

MISSOURI SOCIALIST.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ST. LOUIS.

St. Louis, Mo., Saturday, February 2, 1901.

Number 5.

UNITY CONVENTION

Of all Socialists is Now Made Possible— Chicago Convention Issues a Call.

The Question of a Unity Convention Being Submitted to Their Membership by Both Factions—The Outcome Sure to be Unity.

After several months of discord in the Socialist movement of America, here at last appears a reasonable prospect of settling internal dissensions and uniting the Socialists of the country into one strong and powerful organization. Last December the Springfield Provisional Committee, acting under its constitution, upon the demand of five Locals, submitted to a vote of the members a series of questions covering the calling of a convention of all Socialists. The Locals affiliated with the Springfield committee are now voting on these propositions and the result is sure to be in favor of unity. At the convention just held in Chicago, January 15, of the members of the Chicago N. E. B. resolutions were adopted submitting to their membership the question of calling a unity convention on September 2nd in Indianapolis. This will no doubt carry.

While the Chicago resolutions are, to say the least, rather arbitrary in naming the date, place and basis of representation, regardless of the wishes of members of the Springfield faction, this little act of pettiness will fortunately not prevent the calling of the convention, because the propositions submitted by the Springfield committee if carried will enable the committee to accept the date and place and representation so arbitrarily named.

The Chicago resolutions are published below and the referendum submitted by the Springfield committee is in the hands of the rank and file, and if the Socialists of America are alert and watchful they can secure unity.

The Chicago Resolutions.

Whereas, The Socialists of the United States are at present divided into several parties, whose essential principles are identical, and such division is productive of ceaseless friction that tends to weaken and retard the progress of the Socialist movement; therefore, be it

Resolved, that a more thorough organization of Socialists is demanded, and that for the purpose of effecting the same a general convention be called to meet as hereinafter provided:

First, The call for the convention herein proposed shall be subject to a referendum vote by our party, the same to be submitted to the several branches and voted upon not later than February 25, and due returns therefrom made to the national executive board without delay, and if approved by a majority vote of the members, the same shall be certified by the national secretary to the national secretary of the Socialist Labor party, the national secretary of the Social Democratic party, with headquarters at Springfield, Mass., and to the state secretary of each of the several unattached or unaffiliated state and territorial parties.

Second, The convention herein called shall be held in the city of Indianapolis, Ind., beginning on the second Tuesday in September, 1901, and shall include the Socialist Labor party, with headquarters in the city of New York; the Social Democratic party, with headquarters at Springfield, Mass.; and the several unattached or unaffiliated state and territorial Socialist parties.

Third, The basis of representation shall be as follows:

- 1—Each branch, local or section, shall be entitled to as many representatives as the individual members thereof in good standing may select for that purpose; provided, that each representative shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each member whose signature is attached to his credential; and provided further, that no member shall have his signature attached to more than one credential.
- 2—Branches not sending their own representatives may select those of other branches of the same state to represent them; provided, that in each such case the representative shall hold the proper credential with the signatures of members attached as herein provided.
- 3—No member shall be qualified to serve as representative or be entitled to representation who has not been a member of the party at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of the convention.
- 4—All signatures of members attached to credentials shall be certified to by the chairman or secretary of their respective branches.
- 5—The national secretary shall furnish each branch with a sufficient number of blank credentials for the purpose herein specified.
- 6—No branch shall be represented unless organized at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the convention.
- Fourth, If the convention herein proposed is not approved by at least one other national party herein named or by at least three (3) unattached or unaffiliated state or territorial parties on or before June 1, then these resolutions shall be null and void and this call shall stand revoked.
- Fifth, That a committee of five (5) be chosen by this convention to make the necessary arrangements for the proposed convention, if the same be held.
- Sixth, That the results of said proposed convention, if held, shall be reported to our branches by the committee herein designated and a referendum vote taken upon the same, and if approved by a majority vote of the members of our party, such shall be the verdict of the party and the books,

papers, moneys and all other property in possession of the national party shall be delivered up to such officers or boards as may be chosen at the said convention to receive the same; if less than a majority of the members of our party vote in favor of said report the same shall be rejected and the party shall proceed as heretofore.

OVER THE WIRE.

Fort Worth, Tex., Jan. 20.—For months efforts have been successfully made to unionize all kind of labor. This accomplished, demands for shorter hours, more pay and other concessions were made. An order was recently issued by the Building Trades' Council that all work on buildings should be union or the union men would strike. As a test a non-union plumber was sent to work on the Carnegie library building. All the other workmen were at once called out. They were chiefly steam fitters from St. Louis. The Builders' Club met last night and resolved that it would not employ any workman belonging to a union in affiliation with the Building Trades' Council or Trades' Assembly. Notices have already been sent to unions in other towns trading in this city to boycott builders, building material dealers and architects, of Fort Worth. Practically all of the building of this city is suspended.

Paris, Jan. 29.—At the coal mines of Montceau-Les Mines the situation continues to present serious aspects. The miners' demand for increased wages is still rejected by the owners. Only 100 men are at work out of 15,000. Troops have been sent to control the situation. The miners have issued a circular to the soldiers, the tone of which recalls the bloodiest days of the revolution. The workers appeal to the soldiers to espouse the cause of their brothers, the miners. The appeal concludes:

"You were workmen yesterday. It is possible you will be workmen again tomorrow. Will you fire on us as we have done at Fourmies? Our cause is your cause. Will you not support us and refuse to point your rifles at your unfortunate brothers? Long live fraternity!"

Paris, Jan. 29.—The Metropolitan Railway employes have gone on strike and the running of trains is indefinitely suspended. Companies of soldiers occupy the stations.

Socialism in the Northwest.

Milan, Wash., Jan. 20th.
Dear Comrade:
Comrade Spring, organizer for this state, was our guest week before last. He organized a Local here with twenty members, all timber men. He spoke in a hall at Milan and in a school house at Dry Creek. At the latter place we had an exceptionally good meeting, considering the severe weather (20 below) and the distance people had to go to make up a crowd. Some came four and five miles through snow and cold. The school house was beautifully illuminated by black greasy looking lanterns; the coal oil was so chilled that the lanterns did more smoking than lighting. The speaker made a good talk, however, but he had to wet his guzzle with ice water and had a job breaking the ice every time. Socialism is growing rapidly around here. This neighborhood polled two votes; now it has a branch of twenty members, and that many more in prospect. Spokane had a Socialist revival last week. Spring spoke there four times and the hall was packed every night. Send a few sample copies of Missouri Socialist and I will get you some subscribers.
R. C. GAST.

SOCIALIST NUGGETS.

By LEON GREENBAUM.

In consideration of his humane services in ending the steel war, Mr. Carnegie has received the privilege to steal 25 millions.

The British are running Italian anarchists out of England while the Boers are running British anarchists out of Africa.

A factory at Washington, Ind., starts up with prayer. This is probably to counteract the curses with which it closes down.

Chicago is horrified because children being tempted with a confection of tobacco mixed with chewing gum, is tobacco any worse for children than the marble dust and chemicals which we sold everywhere as candy? But we must have an incentive at any cost.

President McKinley has just celebrated his 58th birthday, which was very thoughtful on his part, as it was not celebrated by anybody else, especially the fellows who voted for a full dinner pail.

A coroner's inquest has declared that Murray H. Hall, the female Tammany politician, "died from natural causes and was a lady." To be sure! She couldn't be a Tammany politician and be a gentleman.

"Ordinary capitalist is Bryan and Commoner is his profit."

The Chronicle howls that St. Louis is being sandbagged on account of a quarter per cent too high interest, but it carefully suppresses the fact that the workers of the city are fleeced fifty cents out of every dollar's worth of value they produce. A kick about too high interest pleases the capitalist and what pleases the capitalist pleases "pay dirt" for a newspaper. Any exposure of the fleecing of the working class wouldn't be believed by the wage slaves, who like their salary and a full dinner pail, and won't allow politics in the union.

The breach widens between Meriwether and Wilson for the Municipal Ownership Majority nomination, and it is now almost certain that Reformer Billy Ryder will be called in as a peace-maker.

The London Times is afraid that Great Britain isn't making a living because the imports exceed the exports; or, in other words, more capital is coming into England than is going out. It reminds me of the starving man, who died from indigestion, on account of eating too much.

The retail grocers of St. Louis object to the sale of groceries in department stores. It is now in order for the butchers, saloonkeepers, cigar dealers, candy dealers, etc., to object to the sale of meats, liquors, cigars and candy in the grocery stores. Clear the track, you small fry. You're obstructing in the road of progress. The department store is the locomotive that draws the train of modern civilization; that is headed straight for Socialism.

As Grand Chief of the Railroad Trackmen John J. Wilson believes that laboring men must organize to protect themselves from capitalists, but as manager of the Municipal Ownership Party John E. Wilson is now organizing his organization by organizing capitalists to protect the interests of the capitalist class at the expense of the working class. Wilson comes off the perch!

Chinese Capitalism vs. American Capitalism.

An Allegorical Joint Debate Between Dr. William Russell Scarritt of St. Louis and Minister Wu Tung Fang of China.

Minister Wu Tung Fang has been stirring up a hornet's nest in Christendom. This is the Chinese gentleman who was recently wined and dined at the local capitalist 400 of St. Louis, which monkish adulation has been repeated all over the country. But it seems the wining and dining of Wu Tung Fang by the "smart set" recently reached a climax at Carnegie Hall, New York; the foreign gentleman said some things in "horrid taste you know," and now he is in "bad form," which is a capitalist term for social isolation and ostracism, compared to which Robinson Crusoe and his island were heaven. Now what was it that Wu Tung Fang said that should have rendered him a pestilent object in the estimation of capitalism? Why it seems that the innocent and artless Oriental had the hardhood or folly (it matters little which), to make a comparison of Confucian civilization with Christian civilization (of the American bred), invidious and disparaging to the latter and in the enemy's country too! As a consequence, Wu Tung Fang has been the target of the pious pulpitanisms of every denomination and they are making a fine mess of it. There is hardly a charge that the assailants of Wu Tung Fang make against Confucian civilization that cannot be repeated with equal force against Christian civilization, and the only Oriental cognizant of the trap into which he has led his antagonists, gives out newspaper interviews, sparkling with artful and keen thrusts, each of which undoes his adversaries and makes them the laughing stock of the world. As a means of conveying to the reader the paradoxical utterances of the Christian ministers of this country, there is herewith quoted a sermon delivered by Dr. William Russell Scarritt at St. George's Episcopal Church, St. Louis, on Sunday, January 27, and published in the Globe-Democrat of the following day. In the next column, by deadly parallel, is a transposition of the same sermon, as it spoken by Wu Tung Fang at Carnegie Hall, New York. After reading the two articles, the reader is requested to ask himself these questions: First, Is Confucian civilization guilty of the charge brought by Dr. William Russell Scarritt? Second, Is Christian civilization guilty of the charges made by Wu Tung Fang (alias W. R. Scarritt)? Gentlemen of the jury, you are instructed by the Court to bring in a verdict according to your reason and conscience and pronounce sentence according to the ethics of Socialism.

Reply to Mr. Wu.

A reply to Minister Wu Tung Fang's recent criticism of Christianity was made in the pulpit of St. George's Episcopal Church yesterday morning by Dr. William Russell Scarritt, who has recently been made curate at St. George's.

"About the 10th of December," he began, "His Excellency, the minister to the United States from China, delivered a lecture in Carnegie Hall before the Ethical Society of New York. It was mainly intended as a comparison of Confucianism with Christianity. Mr. Wu addressed a large congregation, and took occasion to speak of the missionaries in such a way as to call forth the laughter of his hearers. And this at the very hour almost when memorial services for martyred and murdered missionaries—the noblest men, the sweetest and loveliest women—were taking place in our principal cities. It is not only without a parallel in all history, but it is a curiosity for the American people to consider. We are a very good-natured people, we Americans. Such a thing would not have taken place in any other country in the world. It has never before taken place in the 6000 years of history. And this minister was carried in state over the country, he was wined and dined, he was honored. We can only question whether these honors were intended for a man who is a representative of the nation that has murdered our best men, women and children, or whether they are intended for a man who has made light of the missionaries whose wives, sisters and mothers are mourning for them in the principal cities of the land. I do not think our American people have considered this very much."

The speaker, in a half-humorous way, declared that such conduct as this on the part of Mr. Wu was possibly an exemplification of the pagan theory that good or evil was only a matter of taste.

"And Mr. Wu makes no allusion whatever—and it is well that he did not—to the state of women throughout the whole state of China—a thing we can hardly think of without shame and awe. The best authorities tell us of hundreds of thousands of prostitutes of thousands upon thousands of cases of infanticide, thousands of divorce cases, disclosing the existence of polygamy among hundreds of thousands of the so-called better classes—the capitalist class—the educated."

There is no such thing as social life for millions of people in America.

What is the state of the children? The highest and the lowest among females must pass through the ordeal of coarsened and crushed bodies, so that they are deformed through life, to say nothing of the pain. Is it the highest growth of civilization that it can not drive out such a hideous, unspeakable torture? Chinese women commit suicide by scores and hundreds. This is a common thing. It is well known, but silence about it on the part of Mr. Wu is very proper, I suppose. And so we might go on giving the fruits of Confucianism. By their fruits ye shall know them. Is there to be found in China, to-day, under Confucianism, one hospital, one place of refuge for the blind, one place for the aged? Absolutely none."

The preacher closed with a few words of pity for the Chinese because of their lack of Christian teaching.

Reply to Dr. Scarritt.

(Allegorical Transposition.)

A reply to Dr. William Russell Scarritt's recent criticism of Confucianism was made at Carnegie Hall yesterday morning by Minister Wu Tung Fang. "About the 1st of January," he began, "Dr. Scarritt delivered a sermon in St. George's Episcopal Church, St. Louis. It was mainly intended as a comparison of Christianity and Confucianism. Mr. Scarritt addressed a large congregation and took occasion to speak of the Chinese in such a way as to call forth the laughter of his hearers. And this at the very hour almost when memorial services for martyred and murdered Chinese—the noblest men, the sweetest and loveliest women—were taking place in our principal cities. It is not only without a parallel in all history, but it is a curiosity for the Chinese people to consider. We are a very good-natured people, we Chinese. Such a thing could not have taken place in any other country through. Socialists demand that in the world. It has never before taken place in the 6000 years of history. And these missionaries were carried in state over the country, were wined and dined, were honored. We can only question whether these honors were intended for men who represent the nation that has murdered our best men, women and children, or whether they were intended for men who have made light of the Chinese, whose wives, sisters and mothers are mourning for them in the principal cities of China. I do not think the American people have considered this very much."

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American women commit suicide by hundreds and thousands. This is a common thing. It is well known, but silence about it on the part of Mr. Scarritt is very proper, I suppose. And so we might go on giving the fruits of Christian capitalism. By their fruits ye shall know them. Is there to be found in America to-day, under Christian capitalism, one place where disease and poverty do not dwell together, where the blind and crippled poor are not fed and cured on the highway, where the aged poor are not considered a useless impediment, a piece of human furniture that has outlived its usefulness and should be thrown upon a scrap heap in a graveyard, the sterner the better? Absolutely none."

The speaker closed with a few words of pity for the American capitalist class because of their lack of Confucian teaching.

The Communist Manifesto.

By Carl Marx and Frederick Engels.

A Historic Document Which Every Socialist Should Study.

(Continued from last week.)

The bourgeoisie cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society. Conservation of the old modes of production in unaltered form, on the contrary, the first condition of existence for all earlier industrial classes. Constant revolutionizing of production, uninterrupted disturbance of all social conditions, everlasting uncertainty and agitation, distinguish the bourgeois epoch from all earlier ones. All fixed, fast-frozen relations, with their train of ancient and venerable prejudices and opinions, are swept away; all new ones become antiquated before they can ossify. All that is solid melts into air, all that is holy is profaned, and man is at last compelled to face with sober senses his real conditions of life and his relations with his kind.

The need of a constantly expanding market for its products chases the bourgeoisie over the whole surface of the globe. It must nestle everywhere, settle everywhere, establish connections everywhere.

The bourgeoisie has through its exploitation of the world's market given a cosmopolitan character to production and consumption in every country. To the great chagrin of Reactionists, it has drawn from under the feet of industry the national ground on which it stood. All old-established national industries have been destroyed or are daily being destroyed. They are dislodged by new industries, whose introduction becomes a life and death question for all civilized nations; by industries that no longer work up indigenous raw material, but raw material drawn from the remotest zones; industries whose products are consumed not only at home, but in every quarter of the globe. In place of the old wants, satisfied by the productions of the country, we find new wants, requiring for their satisfaction the products of distant lands and climes. In place of the old local and national seclusion and self-sufficiency, we have intercourse in every direction, universal interdependence of nations. And as in material, so also in intellectual production. The intellectual creations of individual nations become common property. National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible, and from the numerous national and local literatures there arises a world literature.

The bourgeoisie, by the rapid improvement of all instruments of production, by the immensely facilitated means of communication, draws all the nations into civilization. The cheap price of its commodities is the heavy artillery with which it batters down all Chinese walls, with which it forces the barbarians' intensely obstinate hatred of foreigners to capitulate. It compels all nations, on pain of extinction, to adopt the bourgeois mode of production; it compels them to introduce what it calls civilization into their midst; i. e., to become bourgeois themselves. In one word, it creates a world after its own image.

The bourgeoisie has subjected the country to the rule of the towns. It has created enormous cities, has greatly increased the urban population as compared with the rural, and has thus roused a considerable part of the population from the idocy of rural life. Just as it has made the country dependent on the towns, so it has made barbarian and semi-barbarian countries dependent on nations of bourgeois, the East on the West.

The bourgeoisie keeps more and more going away with the scattered state of the population, of the means of production, and of property. It has agglomerated population, centralized means of production, and has concentrated property in a few hands. The necessary consequence of this was political centralization. Independent, or but loosely connected provinces, with separate interests, laws, governments and systems of taxation, became lumped together into one nation, with one government, one code of laws, one national class interest, one frontier and one customs tariff.

The bourgeoisie, during its rule of scarce one hundred years, has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together. Subjection of nature's forces to man, machinery, application of chemistry to industry and agriculture, steam navigation, railways, electric telegraphs, clearing of whole continents for cultivation, canalization of rivers, whole populations conjured out of the ground—what earlier century had even a presentiment that such productive forces slumbered in the lap of social labor?

We see then: the means of production and of exchange on whose foundation the bourgeoisie built itself up, were generated in feudal society. At a certain stage in the development of the conditions of production and of exchange, the feudal organization of agriculture and manufacturing industry, in one word, the feudal relations of property, became no longer compatible with the already developed productive forces; they became so many fetters. They had to be burst asunder.

Into their place stepped free competition, accompanied by a social and political constitution adapted to it, and by the economical and political sway of the bourgeois class.

A similar movement is going on before our own eyes. Modern bourgeois society with its relations of produc-

tion, and is swamped in the competition with the large capitalists, partly because their specialized skill is rendered worthless by new methods of production. Thus the proletariat is recruited from all classes of the population.

The proletariat goes through various stages of development. With its birth begins its struggle with the bourgeoisie. At first the contest is carried on by the individual laborers, then by the work-people of a factory, then by the operatives of one trade in one locality against the individual bourgeois who directly exploits them. They direct their attacks not against the bourgeois conditions of production, but against the instruments of production themselves. They destroy imported wares that compete with their labor, they smash to pieces machinery, they set factories ablaze, they seek to restore by force the vanished status of the workman of the middle ages.

At this stage the laborers still form an incoherent mass scattered over the whole country and broken up by their mutual competition. If anywhere they unite to form more compact bodies this is not yet the consequence of their own active union, but of the union of the bourgeoisie, which class, in order to attain its own political end, is compelled to set the whole proletariat in motion, and is, moreover, yet for a time, able to do so. At this stage, therefore, the proletariat do not fight their enemies, but the enemies of their enemies, the remnants of absolute monarchy, the landowners, the non-industrial bourgeois, the petty bourgeois. Thus the whole historical movement is concentrated in the hands of the bourgeoisie, every victory so obtained is a victory for the bourgeoisie.

But with the development of industry the proletariat not only increases in number; it becomes concentrated in greater masses, its strength grows, and it feels that strength more. The various interests and conditions of life within the ranks of the proletariat are more and more equalized, in proportion as machinery obliterates all distinction of labor, and nearly everywhere reduces wages to the same low level. The growing competition among the bourgeois, and the resulting commercial crises, make the wages of the workers ever more fluctuating. The unceasing improvement of machinery, ever more rapidly developing, makes their livelihood more and more precarious; the collisions between individual workmen and individual bourgeois take more and more the character of collisions between two classes. Thereupon the workers begin to form combinations (trade unions) against the bourgeois; they club together in order to keep up the rate of wages; they found permanent associations in order to make provision beforehand for these occasional revolts. Here and there the contest breaks out into riots.

Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. The real fruit of their battles lies not in the immediate result, but in the ever improved means of communication that are created in modern industry and that place the workers of different localities in contact with one another. It was just this contact that was needed to centralize the numerous local struggles, all of the same character, into one national struggle between classes. But every class struggle is a political struggle. And that union, to attain which the bourgeois of the middle ages, with their miserable highways, required centuries, the modern proletarians, thanks to railways, achieve in a few years.

This organization of the proletarians into a class, and consequently into a political party, is continually being upset again by the competition between the workers themselves. But it ever rises up again; stronger, firmer, jointer. It compels legislative recognition of particular interests of the workers by taking advantage of the divisions among the bourgeoisie itself. Thus the ten hours' bill in England was carried.

Altogether collisions between the classes of the old society further, in many ways, the course of development of the proletariat. The bourgeoisie finds itself involved in a constant battle. At first with the aristocracy; later on, with those portions of the bourgeoisie itself, whose interests have become antagonistic to the progress of industry; at all times with the bourgeoisie of foreign countries. In all these countries it sees itself compelled to appeal to the proletariat to ask for its help, and thus to drag it into the political arena. The bourgeoisie itself, therefore, supplies the proletariat with weapons for fighting the bourgeoisie.

Further, as we have already seen, entire sections of the ruling classes are, by the advance of industry, precipitated into the proletariat, or at least threatened in their conditions of existence. These also supply the proletariat with fresh elements of enlightenment and progress.

Finally, in times when the class struggle nears the decisive hour, the process of dissolution going on within the ruling class, in fact within the whole range of old society, assumes such a violent, glaring character, that a small section of the ruling class cuts itself adrift and joins the revolutionary class, the class that holds the future in its hands. Just as, therefore, at an earlier period, a section of the nobility went over to the bourgeoisie, so now a portion of the bourgeoisie goes over to the proletariat, and in particular a portion of the bourgeois ideologists, who have raised themselves to the level of comprehending theoretically the historical movement as a whole.

Of all the classes that stand face to face with the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is a really revolutionary class. The other classes decay and finally disappear in the face of modern industry; the proletariat is its special and essential product.

The lower middle class, the small manufacturer, the shopkeeper, the artisan, the peasant, all these fight against the bourgeoisie to save from extinction their existence as fractions of the middle class. They are therefore not revolutionary, but conservative. Nay, more, they are reactionary, for they try to roll back the wheel of his-

MIDDLE-CLASS MUNICIPALIZATION.

And the Municipal Program of the Social Democratic Party.

MIDDLE CLASS MUNICIPALIZATION.

The middle class, realizing that the concentration of capital, which is the inevitable outcome of our present competitive system, is driving them out of their respective fields of industry and forcing them into the ever increasing wage class, are devising various political schemes of all sorts, looking to the government for the protection of their interests and the preservation of their parasitical existence.

Their dream of wealth and their intense selfishness cause them to look upon the enormous profits of the trusts and corporations, which are out of their reach, as robbery; not of the working class, but of the middle class. If it were possible to suppress the trusts, corporations and department stores these traders would be the only benefactors of the people, hence their consciousness.

Along with these traders, but somewhat related to them by similar interests and feelings, stand the well-to-do owners of unimproved and improved city real estate, upon whom the pluto-crats, by evading their taxes on public franchises and personal property, manage to fasten the greater portion of the burden of taxation.

It is among these two kinds of sophisticated parasites that a political movement is now on foot demanding the municipal ownership and operation of all public utilities.

Like the band of indebted farmers and land speculators, who raised the banner of the Populist advocating the nationalization of the railroads, their motives are intensely selfish. The scandalous profits made by the railroads on the transportation and storage of agricultural products, were to be made to flow into Populist pockets by a great reduction in the cost of transportation.

In the same way by the proposed municipalization of city franchises, a large portion of the income derived would unquestionably go to reduce taxation on real estate, which would accrue to their benefit.

With this object in view, THE REDUCTION OF TAXATION, they have banded together in a Municipal Ownership League. They demand in their platform that these "principles" shall be made the paramount issue in the 1901 mayoralty campaign.

And it is confidently expected that by the rapid growth of Socialist ideas among the masses, the despised workman can be befooled and humbugged into supporting with enthusiasm such a scheme of municipalization.

In all past struggles between the ruling classes, either for social supremacy, or to maintain a tottering position, the weapon used has been the proletariat. So it is natural that they should be used in preserving the "business interests" of these mean aspirants to ruin and bankruptcy.

The great advantage to be derived by the workingman, from city ownership under middle-class management and on the middle class plan, to quote their own words, "are vast public improvements, giving employment to thousands of men, every work day in the year at \$2 a day building hospitals, paving streets, erecting laundries, baths and other institutions; or TAXATION COULD BE CUT IN HALF."

The leader of this quasi-capitalist movement, Mr. Lee Meriwether, speaking of the reduction of taxation in an address, says: "Do you imagine this of no interest to you because you don't own your own home. My friends, when taxes are high rents are high in the end, the landlord makes the tenant pay the bill, hence the renter is fully as concerned in this question as the man who owns his own home. Nobody is so poor, nobody so humble as to escape paying taxes. If you don't pay directly, you pay indirectly. Consequently you should join hands with this league in its efforts to reduce taxation."

The truth is, rent does not depend in the least on the rate of taxation, or on the amount of public indebtedness, national, state or municipal, or on any proportion in which the cost of government is divided among the capitalist, who appropriate the surplus values created by the laboring class over and above its wages and out of which must necessarily be defrayed the expense of the maintenance of their robber system.

On the European continent generally the taxes on real estate is very high, yet rents are correspondingly lower than they are here. During the Civil War when taxation reached its maximum, rents were very low.

In Glasgow, where municipal ownership has been in force for some time, and taxation reduced, rents have increased. From our own experience any improvement in transportation or communication of any kind is immediately followed by a rapid increase in rents. The construction of the elevated railways in New York City merely enabled the real estate owners of Harlem and Manhattanville to increase their exactions to the amount they had previously received in the downtown districts. Rents are generally dependent on the density of population, location, the demand for houses near an industrial center, and the internal accommodations and the means of communication. That rents are determined in these ways is readily proved by our own experience and by their rapid increase in our growing industrial cities in the last ten years.

Holding out the bait of public improvements which they would not entertain if they had municipal ownership of public utilities any more than they do now, and telling the workingman he is a taxpayer and is interested in the reduction of taxes is only another example of the cupidity of the capitalist class.

The object of taxation under a capitalist administration is to supply the means of carrying on the government

in the interest of the capitalist class. And whether the big capitalist is paying less in proportion to his wealth than his weaker fellows is no concern of the workingman.

This is clearly a middle-class movement seeking to preserve its "business interests." It is a class-conscious recognition that something must be done to keep the rotten ship of middle-class enterprise from being dashed to pieces by the swift tide of concentration, hence their endeavor to convert the proletariat to their point of view, to again use him to fight the battles of his masters.

The Social Democratic Party, keeping steadily in view the betterment of labor conditions, recognize the fact that all municipal measures must at best be only palliatives under the capitalist system, and could not be relied on to curtail to any extent or for any length of time the capitalist power, but as mere expedients, through which the working people might be enabled to more successfully and vigorously carry on the class struggle, and that under no circumstances should the workers rest content with municipal improvements, which in the nature of things must be entirely inadequate and temporary, but that they should sternly move onward to the conquest of all the public powers, with a view to the entire uprooting of capitalism and the firm planting of Socialism.

The municipal programme advocated by the Social Democratic Party differs widely from the "municipalization" under middle-class rule, and causes these gentlemen of irreproachable conduct and good intentions to look upon it with horror.

The operation of all municipal services on the co-operative plan as far as possible under present conditions. The employes to elect their respective foremen, superintendents and other officers thus making a great part of the political corruption which would undoubtedly occur under the middle-class plan where the management would be placed in the hands of the public officials, impossible. An eight-hour day, with a minimum wage of \$2 per day, and the union scale of wages and union conditions to govern all public services. An equal distribution among the employes, of a portion of the surplus value, or profit, which produced by their joint labor, is now appropriated by the directors and stockholders of the corporations. Another portion of the surplus would be set aside as a pension fund for the aged and a relief fund for the employes. The remaining portion of the surplus would be used to improve the service and reduce the cost to the people.


Workingmen, yours is the choice, whether to benefit a portion of your brothers in toil, directly, by these improved conditions, or to fatten your masters' pockets, that they may have larger opportunities for trading upon the necessities of the population.

We hope the proletariat is becoming clear-sighted enough to perceive where his interests lie and to recognize his function, in becoming conscious of his class interests to demand its right to occupy the field of history and upon the downfall of the ruling classes to erect a society dependent on co-operation, not exploitation, and on brotherhood rather than class war.

B. C. DE CELLE.

Children's Corner.

Directions—Read aloud, slowly and distinctly.



See the potato?
Who dug the potato?
The man dug the potato.
Does he like to dig potatoes?
No, it is hard work. He must dig the potatoes to live. He is a workman.
This is a small potato. Is it all he dug?
No, he dug several very big ones.
What did he do with the biggest one?
He gave it to the landlord for the privilege of living on the land.
What would the landlord do if the man would not give him the big potato?
He would make the man get off the land.
And where would the man go?
He would go on some other landlord's land.
Would the other landlord want the big potato too?
Yes, all the landlords want big potatoes.
Would all the landlords make the man move if he did not give them the big potatoes?
Yes, the landlords must have their RENT!
Where would the man go if all the landlords made him move?
He would have to leave the earth.
Is it right to make a man leave the earth?
Yes, the sacred right of private property must be maintained.
After the landlord gets the big potato, does the man eat the rest of it?
Oh no, he must give the next biggest potato as INTEREST to the money-lord who loans him the money to buy the tools he uses.
And what does the man do with the next biggest potato?
He gives it to the commission man as PROFIT for exchanging his little potatoes for clothes.
What does the man do with these very little potatoes?
He feeds them to his hogs.
What does he do with the hogs?
He gives them to the railroad for hauling the big potatoes.
Are there any other hogs?
These are all.
Is the man a fool?
No. The man is a farmer.

AMERICAN ITEMS.

BEYOND THE SEAS.

MUNICIPAL TICKET

Local Reading, Pa. has nominated a city ticket.
Mahan Barnes is on a tour in Pennsylvania speaking for Socialism.
The Cleveland Citizen has just completed the tenth year of its existence.

ITALY.
A Socialist has been elected deputy at Milan to the Italian Parliament.
CANADA.
The first daily labor paper in Canada will soon make its appearance.

Social Democratic Party of St. Louis.
For Mayor..... Leon Greenbaum
For Comptroller..... Wm. M. Brandt
For Auditor..... M. Ballard Dunn
For Treasurer..... Leonard Stoll

the complete overthrow of the capitalist system of production are alike the tools of the capitalist class.
The working class cannot, however, act as a class in its struggle against the collective power of the capitalist class except by constituting itself into a political party, distinct and opposed to all parties formed by the propertied class.

HAVE your Acknowledgements, Legal Papers, Deeds, Deeds of Trust, Contracts, Leases, Last Wills and Loans drawn up, and place your Fire, Tornado, Plate Glass and Accident Insurance with F. TOMBRIDGE INSURANCE AGENCY.

Smoke Only Union Made Cigars. Union-made Cigars. BLUE UNION LABEL. Issued by the Cigarmakers' International Union of America.

VONEY'S RESTAURANT AND LUNCH ROOM. 313 Locust St. The Man Who Stands by the Union.

I Am Anxious to Call. If you need insurance of any kind, drop me a postal, to 9 S. 2nd Street. H.V. HEINRICHSHOFEN

TRIBUTE TO CAREY As "The Rounder" in the Boston Traveler Sees Him.

ST. LOUISIANA BENTLEY'S. St. Louis Union Made 5c Cigar.

For the sake of the working people of the Commonwealth and for the pleasure of now and then being able to find something in the blue book which means a little for humanity, I regret that Representative James F. Carey of Haverhill is not a Republican in good standing.

If you have a German friend, send him the ARBEITER ZEITUNG. It is a good German Socialist weekly, \$1.50 a year; three months, 40 Cts. Address Room 7, 22 North 4th Street

DIRECTORY. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, Room 34, Theatre Building, Court Square, Springfield, Mass. Wm. Dutschke, Nat'l Sec'y.

Municipal Platform.

Adopted December 2d, 1900.

The Social Democratic party of St. Louis, in convention assembled, reaffirms its allegiance to the revolutionary principles of International Socialism and declares the supreme political issues in America to-day to be the combat between the working class and the capitalist class for the possession of the power of government.

The King's Enemies.

The King of England's most formidable foes are not the gigantic navies and large standing armies of other countries, but the persistent, self-sacrificing little band of men who are invading the homes of the workers in every land and placing before the wage slaves such papers as Missouri Socialist.

Down with industrial Monarchy!

Every agent for Missouri Socialist is a "sharpshooter" in the Social Revolution. Comrade Luban sends in a couple. Comrade Vandervoort of Chicago orders a bundle of twenty weekly.

Members of the 13th Ward will meet at the home of Comrade Eckart, 1211A Armstrong avenue, Saturday evening, February 2nd, to nominate a candidate for the House of Delegates.

Members of the 12th Ward will meet at the home of Comrade Heinrichshofen, 2242 Oregon avenue, Saturday evening, February 2nd, to nominate a candidate for the House of Delegates.

Comrade Wm. Ruesche brought half a dozen cards again. Comrade Ruesche has the house-to-house work down pat and Socialists who are looking for pointers will do well to accompany him on one of his Sunday morning rounds.

One comrade has notified us that he will take fifty copies extra each week if we can make a list of one thousand. How many will you take? Send word at once. Let's have an extra thousand or two each week for samples. One-half cent a copy in bundles.

A ward branch was organized in the First Ward Friday evening, January 25th, at 877 Cowan st. Fourteen members were enrolled as a starter and prospects are good for a big increase at next meeting. The following officers were elected: Organizer, Julius Bismuthel, 877 Cowan st.; Cor. Sec., M. J. Janssen; Fin. Sec., Wm. Humentant; Treasurer, S. B. Hannelmer; Delegate to C. C. C., Carl Sauer.

The United Association of Plumbers, Gas and Steam Fitters reports that during the last nine months 12 new unions have been organized, seven merged and one withdrawn making a total of 211 unions in good standing with an aggregate membership of 13,000.

604, showing a gain of 2,282 members during the period stated. They won 40 strikes and lost 13.

Henry Clews says Rockefeller has so much money his operations on Wall street involve no chance. Well, what of it? Does Clews think a good Baptist brother like Rockefeller would engage in "a game of chance?" Southern Socialist.

Steps are being taken to organize the Eleventh Ward. All Socialists residing in that ward should communicate at once with the city secretary.

Labor Unions of San Francisco are making a fight for early closing of retail stores.

Michael Owens, a Toledo working man, has invented a new automatic glassblowing machine that makes all kinds of chimneys, tumblers, water bottles, electric bulbs and glass lubricators, and more skilled workmen will be compelled to walk the plank.

The little city of Natalmo, B. C. possesses a shoe factory, and its product comes in competition with the other factories on the coast which employ cheap Chinese labor. To distinguish its product from the Chinese made shoes the employer organized last week into a branch of the Boot and Shoeworkers' Union of America, the organization including every employe of the factory and its product will bear the union stamp.

Smallbox at Liberal No. 1 has seriously interfered with meetings of the Local.

The permit system established by Gov. Stannenberg in 1897 in the Coeur d'Alene district has been abolished by order of Gov. Ross.