

Socialism and Health.

The working class is an unhealthy class. The fault must be laid at the door of class oppression, at the door of capitalism.

a shout of joy, the world over, went up when the slaves were set free. There is a new set of slaves in the South. They are the poor whites.

Chicago has a chief of police who ought to be the laughing stock of the whole country. He attended a convention of chiefs at Louisville the other day and there delivered himself of the claim that anarchism was founded on the writings of Karl Marx!

Unions and The Schools.

Each election since the Social Democratic party has been in existence in Milwaukee it has placed in its municipal platform a demand that the halls in the public school buildings be thrown open to the people at a nominal cost.

To carry out such a wise proposal, action would be required by officials in a position to legislate to that end. But the legislative offices have been occupied by politicians, by lackeys of capitalism, Republican and Democratic, and their interests are not served by public discussions of public matters by the people.

But the proposal of the Social Democrats is as valuable today as it was when first made. As the "representatives" of the people in the school board will not act in the interests of the people, the people must bestir themselves.

"Three great Americans in a day succumb to the 'strain that kills,' each a striking example of the man of today, working at a nervous tension far in excess of his physical strength," says the New York World, referring to Bret Harte, Rear Admiral Sampson and Archbishop Corrigan.

THE TRUST PROBLEM, AS SOCIALISTS SEE IT.

There is now a great deal of anti-trust feeling and anti-trust agitation in the air. The fact of the matter is: the trusts make much more rapid progress than does the popular understanding of them.

Competition under the capitalist system means the advancing of one's self at the cost of others, the pulling the many down, the elbowing the many aside, in order to benefit the one.

Heretofore it has been most cruel to the workmen whom it forced into a struggle to see who should live and who should starve. But for the last ten or twenty years the workmen have been by no means the only sufferers.

Precisely, then, for the same reason that the mechanic with his own shop and working on his own account has nearly disappeared in the struggle between hand-work and machine-work, the small employers with their little machinery, their small capital and their scanty stock of goods are driven from the field.

And the evils that accompany the trusts' business activities are many. The end of all business nowadays is to MAKE MONEY. And while production on a large scale allows the adoption of improved and cheaper methods, and while the resulting economy of cost would enable the trust to lower the price of the product to the consumer, none of the trusts does any such thing.

Every honest man and every patriot who can think ought therefore to say to himself the following: The machinery and all the progress in implements of production today we don't want to destroy and we can't destroy. Civilization does not want to go back to the Middle Ages or be reduced to barbarism.

There is but one deliverance from the rule of the people by capital—and that is the rule of capital by the people. If much of what has been considered private property is to be absorbed in great monopolistic ownership, as seems the inevitable outcome of the competitive struggle, then the people should become the monopolists.

Any man who has ever worked for the public has never been anxious to change to an individual employer. Some of our ultra "scientific" fellows may sneer at the postoffice department as state Socialism, but as compared to private corporations, its employees get good salaries and are guaranteed a certain security of livelihood for the future during good behavior, that makes their job more valuable still.

The shooting in New York last week of Paul Leicester Ford, the brilliant writer, by his brother, Malcolm Ford, the athlete, simply adds one more item to the long list of crimes that would be unheard of if the people were today living under Socialism.

As the term Socialism comprehends any kind of Socialism from "Henry George Socialism" to Social Democracy, including bourgeois socialism, christian socialism, etc., isn't it a little odd that the fellows who are so anxious to sail under the name, Socialist party, should have such a horror of alleged state socialism?

Whatever activity in city life is necessary to the public welfare and convenience should be operated by the public and not by individual owners for the purpose of furnishing profits to investing capitalists.

Light on the Meat Squeeze.

The treasury export tables for March which have been issued by the government give the lie to the little song the beef trust has been singing about the scarcity of cattle being the reason for the meat squeeze.

Meantime the government investigation of the meat trust is in progress. Here is one of the appetizing facts brought out in the testimony: Thomas O'Sullivan of St. Louis, who owns an abattoir and sells meat chiefly to hotels and restaurants, testified that he handles "concession" meat when he can get it at good prices.

Witness testified that in his knowledge several men in St. Louis have been buying cows in East St. Louis which should not be killed, including lumpy-jawed cattle, with running sores, and declared his belief that government inspectors know about the abuse.

Within the past two years the toll roads outside of Milwaukee have been practically abolished. They had to give way to modern ideas. Toll roads are privately owned, profit making affairs.

In the ignorant and superstitious past the rulers made the people make public improvements and then themselves claimed the credit and the people believed and bowed low in thankfulness. In Milwaukee recently the politicians built the people a bridge with the people's money, because as officials it was their duty to build it, and now they put a big brass plate on the bridge to immortalize their own names.

Socialism and Religion.

The Rev. Wellbes of St. Augustine's Church, Milwaukee, recently preached a sermon in which he made rather slighting references to collectivism. Some of his parishioners, who are Socialists, called some of his statements into question, and he thereupon called in a lecturer named Dr. Kehr to speak to his church on the subject.

That Dr. Kehr didn't know what he was talking about is shown by the following statements made by him. He said:

That the ground idea of Socialism was unbelief in God. WHICH IS NOT SO. That Socialists want to do away with marriage. WHICH IS UNTRUE. That Socialists want to take the children away from their parents. WHICH IS NOT TRUE.

That according to Socialistic teachings the murderer of McKinley did no more than his duty. WHICH IS A CRUEL SLANDER ON THE HUMANITY OF THE SOCIALISTS.

This latter is a matter of religious opinion, which we do not wish to discuss. But as to peace and happiness resulting from a union of church and state, we have the example of Belgium, where the most abject wretchedness on the part of the working class exists, as we will show in next week's paper.

The other day a deaf and dumb elevator boy was caught by the flooring and his head cut off. It was in a huge factory in Philadelphia owned by the American Tobacco Company. As a result, all was excitement and some idiot raised the cry of fire. A panic ensued and 1200 men and girls tried to rush down a narrow, crooked stairway at once.

There used to be a factory in Milwaukee that made a business of taking shelf-worn canned vegetables, soaking off the old faded labels and putting bright new ones in their place so as to make the people think they were buying new crop goods. It may be in operation yet for all we know, for certainly business is no more honest than it used to be, in fact quite the contrary.

Compare the life of the man who works in the gas works, breathing impure air, covered with grime, or working all day in darkness feeding the furnaces, an employment of the most melancholy, hopeless sort, compare such an existence, we say, with that led by the capitalist who draws his share of the profits. His hands are lily-white, his days are spent in travel, in eating fine dinners, and when he does work it is only to scheme to make more dollars out of the toil of others. Compare the two lives. What principle of justice is there back of it all? It can be stopped and right relations established. Read our national platform and see for yourself.

Victor L. Berger.

Platforms of International Socialism. III.

Joint Manifesto of English Socialists.

MANIFESTO OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF SOCIALIST BODIES

There is a growing feeling at the present time that, in view of the increasing number of Socialists in Great Britain, an effort should be made to show that whatever differences may have arisen between them in the past, all who can truly be called Socialists are agreed in their main principles of thought and action.

nicipalization, for instance, can only be accepted as Socialism on the condition of its forming a part of national, and, at last, of international Socialism, in which the workers of all nations, while adopting within the borders of their own countries those methods which are rendered necessary by their historic development confederate upon a common basis of the collective ownership of the great means and instruments of the creation and distribution of wealth, and thus break down national animosities by the solidarity of human interest throughout the civilized world.

The Christian concept of government is Right, and that asserts the value of the individual soul, the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of men, and all that these imply in uniting mankind into one family. Is there anything in the spirit of the programme of the Labor party which is contrary to this Christian concept of government? Nothing whatever.

Let us adhere to this claim, no matter what opposition we meet with. Whatever they call us—Democrats, Socialists, even Anarchists, if they please—let us continue to claim the Gospel for our charter and the teachings of Christ as the basis of our social message.—Hall Caine.

THE TWO PATHS.

In the April Century Magazine, Dr. S. Weir Mitchell, in the course of a contribution called "A Little Story," gives this pathetic incident of modern industrial civilization:

A pale young man sat down on a bench in the park behind the reservoir on Forty-second street. He put down a torn bag of tools under the bench.

A small, red-faced man came behind him. He stooped to steal the bag. The pale man turned, and said in a slow, tired way: "Drop that. It ain't worth stealing."

The ruddy man said: "Not if you're lookin'." The pale man set the bag at his feet, and said: "It's poor business you're in."

"You don't look as if yours was any better." He sat down. "What's your callin'?"

"I'm an iron worker; bridge work." "Don't look strong enough."

"That's so. I'm just out of Bellevue hospital; got hurt three months ago." "I'm just out of hospital, too," he grinned.

"Sing Sing." "What? Jail?" "Yes; not bad in winter, either. There's a society helps a fellow after you get out of jail. Gives you good clothes, too."

"Clothes? Is that so?" "Gets you work." "Work—good God! I wish they'd get me some."

"You ain't had enough. Go and grab somethin'. Get a short sentence; first crime. Come out, and get looked after by nice ladies."

"My God!" "Didn't they do nothing for you when you got out of that hospital?" "No! Why the devil should they? I'm only an honest mechanic. Are you goin'?"

He felt his loneliness. "Yes; I've got to go after that job. I'll give me time to look about me. Gosh! but you look bad! Good-bye."

The ruddy man rose, looked back, jingled the few coins in his pocket, hesitated, and walked away whistling.

The pale man sat down on the bench, staring down at the ragged bag of tools at his feet.

The Glass Struggle.

News of the Labor Movement Throughout the World.

TO ORGANIZED LABOR. The laboring men of Milwaukee should not have to be told that the Quin base-ball club has been placed on the unfair list by the Trades Council.

GENERAL NOTES. A lodge of 300 farm hands was organized at Newburg, Ind., recently. John Dean, the organizer, of the American Federation of Labor, says every county in Southern Indiana will be organized before fall.

THE COAL STRIKE BEGINS. Philadelphia, Pa., May 12.—Mine workers throughout the entire anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania to the number of over 145,000, formally began their struggle today for increased wages and shorter hours.

THE LATEST FROM RUSSIA. London, May 8.—A St. Petersburg correspondent says: "Comparative order has been restored in the governments of Poland and Kharkoff, but the peasants are only outwardly quiescent, believing that the grant of a division of the lands of noblemen will be effected during the coming autumn, leaving the hardy land owners only twenty acres and a yoke of oxen each."

Federated Trades Council. Meeting of May 7, with Delegate Fred Brothausen in the chair. Delegate James Sheehan, vice chairman, all officers present. Minutes approved. Five new unions were taken into affiliation and delegates obligated.

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