

Comrades,
Work for your
Own Press!

ST. LOUIS LABOR

Official Organ of the Socialist Party of St. Louis, Mo.

THE FEARLESS CHAMPION OF ORGANIZED LABOR

Comrades,
Work for your
Own Party!

OFFICE: 966 CHOUTEAU AVENUE.

ST. LOUIS, MO., FEBRUARY 4, 1911.

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No. 522

Organized Labor's Glorious Victory in Anti-Charter Battle.

The Corporation-Made Instrument Buried by a Vote of 65,046 Against 24,891, In spite of the Desperate Fight of the Daily Big Cinch Newspapers.

The Central Trades and Labor Union must be the Custodian of the People's League's Future.

RESULT OF CHARTER VOTE.

The following is the total vote for and against the "New Charter" in the twenty-eight wards of the city:

| Ward | Yes | No | Ward | Yes | No |
|---------|-------|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| 1..... | 643 | 3,088 | 16..... | 622 | 1,734 |
| 2..... | 413 | 2,763 | 17..... | 891 | 1,482 |
| 3..... | 512 | 2,827 | 18..... | 632 | 2,729 |
| 4..... | 544 | 2,611 | 19..... | 675 | 1,832 |
| 5..... | 518 | 1,559 | 20..... | 1,154 | 1,937 |
| 6..... | 384 | 1,746 | 21..... | 1,074 | 2,696 |
| 7..... | 460 | 2,173 | 22..... | 813 | 1,851 |
| 8..... | 328 | 2,866 | 23..... | 1,385 | 1,373 |
| 9..... | 300 | 3,209 | 24..... | 930 | 2,668 |
| 10..... | 398 | 3,481 | 25..... | 1,922 | 1,331 |
| 11..... | 771 | 3,335 | 26..... | 1,192 | 1,760 |
| 12..... | 591 | 2,873 | 27..... | 1,246 | 2,877 |
| 13..... | 1,565 | 2,642 | 28..... | 2,818 | 689 |
| 14..... | 1,291 | 2,746 | | | |
| 15..... | 819 | 2,168 | | 24,891 | 65,046 |

Where Lehmann Heard the News of His Charter's Defeat.

According to dispatches from Washington, D. C., Fred W. Lehmann, the new Solicitor General, and former president of the Board of Freeholders, was attending a banquet given by President Taft in honor of the United States Supreme Court when he received the first telegraphic news of the overwhelming defeat of his greatest of all great Charters. No doubt President Taft was also promptly informed of the defeat, for he took a special interest in the St. Louis Charter fight.

GLORIOUS VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE.

Central Trades and Labor Union, Socialist Party and Progressive Civic Organizations Honored by Election Result of Last Tuesday.

"NEW CHARTER" DEFEATED BY VOTE OF 65,046 to 24,891.

Interesting Chapter on Press Corruption and Press Censorship.

The Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis may well feel proud of last Tuesday's anti-Charter victory at the polls. The Socialist Party of St. Louis has done its duty in fearlessly and enthusiastically defending the rights of the working class in this anti-Charter campaign and contributing its share to bring about the glorious victory of the people over the Big Cinch corporations last Tuesday. And the progressive civic and ward improvement associations that lined up with Organized Labor, and that could not be scared away by the Big Cinch cry of "Socialism! Socialists!" deserve credit for their fearless attitude in this latest campaign, so memorable in the political history of St. Louis.

A Damnable Plot.

The attempt to make the people of St. Louis swallow a corporation-made City Charter (which to fix up took the Board of Freeholders eight-months) within thirty days was nothing short of a damnable plot, concocted by some slick lawyers and Big Cinch politicians, and endorsed by men who may be good contractors, surveyors, bankers, musicians, etc., but whose ability as "fundamental lawmakers" we doubt very much.

These men were selected with a view to "catch the vote" of certain classes of society. Owen Miller was thought strong enough to deliver the Organized Labor vote; August Hofmann, as a plain, honest, old German-American man, was counted on attracting the German-American vote, while Jephtha Howe would bring the machine vote of the Kreisemann administration, and the Democratic boss would attend to the other end of the machine vote.

Thus the so-called non-partisan Board of Freeholders was selected, and the rest is known to the people of St. Louis.

Socialist Press Alarm and Protest of Organized Labor.

After eighteen long months the Freeholders suddenly broke forth from their hiding place, and announced, like Moses when he returned from Mt. Sinai, that the new Charter was ready and must be voted upon within thirty days.

Twenty-five days before election we had not yet seen an official copy of the Charter, yet the election was fixed for January 31st, in spite of the protest of Organized Labor, the Socialist Party and the progressive citizens in general.

ST. LOUIS LABOR and ARBEITER-ZEITUNG sounded the signal of danger and gave the general alarm.

The St. Louis Central Trades and Labor Union, true to its record, did not hesitate one moment to take up the fight against this latest attempt to disfranchise the people of St. Louis.

It is now generally admitted that the new Charter was the most diabolical instrument that has ever been proposed to the people of this community. It was a Big Cinch trap, designed to catch the people unaware, rob them of their political rights and deliver the entire city government into the hands of the Big Cinch corporations and commercial highway robbers who stick like leeches on the necks of the common people.

The Subsidized Daily Press.

When during the last few days of December it became absolutely sure that the new Charter election would be forced upon the people not later than January 31, the Central Trades and Labor Union, through its Legislative Committee, called a general conference of organizations, societies and citizens that were opposed to the proposed New Charter.

At that time the daily press was practically unanimous in the support of the New Charter, and there was no effort spared to vilify and misrepresent the central body of Organized Labor for its opposition to this latest Big Cinch move.

Central Body Remained True.

The Central Trades and Labor Union, supported by the Buildings Trades Council, the Carpenters' Council and practically by every local union, could not be induced to change its brave and fearless attitude. The conference above referred to was held at 3535 Pine street just four weeks before election. In view of the fact that the time for action was short and that there could not be a dozen different managements of the anti-Charter campaign, it was decided to conduct the campaign under the name of "The People's League."

The Big Cinch crowd—i. e., the Pro-Charter and corporation elements—organized under the name of "CHARTER PUBLICITY COMMITTEE," and they were assisted by the real powers of the Board of Freeholders.

The General Line-Up.

Thus the two opposing forces lined up on class lines as distinctly visible as they have ever been in any political struggle.

For four weeks it looked like the Pro-Charter crowd had money to burn. The billboards of the entire city were covered with big posters, thousands of smaller posters and show cards were distributed. In every street car of the city their "Vote for the New Charter" signs were up. For a whole week every daily newspaper published full page advertisements that cost at an average from \$400.00 to \$500.00 in each paper each day.

Many thousands of dollars were "collected" to push the Pro-Charter campaign. And in order to work up a whirlwind campaign, President Taft gave his newly made Solicitor General, the president of the Board of Freeholders, several days' vacation to come from Washington, D. C., to St. Louis and help push the new corporation Charter through.

Solicitor General Lehmann came here and made several speeches. He refused to debate the issue with the anti-Charter speakers. Hence the People's League organized opposition meetings and made the last three days of the campaign as unpleasant for the Big Cinch corporation crowd as it could be made.

Finances Were Scarce.

The People's League had no corporations to back it up financially. The total amount of money contributed to its anti-Charter campaign fund was less than \$2,000.00. Of this amount the Central Trades and Labor Union contributed \$200.00 and the Socialist Party \$150.00. The rest was contributed by local unions and individuals.

Half-Million Pieces of Literature Distributed.

Of the literature distributed by the People's League against the proposed "New Charter" there were 100,000 copies of Dr. William Preston Hill's "Proclamation on the New Charter," 100,000 copies of the circular "Warning," in English and German; 100,000 big announcement cards in English and German; 155,000 copies of THE PEOPLE'S VOICE, a four-page, six-column campaign paper, and 25,000 copies of the booklet, "The Charter that Jephtha Howe Built."

Of this literature over 300,000 copies (including 150,000 copies of THE PEOPLE'S VOICE) were distributed from house to house by the members of the Socialist ward clubs on the three Sunday mornings preceding the day of election.

A Wonderful Campaign.

On the day of election the St. Louis Republic, the leading Big Cinch organ, came out with a column editorial baptizing the anti-Charter forces as

(1) "Socialists—which party in St. Louis has in it no sprinkling of opportunists or practical men, and whose members have paid no attention to social history. * * * Until they can get a through ticket to Utopia these gentlemen propose to remain at home."

(2) "Labor Union agitators—not unionists, but the element that does not work and whose occupation is gone if wages are good, men satisfied and conditions satisfactory all round."

(3) "Innocent cranks—this category includes sour individuals who have no faith in anybody."

(4) Notoriety seekers.

(5) Professional politicians.

The Republic also attacked THE PEOPLE'S VOICE (our campaign paper) and wanted to know where the money came from which enabled us to put THE PEOPLE'S VOICE into every home in the city.

Poor old Republic.

Perhaps you are not aware of the fact that there were over 200 Socialists on the road every Sunday morning, between 5 and 8 o'clock, during the last three weeks of the campaign distributing 150,000 copies of THE PEOPLE'S VOICE and 150,000 copies of other literature. And they performed this work free of charge.

Even Socialist women and children were out at 5 o'clock on Sunday mornings distributing papers from house to house.

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE must have cut deep into the flesh of the Big Cinch, judging from the last campaign cry of despair of the St. Louis Republic.

New Charter Snowed Under.

It must have been a bitter pill for Pulitzer's Post-Dispatch, the St. Louis Republic and the St. Louis Star to inform their readers that in spite of their alleged 400,000 subscribers they could not line up 25,000 citizens in favor of the Charter, while the poverty-stricken People's League, with its "Socialists, labor agitators and cranks," lead 65,000 voters to the polls to bury the "New Charter" good and deep.

ST. LOUIS LABOR, the only paper in St. Louis that was leading in this fight from beginning to end, remaining on the firing line every minute of the campaign, was not making empty threats when it issued its first warnings and general alarm some six or seven weeks ago.

What About the Future of the People's League?

The People's League was organized as the result of an extraordinary critical situation in the municipal affairs of St. Louis. Prompt, energetic, decisive action was required to arouse the people to the dangers confronting them in the proposed New Charter. There was less than a month's time to do the work. Neither the Central Trades and Labor Union nor the Socialist Party could spend many thousands of dollars to buy "space in the newspapers."

Hence the call for a general conference of all anti-Charter forces was issued, and in order to make the short but decisive campaign possible the conference decided to make the fight under the name of "The People's League," and as such open the fight against the Civic League, the Business Men's League and other Big Cinch corporation clubs.

The People's League has done great work. It accomplished its object by organizing, the opposition and bringing about the glorious victory of the common people over the powerful corporation interests in last Tuesday's election.

Here is Our Position.

From the very opening of the anti-Charter campaign there was talk of making the People's League a permanent organization. We were too busy to listen to any such talk while on the firing line, because uppermost in our minds was the great battle of January 31. Attempts were made to draw us out on the proposition of making the League permanent, but we would not discuss any such question during the campaign.

But now, with the campaign behind us, with a glorious victory won, we want to say that we are most decidedly opposed to transforming the People's League into a general Debating Society or Talkfest Club.

Here is our proposition:

The People's League, with a clean record, with an honored victory, with splendid work accomplished, shall now wind up its financial affairs, audit its accounts, issue its final report to its constituents and to the public, and then adjourn sine die, but under the clearly defined condition that the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis be authorized to again call into conference and joint action all the constituent forces of The People's League whenever an emergency might or should arise similar to the recent crisis caused by the "New Charter" fight, and that the calling to action of the People's League be left to the good judgment of the Central Trades and Labor Union of St. Louis, to which organization is also due the credit of having taken the initiative in the latest anti-Charter fight.

By such action the present excellent name, reputation and record and its prestige will be preserved for any future emergency. It will be a weapon which will only be used in extreme and urgent cases.

There will be no chance of having it talked to death or using and abusing its influence for partisan political or any other selfish purpose.

Neither the Central Trades and Labor Union, nor the Socialist Party, nor any local labor union, has any time to waste on debating clubs, for in these days of storm and stress there is real, hard work to be done.

The work of initiating direct legislation work or amendments to the old City Charter can be done through the regular channels of the several organizations that called the People's League into existence.

Some day in the future we might be badly in need of the People's League, and then find out, much to our regret, that it was killed by means of kindness by some of its friends who failed to distinguish between a militant organization and a debating club without any real raison d'etre.

We have absolute confidence in the Central Trades and Labor Union and in its hands the future of the People's League will be well taken care of.

We honor ourselves and the People's League by such action as outlined in this proposition, and what is more:

We preserve a powerful weapon for future use in case of any sudden or unexpected attack on the part of the Big Cinch corporations.

Rock Island-Moline-Davenport Building Trades Council Refuses to Unseat Brotherhood Locals.

Rock Island, Ill., January 31.—The Tri-City building trades were notified to unseat the Carpenters' delegates, and after discussing the matter for some time decided that such action would not only weaken the Carpenters, but all of the building trades in this locality. In view of the above, all voted to stand by the local carpenters. Reports from District Councils all over the country show that most towns will do the same as the Tri-City Building Trades District Council. The following report comes from the Northwest:

Central bodies in the Northwest are considerably stirred up in receiving letters from Secretary Spencer of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, stating that the Carpenters are no longer eligible to remain in central bodies. Spokane refused to take action, Vancouver laid the letter on the table, and other central bodies are following the same policy. Maybe they will have their charters revoked, and maybe not.

New York Will Stand Pat.

The New York Building Trades Council, representing nearly all the unions in the building trades, decided by a vote of 100 to 38 to disobey the order of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor to unseat the locals of the Carpenters and Steamfitters.

E. H. Neal, secretary-treasurer of the New York District Council of the Carpenters, said last evening that the Building Trades Councils of Jersey City, Philadelphia and some other cities had also refused to unseat the Carpenters and Steamfitters. He added:

"The work we were ordered to give up is carpenters' work, as wooden bucks are required in setting the doors. We will go right on doing the work, even if we have to leave the American Federation of Labor."

With a sentiment like this throughout the country the day of the jurisdiction fight will soon be a thing of the past. The time is ripe for a Building Trades Union which will forever end this sort of trouble. All progressive trade unionists should boost for one union for the building trades, which would do away with many disputes that now take up valuable time and energy.—Tri-City Labor Review.

City Platform

OF THE
Socialist Party of St. Louis

tain themselves and those dependent upon them without the bitter crusts falling from the tables of charity.

21. No more franchises to be granted, sold or leased to private individuals or corporations.

22. The establishment of public markets in the residence districts, where the farmers can sell their products direct to the consumers. In this connection, we recommend the Baltimore system of public market houses.

23. The abatement of the smoke nuisance; the railroads to be compelled to substitute electric motive power for coal-burning engines in the city.

Socialist Party Ticket for the April Elections.

City Council.
W. H. Worman, G. A. Hoeft, Max Stopp, Otto Pauls, W. E. Kindorf and Otto Kaemmerer.

Board of Education.
F. F. Mueller, L. G. Pope, J. A. Weber, W. P. Mason.

- House of Delegates.**
- Ward 1—Everett Ely.
 - Ward 2—H. F. Rosenkranz.
 - Ward 3—L. M. Rosenkranz.
 - Ward 4—John Muraski.
 - Ward 5—M. Finkelstein.
 - Ward 6—T. C. Stephens.
 - Ward 7—Chris Rocker.
 - Ward 8—W. H. Kaufman.
 - Ward 9—Peter Ehrhard.
 - Ward 10—W. M. Brandt.
 - Ward 11—Edw. Ottesky.
 - Ward 12—W. M. Holman.
 - Ward 13—Fred Berkel.
 - Ward 14—C. Boling.
 - Ward 15—W. F. Crouch.
 - Ward 16—Samuel Resh.
 - Ward 17—Mark Stanley.
 - Ward 18—P. H. Mueller.
 - Ward 19—F. J. Heuer.
 - Ward 20—L. E. Hildebrand.
 - Ward 21—Louis Krueger.
 - Ward 22—H. A. Spradling.
 - Ward 23—Henry Siroky.
 - Ward 24—L. H. Schwarz.
 - Ward 26—Edw. Kummings.
 - Ward 27—Hubert Morrison.

The Teacher and Socialism.

By Caroline A. Lowe.

There is a reason underlying the fact that the teachers throughout the United States are rapidly becoming aroused to the truth regarding Socialism. Some of our foremost educators, such as Prof. Gidings of Columbia University, are avowed Socialists. The agitation has assumed such importance that all progressive periodicals are forced to open their pages to a fair and intelligent discussion of sociological problems and of Socialism. The Intercollegiate Socialist Society, whose purpose it is to further the study of Socialism in schools and colleges, numbers among its members hundreds of teachers and students.

Prof. Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin has written of Socialism thus: "It may be said, indeed, that nothing in the present day is so likely to awaken the conscience of the ordinary man or woman, or to increase the sense of responsibility, as a thorough course in Socialism. The study of Socialism has proved the turning point in thousands of lives and converted self-seeking men and women into self-sacrificing toilers for the masses." (Socialism and Social Reform, p. 145.)

Mayor William J. Gaynor of New York, speaking before the Harvard Political Club, Cambridge, Mass., on April 7, 1908, said: "Of all things, do not dishonor the education you receive here by being prejudiced or bigoted in politics through ignorance. It is a pitifully little man who will not look at both sides of a question. * * * For instance, meet the growing propaganda of the Socialists with argument and not with abuse and force."

The New York Tribune has said editorially: "Every sensible student of contemporary history, every thoughtful and broad-minded man * * * has by this time become convinced that Socialism * * * is here to stay, that it is a public issue which is bound in the natural course of events to become more and more important and absorbing as the years go by, and that it cannot be evaded, and that it is as idle to dream of crushing it as was the endeavor of Don Quixote to stop the windmills."

Socialism appeals with peculiar force to the teacher, because it stands squarely for all that is best in education. Socialism is a movement for industrial democracy, a movement to promote the welfare of the masses and, therefore, it must be based on universal education. Every teacher, especially in working-class districts, knows how unfavorable conditions in the home retard the progress of her pupils. Frequently the parents have neither the time nor the money to give their children

the equipment and assistance necessary for school work. In many cases the children are reared in poorly lighted and poorly ventilated homes—they are poorly clothed and poorly nourished—with the result that they are nervous, sickly and backward in their school work.

"The Socialists believe that every one of these children should have a fair start in life; that they should be reared in pleasant homes; that they should have adequate food and clothing. Moreover, the Socialists believe that the education of the child should not stop at the age of thirteen or fourteen—or earlier—as is often the case at present, but that every child should be kept in school until he or she is well equipped for life.

On these points every educator and every conscientious teacher is in agreement with the Socialists. Therefore they should unite with the Socialists in transforming our social system so that every child will have an opportunity to secure the best there is in education. Under the existing system of industry—the capitalist system—it is inevitable that the community should be divided into a small class of extremely rich on the one hand, and a great mass of propertyless wage workers and trust-ridden farmers on the other. So long as we allow a small class of capitalists to control our natural resources, our railroads, our factories and other instruments of production, upon the use of which the life and welfare of the whole nation depends—so long as we allow these great industries to be run for the private profit of the few instead of for the common welfare of the many—just so long will we have our multimillionaires like Rockefeller, Morgan and Armour, living in palaces, and our vast army of workers living in cheap cottages and congested tenements. The only way to put an end to this and to insure a favorable home environment for the child is to put an end to the capitalist system itself. When, as the Socialists desire, the natural resources and instruments of production are owned by the community and operated for the common welfare, and when the enormous amount that now goes to idle millionaires goes to the useful workers, the extremes of luxury and poverty will be abolished. Then, and not until then, will the workers be able to provide proper homes, equipment and assistance for their children.

There is another standpoint from which the teacher is equally interested in putting an end to capitalist rule of industry, politics and education. The capitalists, as a rule, measure the success of everything in terms of dollars and cents. As they possess practically all the wealth in the community, they are the chief taxpayers, and they consider that city or town administration the most successful which has the lowest tax rate. They always oppose any measure that increases taxation, especially if they, the capitalists, are not directly benefited thereby. It is for this reason that the capitalists and the Republican and Democratic parties, which they control, generally oppose liberal salaries for teachers and liberal appropriations for school purposes. Capitalistic city councils and capitalistic school boards acclaim piously about the "nobility" of the teaching profession, but when a resolution is introduced to increase the teachers' salaries, they always vote against it.

The Socialist Party believes that liberal appropriations for teachers' salaries and for the development of our educational system is money well expended. Therefore, the Socialists will work and vote for such appropriations at every opportunity.

From the standpoint of the child, and from the standpoint of the teacher, the Socialist Party stands for all that is progressive in education. Therefore every teacher should give the Socialist movement her enthusiastic support, and unite with her fellow workers in making our country a true social democracy.

Seamen Denounce Ship Subsidy.

San Francisco, Cal.—Charging that President Taft is deceiving the people when he urges a ship subsidy as a means for restoring the United States flag to its former high place upon the high seas. Walter MacArthur, editor of the Coast Seamen's Journal, shows that the big interests behind all Taft's urging is the steel trust, who alone and solely would be the beneficiary of the proposed subsidy.

"The ship building trust," says MacArthur, "has a monopoly of the business in this country. It is simply a branch of the 'steel trust.'"

"Now, if a prospective ship owner goes to the steel trust and says he wants a ship built the trust tells him he must pay what it asks, because he cannot buy from any other concern."

"So the prospective owner goes to England or Germany or France and has his vessel built. Then he must sail his craft under the flag of the country in which it is built."

Unbearable Conditions Referendum Requisites

Organized Labor Has a Hard Battle

The man who works frequently finds conditions not to his liking, but the public seldom hears about those conditions. The man suffers in silence. But when the conditions become unbearable, although they may be forced upon the workman through no fault of the employer, the public is interested in having those conditions bettered.

This is an era of organization. Business or commerce is generally organized into groups and bodies representing the different trades and branches of trade. The unorganized business falls. The workingman, in the protection of his interests, not only has a right, but it is his duty to become a member of the organization of his trade. Organized labor has a hard battle attempting to cope with organized capital, but without the labor organizations, with every individual laborer bargaining for the sale of his labor power, the fierce competition would make serfs of them all.

In this day of combination, with prices of labor products fixed at a fountain head and competition absolutely destroyed, it behooves the common people to guard well the few rights left to them.

This article is not written for the purpose of condemning employers. Most of them are just as helpless as we. One employer cannot pay more than another in the same line of business, for if he does, he courts bankruptcy. And so uniformity of wage follows: The present era is evolutionary. We are progressing towards greater instead of lesser combinations. The great railroads of to-day are fighting for an opportunity to raise rates and their managers are ridiculing a man who has publicly stated that these great corporations waste a million dollars a day. It is a fact, however, and one which almost any real economic philosopher can prove.

Commerce, organized as it is, is still in the waseful state, and the railroads are in no better condition than other branches. They have their pools and agreements. Their rates on a given article of commerce and for a given haul are precisely the same. Secret rebates are maintained for the big shipper, etc. And still they are extravagant and wasteful.

It is criminally wasteful of the very substance of a nation to require the people of that nation to pay dividends on uninvested capital. The watered stock of every railroad compels an extra effort on the part of labor to settle. You cannot produce capital except by labor. Our system permits the man who neither works nor employs the man who works to force toll from the producer through the gambling system of stock brokerage. The government has become an ally of the man who buys nothing and has nothing to sell—the speculator in blank paper and wind and water. It is this system upon which is built the great railroads of the country. The Pierpont Morgans are not making their money by the process of value production. On the contrary, they take an original valuation based upon fiction and on this fictitious valuation, by questionable manipulation, the create a new value largely in excess of the original and for the most part representing no actual investment. There is a reissue of stock and bonds which the idler buys and upon which labor must pay interest and dividends. This is entirely waste. But it is the one great reason why the railroads must continue to raise rates and swindle the public.

Running into and out of all the great cities are railways paralleling each other for considerable distances, entailing the ownership of additional rights of way, stations and equipment, besides full sets of officers. Frequently these roads are consolidated by Morgan & Co., or some other firm of stock jugglers. One set of offices and one set of officers could in such cases be dispensed with, but this never happens.

Men are thinking more now than in the past. A thinking race is bound to become a discontented race. When the man who works realizes that he is producing the wealth that the idler spends in riotous living he is bound to revolt. He is not, however, demanding a division. He is simply demanding that he shall have a guarantee of equal right and equal opportunity with his fellows, and he is demanding a guarantee of the right to exist by his own labor. Sooner or later he will get this.—The Saturday Review.

The Unkindest Cut.

Father (to his son, a doctor)—If this isn't the limit! I pay all that money for you to study medicine, and the first thing you do is to cut me off my rink.—Fliegende Blaetter.

We have a letter from a reader who is unkind enough to assert that this periodical is opposed to the referendum. Not so, dear friend. You cannot find a single line ever appearing in this newspaper expressing our disapproval of the referendum. What he are opposed to is the attempt of the masses to use the referendum before they know how to use it. It is one thing to have liberty and another to know how to use it. The great evils we have to-day have come to us because the people either acquiesced in them or were led to believe that they were going to bring relief from some greater evil.

The referendum in the hands of men who permit other men to solve the daily problems of politics and society for them would only add strength to the common enemy. As a race, before we are entitled the use of things we should be able to show that we know how to use them safely. A loaded revolver in the hands of a child would be a dangerous weapon, but no more, so than the referendum in the hands of people who have no knowledge of its use.

What we have been complaining about at all times is the fact that a very large majority of the people vote as some scheming politician representing the interests of some corporation advises. As long as this system prevails the referendum has no value.

Used intelligently, the referendum is the greatest weapon the people have in safeguarding the interests of the whole people, but we must learn first to analyze that we may vote intelligently on questions of public policy.

If we are going to continue repeating the errors of the past, we might as well do it by the old methods.—The Saturday Review.

Wise Son.
"And are you mama's boys or papa's boys?"
"The courts haven't decided as yet, madam. We're in litigation."—Washington Herald.

Rara Avis.
"Are you an experienced aviator?"
"Well, sir, I have been at it six weeks and I am all here."—Life.

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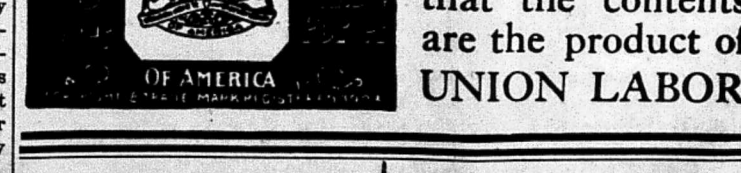
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ELEVENTH AND THIRTEENTH WARD ENTERTAINMENT.

Opening of Spring Campaign With Concert, Speeches and Dance.

The Eleventh and Thirteenth Ward Socialist Clubs will open the municipal spring campaign this Saturday evening at the Southwest Turner Hall, Potomac street and Ohio avenue...

Comrade Henry Bartel, editor of the Chicago Arbeiter-Zeitung, will speak in German, while Comrades Pope and Mason will deliver English addresses.

GERMAN SOCIALIST MEETING

Sunday Afternoon at Dodier Hall, in North St. Louis.

There will be a German Socialist meeting at Dodier Hall, Twentieth and Dodier streets, to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Comrade Henry Bartel of Chicago, editor of the Chicago Arbeiter-Zeitung, will speak on the subject, "Socialism and the Labor Movement."

Admission free.

St. Louis Campaign Fund.

Table listing names and amounts: Otto Thieme \$1.00, A. Siepman 2.00, Chas. Schulz .60, Peter Krause 5.00, Otto Pauls 2.00, Otto Langenhan 1.00, Alvina Rosenkranz list: Alvina Rosenkranz .55, Mrs. Rosenkranz .25, Mrs. Roessel .30, Herman Elbracht .25, Mrs. Jno. Kaut .15, W. H. Stephens .25, Martin Belly list: Martin Belly .50, Ad. Weiffenbach .25, Wm. Renner .25, Ernst Kluge .25, Paul Castelhan .50, Aug. Froehlich .50, W. Lipsius .25, W. Himmelsbach .25, Jos. Wind .10, Schifferdecker .10, Jos. Weber .10, Jul. Bohler .10, Jno. Kramer .25, Ben Seeck .10, Theo. Moyer .10, Hy. Kaemmermeyer .25, Louis Kaelbe .25, W. B. Lehman .10, Jos. Zwick .10, Anton Sgainer .25, Frank Luschnitz .25, T. Bukovitz .50, Engene Stiefel 1.00, Mrs. Belly list: Mrs. K. Belly .25, Miss A. Rosenkranz .25, J. F. Eschbacher .25, Chas. Holm .25, H. Gjorggevit .25, Nick Schmidt .25, T. Stader .25, Jos. Geisler .25, Jacob Koler .25, Mich. Schmidt .25, John Weckerle list: L. F. Rosenkranz .25, Jos. Filipovic .50, Frank Knaus .25, Karl Weber .25, Michel Deitsch .25, Jacob Devus .50, Christ. Anton .25, P. Petrovic .50, Jno. Weiss .25, Jno. Weckerle .25, Previously reported 44.72

Total to Jan. 31 \$70.37 This week we make a start on the Primary Fund. We need \$500 at once in order to carry our program through without a hitch.

Lists have been sent to all members and should receive prompt attention. We can probably elect one or more comrades this spring if we all do our very best.

Primary Fund lists should be accounted for by February 13, and sooner, if possible.

THE BIRTH OF WORLDS Illustrated at Dodier Hall, Twentieth and Dodier, Sunday Night.

The University Lyceum Bureau of Chicago will begin a series of lectures at Dodier Hall, Twentieth and Dodier streets, Sunday night, February 5th.

The slides for this lecture were made in Europe, and represent the latest thought on the evolution theory. Mr. William E. Clark, the lecturer, has spent many years in a careful study of the "Science History of the Universe..."

In connection with the course of lectures on science there will be special lectures on sociology and literature by specialists in those fields of thought. Complete and full announcements will be made of all the plans the bureau has in mind...

In commenting on this lecture, which was given twice in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last Saturday and Sunday nights, the Republican of that city said:

"An Evening With the Stars, or the Birth of Worlds," was the subject of an interesting lecture given at the Free Public Library Auditorium last night by Prof. William E. Clark of Chicago.

Mr. Clark will stay in St. Louis for several weeks while arranging this course of educational lectures. Dr. N. I. Rubinkam, the well known authority on the drama, is associated with him, and will probably give his lecture on "Parsifal," which he has repeated sixteen times in Chicago alone...

ST. LOUIS LABOR. By Emma Stoll.

What a wonderful paper is our weekly LABOR. But how long will it take till our people awake? For, like Rip Van Winkle, They have gone to sleep. Surely, some day they will take a peep. For the working man Is tired, you know. For that such a slumber Would go to show: For he earns his bread, Without breaking his head Over things, which he so Well ought to know.

SOCIALIST PARTY NOTES.

From National Headquarters. Chicago, Ill., Jan. 28, 1911. See Us Grow.

The receipts at the National Office for dues during the month of January, 1910, amounted to \$2,774.08.

How It Would Work. Knicker—Do you think women would vote for the best man? Bocker—Certainly; the bridegroom wouldn't be noticed at all.—Judge's Library.

Thousand Painters Strike in Buffalo. Buffalo, N. Y.—A strike of painters and upholsterers is on at the Erie Motor Company's plant. The men claim there are more than 1000 of their number out, either directly or indirectly, because of the strike.

CARPENTERS NOT OUSTED. All is Well that Ends Well.

The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor have decided to grant a charter to the Western Federation of Miners, and thus another step has been taken towards a closer affiliation of the two great miners' organizations.

Is the I. A. of M. Going After the Santa Fe Again?

Commenting on the success of the machinists in the B. & O. strike and satisfactory settlement on the Missouri Pacific, the Liberator, at Sedalia, Mo., which paper played an important part in the Missouri Pacific contest...

HUNGER PARADES IN SPAIN. Unemployed Surround City Hall and Demand Work and Bread.

Madrid, February 1.—The labor crisis has become extremely aggravated throughout Spain. The sum of money appropriated by the government to alleviate the situation throughout the provinces has proved entirely inadequate for the purpose intended...

At Burges thousands of working people are idle. To-day an immense crowd surrounded the Town Hall, where the City Council was in session, and made a demonstration demanding work.

CONCENTRATION OF FORCES. Four Newark Machinists' Unions Consolidate.

Newark, N. J., January 31.—The largest and most enthusiastic meeting ever held in the history of the Machinists' organization of Newark took place last week. The entire membership of Locals 525, 156, 350 and 340 met for the first time to conclude the work of the committee which had been working during the past three months trying to bring about a consolidation of the machinists, tool makers, die sinkers and specialists of the city of Newark.

Lodge 340, having been the pioneer in the movement among the locals of Newark, it was accordingly decided that all the locals should transfer their entire membership into that lodge. The new form of organization among the machinists marks an epoch in the history of their organization.

TRUCE REPORTED IN TAMPA CIGAR STRIKE. Struggle Against Bosses Suspended Till Better Opportunity Arrives.

According to dispatches from Tampa, the striking cigarmakers, to the number of 9,000, who have had to contend with the oppression of the city and state administrations, which are hand in glove with the bosses, throughout the strike, have found the struggle too hard to endure longer and have returned to work, declaring a sort of temporary truce.

NEU & LIND 916 Franklin Avenue. Union Gents' Furnishers.

Bartenders' Union Local 51 Patronize only Saloons displaying Union Bar Card and where the Bartenders Wear the Blue Button HEADQUARTERS: 3206 LUCAS AVENUE

All Garments Union Made OPEN EVENINGS ARGADE TAILORING CO., MERCHANT TAILORS 1326-28 FRANKLIN AVE., ESTABLISHED 18 YEARS AT THIS STAND Kinloch, Central 5443

What the Finnish Socialists Accomplished.

The office of the Finnish Translator has collected \$3,246.40 for the "Freedom of Finland" fund. This fund was established by the decision of the Executive Committee of the National Finnish Socialist Organization, taken early in November, and all the money collected has been sent to the Socialist Democratic party headquarters at Helsingfors, Finland, to be used as an agitation and campaign fund by said party.

Forty thousand tags, to be sold at 10 cents apiece, were gotten out and distributed among the Finnish locals in the United States and Canada, and this splendid sum was returned before January 1st.

Enthusiasm for this kind of help for their struggling brethren in the old country has been remarkable among the Finnish Socialists here. They know that the Social-Democratic party is just now fighting against fiercest opposition by the Russian authorities and all the reactionaries in their own country.

The recent election of the national house of representatives, called the Diet of Finland, was the fifth during the four years following the successful fight for suffrage. The Diet has been unconstitutionally dissolved four times by the Czar. The answer this time again by the Finnish people was another Socialist representative to the Diet and 321,000 votes for the Social-Democratic party, over 40 per cent of all the votes cast.

By collecting his fund the Finlanders of America have done well, not only for the interest of Socialists in Finland, but also for the strengthening of Socialism in every country, as our gains in one country also are victories for our cause everywhere.

Spies Wanted by Detective Agency.

The Thiel Detective Agency of Denver is advertising in the local newspapers who can speak the Russian and Finnish languages. Good pay and other inducements are offered.

The Czarism of the East.

With the execution of Kotoku, his wife, and ten other radicals, the Japanese government has definitely and deliberately entered upon the career of blood and massacre pursued by the czars of Russia. The ruinous results of that bloody career the people of Russia and the world in general know full well.

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CLEARING SALE ON FLEECE UNION - MADE UNDERWEAR SHIRTS AND DRAWERS All Sizes Per Garment, 39c; Suit, 75c M. J. COHEN, 1233 Chouteau Ave. Opposite New Club Hall.

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