

THE PEOPLE.

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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Table with 2 columns: Year and Socialist Vote. Includes data for 1888, 1890, 1892, 1894, 1896, 1898, and 1899.

There is no White Man's Burden, Save to reform himself; True good to seek for guerdon— Not further power and pelf; And if my own dear Nation Marches to England's drum, Her just Annihilation Cannot too quickly come. HENRY AUSTIN.

THE DELUSION OF PROPERTY.

The era we live in requires a special definition for "property." Time was when any material thing was "property." That time is no more.

Property affords freedom. If it does not, that thing is not property. A thousand dollars would seem to be "property"; yet to-day, he who has that amount only has not "property."

The deluding effect of little holdings, their effect of causing their holders to believe themselves the peers of all other property-holders, and thereby enlisting them into pillars of capitalism,—that has not passed unperceived by the large holders or capitalists.

The directors of the Great Northern voted to increase the capital stock of the company to the amount of \$7,500,000, and sell portions of the stock to employees of the road.

The move is timely. The Socialist, class-conscious agitation that is being carried on among the workers, is giving these eyes to see. They are finding out that they are an exploited class.

Will it so happen? That remains to be seen. Certain it is that no better test there is of the effectiveness of the Socialist teachings, spread among the workers, than just this new move.

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SYRACUSE A BELATED NEW YORK.

Careful readers of THE PEOPLE will have learned from last week's official report from Syracuse, N. Y., that Erasmus Pellenz was expelled from the Section on the 26th of last month.

Under ordinary circumstances, and in ordinary times, this incident would not deserve much space. The Socialist Labor Party cannot guarantee the purity of each individual member.

The appointment of Pellenz by a Democratic Mayor to a political job is the last sizzle in a fizzled conspiracy of the Democratic party of this State to smash up the Socialist Labor Party.

Readers of THE PEOPLE are aware how the Democratic press howled with rage two years ago at the fact that its gubernatorial candidate was defeated while the S. L. P. held the balance of power.

Village-like as Syracuse is, things leak out easily there. It has been ascertained that McGuire has the gubernatorial bee in his bonnet; that he was disappointed, and said so, at the failure of "the split in the Socialist Labor Party" to materialize.

With all their sharpness in some things, the politicians are exceptionally dull and glib. The Labor Fakir, with no following, regularly takes them in. Mayor McGuire, the dupe of the Labor Fakir, has not penetration enough to know that distinction bestowed by a politician upon a Socialist has for its only effect the cauterizing of that Socialist from the ranks.

The S. L. P. cannot be bribed with either money or jobs. The cause it pursues is too exalted, and the material interests it will itself secure for the proletariat too vast to render it liable to sops.

EVIDENCES OF PROSPERITY.

The Republican newspapers are hypnotizing unthinking people with an imaginary prosperity wave in order to prepare them for the sham battle which will be on next fall.

The Holyoke, Mass., city physicians' report has just been made public for the fiscal year, and it contains some startling figures. These are all the more suggestive since the present city physician, Mr. McCabe, has been in office for three years, and knows what he is talking about.

SHOOTING FIRE-CRACKERS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Capitalist papers in Boston, Worcester and other Massachusetts towns, together with their New York Kangaroo appendages, broke out again last week in jubilant articles purporting to announce the break-up of the Socialist Labor Party in Massachusetts.

Are, then, the reports in these papers purely imaginative? No; a something did happen; and what that something is merits a passing line or two: just enough to characterize the feather-brained foe that presumes to measure itself with the Party.

A few Kangaroos, whom the Party had dumped, together with some others of their kin still within the Party, but who knew they had reached the end of their tether and were under charges for a variety of Kangaroo virtues, foregathered in Boston, thirteen in all, behind locked doors; issued credentials to themselves; pronounced themselves the "State Committee of the Socialist Labor Party of Massachusetts"; and culminated a resolution against the Party.

The ignorant and corrupt element, whom the Party has been shedding since last July 10th, is so feather-brained that it imagines the report of exploding fire-crackers can disconcert the Party.

The walls of Jericho may have tumbled before the trumpet-blasts of Joshua, but the walls of the S. L. P. are not subject to incantations.

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POLITICAL and ECONOMIC.

The Louisville, Ky., "Courier-Journal" is full of praises for the "increasing intelligence" of the labor leaders;—exactly in the same way that the Lowell, Mass., capitalists, as recently reported in THE PEOPLE, showered their praises upon labor leader Thos. F. Connolly, of their town.

Albert H. Ladner, a Philadelphia capitalist politician, whose term is about to expire, appears before the public of his city for re-nomination and re-election with a closely printed four-page leaflet, containing his endorsements.

The English translation of Karl Marx's "Eighteenth Brumaire," that some time ago ran through THE PEOPLE, is now to be had bound in an elegant volume of 78 pages, with Marx's picture as frontispiece.

so to those who, besides knowing that "Tageblatt," are also familiar with the corrupt practices of the "Tageblatt's" New York double,—the "New Yorker Volkszeitung."

The latter paper has brazenly, in campaign time, published the advertisements and pictures of capitalist candidates; the former paper may well endorse a capitalist labor flector for office.

Well is the Socialist Labor Party rid of both concerns, together with their respective "Publishing Associations," composed of tax-paying, lager beer saloon keepers, corner grocers, usurious money-lenders, and capitalist politician-understrappers.

The Syracuse, N. Y., "Herald" feels sore all over at the way the Socialist Labor Party of its city treated the attempt of Mayor McGuire to scuttle the Party; and it gives token of its disappointment in the following squib:

The Irish Socialist Republican Party certainly must be a thorn in the side of the Irish-British and British-Irish skinned of the working class of Ireland.

The Milwaukee, Wis., "Wahrheit" (Social Democrat), in blaming what it is pleased to call the "spirit of sectarian vindictiveness," manifested by the Socialist Labor Party in its outspoken effort to destroy the "New Yorker Volkszeitung," gives notice that such conduct may soon force it to fire some dynamite bombs into the fortress of the S. L. P.

Waiving as superfluous a discussion upon whether just indignation can be termed vindictiveness, we shall address ourselves to the threatened firing of dynamite bombs.

In September, 1897, Mr. Cyrus F. Willard, then engaged in the Debs Democracy in Chicago, wrote to this office, advising that the attacks on the then Debs plan be stopped, lest, said he, bricks, which, interceding in our behalf, was preventing from flying into our camp, should finally overcome his intercession and actually fly. To that missive he was answered in THE PEOPLE'S "Letter Box" of Sept. 12, 1897, as follows:

"CYRUS F. WILLARD, CHICAGO, ILL.—Do by any means intercede in our behalf to prevent bricks from flying this way. If the bricks are hollow, as they surely are, they'll smash themselves, not us, and will thereby aid in the work that is being performed and has been performed by a storm of such bricks hitherto: the pilloring of the intellectual and moral bankruptcy of our foes; and, on the other hand, if, indeed, the bricks should be solid, they cannot fly too soon or too numerous. There is no healthy revolutionary progress possible without the crushing of error or wrong, wherever error or wrong may be. By all means, let the bricks fly."

So, now, "Wahrheit," fire away your dynamite bombs—if you have any; by all means, fire away!

If the fortress of the Socialist Labor Party is not proof against any and all dynamite bombs combined that the enemy may fire into it, then it deserves no better than to be blown up.

"The Bull Pen."

Comrade Hickey's article on the Bull Pen will appear in pamphlet form on January 25th.

It has been thoroughly revised, and numerous additions have been made. It is an excellent pamphlet for agitation.

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BOOKS ON SOCIALISM And the Labor Movement.

The New York Labor News Company carries the largest and best stock of Socialist Books to be found in the United States. Below we give a partial list of books kept in stock.

Table listing various books on socialism and labor movements, including titles like 'The Evolution of Property', 'The Student's Marx', 'The Working Class Movement in America', etc., with prices.

Labor Songs, Words and Music.

The Workmen's March, The Hand with the Hammer, The Party's Emblem, Down with Slavery, Words by Shelley, On the First of May.

These buttons are a brilliant red, with the "Arm and Hammer" emblem strikingly arranged.

NEW YORK LABOR NEWS COMPANY, 144 East 23d Street, New York City.

Lectures.

JAN. 20.—Thomas A. Hickey, "Uncompromising Socialism," Arion Hall, 168 Driggs Avenue, Brooklyn. JAN. 21.—Thos. White, "The Proletariat, Past, Present and Future," at Textile Hall, 105 West 4th Street, New York.



Uncle Sam and Brother Jonathan.

BROTHER JONATHAN—This voting business is stupid. UNCLE SAM—And what is senseless? B. J.—The organizing of the working people into armies to do some shooting. U. S.—Have you dropped the glass fad, and taken to the bullet fad? B. J.—Call it a fad as much as you please; fact is that slaves have yet freed themselves. U. S.—And whom is it you want to organize into bullet brigades? B. J.—The working people. U. S.—For what purpose? B. J.—To free themselves. U. S.—And isn't it these very working people whom you consider slaves? B. J.—What else are they? U. S.—Accordingly, what you propose to do is to take these slaves, who, you say, can't free themselves, and organize them into bullet brigades to do what? Why, to free themselves! You start with the theory that they, being slaves, can't free themselves, and you wind up with the plan to organize them for them to free themselves. Don't you realize that you have put both your feet into your mouth. B. J.—What I meant was that slaves never yet have voted themselves into freedom; they can free themselves only with the bullet. U. S.—Where did you get this notion from? B. J. (pompously)—From history and from reasoning. Reasoning tells me that slaves have not sense enough to vote right; and history confirms the theory. U. S.—Let's take up your "reasoning" first. The brain must direct man's actions, eh? B. J.—That's just it. You got it now. U. S.—Can a brainless man shoot right? B. J.—No. U. S.—Consequently your "reasoning" amounts to this: "the wage slaves have no brains; therefore they can't give the right direction to their ballots; but bullets must be shot as straight as balloons are as necessary to do this as to vote; the brainless wage slave has brains to shoot right." How do ye like it? B. J. looks sick. U. S.—I won't insist on an answer from you. It must be hard for a man to speak when one of his feet is in his mouth and is choking him. Now, I'll take up your history. B. J.—My history is all right. U. S.—We'll see about that. B. J.—Yes, we will. Did not the Roundheads shoot down Charles I. soldiers at Marston Moor? U. S.—Yes. But before they did that did they not elect themselves to Parliament? B. J.—Guess they did, by Jericho! U. S.—Having had the necessary brains to give the right direction to their ballots, by voting their foe down, they also had the necessary brains to give the right direction to their bullets by shooting their foe down when he took up arms. B. J.—But, in the French Revolution it was otherwise. Didn't they grab the nobility by the throat and guillotined them? U. S.—They did so. But before they did, didn't the then slave class, the bourgeoisie, elect their men to the Third Estate and take possession of the nation? B. J.—Damn it; they did! U. S.—There also you find that the slaves first proved their brain-power by voting right, and afterwards, of course, when it became necessary to fight, they had the requisite brain to fight right. B. J.—Well, but right here among us didn't we have to fight 4 years to free the negro? U. S.—We did, but before we started in to fight, did we not vote straight by electing Lincoln? B. J. bites his lips. U. S.—In short, your history is a muddled up as your "reasoning," and there goes your other foot into your mouth. Historically it is untrue, theoretically it is false, that those who have no brains enough to use the ballot, when they have it, will suddenly have brains enough to use the bullet. What history and science do teach is that slaves do not free themselves so long as they do not know who and what is the tyrant. That is the point of importance. The method is secondary. Where there is no ballot to fight with, of course, the bullet is the first and last resort. Regardless of these, not unless the slave has a distinct idea of what it is that oppresses him can he act intelligently and emancipate himself. The bulk of the wage slaves in America to-day do not know who the real tyrant is, and they are fighting his shadow. To the goldbugs, or Truists, or landowners, all such to-day and uphold Capitalism, believing them to be the tyrants, and it is the Revolutionary Fathers who were the Revolutionary Governors for the tyrant and had upheld King George. The tyrant at that time was British rule, the tyrant to-day is Capitalism. When wage slaves of America shall have covered that, then will they be possessed of the requisite intelligence to free themselves; when they shall have reached that degree of intelligence, they will not be the fools to fight first, being they have the ballot, and being the overwhelming majority, can elect their adversaries at the hustings. It is reasoning, and this is history, the view of these facts, the political method is the only available one; it is while it strikes, and it organizes a bullet brigade, should that ever be necessary, by organizing the army. Jonathan, go soak your head. The receipt of a sample copy of THE PEOPLE is an invitation to subscribe.

