









CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENTS WHO PREFER TO APPEAR IN PRINT UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME WILL ATTACH SUCH NAME TO THEIR COMMUNICATIONS...

PUTTING IT TO GOOD USE.

To the Daily and Weekly People—Some time ago, I collected \$7 among St. Louis comrades for the purpose of starting a fund for a stenographic report of the next I. W. W. Convention...

AN ENDORSEMENT.

To the Daily and Weekly People—I endorse the contention of Brother W. L. Beness of the Socialist Party of Michigan, in a letter in last week's People, who "SEES THE NOTE IN OTHERS' EYES."

FRATERNITY IN HISTORIC ONEIDA.

To the Daily and Weekly People—Enclosed you will find \$10 for the State Agitation Fund, donated by Section Oneida County, (Utica.) The Section had an outing on the 19th inst., which was a great success, twenty-five members of the Italian Socialist Federation were present, upon invitation. They brought four musicians along, which helped greatly toward the success of the affair.

AS TO THE HAYWOOD NOMINATION

To the Daily and Weekly People—Now that the action of the Colorado State Executive Committee, Socialist Labor Party, in the matter of the nomination of Wm. D. Haywood has been published, I wish to say a few words upon the subject. The action of the State Committee is not in my opinion in conformity with the principles of the Socialist Labor Party.

ORGANIZATION IN DAYTON.

To the Daily and Weekly People—I am glad to let you know that a branch of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Federation was formed here with eleven charter members. Jergasius and Stein of Cincinnati were here, and we held two open air and indoor meetings, and the result is that we have broken the ground among the Hungarian wage slaves.

WHY THE JEWS ARE SOCIALISTS.

To the Daily and Weekly People—We want to furnish the readers of The People with a good hearty laugh. The following incident occurred at our last Sunday night meeting. It will show that the Irish are not the only quick-witted people, but that the Jew can make a good retort to an anti-semitic, or any smart Alex just as well.

THE SHARE OF LABOR.

To the Daily and Weekly People—I believe both Alexander Kaiser's and the editor's criticism of "J. G. K.'s" use of "Business Man's" figures in "The Sun" away off. "J. G. K." has truly made a mistake in his use of the figures, but it was in the way of doing the working class and not the capitalist class an injustice.

The first is: Capital invested, \$9,846,628.564. This represents the surplus wealth, or some of it, plundered from the working class, and held by the capitalist class in the shape of the machinery of production and distribution, reserve cash, etc.

The second is: Number of wage-earners, 5,321,389. I have seen it mentioned that the number of wage-earners and would-be wage-earners is about 20,000,000, and if this is so, as I believe it is, the per capita share of the working class is a mere beggar's portion.

The third is: Total wages paid, \$2,330,587,010. This item may be just as valueless as the preceding one, but we will have to use it and bear in mind that the total amount of wages paid is \$2,330,587,010.

The fourth is: Cost of materials, \$7,360,993,418, and this is where the hitch occurs. Under this head is often enumerated new machinery, buildings, etc., as well as raw materials, which new machinery, etc., remain the property of the capitalist class and are in future included with "capital."

The fifth is: Value of products, \$13,039,279,566, and the difference between this amount and the amount of wages paid represents the extent to which the capitalists as a class have sand-bagged and robbed the workers as a class for the time being.

To recapitulate: According to the figures presented, we find that the capitalist class, besides the sleeping or idle wealth, is in possession of the following active wealth:

Capital invested ..... \$ 9,846,628,564
Profits on materials furnished by capitalists to other capitalists ..... 5,888,784,735
Value of products ..... 13,039,279,566

Total ..... \$28,774,702,865
Out of all this wealth in sight, every bit of it the product of working class skill and labor power and blood and tears, the working class gets the measly amount paid to it in wages, viz., \$2,330,587,010; and how much of this percentage of this bone-thrown-to-the-dogs the lucky wage-slave who is allowed to share in it can keep the capitalist class from getting back again, let him make answer.

We must not allow our brains to get tangled up with capitalistic far-as-you-noise reasoning. It is perfectly right to deduct from the item "Cost of materials" the wages paid for the labor power used in procuring and delivering the materials, as one-fifth; the rest must stand. It may not show on the credit side of the ledger of the manufacturing branch of the capitalist class, but on the credit side of the entire

capitalist class it shows up clearly enough. And in such manner Socialists should at all times consider these matters. Always the entire capitalist class as against the entire working class, and vice versa.

Workingman.
Long Island City, N. Y., August 16.

II.

To the Daily and Weekly People:—The reading of comrade Workingman's criticism of my previous letter to The People of August 14, caused much amusement to me. He earnestly warns us not to be short-sighted, but, unfortunately, fails himself to keep close to the warning. Let us follow him step by step in his discussion.

The first item is capital invested, \$9,846,628,564. On this point I have nothing to say. The second item is, number of wage-earners, 5,321,389. On this point comrade W. entertains much doubt as to the correctness of this figure, as some estimate the number of wage workers about 20,000,000; and if this is so then the per capita of the working class is far less than \$436.

Now about the fourth item, cost of materials, \$7,360,993,418, it is true that the materials used are not fetched neither from the moon, nor from Mars, but are made by the sweat and blood of the workers.

Suppose a mine owner pays in wages for 1000 tons of coal dug, \$10,000. Now, if the worker for each dollar received in wages, produced five dollars worth of commodities, then the coal produced is worth \$50,000.

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The fifth item is the value of products, \$13,039,279,566. Here comrade W. goes no further than "J. G. K." as both accept the sum \$13,039,279,566 as the value created directly by the 5,321,389 workers for one year; and, consequently, according to both, the working class gets 17.8 per cent. of their total product.

In his capitulation comrade W. reaches the climax of fair reasoning. Here, showing the number of values possessed by the capitalist class, beside their sleep-

ing wealth, he throws in the number \$5,888,784,735, which represents four fifths of the value of materials used, notwithstanding the fact that this number constitutes already a part of the \$13,039,279,566, that enters into the total amount \$28,774,702! Shades of Aristotle! Before closing this letter, I want to remark upon the vague manner of naming things that comrade W. allows himself to indulge in.

Alexander Kaiser.
New York, August 21.

FRED DRESSER.

Whereas, the course of industrial development of this country, in its effect upon the members of the working class, tends to curtail the liberty, lessen the happiness and hasten the untimely death of working men and working women, and, Whereas, we, the members of Machinists' Local Union No. 25, Industrial Workers of the World organized for the purpose of overthrowing the capitalist system...

Resolved, that we, the members of Machinists' Local Union No. 25, I. W. W., in regular meeting assembled express our heartfelt grief at the loss inflicted upon the Working Class movement by the untimely death of Fred Dresser; furthermore, be it,

Resolved, that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our deceased brother in their bereavement, and be it further Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this Local Union and published in the official organ of the Socialist Labor Party and of the Industrial Workers of the World.

SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY ORGANS

Table listing Socialist Labor Party organs with prices and publication details, including Weekly People, Daily People, Arbeteren, etc.

He who comes in contact with workmen reading either of these languages should not fail to call attention to these papers and endeavor to secure subscriptions. Sample copies will be sent upon request. Address each paper as per address given above, and not as often the case, to the Labor News.

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

All persons desiring to attach themselves to the Socialist Labor Party, either by the formation of a local organization known as a "Section," or by joining as members at large, may proceed as follows: 1. Seven or more persons may form a "Section," provided they subscribe to the platform and constitution of the S. L. P., belong to no other political party and are not officers of a pure and simple trade of labor organization.

LETTER-BOX

OFF-HAND ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

NO QUESTIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED THAT COME IN ANONYMOUS LETTERS. ALL LETTERS MUST CARRY A BONA FIDE SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS.

S. T. MERIDEN, CONN.—There is no such thing as "the public press." The press, usually referred as such, is private undertaking for private profit, the same as any other peanut stand. The "public press" is less public than the railroads. You may compel the railroads to carry you. You cannot compel the "public press" to publish what you want. Each of those papers is a law unto itself.

F. C. D., VICTORIA, B. C.—No, Mr. Leffingwell did not respond to the challenge of paying a \$10-bill for every time the words "infamous," "inhuman," "hypocrite," "scapegoat," etc., etc.— words that have no meaning unless rooted in the Sense of Right and Wrong—can be produced in the works of Marx and Engels.

T. I. C., DES MOINES, IA.—Now to your second question— The Socialist Party folks who praise the British Laborite political movement, with all its voting for the military budget in Parliament, and congratulating John Burns for accepting a cabinet office by the grace of a capitalist-feudal Government cannot consistently denounce the Gompers "Independent" "Labor" "Party."

F. T., NEW ORLEANS, LA.—No, good friend, 'tis not always dishonesty on the part of the clergy that causes them to pronounce Socialism impracticable. There are not a few good men among the clergy. But these good men are ignorant. Their experience with Christianity has made them pessimistic. Long as they have been at it, crime grows over their ears; they realize that it may change form but retains the essence. They have not fathomed the Truth that where economic conditions are bad, virtue is a rare flower.

W. D., DETROIT, MICH.—The materialist conception of history ignores no part of matter. The intangible X-Ray is as much a part of matter as logs of wood.

P. F., LOUISVILLE, KY.—Scripta capitalist and you have an anarchist. There is no act of illegality he will not commit to make a dollar.

F. M. D., LINCOLN, NEB.—A party-owned press by no means implies a national party press. The two are separate things. There can be a party-owned press without a national press. By a party-owned press we understand a press that is owned exclusively by party members, and over which whomever gets, or is put, out of the party ceases to have such ownership.

F. U., JERSEY CITY, N. J.—What you need is a tonic to memory. You re-quote correctly the quotation from Marx with which we headed the article in answer to your letter—"Only the

trades union is, capable of setting on foot a true political party of labor"— and two pages later you forget all about it saying: "I have not, since I began studying the labor movement, found any of the teachers of scientific Socialism lay any important stress upon the necessity of an economic organization." What does the Marxian passage imply if not the necessity of economic organization? Or is Marx, perhaps, not a "teacher of scientific Socialism"? Fact is, you forget a minute later what you said a minute before. Sound reasoning is impossible where memory is so bad as not to be able to keep a fact in mind. Take a memory- tonic.

D. J., BOSTON, MASS.—No Republican or Democratic spell-binder will allow a question on the source of his information. The "facts" he cites are purely "platform facts."

F. C. R., BUCKHANNON, W. VA.—America has not yet a "Black Hundred," strictly speaking. The thing will come, however. Next question next week.

S. T., ELIZABETH, N. J.—A short definition of the capitalist that any one could catch on quickly!—Here goes: A capitalist is a man who looks for a living without any work performed for the same. Thus the tramp and the capitalist are the two opposites that meet.

E. F. S., BUTTE, MONT.—It was the historian William Stubbs, who, although a clergyman, spoke of "the working, i. e., drunk and disorderly classes."

W. W., NEW YORK.—There is, for instance, the old legal maxim: "Use thy own in such way as not to injure others." The capitalist cannot possibly use his own without injury to the working class. The moment he ceases so to use his own in that way, it vanishes. Thus capitalism is grounded on wrongdoing.

E. L., DUNDAS, ONT.—We know of no Socialist post cards for transmission through the mails. That should be a chance for some artist in the Movement.

J. K., ST. LOUIS, MO.—Political parties are good, bad and indifferent. They may be evils, but then they are necessary evils. The essential feature of a political party is "organization." The political organization is needed for its special work. Much has been said in their favor, much against. No absolute praise or criticism is absolutely correct. Lord Roseberry, for instance, said of parties in England, that they are "inertible as the fog and mean the rule of the few fit, the accidentally not fit and the glaringly unfit." This is a humorous way of putting it. Like all jokes, it is only approximately true.

B. S. F., CINCINNATI, O.—Continue sending articles.

W. N., NEW YORK CITY; L. C. H., LOS ANGELES, CAL.; C. C. C., PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.; A. T., SEATTLE, WASH.; S. S., NEW YORK CITY; S. B., DENVER, COLO.; F. H. C., BLY, OREGON; P. K., KANSAS CITY, KAN.; S. AS; INQUIRER, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.—Matter received.

The Miners' Magazine

ADICAL AND RATIONAL. A FEARLESS TRIBUNE OF THE WORKING CLASS. ADVOCATING INDUSTRIAL AND POLITICAL UNITY OF ALL WAGE WORKERS.

"The great mass, upon whose shoulders rest the stability of this Nation, have been lulled to sleep, and while they slept, in the belief that human liberty was safe, a silken thread was woven, which to-day has become a mighty cable which the power of a Hercules or a Samson cannot break." "The Industrial Workers of the World has run up the flag of economic freedom and the Western Federation of Miners is with the new-born union of united men and women in the struggle to drive wage slavery from the face of our planet."

The Miners' Magazine, published weekly by the Western Federation of Miners. Subscription, \$1.00 per year. SPECIAL OFFER. The Miners' Magazine and the WEEKLY PEOPLE will be sent to one address for \$1.20 per year. Subscribe through the office of the WEEKLY PEOPLE.

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