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Comrades, the Socialists in Milwaukee now need only a little boost to get them over the rockiest part of their road to a printing plant of their own--the last dollars that will complete the sum they have to raise.

The Countess of Warwick, who is active in the Socialist ranks in England, has again shocked the aristocracy of her nation by entertaining a number of "common" workmen at lunch.

Probably if the municipality would pay dividends on watered stock the objection of certain capitalists to municipal ownership would cease.

That a new era is dawning in Russia is clearly shown by the fact that Maxim Gorky, a few months ago in danger of being banished, has now been allowed to publish a daily paper, New Life, devoted to the interests of the working people of Russia.

The Herald has taken over the subscription list of the Evansville Socialist. Readers of the Socialist will be pleased, we hope, with the Herald and feel warranted in remaining in our family of readers when the time for renewal comes round.

The New Era, a Christian Socialist monthly magazine, has made its appearance in Japan, being published at Tokio. It is also reported that another Socialist party, from the alleged standpoint of "state Socialism," has been formed in that country.

Lady Warwick presided at a meeting in Liverpool last week at which the veteran English Socialist, H.M. Hyndman, delivered an address on "Socialism and Imperialism." The countess also made a Socialist speech and the meeting, which was large and enthusiastic, closed by the audience singing "The Red Flag."

The attempt of the governor of Wisconsin to bring about an investigation of life insurance companies and corporations in the state may pass, although certain interests are strong in the legislature. At the same time certain Milwaukee newspapers are printing such eulogistic articles about the cleanliness of the Northwestern Life that the opinion of many is strengthened that the company is buying newspaper space in a frantic effort to escape investigation.

Threatening as is the political sky of Russia, the dispatches make the claim that the Czar feels himself less in danger now than he was some time ago. But the agitation of the Social-Democrats of his realm, which continues to show its temper in no uncertain tone, admonishes him that the reforms he concedes to the people must not be of a "phony" character.

With Trepooff and Pobiedostseff out of the way and the grand ducal clique thoroughly disheartened, the czar has now become convinced that the programme of Count de Witte offers the only remedy against the present disturbances, and Nicholas is now working on a message which will give to the people of Russia the political freedom they have been sighing for for years.

God Helps Those Who Help Themselves!

By VICTOR L. BERGER.

We are in receipt of a letter signed "A poor helpless slave," and written by an employe of a department store here in town, asking us to help the employes "to get their rights."

The letter says: "My dear Mr. Berger. Will you not please try to help the thousands of poorly paid employes of the department stores to get their rights? They are now making us work from eight in the morning until 9:30 at night without one cent of extra pay.

Now this letter expresses the feeling of the many thousand clerks who work in the big department stores during Yuletide. And not only of the workers in the department stores, for the conditions are in no wise better in the small stores.

But the clerk working in a department store does not get even as much benefit from this progress as does the workman in the factory as a rule.

Why is this? Because the employes of the department stores have failed to take advantage of one of labor's greatest weapons. They have failed to organize. They are simply at the mercy of the store-keeper.

There is another phase of this question, which must be especially considered. The great majority of the employes in the department stores are women. It is well known that of the several millions of working-women in this country hardly one hundred thousand are organized.

The reasons for this are obvious. Women are not easy to organize, because almost all of them consider the time when they work for wages as a transitory period. They all hope to get married, get a home, and raise families.

There is also another element which is of importance. The women clerks may be divided into two general classes.

First, those who work, because they need to earn a living, and who hire out for that purpose. This class forms a great majority. But there is also another class--those who go to the store to be more independent at home, or to make pin-money for luxuries, or even to have a chance for coquetry.

Now this latter class is complicating the problem. To them the question of wages is not vital. They can accept what the bread-winner finds insufficient. They are better fed and better equipped than the self-supporting clerk.

And what is worst of all, the owners of the department stores bank on these coquettes and amateurs to keep down the wages and the conditions of the real working women. The average store-keeper will even proudly tell you that he does not hire any clerks but "those who have a nice home, and stay with father or mother or relatives."

Now this paper has no power to coerce the store-keepers to grant human conditions and decent pay. Nor would it be just and right to single out any one department store for revenge, as some of our correspondents want us to do, who concentrate their hatred on a certain department store here in town.

But, through this paper, I can call the attention of the workingmen and the working women of Milwaukee to these conditions. This paper does also point out the way to an amelioration and abolition of these ills, and I hope its advice will be followed.

The organization of the clerks in trade unions would regulate the working hours and wages. The organization would keep out the professional coquette and the amateur clerk who want to earn their pin-money at Christmas time or at any other time.

A victorious political organization of the Social-Democratic party would bring about regulations of the stores by the health department and by the building inspector of the City of Milwaukee.

If the clerks of Milwaukee were organized into trades unions, it would be easy enough to wield the power of the boycott against any store that would dare to resist the demand for just and humane conditions.

And if all the clerks of Milwaukee, male as well as female, would make the cause of the Social-Democratic party their own, it would be an easy matter to get the building inspector and the health department to assist and supplement the work of the trades union for just and humane conditions.

Therefore, I have only one answer to give to the above piteous letter and to all the complaints of the same type which I have received from so many quarters. My answer is: Organize! Organize! Organize!

There have been so many disclosures of capitalistic immorality of late that the baseless charge that Socialism stands for immorality seems to have been temporarily dropped by certain clerics and others. Just now the president of the steel trust is in disgrace for an escapade with an actress, and then there's the--but we will not waste space by recounting them, the daily papers, especially those of a yellow stripe, do not lack for items of that sort.

New Zealand Socialists are now organizing for active participation in the affairs of that progressive country.

Trigoni, the Russian revolutionist, at one time known to science as Prof. Michael Nicolevitch Trigoni of the University of Moscow, has at last secured his freedom and is said to be on his way to the United States.

The Seattle Socialists have placed Comrades Edward L. Oakes and William Humphrey in nomination for the school board, upon a platform made up in part of planks calling for fewer children to each teacher, sufficient school equipment and provision for physical culture.

It is said that one of the most effective campaign documents used against the capitalist fusion candidate in San Francisco, a Mr. Partridge, was the brief he prepared while serving as attorney for a Parry Industrial alliance employer who was fighting the labor unions.

Make an effective Christmas present this year. How about a year's subscription to the HERALD? We will mail a receipt on request and the receipt can be presented to the person you wish to favor.

Following the announcement that the new British cabinet under Campbell-Bannerman would recognize all classes in the empire comes the announcement of its personnel and the intelligence that John Burns of Battersea has been tendered the presidency of the local government board.

Whether Burns will accept or not remains to be seen. He rose to fame as leader of the great dock strike of 1889 and while nominally a Socialist has never submitted to party discipline to any great extent.

At all events, the capitalist politicians of Great Britain will find they have mistaken their game if they hope to absorb the Socialist movement of their country. Labor has long ago tried the Liberal party and found it wanting.

Talk of the solidarity of labor the world around, the Boston unionists have just sent a big contribution to the locked-out ironworkers of Sweden.

Good for Dewey! He gives it out flat that there is no sense nor necessity for fortifying the great lakes. Another big capitalist graft punter!

That old saying "out of the frying pan into the fire," might be considered to apply to the latest developments of high finance with regard to the big graft insurance companies. There are many people who will refuse to believe that it is an improvement to have the Mutual Life, for instance, change in ownership from the old crowd of manipulators to the Standard Oil people, who are abundantly proven to be past masters at manipulation.

Milwaukee falls into line with an 8-hour victory for the Printers!

Probably if the Parry-Post Industrial Alliance people had realized what a walk-over the printers round the country would have, they would have thought twice before they inaugurated their so-called "open shop" crusade. From all over the land come tidings of victory after victory for the men.

A good share of the vast sums which capitalism extracts from the industry of the masses in this country finds its way to Europe. For the most part the capitalist class spends a large share of its time in travel and the richest find satisfaction for their itch for place and circumstance by marrying off their daughters to broken down titles even though it costs a pretty penny to do so.

A word-painted cartoon: Let us call our picture "Capitalist Prosperity." In the foreground we will draw in a gaunt faced, starving man, gazing, as he stands ill-shod in the trampled snow of the sidewalk, through the plate-glass window of a caterer's shop.

Make some good propaganda Christmas presents. For reasonably light reading you can select "The People of the Abyss," by Jack London (cloth, \$1.50); Equality, by Edward Bellamy (1.00); The Social Revolution, by Karl Kautsky (50 cents); Socialism, by a non-Socialist, Prof. Sombart (\$1.00); Modern Socialism, by the Rev. Vail (75 cents); Poverty, by Robert Hunter (\$1.50); Mass and Class, by W. J. Ghent (\$1.25); The Evolution of Liberty, by Paul LaFargue (\$1.00); The Struggle for Existence, by Walter Thomas Mills (\$2.50); Socialism and Modern Science, by Prof. Ferri (\$1.00); and then, for those of a scientific bent of mind, Capital, by Karl Marx (\$2.00), and the Economic Foundations of Society, by Prof. Loria (\$1.00). A fine present for a woman friend is Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "Woman and Economics" (\$1.00), and for a person of a poetical temperament, Brecht's "Voice of Equality" (\$1.25). All these books are in stock at this office and can be furnished immediately.



The Double-Deck Linotype.

size of the fund seemed to abundantly warrant the step and it has now been shipped and is expected almost any day. The new printing building is ready. The press has been set up and the motor is almost in readiness.

Printing Plant Fund.

- Previously acknowledged \$1,732.25
W. M. Zastrow .50
Wm. Lange, Town of Milwaukee 1.00
The Atlantic Club, city 5.00
Ernestine & J. W. Born 1.00
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Chas. Grotzinger .50
Otto Hunil .50
Wm. Rothman .25
Total \$1,799.20

You can easily spare a dime--it means ten visits of the Social-Democratic Herald. Do it now!

The Herald ten weeks, ten cents.









