





NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FUND

Table with 2 columns: Name and Amount. Includes E. Schoellner, Philadelphia \$ 50; 'Coming Nation' Duke 5.50; Previously Reported 856.65; Total \$ 862.65.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Comrade F. A. Kulp, of Battle Creek, Mich., writes: "Last night the Social Democratic party for the County of Calhoun, held a mass convention in this city and nominated a County Committee. A full county ticket will be placed in the field this fall. Rev. J. Stitt Wilson, of Chicago, has just finished a week's campaign in the city in the interest of Socialism. It has made us votes. In fact the large S. D. P. vote in this city is due to Mr. Wilson's effort in the past."

The Cleveland Citizen makes the announcement that the two parties have "amalgamated." This statement is false. A resolution proposing "union" was defeated in the state convention by the Social Democratic delegates, the vote being 17 to 2.

Miss Mary E. Coleson, who has recently joined the staff of workers at Hull House, lectured before Branch 9 of the Social Democratic party. Miss Coleson will take up the work of the late Mrs. A. P. Stevens.

Comrade Michael Britzius is laying sick in Alexian Brothers hospital. He sent greetings to the convention and hopes soon to be restored to health.

NOMINATIONS CALLED FOR

The Executive Board requests the Branches to make nominations for a new board, to consist as provided for by the constitution, of nine members.

TO IOWA SOCIALISTS

The Western Passenger Association has granted a rate of one and one-third fare to our state convention providing 100 delegates attend. Let our immediate efforts be toward making this convention a great success. I feel sure that we can secure an attendance of that number. In addition to the convention speakers, Comrade Debs will be present and deliver his lecture in the evening. A. W. RICKER.

TEXAS STATE TICKET

- For Governor, L. L. RHODES (Providence, Van Zandt county).
For Lieutenant-Governor, G. H. SHOAP (San Antonio).
For Attorney-General-Nomination to be made by the executive committee.
For Controller, W. A. MITCHELL (Kaufman).
For Treasurer, W. E. MARSHALL (Bonham).
For Land Commissioner, DR. CHARLES A. OTTERBEIN (Weatherford).
For Superintendent of Public Instruction-Nomination to be made by the executive committee.
For Railroad Commissioner, DR. G. B. HARRIS (Bruceville).
Electors-at-Large, EUGENE PILLOD (Dallas), F. J. MILLER (Beaumont).
District electors-To be nominated by the executive committee.

NOON HOUR WISDOM

I have just been reading, with an intermingling of pity, amusement and sorrow, a circular letter issued by a number of men styling themselves the state executive board of the S. D. P. of the state of Washington. It is quite a lengthy document, and is signed by A. G. Siebert, Herman Culver, J. D. Curtis, H. F. Titus and George B. Boomer. It breathes so fully the spirit which the Social Democratic party was organized to oppose, that I will ask my listeners' indulgence while I give it a little attention. It sets out by charging that there were ulterior motives for the issuance of the manifesto concerning the unification project, and goes on to show that the ulterior purpose was nothing more or less than the turning of the Social Democratic movement over to Mid-Road Populism. I should not be surprised to see such a screed in a paper like De Leon's People or Benham's Class Struggle, for the S. L. P. has lived on such emanations for years, lived its gnarled, fanatical little life, to the disgust of all high-minded, sensible men. But when a state committee of a party organized on such self-respecting lines as ours gives out such a characteristically S. L. P.-ish "official" document, one doesn't know whether to feel sorrow, pity or amusement.

One of the great features of the S. L. P. for years has been its capacity for suspicion. Once let some wild and woolly suspicion get into a member's noddle, no matter how far-fetched and silly it might be, it was nursed for a while, till by psychological circumlocution, it was actually believed by the owner of the noddle, and then committed to paper and sent on for publication in the party press. It was all part of the gospel of suspicion and hate upon which the S. L. P. "thrived." When the abominable and despotic rule of the S. L. P. became wholly intolerable to decent-minded Socialists of the country, the Social Democratic party was organized, and under its broad-gauge plan of ad-

ministration and propaganda, American Socialism went forward by leaps and bounds. It at once demonstrated how utterly wrong and pernicious had been the rule of the S. L. P., and as it pursued the even tenor of its way it gave new hope to true Socialists and showed them that it was possible for the movement to attain to as dignified proportions and as to great relative numerical strength as the movement in such countries as Germany, France and Belgium.

But immediately there went up a cry from the S. L. P. that the new party was merely an asylum for all sorts of characters, or, to put it in the words of a recent writer in an anti-DeLeon paper, "capitalist politicians out of a job, adventurers, workmen both honest and dishonest—an unclean membership." It was charged that we took in any one, whether Socialist or not, and that we were thus little more than a middle-class party. How nicely time has given the lie to this I need hardly point out. That we took in members without holding an inquisition over them is true. We barred no honest person who pledged his desire for the collective ownership and operation of the means of production and distribution. And often we took in men who had very unclear notions as to Socialism. But it is a noticeable fact that such men soon got clear ideas on the subject, and that it did not injure the sharpness of our battle line against capitalism to thus take in raw recruits. We did not brandish in the faces of possible recruits a lot of high-sounding, academic stuff about constant and variable capital, relative surplus value and the like (telling them to believe or be damned), things they should not trouble themselves about until they had become deep enough students of social science to understand. We repelled no one in such a way, but welcomed them as beginners or advanced learners, as their case might be, believing that in a natural way they would sooner or later get to the same plane of clear-headedness. In one of the recent Socialist congresses in Germany one of the leaders of the movement frankly confessed that he had not only not read Karl Marx to any extent, but that he found it almost impossible to clearly understand his writings. In this country such a declaration would have brought condemnation upon the man by the S. L. P.

Desirable as it is that the workers in the movement for the overthrow of the present system should be clear in economics and social science, it is absurd to suppose that all can be, or that all will have the capacity to go clear to the pinnacle of the study. Especially absurd is it to think of such a thing of a party made up principally of wage-earners—men who have little or no academic training. To poll-parrot a lot of academic phrases, as do so many of the rank and file of the S. L. P., is simply to make the movement a mere sect and to render its propaganda largely waste effort. Socialism must be preached in the common language of the people, using the words and terms common to everyday conversation, and this the Social Democratic party has done, and it has been successful. And the late strife was not merely a question of a union of organizations, but an effort to keep the movement on these lines and to prevent it from getting back into the old habit.

When some of the Socialists of Washington talk of our turning to Mid-Road Populism they make themselves extremely ridiculous, and at the same time show that they are heavily permeated with S. L. P.-ism. The Social Democratic party has won many a good man to Socialism by the tactics which these Washington pseudo-S. D. P.'s condemn. They are incapable of taking a large view of affairs. They have my pity. The broad-minded comrades of Washington ought to repudiate that state committee, and do it soon. The Philosopher.

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ECONOMIC TERMS AND PHRASES

A. P. Hazell, in London Justice

Exchange

Exchange is the basis of the capitalist system; abolish exchange, and capitalism is no more. The origin of barter goes farther back than recorded history, but for practical purposes it may be assumed that it commenced on the borders of pastoral communities, with the superfluities of wealth. Exchange implies individual property, buyers and sellers, each recognizing that the other has a right to alienate his commodity as the individual owner and possessor of the product which he desires to barter. Frequent exchanges give rise to the need of some handy mode of reckoning, and hence we get the money form of commodity. When a barter is made each owner compares his product with the other, and by that means reckons its exchange value. By frequent exchanges a stable commodity like corn becomes selected for the purpose of reckoning, and is always accepted in return for other commodities because it is recognized as being socially useful, and one which can at any time be exchanged for others. In a pastoral community, corn and live stock would be taken as equivalents in exchange; in a nomadic community, skins. In a more civilized community, metals in the order of iron, copper, brass, silver and gold. The equivalent commodity which we take in

exchange is known as the money commodity, the one recognized by the state for the purpose of legal payment or legal discharge of debt. The money commodity affords peculiar facilities for accumulation of riches and a purchasing power over wealth. The special use of money applied to industry, inaugurated the capitalist system of production. The less restrictions there are on freedom of exchange, the more progress will the capitalist system make. Though this is now generally recognized, protective clauses are still made by nations to give them an advantage over others. "Freedom of contract," "the sacred rights of property," "the principle of laissez faire," are all phrases based on exchange arising out of individual property. With the growth of the capitalist system a class has obtained possession of the means and instruments of production, and a proletarian class has arisen which has had to sell its labor power at a subsistence price. Here we have an antagonism between classes, a system of production inimical to the welfare of the community considered as a whole, and yet conforming to the principles of free exchange, which, to the majority, appear to be based on equity and the welfare of the community.

Co-operation

The growth of capitalism superseded primitive individual production and gave way to a more extended form of co-operative production. What we call the handicraft period of production, while favorable to the cultivation of the artistic faculties of the producer, was not conducive to the full expansion of man's productive powers, as it limited co-operative effort by restricting the instruments of production at his command.

The capitalist by his greater command over the instruments of production is enabled to bring together large groups of workers, and to produce on a more extensive scale, and by division and sub-division of labor to enormously increase the productive power of his workers as a whole; compared with individual producers. The substance of exchange value being labor, the producer who can produce an equal article at the lower cost of production in labor than his competitor has the power to oust him from the market; consequently co-operation gives the victory to that capitalist who works most in conformity with that law. Our own experience teaches us that the individual producer gives way to the joint-stock company and the joint-stock company to the syndicate, and the syndicate to the trust, and the trust in its turn to the municipality and collectivism of industries by the community. Co-operation is a law of association, which steadily expands, overcoming all obstacles and restrictions.

Capitalism owes its strength and influence to increased facilities it has afforded man to co-operate. To it is due the wonderful increase of wealth. The workers by their power of co-operation are capable of producing wealth even beyond the dreams of avarice, and are only now prevented from doing so by the conflicting interests of capitalists, whose primary object is not the increase of wealth for society as a whole, but the increase of that portion of wealth which they may individually appropriate to themselves.

Conflict

The interests of capitalists as competitors are opposed to each other, and they use their capital with a view of ousting each other from the markets of the world. Each capital is arraigned against the other in competitive conflict, and, so likewise, are the co-operative group of workers set in motion by each particular capital. Each group does not conflict in person, but it is none the less real because that conflict is transferred to the commodities on the market and fights by the weapon of cheapness. In the capitalist system conflict stares us in the face everywhere. Each capitalist tries to overcome his competitor. And in this struggle he has the support of that group of workers which his capital employs. Their immediate subsistence depends upon his success, and though they may outwardly express a certain amount of sympathy for their unfortunate brethren, yet they feel an inward satisfaction at their misfortune as they recognize that their fellow-workers represent a fallen foe which might have been victorious over themselves.

It is these individualistic and anti-social feelings engendered by conflict which makes it so difficult to unite the workers on a common platform for their economic emancipation.

Both capitalists and workers live and die in an atmosphere of competition and conflict until they accept it as a natural order of things, over which they may lament but cannot alter. There is much to foster this conception. In animal life they see the drastic and unrelenting law of conflict operating all around them, and also that evolution has furnished them with weapons to carry on the struggle. Philosophers and scientists have become so impressed by the continuous and persistent phenomena of conflict that they have convinced themselves that progress is only possible by a selection, or "survival of the fittest."

LOCAL BRANCHES

Notices of Branch Meetings Inserted for 25 Cents per Month

- CALIFORNIA: Liberty Branch, San Francisco, holds public meetings every Sunday and Wednesday evenings, commencing at 8. Admission free.
Business meetings (for members) every Thursday evening.
Membership, Social Democratic Herald free to each member, 25 cents per month.
Branch No. 1, Los Angeles, meets every Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Woodmen's Hall, 1234 Spring St.
Branch No. 2, Alameda, California, holds free public meetings every 2d and 4th Sunday, 8 p. m. at Foresters' Hall, cor Park St. and Santa Clara Ave.
Branch No. 3, Berkeley, meets every 1st and 3rd Monday, 8 p. m. at 2408 Euclid Ave.
Branch No. 4, Oakland, meets every Sunday at 3:30 p. m. at 1715 California Ave.
Branch No. 5, Golden Gate, meets every Sunday at 7:30 p. m. at City Hall.
CONNECTICUT: The Connecticut State Committee meets the last Sunday of each month at Turn Hall, Rockville.
ILLINOIS: Meetings of Chicago Central Committee held regularly second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at Dr. J. H. Greer's office, 52 Dearborn St.
INDIANA: Branch No. 6, Indianapolis, meets first Saturday evening and third Sunday afternoon of each month at Lechweil's Hall, corner Market and Noble Sts.
IOWA: Branch No. 2, Hiteam, meets every fourth Friday in the month at opera house, S. H. Jamieson, chairman.
KENTUCKY: Branch No. 1, Bellevue, meets 1st and 3rd Sunday, at 2 p. m. and 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 8 p. m.
MARYLAND: Branch No. 1, Baltimore, meets every Sunday at 8 p. m. at Carpenter's Hall, 500 E. Baltimore St.
MASSACHUSETTS: The Massachusetts State Committee meets the first Saturday of each month at 74 Washington St., Boston.
MICHIGAN: Branch No. 1, Battle Creek, Mich., meets 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, at 3 p. m. at 10 W. Main Street.
MINNESOTA: Branch 1, Red Lake Falls, meets every other Sunday in real estate office of Fred Gesswein, on Main St.
MISSOURI: St. Louis headquarters, Room 7, 22 N. Fourth St.
MONTANA: Branch No. 1, Butte, meets every Thursday, at 8:30 p. m.
NEW JERSEY: Branch No. 1, Camden, N. J., meets every 3rd Sunday of the month.
NEW YORK: The City Central Agitation Committee of Greater New York, meets every second Tuesday at 412 Grand Street.
PENNSYLVANIA: Branch No. 2, Erie, meets every Sunday, 8 p. m.
WISCONSIN: Milwaukee Central Committee, S. D. P., meets second and fourth Monday of the month at Brewers' Hall, southeast corner Fourth and Chestnut Sts.

Advertisement for Social Democratic Campaign Buttons and Pins. Includes text: 'If you sympathize with Trade Unions', 'You will encourage the sale of Union Label Goods', 'Have your card inserted in the Branch Directory, 25 Cents per Month', 'Something New! Social Democratic Campaign Buttons and Pins', 'Eugene V. Debs', 'Prices: Single Buttons or Pins - 5c, 1 Doz. Buttons or Pins - 50c, 50 Buttons or Pins - \$1.75, 100 Buttons or Pins - \$3.00'.

