R. LaMonte's attack on the trade union policy of the Socialist party, showing that the unions are a present fact which must be dealt with and cannot be theorized away. The second installment of the articles on "Industrial Concentration in the United States" by A. M. and May Wood Simons, covers the period of the Civil War, and presents for the first time in printed form the industrial side and results of the great struggle, showing its importance in the formative period of American capitalism. In a somewhat lighter vein than most of the contents of the International Socialist Review is the first series of "Letters from a Pork Packer's Stenographer." In a sharp, entertaining and chatty manner the inside workings of the great meat trust are laid bare. There are numerous other articles and the usual departments. Charles H. Kerr & Company, 56 5th Ave., Chicago. \$1 a year, 10c a copy.

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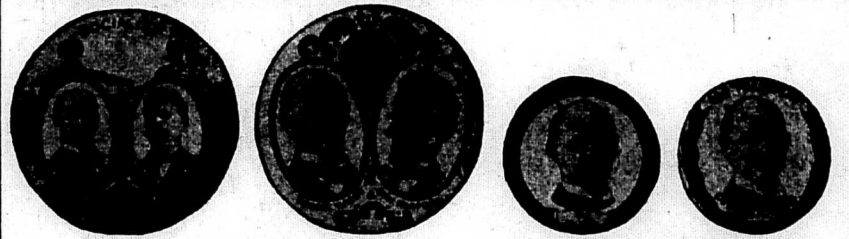
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