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SOCIALIST VOTE IN THE UNITED STATES. In 1898..... 2,068 In 1899..... 91,157 In 1900..... 36,564 In 1901..... 34,191

A PRELIMINARY ON THE ELECTIONS.

Known through Bible lore, through poetry and painting, the story of Belshazzar's feast is familiar to all.

Their returns were coming in; these showed an increase. Was not that cause for joy with them? No! Their rising figures turned to bitter fruit.

As a result of the Mills-propaganda we have our local controlled by a combination of aspirant capitalists, bankrupt speculators, indebted labor skinners and designing politicians.

With the opportunists' principles, like shoddy commodities, are made to palm off on others, not for home use.

HAILING THEIR OWN DEATH DIRGE.

In the very midst of the shouts that are going up from the Social Democratic camp at their increased vote, a certain polemic practical, burning and consuming has sprung up.

The San Francisco Local Convention of the S. P., composed of delegates elected under the new primary law, met on Sunday, September 21, at the Turk Street Temple.

should not nominate a ticket in opposition to the Union Labor Party. This party, with its capitalist or private ownership principle, should be aided by the S. P. in electing its local ticket.

The opportunists, compromisers, and fusionists gained their political trade. The class-conscious comrades are up in arms against such high-handed action and treasonable conduct.

Many of the comrades are beginning to realize that they were the dupes of the political traders—cow-traders—as William Liebknecht called them in Germany.

A Democratic politician, upon being interviewed, spoke as follows: "The Democrats realized that they were not strong enough to win out against the Republicans, so they proposed to the leaders of the Union Labor Party that if they would nominate certain men named by us, among which was one Livernash, a non-unionist and Democratic lawyer, for Congress in the Fourth District, the Democratic party would endorse those candidates."

To which the scientific Socialist replies that capitalists should not be allowed to shape the policy of a working class organization, whether they are members or not.

So long as the workers let capitalists control their movement they will be led like sheep to the shambles; so long as the proletarians look to the "middle class saviors" for guidance they will be offered upon the altar of capitalism like cattle on the slaughter bench.

As a result of the Mills-propaganda we have our local controlled by a combination of aspirant capitalists, bankrupt speculators, indebted labor skinners and designing politicians.

The relentless logic of events has produced the inevitable fruit. In California is rising to-day in suffocating denseness the dust of the mud stirred in this State, in the 16th Assembly District of this city in particular, when the present Social Democratic party was started to combat and annihilate the Socialist Labor Party.

The Socialist Labor Party maintained, as it maintains now, with proof unquestionable that the pure and simple Trades Union is not an organization of Labor; that it is a wheel in the mechanism of capitalist society.

ests exists between capitalists and there rages a conflict, not only irreconcilable, but irremediable. The Party's Trades Union policy was but a reflect of its own political policy.

Under which of these two definitions does Mr. Clark fall, the former or the latter? Does he fall under the definition of a "Labor Representative" or under that of a "Representative of Capitalism"?

Whatever may be represented on the Arbitration Committee, Labor is not. HOLDING OUT THE OLD LURE. Whitelaw Reid has been heard from again.

"Years ago a laboring man on strike said to me: 'There is no use any longer in talking to us about saving and rising out of our class; about ever becoming an employer and one's own master. That stage of the world has passed.'"

The dishonesty of this passage consists in attributing to Socialism a denial of the fact that it is possible for individual workmen to become Vanderbilts, Scotts, Cassatts, etc., etc., and in further insinuating that because it is possible for individual workmen to do this it is therefore possible for the entire working class to do it also.

While the Socialist Labor Party, generally holding its own, holding firm the fort of the Cause of Labor—as emphasized by the simultaneous smash-up of the "only logical center" Pennsylvania deserters and the brilliant showing on the real battlefield, this State, especially this city; while thus the Socialist Labor Party is attesting with self-controlled joy the unshakableness that comes from soundness, it is but natural to see the Social Democratic party given over to uncontrolled rejoicings over its own vote,—thus hailing its own death dirge.

Among the points that Hanna's labor lieutenant, John Mitchell, seeks to score in his endeavor to make it appear that the crushing defeat he led the miners to was a victory, is that, through his insistence, the operators' personnel on the Arbitration Committee was so changed as to have Labor represented on it.

What is "Labor"? Labor is that element in capitalist society that produces all wealth. Labor, accordingly, is the element that feeds both itself and the idle or capitalist class.

In the early days of the republic no such economic contrasts existed. Since 1800, this contrast has most likely increased in percentage. In farming, for instance, there has been a steady increase in the number of tenantry, a system of agricultural production somewhat analogous to mechanical production, in that the farm lands, stocks, and implements are owned by the farm owners and are operated on shares or rentals by the tenants occupying and using them.

there also are the chances for the young men of to-day to become Vanderbilts, Scotts, Cassatts, etc., etc., growing beautifully less. And so it has increased in every branch of capitalist life since 1800.

Great enthusiasm over the result of the election is manifested in the business correspondence from Party members. Push the Party press, is the refrain of the majority of those who have occasion to write.

Reason.—We have no army of clerks to make extracts and distribute among the various offices; time is money and life is short. Each office wants its correspondence on file for future reference; but if you persist, for the sake of saving a 2-cent stamp, to cram all in one letter, only one can have the original.

The Sunday People at \$1 per year is excellent value for the money. Compared to the yards of trash that appear in the other Sunday papers, the Sunday People though smaller in size, makes up for it in quality.

The Flower Trust is the latest. It is organized with a capital of \$1,000,000, for the purpose of controlling the flower market and knocking out the retailer. To this end it has purchased and will build large greenhouses of the latest and most scientific model; while stores will be opened in the leading cities to sell the product at 20 to 50 per cent. less than at present.

Sir Robert Anderson, of Scotland Yard, maintains that the offspring of criminals may develop into exemplary citizens if placed in proper environments. The history of Australia, America and other new countries that were peopled colonies at the beginning of their careers prove that criminals themselves become exemplary in good environments.

The railway men in various parts of the country are clamoring for more wages. They insist that the wages they now receive are not sufficient remuneration for the increased labor imposed upon them and the increased price of necessities. Despite this Republican orators are busy extolling the blessings prosperity has conferred on the working class.

"The Woman's Crusade" is the latest. Its slogan is "Seat or a Rebate for Standing in Cars." It is feared the women will get neither the seat nor the rebate. Capitalism is no respecter of persons—or "crusades."

Frau Materna, the ideal Wagnerian artist, is on the verge of poverty. Appeals for her material aid have been issued. Yet capitalism asks: What would Socialism do with artists? Could it do any worse?

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT NOTES.

French Digger Throws Out Three-Fifths Men Needed. A new machine for digging trenches is now in successful operation in this country.

The five men work thus: One stands on the "bridge," like the captain of a ship, one oversees the working of the machine, while the other three keep their eyes on the work as it progresses.

What are the workmen going to do when seventy-five per cent. of their number are replaced by machines in all branches of labor?

We are now sending out bills to agents and organizations for work done during the campaign. Those able to take quick action on same will confer a favor by making prompt remittance.

Comrades who can place job printing of any kind, should not fail to remember that the New York Labor News Company can do up-to-date work. The plant is now in such shape that any demand made upon it can be filled.

The Labor News Company has gotten out a neat little price list of the books, pamphlets and leaflets which it handles. These are handy to have in ordering literature.

The buckets, immediately behind the cutters, are themselves of peculiar design, as they open automatically when they reach the end of the shaft nearest the hopper, and thus prevent any of the excavated soil from remaining in them.

The chain with its buckets and cutters passes over the main shaft of the machine, and the other end is lowered into the ground and does the cutting. Its position is capable of constant and instant adjustment, so that a ditch of six inches can be dug as readily as one of twelve feet.

Trinity Church has just celebrated the triple anniversary of its rector, the Rev. Dr. Dix. A thanksgiving service was held. That's about all this wealthy religious corporation ever gives—thanks.

A LABOR DISPLACER

A new machine for digging trenches is now in successful operation in this country. The invention with a crew of five men does work which would be a credit to a very large force of laborers.

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UNCLE SAM AND BROTHER JONATHAN.

BROTHER JONATHAN—I have been reading up on the class struggle. UNCLE SAM—That's good.

B. J.—But I find it is too narrow. U. S.—How would you broaden it? B. J.—The strict class struggle draws the line between wage earners and capitalists.

U. S.—Correct. B. J.—I don't think that's right or sound. The line should be drawn between the toilers and the non-toilers.

U. S.—For instance? B. J.—The clerk of a groceryman is a toiler, but the groceryman himself toils also. Under the strict principle of the class struggle, the line is drawn between the two, placing the clerk on one side with other workers, and the toiling groceryman on the other, and together with the Depewes, Vanderbilts, Goulds, Count Castellane, etc. Now—that is all wrong—

U. S.—How would you fix it? B. J.—I would place the toiling groceryman on the same side of the line with all other toilers, whether wage earners or not, and on the other side the idlers and spongers.

U. S.—If you did so you would pretty soon get all mixed up; just as mixed as if you placed the strawberry and the daisy in the same botanical family. The two grow close to the ground, etc., yet they belong to two wholly distinct families. Again, the strawberry grows on a lowly bush, the apple on a stately tree; upon your principle of classifying the toiling groceryman separately from the Vanderbilts, you would put the strawberry and the apple in different families; fact is, that they are of one and the same family.

B. J.—You don't say so! U. S.—Yes. The mouse is a little animal, the elephant a big one; you would classify them separately; yet the fact is that the elephant and the mouse are one family.

B. J. (with increased astonishment)—Yes? U. S.—Yes. What determines the kinship between plants and animals is, not appearance, but some fundamental fact that typifies them. Now, the fundamental fact that typifies the toiling small groceryman is not his toiling; other people toil with whom you would not rank the toiling groceryman: pickpockets toil, and toil hard; stock brokers toil, and toil hard. The fundamental fact that typifies the toiling groceryman is that he is in possession of property, whereby he can, and does, just as the big capitalist, squeeze labor out of another human being; and the typifying feature of the groceryman's clerk is that, being stripped of all property whereby to earn his own living, he is bound to sell himself to the man who has such property. It is upon those lines that the economic classes are separated. To blur that line is to open the doors for all sorts of false steps; hence so many "reform" parties that jump up and collapse.

B. J.—Yes, yes; and yet it seems to me that the groceryman has a hard time of it. U. S.—No doubt; and yet no harder than many a pirate who, being caught, was hanged to the yardsarms of his own ship. If the groceryman has sense—and it is said of him is said of the whole middle class—he would simply throw in his lot with the proletariat, but to do that he must accept proletarian economics, instead of doing what the middle class now try to do, to join the proletariat by forcing upon it middle class economics—"coal planks a la Democratic party," "public ownership of public utilities," etc. Only then is there help for the sinking middle class! B. J.—Hum! I now see it in another light. This middle class want to lie together with the proletariat, provided the proletariat is willing to lie inside the stomach of the middle class. Eh? U. S.—You got it now.

The Steel Trust has warned the independents that if they don't cease cutting steel prices that it will do a little cutting also. This would mean war to the death for the independents. It was just such a war as this that caused the formation of the Steel Trust, and it will be just such a war as this that will further increase concentration in the steel and iron industry.

Numerous are the signs pouring into this office of how squarely Socialist Labor Party agitation has struck the nail on the head. The howl that has gone up from the "nails" reaches this office, and in not a few instances the "nails" send in their photographs, so to speak. An instance in point, out of many, is a copy of The Weekly People returned with the following inscription along the margin: "This paper is for Schepps, Poodlers, Thiefs, Crooks, Loavers, Blackmalls, lazi Booms and Corruptions, Cowards, Trunkards, Hipcritts."

